

may 2021



grapevine

50p

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

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## grapevine may 2021

**This edition** is a combination of accepting where we are at the moment in the ‘Covid Story’ and beginning to think about what life will be like after it.

As ever with grapevine ‘great minds think alike’ and much of the commentary this month relates to our view of the church body: what does it mean to be a Christian? How should we express it?

From Phil’s piece that touches on theologian John Piper’s concern for “The beauty and the unity of heart that showed itself in sacrificial giving”, to Bishop John quoting his former mentor, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell’s words, that we should now be looking for “A humbler, simpler and bolder church” there is a strong sense of looking forward with genuine hope.

And at a personal level we can do the same. What have we missed? What shall we change? What shall we hold fast to?

*Jude Curtis, Editor*

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### *Items for the June grapevine*

*should be sent by*

**Sunday 16 May**

Preferably by email to:  
[missjudecurtis@btinternet.com](mailto:missjudecurtis@btinternet.com)

# The world we all want . . .



One of the things I recently learnt about the late Prince Philip was how much of his life was dedicated towards trying to make the world a better place. Whether it was inspiring the younger generation through his Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme or campaigning for environmental or social change, he wanted to make the world a better place, he was certainly onto something!

Many people over the years, whether through their own personal endeavours or through political philosophy, have sought to make the world a better place. We know this world is not as it should be and something deep within us all longs for a better world! However, we would do well to look no further than the life of the early church in the book of Acts.

Luke, who wrote the book of Acts, observed and recorded for his readers what life was like in the early church. One of the striking things to notice is how quickly the church grew. It increased by 3,000 on the day of Pentecost and then shortly after a further 5,000 came to faith. So this is not a *small* group, but rather a rapidly expanding one

We see in Acts 4 how all the believers were generously sharing their possessions according to need and some even sold their possessions to distribute the funds as was required. This is not a type of early church communism because there are big differences between communism and the church. Communism is an atheistic political system whereas the Christian church promotes belief in God and the Gospel.

We might think that these early Christians didn't have much to give up, so this wasn't any great sacrifice, but we know from later in Acts that one believer kept a maid, so some of them did indeed have money. What we see here is the beauty of a unity of heart that showed itself in sacrificial and generous giving of wealth and possessions so that nobody was in need.

Of course the power for them to do this great sacrificial act as a people of God flowed from the grace they had received from Him. God's grace had given them all, and forgiven all - therefore they could do the same. The

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.<sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all<sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales<sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Acts 4. 32-35

power of the Gospel released sacrificial generosity amongst these people in a way that serves as a model of the world we all want. It is a world where people live by the first commandment to love God, and love others as themselves.

But we are naive if we believe we can do this without God's help. Only as we come to the cross and receive forgiveness and know the hope of the resurrection of life beyond the grave will we have the power to make such sacrificial gestures for God's church.

Of course some of us might feel we have little to give financially but perhaps we have much to give relationally and emotionally to others who are isolated and lonely. American theologian John Piper has written that "two of the effects of believing in Jesus are that the heart is loosened in relationship to things and tightened in its relationship to people." A wonderful thought.

Faith in Christ creates a bond of love to other people, and cuts the bond of love to things. This is the heart of the Gospel. We no longer live for ourselves but for God and his people because in Jesus we have been given all and forgiven all. This empowers us to live sacrificial lives towards each other and gives us a family unity that only the Gospel can bring.

That's the world we all want!

*Phil Nightingale*

## The bag-lady speaks



I'm very grateful to Phil for his contributions to this month: both his piece on p4 and the sermon he preached on Sunday 11 April on which it is based.

Religion and politics have always existed side by side in human affairs: sometimes each masquerading as the other. Phil is quite right to draw attention to the failure of Communism - the disastrous subversion of lofty principles into sordid and destructive power games. I'm grateful too for his introducing me to *another* John Piper than the one who created the Baptistry Window in Coventry Cathedral on the right. \*

But to be honest the motives behind the institution of our own Church of England were far from lofty: suspect at best and pernicious in effect. You don't have to follow the money trail too far after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries - into his own hands and those of his aristocratic cronies - to find an entirely worldly reason for his actions - one result of which was setting back the development of medicine and any concept of 'care in the community' for hundreds of years. Who else was interested in caring for the dispossessed, indigent, poor, sick and lonely apart from those in holy orders? Society was soon to be swelled by an army of those very dispossessed themselves. C. J. Sansom's *Dissolution* is a brilliantly readable account of this.

Yes, I know I read too many novels [or just read too much of anything] but I was struck dumb again recently, re-reading John Buchan's *Witch Wood* and *Midwinter*, by his account of the perversion of John Knox's message of reform over the subsequent centuries in Scotland. You need a strong stomach to absorb the hypocrisy, cruelty and horror of some of the more lurid passages about the behaviour within the Scottish Kirk at the time. Yes, I know this is fiction but John Buchan rarely makes things up. Read either book at your peril.

All human affairs have the potential for subversion or ruination. There's a fine example in the destructive behaviour in Belfast over these last few weeks. Such stuff is mutable by its very nature. Sometimes this even results in good things, but that's another story!

Just to be perverse [or just plain inconsistent] I lapped up the Bishop's on-line Lent Studies on Hebrews which began and ended with the supremacy

of Christ over any expression of ‘religion’.

So why Bag-lady? With no clothes shopping for way over a year now, I would describe my wardrobe [in both senses] as ‘Bag-Lady Chic’ although that might be offensive to the ladies concerned and if so I apologise in advance.

A rack of shoes in the dressing room - by which I mean that handy walk-in cupboard space that comes packaged with the average Victorian terrace somewhere on the upper landing - is down to six pairs: all but one specifically for walking. My only pair of jeans is two sizes too big and held up by a belt with five extra notch holes. Size 16 to Size 12 is life-changing.

Then there’s the depressing colour palette. Why, oh, why, did I indulge in item after item in light grey, medium grey, slate grey, black or beige? Let’s face it none of those work with the new ‘ash blonde’ - aka white - streaks in my hair. Nothing there to raise your mood on a dull day. I need a plethora of lime green, lemon, scarlet and peacock to suit my optimism.

And **Optimism** is hard to avoid at the moment but it’s problematic turning it into action. I suspect that quite a few of us will be exhibiting caution for a while. The ‘strange behaviours’ we have had to get used to, and have been protected by, for over a year now aren’t going to disappear from our repertoire overnight. Some - like my eating only home-made malted granary bread - are here to stay! It’s going to be a very interesting balancing act!

Jude Curtis, Editor

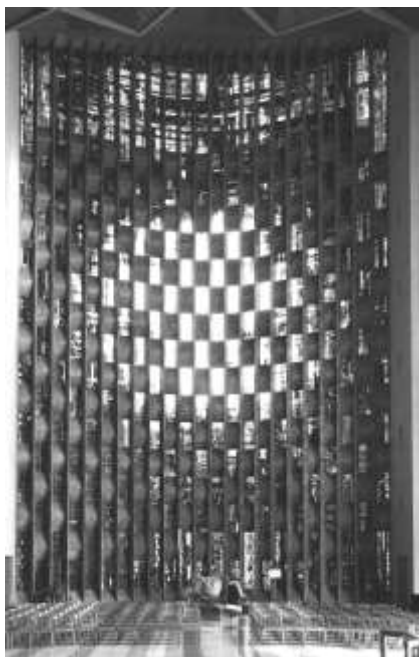
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\* you really need to look this up and get the full colour version.

**Buchan, John, *Midwinter: Certain Travellers in Old England*** (Edinburgh: Polygon, 2008) [1923] with intro by Stuart Kelly

**Buchan, John, *Witch Wood*** (London: Hodder, 1963) [1927]

**Sansom, C. J., *Dissolution*** (London: Macmillan, 2003)



## St Mary's News

**Services In Church and On Line**  
Our usual Schedules have been  
reinstated: full details can once  
again be found on pp 30-31

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reinstated: full details can once  
again be found on pp 30-31

## A Thank You . . .

All Jean Tombling's family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and messages.

We were overwhelmed by the many cards of condolences that we received.

Provided circumstances allow there will be a Thanksgiving Service for Jean's life at St Mary's on Saturday July 10 at 2.00 pm. MB

### Jean's funeral

It was a real privilege ‘attending’ Jean’s funeral via the Crematorium streaming service. Perhaps it will be something that routinely continues after lockdown is lifted for family and friends who live on the other side of the world or struggle to attend any events away from home.

I'm so glad I 'went'. Lovely things were said and it was full of light and humour and not too solemn, with proper attention paid to Jean's little 'foibles'. A very fitting tribute and a genuine comfort. *Jude Curtis*

**It is also good to know** that her Walker has already found a new home in Rushden. Ed

## St Mary's Church Office ...

Is once again opening **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00 to 12 noon.** We ask you to please wear a mask and avoid gathering inside the office.



**The Foodbank** are grateful for everyone's

support! At the moment, they are asking for items such as tinned potatoes, peas, sweet corn and carrots as well as cleaning products. They have sufficient pasta and baked beans!

### Annual Vestry and APCM

**Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 7.30pm**

Please check the Electoral Roll on the board at the back of church to ensure your name is there. If it is not, please complete an application form which is also on the board.

There are also forms for nominations to the Parochial Church Council and Deanery Synod as well as Church Wardens. Please make use of these for nominating people for these roles (always asking permission before putting an individual's name forward).

If you are unsure whether you are on the Electoral Roll and cannot attend the church building, you may phone the church office and they will check



# St Mary's News

for you and get an application form to you if necessary.

## The Children's Society

John's new quiz 'OH' is now on sale price £1 and can be obtained from **Pam Bailey [313195] or Joy Holloway [318415]**.

## Update from Helen Smedley - Bumps & Babes Outdoors

Firstly, I am thankful for an answer to prayer for warm weather!

Although the group was small, the mums

who attended were encouraged and glad of the opportunity to meet other mums. And the children all had a wonderful time exploring the churchyard.

We already have more numbers booked for next week, and hope for continued growth as we move forward. *HS*

## Book of Condolences

The Church of England has an online book of condolences for the **Duke of Edinburgh**. You may wish to use this: link - <https://www.churchofengland.org/remembering-his-royal-highness-prince-philip>



## Flower Rota

### May 2021

#### *Behind the Communion Table*

- 2 Mr & Mrs J Bettles [arr by Ellen Inwood]
- 9 Marion Bates
- 16 Ellen Inwood
- 23 Ann Harris
- 30 Paula Williams

**If you would like to arrange the Communion Table flowers in June, July or August** please contact Ellen Inwood [312874] or leave a message [412235] or e-mail - [stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com).

### *Memorial Chapel*

- 2 Mr Peter White in memory of Dorothy
- 16 Mrs Kelland in memory of Mr and Mrs Craddick

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

## Ascension Day

A service will be held on

**13 May 2021**

at 7.30 pm at

**Rushden St Peter's Church  
Midland Road**

*Please book your place by ringing Margaret or Steve on 01933 314251*

# St Mary's News cont . . .

## Highlights of the Meeting of the St Mary's PCC, 6 April 2021 held via Zoom

- **Easter Holiday Club:** Helen reported that she had sent out thirty craft packs for her *Easter Holiday Club* programme which went out on Facebook. As part of this some large pots have been put next to the Church Hall for planting.
- **Bumps n Babes Outdoors:** A slow start in April to re-open Bumps n Babes will begin with an outdoor session due to continuing restrictions. The development of social skills will be prioritised.
- **Buggy buddies** will continue, weather permitting, with walks and picnics in the park.
- **Hodgkin retirement gift:** A cheque for over £500 was sent to Brian and Val Hodgkin on their retirement.
- **Fabric:** the faculty for the new south porch door has been returned by the DAC asking for proof of the date of the current gates. [If anyone has a photo of the South Porch from before the time that the current iron gates were installed, we would appreciate having a copy of it.]
- **STOP PRESS** - the record of the PCC from 1969 has been found which indicates sufficient proof, so photographs not now needed]
- **Opening up and moving forward:** Attendance at Easter services was encouraging totalling ninety adults and nine children. The plan is to keep the church open for services now, restrictions permitting. As those restrictions ease, group meetings will open up again. It will be a time to reflect on our current, old, and new ways at St Mary's.



# Newton News



## Those Hyacinths get everywhere!

We were delighted when Josie suggested we take something from St Mary's garden to our new house in Kettering when we moved last summer. What could be a better keepsake than the beautiful pink hyacinth bulbs that flower every spring? We planted these as soon as we arrived here and now look at them! Just lovely.

Thank you so much Josie and we look forward to enjoying them every year.

*Sue Merrifield*



## Flower Rota - May

- 2 Mrs Burt
- 9 Mrs Turner
- 16 Mrs Dangerfield
- 23 Mrs Hollis & Mrs Sargent
- 30 June Clarke

## Easter Sunday

The Church reopened on Easter Sunday for the first time in three months due to the COVID pandemic. It was lovely to see so many people at Church at the Easter Service, with Linnet taking the service.

There is a picture of the splendid flower display on the Communion Table on The Back Page.

## Annual Vestry & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St Peter's APCM (which did not take place in 2020 due to Covid-19) will take place on **Wednesday 19 May 2021** at 7.30pm in the church building. Notices are on view in church and the Electoral Roll will be displayed. Electoral Roll Application forms and Nomination forms for Deanery Synod Representatives, PCC members and Church Wardens will be available at the back of church. We will be adhering to whatever restrictions are current at the time of the APCM.

# Food for thought and prayer ...



## Thoughts for Pentecost

### When The Spirit Comes

When we become a Christian God gives you his Holy Spirit. So what difference does this make? What should we expect of a Christian? **‘The fruit of the Spirit’, says the Bible, ‘is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control’.** *Galatians 5.22*

Because Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit, his life was like that. The Holy Spirit is the Christian’s only hope of ever following Jesus’ example.

But beware of counterfeits. Possessiveness may masquerade as love; superficial heartiness as joy; indifference to God as peace - as in I’ve found peace since I gave up God’.

Leaving people to stew in their own juice is not patience.

Meddling in other people’s affairs is not kindness.

A fussy display of generosity is not goodness.

Faithfulness must not be confused with scrupulousness:  
nor gentleness with tolerance of evil; nor self-control with stoicism.

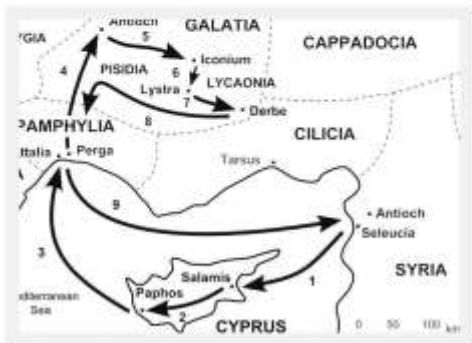
**‘Not by might, nor by power, but my Spirit’, says the Lord’**

*Zechariah 4.6*

***Gordon Harman, Grapevine May 1996.***

# Daily Bible Readings for May 2021

*I always feel the need to get out a map when I read through Acts. Paul's travels certainly weren't like any holidays around the Mediterranean we may take today - and many of the names of the towns have changed. Paul runs into crises everywhere he goes with the Gospel of Jesus, the risen Lord, but the church continues to grow. And Acts reminds us the "whatever 'journey' we are making, in our own lives, our spirituality, our following of Jesus and our work for his kingdom, his Spirit will guide us too, and make us fruitful in his service."*\*\*



Saturday	1 May	Acts 13.32-52
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2 May</b>	<b>John 15.1-8</b>
Monday	3 May	Acts 14.1-20
Tuesday	4 May	Acts 14.18-28
Wednesday	5 May	Acts 15.1-21
Thursday	6 May	Acts 15.22-41
Friday	7 May	Acts 16.1-15
Saturday	8 May	Acts 16.16-40

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9 May</b>	<b>1 John 5.1-6</b>
Monday	10 May	Acts 17.1-15
Tuesday	11 May	Acts 17.16-34
Wednesday	12 May	Acts 18.1-22
Thursday	13 May	Acts 18.23—19.22
Friday	14 May	Acts 19.23-41
Saturday	15 May	Acts 20.1-17

*This is the victory  
that has  
overcome the world,  
even our faith.*  
1 John 5.4b

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16 May</b>	<b>Acts 1.1-11</b>
Monday	17 May	Acts 20.1—21.19
Tuesday	18 May	Acts 21.17-40
Wednesday	19 May	Acts 21.37 — 22.22
Thursday	20 May	Acts 22.22—23.11
Friday	21 May	Acts 23.12-35
Saturday	22 May	Acts 24.1-27



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23 May</b>	<b>Acts 2.1-21</b>
Monday	24 May	Acts 25.1-22
Tuesday	25 May	Acts 25.23—26.32
Wednesday	26 May	Acts 27.1-26
Thursday	27 May	Acts 27.27-44
Friday	28 May	Acts 28.1-16
Saturday	29 May	Acts 28.17-31
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30 May</b>	<b>John 3.1-17</b>

\* Acts for Everyone, Tom Wright

## Local News . . .

### Midshires Covert

There will be a **Bluebell Walk** on the afternoon of **Saturday 8 May** from Midshires Covert (near Harrington) followed by a campfire - details from Andrew Presland (01933 316927)

### Homelessness Accommodation

As far as we know, the **new homelessness accommodation in Duck Street** opened on **Tuesday 6 April** as planned, but, although the practical arrangements have now been made, we still need some support from volunteers.

Our primary need is for individuals who can volunteer some of their time on a weekend day (it does not have to be every weekend) and individuals who can do evenings from 4.00pm onwards. We are also looking for individuals who can undertake collections from supermarkets late evenings and in the mornings, including picking them up, dropping them off to us and putting them away.

If you are a non-judgmental, passionate, empathetic individual who wants to help those who have been rough sleeping, please email us on [rushdenhomeless@encs.org.uk](mailto:rushdenhomeless@encs.org.uk) or call 01933 312736.

### Update on 'our' Refugee Family

The next court hearing in a local

family's appeal against the Home Office decision to not grant them refugee status has recently been deferred to **Monday 10 May** due to the unavailability of legal representatives before then.

Please pray for them meanwhile and that the hearing finds in their favour.

### Local Elections - 6 May 2021

Preparations for local elections in May are underway and **East Northamptonshire** residents are being urged to make note of important deadlines. **On Thursday 6 May 2021 a poll will be held to elect Councillors for the new North Northamptonshire Council (NNC).**

The new unitary authority replaced Corby, East Northants, Kettering and Wellingborough Borough Councils and Northamptonshire County Council [nominally] on **Thursday 1 April**. More details are available at:

<https://futurenorthantsnorth.org/north-northamptonshire-citizens-urged-to-prepare-now-for-may-elections/>

Do take note that when going to vote you should **wear a face mask and take your own pen or pencil** to mark your ballot paper.





## Local [and more distant] stuff

### Protecting Your Car Campaign launched

Most car crimes happen because cars are left unlocked. There is a misconception that some cars are auto-locking and lock themselves if left unattended after a period of time. Another misconception is that your car is too old and no one will bother stealing it, but both new and old cars are at risk.

#### Simple steps to take:

- **Leave your car locked** 44% of cars are broken into via unlocked door.
- **Leave your car well-lit** 80% of car crime occurs during the evening or at night. Parking near street lamps or in a busy area can deter thieves.
- **Leave your car empty (or with no items on show)** Owners often forget that personal belongings within the car are at as much risk of being stolen as the car itself.

#### Fly tipping – pilot scheme

Local councils do not remove fly-tipped waste from private land: that is the responsibility of the landowner, however local councils do investigate reports of fly-tipping. Under the present scheme farmers and private landowners can report fly tipping and the local authority will arrange its clearing, with the

cost being met by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner ... East Northants Council leader, Steven North says “we take ... fly-tipping seriously and this project ... is a prime example of the Waste team working hard with partners to prevent future fly-tipping.”

*Reporter, April 2021*

### How bees and drones team up to find landmines

Among the virtues of bees you may not be aware of is their knack for detecting bombs. Thanks to the fact that they can pick up the scent of explosives with their antennae, researchers in countries such as Croatia have spent years perfecting how to use bees as landmine locators. But ... it's extremely difficult ... to keep track of where they go, not least because chasing bees across a minefield is not a great idea. That's where the drones come in. ... The unmanned aerial vehicles fly around, capturing footage of the insects, which is later analysed by computers to reveal where landmines may be hidden in the ground. Landmines buried during wars that happened decades ago continue to present a deadly threat in many parts of the world. Many thousands were planted during the Balkans war of the 1990s and many persist today.

*Chris Baranuik, BBC, Tuesday 30 March 21*

# Book Reviews



**Graham Tomlin, *Why Being Yourself is a Bad Idea and Other Countercultural Notions* (London: SPCK, 2020)**

The author of this thought-provoking and challenging book is the Bishop of Kensington in London. In his introduction he invites the reader to consider his belief that Christianity, despite everything, offers a countercultural way of life that is much richer, fuller, disturbing, costly, yet utterly worth living – a life where we learn how to live together in a world we did not make.

He suggests that trying Christian living might be the best thing we ever do. This book could be just what you need to refresh your beliefs in our post-lockdown world. It could also be an ideal gift for someone who is seeking a better life and is tired of living life hampered by the secular world view that is so stridently prevalent in our society today.

A sense of the underlying theme of this book can be experienced in a quotation from the author's chapter on evil. He writes "To heal a broken world, to build the kind of communities and friendships that can help us to cope with the struggle of life, to reverse the

damage that we are doing to the delicate framework of the natural world, will need a radical change in attitude and behaviour. The world cannot long survive our desire to grab as much as we can for ourselves and to consume its resources for our own personal pleasure." Definitely countercultural notions!

There are ten chapters, each answering a challenging question:

- why being yourself is a bad idea,
- why wonder is the beginning of wisdom,
- why love is and isn't all you need,
- why the Big Bang has a face,
- why evil exists and cannot be explained,
- why justice matters,
- why everybody needs an identity crisis,
- why freedom is not what you think it is,
- why praying is dangerous and why we can't live alone.

Be prepared to have some of your self-evident truths challenged by this book. Take the risk!

*Tony Smith*



***Padraig O Tuama & Glenn Jordan, Borders and Belonging – the Book of Ruth – a story for our times (Canterbury Press)***

A leading poet and a theologian reflect on the Old Testament story of Ruth, a tale that resonates deeply in today's world with its themes of migration, the stranger, mixed cultures and religions, law and leadership, women in public life, kindness, generosity and fear.

Ruth's story speaks directly to many of the issues and deep differences that Brexit has exposed and to the polarisation taking place in many societies. Padraig O Tuama and Glenn Jordan bring the redemptive power of Ruth to bear on today's seemingly intractable social and political divisions, reflecting on its challenges and how it can help us be effective in the public square, amplify voices which are silenced, and be communities of faith in our present day. *Parish Pump*

**A Little Note:** Please feel able to join in these pages. I am immensely grateful to Tony Smith for stretching his

reading list and passing on the best bits, but do feel free to share **your** discoveries here . . . anything that spoke to you during lockdown, brought comfort or amusement.

Do remember a good old belly laugh is just as important as moments of sombre revelation and the discovery of eternal truths. A handwritten note or email or an attached Word document are all welcome.

**These pages are open to anyone!**  
**Ed**



"After a year of working from home, Anthony will seize any opportunity to put on a suit"

# Best foot forward!

## Slow Ways

After shelving the roll out of the Slow Ways initiative we mentioned earlier in the spring they are now planning a 'soft launch' week between **Friday 23 April and Monday 3 May**. The new website will be available to browse Slow Ways maps and routes, and use a Journey Planner to design longer walking and wheeling adventures - just Google 'Slow Ways' to get there.

Now the website is live you can help by simply choosing, walking and reviewing a route, although at first sight there is only one snaking through our neck of the woods.

There are a number of YouTube items that give help on how to review and survey Slow Ways. Grapevine would be very interested in your feedback on the material and the organisation. Email me at [missjudecurtis@btinternet.com](mailto:missjudecurtis@btinternet.com)

## Mapping Rushden

The challenge of mapping Rushden and its adjacent open country continues. Easy for me to retrace my steps or break out into a new area but frustrating for those who would like to follow, check and add to the knowledge.

It has been more difficult than I anticipated to develop a workable map, that shows all those fascinating cut-throughs, back doubles and off road shenanigans buried in the heart of Rushden.

The main goal is to suggest some useful ways of getting across and round the town without touching roads with vehicles, pollution or too many people, and covering areas of really outstanding natural beauty - I do mean that but accept that everything is relative.

My preference is for circular routes but obviously it depends on people's level of capability and fitness so I shall attempt to show adjacent parking to beginning and end points as well.

A number of people have already asked for more detail, and I would certainly like volunteers to test out some of my favourites - many of which are right under your nose.

My list at the moment is mainly couples. I tend to walk alone and that is an entirely different kind of experience, so if you would like to be added to the list - with no obligation - just email me your name and I'll keep you in the loop.

*Jude Curtis*

## Looking Backwards and Forwards

**E**arlier this year we celebrated the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bishop Donald's arrival as our bishop. It was good to give thanks for his inspiring and visionary leadership and especially his commitment to the growth of every Church.

Ascension Day this month will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my own consecration as one of your bishops in Westminster Abbey and St Peter's Day next month will mark 35 years since my ordination in Southwark Cathedral. Again, it has been good to look back over the countless ways in which I have been enriched by the family of God's people in Peterborough diocese. For example, the folk from Corby and Rushden who helped bring my faith alive as a teenager, wonderful mission training in Northampton as a curate, refreshing retreats at Ecton House and Launde Abbey, a faithful colleague whose father had been Vicar of Oakham and a memorable residential workshop at the Cathedral led by Canon (now Archbishop of York) Stephen Cottrell.

It's good to look back and celebrate. During lockdown I have learnt to value a way of praying in which each evening I review the day by asking the question; "Where has God been in my life today?" it's a great question, sometimes challenging, sometimes encouraging, often surprising. It has really helped me in daily seeking to walk with Jesus.

Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary General of the United Nations, famously once said: For all that has been, Thank You. For all that is to come, Yes!"

Looking forward to a post-lockdown world and church where it's too early to say how much will have changed and how much will remain the same, I have

been looking back to a book which inspired me 35 years ago. "*I heard the Owl call my name*" by Margaret Craven tells the story of a terminally ill young priest Mark Brian, with less than 3

years to live, who is sent to serve the remote Tsawataineuk village of Kingcome in the wilds of British Columbia, Canada, because it is where his bishop would have wished to go if he were young again in similar circumstances.

At first Mark fails to understand and makes little connection with the community, but gradually he learns to listen, to walk alongside and share people's lives, serving them in a Christ-like way, remembering that Jesus came and walked alongside all of us. The young priest and the village are both transformed. It's a beautiful description of the kind of "humbler, simpler, bolder Church" of which Archbishop Stephen has recently spoken.

May God bless and guide us as we seek to listen to our communities, walk alongside them and renew the lives of our Churches in the coming months.

With my thanks, prayers and best wishes,

+John  
Bishop of  
Brixworth



A handwritten signature in ink, preceded by a small cross symbol, representing the Bishop of Brixworth.

## Meet the Congregation – Carolyn Wignall

Meet Carolyn, born on 29 December 1968. Her father, Maurice, was a Car Mechanic and mother, Valerie, a Dinner Lady while her children were attending school, but later worked for the Council. She had one sister [now living in Higham] who completed the family.

Carolyn's earliest memory is of the Tufty Club. If you were around in those days you will remember Tufty well! Her school days were spent at South End Infants and Junior School, then moving on to Chichele Girls School.

She enjoyed ballet [though nowadays she sticks to Yoga and Pilates and playing with the grandchildren!] and really enjoyed school - so much so she didn't want to leave. Very logically she decided to become a teacher!

During her younger years the family attended St Mary's occasionally but the two girls went regularly to Sunday school and Carolyn was confirmed here when she was fourteen.

Leaving school at eighteen she went to Portsmouth Polytechnic, leaving after four years with an honours degree in Education. Her first teaching post was in Peterborough where she attended St John's Church in Werrington . . . where, eventually, she met husband David.

They were married in 1989 in Werrington, followed by a honeymoon in Holland. David, as you all know from this January's Grapevine, is a Port Designer and travelled so much that they eventually moved abroad, living in Singapore, where Carolyn was Performing Arts Director at a large international school, involved with both teaching and choreography.

They are both very much still involved with the church they attended there: though the time difference makes it a tad difficult! They have also lived in Bangkok and Jakarta.

Whilst teaching abroad Carolyn became involved with an organisation in Indonesia that helped to develop teacher capability and promoted a good curriculum and, during their time out of the UK they have had three children - a son, followed by two daughters, one of whom, Lucy, still lives at home. They are also grandparents to two little ones.



Having returned to Rushden, they are back attending St Mary's whenever possible, going to the 9.30 service, and if you haven't met Carolyn at that service you might have seen her on line during the Sunday Service, where she sometimes leads the Children's slot!

Carolyn is amazed at how old St Mary's is and by its history and would love to hear more about its faithful congregations there! *Roving Reporter*

## Those questions

### Biggest Influence

Apart from God of course, my Great Aunt Eva, who prayed for me to become a Christian. She was a very quiet and faithful witness

### Hobbies

Walking and when younger dancing! I now settle for yoga and Pilates. I enjoy visiting different places around the world learning about different cultures

### Favourite Place?

The Countryside. God's diversity always amazes me!

### Special Treat?

Grilled garden tomatoes on toast!

### Guest to dinner?

We love entertaining and David & I thought we would enjoy talking to David Tennant

### What would you serve?

Being very British at heart it would be a Lamb Roast.

### Proudest Moment?

They all belong to my family, but having grandchildren is wonderful . . . So different from being a mother!

### Favourite Bible verse ?

"... and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

*Roman 8.28*

## Last Minute



**April's Corvid** was hidden on the back page, among the *anemone blanda* and daffodils in Newton's churchyard. He is now taking a well-earned rest from grapevine as we enter the busy time of the breeding season . . .

Talking of which . . . my resident wood pigeon, Silva, seems to have made a match with the more conventionally-plumaged Tonto - well it had to be, didn't it? Have you ever thought about the casual '50s racism inherent in calling The Lone Ranger a 'lone' ranger when he was constantly attended by both Silva and Tonto? It would seem that back in those days Tonto, being native American, didn't count. He definitely does in my garden and the pair have been taking advantage of my Granddad Walker's homemade [sometime in the '40s] poured concrete Bird Bath for their daily drinking water supply during this spectacularly dry spring. I am very curious as to how the offspring turn out . . . Ed



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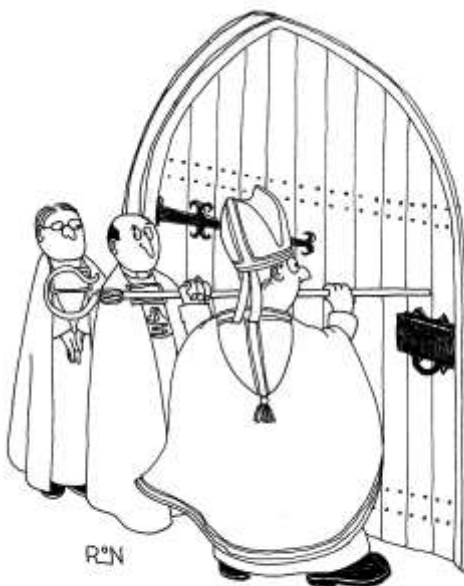


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# Looking Back at Parish Magazines

50 years ago

May 1971

## St Saviour's, Battersea

As part of the plan to form a closer link with the Rev John Tombling's parish in Battersea, our Rector is preaching at the evening service there on Sunday, May 23rd. It is hoped that a busload of people from St. Mary's can be organised to join them. If you are at all interested please ask the Rector or myself for details.

Also a reminder of our monthly missionary house meeting at 24 Lodge Road, the second Thursday of the month at 8p.m. Please come along and join us as we listen, discuss and pray about all aspects of God's missionary work

E. J. Tye

25 years ago

May 1996

## The Rector's Letter

We are Pentecostals. Christians are Pentecostals. We have to be, because there is no other way to live the Christian life than through the Holy Spirit.

Rev Alan Smith, Rector

## Coming Soon - Youth Alpha

Hot on the heels of the Alpha Course for adults comes the Youth Alpha course ... Expected to begin in Rushden in early May and will cover the basics of the Christian faith in a relevant way [and with food]... The course will be sufficient to prepare anyone wanting to be confirmed at the ... Service at Higham Ferrers on Thursday 20th June.

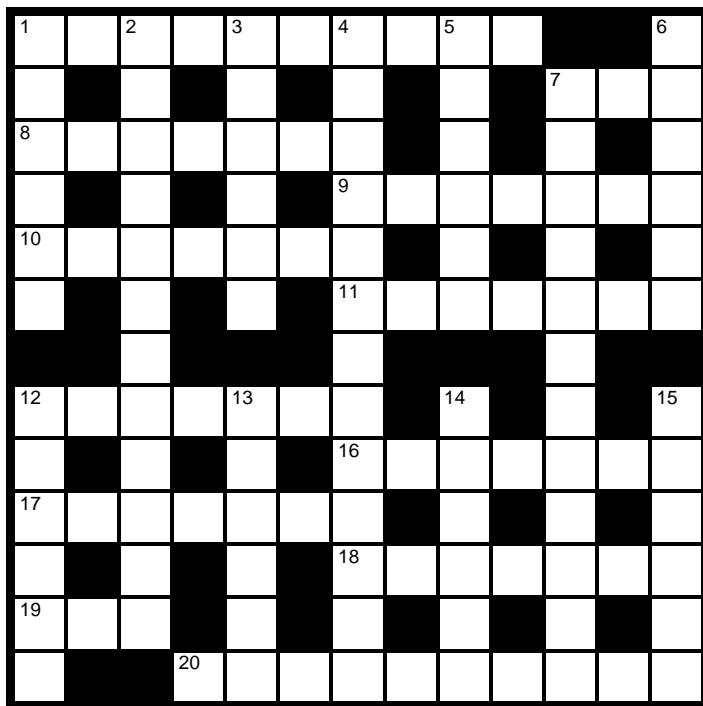




# Crossword No 378

## ACROSS

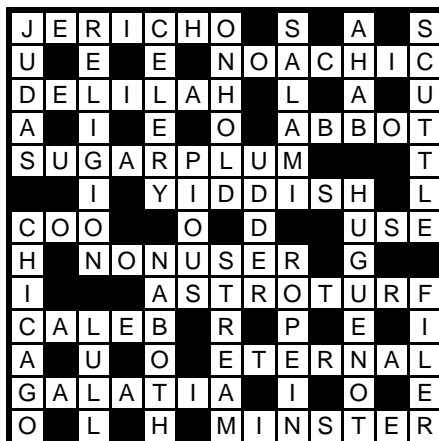
- 1 Not like the Greek church? (10)
- 7 Diocese (3)
- 8 Accountant (7)
- 9 Book preceding Daniel (7)
- 10 Pause in line of verse (7)
- 11 Communist in former Yugoslavia (7)
- 12 Wash hair (7)
- 16 Imagination (7)
- 17 Of lung membranes (7)
- 18 Type of vermouth (7)
- 19 Newt (3)
- 20 Carol dates (anag.), priestly (10)



## DOWN

- 1 Ancient custom (6)
- 2 OT (3,9)
- 3 Expression of disapproval (3-3)
- 4 '-----, come sweeping through us', (hymn) 1,6,2,4)
- 5 Aim (6)
- 6 Simon (Luke 6:15) (6)
- 7 Believer in communication between the living and the dead (12)
- 12 Last meal (6)
- 13 Former name for Iran (6)
- 14 Away from the coast (6)
- 15 Church song-book (6)

## Solution to Crossword No 377





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## Mission Matters - Why Langham? PART II

Think back over your Christian life and ask yourself how great a part biblical preaching, teaching and literature have played in your spiritual growth. Many of us would acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is able to use these gifts, not only to transform individual lives, but also the life and witness of the church, the Body of Christ.

You may have read in April's 'Mission Matters' that many Christians in the Majority World have little access to the precious resources which we so often take for granted. Langham works in partnership with these believers to bring positive change through Equipping Scholars. Langham funds scholarships which enable Christian leaders to gain theological PhDs. They then go home to their own countries to serve the church there, potentially influencing whole nations. Their main role is to train future pastors and leaders who are then able to plant new churches and start new ministries.

### Training Pastors

As 80% of pastors worldwide have little or no training, they are in great need of teaching and support. Through Langham, they are able to travel to annual, week-long, seminars and then form local 'Preaching Clubs' for further training and support. As they apply what they have learned, the churches which they serve flourish and become a blessing to their communities.

### Producing Books

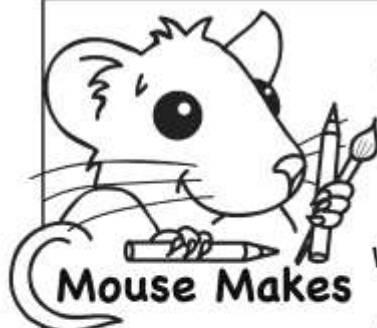
Christians in many countries have very few theological books and even fewer written in their own languages or relevant to their own cultures.

Langham works with indigenous writers, translators and publishers to develop books and electronic resources which are appropriate to the needs of these believers. They are distributed to churches, students and libraries, and are much appreciated.


In this, and April's article, I have not been able to do full justice to the work of the Langham Partnership, which is truly inspired and so relevant to today's world. Its website is a brilliant read, which I thoroughly recommend.

*Sue Eagles*

*on behalf of the Mission Committee: Sue Eagles, Josie Smith, Sue Prior, Edna Wadsworth and Martin Compton*



Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

 The Holy Spirit  
**V S E I L**  
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit  
helps us to  
**W K N O**  
we belong to God.


The Holy Spirit  
**H C T S E E A**  
us about God. 


The Holy Spirit  
**K P E S S A**  
God's word to us.


The Holy Spirit  
**P H L S E**  
us to tell others  
about Jesus.


The Holy Spirit  
helps us when we  
**A Y P R**


On the day of **PENTECOST**  
the disciples were gathered  
together in one place...


What sound did they hear?  
 Acts 2:2

What did they see?  
 Acts 2:3

What filled them?  
 Acts 2:4

How did they speak?  
 Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?  
 Acts 2:6

Which countries  
had they come from?  
 Acts 2:9

What was  
their reaction?  
Acts 2:12-13

Who explained  
what was  
happening?  
What did he say?  
Acts 2:14-36

How many  
people were  
baptised  
that day?  
Acts 2:41

Change each letter to the  
letter before it in the  
alphabet and see what  
the **Holy Spirit**  
produces in us:

KPZ  
IVNJMJUZ  
TFMG DPOUSPM  
GBJUIGVMOFTT  
LJOEOFTT  
QBUJFODF  
QFBDF  
MPWF  
HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

What is the work of the  
**Holy Spirit**? What does He do?  
Fill in the missing letters.

  
**TEAC \_ ES**  
**COMF \_ RTS**  
**REVEA \_ S**

    
**IN \_ OU**  
**TRAN \_ FORMS**

 **HEL \_ S**   
**GU \_ DES**

 **ENEWS**  
**CONV \_ CTS**  
**SANC \_ IFIES**

# The breaking down of lockdown

Please be patient as the Church begins to open up and unfold itself again after this long period of restraint. We shall still need to follow rules and guidelines for a while yet.

Peter White is resuming his 'normal service' in Church on Friday and Saturday mornings from 9.30-11.00am for those who need access for flower arranging, grapevine distribution or housekeeping. We've all got used to wearing masks and sanitising our hands and keeping a proper distance and this is going to continue for some time. On the positive side full services are being held on Thursday and Sunday mornings - see the details on the facing page.

Group activities in the Church Hall will be opened one by one [in a restricted way] as we are allowed and with risk assessment undertaken and any necessary conditions met. For example The Crafts and Coffee [or Tea] group is planned to go ahead in May, but with limited numbers and arrangements organised by Lynne Prior. So let's take it steady . . .

## On Line Services

***For those who wish to worship in this way services will continue on line as before.*** To access these go to our website: **[stmaryschurchrushden.org](http://stmaryschurchrushden.org)** which displays both the **Facebook and YouTube links.**

**Sundays:** 2,9,16,23,30 - 10.00am - Morning Worship

**Thursdays:** 6, 13, 20, 27 - 10.30am - Thought for Thursday

**Helen Smedley's work with children and families also continues with**

Monday	10.00am:	<b>Bumps&amp;Babes</b>
Monday	10:20am:	<b>Toddleractivities</b>
Friday	6.00pm:	<b>Bible Bedtime Stories</b>
Sunday	5.00pm:	<b>Sunday Club</b>



To access these go to our website: **[stmaryschurchrushden.org](http://stmaryschurchrushden.org)** which displays **Facebook and YouTube links.**

**Buggy Buddies** is also available to parents and guardians with children under 5: a socially distanced walkabout and natter. Slots can be booked for this with Helen on 07495 304974 and see note also on pg for the launch of outdoor **Bumps & Babes**

# Services in Church - May 2021

**St Mary's**  
Rushden

**St Peter's**  
Newton Bromswold

## Sunday 2 May - Stewardship Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion

11.15am Morning Prayer

11.00am Holy Communion

## Sunday 9 May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am All Age Service

11.15am Morning Prayer

11.00am Family Service

## Sunday 16 May - Sunday after Ascension

9.30am All Age & Parade Service

11.15am Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Prayer

## Sunday 23 May - Pentecost Sunday

9.30am All Age Service

11.15am Morning Prayer

11.00am Holy Communion

## Sunday 30 May - Trinity Sunday

9.30am All Age Service

11.15am Morning Prayer

11.00am Morning Prayer

## Midweek Service in St Mary's Church

Thursday May 6,13,20,27 at 10.30am Holy Communion [BCP]

## Ascension Day

A service will be held on

**13 May 2021**

at 7.30 pm at

**Rushden St Peter's Church Midland Road**

*Please book your place by ringing Margaret or Steve on 01933 314251*

— The Back Page —



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10



9



6



28

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