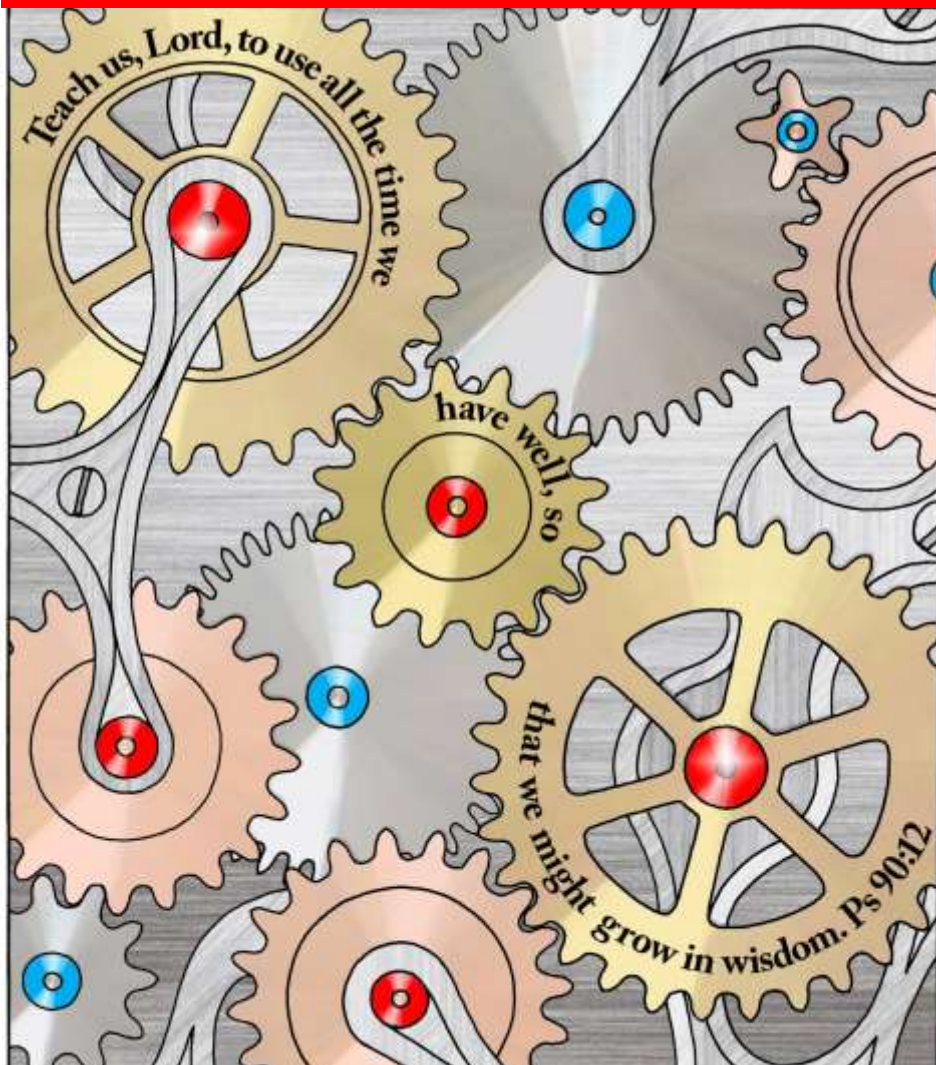


september 2021

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grapevine

50p

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

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grapevine september 2021

Announcement from the Rector

It seems barely yesterday that Sue and I moved into Rushden Rectory in May 2009, and yet time has definitely moved on! In November I turn 66 and I have decided to retire.

I will conclude my ministry earlier that month and my last service with you will be on Sunday 8 November.

This appointment has been the longest in my ministry and I will look back on my time here with great fondness, however, there will be plenty of time for goodbyes!

For now, I want to do my part in leading our parish forward as, hopefully, we emerge from the pandemic into a less restrained future that will bring both fresh challenges and opportunities to our church.

Rev Steve Prior



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Items for the
October grapevine
should be sent by
Sunday 12 September
preferably by email to:
missjudecurtis@btinternet.com

Steve writes . . .

**... of shoes - and ships - and sealing-wax/
- of cabbages - and kings***

I write having just returned from a week's holiday in Brittany. Now this isn't quite as relaxing as it sounds: not only was the purpose to spend time with our four grandchildren aged 2 to 9, but all the Covid-related regulations were quite stressful. However, we are very grateful for being able to see our family after a year's separation.



While I was away, I heard continuing reports of the Taliban's capture and occupation of provinces, towns and cities of Afghanistan until, yesterday, they entered Kabul. As I write, the British, the Americans and others are desperately trying to evacuate their own citizens and many Afghans who assisted them over the past twenty years. To the latter group, in particular, we owe our every effort to provide a safe exit and resettlement, away from the very real possibility of deadly reprisals by the Taliban. The debate over why the democratically elected regime was unable to successfully defend itself against the Taliban insurgents will undoubtedly rage for some time; there is plenty of blame to go around. In the immediate future our prayer must be that our governments do whatever they can to protect those most vulnerable to Taliban reprisals. Pray, too, that the Taliban itself will have a more tolerant stance toward ethnic and religious minorities, women and girls, than it did when last in power throughout the 1990's and that they realise that allowing their country to become a base from which extremist groups attack the West is counterproductive.

July and August have witnessed extreme temperatures in the west of North America, Southern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, leading to a series of devastating wildfires. At the same time, there have been torrential rains causing damage and deadly flooding in Germany, Belgium, China and Japan. Very few people now disagree with the view that these disturbing and dangerous developments are due to climate change, linked to human activity. These catastrophes may serve to shake some out of complacency.

Climate change is not something which might happen in the distant future somewhere far away, but it is happening now and it is happening just

across the Channel. Please pray that the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held in Glasgow (31 October to 12 November) may serve to stiffen the resolve of governments to take the necessary steps to achieve already-set goals in reducing carbon emissions. However, in democratic countries, governments can only successfully implement those policies which have public support. May we as followers of Jesus be willing to make the changes, large and small, necessary to protect the good creation our Father God has entrusted to us. This willingness to change our behaviour will be the most significant offering we can make, as we approach the season of gratitude and celebration in Harvest Thanksgiving.

“Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden...

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”
(Genesis 2.8a, 15)

The announcement of Phil’s appointment as Assistant Minister in Chesham came too late to be included in the July & August edition of *grapevine*. After saying “Goodbye” to the folks at Newton in late July, Phil preached for the last time at St Mary’s on 15 August. The fine weather allowed a brief presentation to be held outside the church in between the morning services [pictures on The Back Page]. Phil, Sarah and Bethany will soon be moving to Chesham, where Phil will begin a new chapter in ministry: pray that they will all settle well into their new home and that they will be a blessing to the church at Chesham. Their new address is: 230 Chartridge Lane, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2SF.

Also in July, I announced my own coming move into retirement this November. I will speak more of that later, but for now, I would ask you to pray for the joint meeting of the Rushden St Mary’s and Newton Bromswold PCCs on 7 September. This will be chaired by the Patronage Secretary of the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) and Archdeacon Gordon Steele in order to give guidance to the PCCs on the process of appointing your next incumbent.

Every blessing,

Steve

* from Lewis Carroll’s
The Walrus & The Carpenter



Fancy a bit of sub-editing?



I hope you've spotted that there are already a fair number of people who contribute material to grapevine or work behind the scenes.

It would be a sad little One Person Band without the faithful proof-readers, reviewers, distributors, regular columnists, crossword compilers, photographers, desktop publishers, printers, mail managers and the team at Diocese. All I have to do is just throw it all in the air and catch what I can reach. What's not to like?!!

Seriously though, your contributions are always welcome. Short pieces of local or particular interest are good - preferably sent as a Word doc with minimal formatting - as are book reviews, and any relevant items spotted online you think might interest others – but there are no guarantees it will be included. Just attach or include the web address and a note of what struck you as relevant in an email to me - missjudecurtis@btinternet.com - or, once the embargo on 'physical' bits of paper is lifted, leave a note in church with my name on it.

If you organise events, **never** take for granted that I can read your mind – particularly now when communication still tends not to be face-to-face. It goes without saying I can read your mind if we *are* face-to-face!

The 'production values' have improved immeasurably since we first went to an A5 format – researched and meticulously planned alongside Margaret Akroyd in winter 2004 and launched with the fanfare February 2005 edition.

A lot of pages then still had the distinctive fuzziness of a WWII Gestetner running on empty. Carefully curated photos from my trips to Syria in 2005 and 2007 now look like ink-blots. You would never know 'The Street Called Straight' really *is* straight!

Full colour wasn't seen until 2008 with a one-off visual of a tractor on the cover in September – must have been 'Harvest'. There was also a 4 page colour insert covering John Allen's trip to Chile around then too.

It was the imminent arrival of Steve that inspired the cover of March 2009 and hastened the 'full colour cover' becoming standard by late 2011 with the help of a donated Canon printer. This coincided with the arrival of The

Back Page and has its own loyal band of faithful contributors of colour images and photography.

A year or so later and the move to a 'proper' office with a grown-up printing and collating machine and the editor working from home [thank you!] has made all the difference, with the office faithfully churning out a mammoth print run in record time every month.

Just to give you an idea of what would be welcomed with open arms...

You could express appreciation for an event you've attended and enjoyed: or, dare I say, a sermon you've found challenging, but also anything you've spotted that is comforting, thought-provoking or hits a spot that you didn't know existed before you read it.

Prayers that have stuck with you, or seem particularly appropriate are equally welcome. Feedback for organisers and leaders is like water to the parched and makes the agonising, late-night decision-making worthwhile - for me included. Feedback - even the negative variety - is always useful. One regular correspondent picking up on my hesitation in an Editorial a while back as to whether the term 'Bag Lady' was intrinsically discriminatory and chose to target the 'lady' component rather than 'bag', though whether this was a comment on gender equality or I suspect accuracy when applied to me, [thankfully] wasn't entirely clear. You will see in paragraph 2 I have carefully opted for One Person Band instead of One Man Band just to be on the safe side.

A recent, daunting 'Monday-of-grapevine-week' - was made so much easier by an email brimming with praise for the latest edition, from someone who'd discovered grapevine for the first time on our website and for whom references to the notorious Ballast Hole struck a personal chord. Oh, yes, and is, obviously, as daft about footpaths as I am. Anything that mentions Corvids or footpaths has my immediate attention!

In the months to come we are all going to need some extra help handling and preparing for change. Now is the time to be thinking - "What could I do to help?" not, 'How can I wriggle out . . .?'

This is the bit where I have to follow my own advice . . .

Jude Curtis, Editor

St Mary's News

From the Registers

Weddings

Saturday 19 June

Michelle Frances Gregg &
Aaron Anthony Phelan

Saturday 24 July

Joanna Claire Cochrane
Clinton Roy Nicholas Gander

FUNERALS

Tuesday 22 June

Ruth Angela Slater [72]

Monday 5 July

Wendy Muncey [84]

Wednesday 7 July

Joyce Eileen Gander [95]

Thursday 22 July

Barbara Yvonne Griggs [81]
William Maximilian Griggs [82]

Tuesday 10 August

Audrey Olive Dickens [93]

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Saturday 10 July

Jean Mary Tombling [82]

INTERMENT OF ASHES

Saturday 10 July

Jean Mary Tombling
Diana Lillian Hildegard Smith

Thursday 5 August

Wendy Muncey

Flower Rota

Behind the Communion Table **September**

5 Paula Williams
12 Jane Brown
19 Chris & Kathy MacKenzie
26 Harvest

The church is generally open on Friday and Saturday from 9.30 - 11.00am. Please check for times of weddings and funerals. Also contact Bob Bates [358005] for your expenses to be reimbursed.

Do you enjoy arranging flowers? If so, please contact Ellen Inwood [312874], Marion Bates [358005] or leave a message [412235] or e-mail stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com. You'd be very welcome to the team

Memorial Chapel **September**

19 Julie West
26 Harvest - Brenda Dixon

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



St Mary's News

St Mary's Church Office ... is now open on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00 to 12 noon** as usual. We ask you, please, to still wear a mask, and avoid gathering inside the office.

Belated Birthday Greetings to...
Martin Compton, who turned **60** on **31 July**: congratulations and much love from all at St Mary's and even more belated **congratulations ...** to **Mike Gaul** on becoming a grandfather back on **29 June** and to proud parents James and Emily on the birth of Ruby Judith [8 lb 15 oz].

John and Ann Beal wish to thank everyone at St Mary's for the book that was given to them on the occasion of their **Diamond Wedding Anniversary** recently. Also for the many cards and messages received. 'We had a lovely day and were quite overwhelmed with the generosity and kindness shown to us.'

Special Congratulations, too, to Laura Tunn, who turns 100 on Saturday 28 August. Love and best wishes and many blessings from all at St Mary's.

The Church Fete has been set for **Saturday 11 September** from 2.00-

4.00pm, running on the same day as **Heritage Day** and **Ride and Stride**.

The decision will be made on the Saturday before - **4 September** - as to whether to go ahead with everything, depending on the Covid situation at that time and any restrictions or developments that make it inappropriate - not to mention the weather! The usual **stalls and games** will be represented, **teas and refreshments** will be served and the Cake Stall tweaked to include a 'Something for Tea?' : selection of home-baked savouries to take home.

Any donations to the **Ladies' Group stall** - jams, preserves and presents are welcome - can be handed over at their **first meeting for a long while on Wednesday 8 September at 2.15pm in the Church Hall** [see item on p?]

Church records and other material will be on display in the Church from 10.00am.

Has anyone recently replaced their Laptop? If so, there is a young man who would really appreciate your old one. To find out more talk to Jose Smith.

News continues over the page

St Mary's News

Craft & Coffee [or Tea]'s next meeting is on Tuesday 7 September, 10.00-12 noon



in the Church Hall. "This month we will be making jewellery. We are no longer restricting numbers, but it would nice to know how many are coming" - so please ring Lynne on 01933 353655.

St Mary's Ladies' Group

After a long break, the Ladies' Group will meet again on **Wednesday 8 September at 2.15pm in the Church Hall.**

It will be an informal afternoon with tea and cake. All windows and doors are to be kept open during the meeting and the wearing of masks, whilst not mandatory, is strongly encouraged. You will read elsewhere that the **Church Fete** is to be held on **Saturday 11 September**. As we will be supporting this, if you have any jams, chutneys or unwanted gifts for the stall, please bring them along to this meeting. A reminder also that the subs are now £2.

For further details please phone Cynthia on 01933 359590.

The Children's Society News

The **Box Opening and Coffee Morning** has been arranged for **Saturday 2 October** in St Mary's Church Hall from 10.00 -noon.

It comes with sadness, that after 43 years **The Children's Society Fundraising Committee** [Rushden Branch] will be disbanding after this event. Three members have retired through failing health and the remaining committee realise it isn't viable to continue.

We would like to thank all our supporters and past committee members for their support and hard work over all those years. £131,838 has been raised over that time.

We do hope you will continue to support The Children's Society. For ways to donate go to - www.childrenssociety.org.uk or by cheque and post to The Children's Society, Octavia House, 50, Banner Street, London EC1Y8ST.

It would be wonderful if a new fundraising committee supporting vulnerable children and young people could be formed in the parish. For more information please contact: ane.foster@childrenssociety.org.uk.

Joy Holloway still has Quizzes John had prepared before his death and will continue to publish and sell

St Mary's news

these and send the proceeds direct to The Children's Society, so this is another way one can continue to support the charity. The Autumn Quiz entitled 'This England' is now on sale from Joy Holloway 01933 318415 or the Church Office.

Harvest

Harvest at St Mary's this year is being celebrated on **Sunday 26 September**. The **Parade Service** is moved to that week specially. We will be collecting dry food and tins for the Food Bank (there is a list at the back of church) and there will be a special collection for **Tearfund during September** and sent for Harvest. [...and a free colour-yourself Book Mark on p 22]

Summary of July PCC Meeting

The PCC decided that the funds raised at the Church Fete would be divided between Mission Funds and ENFG [who run the programmes of Recovery House, the Food Bank and the Night Shelter].

A new rota for the weekly cleaning of the Church Hall has been put in place. The PCC thanks all those who have agreed to give their time and energies to this.

Helen Smedley reported that the upcoming Holiday Club would be entitled "Wonder Zone" and teach about how God's creation allows us to follow his work in the universe

through the sciences. Leaders and helpers had been recruited and Covid preparations had been put in place. Helen also reported that she hoped to be re-starting *Clued Up* in September.

A new sub-committee of the PCC - the Sustainable Church Working Group, was established with the purpose of making our church life as ecologically sustainable as possible, as part of our Christian witness.

Jennie Bone, PCC Secretary

Rev Phil Nightingale

Sunday 15 August was Phil's last day of services at St Mary's and between the 9.30 and the 11.15 there was a short presentation and farewell on the lawn outside the Church Hall. Sarah and Bethany were there too, as the pictures on **The Back Page** show, with everyone enjoying the moment.

Food Bank Changes

Please leave items for the Foodbank in the box at the back of church:

there is no longer a box at the Rectory.

Also, please note that the offices of ENCS and the Foodbank are now moving to Church Street [where Serve used to be].



Newton News

Flower Rota September

- 5 Rosemary Coulson & Abby Stannard
- 12 Mrs Burt
- 19 Mrs Hollis & Mrs Sargent
- 26 Helen Lines



Church Bike Ride

The Church Bike Ride takes place as usual on **Saturday 11 September** from 10.00am to 6.00pm and Newton Church will be open during these times. The sponsorship raised from participants will be split 50:50 with Newton Church. If you would like to participate, please contact Helen Lines for forms.



There will be **Beer and Hymns** In the garden of **The Swan, Newton Bromswold, NN10 OSR** on **Wednesday 8 September**. All are welcome. Starts at 7.30pm, with a 20 minute break in the middle. Over by 9pm. Hymn sheets provided. Inside the pub if wet. Free car parking at the pub and in the nearby street. Details from 07504 307418
Confirmation

Congratulations to **James Clarke**, who was confirmed on the 23 June at **Kimbolton School** by The Bishop of Huntingdon, Rt Rev Dr Dagmar Winter. James was prepared for confirmation by the School Chaplin, Mr Crawford. The service was held outside in the Castle Courtyard on a lovely summer evening. [Happy pictures on The Back Page. Ed].

Harvest Festival and Harvest Sale

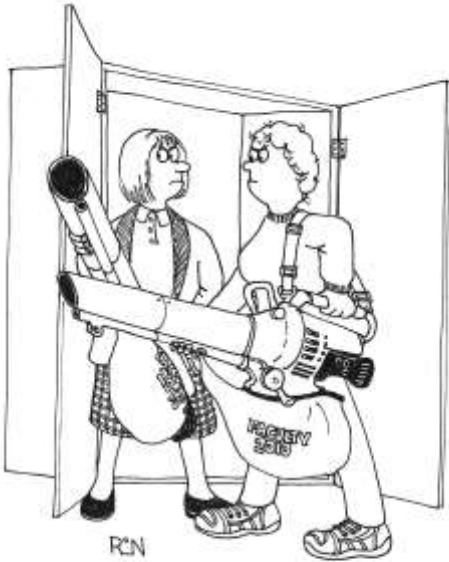
Harvest Festival will take place on **Sunday 3 October** at 11.00 am and the **Harvest Sale** will take place in **The Swan on Tuesday 5 October** at 7.30pm. Gifts of Harvest Produce welcome.

- STOP PRESS -

The Garden Fete - rescheduled for **Saturday August 21** raised an amazing £1,484, which is incredible given August's unreliable weather.



Did you know . . . ?



*Shifting the cobwebs in the North aisle
required a faculty*

Fruit bursting with colour can do wonders for your grey matter. Eating a diet rich in flavonoids like strawberries, oranges, peppers and apples may slow down the rate of mental decline that occurs naturally with ageing ... Harvard researchers found that people who eat at least half a serving per day of highly coloured foods ... may have a 20 per cent lower risk of cognitive decline, in areas such as memory and thinking.

1 newspaper, 29 July 2021



A drink at last!

Puri is to become the first Indian city to get a 24-hour supply of clean drinking water, allowing residents to drink from the tap without filtration. The chief minister of Odisha state . . .[is] saying it will be available in nine months.

1 newspaper, 29 July 2021



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

Local News . . .

Report a Scam !

To report an **online scam, fraud or cyber crime call Action Fraud** the UK's

national reporting centre on

0300 123 2040 or <https://reporting.actionfraud.police.uk>



Received a suspicious phishing email,

where personal information was sought? Forward all scam emails to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) report@phishing.gov.uk

Report a suspect text message, a smishing scam. Forward message to 7726 - it's free. Calls will be reported to your mobile phone provider.

The above are ways of obtaining personal information such as passwords or credit card numbers. Never click on links unless you are certain the message is genuine. Check with your bank or whoever is trying to reach you independently of any numbers provided.

Useful websites for fighting scams:

go to **Neighbourhood Watch** www.ourwatch.org.uk and click on

'Crime Prevention' heading for advice on various crime types. See also **Trading Standards** website:

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk
and/or
www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk

Chris MacKenzie



Thank You!

Five Recovery House supporters

(one more than predicted last month) took the plunge at Sibson airfield on **22 July** to raise funds. Thank you to everyone who has donated - £1,500 at the time of writing - 29 July 2021

Andrew Presland

Volunteering Opportunities at

Stables Christian Centre - an interdenominational Christian charity based at the Old Rectory, Bolnhurst, Bedford, MK44 2ES - admin@stableschristiancentre.co.uk Tel:01234-376237; Registered Charity No.327398

Could you spare any of your time and talents to help on one of their projects? All sorts of jobs need doing, both on the spot and behind the scenes. Your work might involve any of the following:

- Maintenance: decorating, DIY, operating machines [eg lawnmower, chipper], mending punctures

... and ways of getting involved

- Preparing display and publicity material, Computers, office work
- Working alongside individuals or small client groups to help them reach their potential
- Preparation of craft and other materials.
- Cooking [preserves], gardening, potting up plants.

How Can We Do Our Bit for Climate Change?

- **Not buying clothes** - Go vintage: "Do things like shopping second-hand and vintage, going to your local charity shop. You can also buy on sites like eBay and Depop."
- **Buy less:** "If you can, just not shopping at all is a really great way to do it. Embracing what

you already own and what's already in your wardrobe. There's a great phrase you hear a lot: 'Loved clothes last'".

- **Look for eco-friendly materials:** "Look out for more natural fibres - go for cotton over polyester. Not only do they feel a lot nicer when you wear them, but don't contain things like microfibres that go into our water and into marine life when we wash our clothes."
- **Learn to DIY:** "It doesn't take much to learn how to hand-sew and stitch up a hole. Or if you have a pair of ripped jeans that are becoming a bit too ripped, you could always cut them and keep them as shorts."

BBC News blog, 10 August 2021

Children activities at St Mary's are now live:

Monday 10am - Bumps&Babes@Church – meeting outside with songs, prayers, crafts and activities

Sunday Club during the 9.30 am Sunday morning service (except for Parade Sundays)

Contact: Helen Smedley: 01933 312198

Helen is also hoping to restart Clued Up in September

Holiday Club ran a competition for a cover for grapevine: the winners are on The Back Page - The Excellent Fox is by Ben Nagel [5] and The Awesome Church by Isabelle Saward [8]



Book Review



Russ Parker, *Forgiveness is Healing* [Daybreak (DLT)]

This book was first published in 1993. It is an excellent textbook on forgiveness.

The giving and receiving of forgiveness is so central to the Christian message that any follower of Jesus should school themselves in this ministry, which can bring healing and proclaim the Gospel in powerful ways. The importance of forgiveness is apparent when we remember the words of Jesus as the soldiers nailed him to his cross. “Father forgive” reminds us just how central forgiveness is in Jesus’s words and actions.

As we think of Jesus on the cross we see so clearly that forgiveness has its costs. The author reminds us that this cost can come because in the very act of forgiving we must also let go of any hurt or sense of outrage that we have, because of what the other has done to us. To forgive another is to enter into a commitment to love them.

Forgiveness is not an easy process but once the door to

forgiving has been opened the results can be quite remarkable as Jesus demonstrates by that act of forgiveness on the cross.

There are chapters in this book on various aspects of forgiveness; in relation to salvation, forgiveness of individuals and healing of memories, and forgiveness within the life of the community.

There are also chapters on forgiveness in the context of deliverance ministry and the healing of the land. This latter chapter, written nearly 30 years ago, speaks to us today as we confront climate change and ecological concerns.

Forgiveness is Healing offers us guidance for an important ministry at a time when there are so many wounds to be healed in our nation, in the post-Brexit and post- Covid 19 era.

I strongly recommend this book as we seek to construct the “new normal”

Tony Smith



Jesus said:

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty...

Everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

John 6:35,40

A Fond Farewell

This is the last magazine resource that I expect to write before my farewell service, which is due to be Evensong at the Cathedral on Sunday 31 October at 3.30 pm. Necessary precautions permitting, I hope that will be an occasion when I might be able to see many of you in person, in a way that has not been possible recently.

The life of an archdeacon can be somewhat relentless (as, I hasten to recognise, can many other roles) and I have been conscious of diminishing stamina over the past couple of years – and I no longer look exactly as I did in the 2012 photo that accompanies this letter - so it therefore seemed appropriate that, in this year in which I have become a pensioner, I should step aside and see the baton pass to someone younger (presumably!). Having made that decision some time ago, I have become increasingly aware of the fact that I will miss my role enormously.

Maria and I came to this diocese from London in 1994, first on my appointment as vicar of St Alban's, Northampton, where our son and daughter, Andrew and Elizabeth, were born. From there we moved to Peterborough in 2001, where I served first as vicar of the city centre parish of St John the Baptist, before I became archdeacon of the north-eastern half of the diocese in 2012. Just as it was a great honour to serve in those two parishes, so too has it been to serve as an archdeacon for the final stage of my stipendiary ministry. I have greatly enjoyed the visits I have been able to make over those years to so many of

the 170 parishes in the archdeaconry, whether on Sundays or during the week, and grateful for the warm welcomes I have received. The pandemic has made for a very odd final year and more, doing virtually everything from my desk, with meetings and interviews on zoom rather than in the parishes.

As we enter what we hope will be a sustained period of greater normality, we thank God for one another, for the mutual support and cooperation that we have experienced and witnessed across the diocese and, indeed, throughout this land. We express our great gratitude to all who have been seeing us through this crisis, and not least the staff of the NHS, and we pray for all for whom this has been a particularly difficult or sad time, and for the many countries in the world that lack the considerable benefits which we enjoy.

Above all, let us continue to put our whole trust in God and seek to ever deepen our relationship with him, that we may be alert and responsive to his promptings, in all that he calls us to be and to do in the years ahead, whatever our circumstances. May he richly bless you as you continue onwards on your journey of Christian discipleship - in worship, witness and service.

With my prayers and very best wishes



Gordon Steele
Archdeacon of Oakham



Diocese of Peterborough – Magazine Resource – September 2021

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www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Food for thought and prayer ...



Repentance

Lord God, take pity on me.
During my infancy I ignored You;
During my boyhood
I had no interest in You.
During my adolescence I pursued
vain pleasures.
But now, Lord Jesus,
I crave Your mercy.
I want to know You,
I want to understand Your truth,
I want to feel Your joy.

*[By Richard Rolle (c 1300 – 1349)
Hermit in Yorkshire]*

Dear Lord, September is the month of new beginnings for many, as summer fades and school and college terms start. After such a strange time of restrictions, hopes of freedom, with warnings to be cautious, it is hard to know what to expect this September. We can't know what lies ahead, Lord, but we *can* trust you to see us through whatever it turns out to be. Thank you for your promise, *I will never leave you or forsake you... (Hebrews 13:5)* Help us to hold fast to that promise, to keep trusting you – and to be thankful for each September day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

The Bible Readings which had been included in grapevine during lockdown have now gone. For those who feel the loss and do not have an alternative in place, we have two distributors of Bible reading notes in our church family.

Scripture Union notes may be ordered through **Edna Wadsworth** [01933 357253] and **Bible Reading Fellowship** notes through **Susan Collins** [01933 353956]. Either would be happy to arrange for you to receive copies regularly.

Examples of the BRF material - which covers quite a range of complexity and target audience - should be in a display box on the church Book Stall by the time this edition of grapevine is published. Please take some time to browse. You are welcome to take material home, but please bring it back for others to see too - after a little gentle treatment with hand sanitizer, please.

... from Godfrey Stone

For old times' sake, Dot and I recently paid a visit to Peterborough cathedral. 2021 is the Fortieth anniversary of my ordination. We were on our way to a week's holiday in East Anglia where, later, we popped in to see Vivienne Wilson.

Back in July 1981, I was due to give my first sermon at St Mary's. But our son had other ideas! Instead, I joined Dot in Kettering hospital for the birth of Philip. Some weeks later, we found ourselves at the Rectory for a baptism preparation evening, and we met another young mum called Yvonne. Dot and Yvonne became good friends, and after keeping in touch for the intervening years, it was a joy to see Yvonne (now surnamed Desroches) ordained priest this past summer, also in Peterborough.

Forty years on, Philip now towers over his mum - and lives in Hertfordshire with his Chinese wife and two daughters. Meanwhile our daughter Steph (also born while we were in Manor Road) lives in northern Scotland. She works in an Aberdeen hospital as a haematologist. Her husband is a creative design teacher, and they also have two daughters.

After following separate professional lives - Dot specialises in teaching English to international students - Dot and I are aiming in retirement to work together at joint projects. These include being grandparents to four girls, cultivating an allotment, helping to run a network for retired people in our current parish, and (for Godfrey) chairing the ecumenical Christian charity 'the Friends of the Church in China' [www.thefcc.org].

For over the forty years, I have regularly pondered the key text given during the retreat before the 1981 ordination: 'You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you ... so that you might go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.' (John 15. 16). But until this year's visit to Peterborough, I had not looked up to see the text inscribed on the cathedral ceiling over the high altar (under which I was ordained) - 'I am the Vine, ye are the branches' (from the beginning of John 15).

Perhaps one of the most significant things I began to learn in Rushden came through serving in both St Mary's and St Peter's, Midland Road. I discovered how neighbourhoods and communities differ from each other. I began to learn to meet the Lord in a wide range of different styles of



worship. But above all, I benefitted from becoming part of the Christian community in each place, and through that to hear the continual challenge of the Lord Jesus (John 1. 43, and 21.19): ‘Follow me!’

Many other memories of Rushden come to mind (like unsuccessfully trying to bowl out

John Dixon in the parish cricket match; or David Clarke’s fuchsia, that is still flowering 38 years on!).

With these and many other memories, we thank God for all we learned in Rushden. And we give thanks to you (and to some who are now in glory) for sharing your life-in-Christ with us at what was an important time for us as a family and, for me, at the start of the adventure of ordained ministry.

Rev Godfrey Stone

[Godfrey was made deacon in Peterborough in 1981, ordained priest 1982, and served his curacy at St Mary’s. Between 1984 and 1987, he transferred to St Peter’s - then part of one town-wide parish. On leaving Rushden, Godfrey taught ordinands in Oxford for 5 years, before spending over 20 years based in Stoke on Trent. Godfrey & Dot retired back to Oxford in 2013].

‘YOU HAVE NOT CHOSEN ME, BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU ... SO that you might go and bear fruit, fruit that will LAST.’ (JOHN 15. 16).





Teach us, Lord, to use all the time we have well,
so that we might grow in wisdom. *Psalm 90.12*

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Looking Back at Parish Magazines

50 years ago
September 1971

Young People's Fellowship

Accommodation wanted.
Can anyone offer, or suggest ideas for a room or cellar, fairly soundproof, centrally situated, that could be used for YPF meetings once or twice a week [Sunday evening and possibly Thursdays]? Ideally it should be possible to decorate and furnish according to taste [!] Enquiries to Curate.

Dates: 9th, TEAR FUND evening at 24, Lodge Rd; 11th, Outing to Houghton Mill. Meet outside Rectory 8.30am; 23rd, Festival of Light, Bonfire Beacon at Court Estate. Sunday evening as announced in Church in private homes.



25 years ago
September 1996

Rector's Letter

The Olympic Games are over, but the debate as to why Great Britain came away with the least medals than ever before, rages on. Surely we cannot blame the athletes themselves? They did their best... The fact is that others were better and won the medals.

But what of the year 2000. Now is the time not only to ask if our coaching and our training can be improved, now is also the time to recognise talent, encourage our athletes, and as a nation provide the facilities and resources for their training ...

The Rector's Letter
Rev Alan Smith

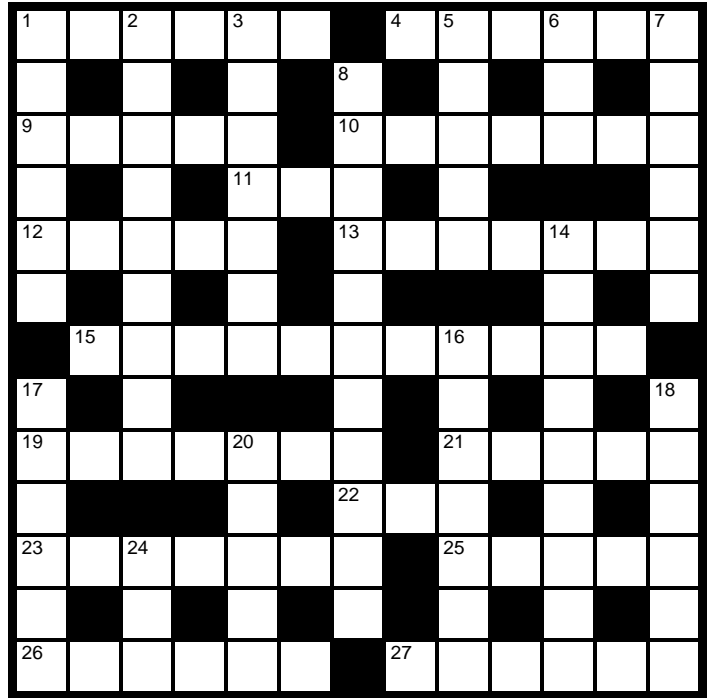
Crossword No 381

ACROSS

- 1 Unquestionable truth (6)
 4 Priest (6)
 9 Church council (5)
 10 Repeals (anag.) (7)
 11 Official name of Egypt 1958-71 (1,1,1)
 12 Communion table (5)
 13 'Hushed was the -- hymn', (hymn) (7)
 15 'Like a -- --, flickering small' (hymn) (6,5)
 19 Amenity (anag.) (7)
 21 Spicy food (5)
 22 Hard fruit (3)
 23 Biblical language (7)
 25 Studio stand (5)
 26 Spot (6)
 27 Harmonious (2,4)

DOWN

- 1 One of the Magi (6)
 2 Holy place (9)
 3 Tolerated (7)
 5 City in northern France (5)
 6 Tombstone inscription (1,1,1)
 7 Candle burned before the 12 across (6)
 8 Impiety (11)
 14 'Ride on, ride on -- --', (hymn) (2,7)
 16 Reading-desk (7)
 17 Promised Land (6)
 18 As a group (2,4)
 20 Esau's father (5)
 24 Deed (3)



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Mission Matters

CPAS Venture & Falcon holidays



What are your memories of childhood holidays?

When I was twelve I went camping with the Guides. It rained quite a lot. I hated the 'lats', which consisted of a trench and small spades. And I missed my Mum. What a wimp!

The sense of adventure and freedom was great, though: the games and activities were fun, and singing round the campfire was wonderful. I came home happy (and with my bar of toilet soap intact!)

There are very positive testimonies from boys and girls and leaders who have been on Venture and Falcon holidays run by the Church Pastoral Aid Society [CPAS]; not a mention of bad weather, latrines or homesickness!

Holly's Mum reports, "Holly didn't want to come home ... she can't wait for next year..."

Johanna (12) sums up her experience as, "Fun, friendly and exciting." And Lizzie, a Falcon leader, writes, "Young people get to hear how much God loves them, how important they are to him, and hopefully come to know Jesus for themselves....."

Thankfully, despite Covid, a number of Venture and Falcon holidays were planned for this year, and, we trust, will have taken place by the time you read this.

Some will have been shorter than usual, some will have limited numbers attending or will have taken place by video link. Some, sadly, have had to be cancelled or replaced by a "holiday in a box" - relevant treats to be enjoyed at home.

Even so, a good number of young people, between the ages of eight and eighteen, will have enjoyed safe, exciting holidays, made new friends and heard the Good News of Jesus.

Now, they will have returned home - some to loving Christian families, others to difficult disadvantaged circumstances. All of them need our prayers.

Let's ask that they will remember all they learned this summer, and that the Holy Spirit will continue to draw them to the Lord Jesus, so that they may know him and follow him for the rest of their lives.

Sue Eagles,

*for the Mission
Committee - [Sue
Eagles, Josie Smith,
Sue Prior,
Edna Wadsworth &
Martin Compton]*



Belfry Gossip

It is excellent to be ringing again, both for Sunday service and regular practices, especially as we can now ring on all eight bells when there are sufficient ringers. Of course, we still take ventilation, sanitising, face coverings and distancing seriously, so that we can all stay as safe as possible.

One of the problems we had following the enforced layoff was trying to remember the line/pattern of methods we used to know so well, but as each week progresses so our recall is coming back. Kaylee was starting to ring the treble to Plain Bob Doubles when we had to stop ringing, and now she is making really good progress again in ensuring the treble is in the correct place each time.

With the relaxation in restrictions we have also recently had some visitors again. On one occasion a ringer was helped up to the belfry by friends, along with his specially adapted wheelchair, so he could sit in his wheelchair to ring.

The Peterborough Guild will have held a ringing meeting at Abington by the time you read this: the first non-virtual meeting for nearly two years. The Wellingborough Branch are also planning to start ringing meetings again this month. These meetings will follow all safety precautions and ventilation requirements to make them as safe as possible for those attending.

Tintinnabulum

Diary: September - October 2021

September

- 7 **Tuesday: 10.00-12 noon - Crafts & Coffee [or Tea]** in the Church Hall. See News, p 8, for details.
- 8 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - St Mary's Ladies' Group** in the Church Hall: See News, p8, for more detail
7.30-9.00pm - Beer & Hymns in the garden of The Swan, Newton Bromswold. All welcome. More details on p13
- 11 **Saturday: 2.00 -4.00pm - St Mary's Heritage Day and Church Fete:** see News, p8, for more detail
- 15 **Wednesday: 12.30-2.00pm - Peterborough Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship (DEF) - members' prayer meeting.** Details from Andrew Presland (01933 316927 or andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com)

October

- 2 **Saturday: 9.30-3.00pm - St Mary's Parish Away Day at Christ the King, Kettering.** Guest Speaker: Archdeacon Richard Ormston. *The theme will be looking to the future as God's people.* A hot lunch will be provided (please let us know any dietary requirements when you book) Cost: £5 per person. Please sign the list at the back of church or email: stmarysoffice@btinternet.com *Unfortunately, we are not able to provide child care at this event.*
- 2 **Saturday: 10.00-12noon - Children's Society Box Opening and Coffee Morning** in St Mary's Church Hall.
- 3 **Sunday: 11.00am - Harvest Festival** at Newton followed by ...
- 5 **Tuesday: 7.30pm - Harvest Sale at The Swan.** Gifts of Harvest Produce welcome.
- 13 **Wednesday: 11.30am for 12 noon - East Northants Faith Group Leaders' Lunch** at the Frontier Centre, near Irthlingborough. Two or three talks on community projects etc followed by a buffet lunch. Open to everyone, whether or not they are officially a leader. More details in October grapevine.



Services in Church - September 2021

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 5 September - Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 12 September - Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 19 September - Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 26 September - Harvest at St Mary's

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

Midweek Service in St Mary's Church

Thursday September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 10.30am Holy Communion [BCP]

Live-Streaming

Both our Sunday Services - at 9.30 and 11.15am - are now live-streamed.

They can also be found later through our website on YouTube: go to

stmaryschurchrushden.org for the links



— The Back Page —

