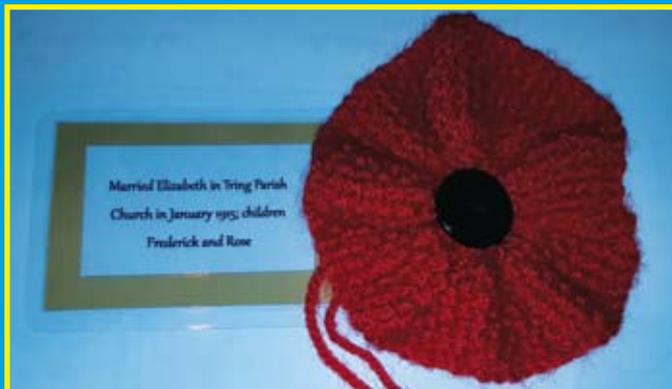


# COMMENT

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## Editorial

I know I am always asking for feedback. Call it the need for affirmation, the assurance that somewhere out there people are really reading Comment! But the June edition has caused smiles – and comments have reached me that people have (mostly) had fun trying to work out the year of all those weddings – and I suspect, had fun trying to work out who the couples were in the wedding photos. We have some more this month.

One reader did tell me, however, that someone else said we need more fun in Comment. So if you have an article of a more upbeat nature, do please send it in!

This is, of course, our 'double issue'

as there is no separate August edition. If there are things of a harvest nature that you would like to include for September, please think of us and send those in by 6 August.

There are two special 'thank you's' I would like to give this month. The first is to Andrew and Kate Openshaw who have not only been great for New Mill Baptist Church, they have also been great for Tring and for Comment. Both have been frequent contributors to this magazine. Who will replace them?! And Kate was, of course, Editor before me; it is her fault that I am Editor now! They will be sorely missed.

The other thank you is to Mrs Mary Fuller, who has been a Comment distributor for an incredible sixty years! I wonder how many people she got to know in that time. Very many thanks for such commitment to Tring. As she stands down from that role, we do welcome others who might be able to deliver Comment to people in their road or nearby to fill a few vacancies.

**The Editor**



## The best story in the world

When the historians pen the history of 2018, I wonder what they will focus on? England winning the World Cup (OK, perhaps not), a meeting between the leaders of North Korea and the United States of America or maybe – one of the highlights of the year for me – the coming into force of the General Data Protection Regulation!

I suspect that the Royal Wedding will feature quite prominently on the Review of the Year television programmes that will be on shortly after Christmas, and I suspect too that the impact of Bishop Michael Curry – not just through his appearance on the Britain's Got Talent final – but through his sermon given to some 1.9bn people worldwide will receive additional airtime as we review the year in just a few months' time.

I'm sure many of you either heard 'that sermon' live, or on catch-up after the event, or read about it on social media or in the newspapers. Apparently there were over 40,000 tweets per minute during that sermon. Some of my favourites included BBC Radio 2 broadcaster Jeremy Vine tweeting: 'The preacher is doing 50 in a 30 zone and it's brilliant #RoyalWedding2018'. While someone else commented: 'This is brilliant from Bishop Curry – some amazing facial expressions all around! "We're going to sit down, we gotta get y'all married!" Beatrice giggling, Zara open-mouthed in disbelief! #royalwedding'. However, my favourite tweet from the sermon was by a Church of England vicar based in

Wolverhampton, who tweeted: 'People, we interrupt this pageant of established religion, power and privilege to bring you the Gospel of Jesus Christ #bishopcurry #RoyalWedding'.

Whatever your personal view of the sermon, it is clear that it left an impression. If nothing else, it hinted that the sermon is far from dead and there is still a place for preaching in the instantaneous, information-at-the-tip-of-your-fingers, social media-savvy culture we find ourselves in. Whether you have a preference for lengthy discourses or brief 'sermonettes' (and whichever camp you consider Bishop Curry's sermon to fall into!) they still have the ability to stir, encourage, edify and apply truths from the Word of God to our lives.

John Stott, the former Rector of All Souls, Langham Place, went as far as to say in his book 'I believe in Preaching' (Hodder & Stoughton, 1982) that 'Preaching is indispensable to Christianity'. He unravels this assertion throughout his book, but argues that Christianity is founded on the Word of God and that Christianity cannot overlook how God took the initiative in taking on human form. As John's Gospel puts it, 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us'. The claim, and perhaps some would say, the audacious claim of the Christian preacher, is that they are heralding the good news from God. But for me, the sermon went a little further than simply evidencing that the sermon is alive and well. There was a sense of discomfort,

shuffling in seats and attempts to suppress smirks. It was an uncomfortable moment for people as Bishop Curry preached his sermon. I suppose that may be because the message of Christianity is uncomfortable. We like the sanitised Jesus glowing in a manger, growing up, floating around modern-day Palestine for three years, saying some good stuff, dying and then coming back to life so we can all eat Easter eggs and hot cross buns. We can cope with the idea of Jesus as priest, king and apostle, but when it comes to suffering servant and the call to pick up our cross and follow him, Christianity can become a little less palatable.

The truth is that God does speak. He spoke not in a whirlwind, but out of the larynx of a Palestine Jew, as Phillip Yancey reminds us. Those of us who profess a faith in Christ all have the privilege of being his ambassadors – in a sense, a preacher! American theologian Stanley Hauerwas wrote that 'God has given us the best story in the world and we've made it as boring as hell'. We may not have a pulpit, but we all have opportunity to preach, proclaim and pronounce the Word of God.

May God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

**Kevin Rogers**  
**High Street Baptist Church**





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# Au revoir, Openshaws!

The first that we heard of Andrew, Kate and the children was that a family from France was interested in coming to New Mill to fill the trainee ministerial vacancy that we had. As a church, we were very excited by this as we had been in a period of interregnum for some time and we were waiting, rather impatiently by now, for what God was going to do for us at New Mill. (It also seemed rather exotic; that they were travelling from foreign soil to live in a place they did not know!) All I can say is that it was well worth the wait and that God has richly blessed us over the past seven years with their presence.

I remember the first time that we met the whole family: they came to lunch with us and, immediately, we all knew that they were a special bunch. Their warmth, sense of fun and down-to-earth nature meant that we instantly bonded. We all became firm friends and they encouraged us to become more a part of church life and the local community. Our children were of similar ages and this boosted the Sunday School and Friday Club at church. It was encouraging that our boys made new friends from church and we have shared many happy memories with all of them over the years. I loved the fact that as soon as they arrived they were hungry to know about every aspect of Tring life and they certainly threw themselves into the local community from the very start.

Some of my favourite memories of them are their excitement in attending Tring events. I think with particular fondness of the first time that they attended the fireworks; watched the Olympic Torch arrive in Tring (at some

unearthly hour of the day!) and the first time that we went to – what was – the Turkish restaurant, where Andrew was inveigled into dancing with the belly dancer on his birthday!

The family has given so much to New Mill over the years and we will miss them greatly. Andrew has enriched our church with his dynamic preaching and didactic nature – every conversation with Andrew is a learning opportunity and I have certainly learned a great deal from him: from spiritual matters to the latest on Twitter! Kate has an infectious sense of humour and a lovely, caring nature. So many members of the church have turned to her in difficult moments, to be blessed by her quiet wisdom. Their eldest daughter, Cat, has been an integral member of the church too – diligently providing our Sunday morning computer presentations, which we will miss greatly.

Kate and Andrew have breathed new life into New Mill and, during their time with us have transformed the church. They have worked so very hard to reach out to those in the surrounding area whilst strengthening the congregation. They have become an integral part of Tot Spot and Friday Club; have enriched Bright Hour and have initiated Knit and Natter. But, their greatest achievement would have to be the Moulin Café. Utilising Kate's wonderful talent for catering and enlisting an army of volunteers from the church membership, they have provided outreach for the local community. I know that many people have been blessed by attending on Thursday lunchtimes – not just spiritually

but gastronomically too!

They are such an amazing team and have worked so very hard to tell others about the presence of God in Tring. What is so special about them is their ability to talk to anyone, on any level, and to make that person feel appreciated. So many people who do not attend New Mill have come into the church because of them and feel safe there. They are able to witness the Good News through their practical approach and it has been a privilege to serve alongside them and be involved in a little of their ministry.

And so, it is time for us to bid 'Au revoir' to this wonderful family, once from France, as they head for the sunny delights of Frinton-On-Sea. It goes without saying that we all feel rather bereft by their imminent departure and yet, absolutely know that it is what God wants for New Mill and for them. They will bless another church as we have been blessed and we have to let them go, however painful this is for us. We will be saying our formal goodbyes to them over the next couple of months but, in the meantime, Philippians 4:19 seems most apt for them, and for us, as they prepare to depart: 'God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.'

**Joanne Webber**  
New Mill Baptist Church



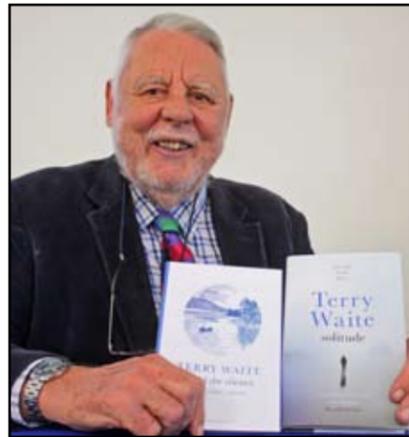
## Terry Waite: a remarkable man

Having followed the stories of the UK hostages in Beirut back in the 1980s – John McCarthy, Brian Keenan, Terry Waite and others, I was delighted to hear that Terry would be speaking at a meeting at Egerton Rothsay School in Berkhamsted.

Although I read the hostages' books written following their release, I didn't then and still don't understand the complex political situation in the Middle East, but my interest is more from the humanitarian side and the endurance of character needed to face the dreadful conditions they were kept in.

So, thirty years later, it was a privilege to listen to Terry and to hear his still eloquent voice telling us about his life before his work as the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy and his time as a hostage.

Before he was special envoy he worked in Uganda and was in the thick of violence and intimidation, experiences that have contributed to his role as negotiator and helped when he was locked up. He was taken on by Robert Runcie as an assistant with a Church Army background and helped organise tours abroad for him. His approach when negotiating release of hostages was to talk to the captors, listen carefully to them and to find out their reasons for taking hostages. When he obtained release for the hostages in Libya following the shooting of PC Yvonne Fletcher, the Libyans claimed they were being persecuted as reprisals for the shooting. Terry suggested that a helpline was made available for people to voice their complaints. The helpline was set-up, but nobody used it and the hostages were released: a simple solution that did not involve giving way or violence.



Having secured the release of hostages in Beirut, his name was falsely linked to arms deals as an exchange for the hostages. He felt he had to go back to clear his name and put the record straight but was captured as hostage instead. He was put in a cell on his own and only let out to use the bathroom once a day; the rest of the time he was blindfolded, chained to a wall and was tortured with mock executions. This lasted for nearly four years, most of which was in solitary confinement: a total of 1,763 days imprisoned.

When he was first imprisoned he of course had no idea how long he would be in solitary. He quickly realised that he had to stay strong and not let the imprisonment destroy him. His answer was that creativity had to come out from suffering. He had no paper or pen, but wrote his first book by memory, wrote poetry and maintained inner dialogues with himself, making up stories and imaginary characters. He had to put thoughts of his family out of his head and maintain an emotional detachment as he couldn't afford to worry about what they might be going through. On one visit to the bathroom, he saw a machine gun left on the top of the cistern. For a fleeting moment he thought of shooting his way out, but then immediately stopped himself as he had always firmly believed there was to be 'no violence' in hostage situations.

He spoke for about an hour and a quarter, clearly and without emotion. It is clear he has not let his capture make him bitter or resentful towards his captors. He worries about the situation in the Middle East and reckons most of the leaders of the world have the wrong approach in trying to solve the situation there. His heart is still with

those who have been taken hostage and is president of Hostage UK, supporting hostages and their families, giving expert advice and support. He works as president with Y Care International and has visited Palestine, helping young people turn around their lives in the midst of tremendous suffering and violence. He is also president of Emmaus UK which provides homes and work for homeless people and for those in poverty. He is nearly 80 but travels for six months of the year giving talks and selling his books in order to fund his charitable works: a truly remarkable and inspirational man.

**Janet Goodyer, St Peter & St Paul**



I am glad I took the opportunity of a spare ticket to hear Terry Waite speak.

I remember some of the events around his kidnapping in the 1980s. However I knew nothing about his background and learned that he had personally seen one of the atrocities committed by Amin in Uganda.

When he was led into a trap and taken hostage he had to use his negotiating skills to secure his own release. Before you can move forward you need to establish what it is the hostage-takers want. Listening to them and understanding their needs is essentially like listening to someone requesting prayer ministry – though obviously requiring much more skill and patience.

My own thoughts are that when sharing the gospel we also need to understand where people are before we can speak with relevance.

While he was signing books I asked whether the story about the postcard was true – yes, the only communication he received while in captivity was a postcard showing John Bunyan in prison addressed to 'Terry Waite, Hezbollah, Lebanon'.

**Leslie Barker, St Peter & St Paul**

## Pippa Wright wins annual Heritage Award



When the Friends of Tring Church Heritage was founded twenty-eight years ago, the thing we most needed was enthusiastic activists of all ages. From the

founding fathers and mothers to the first family members, what FOTCH needed to do was make belonging fun and enjoyable as well as effective in fundraising.

One family who has been a tremendous supporter of not just FOTCH but the whole church community for many years is the Nash family, Jane and Andy and their children Charlie, Amelia, Pippa and Henry.

A big feature of our early activities with FOTCH was a series of parties and concerts and even dramatic historical presentations. The Nash family were always active in preparing, presenting and performing. Jane was choir director at St Peter & St Paul's at that time and all her children joined in, in various roles. As well as FOTCH events we were, in parallel, engaged in setting up a new style of family service – Worship for All or All Age Worship. These services included different teams of organisers and presenters who engaged in everything from singing and dancing to acting and mime. In every aspect of these activities 'Pipsqueak' (as she named herself in her email address) was a hugely engaging performer.

From a very early age she and Amelia would present and entertain – enlivening the message in a charming and effective way. Pippa was also very active in supporting a wide range of church community activities. The

picture shows her at 18 years old in Spring 2004 completing the Easter Monday pilgrimage with her friend Fran Mackinder.

Both Pippa and Fran (now Pippa Wright and Fran Prescott) are new young mothers and a few weeks ago they both brought their new babies to Church for the first time. Gabriel is Pippa and Matt's second child; their first, Meredith, has also been a regular in our Church services and activities since birth. It is



a heart-warming feature of our weekly community life that the whole family is fully engaged and it seems the Church is as comfortable as a second home.

Throughout her life Pippa has encouraged her friends and contemporaries to become involved in every aspect of church life and to contribute to the church community. She is a real asset to the church and to her friends with her ability to engage with people of all ages.



On 12 May this year she was awarded our annual FOTCH Heritage Award for 2018 and her citation says it all: 'For introducing young people and families to church activities and heritage with consistent and infectious enthusiasm'.

Our second composite picture is taken from Tring Team Times in September 2002; the top picture shows Pippa (and her mother Jane, the Choir Director) in the choir on a trip to Beaulieu Abbey and Amelia on a walk along the Beaulieu river.

The involvement of the whole family (including the astounding achievements of 'Magic Henry' on so many occasions) has been a really warm and welcoming component of our church life for many years; it is a lovely thing to see the turning of the generations.

Our youngsters turn into young mothers (Amelia also joins us with her baby whenever she can) and bring their children into the fullness of family life in the church. It is a very good thing to see that cycle continuing to refresh our church life – arguably the finest form of 'future-proofing'.

I am sure everyone will want to join in congratulating Pippa and the whole family for all they have done and continue to do.

**Grahame Senior, St Peter & St Paul**

## The patter of tiny feet...

It was lovely to have the sounds of small babies in the Parish Church in May as our two pregnant mums both had their babies.

Congratulations to Matt and Pippa Wright whose son Gabriel Nigel Henry was born on 8 May – a brother for Amy, Tommy and Meredith; and to Tom and Fran Prescott on the birth of their first baby, Evelyn Sophia on 15 May.



# Annual Community Award 2018

On behalf of the whole Justice & Peace Group, I went up to receive the Annual Community Award on 23 April 2018 in the Victoria Hall. I had been persuaded by my wife that we should attend this annual meeting of the Tring Town Council and I had no idea what was to happen there.

It was good to see some members of the Justice & Peace Group take their seats but it was only later when others emerged that I was aware of just how many of our Group were there. I felt afterwards that I should have said something when I went forward to collect the Peace Lily and to shake the Mayor's hand, but I really was lost for words.

I wrote about the Justice & Peace Group in my article published in Comment in February 2014. So what have we been doing since then? Well, we have continued to meet regularly in different Churches or Church Halls in Tring and have gained new members.

We have carried out fundraising with gifts4living, a charity set up by parishioners of St Matthew's Catholic Church in Northwood, resulting in a borehole being sunk and freshwater and sanitation provided for a village in Nigeria. The finished project has apparently transformed the lives of the 1000 villagers and some in the village have converted to Christianity because of it.

We have continued our efforts as a Group to promote Fairtrade in Tring & District (we act as the Fairtrade steering group for Tring). The Fairtrade Town status for Tring has been successfully renewed each time this has been due, and we are particularly grateful to Tring Town Council for the three signs that can now be seen on the approach roads to Tring in London Road, Bulbourne Road and Aylesbury Road, announcing that Tring is a Fairtrade Town. Each Fairtrade Fortnight (end of February, beginning of



March) we have promoted Fairtrade in the town. In 2015 in Church Square we held a 'can you taste the difference?' blind tasting test between Fairtrade and non-Fairtrade chocolate. The result was that more people preferred Fairtrade chocolate and 13% couldn't tell the difference. The real difference, of course, is felt by the producers! For the last two years we have celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight by organising a Fairtrade pop-up café in High Street Baptist Church.

We consider the Justice & Peace Group to be now very much an integral part of this town's community life, and we have supported and joined in the activities of many organisations, both in Tring and further afield.

At the Queen's birthday celebration in St Peter & St Paul's Church on 11 June 2016 our Group had a stall from which we handed out quiz sheets about the Queen's life. We also took part in the 'Eight till Eight drop-in' event at St Peter & St Paul's Church on 3 June 2017. We had a world map displayed at our stand there and also several newspapers. People were invited to select a newspaper headline relating to a world need and to pledge to pray for it by placing their name (on a post-it) on the map over the country they had selected.

In 2017 we launched our latest edition of the 'Guide to Local Produce and Fairtrade in Tring and District' (available on our website) at the Eco Fair and put on a display of photographs and pictures promoting local produce and Fairtrade under the heading 'Use your LOAF, choose local and Fairtrade' (LOAF standing for food which is Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly and Fairly traded). I also spoke at the event.

We feel for the people in Syria and in other areas of conflict in the world and we were especially pleased to have supported the Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership [www.wtrrp.org.uk](http://www.wtrrp.org.uk) which offers 'practical and emotional support in West Hertfordshire to asylum-seekers, refugees and those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), many of whom are destitute and homeless. Their mission is to help provide access to the advice and services needed, often providing long-term support until statutory services are in place.'

Two speakers addressed a public

meeting we organised and since then we have fundraised for WTRRP at two pudding quizzes we have held so far in Corpus Christi Church Hall. Members of our Group made Fairtrade cakes for the WTRRP garden party last year and will do so again this year.

We drew attention to Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2018 by distributing booklets in our various churches. I was struck by the poem by Pastor Martin Niemoeller read out at the closure of our meeting on Holocaust Memorial Day:

***First they came for the Communists,  
and I did not speak out –  
Because I was not a Communist***

***Then they came for the Socialists, and  
I did not speak out –  
Because I was not a Socialist***

***Then they came for the Trade  
Unionists, and I did not speak out –  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist***

***Then they came for the Jews, and I  
did not speak out –  
Because I was not a Jew***

***Then they came for me –  
and there was no one  
left to speak for me.***

It is so important to speak out and not stand idly by whenever there is an issue requiring our attention and there are so many of these issues in the world today.

In August last year we were pleased to hear about the organisation One Sky Foundation from Andy Lilllicrap. In western Thailand, in Nonglu, Sangkhlaburi, not far from the border with Myanmar, we learned that there are seventeen illegal children's homes, with 650 children living there. This in an area of some 20,000 people, not much more than Tring's population of 15,000. One Sky Foundation was first registered as a non-governmental organisation in 2013 to support families and prevent them putting their children into institutions because of poverty. In 2016 One Sky worked with 170 families, supporting cases involving 342 children and 220 adults. The charity 'Children at Risk in Asia' (CARA) based in Berkhamsted supports One Sky, and the Justice & Peace Group fundraised for CARA at the



annual Christmas Community Concert in December 2016.

We are very grateful to children and young people from the following schools who have sung in our Community Concerts and to Tring School for producing the music for us in the past: Bishop Wood School together with London Heritage Brass (2014), the Franciscan Choir (singers from

the former Francis House Preparatory School and Tring School (2015), Bishop Wood C of E Junior School and Tring School (2016) and Dundale Primary School with the assistance of Kate Mckenna, Lucy Ashby and Cassie Emmott (2017).

We are currently appealing for books for 'School Aid', a registered charity which 'supports the advance of

education in Africa by providing good quality educational materials to meet the diverse needs of young people in disadvantaged communities. British books successfully supplement local resources and create libraries vital to improving literacy.'

The Justice & Peace Group meets on the last Wednesday of each month (except for December) at 7.30pm. We discuss a variety of topics and try to act where possible in a practical way, and members are always encouraged to bring along any topic they feel strongly about for our attention: debt relief, global warming, human trafficking, the plight of refugees and asylum seekers to name but a few. Please do look at our website [www.justiceandpeace.tring.org](http://www.justiceandpeace.tring.org), contact me at [michaeldemidecki@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldemidecki@gmail.com) or 07887 980004. We would love you to join us.

I must end with a big thank you to the Tring Town Council, and especially to Tring's 2017-2018 Mayor, Councillor Gerald Wilkins, not only for the honour I received at the annual town meeting but also for the help and support they have given to the Justice & Peace Group over the years.

**Michael Demidecki  
Justice & Peace Group**

## Parish magazine July and August 1918

Percy Badrick, L/c 2nd Battalion rifle Brigade, was not much more than twelve months ago, working on the railway. When he joined up, he was put into the Rifle Brigade, and, later on, promoted to be a L/c. He had not been in France very long before he was severely wounded, when the enemy were making their thrust on Amiens. Everything that could be done for him appears to have been done, and the Nurse who spoke of him as 'such a nice patient, and always grateful' had great hopes of his recovery, but he passed peacefully away in the hospital at Treport, on 29 May. This is the third son that Mr and Mrs Badrick have lost in the war. May God sustain and comfort them.

George Walter Young, Capt. 4th E.Yorks Regt, joined the Public Schools Battalion on the outbreak of the war. In October 1914, he got his Commission as 2nd Lieut In the 8th East Yorks Regt, and came for his training with the 21st Division, when they were at Halton Camp. He proceeded to France with the Division, and was Second in Command of his Company at the Battle of Loos,

where he was seriously wounded. He was promoted to be 1st Lieut in January 1915. When he recovered, he rejoined his Regiment on 25 September 1915, and was again wounded during the fighting at Monchy le Prieux. He was made Capt. early in 1917. As soon as he was strong enough he started off for France again, and was wounded for the 3rd time at Noreuil, on 17 December 1917. Once more, when he had recovered, he pleaded to be allowed to return to his men, and crossed the Channel for the last time, on 16 April of this year. He was killed by a shell, with several others of his men, on the Heights of Craonne, on 27 May. In a memorandum left with his parents in case he should be killed, he wrote: 'I do not desire that you should mourn for me long, nor sorrow over my death. I love a soldier's life, and, if I am called to lay down my life whilst fighting, I shall die happily, feeling that I am dying the noblest and best of deaths – a soldier's in the height of battle.'

Charles Frederick Howlett, who has

been reported missing since 4 October 1917, is now supposed to have been killed on that day while engaged in the desperate fighting about Polygon Wood.

He joined the Army in October 1915 and at first followed his own trade as a baker in the ASC. In January 1917 he was transferred to the Infantry, and when he went to France in the following May, was attached to the Lincolnshire Regt. His corporal remembers seeing him go over the top on 4 October, but there is now no one left, apparently, who can tell what happened to him afterwards. For nearly nine years he sang in our Parish Church choir, and was also confirmed as a chorister. Now he has given his life for our great cause: May God accept what he has given.





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## Being a school governor



For the last four years, I have been a school governor at Bishop Wood C of E Junior School and for the last two years, I have been Chair of Governors. As I come to the end of my term of office, I offer here a few thoughts on the role of school governor and the challenges and rewards that might lie in wait for anyone taking on this responsibility.

When I was appointed four years ago, I understood that the role of school governor included the need to oversee sound financial management of the school budget and that foundation governors have a particularly responsibility to ensure that the Christian ethos of the school is maintained. I had very little idea of the degree of scrutiny that exists within education, the way data is sliced and diced and the pressure on teachers to ensure that each pupil makes the 'right' amount of progress.

I have some ambivalence about this process. There is no doubt in my mind that there needs to be a degree of accountability for the teaching that takes place in the classroom and that treating pupils as individuals involves offering individualised support to ensure that each child reaches their potential. However, my fear is that, without careful consideration, the pressure felt by teachers is transferred on to pupils, contributing to the increasingly fragile mental health of school-age children.

The Church of England has outlined four values which they would like to see underpinning education at Church Schools: wisdom, hope, dignity and community. As a governing body, we are in the process of reshaping our school vision and working out how to develop these values in our local context. We want to make sure that children at Bishop Wood are not under undue pressure; that the school is a place where children develop a love of learning; where talent, creativity and confidence can grow; and where they are equipped with emotional resilience and compassion for others.

The governing body has a responsibility for ensuring that the culture of day-to-day life at Bishop Wood reflects our vision. We can do this by questioning the Headteacher and other senior leaders at governing body meetings. However, we can also do this by visiting the school and speaking to children to find out about their experience of school life on a daily basis.

The welfare and education of pupils at Bishop Wood should be at the heart of everything we do as a governing body. For some governors, in their role as named Safeguarding Governor or as the Governor Link for Numeracy, this relationship is fairly direct. Less so perhaps, if you are the governor lead for finance or responsible for checking that the school has a proper maintenance schedule in place, but these roles are equally important in ensuring that the needs of children are met, both now and in the future.

There is something for everyone on the governing body. Little did I realise some of the tasks that lay ahead of me when I took on the role of Chair of Governors two years ago. These have included facilitating discussions around joining a multi-academy trust (we decided not to go down this route), appointing a new Headteacher and accounting for the work of the governing body to both Ofsted and SIAMS inspectors. At times, the role has been challenging and time-consuming, but in part, this is a choice I have made because the responsibilities are important. I have wanted to make sure that the work we do as governors has been undertaken carefully and thoroughly, because it matters; and the decisions we make have a direct impact on children.

Being a school governor has been extremely interesting and rewarding. I will miss it and I hope to return to it at some point in the future. For now though, other aspects of my life need to take priority and it is time for me to hand over the reins to someone else. As a foundation governor, I have been appointed by the church, specifically the PCC, and the PCC will be looking for recommendations from within the church community to replace me. It would be great if all readers of Comment could consider whether they have the time, skills and motivation to take on this important role. Do speak to either myself or Huw Bellis if you are interested.

**Beth Townsend, Chair of Governors  
Bishop Wood C of E Junior School**

## Lace and Craft Day

PLEASE COME to Bishop Wood School in Frogmore Street, Tring, on Saturday 1 September 2018 from 10.00am-4.00pm where you can buy crafting goods, lace bobbins and spangles and buy your Traidcraft goods too. There will be a raffle where you might be the lucky one this time!

Tickets are £4.50 each and proceeds will be divided between Bishop Wood funds, the Tring Team Parish Mission and the Royal British Legion. There will be Fairtrade Tea and Coffee available all day but please bring your own lunch or visit the cafés close by.

There is limited parking in the School grounds and ample parking adjacent to the School (charges apply). Please email [moira.y.hargreaves@btinternet.com](mailto:moira.y.hargreaves@btinternet.com) for tickets or call Moira on 01442 823624. If you would like tickets sent by post, please send a stamped addressed envelope with cheques made payable to Mrs Moira Hargreaves, 30 Highfield Road, Tring, Herts, HP23 4DX.



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## Letter from Orkney

I don't understand statistics. I am therefore a little puzzled about how crime stats are recorded.

Orkney is regarded as having one of the lowest incidents of crime in the UK, and this is supported by various official websites indicating there has been no crime recorded here for some months now. However, our newspaper 'The Orcadian', an essential source of local information, reports from Kirkwall Sheriff Court on the various miscreants who have appeared there to have their cases heard.

In general many cases are motoring related – speeding or drink driving. The alcohol limit for driving in Scotland is 22mcg per 100ml of breath, compared to 35mcg in England, so it's easy to stray over the limit here, in particular in the morning after the night before. There are also reports of what appear to be domestic violence offences and, of course, the ubiquitous incidents of drunk and disorderly behaviour at the weekends in Kirkwall, although we have never seen any of this. So although there is undoubtedly a very low crime rate compared with many other places (maybe living on an island where everybody knows everybody else has an effect, and I've not yet read about any house burglaries), despite the reported statistics of nil crime there are always cases to be heard at the Sheriff's Court. Perhaps I don't understand what constitutes 'crime' in the minds of statisticians or those who are paying them.

Having said all that, the existence of a place such as Betty's Reading Room supports the notion that we are living among a basically law-abiding population. Betty was a teacher of special needs children in London and she died tragically young in 2007. She had friends in Orkney whom she often visited and they decided to build a memorial in her name. Along with an army of willing helpers they renovated a derelict bothy next to their house. This is now filled with comfy settees and a library with an eclectic selection of books, all donated and which can, if one wishes, be taken away to read. There is also an impressive array of interesting artefacts to be browsed and enjoyed. Wood is left so the solid fuel stove can be used to warm the room, and there are even biscuits in a jar! The building is never locked. It is a testament to Orkney that such a place exists and is respected and enjoyed by Orcadians and visitors from all over the world who manage to find it – long may that last.

One aspect of life we enjoy here is the freedom of the 'right to roam' over any land, as long as it is done responsibly. This right is, of course, common to the whole of Scotland. There are a huge number of archaeological sites which have not been investigated at all, and so it is possible to go and explore these as we wish. There is a refreshing lack of concern in these places regarding health and safety so common sense and care is required. I therefore recently found myself climbing

down some very steep, wet, uneven and narrow steps to an underground hole at a place called Mine Howe which may or may not have been part of a ritual site in the Bronze Age. It was eerie and atmospheric, although the frog



which was already in residence was not impressed by the human intrusion, and probably not impressed either by the eerie atmosphere.

It therefore seems to me that although Orkney undoubtedly has its problems about which it cannot, and is not, complacent (and there will be more about these in future 'Letters'), it is still a special place to live and enjoy, and the population is respectful of each other.

Plus it has great tea rooms, and excellent local beer and whisky!

Carrie Dodge  
St Mary the Virgin, Stromness



# Your wedding stories



When we were married in 1971 we had a problem that caused quite a bit of upset at the time. Just as we were about to send out our

wedding invitations in January, the postal workers went on strike! This lasted from 20 January to 8 March (seven weeks) and our wedding took place on the 13 March. This was of course before there was an internet and not knowing when the postal workers would agree the pay deal, the only way we could invite the more distant guests was by phoning, making our printed invitations surplus to requirements! It also made booking a honeymoon (a weekend away) a problem as we couldn't send a cheque to secure the booking. This was also long before credit cards! For those of our generation or older, you may remember our currency was decimalised on 15 February 1971, so getting married less than four weeks later, John was one of the first people to pay 37.5p for the marriage licence. How times have changed!

**Janet Goodyer, St Peter & St Paul**



When Kate and I were about to cut our wedding cake, her father told her that a huge spider would crawl out of the cake – causing the rather shocked expression on her face in this photo!

**Andrew Openshaw  
New Mill Baptist Church**



Ted tells me that the organist played the wrong music as we left the Church. Only Ted would notice that. Ted did mention I was there but obviously my

mind was elsewhere! He tells me though that it should have been Mendelssohn's Wedding March but the organist played the bridal march from the Sound of Music! (Maybe a few others might have noticed too?)

**Margaret Oram, St Peter & St Paul**



I came downstairs all dressed for the Off (not in the best of moods due to the tension of the day) only to find my usher still sitting in the living room with

his mother, my aunt, when he should have been at the church early. I was not best pleased, neither were my future husband's ushers. My aunt and her son didn't seem to understand the job of an usher.

It was a bit of a windy day and, all posed ready for the photo to be taken in the reception venue's garden, a big gust of wind took my extra long veil way up in the air!

The honeymoon venue was very old; when we walked to one side of the bedroom, the wardrobe door opened, then when we went across to close that door, the bedside table door on the other side of the room opened! We were back and forth all evening with that and glasses of water to stem the thirst after some very salty kippers.

**Christine Rutter, St Mary's Puttenham**



We were married on 17 October 1987, at Sunnyside, Berkhamsted. It was two days after the great storm of 15-16 October when trees were

down everywhere and hundreds of thousands of people lost electricity – including the Church. On the Thursday we thought the wedding would have to be postponed. But in the end our wedding was conducted by candlelight and a piano was played instead of the organ. The power magically came on after the signing of the register with the organist running from the piano back to the organ for the last five minutes.

**Ian Matthews, St Peter & St Paul**



Our wedding going-away car was a 1967 Volvo Amazon which was Barry's pride and joy and was a classic car even back in 1987

when we got married. When we came

to leave, it wouldn't start! There was much laughter from the guests and very red faces from me and Barry. It started eventually; we put the car in the garage at home, where it has stayed ever since. BUT, the reason for telling the story is that 2018 is the year when Barry is going to get it restored, ready for our 32nd wedding anniversary in June 2019.

**Vivianne Child, St Peter & St Paul**



Nothing went wrong on the day Edmund and I got married, until we were in the car driving north for our honeymoon.

As we were driving

along the M6 toll in Edmund's old Ford Focus, he had to admit that we were extremely short of petrol – I hadn't noticed, as a passenger, full of the joys of the day – and we were very lucky to limp on to the forecourt of the Toll services before we ground to a halt!

**Anna Le Hair, St Peter & St Paul**



As we both needed our cars prior to the wedding, our guests waved us off with Dick going in his car while I followed behind in my little mini on our

journey to RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire, where Dick was on an aerosystems course! Not quite the usual way of starting married life...

**Jo Green, St Peter & St Paul**



We married at my home Church of 'Our Lady and St Oswin', Tynemouth, Northumberland. If one made a 360 circle around the Church you would

see the Keep and Castle, the North Sea, the River Tyne, Lord Collinwood's imposing monument and the twin light houses at the mouth of the river. At that time I was teaching and John was a captain in the Royal Engineers. We were both based in Hameln am de Weser, the town of the Pied Piper.

**Tricia Apps, Corpus Christi**

# When did they get married?



Most of these people are Comment readers or contributors (one is related to a reader!). Can you identify who they are and what year it was?

Answers on page 37.

## A conversation stopper

I gather we Methodists have not been very forthcoming in the Articles-For-Comment Department, so I have been wracking my brains for a contribution from our end of the town. I have not managed to come up with anything which might spark a lively debate (my husband was not keen to write about Pipedown, which is an interesting pressure group supported by many actors and musicians – please Google it), so I thought I'd offer a conversation stopper: my occupation, pensions administration.

When I mention that's what I do, the only response I ever get is a waggish 'Pensions? Can you get me one?' I can't. End of conversation. Perhaps only my daughter can out-do me in boring occupations: an actuary, commonly defined as a job for someone who finds accountancy too exciting. Has any school child ever said they want to be a pensions administrator? I am sure not. Everyone I have ever worked with got there by accident.

Pensions Administrators don't get to see the world – Northern Ireland is the furthest I have ever been, dishing

out pension statements. Like most people, I've worked with a few difficult people, but I have been very lucky to have really liked most of my colleagues. Our oddness can be quite bonding! Anyone really interesting doesn't stay very long. My record is a young budding rock musician who left after his first day of training – it was that boring! Unfortunately, I can't remember his name, so I will never know if he became famous.

We work in a fairly library-like environment; we can all overhear phone calls. I once took a call from a gruff-voiced Barry (not his real name) who had become Natasha (not her real name). We needed to update our records. He went into quite a lot of detail about the process for making his voice sound more feminine. It sounded horrible but he (she) was very up-beat and she worked in a very male-dominated factory. She was very brave.

I once had a lot of dealings with a man who had been kidnapped by the IRA. His story was fascinating. He was very lucky to have survived his kidnapping as it ended in a shoot-out.

Now there's an article for Comment!

One of my former bosses once questioned me about some aspect of my work and after I replied, he looked at me dead-pan and asked, 'Rosemary, what do you do for a good time?' If that was a 'pass', it passed by me! As far as I know, there is no '#Metoo' movement in the pensions world!

I think 500 words is quite enough on this subject, but I should like to thank Rosamund Drake (Harvey) who called me after my last Comment article. We had very happy times singing Alto together in the Parish Church Choir for several years (with Vivianne Child too) and that was what Annette really wanted me to write about. I was very sorry I lost her number, so couldn't call her back. Rosamund, if you see this, please try again (01442 822305).

**Rosemary Berdinner**  
**St Martha's Methodist Church**



## What the resurrection means to me



Several weeks ago I went to a lecture on quantum computing. I don't profess to know anything about quantum computers at all, but the start of the lecture had quite

an impact on me. The speaker gave us a list of things we must put aside before even approaching the subject. Two of the ideas were Newton's Laws of Motion (old fashioned mechanics – you remember maybe: 'to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction' etc) and Einstein's Special and General Relativity ( $E=mc^2$  etc). This was like a light-bulb moment for me – so, I could listen to the talk without fighting against what was being said with 'but what if...?' or 'shouldn't so-and-so happen?' My arguments and questions based on the understanding I had of physics had to be put aside. That really unburdened me and I could hear what was being

said, gain a little understanding (it is a complicated subject!) and marvel at the possibilities the future held.

When Huw challenged us on Easter Sunday to consider what the resurrection means to us, this helped to explain what it means to me. That light-bulb moment, coming to something without preconceptions, without hang-ups but having an open and empty heart and mind, is what God is offering us. I don't profess to know what God's plans are or what he can achieve, but I want to be open to him and be thrilled at what could be. Of course, the heart needs to be at the right lecture, so it is important to keep a focus on God's word and the church's teaching, but WOW!, that excitement of what can be removes fear and brings hope and expectation; it just needs trust.

So I would rewrite one of the prayers from the Novena 2018 that reads 'Oh God of invitation, as we stand at the door, as we ask the hard questions, as we search you out, may we sense you

already at work preparing a feast of answers, drawing us over the threshold and satisfying all our hungers.' My prayer goes: 'Thank you, God, for the invitation of your love. The door is open and I ask no questions, merely search you out. You are already at work; I need no answers for I trust you are drawing us over the threshold to feel at home in your presence. Amen.'

I hope that with openness and trust, together great things can be achieved for our Lord. The future is unlimited! – That is what the resurrection means to me.

**Jillian Smith, St Peter & St Paul**

## Who am I?

Do you recognise this woman? Photo taken more than seventy years ago.





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# Patronal Feast Day of Corpus Christi



We are told that we are the church; we are the body of Christ. As Teresa Avila expressed: *'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body but yours.'*

On 3 June the Parish of Corpus Christi celebrated its patronal festival. Father David Burke reinstated the Corpus Christi procession, which was common in past times in many cities and towns.

It was essentially a Bring and Share Lunch but, beyond that, the attention to detail – the flowers, bunting, pretty table

cloths (no paper ones!) made it a special occasion. The food was great and the desserts memorable – more Chocolate Guinness cake please!

We were delighted to have Canon Berry on this occasion and several from

other churches. Everyone appeared content, outdoors in the sunshine, a beautiful example of communion and community!

**Tricia Apps, Corpus Christi**



# Living in community

Sheep seem to get a lot of coverage in the sayings and rhymes arena. We ask: 'Baa baa black sheep, have you any wool?' 'Mary had a little lamb', while 'Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep'. We might be the 'black sheep' of the family or 'mutton dressed as lamb'. And perhaps you end each day by 'counting sheep'?

Until last summer, I was living on the Welsh border – where gift shop merchandise is quite sheep-centric: sheep badges, sheep coasters, sheep jewellery – the choice seems endless. One of my leaving presents was a sheep doorstep. Sheep have firmly taken root in our imagination, they're embedded in our vocabulary; partly, I guess, because they've been an important part of farming in this country since Roman times.

They've been part of life in the Middle East for far longer than that. And so it makes sense that, Jesus too uses the metaphors of sheep and shepherds to explain various concepts. He has a lot to say about sheep and lambs, gates and pastures. He knows about sheep.

'I am the good shepherd,' he says. 'Good' here can be translated also as true, wonderful, model or perfect. Jesus is the model shepherd as described by the prophet Ezekiel: 'God says, "I will search for my sheep, and seek them out. I will rescue them, I will feed them on good pasture. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak..."' (Ezekiel 34:11-16). Jesus goes even beyond this when he says, 'the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.' We can't help but hear in Jesus' words an allusion to his own death.

This image of the good shepherd though, is intensely relational: there's no point in having a good shepherd if there aren't any sheep. 'I am the good shepherd' isn't only about who Jesus is, but is about who he is in relationship to those who follow him. The identity of Jesus, and the identity of those who gather around Jesus, are linked. John's words carry great weight about the nature of Christian community. In this strong metaphor of Jesus as the good shepherd and his followers as his sheep, we see a community that gathers together around Jesus.

As we worship, we acknowledge

Jesus' identity as the good shepherd. We receive and declare our identity as members of his flock. We know that there are different ways in which we worship – not all sheep are identical. And there will always be one sheep hiding in a hedge, one stuck on a fence, another gazing in the opposite direction – and yet we are all gathered together around Jesus.

In John chapter 10 there are only a shepherd and some sheep; there aren't any assistant shepherds – we're all sheep together. Other parts of scripture give us an understanding of sharing shepherding for one another (it's where we get the term 'pastoral care' from) but here, in John's Gospel, it's clear that there's an equality to being sheep: we are all those who follow Jesus. We are in it together.

We're a community that gathers around Jesus in worship services, large and small; across the town, and across the worldwide church. We're a community that gathers around Jesus to share our knowledge and experience of following him, learning together, praying together, mourning together, and rejoicing together.

'I come that they might have life and have it abundantly,' (John 10:10). For life to be abundant, I believe it has to be shared, not necessarily in shared accommodation, or in each other's pockets – we all need space as well. But an abundant life is one modelled on the mutuality of life seen between God and Jesus; the model of community John gives is grounded in the love seen in the relationship between God and Jesus. But living in community, of course, isn't always easy! Sara Miles, a woman who became a Christian in her 40s after a profound encounter with God the first time she went to Church, says this about being part of the family of Jesus: 'simply going to Church offered no magic that would automatically turn me into a less smug and self-righteous person. Time and time again, I was going to have to forgive people I was mad at, say I was sorry, be honest when I felt petty, and sit down to eat, as Jesus did, with my betrayers and enemies: the mad, the boring and the merely unlikeable.'

Gathering together around Jesus isn't always easy – but it's what Jesus calls us to do, and with his help, it is possible. In learning how to be community

together, we do well to notice another key point from our reading: we should listen together.

A shepherd's crook, we know, has that big curved end for reaching out and grabbing a naughty sheep by the neck and hauling it back in. But, according to one farmer, what the shepherd's crook was really for was sticking deeply into the ground so that the shepherd could lean on it and hold themselves so still that eventually the sheep began to trust him. In stillness we can discover what is trustworthy and true, the rooted stillness of prayer is where we can discover the voice of God. 'He leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice'. The sheep know the voice of the one whom they follow.

If we want to listen to someone, we make sure we're able to hear their voice, and we make sure we're not distracted by other things. Have you ever tried to have a conversation with someone in a cafe and the music distracts you? Or maybe, the conversation of the people at the next table sounds far more interesting than that at your own table! If we want to hear someone, we need to 'tune in' to them, and listen carefully. 'He leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice'.

Whose voice do we listen to? Are we familiar with the voice of Jesus? Do we recognise him when he speaks to us? When we pray, do we let him speak too? And do we listen, carefully, to what he has to say?

A community centred on the good shepherd gathers together and listens together. In the listening, there are usually challenges, helping others to hear the voice of the good shepherd and helping others to know the abundant life that the good shepherd offers.

**Michelle Grace, Tring Team**






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# Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter



St Cross, Wilstone, welcomed Peter Williams, a volunteer at DENS for eleven years, to their regular 10.00am Communion Service on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Peter was there to tell us why DENS is important. What follows is reproduced with his permission.

DENS is important to the 150 people in Dacorum who are officially classified as homeless today. Some are in temporary shelters; some are sofa surfing – sleeping on a friend's floor until they move on to the next friend's place; and some are sleeping rough in cars, garages, on the streets, in hedges, parks or woodland.

Not having a place to live isn't just a question of shelter. If you don't have an address in today's world you can't get a job, enter education, open a bank account, claim benefits or even be involved in volunteering. It was against this sort of background that DENS started.

A group of churches in Hemel Hempstead opened their Church Halls on a rota during the winter months. This provided some of those who were homeless with a bed, shelter and a meal. It involved a lot of work by the volunteers providing the service as they moved beds, bedding and other equipment around the Churches, every day.

As a result of that experience DENS was set up. Fifteen years ago a house was turned into a Night Shelter with three rooms providing accommodation for ten people. It was nowhere near enough to meet demand but clients were given a cooked evening meal, a bed and a cheery smile when they had to leave at 8.00am. The biggest drawback was that individuals could only stay for thirty nights, not always enough time to find a longer term solution.

As one of the earliest Night Shelter residents said rather ironically, 'It is easy to fill my day: I walk down the canal towpath for four hours then I turn around and walk back. The next day, for a change, I walk down the towpath in the opposite direction'. As a result, DENS opened a Day Centre. It was designed

to give a place where people could go for shelter and advice, a meal, to do their laundry and – something which many homeless people don't have – for companionship. Social isolation is one of the biggest problems for the homeless and in many cases can exacerbate mental health problems.

But just giving people physical short-term shelter doesn't solve the problem. Underlying the challenges to being able to move someone on to their own place is a lack of suitable affordable accommodation. DENS had been working with another local charity concerned with this issue and it became clear that there should be a merger with Rent Aid, often providing a deposit guarantee for the individual, or providing space in a shared house. This merger also meant that DENS could work proactively with Private Landlords and with Dacorum Borough Council to make more accommodation available and to support people moving back into independent living.

It was clear that the cause of someone being homeless also needed to be addressed. The reasons for being homeless are many and varied: relationship breakdown, mental health issues, loss of job, financial crisis or debt, drug or alcohol issues – and for some people, it can be all of these.

Whilst it was recognised that these issues often needed professional help, in reality, a solution would never come about unless the individual took responsibility for addressing their situation. DENS works with individuals to create an

action plan, but there is the expectation that an individual commits to changing their circumstances. DENS provides the safe environment in which people can do this and works hard to provide the supportive environment for this to happen. Today the Day Centre sees about thirty people a day, and acts as an access point to all of our support services. Each individual's needs will be assessed and they will then be directed in the most appropriate direction.

One of the places for people to go is The Elms. It has forty-four beds, and runs in partnership with DBC. They have their own room and are given breakfast and dinner. There are quite strict rules on behaviour but these are designed to make the building a safe and welcoming environment for all. All staying at the Elms have their own dedicated support worker, to work with them as they work through their action plan.

The Elms try to give people basic skills, activities like gardening, coppicing, recycling, a soft lesson in potentially useful skills for the employment market.



## SAVE THE DATE!

**Multi-Faith Service of Celebration & Thanksgiving to celebrate DENS 15th Anniversary**

**St Johns Church, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1JY**  
**Tuesday 10 July 2018 at 6.30pm**  
**followed by**  
**Buffet, Pimms, Strawberries and Birthday Cake**  
**All welcome**



If you have some friends or colleagues you would like to bring with you, you are most welcome, please just let us know numbers to aid catering arrangements.

Please RSVP to 01442 800268 or fundraising@DENS.org.uk by Thursday 5th July 2018.

www.DENS.org.uk; Charity No. 1097185



Education is also a key part. Many do not know how to maintain a rental property, how to budget to ensure that debt is no longer an issue, how to cook themselves a meal.

Rent Aid is supporting sixty-five people, mainly in the private rented sector. In some cases we even manage properties for the owners giving them the confidence to make the property available to our clients. We even have our own furniture warehouse which means that when someone finds a place to live, they will be able to have some basic furniture, bedding and a starter-pack – kitchen utensils, cutlery and crockery. All the items have been donated and access to them is open to others in need who may not be DENS service users.

All this time DENS has been fortunate to receive food from a variety of places, churches, schools and businesses, including Ocado who pass on their fresh food which is approaching

a sell-by date. It soon became clear that there were people outside of our primary focus who were getting into debt to feed themselves and their families. As many of you realise, getting a short-term loan may sound a fantastic opportunity when advertised on television, but in reality, for many people it just creates a spiral of debt which can ultimately lead to becoming homeless. With this in mind, the Foodbank was established, in partnership with the Trussell Trust which provides emergency food supplies for people in crisis, helping until other support and benefits are made available. Last year nearly 4000 people were helped. Most of those only needed enough food for six to nine days and DENS were able to meet this. There is a limit as to how many people can come back as food parcels are not a long-term solution.

So, is DENS important? If only it were entirely unnecessary. The reality is that the need for services offered

has kept growing. Even though over 70% of people entering the DENS support umbrella do get long-term help, and many of them step back into independent living, we still have a waiting list for accommodation most nights.

Most of the support that DENS receives still comes from local churches such as those in the Tring Team. It is a very visible example of how Christian charity works in practice. All of those people who give food, help, cash, are living up to Jesus' teachings and to the sentiment voiced by Sydney Carter when he wrote, 'When I needed a neighbour, were you there?'

DENS IS important. It is trying to meet a need that shouldn't exist, but it does it in a way that provides a long-term hope for those in real need. It is about changing lives.

**Pam Russell, St Cross, Wilstone and St Peter & St Paul**

# Poppies in their thousands!

It was lovely to see so many people at the Friends of Tring Church Heritage Family Fun Day in May. Thank you for your interest! Thank you so much to anyone who brought poppies for us on the day: we were overwhelmed by the response. We had all quantities from a small handful to a box of 1000! They are all precious to us and will all be used in the installation in November.

Thanks to all who joined us on the day to knit or crochet: it was a very good advert on how absorbing making poppies can be. We are busy preparing

all that have been donated at present so they are ready for the installation, the finer details of which will be approved by the church by the time you read this.

Some of the poppies had their first



showing on 30 June at the rededication of the Tring War Memorial, a mini installation for that day of commemoration and celebration. There was also a display in the Parish

Church about the poppies and another WW1 project some of us are contributing to.

**Janet Goodyer, St Peter & St Paul**



# Sixty years of marriage... and counting

Douglas and Lilian Purse have just celebrated sixty years of marriage, most of which has been in Tring. Their home in New Mill Road was new when they moved in and was built on an orchard. The apple tree next door is from that original orchard. In 1961 when they came here there was still a primary school at this end of Tring.

Douglas was born in Watford in 1928, left school at fourteen and started working for the Post Office as a boy messenger, delivering telegrams in London on a pedal bike. In 1942, many of the telegrams he delivered were informing parents that their son was missing, presumed dead, and often the next telegram would arrive the same day bringing news of their son's death. Douglas was called up in 1946 but returned to the Post Office first as a postman, then a sorting clerk and finally a counter clerk. He took exams to join

the war, Lily spent a good part of her teens in hospital, dangerously ill, so only started work when she was twenty. She trained as a telegraphist, typing up telegrams that were phoned in from red telephone boxes. So when she moved to Watford, Lily was working upstairs in the same building as Doug, working downstairs. In those days the Post Office would have five stations for stamps and another six for savings accounts, postal orders, pensions and family allowance, and on Thursday men would come in to post their football pools.

Doug had 'noticed' Lily and knew she was special. He was keen to take her out and the opportunity came when he drove her home after the staff Christmas party in 1956. They had a short engagement and married in March 1958. Their wedding was a simple one, not like those of today. They lived at first in two rooms in Watford and saved



used to be on the Tesco site before the present development. She retired before they closed.

Lily used to attend Sunday School before the war and then the Parish Church in Watford where she and Doug were married. Their children were baptised in Tring but St Bartholomew's in Wigginton was their home church at first. They transferred to St Peter & St Paul's while Frank Mercurio was Vicar there. They felt very much at home under Frank's leadership yet feel that Huw Bellis and Jane Banister have changed the climate at the Parish Church into a less formal, younger and friendlier church. Doug and Lily are key members of the church today, both Church welcomers and helping with the Food Bank every Monday. St Peter & St Paul is a collection and donation point and among those who generously bring in food for the Foodbank are Akeman Street Baptist Church and Baxter & Lindley Financial Services in the High Street. Someone comes in about once a month from the local business with a heavy load of donated goods which are gratefully received.

About five years ago Doug and Lily visited Akeman Street Baptist Church to hear the hand bells being rung. Then the Eeleys 'poached' them to come to the Women's Fellowship which they have been doing ever since. They are firm believers in finding God in any church and prefer the daytime meetings to the evening meetings generally arranged in St Peter & St Paul's. They receive a very warm welcome at Akeman Street and find the people there very friendly.



the Inland Revenue and worked first in St Albans and then Hemel Hempstead.

Lilian was born in Bethnal Green and when her father volunteered for the RAF in 1940, she was evacuated and separated from her mother and baby brother, carrying the brown box with her gas mark wherever she went. After

hard for the deposit for the house they still live in, nearly sixty years later. Their son Nigel and daughter Melanie were born in 1962 and 1965 and they have four granddaughters, Caroline (27) and Bryony (25), Lucy (25) and Holly (21).

When the children were at secondary school, Lily went to work at Coxes which



Doug and Lily are very appreciative of those who give up their time to make things easier or better for older people and thought the work being done by the Baptist Churches was very valuable. Akeman Street Baptist Church run a Wednesday cafe where food and companionship is supplied and people are driven there from their homes on request. 'Nothing is too much trouble for them,' says Lily. There is a Games Afternoon at High Street Baptist Church which also caters for the needs of older people. The Parish Church also runs a monthly lunch in the Parish Hall for those who have been bereaved. The design of the Baptist Church buildings lends themselves to this kind of activity in a way that the Parish Church does not but Lily has welcomed the arrival of the Craft and a Cuppa on a Tuesday in St Peter & St Paul's which she has attended enthusiastically.

Doug and Lily's children don't live too far away but family celebrations have been the best things in their lives, times when the whole family have been able to come together. After their sixtieth wedding anniversary they celebrated with their family at the Greyhound Inn in Wigginton before returning to Nigel and Irene's for Champagne and celebration cake.

They wouldn't call themselves adventurous but have travelled to India, South Africa (three times), Botswana, Russia, Jordan and New England, as well as many places in Europe. They have been twice to the Oberamagau Passion Play, visited the battlefields and driven along the Romantic Road. The poverty in India was difficult. Lily wanted to bring all the children home to England for Christmas! In Botswana, an unscheduled stop because of car trouble made for a sleepless night camping among snakes and large animals.

Like everyone else they have had some dark moments in their lives, particularly the deaths of people they were very close to including Norman, Doug's niece's husband. Lily's mother with dementia, who ended her life in a



care home, and a sister with dementia, who didn't know Doug any more, were great sadnesses. More dramatically, their home was struck by lightning in July 1983 and Lily received a call to her workplace from a neighbour telling her their house was on fire! All the ceiling collapsed and they had to have a whole new roof. They had to spend six months in rented accommodation while repairs

were being made.

Doug and Lily are fortunate to still have each other as they enter their 90s. What is the secret of their long marriage? For richer for poorer, in sickness and in health... And when they disagree (because they don't always agree!), it's important to resolve those disagreements: 'Never let the sun go down on your anger'. They work together as a team, a partnership, and family is very important to them.

It's a very different world now from when Doug and Lily married and life is different for young people today. They recall the secondhand furniture they had and saving for things they needed rather than buying on credit. If they were to pass anything on to a younger generation it would be to listen to people, have patience and respect each other.

**Doug and Lily Purse  
St Peter & St Paul  
with Annette Reynolds**



## My best friend's funeral



I have found great satisfaction in the area of funeral ministry. For me, the defining characteristic of the role is that people are usually very keen to talk and engage with the ministry team in preparation for a funeral and are generally very open and inclusive. This is not always the case with other forms of service. There's an urgency to the situation which encourages directness.

It seems to me that St Peter & St Paul's, as the established church, has a responsibility to the whole community to make end-of-life services as accessible and individual as possible. This duty tends to open us up to a much wider spectrum of our society today than is the case with straightforward 'Sunday' services.

Over the past few years I have become increasingly comfortable in this role. Nothing, however, could have prepared me for the specific role I had to play in Gloucestershire a few weeks ago.

### 'All human life is there...'

No two funerals are the same, just like us; every one is unique. Over the years I have been asked to take funerals for a very wide range of people: some I knew well, some I had never met. The first complete funeral I planned was for my dear friend and founder member of FOTCH, Gillian Miller, who died tragically young but packed so much into her eventful life (including driving Ferraris and superbikes!). I also officiated at both my father's and mother's funerals which was a great privilege and in many ways it seemed as if this brought an extra dimension to my training, as well as to my knowledge and understanding of my parents. One of the most moving and evocative for me was that of Mollie Stratford, a lifelong lover of village life in Wilstone whom we laid to rest in the peaceful bower of the village cemetery.

Each one is different, individual and special.

### My best friend...

Derek Grimsley was my longest-standing friend; he and Nada and their two children, Natalie and Nicholas, had been neighbours in our first house in Cheshire

and we had been close – almost one big family – ever since, throughout all the changes of our lives and the different locations we have lived in. For more than fifty years Derek and I have shared a passion for walking and the countryside and there is hardly an airy upland space on our island that we haven't walked together. In 2013 I was privileged to take the service of rededication of their marriage vows on their 50th Wedding Anniversary at a beautiful Manor House Church in Bibury.

For some years Derek had been struggling with lymphoma and had put up a very brave fight carrying on with his busy life almost to the end – and always cheerfully. On our return from Mexico in March this year, I went to visit him in hospital in Cheltenham and it was clear that he was in the final stage of his life.

It was then, face-to-face, that my old friend asked me to take his funeral. A shocking question; a great privilege and a huge responsibility. To face an old pal asking you such a question, looking you directly in the eyes, pulls you up short. There is only one possible answer and you have no choice but to give it.

### A perfect setting for thanksgiving

Derek and Nada's home in the Cotswolds is in Pitchcombe on the western slopes of the Slad Valley (Laurie Lee country). Pitchcombe Village Church is across the hillside and a more idyllic country location you would never find. The 19 April was almost the warmest Spring day on record and the whole occasion was a beautiful celebration of a life well-lived by a man well-loved.

As I observed, Derek was to me my best friend and I was certain that there were others there in the congregation who would have said the same thing. What a wonderful lifetime achievement that is for anyone. The mood on the day was one of real celebration and thanksgiving and I am sure went just as Derek would have wished.

The following morning I was set to take the committal service in the crematorium in Gloucester.

### A complete change of mood

After the gloriously sunny day of the thanksgiving service, the new morning proved an astoundingly gloomy contrast. A curious temperature inversion had occurred in the Severn Valley and

the whole of Gloucester – with the crematorium in the middle – was bathed in a suffocating fog so that it was almost fully dark. The contrast between the joyful celebratory service of the day before and the sombre reality of the committal could not have been more stark. The first was like a film setting for a perfect English thanksgiving occasion filled with love and deep respect. The second was more like a setting for a tragic movie redolent with sorrow and grief.

Of all the different services I have yet had to take, this two-part rite of passage was undoubtedly the most affecting. It was nonetheless a huge privilege to be asked to do it. It brought me to a fresh realisation as to why I had entered this ministry in the first place. It also brought me even closer to fully knowing my dear old pal. No one ever said that it would be easy. I am old enough to know that things worth doing are often hard, and costly to do.

I received a very generous letter from the Incumbent of the Parish (Canon Michael Irving) which said that I had held everything together very well (including myself). It really didn't feel like that inside – not at all. I had suffered several sleepless nights before the event and the darkness of that Friday morning was almost the final straw. But I had the distraught family of my best and closest friend to support and they too were suffering from the awful let-down of the final goodbye after an uplifting day of thanksgiving. It was so, so lonely for all of us without Derek.

We drove home immediately after the service and as we climbed out of the dark vale and emerged onto the sunlit crest of the Cotswolds I was keenly aware of Derek's absence. Never again would we walk together on those 'blue remembered hills' and never again would we enjoy those 'days of lost content that cannot come again'. A good life deserves a good ending.

### There when you need us

More and more I have come to believe the church has a great service to offer to all members of the community. With our wonderful buildings, rich musical and liturgical traditions and resources and our ready availability in every town and village, we are right there when people need us most.

**Grahame Senior, St Peter & St Paul**

## The Christ Church connection

The street where I live is Christchurch Road, Tring. Unlike Dundale Road and Miswell Lane, roughly parallel roads which have the same alignment, Christchurch Road did not originate as an ancient trackway, but was built in the early 1890s to link a farm at Parsonage Bottom (at the bottom of the hill) to an imposing new house at the top called Okeford. This house belonged to Frank Brown of William Brown & Co, auctioneers and surveyors, the predecessors of Brown & Merry. Okeford was used later by Osmington School and eventually demolished to provide the site for the houses at Okeford Drive. To enable the post-war expansion of Tring housing development, Christchurch Road was extended to join Icknield Way and to become part of the 387 bus route.

Why was this road so named? A clue is to be found by looking at the stone bas-relief of a galero above the front door of the former vicarage behind the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Tring. A galero is a wide-brimmed red hat with two sets of fifteen tassels each, formerly worn by cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church. In the 1960s Pope Paul VI abolished the galero for being too ostentatious and cardinals are now crowned with birettas worn with a zucchetto or skull-cap beneath. However, galeri are sometimes suspended over cardinals' tombs, such as that of Cardinal Basil Hume in Westminster Cathedral.

The galero in the Tring bas-relief is a reminder of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, King Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor and Archbishop of York, and one of the most

powerful men in the kingdom. In 1525, with money from his dissolution of some decayed monasteries, Wolsey founded Cardinal College in Oxford. However, in 1529 he fell spectacularly from grace as the result of his failure to obtain for the king a divorce from his first wife, Queen Katharine of Aragon. The unfinished college was dissolved in 1531, but in the next year the king refounded it as King Henry VIII's College. In 1546, following



the break with the Church of Rome and the acquisition of wealth from the dissolution of the monasteries, the king refounded it again as Christ Church College, with the monastic Church being restored to become the cathedral of the new Church of England Diocese of Oxford.

In 1554 Queen Mary Tudor (Queen Katharine's daughter) granted to Christ

Church College the Rectory and Advowson of Tring, which had belonged to the Crown since the dissolution of the monasteries. An advowson (or patronage) is the right of presentation to a church benefice. From that year the college supplied a curate up to 1875 and a vicar up to 1883, when the rectory and advowson were acquired by J G Williams of Pendley Manor on an exchange of lands. The advowson is now vested in the Bishop of St Albans.

In 1825 the old vicarage was built in a Georgian version of the Tudor style (a nod to the college's history?), probably funded by the college, whose armorial bearings still include the galero as depicted on the bas-relief.

**Martin Wells**

**Tring & District Local History & Museum Society**

Photo © Ian Petticrew

Please visit the Tring Local History Museum, The Market Place, Brook Street, Tring, to see many exhibits and displays about the lives of the people of the town and the villages around it. The museum is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm (3.30pm November to February) on Fridays and Saturdays. Admission free. More detailed information can be found on the website [www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk](http://www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk).

## Parish registers

### Baptisms

We welcome these children into our church family and pray for their parents and Godparents.

**Elodie Jane Mary Pitchers**  
**Dorothy Foster**  
**Henry Croxford**  
**Lauren Stephenson**  
**Benedict Harrison Rhead**  
**Maddison Lake**  
**Anthony Dennis**  
**Jacob Peatson**  
**Maisie Muston**

### Weddings

We offer our congratulations and prayers to these couples as they begin their married lives together.

**Robert Cartwright & Francheska Spain**  
**Daniel Boenisch & Ruth Bull**  
**Joseph Brian & Sandra Rodriguez Gonzalez**  
**Joseph Burrows & Stephanie Roughton**  
**James Bushe & Sophie Youens**

### Funerals

We thank God for the lives of the departed and pray for comfort for those who mourn.

**John Chamney 89**  
**Constance Mary Lapworth 96**  
**Christine Walters 86**  
**Vera Mary Purrott 93**  
**William George Mayell 94**

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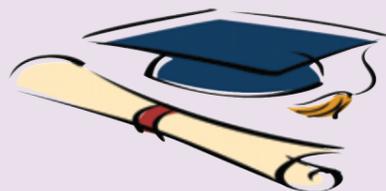
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Website details: [www.tringcharities.co.uk/education](http://www.tringcharities.co.uk/education)  
Telephone: Elaine Winter, Secretary to the Trustees  
01442 827913 Email: [info@tringcharities.co.uk](mailto:info@tringcharities.co.uk)

Please note that the closing date is 15 November 2018  
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## Craft and a cuppa

### Why?

Back in May, we had some intruders in St Peter & St Paul's who went through cupboards and drawers looking for who knows what? Luckily nothing appears to have gone missing. As many of you know, the Parish Church is left unlocked during the day and the obvious answer to prevent people who are looking for trouble is to have the Church used more during the time it is open. That week, conversations about supporting people with loneliness, living alone, memory problems, getting older, retirement, but also keeping active and doing stuff (whatever stuff is!), all came together in my mind and I decided, with Huw Bellis's agreement, to start a new group: Craft and a Cuppa. Since retirement about eighteen months ago I have more time for craft, so I thought, why not do it at Church among likeminded friends, rather than at home?

### What is it?

We meet every Tuesday in St Peter &

St Paul's Church between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. The strap line is: 'Knit and natter, or sit and sew, or whatever craft you like to do. Or just come for a cuppa!' But it is already more than that. We have kneelers that need repairing and other sewing tasks from time to time. But that is entirely optional. There are poppies that can be knitted or crocheted for the poppy project in November or you can bring your own projects that you are already into, or we have ideas of all kinds that you can start. Or bring your ideas to us!

### Who?

Anyone is welcome. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be a Church-goer and it doesn't matter whether you are older or younger – so far, those who have come have generally reached or gone past retirement age, whatever that is, but Pippa has also been coming with baby Gabriel. So far only ladies have come but men are welcome.

On our first week, one lady came

in and said, 'Thank you for starting this group: I've been waiting a long time for this!' That gave me tremendous encouragement and numbers have risen quickly since the beginning.

Lilian Purse writes, 'I was so pleased when I read in my pew sheet "Craft and a Cuppa every Tuesday". I arrived and stated I cannot sew and it has been years since I knitted. But I can natter! That was greeted with 'good' by Janet and Sandra. Little did I realise I would leave with a ball of red wool, the beginnings of a poppy, three rows done! The satisfaction from those two hours was wonderful. I await next Tuesday eagerly.'

Lilian has gone on to make many more poppies: she is hooked!  
**Janet Goodyer, St Peter & St Paul**



## Loneliness and isolation

On Wednesday 23 May, at the Tring Together Community Groups Meeting, Nicky Bull and I announced an initiative by High Street Baptist Church to try and set up a group in Tring to deal with loneliness and isolation. It was agreed that there was a need for such an initiative and support for us proceeding. We said we would give details of the first meeting when it was arranged – and it now has been!

On Wednesday 12 September at 7.30pm there will be a public meeting on Loneliness in Tring, and what we

might be able to do about it. Our guest speaker will be Jeremy Sharpe of Linking Lives UK, an organisation dealing with loneliness and social isolation – see their website at [linkinglives.uk](http://linkinglives.uk).

We look forward to welcoming representatives from as many as possible of Tring's local community organisations, all of whom have a part to play in encouraging people to interact with others, whether through sports, faith-based activities, the arts or child-centred activities. We hope that other organisations who share an

interest in tackling the problems associated with isolation will also come along. In addition, we will be hearing about the things that have been done in Frome in Somerset to tackle loneliness. Please come!

**John Allan, High Street Baptist Church**



# A normal person in the world

Now over 100 years old, the Guild of Church Braillists exists to put Christian books into Braille and then present them to the National Library for the Blind so they are available for anyone who would like to borrow them. The Revd Helen Patten is their Chairwoman and what follows here is an interview with Terence Handley MacMath which was printed in Church Times on 12 April 2011 and used here by permission.

## Time and perseverance

Like any skill, the more you practise, the better you get. Of course, it's easiest for children to learn, but it's perfectly possible for adults. Fewer children lose their sight nowadays, but adults still do. The wonderful thing is that you can read it yourself, and write it yourself — you're as independent as a sighted person. Without it, you're dependent on machines and other people's interpretations.

## A bulky system

The Bible in Braille can run to seventy volumes, depending on how it's bound. I use my Braille Bible a lot, when I'm reading a lesson in Church, or doing a Bible study, or for private reading with my husband, or preparing sermons. I often take services in church or in care homes. I just carry the volumes I need.

## 25 books a year

The Guild presents these to the library — all carefully transcribed by volunteers. That's 25 books that wouldn't be there otherwise.

## Braille in churches is very patchy

We visit a Methodist friend in Norwich every year, and whenever I appear, they always hand me The Methodist Hymn Book in Braille. That's marvellous, but it's very rare. Many churches now use PowerPoint projectors, and we can't follow at all.

## I went to a very good grammar school for blind girls

It was a boarding school with sixty-five pupils. It was a very good education, with lots of encouragement. We never thought of obstacles — we just tried to do our best. We were prepared for GCEs, just as other children were. The assumption was that you did what you possibly could, not: 'you probably can't



do that' — a very good training for life. There are comparatively fewer blind children now, though more with multiple disabilities.

## I read English at Oxford University

Then I went to do VSO in Thailand, teaching English. I went into the Civil Service for a couple of years, and then went back to teaching in mainstream schools. It was very demanding, but I loved English and loved teaching it to other people — or trying to; though that doesn't mean that they didn't try it on, sometimes. You need a lot of wit when teaching. You have wonderful days when you feel: 'I'm the best teacher that's ever been!' And you have days when you want to come home and put your head in the oven.

## Almost a missionary in Thailand

I believed God was calling me back to Thailand and went to Trinity College, Bristol, for two years to prepare, and opened negotiations with a missionary society. But some people in the field felt it wouldn't be right, or perhaps safe. I never got to the interview stage, and went back to teaching for another five years. At the time, it was hard to cope with the whole question of God's call and how you perceive it. We try our best to listen to the voice of God. I don't think God is reduced to impotence when things are blocked. After all, he can find

other things to do with us.

## Full-time ministry

As I look back on my life now, there have been wonderful things in it. I was able to offer myself as a Reader with my Diploma in Theology, and found that so fulfilling that I felt God pushing me out of teaching into full-time ministry. The Church of England got a bit panicky — this was 1981. They were genuinely afraid that if I was ordained deaconess, no one would offer me a job, so they told me I could only go forward for selection if someone was willing to do so. Humanly speaking, that was a blocked road. But after an interregnum, our new vicar arrived. The wardens told him about my predicament, and he impulsively offered me a job. So that opened the gate. I was ordained deaconess in 1982, deaconed in 1987 (when I was able to conduct weddings — I always love doing weddings), and priested in 1994.

## I'm the last one!

At holy communion, the last person at the rail would whisper to me: 'I'm the last one,' so I didn't end up giving communion to thin air, and people were very good at putting their hands where I could find them. With good will and a good heart you can solve a lot of problems. When I went to be a team vicar in Derbyshire, I and a colleague looked after five churches with six altars, and I had a job to remember which Church I was in and where all the steps were, but I was very blessed and encouraged by people.

## Chaplain to the hospice in Hastings

My last post was hugely rewarding. Obviously there was a sad side, but it was very privileged. And not having my sight was a kind of doorway: I didn't march in like the omniscient chaplain — I often just had trouble finding where the chair was. That created a bond between me and the patients, sometimes. And having a guide dog was a great ice-breaker.

## A normal person in the world

My parents were wonderful — very ordinary working-class people who never read any books about blind people. I'm so glad about that. They never cosseted me, but always supported me. They had the vision to let me spread my wings.

I didn't want to be an engine-driver or anything like that: I just always wanted to pull my weight — that was all. I didn't want to be taken out on trips and given a nice tea. I wanted to be a normal person in the world. The other person who's had a huge influence on me is my husband.

## I love John Milton

I suppose partly because he went blind in adult life, and it was much harder for him — he had no Braille, no computer, yet what a towering genius he is. A former student at Trinity College preached on the text 'But if not' — you know: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego defying Nebuchadnezzar and saying God can and will deliver us from the fiery furnace, 'but if not, be it known that we will still not worship your statue, O king'. It was at the time when the missionary society was turning me down, and it felt as if the sermon was written for me.

## God chooses the weak

The latter part of 1 Corinthians 1 means

a lot to me: God choosing the weak things to confound the strong, and the foolish things to confound the wise. I'm a very ordinary person, and I don't expect to be remembered for anything, but God takes an interest in ordinary Christians as well as the great ones.

## Favourite sounds

Lindisfarne is a special place where you feel so close to the old saints, especially Cuthbert. The other is Minsmere RSPB Reserve, because I love birdsong. Any minute you might hear a nightingale there. We go every year. It sounds very banal, but I love the sound of tea being poured.

## What makes me happy

I'm happiest when I'm seeing new places. (Yes, I say 'see' because it comes naturally — my parents always did. I see things with my hands, and ears, and so on.) I always pray with my husband each day. We pray about the past day, usually with thanksgiving, sometimes asking forgiveness, and praying for family,

friends, Christian charities, all in a cycle. **God's plans won't be shaken** God will triumph in the end. It's so good to read the Bible and pray because it refocuses you. He never has let us down; so there's no reason why he should start now.

## Martin Luther, my hero

He had such courage in believing and trusting in God. I've had the privilege of preaching at Wittenburg, where he nailed his theses to the Church door. I could be locked in a Church with him for weeks, as long as there's some software in my brain which could improve my rather feeble German.

## Submitted by Mr A C Wood

**St Peter & St Paul**  
**Member and Friend of the Guild of Church Braillists**

*Mr A C Wood transcribed forty printed books into Braille between 1989 and 2008 and we are very grateful to him for submitting this article. Could you help in this important work?*

# God's presence is there

At High Street Baptist Church we have housegroups operating throughout the week. There is a Ladies' group, a Wednesday group, a Mens' group and a Daytime group, held at the Church on two Tuesdays a month.

Our Daytime group meets at 10.00am for studying together and prayer and then we join the people having coffee at High Street. I wanted to tell you about a series that we have recently completed.

The Leaders of the housegroups were given a booklet called 'Esther — for such a time as this' and the groups all studied this and the questions asked in the book. Also several of the sermons for those months would also be about this theme. My initial thoughts were that this was a Bible book that I didn't know very well at all but I must say that these studies were some of the most interesting ones we have covered. The book of Esther does not mention God once but his presence is there underpinning all that takes place.

The book begins with King Xerxes holding a great feast which lasted six months, displaying all his wealth and splendour. Princes, nobles and leaders attended but women were not invited. Everyone was having a great time and the King impulsively wanted to show off

his Queen. He dispatched eunuchs to fetch Queen Vashti and she was to wear her Royal crown. Some commentators suggest that this was all that she should wear, but whatever the case, Vashti refused to obey this command. The King was furious and, after taking advice, decides that she must be replaced with a new Queen and never darken his doors again.

A competition takes place throughout the land to find the most beautiful woman to be queen. They are interviewed by the King, have beauty treatments and after this selection process, Esther is chosen. She had been brought up by her cousin, Mordecai, who warned her not to reveal that she was Jewish.

Spoiler alert here — read the book of Esther for the rest of the story! But Esther was born for such a time as this. The king loves Esther and is in the right place at the right time to ask him to spare her people when a man named Haman tries to destroy her uncle Mordecai. The feast and celebration of Purim takes place as a thanksgiving and everyone celebrates this event. There Haman is hanged for his crimes. To this day Purim is celebrated and is a joyous festival where the story of Esther is read

and people shout every time Haman is mentioned. Special cakes and pastries are part of this too. Take a look at the clips on YouTube to see what happens.

All of us in the Daytime group enjoyed studying this book and the sermons were very thought-provoking too. We didn't celebrate Purim with singing with special pastries at the end of the series but instead we had a meal together at Tring Garden Centre and Margaret and Hazel, who provide coffee on Tuesday mornings, came along too.

We are now looking at a book called 'Resurrection — Living as people of the Risen Lord'.

**Thelma Fisher**  
**High Street Baptist Church**



# Tweet of the month

The Cuckoo is an interesting bird. This starts with its onomatopoeic name and continues with its breeding habits and migration behaviour.

For those who don't remember, a bird (or other creature), is said to be onomatopoeic when its name sounds like the noise it makes; and certainly the male's distinctive song does sound like 'cuckoo' when you hear it (although these days it is becoming increasingly difficult to hear one around the Tring area). Cuckoo is a species that is decreasing in numbers and was placed on the UK's endangered birds list in 2009. Things have not improved since then.

As well as its distinctive song, most people who know anything about it know that it lays its eggs in the nests of other species and has surrogate parents raise its young. This is known as brood-parasitism and is not just confined to our Cuckoo – other birds do it as do some insects and fish. To do this, Cuckoos lay eggs that are similar in colour to the host's eggs and remove one of the

host's eggs. Because of this Cuckoos tend to specialise on one host species and the Cuckoos around here probably use Reed Warblers as the Cuckoos are always around the reservoirs or College Lake. However Cuckoos don't get things all their own way; sometimes their eggs



are evicted or predated and so they lay up to twenty-two eggs to try to ensure success – not exactly an easy life!

Because they don't rear their own young, adult Cuckoos depart this country earlier than our other summer visitors and this is borne out by the fact that 97% of my records of Cuckoo are in April to June and my latest sightings

are juveniles in August. In 2011 the British Trust for Ornithology started putting satellite-tracking devices on Cuckoos and this proved that some birds leave Britain in early June and half could have gone by the end of June.

Also British birds seem to winter in the Congo rainforest in central Africa and frequently use seemingly erratic routes to and from there – sometimes flying south, then north, before heading south again.

The Cuckoo is an aesthetically attractive, iconic species with a fascinating life, but if we judge it from a moral perspective it could be argued that it is lazy, sneaky and kills the young of other birds. However, this is part of God's

creation so who are we to apply our morality to it and judge it? Jesus said, 'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged'. And although what he meant is open to endless discussion, I'm certain it is good advice, albeit difficult to adhere to at times.

**Roy Hargreaves, St Peter & St Paul**

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8								9				
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- CLUES ACROSS**
- The Good Book (5)
  - Speak of wrongdoing (7)
  - A son of David (7)
  - Rear of the ship (5)
  - Small measurement (4)
  - Repair (3)
  - Fail to hit the target (4)
  - Serene (4)
  - Early name of major saint (4)
  - Unite: combine (4)
  - In good health (3)
  - Encouragement (4)
  - Sublime (5)
  - O.T. Prophet (7)
  - Of this world (7)
  - Stick together (5)

- CLUES DOWN**
- The act of blessing (13)
  - Foundation (5)
  - Wiggly fish (4)
  - Decisive act (6)
  - Home of a bird (4)
  - O.T. Prophet (7)
  - Service of rejoicing (5) (2) (6)
  - Everyone (3)
  - Headgear (3)
  - Prayer used on a particular Sunday (7)
  - Sombre (6)
  - Selects (5)
  - A smear (4)
  - Applaud (4)

Answers on page 38

# The Pope's redefinition of hell



Seven men attended the May meeting and discussed this, following it becoming a news item over Easter. Though describing himself as the 'least RC person you could meet' David G said it had caught his attention because Pope Francis was markedly different from other popes.

The question 'If God forgives everyone how can hell exist?' was originally brought up with the Pope two years ago. David believed that discussions leading from this gave a more positive aspect to hell than the traditional idea of God judging people and sending them to either heaven or hell. Medieval doom paintings often illustrate this very graphically, including that in the Vatican, depicting devils



dragging men down to Hell. This traditional view has been used by church authorities and governments to keep people in subjugation.

The difference from the traditional view is that mankind has choice and those who persistently ignore God, and want nothing to do with him are choosing their own destiny – a future without God and his love.

The repercussions are numerous. Hell does not exist, and there is no Day of Judgment as men make their own decisions.

There was the considerable discussion on 'sin'. Some, like murder, were obvious, but is stealing someone's parking space theft? Were sins only things that were acted out? Could thinking be a sin?

A lot of church history came up, from the Early Church to the Reformation, and this was one of the few meetings where we kept 99.9% of the time on the topic.

We closed the meeting with Compline, a night prayer, led by Mike S, which contains the lines: 'Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us...'

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm in the Half Moon in Wilstone. All men, whether churchgoers or not, are welcome.

**Leslie Barker, St Peter & St Paul**

# 'Grenfell Hope'

Two recommendations on the cover of this book by Gaby Doherty, recently published by SPCK, sum up the book. Dr Elaine Storkey says: 'Multiple personal narratives in this compassionate book are woven skilfully together.' Caroline Welby says: 'A fitting testament to a wonderfully diverse and powerfully resilient community.'

Gaby's husband is a minister and the family live just 200 yards from Grenfell Tower, in sight of the fire while it raged for two days in June 2017. The book is indeed a collection, hence with some overlapping, of stories from the community, and it is not strictly chronological, as people recalled events; stories from both adults and children



of horror, grief, anger and disbelief, but of grieving together and making new friends across religions and ethnic groups.

Art therapy is shown as an important means of expression, not just for children, as seen by the graffiti under the nearby A40 Westway, which became a gathering point. The stories are short and the book ends with a study guide for each story: questions about our own lives and how we react. Each study also has a Bible quotation with questions, and after reading the first study I decided to follow these for my daily reading and prayers.

Grenfell received a lot of immediate outside help, but using this effectively depended on the churches, mosques and other community groups already on the ground.

This book was published on the first



anniversary of the Manchester Arena bomb. The City's testimony is also that it brought diverse communities together, and once more to pursue already live issues but with greater intensity.

A remaining question is how the Grenfell community will regain trust in the local authority; and how we and they will forgive any in authority found to have failed in their duties. This awaits the completion of the police investigation and any consequent criminal charges.

**Leslie Barker, St Peter & St Paul**

# Thank you

**Thank you to those who pray**  
We would like to thank the Prayer Team at the Parish Church and all the other people who have prayed for Holly over the last eight months.

Holly was admitted to the Eating Disorder Unit at Glenfield Hospital for the third time early in October 2017. Progress has been made and she became a day patient at the start of June.

Our thanks go also to the staff at Leicester.

**Grateful Grandparents**

## When soldiers marry...



Ronnie Franklin and Daphne Johnson met in 1949 when Ronnie was posted to the RAF at Halton (his first posting). On his first Saturday in camp, Ronnie walked to Tring to find the Salvation Army and it was here that he met Daphne. Six months later, on completion of his training, he was posted to Gibraltar.

Daphne wrote to him whilst he was away, and Ronnie stayed with Daphne's family when he was back in the UK on leave. They became engaged when Daphne was seventeen-and-a-half and married almost sixty-three years ago at

the Salvation Army Hall in Albert Street in Tring on 23 July 1955.

Daphne and Ronnie chose to wear their Salvation Army Uniform to be married in, as did their best man and bridesmaid.

The wedding of Ronnie and Daphne Franklin was printed in the local paper thus: 'Salvation Army uniform was worn by bride and groom at Tring Salvation Army Citadel on Saturday. The couple were Ronald Henry Joseph Franklin, only son of Mr and Mrs H Franklin of Stockton on Tees, and Miss Daphne Ann Johnson of Tring. The ceremony was conducted by Senior Captains K Corsie and D Chandler. Among the gifts received by the bride and groom was a clock from Salvationists of the Tring Corps and a canteen of cutlery from the bride's colleagues at the Bucks County Council's treasurer's department. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr Alan Johnson, carried a bouquet of mixed white flowers. The attendant, who also wore Salvation Army uniform' was Miss Doreen M Johnson, sister of the bride. Her bouquet was of

mixed sweet peas.

The Salvation Army Wedding Service has a slightly different angle from the Anglican with which most people are familiar. It is as follows: 'We do solemnly declare, that although we enter into this marriage for reasons of personal happiness and fulfilment, we will do our utmost to ensure that our married status and relationship will deepen our commitment to God and enhance the effectiveness of our service as soldiers of Jesus Christ in The Salvation Army. We promise to make our home a place where all shall be aware of the abiding presence of God and where those under our influence shall be taught the truths of the gospel, encouraged to seek Christ as Saviour, and supported in the commitment of their lives to the service of God. We declare our intention to be to teach each other, by the help of God, true Christian examples and through times of joy, difficulty or loss to encourage each other to "grow in grace", and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'

**Pam Everton, Salvation Army**

## Piano and More...



The Bechstein grand piano is now back in St Peter & St Paul's after its refurbishment by Kevin Brice of Brookland Pianos in St Albans. It's sounding better than ever and ready for the summer season of Piano and More concerts.

Unusually, we are having two in July, to make up for not having any in June. On Sunday 8 July, Alice Simmons and

Emilia Lederleitnerova, mezzo sopranos, will be singing a selection of duets and solos, along with me and a violinist, Tamasin Coates. On 22 July, there will be a concert with solos from me, flute pieces from Gill Kinsey, and hopefully featuring other local players. This will be a celebration of the piano being back and tea afterwards will feature strawberries.

There will also, unusually, be a concert in August, given by the Arensky trio. In September, Leon Bosch will be conducting an all Haydn concert featuring local soloists; in October Cliff and Elizabeth Brown will be playing; and in November Angela Rowley, soprano, will be singing.

So: a feast of music to look forward to over this summer and beyond! All concerts free but with a retiring donation, and always followed by tea and cake. A huge thanks to Pam and Clive, Sheila and Pat, for all their hard work and dedication, not forgetting Chris Hoare – we couldn't do it without them! Do look at our website piano-and-more.org.uk for more details.

**Anna Le Hair, St Peter & St Paul**

## Piano & more series

*An hour of music on Sunday afternoons*

### Summer season concerts, 2018

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Alice Simmons & Emilia Lederleitnerova (sopranos) with Anna Le Hair (piano)

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

*Summer concert, followed by tea and strawberry cakes*

Anna Le Hair (piano), Gill Kinsey (flute), and others

*The concert will celebrate the return of our newly refurbished Bechstein to the church.*

#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Arensky Trio - David Gaster (violin), Julian Ogilvie (cello) and Anna Le Hair (piano)

#### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Leon Bosch conducts the Icknield Ensemble in three concertos by Josef Haydn:

organ (Jonathan Lee)  
cello (Helen Godbold) &  
piano (Anna Le Hair).

*NB: There will be no concert in June*

All concerts start at 3pm followed by tea in

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Further details:  
[piano-and-more.org.uk](http://piano-and-more.org.uk)  
or Google "Piano and more, Tring"

## Reginald Heber

Which is the finest hymn in the English language? Readers of this article will, no doubt, have a variety of answers. To Alfred, Lord Tennyson, the answer was 'Holy, Holy, Holy', written by Reginald Heber.

Heber was born in 1783 into an aristocratic family in Malpas on the Cheshire/Shropshire border where his father was Rector. He went to Oxford and there excelled at Latin verse composition and became a fellow of All Souls before becoming Rector of Hodnet in Shropshire. It must have been a culture shock when in 1823 he was consecrated Bishop of Calcutta, at that time a diocese which encompassed the whole of the subcontinent. He was desperately overworked.

One day in 1826 he preached to a large congregation on the evils of the caste system and afterwards went to cool off in a local swimming pool. There he suffered a stroke and died. He was only forty-three. The hymns which are his memorial were mostly written during his time in Shropshire.

He has been described as the first High Churchman to have written hymns and he had some scruples about using them in public. It may be remembered that hymns are not an official part of worship according to the Book of Common Prayer. They featured in the worship of the Non-Conformists and Heber admired the Olney hymns of Newton and Cowper. He saw their value in worship and in spreading the Christian faith and wanted to introduce the evangelical innovation to the rest of the church.

So this man, though a poet of distinction, only tried to write hymns when his father-in-law, also a Vicar, wanted one for a missionary service in his Church. He gave Heber one day's notice! The result was From 'Greenland's icy mountains, from India's coral strand'... This hymn has been described as just about the most popular missionary hymn ever written. However, its imperialistic undertones and its patronising reference to 'the heathen in his blindness, bows down to wood and stone' means it is less popular for its political incorrectness. Yet the lines

'though every prospect pleases and only man is vile' have become a familiar quotation.

Reginald Heber wrote fifty-seven hymns, allotted to days in the Church's year or for specific services. He is the first hymn writer to write specifically liturgical hymns for the Church of England. It has been said that his most popular hymn is the Epiphany hymn 'Brightest and best of the sons of the morning'. At one time it was banned in some quarters as involving the worship

on biblical texts, its economy of words and its poetic phraseology it can hardly be bettered. It expresses clearly and worshipfully the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. The words are based on Revelation 4, which in the Book of Common Prayer is read as the Epistle for Trinity Sunday, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord

God Almighty, which was and is and is to come'. These words echo those of Isaiah's vision – 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory'. These words are also familiar from the Sanctus used every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

As we sing this hymn we recognise the basis of our faith in 'God in three Persons, blessed Trinity' and we praise God in the second verse with the Saints 'casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea'. This vivid image picks up the words used several times in Revelation about heaven as being a throne behind a sea of glass, like crystal. With the saints are the angelic hosts led by Cherubim and Seraphim, as in Isaiah 6. Verse three brings together our human weaknesses and God's holiness and perfection. Finally the doxology brings in all creation as all in heaven and earth

worship 'God in three Persons, blessed Trinity'.

The familiar tune was written by the Reverend John Bacchus Dykes. It is well suited to a marching song and in World War I was parodied by soldiers who substituted 'Raining, raining, raining,' for 'Holy, Holy, Holy' and in the following verses 'Marching, marching, marching' and 'Grousing, grousing, grousing' and so on! This is in great contrast to Heber's fastidious approach, since he once said 'I avoid all fulsome, indecorous or erotic language of Him whom no unclean lips dare approach'.

We have every reason to be thankful to Bishop Heber for his hymns and especially for 'Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty'.

**Martin Banister, St Albans Abbey**





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# Toby John Davidson – a fine innings

It is no surprise that Toby Davidson, who died on 4 April 2018, was named in March as this year's winner of the Thomas Chapman Award for an outstanding contribution to village life. The award was presented to him a few weeks before his death from the effects of cancer. 'The Jugster' (also 'The Bard of Long Marston' because of his fondness for composing narrative poetry) was a larger-than-life presence in many aspects of the village and his untimely death has left a lot of vacant spaces.

The funeral service was held at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Tring on 13 April when several hundred friends joined with family members to fill that large Church – a truly astonishing turnout. The service was conducted by Rev'd Jane Banister and there were impressive eulogies from Giles Davidson, Chris Hodges and Fiona Davidson.

During the time he lived in Long Marston Toby managed to weave himself into the fabric of the village. He was a prominent member of the Horticultural Society, chairman of the Victory Hall Committee, organiser of quizzes and band nights, the prime mover behind the now annual village football match, and a stalwart of the annual pantomime. As if this was not enough, he became treasurer and finance manager of Village News, also volunteering to join the panel of editors where he pioneered the use of four-pages of colour and involved many young people in writing contributions to an annual colour supplement to the magazine describing their 'World Challenge' adventures. In fact, Toby was half way through editing the February 2018 edition of Village News when he received the news that his treatment for cancer had been ineffective. In true Toby fashion, he insisted on completing what he had begun and his editorial column on page 3 of that edition makes no mention of his serious illness.

Toby's contribution to the performing arts merits special mention. Long Marston's annual pantomime saw him as an actor, stage manager, painter of scenery and doer of anything else that Toby (and sometimes only Toby) felt needed to be done. Those who painted scenery will remember working late into the night and having to walk around Toby who had driven himself to the

point of exhaustion and fallen asleep in the middle of the village hall. For some pantos Toby somehow managed to be both a performer and stage manager which led to interesting rehearsals in which various scenes stopped while Freddie the Fox berated the stage crew for getting something wrong. And who will ever forget Toby's appearance in tights as Gerald the Herald?

But a passion for cricket was the other theme of his life. A member of



Long Marston Cricket Club and later Tring Park Cricket Club, Toby carved a special niche for himself, not as a player but as an expert scorer. In this he excelled; his meticulous hand-written score sheets were an art form. Copies were much in demand by batsmen who wanted a record of a particularly fine innings. Duties as scorer took him all over the country when he qualified to score at county cricket level, enabling him to spend the summer not just watching cricket but taking part too.

When the Queen's Head in Long Marston looked as if it might be under threat, it was Toby who made sure it was formally listed as a 'Community Asset' to avoid the risk that the brewery might sell it to developers. Without Toby's efforts (along with a number of significant others) we could well have lost the village's last pub. But its future now seems assured and for that alone we owe him a debt.

Born in Leamington Spa on 26 April 1962, the family home was at Frankton,

Warwickshire. His rather eccentric father, Michael, was a design engineer working at GEC, when he met and married Toby's mother Judith Pugh and joined the family firm, Atco. The second of five children, with brothers Giles, Anthony, Neil and sister Fiona, it must have been a very lively household. He attended school locally, including a grammar school in Rugby, where he revealed a talent for numbers.

An early computer enthusiast, Toby learned programming using the famous Sinclair Spectrum. What would become a lifelong enthusiasm for cricket began here: his grandpa Ali Pugh was huge fan of cricket, so Toby's passion for the game was in his blood from the start. He also played rugby, briefly, for a local team. Another enthusiasm – for beer – led to him becoming a cellar man at various establishments, a CAMRA enthusiast, and even running a small village pub in Oxfordshire for a while. Somewhere he learned to cook an excellent Christmas dinner for the whole family. Working life had to fit around the cricket season and driving jobs, particularly car deliveries ('plating'), fitted in well and he enjoyed touring round the cricket grounds of England. It was just such a job that brought him to Long Marston from a period in Ringwood, and he stayed.

Eccentric? Well, yes, perhaps that too. How else could one person fit in all this? Village event organiser, multi-committee member, panto thespian, Father Christmas, cocktail waiter, quizmaster, chauffeur, writer and editor, pub enthusiast, and perhaps above all – sportsman.

Passionate about the Long Marston community? Yes, absolutely, though a list of his achievements does not adequately convey the affection which his many friends felt for him. A warm, friendly, cheerful and optimistic disposition made him a fun person to be with and his passing has saddened many. A fine innings indeed by a giant of the community whose name has now been added to the Thomas Chapman Award Trophy and displayed on the honours board in the Long Marston Village Hall.

**Phil Buchi and Chris Hodges**

# Notices from the Tring Churches

## ST MARTHA'S METHODIST CHURCH

### SERVICES

1 July 10.00am  
Communion Service  
**Revd Rachael Hawkins**

8 July 10.00am  
**John Benson**

15 July 10.00am  
**John Watkins**

22 July 10.00am  
**Revd Brian Tebbutt**

29 July 10.00am  
**Revd Rachael Hawkins**

5 August 10.00am  
**John Benson**

12 August 10.00am  
Communion Service  
**Revd Rachael Hawkins**

19 August 10.00am  
**Audrey Cox**

26 August 10.00am  
**Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden**

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB**  
The Ladies Friendship Club continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month. July is the month for the Summer Lunch, which will be at the Old Swan, Cheddington, on Tuesday 3 July.

### SALVATION ARMY CONCERT

On Saturday 8 September at 7.00pm, St Martha's Church are pleased to be hosting another evening with the Aylesbury Fellowship Band (a Salvation Army band). This year, they will be playing music with a harvest theme and, as usual, they will deliver a great Christian message. All are welcome to join us for an evening of uplifting music with a joyful message. The Salvation Army are, for now, sadly missing from Tring. This is an evening to remember what we have lost. Free admission, with refreshments. Retiring collection to be shared between the Salvation Army and St Martha's Extra Mile Fund.

## CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

### SUNDAY MASS

Confession 5.15pm  
& by appointment  
Saturdays 6.00pm (Vigil)  
Sundays 12.00 noon with  
Children's Liturgy  
Coffee afterwards

### WEEKDAY MASS

Mondays 10.00am  
Thursdays 10.00am  
Rosary Prayer group after  
Mass

### THURSDAYS

Christian Meditation Group  
8.00pm in Sacristy

### FRIDAYS

5.00-6.00pm Church Hall  
SPOG (Small People of God)  
Age 7 + onwards: Tricia Apps

### SATURDAYS

9.00-10.00am Tricia Apps  
Sacramental Preparation  
First Reconciliation and  
Communion

### SUNDAYS

2.00-3.00pm Power Hour  
Group  
Years 7 – 9

**Pete Emmott**, Parish Youth  
Worker

### JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

**Michael Demidecki**  
michaeldemidecki@gmail.  
com

### ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays, after 10.00am  
Mass

### LADIES GROUP

**Annabelle Halliday**

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**Viv Bryan, Helen Bojarski**

### SAFEGUARDING

Caroline Burmaster  
tringsg1@rcdow.org.uk  
**Mary Miles**  
tringsg2@rcdow.org.uk

## NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH

### SERVICES

1 July 10.30am  
Morning Worship  
**Revd Andrew Openshaw**

8 July 10.30am  
Morning Worship  
**Mr John Allen**

15 July 10.30am  
Morning Worship  
**Revd Andrew Openshaw**

22 July 10.30am  
Morning Worship  
**Revd Andrew Openshaw**

29 July 10.30am  
Morning Worship  
**Revd Andrew Openshaw**

5 August 10.30am  
Morning Worship  
**Mr Ken Poulter**

12 August 10.30am  
Morning Worship  
**Mr Aubrey Dunford**

19 August 10.30am  
Morning Worship  
**Revd Sue Hardwidge**

26 August 10.30am  
Morning Worship

**TOT SPOT**  
Tuesdays @ 10.00-11.30am  
3, 10, 17 July (final time)

**BRIGHT HOUR**  
Tuesday @ 2.30pm

**KNIT & NATTER**  
Wednesdays @ 7.30pm  
4, 11, 18, 25 July

**THE MILL COMMUNITY CAFÉ**  
Thursdays @ 10.30-2.00pm  
5, 12, 19 July

**FRIDAY CLUB**  
Fridays @ 6.00-7.00pm  
6, 13 July

**OPENSHAW'S LEAVING RECEPTION**  
Friday 20 July, 6.00-8.00pm  
New Mill Baptist Church  
Light Refreshments available

**FRIDAY CLUB**  
Fridays @ 6.00-7.00pm  
6, 13 July

**OPENSHAW'S LEAVING RECEPTION**  
Friday 20 July, 6.00-8.00pm  
New Mill Baptist Church  
Light Refreshments available

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Light Refreshments available

## HIGH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Service at 10.30am with  
Junior Church and Crèche

### SUNDAYS @ 7

First Sunday of the month at  
7.00pm

### ACTIVITY ROOM

Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am  
Craft, stories, songs and  
more! Suitable for 0 to 4yrs

### COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Tuesdays 10.30am – 12noon  
Coffee in the foyer in aid of  
BMS World Mission

### TOTS

Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am  
Baby play area, soft play,  
trikes, scooters!  
Suitable for 0 to 4yrs

### GAMES AFTERNOON

Wednesdays 2.00-4.00pm  
Traditional games, puzzles  
and refreshments

### PLAY CAFÉ

Thursdays 9.30-11.30am  
Relax while the little ones  
play  
Suitable for 0 to 3yrs

### FRIDAY CAFÉ

Fridays 12.00-1.30pm  
Freshly cooked lunches

### WHO LET THE DADS OUT

First Saturday of the month at  
8.30am to 10.00am

## TRING COMMUNITY CHURCH

### SERVICES

Every Sunday 10.30am  
Nora Grace Hall

# Tring Team Anglican Churches

The Tring Team consists of five churches: St Peter & St Paul in Tring; All Saints, Long Marston; St Cross, Wilstone; St Mary's, Puttenham; and St John the Baptist, Aldbury.

### 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
8.00am Holy Communion BCP Aldbury  
10.00am All Age Communion Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Wilstone  
10.00am Sunday Worship CW Long  
Marston  
10.00am Worship for All Aldbury  
12.00 midday Baptisms Tring  
12.00 midday Baptisms Aldbury (July)  
3.30pm Holy Communion Puttenham

### 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion CW Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion BCP Aldbury  
10.00am Holy Communion Long  
Marston  
10.00am Sunday Worship Wilstone  
10.00am Worship for All Tring  
11.30am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
6.00pm Evening Prayer Long Marston  
3.30pm Evening Prayer Puttenham

### 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Wilstone  
10.00am Worship for All Long Marston  
10.00am Holy Communion Aldbury  
12.00 midday Baptisms Aldbury (July)  
3.30pm Taizé Puttenham

### 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Tring  
10.00am Worship for All Wilstone  
10.00am Holy Communion Aldbury  
10.00am Sunday Worship Long Marston  
3.30pm Evensong Puttenham  
6.00pm Alternative Communion CW  
Tring

### 5TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Aldbury  
8.00am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Aldbury  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion Long  
Marston  
10.00am Holy Communion Wilstone  
3.30pm Sunday Worship Puttenham

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Mondays 9.00am Morning Prayer Tring  
Tuesdays 8.30am Morning Prayer Tring  
Tuesdays 9.15am Holy Communion CW  
Tring  
Wednesdays 8.30am Morning Prayer  
Aldbury  
Thursdays 10.00am Holy Communion  
BCP Tring  
Fridays 8.30am Morning Prayer Tring  
Fourth Tuesday in the month 10.00am  
Holy Communion Wilstone

### DACORUM FOODBANK

Weekdays 10.00am St P&P

### YOUTH CAFÉ

Mondays in term time 3.30pm St P&P  
Secondary School aged children meet  
for toast, crisps, coke and chat.

### STICK SUNDAY WALK

15 July 3.00pm Puttenham  
19 August 3.00pm Long Marston  
One-hour gentle stroll followed by tea

### MEDITATION

Thursdays 8.00pm Corpus Christi

### COFFEE MORNINGS

Tuesdays 9.00am Aldbury  
Tuesdays 10.30am Wilstone  
Fridays 10.00am St P&P  
Saturdays 10.00am St P&P

### YOUNG ADULTS GROUP TAYA

First and third Thursdays 8.00pm St P&P  
A discussion group for young adults

### FIRST SATURDAY LUNCH

Saturday 1 July  
Saturday 4 August  
From 1.00pm for those who have been  
bereaved to meet and eat with others.  
Contact Margaret Oram for information  
on 01442 824575.

### CTT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday 7 July at 8.30am  
Corpus Christi

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

Second Sunday in the month 11.20am  
St P&P Emmie Hobbs Room

### AFTERNOON TEA

Fourth Tuesday in the month  
2.00-3.30pm All Saints, Long Marston

### BOOK GROUP

Fourth Sunday in the month 6.45pm  
St P&P

### CRAFT AND A CUPPA

Tuesdays 2.00pm, St P&P

### PIANO AND MORE

Sundays 8 and 22 July, St P&P

### TRING CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 7 July 7.30pm, St P&P  
Vivaldi Gloria & Haydn Requiem in C

## Answers to page 15

reading left to right, from top to bottom

Alan & Alison Bickerton, 1976  
David & Joan Eeley, 1970  
Harry & Phyllis Marshall, 1948  
Jon & Annette Reynolds, 1980  
Steve & Debs Berry, 1998  
Edmund Booth & Anna Le Hair, 2009  
David & Pamela Everton, 1968  
Jim & Felicity Pemberton, 1969  
Kevin & Lisa Rogers, 2006  
John & Sheila Barron, 1961  
Bill & Daphne Nash, 1949  
Dennis & Sarah Johnson, 2011  
John & Bea Bingham, 1969  
Ken & Olga Martin, 1963  
Steve & Julie Harris, 1999  
Brian & Barbara Ancombe, 1990  
Dick & Jo Green, 1968  
George & Beth Scraggs, 1977  
Peter & Betty Aston, 1994  
John & Dorothy Townshend, 1968  
Christopher & Beth Townsend, 2003  
John & Sandra Luddington, 1964  
Brian & Jan Rook, 1977  
Richard & Vanda Emery, 1958  
Brian & Sheila Whitehead, 1969  
Dave & Maureen Livingstone, 1960  
Eric & Betty James 1953  
John & Tricia Apps, 1976  
Roy & Moira Hargreaves, 1988

# Useful contacts

## TRING TEAM PARISH

**Team Rector**  
(Tring & Puttenham)  
Rev Huw Bellis  
2 The Limes, Station Road  
01442 822170 or  
07411 483229  
huw@tringteamparish.org.uk  
(Day off Thursday)

**School Chaplaincy**  
**and Team Vicar**  
(Aldbury, Tring School)  
Rev Michelle Grace  
Aldbury Vicarage  
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michelle@tringteamparish.org.uk  
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**and Team Vicar**  
(Long Marston, Tring School)  
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jbanister@tringschool.org

**Associate Priest**  
(Wilstone)  
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**Parish Co-ordinators**  
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Ian Matthews (Tring)  
01442 823327

Andy Stephenson (Aldbury)  
07548 696965

Annie Eggar (Aldbury)  
01442 851854

Christine Rutter (Puttenham)  
01296 668337

Ken Martin (Wilstone)  
01442 822894

Rev Jane Banister (Long  
Marston)  
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**Tring Team Administration**  
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**Hall Secretary**  
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Bandb33@talktalk.net

**Safeguarding**  
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**ST MARTHA'S  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
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rachel.hawkins@methodist.org.uk

**Senior Steward**  
Rosemary Berringer  
01442 822305

**AKEMAN STREET  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Minister**  
Rev David Williams  
01442 827881

**Administrator**  
Emma Nash  
01442 827881

**CORPUS CHRISTI  
ROMAN CATHOLIC  
CHURCH**

**Parish Priest**  
Father David Burke  
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www.rcdow.org.uk/tring

**HIGH STREET  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Minister**  
Vacancy

**Assistant Minister,**  
Kevin Rogers  
km\_rogers@outlook.com

**Administration/facilities hire**  
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01442 824054

**NEW MILL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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The Manse, Grove Road  
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**JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP**  
affiliated to  
Churches Together in Tring  
**Secretary**  
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michaeldemidecki@gmail.com  
www.justiceandpeacetring.org

**OUR CHURCHES ONLINE**  
www.tringteamparish.org.uk  
www.tringchurchmusic.org.uk  
www.stmarthas-tring.org.uk  
www.tringbaptistchurch.co.uk  
www.newmillbaptist.org.uk  
www.akemanstreet.org.uk  
www.rcdow.org.uk/tring

## Crossword puzzle answers

From page 30

### ANSWERS ACROSS

1. BIBLE
4. CONFESS
8. ABSALOM
9. STERN
10. INCH
11. FIX
12. MISS
15. CALM
16. SAUL
18. ALLY
19. FIT
20. SPUR
24. IDEAL
25. MALACHI
26. NATURAL
27. PASTE

### ANSWERS DOWN

1. BEATIFICATION
2. BASIC
3. EELS
4. COMMIT
5. NEST
6. EZEKIEL
7. SONGS OF PRAISE
13. ALL
14. CAP
15. COLLECT
17. DISMAL
21. PICKS
22. BLUR
23. CLAP

## SOCIAL NETWORKING

 Tring Parish

 @revhuw  
@new\_mill

## COMMENT

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