



december 2019
january 2020

grapevine

50p

the magazine of st mary's church rushden
& st peter's newton bromswold

Who's who

Rector: Rev Canon Stephen Prior 01933 312554
The Rectory, Rectory Road, Rushden, NN10 0HA
email: sprior@toucansurf.com

Curate: Rev Phil Nightingale 01933 356906
36 Meadow Sweet Road, Rushden NN10 0GA
email: philnightingale@hotmail.com

Intern: Helen Smedley 01933 312198
11 Park Place, Rushden NN10 0RR
email: hlsimcock@gmail.com

Readers: Ruth Compton, Don Merrifield, Tony Smith

Hall Bookings: Pam & Paul Bailey 01933 313195
7 Kenilworth Close, Rushden, NN10 0QH

St Mary's Churchwardens:

Kate Woodfield, 19, Kendal Close, Rushden, NN10 0QF 01933 412836
Don Merrifield, 46, Milton St, Higham Ferrers, NN10 8BG 01933 358218

St Mary's Church Office Tues--Thurs: 10.00-12noon: 01933 412235
Pam Bailey, Marion Bates, Sue Prior
Website: Sue Prior

email: stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com

website: www.stmaryschurchrushden.org

Facebook: stmaryschurchrushden



Newton Bromswold Churchwardens

Bob Lines, 25 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold, NN10 0SR: 01933 315864
Anna Giles, 26 St Margaret's Avenue, Rushden NN10 9YH 01933 770675

Newton Bromswold Website: www.newtonchurch.co.uk

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Peter & Barbara Coxon

11 Oakpits Way

Rushden NN10 0PP

e-mail: pguineapig11@aol.com

Phone: 01933 356330

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e-mail: stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com Phone: 01933 412235

grapevine

December 2019/
January 2020



WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Monthly event for dads, stepdads, granddads or male carers and their younger children [0-6 yrs]. Children enjoy a range of toys including bouncy castle, sit-on cars and inflatable ball pool.

**Saturdays 21 December
18 January**

9.30am—12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

Adults £3; children free - **Just turn up!**

Items for the
February grapevine

should be sent by

Sunday 12 January

to Sue Prior

either by email:

stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com

or left in the letterbox outside the church office

Please include your name and phone number with any submission in case we need to contact you.

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From Phil ...

John 1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



So the wheel turns towards December and a certain event looms on the horizon. Christmas may come only once a year for most of us, but not for one festive gentleman from Wiltshire. Andy Park - known as 'Mr Christmas' - celebrates the festival every day, all year round, and has no intention of stopping any time soon.

Since 1994, this eccentric has kept his house decked out in decorations and munched his way through a daily course of yuletide fare, including over 5,000 turkeys, 90,000 mince pies and 100,000 sprouts. The electrician's typical day begins with a mince pie topped off with sherry, followed by opening presents he bought for himself. After a few hours at work, Andy then returns home to a roast turkey dinner and a recording of the Queen's Speech. It's not been easy on his health or wallet - he's spent on average over £11,000 a year in order to keep the spirit of Christmas thriving in his house.

Okay, although we laugh, in many ways Mr Park is just a caricature of our culture in how he tries to maintain this 'spirit of Christmas'. So what's Christmas *really* about?

Behind all the festive paraphernalia, the single, foundational message is that God has sent a saviour into the world. Why?

We read or see stories in the media of 'saviours' all the time – rescues

at sea or from off a cold mountain top; someone about to die before the perfect donor match found. All saved. So, we only think of a saviour when there is imminent danger.

Let's go back to John 1. It tells of darkness: not a physical darkness – although that helps to understand the analogy – but a spiritual darkness. Maybe that's difficult to acknowledge but it's the clear biblical truth. In fact, from this passage we see that as a world we default to spiritual darkness. And the reason for that is we do not accept the light.

Imagine someone scrambling around in darkness, tripping up on all the hazards along a dangerous path, yet all the while a light is being offered to illuminate the way and make it safe. But the light is constantly rejected. They always want to do it their way.

We reject it because we don't want to risk the presence of God in our lives, with all the consequences that may have for our lifestyle. Neither do we want that light because of what it exposes within us. It's no surprise that most muggings and burglaries are carried out at night. Why? Because it's hard to be seen in the dark. In broad daylight everything is completely exposed to the light. And this passage makes the same point; that in many ways we reject God because his light exposes the truth of our lives.

Outwardly we may look good, but inside we know the reality of who we are and what we've done. The Bible speaks of that sense of guilt as arising out of sin. And, because of that sin, judgement is inevitable. This is why Jesus Christ is spoken of in the Bible readings at Christmas as the saviour of the world. He has come to rescue us from judgement.

God's intention was always that Jesus would be born to die - born as a baby, who we celebrate at Christmas, but then die as a man, which we remember at Easter-tide. So we must accept the *full* Jesus of the Bible, not just sweet baby Jesus in the manger. He was born to take God's judgement for us, so that we don't have to. It means, bizarrely, that Good Friday is the purpose of Christmas: 'God and sinners reconciled. Born that man no more may die' as the famous carol goes.

This is the season's great message - light in the darkness: a saviour born to rescue us.

Happy Christmas!

Rev Phil Nightingale

Christmas is prone to ‘cherry-picking’. On page 15 Bishop John talks of the best-loved readings which form an integral part of the Christmas Carol Services being planned throughout the world. Phil has a parallel theme on page 4-5. Both bravely remind us about the *whole* biblical truth of which nativity scenes, *decoupage* angels and far too much tinsel are only a tiny part.



But this should be no surprise coming from Phil. A few weeks ago in an 11.15am Sermon he asked the leading question, “So, who’s read Deuteronomy?” - he probably asked the 9.30am congregation too with a similar resulting silence. Fortunately I was hidden behind him in the choir and I gave up drawing attention to myself for Lent some years ago [OK - that’s still a work in progress] and I’ve never got round to telling him that, actually, yes, I *have*: all of it, every year from 2013-2016 and I’ll be doing it again in April 2020: all thanks to Matt Taylor’s encouragement for us to read The Bible In One Year [TBIOY] years and years ago.

I gave it up towards the end of 2016, and it’s only recently I realised how much I’ve missed the discipline. I started again in October and it’s already paying off.

Sue Eagles consistently reminds me that every word of Scripture is God-breathed. Admittedly there have been times deep in Deuteronomy or Leviticus that that idea seems hard to believe: the intricacies and allusions within the mystery of Revelation are hard too but for different reasons! It is those joyous moments discovering the internal consistency and cross-referencing that make it truly rewarding.

The Bible is not, like most of what we read, a single book but many: compiled at different times, from different viewpoints, literary

traditions and genres. It is written by scholars and mystics and laymen and occasionally has the medical authenticity of Luke. It's a library in itself - not a 'series' like Harry Potter but a distilled, canonic collection of God's Word covering millennia.

If we cherry-pick the resonant passages, the well-loved phrases from childhood, bits and pieces from Funeral and Thanksgiving Services we are going to miss the point.

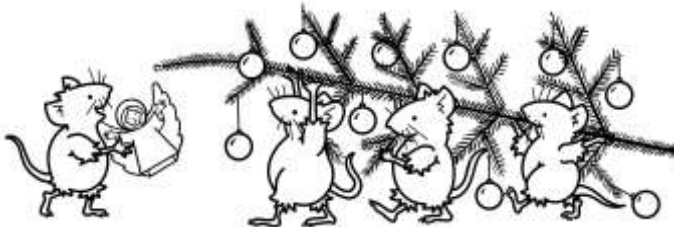
The passages chosen for this time of the year in TBIOY are pretty sombre. Familiar quotes are rare as hen's teeth. Yet reading a late Psalm, Paul's Letter to the Hebrews and Ezekiel on the same day is truly amazing. Themes reoccur: the New Testament and the Old Testament talk across time to each other: the promises of one are remembered or fulfilled in the other - generally in unpredictable ways. Read Hebrews again and see what I'm talking about.

To me there is something hugely reassuring about that overriding internal consistency. It's similar to the way I found the study of History transformed when I walked away from school lessons made up of kingly [and rarely queenly] British lists of succession and discovered Asa Briggs and G M Trevelyan. Social history has never stopped fascinating me since.

The Bible has this same mix of primary sources [contemporary documents; witness statements and so on] alongside reportage, commentary and exposition. We need all of this to make sense of what we believe in.

So, who's going to join me in reading Deuteronomy in April 2020?

Jude Curtis, Editor



St Mary's News

Ladies' Group

Our meeting on **Wednesday 11 December** sees us getting into the Christmas spirit, with an afternoon of readings and carols. Maybe refreshment time will continue the Christmas theme?

Looking forward into the New Year sees us welcoming the Rev **Glyn Ackerley** as our speaker on **Wednesday 8 January** at 2.15pm. Please contact Cynthia 359590 for further details.

Correction

Our note in November grapevine of the fleeting return of the peregrine to the church spire wrongly attributed the photograph to Alan Marks: the photographer was in fact Alan *Savage*. My mistake: apologies to both Alans [and Anne Savage] Ed



The Children's Society News

You are invited to **The Annual Christingle Service** in St Mary's on **Saturday 7 December at 2.30pm**. Collecting candles can be taken from the back of Church.

A **Quiz and Ploughman's Supper** has been arranged for **Saturday 22 February 2020** - Tickets will be available in the New Year.

The **Children's Society Committee**

would like to wish everyone a **Happy Christmas** *Mary Hadley*

The Countryside Quiz is now available at £1 from Committee Members or Joy Holloway on 318415.

Mission Quiz

Peter Chamberlain is now selling the new Mission Quiz at £1 each [386826]

A word about John Dixon

“John was exceptional in so many ways. His preaching was thoughtful and thought provoking, faithfully rooted in the scriptures and aiming to speak to us all in the world of today; all with a gentle, self-effacing humour: he was there to uphold and honour Christ, not himself.

He was particularly faithful too in taking Home Communions, supporting the Men's Group, reaching out to others and supporting both home and overseas mission initiatives.

John encouraged others: especially any training to be Readers. Churches are very human gatherings, with interest and even pressure groups: John was outstandingly fair, gently standing apart from and above any party spirit. He planned to be available on Sundays after Christmas and Easter to give the clergy a break - sorry we did not express our thanks

St Mary's News

From the Registers

Baptism

Sunday 27 October

Charlotte Mary Jones

Funeral

Tuesday 5 November

Betty Marion Bonham [86]

Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday 23 October

John Reginald Dixon [83]

more wholeheartedly!

I was very touched recently to hear the Rev John Beaumont, former Rural Dean of Higham, say that John Dixon had been all he could possibly ask for when he was Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod - thoughtful, aware and alert, encouraging and positive, reliable and all-round excellent colleague. That was John. ”

*Rev Barry Morrison
[our Rector before Steve]*

Decorating the Church for Christmas

The church will be decorated for Christmas on **Saturday 21 December**. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Contact Ellen Inwood (312874) or the Church Office (412235) if you need to know more.

Flower Rotas

December 2019

Behind the Communion Table

- 8 Ladies' Group
- 15 Cynthia Brown
- 22&29 Christmas Decorations

[see note below left]

If you are able to offer to do the flowers behind the communion table in 2020 please sign up on the rota at the back of church. Any questions: Ellen Inwood will always help - 312874

Memorial Chapel

- 8 Mrs Alma Walters in memory of Gail & Valerie
 - 22 Christmas - Mrs Brenda Dixon
 - 29 Mrs Marion Bates
- If anyone wishes to give flowers in memory of loved ones please contact me, **Brenda Dixon, 358982***

January 2020

Behind the Communion Table

- 5 Ladies' Group
- 12 Mary Hadley
- 19 Rita Nutter
- 26 Helen Smedley

Memorial Chapel

- 5 Mrs Ann Whitworth in memory of Bob
- 19 Mrs Kelland in memory of her husband
- 26 Gerald & Alice in memory of Fred & Elsie Bass

St Mary's News cont . . .

Report of the PCC meeting 5 November 2019

- **Crown Estates** have purchased the land at the back of Rushden Lakes near Ditchford. They are looking for ideas from the community on what can be built on the land and there is a *Share Your Views* questionnaire available for anyone to complete. The Council of Churches are to be stakeholders in the development.
- **Away Day Review.** Around 35 people attended the Away Day on 12 October at Christ The King Church, Kettering. The venue was good with plenty of parking and S. Prior thanked Sue Prior for preparing the food. After the donation of £5 the cost to the church was £35.00. S. Prior thanked Rev M Tanner for providing a helpful and inspiring teaching day on the Book of Ruth.
- **Boilers.** The two functioning boilers have been serviced. We are now awaiting a quote to repair or replace the two non-functioning boilers. The boilers were installed in 2006.
- **Storage:** as a result of the high quote for the upper hall extension to provide storage for the halls and gardens we are now looking at cheaper alternatives.

Bumps and Babes @Church - News

As you know we work with the other Church Toddler groups across Rushden and Higham to put on events and things for us all to enjoy.

Our latest venture is '**Rushden GLOW Angels**'. We have had nearly 1,000 angels knitted for us over the past few months. Thanks to all the St Mary's knitters [you know who you are!] We intend to put some angels out in the towns each night ready to be found and treasured. Each will have a label [Thanks, St Mary's Office] saying this is a gift from the churches and reminding people that Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

We have created a Facebook page [Thanks, Helen] and invite people who find the Angels to post where they found them and perhaps a photo.

We hope this will be fun for people of all ages across the towns. Do look at the Facebook page and good hunting!
Sue Merrifield

STOP PRESS

Warmest congratulations to Helen and Dan Smedley on the safe arrival of **Esther Grace** on **Thursday 14 November.**



Book Review

Lucas Out Loud by Jeff Lucas [Spring Harvest : 2005]

Jeff Lucas is part of the Spring Harvest Leadership Team and an international Pastor and speaker. He is funny, honest, challenging and uplifting. If his sermons are anything like the articles in this book, I expect he has congregations rolling in the aisles with laughter before he gently skewers them with a point about following Jesus which might have been hard to hear 'cold'. From consumer choices in Church to the terrifying (to a father) fact that his beautiful 12 year old daughter is likely to grow up and fall in love with someone, he writes with humour and kindness. He also writes from a place of deep trust in God even when he doesn't understand what God has in store for him.

I found this book at Launde Abbey when I was looking for something to read to help me through a bad patch. After giggling my way through several articles, I realised that the black beast's hold had loosened. Highly recommended, as long as you don't feel you have to take yourself too seriously.

A present to cheer the sick!

Anna Kingsmill-Vellacott



RECRUITMENT

Feedback has served its purpose and is leaving grapevine. Thank you for all your comments - really helpful - and hopefully the rare "bad marks" have been attended to. Please do go on applauding the authors of every little nugget where they are identified: encouragement makes such a difference, believe me.

As everyone knows, since its makeover in February 2005 grapevine has moved from literal 'cut and paste' to Desk Top Publishing, or DTP: which means that the grapevine editorial team have little to do except check what the computer has generated and feed it to an automated printer. Right? In your dreams! There are something like 20 regular contributors, who range from some who submit handwritten content to those who attach Microsoft Office documents to emails. All that input needs sifting, cross-checking and - that magic word - editing! That would be a lot easier if the existing team was swelled with a few more people used to handling DTP. If that sounds challenging rather than daunting, please talk to me, or Sue Prior, or even better, send us an email - If only to prove you can!

Jude Curtis, Editor

You might also like to know ...



Christmas Carol Service at Rushden Lakes will be held on the boardwalk from 7.30pm on **Wednesday 18 December:** with **Rev Richard Coles and Paul Needle's Diamond Jazz Quartet.** Organised by Rushden Lakes, AFC Rushden & Diamonds and St Peter's Parish Church, Rushden.

Singleness

A talk by **Eleanor Jeans at St Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave:** 11.00 am on **Monday 20 January 2020** (a Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship event)



Craft and Coffee (or Tea)

The group have now been meeting on the first Tuesday of the month since July. It has proved to be very

Prayer, Praise & Presence

*Please join us for a time of informal contemporary worship, intercessory prayer and prayer ministry at 7.45pm on the **Third Thursday** of each month in St Mary's Church*
next meeting - 19 December

popular, resulting in the need to move from the Vestry Hall to the top hall. We have had over twenty ladies attend each session (men would also be welcome!) Crafts have included

making gift boxes, string pictures, cross stitch and a church mouse pin cushion. We like to have a go at something different every month, although people are welcome to bring their own project and enjoy a coffee and chat.

From November our times have been 10.15 to

12.15pm and the cost is £1.50 plus any materials purchased on the day for the craft. New members are always welcome.

Lynne Prior

News from Newton

Altar Flowers

December 2019

- 1 Helen Mayes
- 15 Mrs Turner

January 2020

- 5 Helen Lines
- 19 June Clarke

Christingle

Our annual Christingle Service will be held on **Sunday 1 December** at 11.00am. Proceeds from this service will go towards **The Children's Society**



11 million trees planted at once

Millions of Turks yesterday simultaneously planted 11 million saplings across the country. Bekir Pakdemirli, the agriculture minister, said the saplings were planted within three hours at 2,023 different points in 81 provinces. The aim was to improve agriculture and the environment for the future. Turkey was seeking acknowledgement from Guinness World Records for the highest number of saplings planted in an hour.

1 newspaper, 12 November 2019



"We don't sing carols no more ... You 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!"

Rushden & Newton Bromswold WI

Thursday 12 December
Christmas Meal at The Bowls Club to include Secret Santa

Thursday 9 January 2020
Annual Quiz with Graham Harvey
Competition - to be announced

Thursday 13 February
Susan Copperwheat -
"Origin of Nicknames"
Competition - to be announced

All meetings unless otherwise stated held @ 7.30pm at Rushden Town Bowls Club, Northampton Road, Rushden, NN10 6AN
Visitors welcome £3.50 includes refreshments
Contact 01933 317846



Sell more loose fruit and veg

Retailers should sell loose fruit and vegetables and take best-before dates off packaging as part of efforts to cut food waste ... The advice [comes from] the waste reduction body WRAP [among others] to tackle one of the biggest areas of food waste. Around a fifth of food brought into UK homes ends up as waste, including fruit and vegetables worth £4Bn.

i newspaper, 5 November 2019

Fuel up on cow manure

Hundreds of John Lewis delivery trucks will be powered by cow manure from 2021 as part of an effort to reduce carbon emissions. Almost 300 John Lewis and Waitrose trucks will be fuelled by biomethane made from manure slurry, which is carbon neutral.

CNG Fuels ... announced it would also use the product to power the vans used by Asda, Argos and Hermes. "We want to help decarbonise freight transport," said CNG Fuels chief executive Philip Fjeld

i newspaper, 9 November 2019



Prayer Corner

A prayer of intercession for Bible Sunday

God of wisdom, God of the proverbs and the ten commandments,
Who inspired your prophets like Amos, Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah, to speak your words:
We bring before you our country and its political leaders, we pray for wisdom and justice.

And we think of situations, people, places around the world that need change.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

"Just a thought ..."

"Advertisements ... contain the only truths that can be relied on in a newspaper"

Thomas Jefferson in
i newspaper Tuesday 5 Nov 2019
- unsurprisingly there are less quotes from i this edition!

“Hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest”

I love the season of Advent as an attempt to slow down amid all the frantic busyness of preparing for Christmas. It reminds me of all the different ways Jesus comes into our lives – long ago as a baby in Bethlehem, today in prayer and worship and our encounters with other people, and one future day in great glory.

One of my particular pleasures is the much-loved and ever-popular Carol Service. Through readings, carols and a wonderful variety of choir music, we “hear again the message of the angels, and read in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God” as the bidding prayer from King’s College, Cambridge so beautifully describes it.

For many years, the Church of England has celebrated the second Sunday in Advent as “Bible Sunday” because of the memorable words of the Collect:

Blessed Lord,
Who caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning:
Grant that we may so hear them,
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that by patience and comfort of your holy Word,
we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Pope Francis has recently encouraged Roman Catholics to keep a ‘Word of God Sunday’ at the end of

January. In an Apostolic Letter called ‘He opened their eyes’, the Pope wrote of Jesus helping the disciples to

understand the Bible on the road to Emmaus. He said that “we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord. Otherwise,” he warned, “our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut”.

The Pope has some quite pointed things to say about the poor quality of some sermons, but his greater concern is that people read the Bible and allow it to speak.

This Advent, Christmas, New Year and Epiphany, why not set aside a personal ‘Bible Day’ in which you perhaps aim to read one of the Gospels. It will only take a couple of hours. I pray that God will open our eyes afresh, and I’d love to hear what new things you discover.

With my love, prayers and best wishes, Yours,



+John
Bishop of Brixworth



Diocese of Peterborough – Magazine Resource – December 2019

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Tel: 01733 887000 Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

An incredible and inspiring (and tiring) pilgrimage!

Revd Lisa Holland from the parish of Duston and Upton gives her account of the recent Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

During October I was extremely privileged to join Bishop Donald's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, along with 48 others – mostly from the Diocese of Peterborough.

After a very early start at Luton Airport, a five hour flight and a two hour coach journey, our pilgrimage started at a hotel beside the Sea of Galilee where we spent three nights. During the trip we moved south, spending two nights in Bethlehem and three nights in Jerusalem. We were very fortunate to stay in lovely hotels and sample some wonderful food everywhere that we visited.

Throughout our stay we were accompanied by Bishop Donald, who celebrated Holy Communion each day at a different site – Galilee, Shepherds' Fields and the Garden of Gethsemane being notable highlights. Joanne and Andre Gibson took care of many of the practical details, and usually brought up the rear to ensure that no sheep had gone astray! We were also accompanied by an Arab Christian guide called Hani, whose knowledge of the area and of the Bible really brought things to life.

Our pilgrimage took in many of the well-known sites which are familiar throughout the Gospels. We sailed on the Sea of Galilee and climbed up to Megiddo (the site of Solomon's chariot city) in 41°C heat! We visited many of the places you would expect during the week, such as Cana (where Jesus performed his



Lisa (on left) and Revd Amanda Oliver

first miracle), the site of Jacob's Well (where Jesus met the woman at the well) and the probable site of Emmaus, but we were also challenged by paying visits to places that pilgrims don't often get to see.

Halfway through the visit, we went to Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem, where Palestinian Muslims live, and we were guided round by a third generation refugee. On the same day we went to St Vincent's Orphanage, which cares for 50 abandoned babies. One evening we had a talk from an American Muslim lady who is part of the Relatives Circle. This organisation is made up of both Jewish and Muslim people who have all lost a close relative to violence, and who work together to promote understanding and peace. Towards the end of our trip, we also paid a visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum, which was very moving.



Bishop Donald leads Communion at the River Jordan

We had a two hour visit but it would have taken an entire day to really do it justice. Many aspects of the pilgrimage were challenging and thought-provoking, and I now have a better awareness of some of the challenges which face those working for peace in this region.

Another challenge for me personally as a female priest was the knowledge that the ministry of ordained women was not recognised in the sites that we visited. In a country which has huge reverence and respect for the Virgin Mary and Mary Magdalene, it was sad to think that my ministry and that of the other ordained women in the group would not be welcomed.

It is hard to pick out particular highlights, but one special moment for me was on the Mount of Beatitudes. My friend Amanda, who is a fellow curate, read the passage from the Sermon on the Mount. Afterwards we had some free time to look around the church and the gardens. In the church were a group of Korean Christians who were singing Stuart Townend's version of 'The Lord's My Shepherd' in their own language with beautiful harmonies. God felt especially close

as I recognised the hymn, and it was a very real reminder of the worldwide Church and the cloud of witnesses of which we are a part.

Another memorable time for me was when we spent time in the Garden of Gethsemane after celebrating Communion. It was incredible to be able to sit and pray, with the background noise of the Jerusalem traffic reminding us that every day was carrying on all around us, just as it carried on all around Jesus as he spent his final hours there. It was a reminder that we are called to be in the world, but not of it.

On the whole, the pilgrimage was an incredible experience. Seeing the evidence for myself of the places where Jesus ministered made the New Testament come to life in a whole new way. Our guide Hani also made many links with the stories of the Old Testament. The sense of history and tradition was amazing. It was certainly not a holiday – the schedule was busy and at times tiring – but it was such a joy to be part of such a wonderful trip with some truly lovely people.

Are you using A Church Near You this Christmas?

Have you got your Advent and Christmas services listed on A Church Near You? The Church of England's local church-finder website gets more than 12 million views a year – and 80% of those people are new visitors to the site.

At this time of year, people are looking to come to church services.

Church of England statistics show that 40% of new visitors to churches during the 2018 Advent and Christmas period had visited the A Church Near You site beforehand. In fact, the 72 hours before Christmas Day is the busiest time for people to visit A Church Near You during the whole year – so it's never too late to input your seasonal services onto the site. Visit www.achurchnearyou.com.



December events

Sat 7 and Sun 8: Thorney Abbey Christmas Tree Festival, PE6

0QD. Sat 10am to 4pm; and Sun 11am to 2pm. Free entry.

More information is available from Jane Crossland on 01733 270875.

Sat 14 and Sun 15: Christmas Tree and Nativity Crib Festival at St Katharine, Irchester with Stanton Cross, NN29 7AA.

Sat 10.30am to 4.30pm; and Sun 12 noon to 4pm – followed by **Lessons and Carols by Candlelight at 6pm.** Everyone is welcome.

More information is available from Anne Pooley on 01933 359096.

Sun 15: Carols by Candlelight at St Paul's Church, New England, PE1

2PA. 4pm. The service will include carols and Christmas songs by the Children's Choir of Fulbridge Academy. All are welcome.

Wed 18: Christmas Carol Service at Rushden Lakes (or Cineworld entrance in poor weather), NN10 6AR.

7.30pm. With Revd Richard Coles and Paul Needle's Diamond Jazz Quartet. All are welcome.

Visit www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/events to find events happening near you.

For **Safeguarding training** at all levels: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/news-and-events/events?tags=safeguarding

Mission Matters

Thank you, everyone who has supported St Mary's mission partners over the past year. You are very much appreciated! And, for others, who may not know about them, there is information at the back of church, including a recently-updated leaflet – and, of course, Mission Committee members would be very pleased to have a chat with you.

We have been linked with two new partners this year Tearfund and James Hawksworth [Church Army]. By now, Tearfund's "Big Quiz Night", held on the same evening by hundreds of churches, including ours, will be over. We hope that it will have been fun and that a good sum of money will have been raised to transform the lives of people around the world who live in dire poverty. And there is good news regarding Tearfund's "Rubbish Petition". * 30,000 people have now signed it, telling four of the world's biggest companies: Coca-Cola, Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever, to cut back on the amount of plastic they use. Unilever has now agreed to halve the amount of non-recyclable plastic it produces by 2025.**

James Hawksworth came to speak to us a few months ago and touched our hearts by his passion and vision for his work among young people in a deprived area of Kings Lynn. You may remember that he works closely with schools, so laying a good foundation on which to build youth clubs. Already, in one school, students facing many kinds of issues, including loneliness, family breakdown and bullying, are referred to James for mentoring. He has also set up lunch clubs in schools where students can eat lunch, have fun playing games and also find space to talk about their concerns and to grow in confidence. James hopes to develop this ministry in other schools and, after Christmas, to start a youth club and, later, a monthly cinema night for families. He wants to run a scheme in local churches to find suitable volunteers to help with pastoral care in schools.

The aim of James' ministry is for "people to realise who Jesus is, and build a relationship with God". He says, "I want Him to be known and I want Him to be known well . . ." Let's stand with James, his wife, Laura, and their children Sam and Becky, trusting with them that all that God has put into their hearts may become reality.

Thank you again for being involved in God's work outside our own parish [Acts 1.8]. The Mission Committee pray that you may all have a joyful Christmas, and know God's rich blessings throughout the coming year.

Sue Eagles,
for the Mission Committee [Jose Smith, Edna
Wadsworth, Sue Prior and Martin Compton]



*See July/August 2019 grapevine

** There is still time to sign via Tearfund.org/

rubbish, or by writing to Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE

Meet the Congregation—Rev Dr Linnet Smith



Diana and Lancelot Samuels added Linnet to their family in 1947, in Wilmslow, Cheshire. She had one elder sister, and, years later, a stepmother.

Her education started at Green Bay Prep School, where her first school report said she enjoyed her after-lunch sleep. Linnet says she still does!

Next she attended Withington Girls Junior School in Manchester, followed by Macclesfield Girls Grammar. She enjoyed everything at school except sport, though she did play hockey for the 2nd team a few times! Many years later she volunteered to an optician that she windsurfed, played golf and skied, who replied, “You’re very sporty aren’t you!” She also hated French but later learned German, Kiikaonde and a little Swahili !

She left school at eighteen for Sheffield University to read Biochemistry and to do a PGCE. Linnet admits to a tendency to collect degrees and other qualifications, having now added a diploma in the Science of Mission, a Reader’s Certificate, an MA in Education and a PhD in Theology to that original BSc!

Linnet moved to Zambia and taught for seven years at a Mission School in the bush called Mukinge Girls Secondary School. She then taught in London and after her marriage did supply teaching locally. She resisted the idea of Ordination for many years but after two people tackled her about it she gave in and is SO glad she did. After Ordination she served in Oundle, Brundall in Norfolk, and the Upland Parishes of Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Guilsborough, Spratton, Hollowell, Ravensthorpe and Thornby - eight parishes in one benefice. She also worked for Peterborough Diocese as Parish Training officer until a year ago.

Linnet met Alan Smith when he was vicar of Handforth in Cheshire and she was working as a missionary in Zambia. She came to know the whole family: the twins used to climb on her lap for cuddles when they were two. Alan was always working, so she spent a lot of time with his wife Kay.

Following Kay’s death, Linnet kept in touch and they occasionally met up. In 1984 Alan invited her for a meal and show in London. That evening

everything changed for them and a fortnight later he proposed. They were married the same year at St Mary's. That day Linnet became a wife, mother to four children and the Rector's partner - quite a transition! She learned very quickly that being a Rector's wife involved opening your home and life to the people of Rushden.

Linnet is now retired, has five children and ten grandchildren - the latest, Martha, being born to Mark and Ruth whilst this was being written.

She is trying not to do too much and learning it's good to say no sometimes. Despite which she works at the Wildlife Trust Shop, at Rushden Lakes one day a week, has recently become a Governor of Alfred St School, goes to Art Classes, spends time with family and friends, walks her dog and does occasional teaching for the diocese.

At St Mary's she takes some services and preaches - which she loves - she attends a Home Group and generally helps out where she can. St Mary's has been her spiritual home for over thirty years. She was married there, son Mark was baptised there, Sharon's wedding and Alan's funeral were there. Linnet expects her funeral will be there too.

Roving Reporter

Those questions

Person with most influence?

A lady called Pat Hughes who led 'Camps' I went on as a teenager. She taught me to love Jesus, to read His word and to commit my life entirely into God's hands.

Hobbies?

Reading, playing computer games, walking and travelling.

Guests to dinner?

All my five children, other halves and grandchildren. I love getting all the Smith Tribe together

What would you serve?

A traditional roast

Special Treat?

A posh Afternoon Tea with prosecco

Favourite Place . . .

Lindisfarne - Holy Island: it's the place I feel closest to God

Proudest Moment

Seeing my younger son Mark [who many of you will remember as a baby] being Ordained in St Albans Cathedral

Favourite Bible verses?

"You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will remain."

John 15.16."

Local Events and News



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Looking Back at St Mary's Magazines

50 years ago

December 1969

PCC Notes

"I should be most grateful if both distributors and subscribers [to the magazine] could attend to financial matters as early as possible in 1970 ... Would all contributors who desire copies to be sent by post please let me know and send remittances of 10/- to cover cost of Magazine and postage. Thanking you." L Clarke

25 years ago

December 1994

Church should be 'family' for singles

As Christmas approaches, we should all spare a thought for those who live alone. In many churches, single people make up the majority of worshippers and it is easy to forget that singleness includes all who are currently on their own, whether unmarried, separated, divorced or widowed.

We need to think carefully and sensitively about how we can ... help them to feel that they belong.

Some singles feel purposeful as they are and don't fret about their situation; that is good. Many others feel incomplete; something is missing. There is the need to love someone and find love in return.

The social difficulties [of being single] are well known ... "I found I was only really accepted as a person when I got married," said the Rev Elsie Howell, a Baptist woman minister. "Suddenly those who had never invited me out, even though I had been in the area for eight years, invited us both.

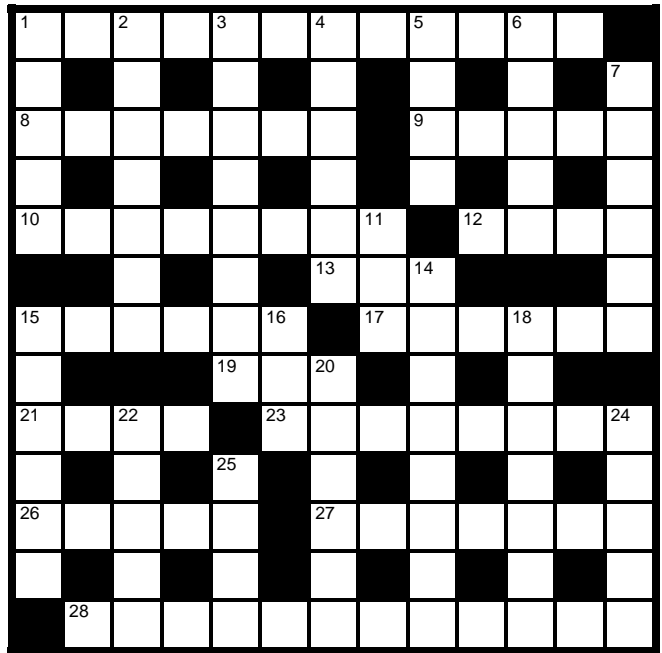
Colossians 2.10 reminds us that we are complete in Christ. "We can rejoice that Jesus was single, and whole... We may not have a partner to love but we can let God's love flow out towards all in need and have a rich ministry in other ways."

Philip Barron

Crossword No 362

ACROSS

- 1 Stocking up time! (9,3)
 8 Mass anthem (7)
 9 'From -- innocence, eternity' (carol) (5)
 10 '--- merrily on high' (carol) (4,4)
 12 'The great glad tidings --' (carol) (4)
 13 See 19
 15 Junior cleric (6)
 17 'Once in royal -- city' (carol) (6)
 19 & 13 Vicar (6)
 21 'And love me I --' (carol) (4)
 23 Has faith (8)
 26 'Sweet singing in the --' (carol) (5)
 27 Be 26 across (anag.), light roll (7)
 28 Very many angels (8,4)



DOWN

- 1 'A -- this day is born' (carol) (5)
 2 Round building (7)
 3 Drooping flower (8)
 4 Morning prayer (6)
 5 Third son of Adam and Eve (4)
 6 'With heart and soul and --' (carol) (5)
 7 'Angels from the -- of glory' (carol) (6)
 11 'Very --, begotten not created' (carol) (3)
 14 'There was found no room for Thy holy --' (carol) (8)
 15 Describe (6)
 16 Arrest (colloq.) (3)
 18 Via unco (anag.), without specific application (2,5)
 20 First son of Jacob (6)
 22 'Unto the joys -- us' (carol) (5)
 24 'In Thy -- humility' (carol) (5)
 25 Very reverend (abbrev. (1,3))

Solution to Crossword No 361





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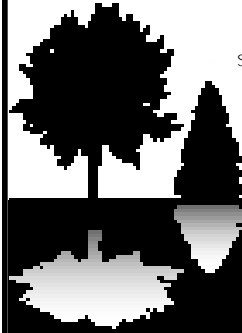
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Belfry Gossip

Brenda's family and friends have said how nice it was to hear the bells being rung as a tribute as they arrived at the church for John's Thanksgiving Service. Thanks to Pam and Sarah for organising this with the ringers who came. It also showed that John was well thought of around the Diocese when a Peal and several Quarter Peals were rung in his memory at different towers. Thanks to all who participated.

Our Sunday morning Service ringing is being really helped with Kaylee ringing very good rounds now, especially so for the Remembrance service when the bells were half-muffled because if a bell gets into the wrong place the sound stands out quite dramatically. She is also getting into change ringing on practice nights which is a good indication of her keenness, as is her visiting other towers, which she has done with her grandfather when they went to ring at Great Cransley (6 bells).

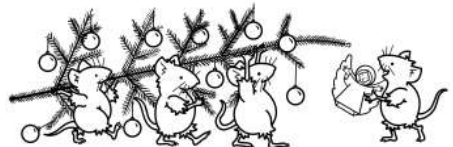
Since last time we have also rung a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples, this was for the evening service on Remembrance Sunday and sounded very nice on the half-muffled bells. Many thanks to three visitors from local towers for helping us out with this quarter peal.

As the year draws to a close and resolutions will be thought about for next year, don't forget that we always need more people to take up bell ringing, so talk to any of the ringers or come and see us on a Friday evening, to see what bell ringing is all about.

The Wellingborough branch of ringers has held practices at Grendon (6 bells) and an evening at Irchester (8). Both were quite well attended by our own ringers and others from all around the area. Ringers get the opportunity at these practices to ring methods they are often unable to ring in their own towers as well as meeting up with other like-minded people.

We have Christmas ringing in mind but have yet to finalise it, also the Wellingborough Branch has ringing and a quiz in December so more to report next time.

Tinnabulum



Diary

December

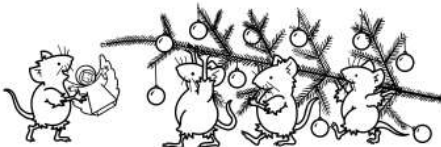
- 1 **Sunday: 11.00am-- Children's Society Christingle service at Newton Church**
- 3 **Tuesday: 10.15-12.15pm - Craft & Coffee [or Tea]** - in the Church Hall : note new times and venue due to popularity.
- 7 **Saturday: 2.30pm -- Children's Society Christingle Service in Church:** tea/coffee in the Hall after
- 11 **Wednesday: 2.15pm--St Mary's Ladies' Group** in the Church Hall: *"Our favourite readings and carols"*
- 14 **Saturday: 10.00-12noon -- Choir Coffee Morning** with Carol Singing and Stalls and those special mince pies. In the Church Hall
- 18 **Wednesday: 7.30pm--Christmas Carols on the Boardwalk at Rushden Lakes** - see p12
- 21 **Saturday: 9.30-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out? [See p 3]**

January 2020

- 7 **Tuesday : 10.15-12.15pm - Craft & Coffee [or Tea]** - in the Church Hall : note new times and venue due to popularity.
- 8 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - St Mary's Ladies' Group** in the Church Hall -- **Speaker, Rev Glyn Ackerley**
- 20 **Monday: 11.00am - "Singleness" - a talk by Eleanor Jeans** at St Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave. [Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship] - compare with the article from 50 years ago on p 24

February

- 4 **Tuesday: 10.15-12.15pm - Craft & Coffee [or Tea]** - in the Church Hall
- 12 **Wednesday: 2.15pm-- St Mary's Ladies' Group - Speaker: Jose Smith,** in the Church Hall
- 15 **Saturday: evening - Folk Dance Evening [to be confirmed]**
- 22 **Saturday: evening - Children's Society Quiz & Ploughman's Supper** - more details in February magazine: tickets available in the New Year



Services for December 2019

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

1 December - Advent Sunday

9.30am	All Age Holy Communion		
11.15am	Morning Prayer	11.00am	Christingle
6.00pm	Advent Praise		

8 December - Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am	All Age Service		
11.15am	Holy Communion	11.00am	Family Holy Communion
6.00pm	Evening Prayer		

15 December - Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Nativity Service		
11.15am	Morning Prayer	11.00am	Morning Prayer
6.00pm	Holy Communion		

22 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Informal Fourth Sunday Service	11.00am	Children's Carol Service [to be confirmed]
11.15am	Morning Prayer		
6.00pm	Carol Service		

24 December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm	All Age Service	6.00pm	Carol Service
11.00pm	Holy Communion		

25 December - Christmas Day

8.00am	Holy Communion	9.00am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Joint Service of Holy Communion		

29 December - First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am	Joint Service of Carols	11.00am	Children's Family Service [to be confirmed]
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Services for January 2020

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

5 January - Epiphany

9.30am	All Age Holy Communion		
11.15am	Morning Prayer	11.00am	Family Service
6.00pm	Evening Prayer		

12 January - First Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am	All Age Service		
11.15am	Holy Communion	11.00am	Family Communion Service
6.00pm	Evening Prayer		

19 January - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am	All Age Parade Service		
11.15am	Morning Prayer	11.00am	Morning Prayer
6.00pm	Holy Communion		

26 January - Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am	Informal Fourth Sunday Service		
11.15am	Morning Prayer	11.00am	Family Communion
6.00pm	Evening Prayer		

Also Weekdays @ St Mary's

Mondays 10.00am Bumps & Babes @ Church – every week in term time

Thursdays 10.30am -- Holy Communion [BCP]

every week except Boxing Day

Third Thursday of the month - 7.45pm - Prayer, Praise & Presence

Also in January: pulpit swap on the **19 Jan in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25.**

— The Back Page —

