

november 2019

"Blessed are the peacemakers"

grapevine

50p

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

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**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.

Saturday 16 November

9.30am—12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

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

Items for the
December/January
grapevine

should be sent by

Sunday 10 November

to **Jude Curtis**

either by email:

missjudecurtis@btinternet.com

or [as a last resort] left in the letterbox outside the office

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

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From Steve ...

As I write, the dark October clouds and rain seem to foretell the sober mood in which we will observe Remembrance Sunday on 10 November. It is right that we continue to remember those who lost their lives in past wars, without whose sacrifices we would not have many of the freedoms we enjoy today.



But it is not past armed conflicts upon which I wish to dwell, rather it is the political conflict, brought about by the Brexit debacle which has embattled our country for over the past three years. By the time you read this the outcome of any negotiations between the UK and the EU may be known, but whether it is “Deal” or “No Deal” by 1 November; whether Brexit ultimately proves to be a good move or not; whichever side of the debate you take, the collateral damage of the conflict has been enormous. Mercifully, there has been no loss of life or violence on the streets but the political and social damage to our country has been real and widespread.

First, many have lost faith in the political process: both Parliament and parliamentarians. Both Leavers and Remainers have felt that the other side has used sharp practice to either push things their own way or frustrate the aims of the opposition. Standards of discourse and debate have been lowered and the respect for people and accepted conventions have been eroded. Without some level of trust it is difficult for a democracy to survive.

And the divisions and rancour that have filled the debate in Parliament have been replicated throughout every other grouping in society. The main political parties are divided over Brexit as are communities and families (the Johnson family is just a rather high profile example of this).

I intend to say nothing about the pros and cons of the issue itself. I do not, and never have, held passionate views on the subject, perhaps because I am not a native Brit. But precisely because I have come to Britain from elsewhere, I recognise and value the qualities of toleration, moderation, restraint and decency which have usually made up both political debate and social interaction in the UK, and which is now so under threat.

During World War II President Roosevelt said that he was confident that the Allies would not only win the war but “Win the peace” as well. He was looking beyond the end of the conflict to the better world order he hoped to help build in peacetime. At some point, either on 31 October or 31 January or some other point in the future, the Brexit conflict will end and we will have to learn to live together again. Someone asked, “What will it take to bring our country together again?” and some joker answered, “The Luftwaffe!” Barring any unforeseen external threats, it is going to take a fair amount of goodwill, a positive vision for the common good and a better future, and—in some cases— apologies for hurtful things said and done.

*“Blessed are the
peacemakers,
for they will be called
children of God.”*
Matthew 5.9

I am pleased to say that I have not witnessed in our congregations any of the rancour which has too often marked the issue in Parliament and on the news. The media love to focus on conflict, disagreement and bad behaviour. I have always encouraged Christians to be good citizens: aware and participating in the life of the community and nation. However, some of us should be alert to the danger of becoming obsessed with every twist and turn of the debates. At the moment there is little the ordinary citizen can do except pray and keep a cool head.

In the current situation, I would take as guidance from God’s Word, the following verses.

Jesus taught, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5.9)

The Psalmist wrote, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.” (Psalm 133.1)

St Paul wrote, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” (Romans 12.18)

Through Jesus’s example of sacrificial love and his gifts of the Holy Spirit, we have a call and a duty to act as peacemakers in our society and communities. Whatever the eventual results of the current conflict, may the Lord use us to help “win the peace” which our country so desperately needs.

Steve



I think – and this is just my personal view - we take pieces of Liturgy like the Lord’s Prayer too much for granted: even something as seminal as ‘The Prayer Jesus Taught Us’. This really came home to me starting a new Home Group study on *Great Prayers of the Bible*, which, not surprisingly, begins with *The Lord’s Prayer*. On that first reading I didn’t get beyond the first line above! The freeze was not – as the writer of the study drew attention to – the ‘plural language’ of *Our Father*: I *appreciate* the inclusivity and sense of all Christian denominations sharing common ground. I still treasure the moment when the guide at the tiny church in Damascus on the site of Paul’s basket adventure read out the Aramaic words carved into the frieze which encircled us and asked us what it was. The phrasing, intonation and pauses were identical to the English. We all – Christians and non-Christians alike – recognised it immediately. I regret, immeasurably, not being brave enough to join in.

No, what stopped me in my tracks this time was the word ‘Heaven’. I have lazily for nearly twenty years got away with a faintly confused ‘feeling’ about Heaven, akin to the way Wordsworth talks of the French Revolution as a time when ‘Bliss it was in that dawn to be alive/ But to be young was very heaven.’¹ I have now had my brain gently rearranged by Sue Prior – I hope to good purpose. It certainly feels better today: if a trifle battered.

We are interested in Heaven because most of us who consider ourselves Christians think that’s ‘where we go’ when we die. Because we’re human we tend to imagine that as a place: often a place ‘up there’. Biblically we are promised only that we will be with the Father, but as Sue put it to me, what that actually means is unclear. We have no scientific information about what happens when we die, because only Lazarus and Jesus came back from the dead and neither exactly chattered about what it was/is like [I’m ignoring the extensive modern literature on near-death, post-death experiences : it doesn’t really help]. C S Lewis wrote poignantly about Lazarus’s experience as one of being dragged away from the place

that “all other men/irrevocably keep ... your battered ship ... seemingly safe in the dark bay/Put out a second time to sea/Well knowing that your death ... must all be died again.”² The comfort is in knowing that there can be no better place to be than with the Father.

To this you need to add the separate but often conflated concept of The Kingdom of Heaven, or the Reign of God that will reach its best and final expression in The New Creation: the moment when Jesus comes again and all God’s people will be joined in perfection – a Kingdom where there is no sin, no illness, no death to anticipate or dread. In more practical terms we won’t have to worry about pollution, global warming, nor environmental degradation. There will be no racial segregation, no genocide, individual nations, kleptocracy [posh word for government by greedy people] nor persecution because of belief, orientation, birth, disability, education or intellectual ability.

The nearest we can come to imagining this are those odd moments of an overwhelming sense of belonging to something much bigger than ourselves : an outpost of the real thing to come, which, I think it is Tom Wright³, has described as perceptible as if through a hazy veil – a bit like a glass darkly and I’m sure I’m not the only one who has experienced moments of inexplicable joy and harmony in the company of other Christians, in the presence of God, which feel like a taste of what that Kingdom of Heaven might be like. There are times when the sense of Christian community is so strong you can almost touch it and you probably need to hug somebody.

From where we stand it is like seeing ‘Through a glass darkly’ in 1 Corinthians 13.2 and New Living Translation says it pretty well. "Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely."

Worth waiting for?

Jude Curtis, Editor

¹ William Wordsworth, ‘The Prelude’

² C. S. Lewis, ‘Stephen to Lazarus’ in *Poems* (London: Geoffrey Bles, 1964)

³ I think in *Surprised By Hope* – if I’m wrong I’m sure Steve will tell me.

St Mary's News

Ladies' Group

The **October meeting** opened with a reading, prayer and a hymn on the theme of Hope. Then what an interesting speaker Edna Payne was. All who attended would agree. We now know what a wonderful person Josiah Mason turned out to be and the huge influence he had on Edna's early years. Through sheer hard work he became a philanthropist, benefactor and entrepreneur, caring for young and old alike. He bought land and built almshouses, cottages and orphanages - the latter being where Edna and her younger brother went to live. Some of the buildings now form part of Birmingham University. The care she received was second to none and she has only happy memories of the years she lived there, under the social umbrella of Joseph Mason's legacy. Search for him on Google!

Our next meeting on **Wednesday 13 November** is entitled "Let's make an angel!" - perhaps not quite what you imagine!!

Please contact Cynthia 359590 for further details.

The Children's Society News



The Box Opening and

Coffee Morning was held on **Saturday 5 October** and the Church Hall was busy with people perusing

the stalls and enjoying coffee with friends. A big thank you to all who supported this event when £253.70 was raised to help disadvantaged families, children and young people. The amount from the **Box Opening** has now been finalised with a grand [in both senses!] total of £1,596.03.

The **Annual Christingle Service** will be held on **Saturday 7 December** In church at 2.30pm. Everyone welcome. Collecting candles will be at the rear of church from mid-November. *Mary Hadley*

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

Thank you - John Dixon

"Brenda, Helen and Simon thank everyone who sent cards, messages and supported us in any way after the death of a dear husband and father, John. It has been a great comfort to us knowing that so many people thought so highly of him. We will miss him but know he is with his Lord and we will meet again one day." *Brenda Dixon*

Harvest Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way at Harvest: flower arrangers who decorated the church so beautifully; those who swept up, making sure that the church was tidy; all who gave harvest gifts of

St Mary's News

food, flowers or finance; the one* who created the lovely flower arrangements to be given away; those who helped on Monday to take out the flowers; those who took the food to the food bank; and to the Lord of the Harvest who loves us all.

£411.64 was collected for Tearfund.

* who wishes to remain nameless but if we do name names I nominate Lily [still smiling on The Back Page] for her hard work and general joyfulness. Ellen says she was a little angel. "She helped and smiled. That said it all". Ed]

The Peregrine returned fleetingly to its favourite spire crocket and was captured [photographically, I quickly add] by Alan Marks on the back page - with thanks also to Ann Savage for sending it in.

Happy [October] Birthdays! ... to **Barbara Woodward** on her Ninetieth and **Sarah Nightingale** on her Fortieth. **And** another important event which just missed the last deadline - **Congratulations!** to **Jaz & Simon Shaw** on the birth of **Benjamin Matthew** on **Monday 23 September**.

Mission Quiz

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

From the Registers

Baptism

Sunday 13 October

Sofia Lily-Rae French

Funeral

Tuesday 24 September

Dermot O'Rourke [77]

Flower Rotas

November 2019

Behind the Communion Table

- 3 Remembrance
- 10 Remembrance
- 17 Remembrance
- 24 Ann Harris

Memorial Chapel

- 3 Mrs Kelland and Mr Craddick in memory of Mr and Mrs Craddick
- 10 Remembrance Sunday
- 24 Mrs Ann Whitworth in memory of Bob.

*If anyone wishes to give flowers in memory of loved ones please contact me, **Brenda Dixon, 358982***



St Mary's News cont . . .

Report of the PCC meeting 1 October 2019

- **Rushden East Development.** A representative from the developers has been in touch. They are open to discussing the provision for community buildings early next year.
- **Heritage Day.** The church was open from 10.00 to 4.00pm on Saturday 14 September 2019. The church records were on display. Church tours took place. We had several people visit who did the Historic Churches of Northamptonshire *Ride and Stride* event. The refreshments raised £43.00. The two 30-minute organ recitals proved to be popular.
- **Harvest Collection.** The food donated at the Sunday harvest services had been taken to the local food bank. The flowers in the church were distributed to people who are housebound. We raised £411.64 from loose offerings which will be donated to Tearfund.
- **Church Bibles.** We received a thankyou letter from Rev Richard Duncan, the Vicar at St Peter and St James church in Brackley for our donation of the old pew and lectern Bibles.
- **Schools work.** Newton Road

School has requested that the local churches go back to delivering weekly assemblies. This is very good news as the assemblies provided by the churches had last year been reduced to one a term.

Bumps and Babes@Church news

On **Friday 27 September** we held a **Conker Hunt and Play Morning** at St Mary's.

This was organised by **GLOW** that is a group of Church Toddler Group leaders from across the town. About 25 families came along and we began in the Church Hall with toys, activities, tea and toast. At 10.30 we moved over to the Church where two buckets of conkers and pinecones had been scattered for the children to find. Such a simple activity - but they loved it. They ran up and down with their little cups to fill and each full cup earned a 'God Loves You' sticker.

When they had found them all we went into the choir vestry where Ali [from Highfield Baptist] told a short story about Zacchaeus. After singing some songs together we all went back to the hall for more play and home at 11.30. It is lovely when all our groups get together in this way. Our next one is on **Thursday 12 December** when we meet at **St Peter's Church for the Toddler Nativity.** Sue Merrifield

Lil 'n' Lol



- Lil Ayer ready fer Christmas, gel?
- Lol No, Lil, I ent! Waddyer git fer themuzza got evrythin? I dorno!
- Lil Well, gel, om gunna git air Glad a lav.
- Lol Yoo wot, Lil? Ent she got one?
- Lil Shizz got one, Lol, but thez millions uz ent. Ent yer never erda tilet twinnin? ...

... of course Glad has a lavatory - maybe two - but Lil knows that 2.3 billion people around the world do

not have a safe and hygienic loo. Poor sanitation contributes to the death of many under-fives - one every two minutes - and is the cause of many teenage girls dropping out of school. And women and girls risk being bitten by snakes, or being attacked when they go out into the bush to relieve themselves.

For a £60 donation you can twin your loo with that of a family living in a poor community overseas. For £240 , if you're feeling flush [sorry, couldn't resist!] you could twin it with a school toilet bock.

For more information go to toilettwinning.org or call 0300 321 3217.

Thank you, Sue Eagles



PS Visit St Mary's loos and you will see that we are already twinned
PPS Toilet Twinning is part of Tearfund, who are behind the nationwide Big Quiz Night featured overleaf. [Reg Charity 265464 [England & Wales] & SCO37624 [Scotland]]

FEEDBACK



[October Editorial]



"I loved your account of your encounter with the sheep... [alongside] useful reminders of Mindfulness from Mark Williams who I have done some training with. BG

"Really enjoy how you write" TC

"I look forward to reading the Grapevine ... makes a welcome change from the more serious stuff I find myself grappling with otherwise." SS

Feedback welcome: good or bad! Preferably by email, but a note left at the back of church works too. Ed

You might also like to know ...



Saturday 16 November
7.00pm

St Mary's Church Hall—£3.00

Hundreds of churches.
Thousands of people.
One Big Quiz.

Every pound raised will help
transform the lives
of people living in poverty.

In aid of TearFund

tearfund



"It's a devil to start on these damp
November Sunday mornings – luckily we
have a sidesman who works for the AA"

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 - 21 November*

Together in Prayer & Praise:

The next united churches' meeting is
on **Sunday 17 November** at 7.30pm
at Highfield Community Baptist
Church

Rushden & Newton Bromswold WI

Thursday 14 November
Margaret Burgon

'It could only happen at a wedding'
Competition - A horseshoe

Thursday 12 December
**Christmas Dinner @ The Bowls
Club to include Secret Santa**

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

News from Newton

Altar Flowers for November

3 Mrs Beeby & Mrs Burton
17 Mrs Spencer

Harvest Festival

The Church was decorated lovely for Harvest Festival. We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated produce for Harvest and to the volunteers who helped decorate the Church or transported the produce from the Church to The Swan.

Thank you to everyone who supported **The Harvest Sale**, which raised £317 for Church Funds. A special thanks to Dennis Sullivan, the landlord at The Swan for hosting the evening, and to Bill Giles for acting as auctioneer.

Remembrance Sunday

A special service will be held on **Sunday 10 November starting at 10.45am**. The collection from this services will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Christingle

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

Really time now for ...

The Real Advent Calendar is the UK's only **Fairtrade** Advent calendar which comes with a **Christmas story -activity book**. The 2019 Real Advent Calendar is a fun way for parents, grandparents and godparents to share the Christmas story. There is a Fairtrade Chocolate and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows. The story activity book has a page for every day of Advent, expanding on the Christmas story and includes some fun challenges. **They are designed to share and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas** so that Christ is not written out of Christmas and cost £3.99 each and are available from the **Meaningful Chocolate Company** on-line shop.

Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones, "What are you doing?" he asked her. "I'm praying," she replied. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cos He knows what I'm thinking."





Steward of the Environment

You might not be aware but St Mary's is a fully certified "Steward of the Environment" through purchasing energy that is 100% generated from renewable sources through the Parish Buying Energy Basket.

Postscript Books

Postscript - the mail/on line order seller of remaindered and overstocked books - have proudly announced that all their packaging is now completely recyclable and biodegradable. This includes airbags, tape and bubble wrap, as well as the obvious card and paper, which are sourced from sustainably managed forests. Blessedly their optional printed catalogue now too comes sans-envelope. Find them at psbooks.co.uk

Bishop welcomes PM's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief

The Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Foreign Affairs, has welcomed the appointment of **Rehman Chishti MP** as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief,

succeeding Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon.

Bishop Nick said: "Everyone has an inherent right to profess any faith or none, yet across the world people continue to be imprisoned or killed for what they believe. "Given the fundamental importance of this issue we have long called for the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to be made a dedicated role and we are pleased that this step has now been taken."

Lego Mindfulness

Adults who thought their childhood days were long gone could soon find themselves reliving them as the first Lego book for adults is unveiled with a 'self-care' brief. *Build Yourself Happy: the Joy of Lego Play*, published by DK went on sale in October and promises to be a manual for wellness. "Self care" or "mindfulness", as it is known, have grown increasingly popular in recent years ... The mental health charity Mind says 'This can mean both outside, in the world around you, and inside in your feelings and thoughts. i newspaper, 19 September 2019

Is it working?

Two interesting challenges have raised their heads recently on the subject of work. John McDonnell, the Shadow Chancellor, has said that, if elected, Labour would introduce a four-day, 32 hour working week. “We should work to live, not live to work,” he told the Labour Party Conference. On the same lines, but less radically, there were calls for the clergy six-day working week to be reduced by the introduction of a second day off once a month: three weeks of six days, and one of five days.

Both these challenges raise important questions about how we see work – indeed, how we understand life itself, and our purpose and meaning here on earth. I am responding to the second of them in one of my occasional letters to our clergy and lay ministers (Letter to Clergy 27 on our Diocesan website).

To John McDonnell and his aspiration to reduce further the working week, I would say this: I fully understand, and readily accept, that some workplaces and working conditions can be brutalising, exploitative or dehumanising. The Christian struggle for good factory acts and the banning of child chimney sweeps is never done. In our day, various forms of exploitative labour practices and modern slavery are still present and shame our ‘civilised’ society.

On the other hand, work can and should be noble, good, creative,

relational, healthy and enriching. The story of creation in Genesis makes clear that God works; and that we, in his image, were created for work (and for rest). When John McDonnell says “We should work to live, not live to work”, I want to tell him that work is part of life, and should be a good part of it. Work and life are not contrasts or opposites. Working is part of being in the image of God.



Yes, let’s make the workplace as good as we can. I heard recently from someone who works in a call centre that she is told not to rush callers, but to chat and engage well with them, and that her success is not about a quota of sales, but of resolving her callers’ problems and leaving them happier than when they called. She finds that work fulfilling. That sounds to me like a good workplace – a positive part of life.

Let’s seek to do our work – and to enable others to do their work – to the glory of God.

With best wishes



+Donald
Bishop of Peterborough

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Celebration of Lay Ministry Day sees 11 new Lay Ministers licensed

The 2019 Celebration of Lay Ministry Day took place at Peterborough Cathedral on Saturday 28th September.

The annual event saw 100 Lay Ministers from across the Diocese come together for worship, teaching and workshops. It culminated in the Licensing of Lay Ministers service, which saw 11 people newly licensed as Lay Ministers. They were (parishes in brackets):

- **Christopher Butts** (Finedon)
- **Sine Cookman**
(St Giles, Northampton)
- **Malcolm Forsyth** (Moulton)
- **Wendy Forsyth** (Moulton)
- **Lesley Gossage**
(St Alban the Martyr, Northampton)
- **Genista Hart** (Earls Barton)
- **Caroline Hawkins**
(Oundle with Ashton and Benefield with Glapthorn)
- **Timothy Jeffery**
(Desborough; Brampton Ash; Dingley and Braybrooke)
- **Neil Menon** (Moulton)
- **Wendy Steel**
(Desborough; Brampton Ash; Dingley and Braybrooke)
- **Elizabeth Taylor**
(Yardley Hastings, Denton and Grendon with Castle Ashby and Whiston)

The day began with a welcome from Bishop Donald to the two newly appointed Wardens of Lay Ministry – John Hall (for Oakham – north of the Diocese) and Ben Lewis (for Northampton – south of the Diocese). The Bishop then delivered a powerful talk, based on that day's Lectionary reading of Zechariah 9:9–17. The background to the reading is that God's people are under attack from oppression and warfare. Bishop Donald compared that to the fate facing the Church today. "It's hard being a Christian these days – these are hard times for the Church. The Church used to have an untarnished reputation, but it's hard to convince people that clergy can be respected. It has to be won nowadays with hard graft. Services might be better but doing the ministry is harder – that's the world we're in."

But Bishop Donald used the hope expressed within the passage as an encouragement to the listening Lay Ministers. "We're to remember that our King is on the throne – he marches forth in victory. We can leave the house every morning with a spring in our step."

"Sometimes we can feel that the glory has departed because the outside world does not get it. But we have hope. We have a King who loves us. He comes utterly triumphant in quiet, sitting-beside-you love. Share this with people and receive it yourself."

This theme was continued with Bishop Donald's sermon at the

Licensing of Lay Ministers service, based on the readings of 2 Kings 6:8–17 (Elisha being protected from the armies of the King of Aram) and Matthew 18:1–6,10 (Jesus telling the disciples to become more like children). “The Lord is victorious, not defeated. This is big-scale stuff – you and all the armies of God are ministering Jesus. But the Matthew reading stops us being big-headed. God’s victory is humble and gentle.”

“We need to be like a child. Our ministry is to show people that the way of Jesus is straightforward and easy – his burden is light.”

As well as the teaching from the front, a choice of workshops were also available for delegates to choose from:

- Bereavement support (led by Linnet Smith)
- Connecting Christians and Muslims (Adrian Holdstock)
- Mental health support (Philip Evans)
- Mind the gap – how to bridge the gap between church and community (Ali Middleton)
- Ministry on new housing estates (Catherine Lomas)
- Weaving the golden thread – including children and young people in your ministry (Pete White and Becky Wills)
- Work in prisons (Jackie Wiegman)



Our 11 newly-licensed Lay Ministers

A message from the Dean of Peterborough regarding *Treasure for Treasure*

Thank you for supporting the *Treasure for Treasure* fundraising event held on Saturday 4th May at Peterborough Cathedral, in collaboration with Hansons Auctioneers.

It has taken some time for all the items donated to go through various auction sales, but I am delighted to tell you that this process has now concluded, and a total of just over £4,300 was raised from the proceeds. £2,800 of this will be donated to the Cathedral, with £1,500 spread between the various parish churches designated by donors. Gift Aid on many of the donations will of course

add a further 25% in some cases. The relevant Parish Treasurers have been contacted already, and the funds due to them are in the process of being paid by the Cathedral.

We are most grateful to Charles Hanson and his colleagues for their generosity in waiving their commission and charges, but most of all to you and other donors who gave their items and contributed to this splendid total. Your support for your Diocesan Cathedral and your parish church is very much appreciated.

*The Very Revd Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough*



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 - Financial Update

At this time of the year we like to inform you all of the contributions St Mary's has made to our Mission Partners at home and abroad. We can give a 10% tithe of the our Church's General Income which means this year we will distribute over £12,500 to our six mission partners.

20% to CPAS

20% to Tearfund

20% to CMS -- Derek and Jane Waller who are carrying out mission work in Madagascar.

20% to Wycliffe Bible Translators -- Brian and Val Hodgkin.

10% to Langham Partnership

10% to Church Army -- Lynn Deanery Centre for Mission, James Hawksworth

We have been able to send smaller amounts to other good causes during the year:

- £170.33 to CMJ
- £500 to CPAS specifically for Falcon Camps (holiday for young people)
- £720 to Tearfund from our Lent Appeal
- £411.64 to Tearfund from our Harvest collection

This year we will be participating with other churches and groups across the country in the Tearfund event the "Big Quiz Night" on Saturday 16 November.

Also the Mission Quiz sheets are now available at £1 each.

On Behalf of the Mission Committee we would like to thank everyone for their prayerful support and financial donations throughout the year.

Martin Compton, for St Mary's Mission Committee
[Sue Eagles, Martin Compton, Josie Smith, Sue Prior, Edna Wadsworth]



Meet the Congregation—Liz Coleman

Meet Elizabeth, better known as Liz, who was born on 24 April 1991 in Sutton Coldfield, to Sally and Rob Ferris. Mum is a trained psychologist and Dad an electrical engineer. The family was complete when brother Tim was born three years later.



Liz's earliest memories, aged three, are of sitting playing with a Duplo Zoo. She also loved playing house and remembers hanging her dolls' clothes out to dry at the same time as Mum was doing the weekly wash. Another memory is of her Dad being allowed to set up his model railway in the lounge!

Liz grew up in Birmingham and attended primary school at St Barnabas in Erdington, then The Shrubbery in Walmley. Her favourite subjects were reading and history. Her last school was Sutton Coldfield Grammar, going on to Aberystwyth University in 2009 to study English Literature. After her first degree she went on to Northampton University to get her teaching qualifications.

During her teenage years she also did a holiday job as verger at Birmingham Cathedral - at one point helping the RSPB to rescue a bird off the roof! Later she kept up the tradition with several volunteering jobs: including teaching Adult Learning Classes.

In her "Day Job" she has taught at Kettering Park Junior School, The Grange, Windmill School at Raunds and, for a while, at Whitefriars. She is now happily settled at Briar Hill Primary in Northampton.

During her teenage years Liz dated a few boys before meeting her future husband, Oliver, in 2010 at a mutual acquaintance's birthday party. After a long distance relationship while she completed her degree, Liz moved to Northamptonshire to be with him. On her 22nd Birthday Oliver woke her up in the middle of the night, with a Scrabble board message that read: "Will you marry me?" She accepted and the wedding was in the summer of 2014 at her childhood church, All Saints in Erdington. Matt Taylor came and took the service as the church was in an interregnum. The couple honeymooned on a tour of South Africa.

She now sings in St Mary's Music Group and is involved with children in the ten-plus age group - she also helps with Higham Ferrers Guides.

Liz enjoys both the comforting atmosphere of St Mary's and the modern, more vibrant elements and some very passionate members.

Roving Reporter

Those questions

Person with most influence?
My Mum, who knows me better than anyone!

Hobbies?
Reading, Aqua Aerobics and spending time with family and friends

Guest to dinner?
Florence Nightingale

What would you serve?
I would do a roast [with lots of side dishes I could make in advance, so I could spend more time with my guest] For dessert?
Apple Crumble or Tiramisu

Favourite Place . . .
... is with my favourite people

Proudest Moments
... are watching the children succeed

Favourite Bible verses?
"Love is patient, love is kind."
1 Corinthians 13.4

Prayer Corner



"Lord, grant me neither poverty nor riches.

**Let me be neither so poor that I may steal and dishonour your name,
Nor so full that I forget you in my ease"**

Proverbs 30.8

[with thanks to Martin Tanner's sermon
4 August 2019]



Do not disturb!

"Just a thought ..."

"It is always safe to learn, even from our enemies: seldom safe to venture to instruct, even our friends."

Charles Caleb Colton, with thanks to Jan Wildman and her late husband's albums of miscellany

Local Events and News



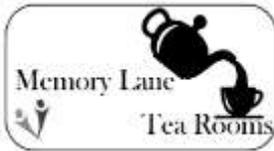
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He'd fought in the wars, but the guide didn't say which ones



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Looking Back at St Mary's Magazines

50 years ago

November 1969

Taking Stock

It is timely to issue an Interim Report, to reflect on "Wilson's Hundred Days!" - or is it now 200? We have found at Rushden so many good friends and we are experiencing the excitement of working together with you in God's work. Of course like you I sometimes think to myself "Things aren't as I've known them in the past" and then I remember: if I am in the place where God wants me to be and doing the work He has given me to do, I may trust Him. *God leads us on.* This is true for all of us, if we are faithful to Him.

Rev Michael Wilson

25 years ago

November 1994

Editorial

We hear a lot about the temperature of the earth getting hotter as years go by - global warming, or the greenhouse effect they call it, but it is nothing new. At Higham

Ferrers in the year 1313 there was a vineyard and records show that a vine dresser was paid £3 a year. The wages for 38 men to gather grapes on one day was 4s 5d [21p]. The warm climate has been recorded as lasting from 1150 to 1300 when the weather began to get wetter. Drying kilns were built to dry the corn ... [but] this wet weather led to failed crops, malnutrition and the Black Death - virulent from 1350 to 1450. Many villages lost their inhabitants ... and over the centuries 82 villages in this county alone disappeared, mostly on the western side, though no one can explain this. I found these figures in a book called 'The Making of the English Landscape'*

Margaret Akroyd

* Probably the 1955 book by William George Hoskins. There is something similar - and equally fascinating - written by Nicholas Crane, entitled *The Making of the British Landscape* [Orion, 2016] which has a section on lost villages.

Crossword No 361

ACROSS

1 Part of the Trinity (4,6)

8 Prayer book (6)

9 Where John had visions which inspired the Revelation (Revelation 1:9) (6)

10 Fourth Sunday in Lent (7,3)

12 'Morning has --', (hymn) (6)

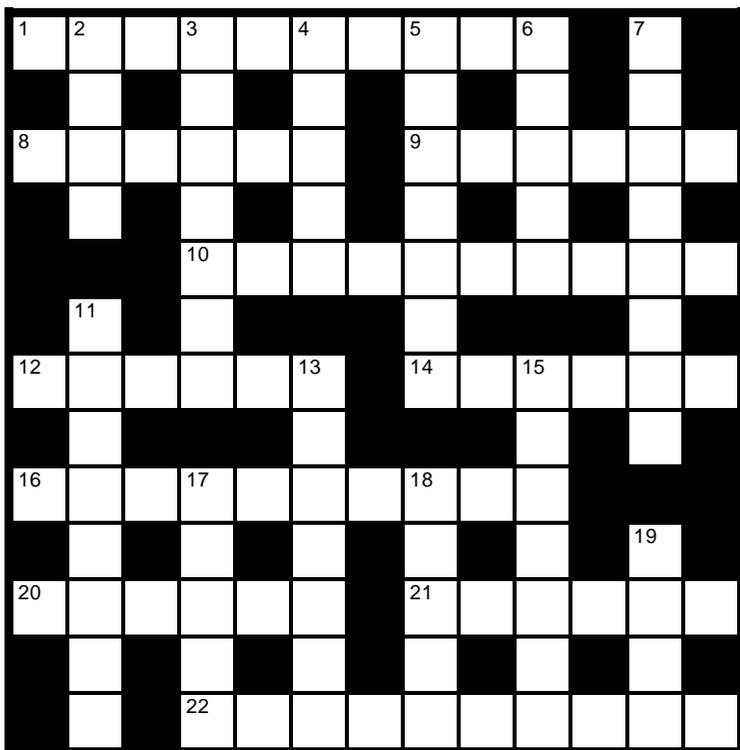
14 Church split (6)

16 November 1st (3,7)

20 Severe (6)

21 Of period before Easter (6)

22 Senior cleric (10)



Solution to Crossword No 360

DOWN

2 Norse deity (4)

3 Muslim veil (7)

4 Aviator (5)

5 Hold back (7)

6 NT book (5)

7 A falling out of place of an organ (8)

11 Chief priests (8)

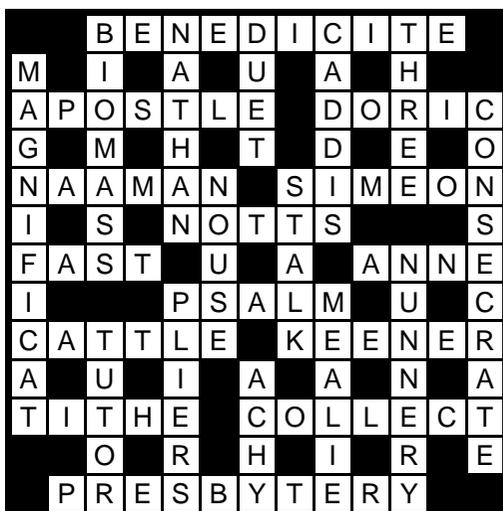
13 Of Africa's longest river (7)

15 Cry of praise (7)

17 Israeli port (5)

18 Lodge (anag.) (5)

19 Ancient Roman emperor (4)





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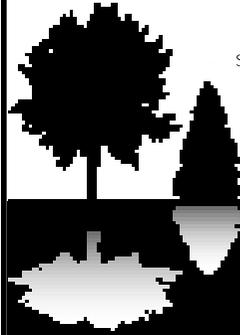
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Belfry Gossip

In addition to our regular Sunday morning ringing, a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung for the Harvest Festival evening service. This was also as a thanksgiving for the life of John Dixon, who had died earlier that day. John learned to ring around the time he and Brenda were married, but golf and cricket held a stronger pull for him. Nevertheless he supported Brenda, and then son Simon with ringing, as she supported him with his sports. Up until two years ago John was the quizmaster for the Wellingborough Branch annual quizzes and was later part of a Rushden team. Our thoughts and prayers are with Brenda, Simon, Helen and all relatives.

As planned, the Peterborough Guild held its Summer Festival and 8-bell Striking competition here at Rushden. All branches were invited to enter a team of eight ringers to perform a piece of ringing, which is judged for accuracy and quality of striking. The afternoon started at Stanwick (6 bells) before moving to St Mary's. Six teams took up the challenge and entered a team.

While the competition was in progress, the local ringers laid on an excellent tea of dips, sandwiches, quiches, sausage rolls, salad and a vast selection of cakes and sweet treats to satisfy over seventy hungry ringers (some of you may also have benefited with cake at coffee the next day!) The Guild meeting began with a vote of thanks to the organisers, to the relevant clergy for the use of the bells, and for the sunshine.. Ecton were awarded a grant for the refurbishment of their clappers; the Secretary announced forthcoming meetings and gave information about various booklets and reports she has available for branches; the Treasurer gave us an update and reminded branches to maximise Gift Aid. A report was then given about the recent new-style annual meeting of the Central Council of Church Bellringers which was held in London. Simon is one of our representatives. Finally, the competition results were announced. The judges gave comments before announcing the results in traditional reverse order. The winners were the Towcester Branch, followed by a very tight competition between the Kettering and Wellingborough Branches, given second and third respectively. The winning team was presented with the 'Harry Wooding' Trophy to display until next time.

The day concluded with ringing at Wellingborough, the heaviest ring of 8 bells in the Guild. An excellent day and a credit to the organisers.

To cover the awarding of grants fund raising is needed in different forms. For all those who enjoy quizzes Pam (in the church office) is selling a quiz where the answers are '*Streets and landmarks in the City of London: the "Square Mile"*' which is something for the Christmas quiet times.

The Wellingborough Branch ringing is after this submission so that will be reported next time.

Tintinnabulum

Diary

November

- 5 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Craft & Coffee [or Tea]** - in Lower Hall
- 13 **Wednesday: 2.15pm--St Mary's Ladies' Group** in the Church Hall: *Let's make an angel*
- 13 **Wednesday: 7.30-8.45pm--Living Christianity:** Christian Institute event at St Botolph's, Barton Seagrave. Details on 01536 414052
- 16 **Saturday: 9.30-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** [See p 3]
- 16 **Saturday: 7.00pm -- The Big Quiz Night for Tearfund** [see p 12]
- 17 **Sunday: 6.00pm-- Higham Deanery Evensong** at St Peter's. Irthlingborough
- 17 **Sunday: 7.30pm--Together in Prayer & Praise:** a united churches meeting at Highfield Community Baptist Church
- 23 **Saturday: 7.00pm --Fund Raising Banquet for Recovery House,** St Mary's Church Hall. Tickets at £25 from Sue Prior
- 30 **Saturday: Christmas Craft Day,** in the Church Hall

December

- 1 **Sunday: 11.00am-- Children's Society Christingle service** at Newton Church
- 3 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Craft & Coffee [or Tea]** - in Lower Hall
- 7 **Saturday: 2.30pm -- Children's Society Christingle Service** in Church
- 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 Carols and Stalls and those special mince pies. In the Church Hall
- 21 **Saturday: 9.30-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** [See p 3]



Gardeners' Report

Six months have passed since our last article about the gardeners' team but I have had my instructions from the editor, so here goes.



We have been working hard over these last few months, but at times it feels like it's painting the Forth Railway Bridge. No sooner have we weeded one bed then it's just as bad again - just ask Hilary.

The hyacinths were really spectacular this spring but I am afraid to say that we did not follow Fred's instructions. We did not dig them up, sort them, and replant the, so next year we may have even more, but smaller ones.

Recently we have had another volunteer in Mobi who has been a very welcome addition as some of us are not getting any younger. In fact I think most of us are twice his age.

The summer bedding plants have again been Tobacco plants and Cosmos though not all of them were from plants we grew, as they seem to self-set everywhere. Jose has been very impressed with the Cosmos that flourished by the grave of one of her relatives.

The roses have been deadheaded every week and are still looking lovely but it will soon be the time for them to be lightly pruned before the winter.

We are very grateful to the workers from the Council who have cut the grass so regularly and conscientiously this year as it makes the whole Churchyard look its best.

Whilst Mick was away one week recently, I was able to spread compost over two of the beds, so hopefully they will not be covered in bindweed or he will only say, "Told you so!"

Soon we will set some more daffodil and tulip bulbs so that next spring there will be a profusion of colour.

Everyone who helps enjoys the gardening and we hope that you all enjoy the results of our efforts.

Bob Bates



Services for November 2019

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

3 November - Fourth Sunday before Advent

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

10 November - Remembrance Sunday

9.30am	All Age Service		
10.55am	Cenotaph Service	NB	Remembrance
11.30am	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Service
6.00pm	Holy Communion		

17 November - Second Sunday before Advent

9.30am	All Age Service		
11.15am	Holy Communion	11.00am	Family Communion
6.00pm	No Evening Service because of Deanery Evensong at St Peter's, Irthlingborough		

24 November - Sunday before Advent: Christ the King

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

Also Weekdays @ St Mary's

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

Thursdays 10.30am -- Holy Communion [BCP] – every week

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

— The Back Page —



9



9



10



22



9



12

tearfund



20

