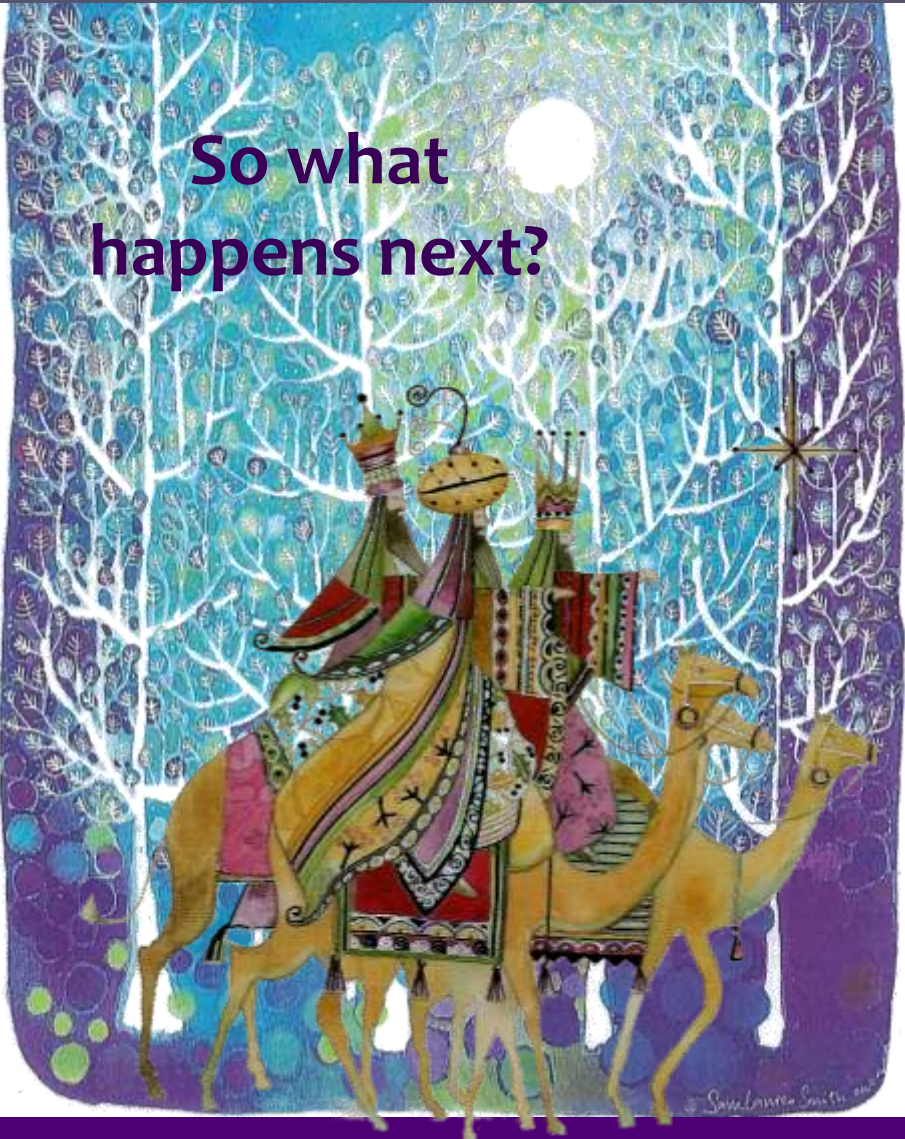


January 2021

So what
happens next?



grapevine

free of charge

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

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grapevine subscriptions

One year's subscription £5
Postal subscription: £10
Large Print Editions are available in church or may be pre-ordered.

Any changes to order or details of delivery to: The Church Office
e-mail: stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com Phone: 01933 412235

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grapevine

January 2021

Tesco's motto for the Christmas just past was 'This year there's no Naughty List'. Taking a quick look back and then wiping the slate clean is one way of looking ahead but it doesn't stop people trying to second guess the future. This edition carries a multiplicity of views about doing just that, from the Bishop's slightly whimsical concern with forfeits to Phil's forceful reminder about repentance. I am, perhaps, most in sympathy with the views expressed in Tony's chosen book, reviewed excellently on page 30. It reminds us how woefully unprepared most of the world was, both morally and logistically, for what a pandemic can still do in an age of massive scientific advance, and almost complete connectivity. We have been found both woefully ignorant of how to behave in crisis and surprisingly good at doing it anyway!

A very happy 2021 to everyone.

Jude Curtis, Editor

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Items for the February grapevine

should be sent by

Sunday 17 January

Preferably by email to:

missjudecurtis@btinternet.com

From Phil . . .



As we begin a new year the question on many people's minds is, 'Will this year be better than the last?' 2020 set the bar to a new high for a bad year, so in the words of D-Ream it would be nice to think, 'Things can only get better!' Certainly with a vaccine already being rolled out to some of our older parishioners it feels like there is light at the end of the Covid-19 tunnel.

But, there are two things that are important for us to bear in mind as Christians. Firstly, we need to *keep* allowing the kindness of God to lead us, both in good times and bad. Secondly, we need to remember that true hope and lasting hope is ultimately only found in Jesus Christ.

As difficult as this last year has been - and the pandemic has made life very hard - we need to stay thankful for the things that God *has* given us. He is still in control, and one thing to be grateful for is the freedom we still have in this country to meet as Christians and to hold services in church and online.

But the presence of suffering in this world, particularly from things such as a pandemic, should remind us we still have the opportunity to turn to God and receive his forgiveness and new life in Jesus. For God's plan is ultimately to bring about a new creation and he is patiently waiting for people to come to him before he brings that about. As good as life can sometimes be - and sometimes that is indeed wonderful - this life will never be perfect, and for all of us comes to an earthly end one day. But the promise of God in the gospel is that those who turn to Jesus in this life and receive not just the Jesus as a baby in the manger at Christmas, but also the Jesus of Easter who died on the cross for our sins, will one day be in that wonderful new creation with God and his people forever. That is the certain promise that gives true and lasting hope in a world where other things are constantly changing.

So, as we move into 2021 let us be hopeful of what better times may come through the vaccine roll out, but let us above all allow God's everlasting kindness and patience with us to lead us in all things.

Wishing you a very blessed 2021!

Phil Nightingale

Co-op's Neighbour of the Year 2020

This article came into being through belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The honour is awarded every year to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to their community and according to this year's citation:

"Shaun Blagdon was a clear winner thanks to his selfless acts of neighbourliness and for illustrating the possibilities and positive impact he has on those living around him."

Shaun's neighbour Elizabeth Heywood successfully nominated him, telling the judges: *"Before the city council's response was up and running, Shaun got in touch with friends and distributed hundreds of leaflets across this area of Hull, seeking people to help as well as those who needed assistance. Shaun's very much part of the reason Ella Street is seen as one of Hull's most desirable places to live and has long been a community champion."*

When the nation went into the first lockdown back in March, Shaun took it upon himself to rally his neighbours together, quickly forming Ella Street and Avenues - a network of four hundred community volunteers who became vital in helping to support their vulnerable and shielding neighbours, carrying out over 200 jobs in the community from shopping for others to collecting post. An additional unexpected bonus from his community work is that many of the volunteers in the group have now become firm friends as well as good neighbours.

The scheme proved to be so successful it became part of the City of Hull's official response and remains on standby in case it's needed again. Shaun has strong links with Ella Street, where he was born and is always keen to go the extra mile. He looks after the Facebook page 'Only on



Love your neighbour
as yourself."

Matthew 22. 39

Ella Street', delivering a friendly forum where residents can swap stories, tips, idea and information. Shaun said: *"I really believe that being a good neighbour is about looking out for each other, and I hope I've encouraged people to actively*

get out and support their community – even virtually."

Jude Curtis

The Trouble with New Year

The trouble with New Year is that it has a nasty habit of making you look back. The past returns, unbidden, to bite you, however obliquely. With the rest of this edition nearly ready to roll, I am trying to find something positive [and honest] to say about this incurable human trait of memory + self-analysis!



So let's talk first about honesty - specifically being honest with yourself and particularly when talking to God. It's akin to what I, in childhood, called 'owning up', or what Phil might catalogue as ongoing 'repentance'.

I've been selfish most of my life. Selfish and driven - or as I have persistently branded it - determined, focused and ambitious. Sounds much better, doesn't it? Becoming resourceful was also high on the list of acquisitions. Despite an incredibly high standard of Sunday School teaching in St Mary's in my childhood - of course I have to say that since most of the perpetrators are still around - I took my lead from Enid Blyton rather than the Bible. Courage, action and determination swept away acceptance, compliance and obedience, with barely a murmur of dissent.

I left university after six gruelling years confident I was equipped to go forth and change the world. Instead I found myself in the rather tawdry London of the early '70s, in a very junior research position, working towards my doctorate and occasionally teaching architectural students Design Methodology. My good fortune lay in the research unit's reason for existence - the design of medical buildings - better known as hospitals!

I spent the next twenty years or so doing nothing but researching, designing, equipping and commissioning hospitals, both in an academic setting and for big business: usually both at the same time and always as a free lance, which created some interesting moral dilemmas in its own right and a dangerous degree of financial insecurity.

Some people might be tempted to think tazzing round the world building hospitals for morally dodgy potentates with a poor track record on both Human Rights and paying their bills was either mad or glamorous. It's probably both, but in my experience rather lighter on the glamour.

I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Even though my first overseas trip to Egypt, ostensibly to design an extra floor for the Burns Unit in Helmiya,

went rather sour when I realised the less than welcoming stance of the Project Director stationed there and charged with my welfare, was explained by the presence of his mistress - inexplicably named Tiger Lily.

They lived at the Cairo Hilton. I was a good ten miles away at the

not-quite-finished Mena House, with a bathroom that regularly backed up with unmentionable effluent every time my neighbour had a shower. It's fascinating that such tiny and irrelevant details are incised perpetually into the brain. Particularly having reached such an age that I can't remember what I had for breakfast!



Two years after Egypt I was in Kano and Zaria, Nigeria; for the next five on and off in Rome handling a long distance project in Saudi Arabia, and, by the 'Eighties - just in time for the Iraq/Iran War - in Baghdad. Somewhere along the way there was a long, freezing winter in Goteborg, Sweden working for the WHO. Well, you couldn't make it up, could you?

But why am I telling you all this when for some people it's definitely not headline news? Simply because I'm a different person now. Looking back makes me wince at what I now *know* is totally unacceptable behaviour or attitude. But God has, naturally, been very gentle with me over the last twenty years. There was never a time when he confronted me with ALL my faults and failures at once. He just found the odd moment when I was accessible to reason. We talked about it, I acknowledged fault and in his momentous love was forgiven. Then we didn't need to revisit that ever again. Steadily we've worked through a maze of material.

When I trained and worked as a Counsellor in the early 2000s the saddest and most frustrating client relationships were with people who poured out their souls over the hour we had together and then as they left the room I could almost physically see them slapping their pain back on their chests for another time. God doesn't work like that. If he forgives it's for keeps. That is an amazing and continuous comfort to me.

Jude Curtis, Editor

PS The picture is of Ctesiphon, south of Baghdad, which I did not build!

St Mary's News

A Note about services in Church [see p28]

As we go to press we are still permitted to go to church, albeit with certain sensible rules in place. We are reasonably confident this will continue till at least March 2021.

If there *are* changes you will always be able to find details online at **stmaryschurchrushden.org**.

Our thanks to everyone who has been working so hard to adjust to the new patterns and cope with the restrictions and continuing uncertainty.

Flower Rota

January 2021

Behind the Communion Table

- | | |
|----|--|
| 3 | Christmas Decorations |
| 10 | Julie West |
| 17 | Mary Hadley |
| 24 | Rita Nutter [arranged by Ellen Inwood] |
| 31 | Ellen Inwood |

Memorial Chapel

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3 | Marion Bates |
| 17 | Mrs Kelland in memory of her husband |
| 31 | Gerald and Alice in memory of Fred & Elsie Bass |

St Mary's Church Office

While the times are 'complicated' messages may be left via email - stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com, or on the office phone [01933 412235] as these are checked every few days. Notices will be put on the church website and requests for posters will be fulfilled and put up in the porch and Church Hall.

For prayer requests, please phone or email Steve at the Rectory [312554/ sprior@toucansurf.com]. Sue Prior

Congratulations! ... to Gloria Wagstaff, who turns **eighty** on **January 15**. Love and good wishes from all at St Mary's.

Ideas for my Funeral Service

Linnet Smith has made a booklet available for recording ideas for family members to know your wishes regarding funeral arrangements (songs, etc). These can be downloaded from the St Mary's website [stmaryschurchrushden.org] under the Notices section. If you do not have internet access, nor a printer, they can be sent to you by post if you contact Sue Prior on 01933 312554 or ask someone to email susaneprior@hotmail.co.uk

St Mary's News

December PCC Meeting

The PCC met on **Tuesday 8**

December, sitting at suitably socially distanced positions in the body of the church with the Rector and acting Secretary behind the Plexiglas screen at the front. All wore masks unless they were addressing the meeting. The meeting took place within the context of worship.

- One of the main items of business was the **budget for 2021**, which was passed after some discussion. It was decided to retain the church's giving away of 10% of its income despite the expectation that income will remain low, partially due to Covid-19.
- **Children's work** remains ongoing – mostly on the internet - through our Children and Families Worker, Helen Smedley. There will be a Nativity Scene going up on the church lawn, piece by piece, over the days leading up to Christmas.
- It is hoped that **the boilers** will be repaired by Christmas. The PCC thanked Alan Marks and Peter White for coming to turn on the heat (at very unsocial hours) each time there is a service.

- **Donations over Christmas** will go to the Church Army.
- The APCM was set for 30 March 2021 at 7pm in church.

Craft and Coffee (or Tea)

Provided our area is not moved to Tier 3 beforehand the Craft and Coffee [or Tea] planned on **Tuesday 5 January** at 10.15 am will go ahead as before. Numbers will still be restricted so pre-booking with Lynne Prior is essential on 353655 or lynne@lateralflow.co.uk. As we go to press there are still a few places available!

Lynne Prior

Mission Quiz

I am extending the deadline to **Sunday January 3** so that any entries left in church on that day can be accepted. The results and winners will be on the notices for 10 January 2021. Full details will be in February's grapevine.

If you have not yet had, and would still like, a quiz, please contact Peter Chamberlain on 01933 386826 or cephasxwords@gmail.com



Colour in the 3 Kings . . .



Newton News

Altar Flowers for January

10 Helen Lines

24 Jenny Burt

Hymns for Little Children Album

When I was little girl, I was given the album **Hymns for Little**

Children. This was recorded by the Sunbury Junior Singers at the Salvation Army. I have recently found a recording online at <https://www.regalzonophone.com/Albums/Hymns-For-Little-Children> and I thought others may enjoy listening.

The Album contains some great Sunday School hymns including 'Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam', 'Tell me the Stories of Jesus', 'There's a friend for little children', 'When he cometh' and 'I was so glad that Jesus loves me'. *Helen Lines*



Local interest

Neighbourhood Watch : Burglary prevention checklist in the home

- Do not leave spare keys in easily accessible places, for instance under a plant pot or doormat.
- Use your burglar alarm if you have one.
- Do your doors (front, back and patio) have industry-approved, secure locks (ie they meet TS007 3-star or Sold Secured Diamond Stn ss312).
- Keep doors and windows locked and remove keys and keep them out of sight/reach but to hand in case of an emergency.
- Use timer switches for lights (and radio or fake TV) when leaving the house unoccupied.
- Are valuables such as jewellery, car keys, laptops, iPads, cash and phones kept out of sight.
- Have you created a written and photographic record of items of value (financial or sentimental)



Keep safe!

Contact:

christine.mackenzie@northants.pnn.police.uk

Food for thought and prayer ...



**An Evening Prayer for
Trust in the Lord**
Psalm 143.8 NIV

*Let the morning bring
word of your
unfailing love,
For I have put
my trust in you.
Show me the way
I should go,
For to you
I entrust my life.
Amen*

A troubled mind

*"I have a theory that mental
disquiet is actually a symptom
of being alive."*

*Stig Abell in newspaper
9 October 2018*

... and a little wry humour



©Parish Pump-Dec 2020

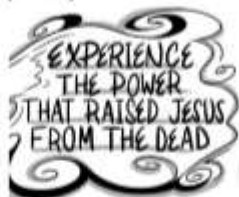
**"God knows!" - a cry
of exasperation or
the literal truth?**

**... Steve was delighted with the cloak but not
so sure about the face covering**

Daily Bible Readings for January 2021

Happy New Year! After starting the year right—with a Psalm of praise—I thought we could look at Paul's letter to the Ephesians in the month of January (apart from our Sunday Gospel readings). The account of Paul's going to Ephesus is found in Acts 19, but his letter is written some years later when Paul is in prison. You might want to watch a short overview of the letter by the Bible Project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q>

Friday	1 January	Psalm 150 - Praise the Lord!
Saturday	2 January	Acts 19.1-7 - Paul goes to Ephesus
Sunday	3 January	Matthew 2.1-12 - Epiphany
Monday	4 January	Ephesians 1.1-6
Tuesday	5 January	Ephesians 1.3-10
Wednesday	6 January	Ephesians 1.11-14
Thursday	7 January	Ephesians 1.15-23
Friday	8 January	Ephesians 2.1-7
Saturday	9 January	Ephesians 2.4-10



Sunday	10 January	Mark 1.4-11 - Baptism of Jesus
Monday	11 January	Ephesians 2.11-18
Tuesday	12 January	Ephesians 2.14-22
Wednesday	13 January	Ephesians 3.1-6
Thursday	14 January	Ephesians 3.6-13
Friday	15 January	Ephesians 3.12-21
Saturday	16 January	Ephesians 4. 1-13

Sunday	17 January	John 1.43-end - calling Philip
Monday	18 January	Ephesians 4.7-16
Tuesday	19 January	Ephesians 4.17-24
Wednesday	20 January	Ephesians 4.25-28
Thursday	21 January	Ephesians 4.29-32
Friday	22 January	Ephesians 5.1-7
Saturday	23 January	Ephesians 5.8-14



Sunday	24 January	John 2.1-11 - water to wine
Monday	25 January	Ephesians 5.13-21
Tuesday	26 January	Ephesians 5.22-33
Wednesday	27 January	Ephesians 5.33—6.4
Thursday	28 January	Ephesians 6.5-9
Friday	29 January	Ephesians 6.10-18
Saturday	30 January	Ephesians 6.18-24

Sunday	31 January	Mark 1.21-28 — Jesus's authority
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So what else is happening . . ?

Refugees

Friends of Refugees East Northants

are meeting on Zoom on **Thursday 21 January** at 7.30pm. All are welcome and further details available from Andrew Presland on 01933 316927.

Another Cannabis Factory

A number of readers are fascinated by the incidence of local Cannabis Factories and how to spot them. The latest discovery reported was in Springfield Road at the beginning of December.

Officers were alerted by the installation of a rather new looking loft hatch giving grounds to climb into the loft to discover Cannabis plants being grown. All plants were destroyed by officers.

With thanks to the local Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter: a constant source of fascinating if not immediately useful news. Although I hear rumours from my old stamping ground in Galloway that serious search and research has been undertaken in law-abiding Portpatrick but with no results to date.

Rushden Library

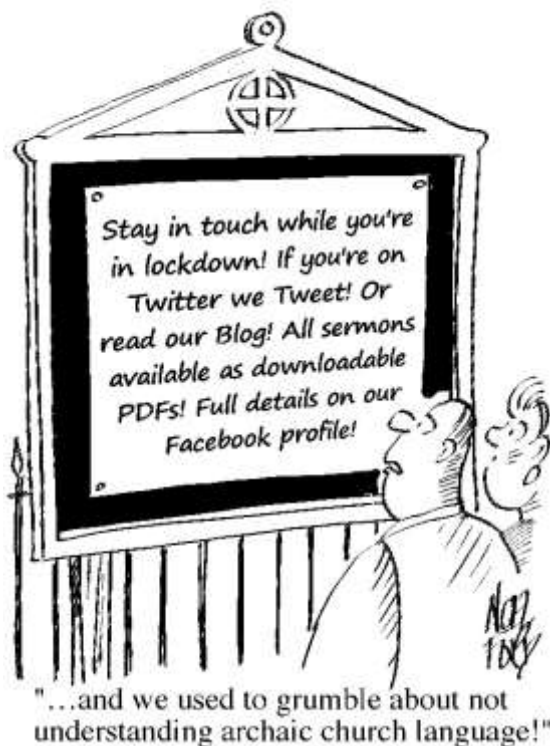
The library successfully reopened at the beginning of December with

both browsing slots and PC use bookable on line at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/library-service.

STOP PRESS!

The peregrine falcon and his mate

have once again been seen on the Church building if not actually attending Services. I see this as a very positive sign of good continuity for 2021! Ed



New Year – New Hope

I am writing this on Advent Sunday, such is the way of deadlines. I want to suggest that at New Year, we should be looking forward rather than back, but I've already fallen into the trap of checking to see what I wrote this time last year – so there goes my first resolution, more than a month before January!

I'm glad, though, to see that, in innocence and ignorance of all things covid, I wrote (in capital letters, which I usually resist) GOD CAN BE TRUSTED. That will certainly be worth remembering in 2021 as well.

By the time you read this, we will or won't have trade and other agreements with the EU; Parliament will or won't have agreed to the strict new three-tier coronavirus regulations; the first vaccines will or won't have been approved and rolled out for use; England will or won't have won the first Autumn Nations Cup rugby championship, and the one-day cricket series against South Africa; Donald Trump will or won't have accepted defeat ... a lot can happen in a month.

And if a lot can happen in a month, what about a whole year? Who could have predicted so many aspects of our lives being overturned in 2020? (There I go, looking back again. That's two forfeits so far.) So, how can we look forward into a new year, when it could be overwhelmingly



good, or equally bad, or just not very memorable at all? We can probably rule that third option out, but the question remains: How can we look forward?

The answer, of course, is by looking to Jesus: Jesus the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Lord of the years, the Lord of the future; Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (I hope you can join in my course of Bible studies on Hebrews this spring); Jesus our hope.

We have very little idea of what is in store for us in this new year. But it is still the Year of our Lord 2021, so we enter it with hope in him.

With best wishes
+Donald

Diocese of Peterborough – Magazine Resource – January 2021

Produced by the Diocesan Office, The Palace, Peterborough, PE1 1YB
Tel: 01733 887000 Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk
www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Do your shopping and raise money for your church via easyfundraising!

Our churches have been hard hit financially this year. Months of lockdown has left many of you wondering where to find the necessary funds for repairs, running costs and maintenance.

We've listened and we're pleased to announce a new partnership with fundraising website **easyfundraising** which will enable you to easily generate funds for your church immediately.

How does easyfundraising work?

It's very simple – when anyone connected to a particular church uses the easyfundraising website or app to shop online with over 4,400 well-known stores, the retailer they shop with sends your church a free donation.

Many people in your community will already be shopping online, so this is a simple way that you can support your church easily and safely from home.

easyfundraising is completely free to use and it won't cost you anything extra as the retailer pays the donations, not the shopper.

What's more, you won't need to change where you shop either as all your favourite retailers are involved, including **Amazon, M&S, Eden, eBay, Argos, John Lewis, Dobies, Waitrose, Holland & Barrett, Boots** and many more.

The benefits:

- Free to register and use
- Trusted by thousands of churches
- Easy to set up and requires minimal management
- A safe and secure way for you to support your church from home

'Donate' feature

In addition to raising free funds with online shopping, your church can also use easyfundraising to collect direct donations from your congregation. Request a 'Donate' button



1. Join

Register your Church as a cause with easyfundraising



2. Shop

Every time your congregation & supporters shop online they go to easyfundraising first...



3. Raise

...shop as normal and the retailer will give a donation to your Church for free!



4. Donate

Your supporters can also make a donation to your Church using a credit or debit card with the donate feature



from easyfundraising and members of the congregation can donate directly to your church. easyfundraising offers this service completely free of charge – there is simply a card provider fee applicable of 1.4% + 20p per transaction.

How to get started

To get started now, simply [register your church](#) as a 'good cause' with easyfundraising – it's completely free to register and use, and only takes two minutes. We really recommend you give it a try.

Find out more

Watch [this video](#) to find out how easyfundraising works.

FAQs for churches

- **My church isn't a charity – can we still use easyfundraising?**

Yes – you don't need to be a charity to use easyfundraising.

- **Will it cost churches anything?**

No – easyfundraising is completely free to register and use for both you and your supporters. And your supporters will not be charged anything extra on their shopping either.

- **How do we get our shopping donations?**

Providing your church has raised over £15 in donations, easyfundraising total up all the donations raised by everyone supporting your church every three months and send them to you by bank transfer or cheque. There is no charge for this. If your church hasn't raised over £15 in the previous three months, the amount simply rolls into the next payment instead.



easyfundraising
feel good shopping

- **How do we get our direct donations?**

Donations made via a credit or debit card are handled by Stripe, the service provider. Stripe processes the credit or debit card payment securely and transfers the money to your church bank account within seven days of the date of donation. You'll receive an email to let you know when you have a new donation.

- **Do we get 100% of the direct donation value?**

The payment service provider, Stripe, charges a fee for processing payments of 1.4% + 20p per donation. So, for a £100 donation, you should expect to receive £98.40.

However, easyfundraising will not charge a commission fee on any

donations you receive, unlike other fundraising platform providers who take up to 5% away from a donation.

- **How does easyfundraising make money?**

Like price comparison websites, easyfundraising makes money through affiliate marketing. This means that retailers pay them commission each time a sale is made through their site. The donation rate shown on the website is what's paid to your church when one of your members buys something from a retailer.

So, start raising now!

A host of useful information and resources to help you during this time can be found via www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus.

Visit www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/events to find out about our online events.

Field Note : 1 A number of us were holding our breath over the late harvesting of wheat this year, including Peter White and Linnet Smith. If anyone has an explanation beyond the strange weather please let us know. Ed



Did someone mention walking . . . ?

While Jude has been exploring Rushden, we have been more adventurous and have even been over the border to Bedfordshire where Odell Great Wood awaited us. We decided to visit during the first lockdown because we thought that there would not be many people about and this turned out to be true and we have continued to walk there ever since.

Back in the spring the trees were beginning to come into leaf and the wheat fields were just showing green shoots. We have seen these shoots grow until they were ripe for harvest and in September we were a little concerned that this hadn't happened. Eventually all the fields have been, so what do we know? ¹ The fields are all now ploughed, reset and green shoots are showing once again.

Our favourite period has been the blackberry season when the walks up Church Lane took a lot longer (perhaps we should keep this secret because we found some of the best bushes ever). We now have enough in the freezer and plenty of jars of blackberry and apple jam to last until next season - well we hope so but as soon as restrictions are lifted, we will no doubt be having requests for the jam from our family in Birmingham.

In recent weeks we have started our walks in Harrold Country Park where to our amazement we have never seen so many people and have had difficulty finding a parking space. But when we walk down to the river, we leave the crowds behind and we have seen a little egret several times. Once out of the park we take the anti-clockwise route and pass by the Odell Community Orchard which has many heritage varieties of fruit trees. On our last walk in this direction, we realised we had made a mistake as by the time we had walked through the woods we were a couple of inches taller as it was very muddy. However, it was still a very enjoyable walk even if more tiring.

Now the leaves have fallen you don't have to be a child to enjoy kicking your way through them. There were many different paths we could follow and on one occasion we ended up in a field of solar panels. This was not the most picturesque walk and we have not been back.

Our walks in the woods have made the last six months more pleasant than they otherwise could have been and we are grateful to the people who have cared for the paths. *Marion & Bob Bates*

Meet the Congregation – David Wignall

David was born on the Ides of March 1965 - that's the fifteenth. His father taught, and was a Methodist Preacher for sixty years. His mother was a nurse, but gave that up to become a full-time Mum: David was the youngest of three children but his mum also helped run the WRVS for thirty years.

He was born in Bury, Lancashire, and lived there till he was eighteen. Surprisingly, though, the pre-school memory that comes first to mind is of sitting in the Archbishop's chair on a visit to Canterbury Cathedral.

Throughout his schooling David enjoyed sport - especially cricket - and when he moved on to Bury Grammar School he enjoyed being part of the Officer Cadet Corps. From school his education continued at Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology.¹

Going to church at St John's in Werrington, near Peterborough, where the Vicar was John Littlewood - a former curate at St Mary's - he met Carolyn. They became friends, though I understand he had to woo her with theatres and museums before she was really interested! Eventually though they married in 1989 at the same church.

After university David became a Port Designer and Chief Engineer for a group of UK ports. This led to becoming the head of an Asian research and development company. He then set up his own business in the same field which Carolyn became part of. This meant they lived abroad for twenty four years: mainly in Singapore but for a short time in Bangkok and then Jakarta. On average they were travelling at least once a week.

Their business continues: financing and designing ports and terminals all over the world. Currently this is made possible through Zoom so even though they recently returned to Rushden the business goes on. Carolyn originates from Rushden: you may remember her as Carolyn Marsh. She lived with her parents on Wymington Road.

David and the family generally worshipped at St George's in Singapore, where David is still on the PCC. Now of course they are members of St Mary's and attend church whenever they can! David finds it good being at St Mary's and still a part of the worldwide church.

They have a son and two daughters: one of whom has two children and they live not far away!

Roving Reporter



Those questions

Biggest Influence
God

Favourite Place?
Too many to mention!

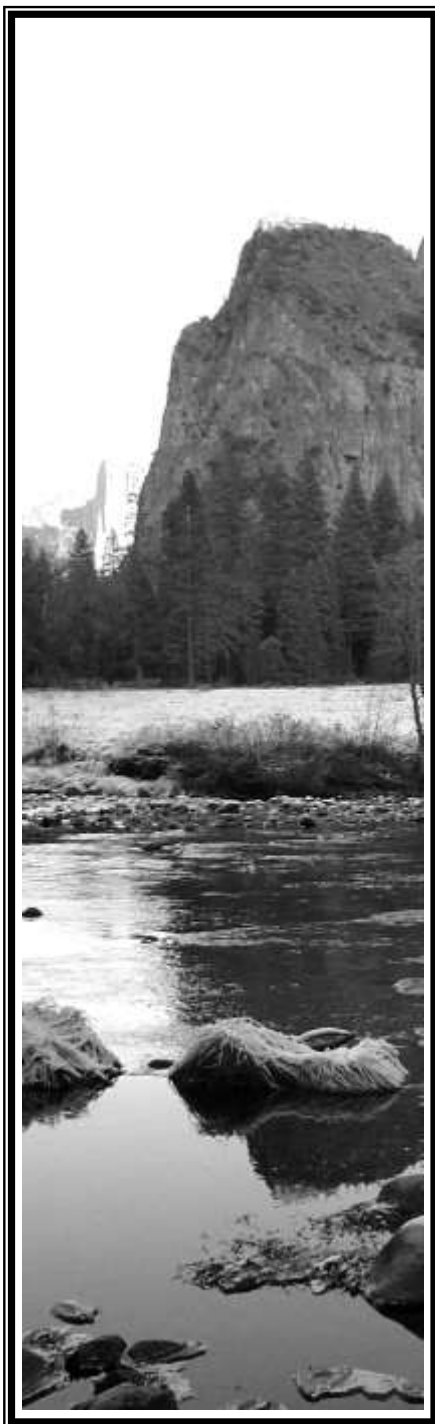
Proudest Moments?
Too many to mention

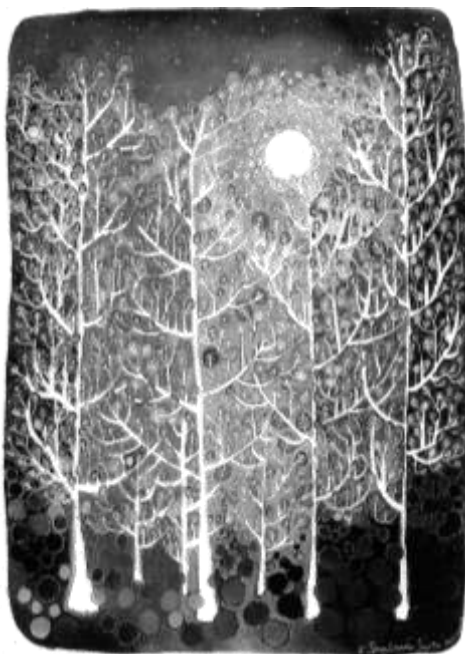
Guest to dinner?
Winston Churchill

What would you serve?
Roast Dinner followed by
Profiteroles

Favourite Bible verse ?
“Be still and know that I am
God” Psalm 46.10

'best known to me as the venue for one of the only two Blind Faith gigs ever played: I'm sure they were still talking about it when David got there in the Eighties. Ed





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Last Minute

Practical Spirituality Outcomes

Philip Evans and a colleague at **St Andrew's Healthcare, Northampton**

give a very good ten minute talk on their research on **practical spirituality outcomes (belonging, becoming, believing, behaving, blossoming etc)**, but I know only of a You Tube video with a long web address, which is a bit long for Grapevine readers to type.

Andrew Presland

NOTE if you would like to access this get in touch through missjudecurtis@btinternet.com and

I'll include the web address in my reply and you can cut and paste it. It is extremely long! Ed

Did you spot the hidden Corvid in the December edition?

It was perching on a chorister's shoulder on the Back Page. This month's might be harder . . . [I'm really trying here !!] Ed





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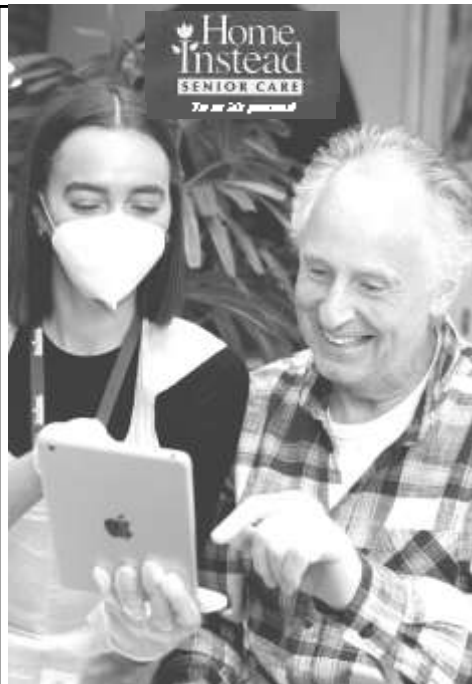
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Looking Back at St Mary's Magazines

50 years ago

January 1971

From the Rector's Letter

At the beginning of a New Year we do well to remember that on the Cross our Lord plumbed the depth of suffering and in His risen power now goes forward with us.

Rev Michael Wilson
St Mary's Magazine, Jan 1971

YPF - Young People's Fellowship

Since the Youth Service in November the "New Group" - about a dozen boys and girls - have come so consistently to our Sunday meeting that recently they took a meeting for us - thinking through the meaning behind some of the words of today's pop music ... We are learning from each other.

PAS

[the Rev P Skoulding?]

25 years ago

January 1996

From the Rector's Letter

As human beings we can go through an awful lot [and who knows, perhaps in 1996 we may be called upon to go through an awful lot]. God made us quite tough and resilient, but he also made us to walk with him through all the days of our life ... He doesn't want us to struggle through alone.

Rev Alan Smith

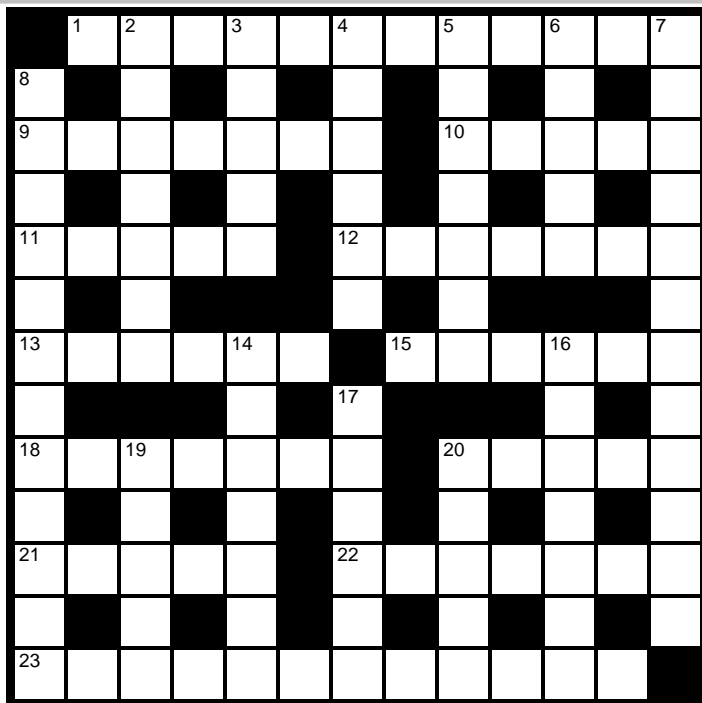
Newton History

Newton Bromswold was at one time joined to the parish of Shelton, Beds. The Rev McCleery was Rector of both parishes. He used to travel to take services in his Pony and Trap ... There was a Church of England day school and Mrs Gladsden [then Miss Taylor] came from Lancashire and was headmistress from 1918-1947. [Note: there is much more of this article. Let me know if you would like a photocopy.]

Crossword No 374

ACROSS

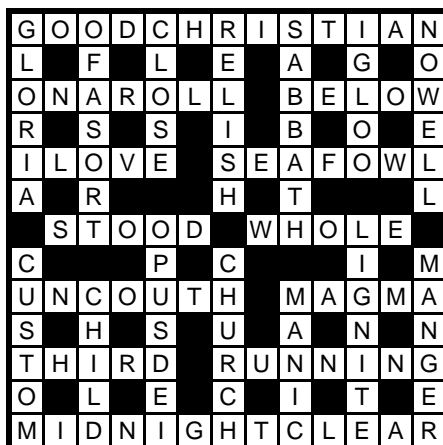
- 1 'Born for us -- -- --',
(carol) (2,5,5)
9 Nestle (7)
10 Fathered (OT) (5)
11 Gem (5)
12 One of the Wise
Men or a shepherd
(7)
13 'Following -- star',
(carol) (6)
15 'Not in that poor
lowly --', (carol) (6)
18 '-- -- fallen', (carol)
(4,3)
20 Hindu sage (5)
21 Of the eye (5)
22 'Sweet -- in the
choir', (carol) (7)
23 Part of chorus of a
carol (6,6)



DOWN

- 2 Uncharged particle (7)
3 'The -- of the Lord came down' (carol)
(5)
4 'The holly and -- --', (carol) (3,3)
5 Look after young children (4-3)
6 'The everlasting --', (carol) (5)
7 '--- -- of Orient are', (carol) 2,5,5)
8 'Unto -- -- -- --', (carol) (2,1,3,2,4)
14 Morally correct (7)
16 Brutish (7)
17 Thomas --, US inventor (6)
19 Being pulled (2,3)
20 Revive (5)

Solution to Crossword No 373





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Services for January 2021

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 3 January - Epiphany

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

Sunday 10 January - Baptism of Christ

9.30am	All Age Service		
11.15am	Morning Prayer	11.00am	Holy Communion

Sunday 17 January - Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

Sunday 24 January - Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am	All Age Service		
11.15am	Morning Prayer	11.00am	Holy Communion

Sunday 31 January - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am	All Age Service		
11.15am	Morning Prayer	11.00am	Morning Prayer

Midweek Service in St Mary's Church
Thursdays 10.30am Holy Communion [BCP]

REGULAR ON-LINE SERVICES

Access these services via our website: stmaryschurchrushden.org or
facebook.com/stmaryschurchrushden/ or youtube.com/user/stmarysrushden

Sunday Service 10.00am on Facebook & YouTube

Bumps & Babies: Facebook on Monday mornings at 10.00am.

Sunday Club is now available online each week – look for it on Facebook and YouTube.

Thought for Thursday: Thursdays 10.30am on Facebook

Colouring In

If you enjoyed colouring in the **Three Wise Men** on page 10 you might like to take a photo or capture it on your smart phone. Do send me a copy [jpeg for preference] and I can assemble a composite and we can use that as the cover for Christmas 2021 ! Ed.



missjudecurtis@btinternet.com

Belfry Gossip

I hope you all have a safe, if different to normal, Christmas, even though we, as ringers couldn't celebrate as much as we would have liked by ringing the bells. Let us hope as people get vaccinated, 2021 will enable some sort of normality and normal ringing will be able to return.

Even though restrictions have been eased and Sunday services, socially distanced, can now be held in church again, we ringers are still restricted due to the number of different households gathering indoors together in the ringing room. At the time of writing we will be able to ring for a short period on Christmas Day as long as we can maintain the required social distancing.

Contact between ringers is still being maintained and a virtual practice held when possible while not able to meet in the tower on a Friday evening, although still the internet tries to disrupt our 'ringing' with the Ringing Room program.

Plans are being worked out for our Tower AGM this year, and the Wellingborough Branch of Bellringers AGM will be a virtual meeting. Reports of these next time.

Tintinnabulum

Book Review

The Tyranny of Merit.: What's become of the Common Good? **Michael J Sandel: Penguin Books**

As with relief we say goodbye to 2020, will we be making New Year resolutions, or will we, as an alternative, focus on our hopes for 2021?

If our underlying hope is to “go back to normal” we may well be disappointed. This is what many commentators are predicting. They identify too many things that have been changed irreversibly in the way we are now living our lives and too many faults in our common life that the pandemic has exposed. Like it or not 2021 may require permanent changes in our behaviour, in our ambitions and expectations, in our individual lives, in the life of our nation and in the work of the Church, the latter a reality acknowledged by the Archbishop of Canterbury in a recent address to General Synod.

Last November I attended the Seeds of Change on-line conference, organised by the Cambridge-based Think-tank, the Jubilee Centre. Over five days the conference discussed, from a Christian perspective, how we can sow the seeds for a better society, centred on right relationships and the common good.

Michael Sandel, a noted international speaker and author, makes his



contribution to the post-Covid discussions in his recent book *The Tyranny of Merit*. He teaches political philosophy at Harvard University but his writings also contain significant theological insights.

A few quotations from the Prologue to his book give a flavour of the background to his message. “When the coronavirus pandemic hit in 2020 many countries were unprepared . . . the lack of preparedness had many sources . . . beyond the lack of logistical preparedness, the country [USA] was not morally prepared... Decades of rising inequality and cultural resentment had brought an angry populist backlash in 2016... morally the pandemic reminded us of our vulnerability, of our mutual dependence”

In many ways this is not a comfortable book to read. It questions many perceived, self-evident assumptions. The author contends that the truths that prevail in society are based on the overarching acceptance of merit as the only yardstick of what is good. This criteria has, he believes, adversely shaped our lives over the past forty years. In his analysis Sandel offers as an example of where things

Mission Matters - Unexpected blessings . . .

2020 was a challenging year for everyone, including our mission partners - but our God reigns! **CPAS, the Church Pastoral Aid Society**, have shared ways in which they have seen God wonderfully at work this year.



There were, of course, no **Venture holidays** in 2020, but over a thousand children and teenagers attended a 'Virtual Venture', with many more live views via virtual platforms. Newcomers to Ventures are now looking forward to real holidays in the future.

Over 350 families, whose children's **Falcon holidays** were cancelled, were delighted to receive a 'Falcon in a Box', containing treats and activities to enjoy at home.

Around 1,750 church leaders attended **CPAS Webinars** on 'Leadership in Lockdown' and 'Leading in Uncertain Times'.

Seventy seven **new incumbents** were appointed at CPAS patronage churches across thirty eight different dioceses.



Children in Ripon before Covid-19

Thank you, Father, for CPAS's unchanging vision to help churches bring '**the Gospel to every doorstep**' and for enabling them to serve you with creativity and flexibility during the unusual circumstances of 2020.

Sue Eagles, for The Mission Committee

need to change, a devastating critique highlighting the adverse effect of an educational system based solely on merit.

If you are looking for a book that takes your mind off the troubles of the world, Sandel's book is probably not for you. If on the other hand you wish to better

understand the forces that shape the unhappy world that we find ourselves in and also wish to think about the role that the Church can play in shaping the "new normal" then you may find Sandel's book a helpful resource.

Tony Smith

— The Back Page —



20



19

19

HYMNS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN



11

ALL THINGS
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL
LOVING SHEPHERD
OF TRY SHEEP
JESUS WANTS
ME FOR A SUNBEAM
THE LAMB
AWAY IN A MANGER
TELL ME
THE STORIES OF JESUS
NOW THE DAY IS OVER
THERE'S A FRIEND
FOR LITTLE CHILDREN
SING OF HIM (CHERRY RIDE)
WHEN HE COMETH
I AM SO GLAD
THAT JESUS LOVES ME
GENTLE JESUS MEEN AND MILD
ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS
LITTLE SHIP

CAPITAL AIR WEDS EXPLORES THE SAVANNAH AGENT SINGING JORDAN SANDERS (1961)



19



19