

october 2021



grapevine

50p

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

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grapevine

October 2021

The theme of ‘seedtime and harvest’ and the huge debt we owe to our Father God for it, is, once again, a theme that I didn’t need to conjure up. It is even in Michael Wilson’s message to Newton Bromswold in the October magazine for 1971!

Arguably Harvest 2021 is, if anything, more critical. “What do we do next?” is now a huge preoccupation for politicians, pundits, church leaders and particularly us, as individuals.

Both Steve and Bishop Donald tackle the question but in different ways. I can relate more readily to Steve’s [entirely justified in my eyes] preoccupation with tomatoes and the miracle of growth, than to the Bishop’s trips to the House of Lords - but then, we are all different and they both touch on the conundrum facing us all.

We’re being offered a degree of freedom we haven’t had since early March 2020. How clever will we be at handling it? How whole-heartedly will we - as Steve puts it - put our trust in God’s Holy Spirit living in us?
Jude Curtis, Editor

Contents

Who’s Who	2
From Steve . . .	4-6
Editorial	6-7
St Mary’s News	8-10
St Mary’s Kids	10
The Parable of the Vine	11
Newton News	12
You might be interested in this	13
Local News	14-15
Book Review	16
From Bishop Donald	17
More Local News	18
Food for Thought & Prayer	19
Meet the Congregation	20
Looking Back to Old Grapevines	24
Crossword 382	25
Mission Matters	28
Belfry Gossip	29
Diary - October & November	30
Services in Church & On Line	31

Items for the
November grapevine

should be sent by

Sunday 17 October

preferably by email to:

missjudecurtis@btinternet.com

Steve writes . . .



I bumped into another keen gardener a week or so ago. The first thing she asked me was, “How are your tomatoes. Mine have all gone with the blight.”

“Wow,” I said, “it’s the same here.” We only managed to get ten or twenty percent before they all became infected and had to be torn up and thrown away.

Since then, I have bumped into several other gardeners in and around Rushden who have had the same problem this year.

Now this is just a small disappointment, but it serves to remind me how our food should never be taken for granted. My tomatoes may have been wiped out by blight – but I can still go into any supermarket in town and buy any veg I want at almost any time of year. We expect it don’t we? And yet ...

We are all dependent upon the hard work of many, many others - seed producers, farmers, harvesters, lorry drivers, and market salespeople - in order to bring food to our table. We are even more dependent on the weather and the climate and, ultimately, upon God.

As the poet Matthias Claudius in his great harvest hymn reminds us:
All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above...

Or, as written in the first chapter of the letter of James:
*Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,
who does not change like shifting shadows. [James 1:17]*

Yet how many of us pause to give thanks to God before we eat our meals?

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As Man’s ingratitude
[As You Like It, 2.VII]

Such ingratitude: that must be God’s daily experience of most of his children. It is easy to take God’s provision completely for granted until it is taken away. We are short of lorry drivers. A particularly dry season

means some foods are scarce. A natural disaster has disrupted the normal supply chain. These are inconveniences for us, although for many people they spell hunger and starvation.

Even if it doesn't come to our attention at any other time, certainly at the season of Harvest Thanksgiving we ought to make a conscious effort to thank God for his goodness to us – not just today but throughout the year – and to pray for and generously give to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Although the tomatoes were a wipe-out this year, other fruit and veg have done well. I am always amazed at the flush of raspberries in July and apples in the autumn. Quite a bit of effort was put in at the beginning: preparing the ground, fertilising and watering the plants, keeping down the weeds (to some extent!), but I can't make the fruit actually grow.

Miraculously, buds and then fruit appear. Slowly they take shape and grow. Gradually they ripen to sweetness. All this latent possibility was put into the plants when God created them, and he alone provides the growth which - in time - produced the fruit that I enjoy.

Over the next two months, we are going to be looking at fruit - the Fruit of the Spirit - in our Sunday sermons; some of our home groups will also be studying this passage from Galatians 5. (Galatians 5.13-26) Note the contrast Paul makes between the **works** of the flesh, which we are admonished to avoid, and the **fruit** (singular) of the Spirit. We often give in to our own worst inclinations and find ourselves *working* hard at damaging ourselves and those around us. But the fruit is the work of the Spirit of God.

*But the fruit produced
by the Holy Spirit within you
is divine love in all its varied expressions:
joy that overflows,
peace that subdues,
patience that endures,
kindness in action,
a life full of virtue,
faith that prevails,
gentleness of heart, and
strength of spirit.*

Galatians 5.22-23a
(The Passion Translation)

continues over the page

Just as in my garden, I couldn't make a single berry appear, grow or ripen; even so I cannot by my own efforts develop spiritual fruit in my life. It is God's Holy Spirit, living in us, which causes that fruit to appear and grow – but we can and must do what we can to make a place in our lives for that fruit to develop and mature. We can 'prepare the ground and pull up the weeds,' by turning away from the **habits and attitudes** that we know are harmful and making room for the Spirit to grow his fruit in our lives. We can 'fertilise and water', by worshipping together, reading God's Word, and prayer.

It is an ongoing task !

So let us celebrate and give thanks for the produce of field and farm, our daily bread – and so much else that we enjoy. And let us celebrate the work of the Spirit within us. Individually and as the Body of Christ, may we be a fruitful garden in his hands.

Blessings, Steve



Habits and Attitudes . . .

A recent email from King.com tells me that at game number 3,000+ I'm in the top 2% of players of Candy Crush Jelly. Don't get too excited: I suspect it just qualifies me to be dafter than the other 98%. It's actually 2% of a diminishing number of game players who can actually find Candy Crush Jelly – not to be confused with Candy Crush, Candy Crush Soda etc etc. It doesn't even manage to surface on my laptop version of their website, and I doubt it made it unscathed to the hallowed multi-player apps of the average smartphone user.

Not, personally, having a smartphone is beginning to look more like affectation than a sensible decision for someone who's had problems with addiction in the past. I guess I will succumb eventually, but having during lockdown had the roof repaired three times, bought a new boiler, cooker, microwave and selected taps and spent a spectacular number of hours at my dentist for emergency and strategically-planned treatment, the state of the art Nokia I upgraded to with such joy in 2006 will just have to do for a bit longer. I keep trying to major on remembering how much I've saved by getting rid of the car . . .

And that turned out to be an entirely unscheduled source of joy and surprises - a genuine excuse for celebration. Sometime on Sunday 12 September 2021 I passed my milestone of 2,000 measured miles on foot since the beginning of lockdown on 23 March 2020.

Until I got this life-changing walking bug I was dreading the loss of contact with the rhythms of winter in Portpatrick: the precision with which I could spot and log changes on walks so familiar after fourteen years they were written to my internal hard drive. Every infinitesimal flux in relative temperature, or reading by eye the gravity of the fetch on a shore-bound breaker, or the varying quality of a bar or cafe-bought espresso was logged and savoured. None of that has gone away. It is now buried in my bones and skin, along with the early morning sunshine on my face walking to work at The State Organisation of Buildings along Sa'adoon Street, Baghdad back in the early '80s, along a pavement overhung with both green and ripe oranges, or being squeezed into the executive lift at Ciconest/Genghini's head office in Rome with hefty, gun-toting security guards, incongruously attired in pale green [and so Italian!] uniform, who, in the event, couldn't stop Signor Genghini being assassinated a few years later.

Such strong impressions aren't just in your brain but in your feet and hands and the memory of smells and temperature. Something the likes of writer Nan Shepherd has known for a long time. All the literati would quote Proust on the iconic power of madeleines at this point so I won't be tempted!

But such memories do go deep underground, then surface, triggered by the most unlikely situations - although ten years back outside the main mosque in Damascus and savouring the warmth of the hand-squeezed oranges I was gratefully drinking, the connection with Baghdad thirty years earlier was a genuine no-brainer.

There's a fine evangelistic story associated with that mosque. It was - thanks to Paul's association with the city - one of the earliest churches founded. There is still a poignant chapel of St John left over from the original foundation, and still in daily use as I witnessed. But back in the day the local church fathers, in negotiating with new boys on the block - Muslims - astutely traded the site for the right to build *twenty new churches* in the city in a powerful demonstration of mission winning out over heritage real estate.

Jude Curtis, Editor

St Mary's News

From the Register

Baptism

Sunday September 12

Alexandra Coleman



Flower Rota

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

The Church Fete was held as planned on **Saturday 11 September** from **2.00-4.00pm**, running on the same day as **Heritage Day and Ride and Stride**.

The total amount raised was £554.75 and seventy eight people came through the gates.

After this long gap we were blessed with good weather and were able to have all the stalls outside. The **Royal British Legion** also came along and set up their stall.

Refreshments of Tea, Coffee and Cakes were available and very well attended. Everyone had an enjoyable and very sociable afternoon.

Martin Compton



Behind the Communion Table **October**

- 3 Peter White [arranged by Jude Curtis]
- 10 Ann Harris
- 17 Marion Bates
- 24 Ellen Inwood
- 31 Judy Perkins [arranged by Mary Hadley]

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] or Marion Bates [358005] or leave a message [412235] or e-mail

stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com. You'd be very welcome to the team

Memorial Chapel

October

- 24 Julie West

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



St Mary's News

encouragement please phone Cynthia on 01933 359590. Just a reminder: subs are now £2 per session. JC

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. As covered in the September grapevine this will be one of the last events organised by the present committee.

We do hope you will continue to support The Children's Society. 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:
jane.foster@childrenssociety.org.uk.

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

Knitting Poppies ...

Craft & Coffee [or Tea]'s next meeting is on Tuesday 5 October from 10.15-12.15 and we will be knitting poppies. There is no charge for the craft (just the usual £1.50 admission) but we are asking for donations for the British Legion. Contact is Lynne on 01933 353655.

St Mary's Ladies' Group

After a long break, the **St Mary's Ladies' Group** met again on **Wednesday 8 September at 2.15pm in the Church Hall** for an informal afternoon of chat and refreshments, which was a real pleasure to all who attended. Old friendships were renewed; new ones made in a relaxed and happy atmosphere - not remotely punctured by discovering that the little 'quiz' we had all been working ferociously away at all afternoon contained a tiny but all-important error. Luckily Cynthia had by that point forgotten from whom she'd obtained the original . . .

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 13 October**, with guest **Linnet Smith**. All ladies are welcome: just come along or if you need more

**News
continues over the page ...**

St Mary's News cont . . .

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 have moved to Church Street (where Serve used to be). There is more information about how you can support the Food Bank in the article on p15, column 1.



she now lives. She wanted to thank all her friends at St Mary's for their cards and the present she received.

Peter Chamberlain's latest Quiz

will be available on or after Sunday **26 September** - Harvest Festival. Each answer contains the word Bus, Car or Van. Cost £1 for Mission funds. If you do not catch him in church, then the quiz is available on 01933 386826 or cephasxwords@gmail.com.

Laura Tunn

Laura had a special visit for her **One Hundredth Birthday on August 28** from her two children and two grandchildren at the Home where



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

Clued Up will not be restarting for the time being - but watch this space. There will be a Children's Craft Day on 27 November: more details in November's grapevine.



The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...



...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

Newton News

Flower Rota

October

3 Mrs Beeby

17 Mrs Hollis & Mrs Porter

Village Fete

The Newton Bromswold Fete was finally held on **Saturday 21 August** - moved from its original date of 3 July as COVID restrictions were still in place.

The weather forecast was poor, but despite this there was good attendance. The Rushden Mission Band provided the music and Mayor of Rushden Cllr Mrs Melanie Coleman and her consort Councillor Mr David Coleman attended the Fete and the Mayor judged the Children's Fancy Dress: the winner was Austin the spider man.

There were afternoon teas being served, stalls and the Bell Tower game. **The Fete raised the grand total of £1,522**, and special thanks go to everyone who helped and supported this event.



Church Bike Ride

The Northants Historic Churches Trust Church Bike Ride took place on **Saturday 11 September** and it was a lovely sunny day for the ride

this year. Newton had visitors from Irchester, Chelveston, and Hargrave.

Harvest Festival and 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.

Rodney Penness

Sadly, Rodney - a long-time member of our congregation - died on Friday 20 August aged 88 in Kettering Hospital. He was a very good vegetable grower, Chrysanthemum and Dahlia grower and was happy to supply these to the Church, both for flower arrangements and Harvest Festival. On the Friday he died, we were busy putting the bunting up for the Fete using a system Rodney had devised many years ago. He will be sorely missed.

Quiz Night

Quiz Night will be held in **The Swan** on **Saturday 23 October** starting at 7:30pm. Entry fee £10, winning prize 4 bottles of wine.

Postscript Because Newton is holding their Harvest Festival Service in October we have kept the Colour In Harvest Bookmark on page 22 for another month! *Ed*

You might be interested in this . . .

The Kitchen Table Project of Care for the Family ... is hosting a **free, online event in October** called **Reconnecting the Generations** which is going to be a practical and helpful exploration into **how we invest in intergenerational church.**

They'll be looking at how we can effectively connect families and children with the wider church community and explore ideas to help nurture children's faith as a church.

There will be lots of ideas and resources, and there will be an opportunity to share ideas and learn from others, all while considering your own church's specific context.

It's for church leaders, volunteers, paid workers, and everyone is welcome. There are three dates/times to choose from:

- Tuesday 5 October, 7.30pm
- Wednesday 6 October, 1.00pm
- Thursday 7 October, 10.00am

Places can be registered at : <https://kitchentable.org.uk/church/reconnecting-the-generations/>

Mindfulness can help to improve memory if you're over 60

Spending just five minutes a day practising mindfulness makes it that



...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...

little bit easier to remember where you left your keys or your phone, claims a recent article in **i** newspaper reporting on recent research conducted by University College London, the University of Surrey and Connecticut University USA.

‘Executive function’ is the ability to plan and switch between tasks to achieve our goals ... and [this] improvement in people over 60 suggests that mindfulness may help to guard against cognitive decline, by helping to maintain or restore executive function in late adulthood. Dr Tim Whitfield, University College London.’

i newspaper, 13 September 2021

Local News . . .

Be Safe On Bonfire Night

The majority of fireworks and bonfire accidents happen at private parties. **So follow the firework code:**



- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Never go near a lit firework. Even if it hasn't yet gone off, it could still explode
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Keep pets indoors
- Don't let off fireworks after 11pm

Bonfire Safety Tips

- Warn neighbours beforehand about a fire so they are aware and can make necessary preparations
- Only burn dry material, do not

burn anything which is wet or damp, this causes more smoke

- Check there are no cables (telephone wires etc) above the bonfire
- Build the bonfire away from sheds, fences and trees
- Don't use petrol or paraffin - the fire can get out of control quickly.

Once the bonfire is lit:

- Keep a bucket of water or garden hose near by - in case of an emergency
- Don't leave the bonfire unattended
- Keep children and pets away from the bonfire
- Don't throw any fireworks into the fire
- Don't burn aerosols, tyres, canisters or anything containing foam or paint - this could produce toxic fumes and some containers may explode, causing injury.
- Once the bonfire has died down, spray the embers with water to stop it reigniting.

**In an emergency
call 999 immediately!**

Chris MacKenzie



... continued

Fly-tipping Pilot Scheme rolled out county wide

A pilot scheme we reported on a few months ago, to support landowners with the cost of removing fly-tipping from their land and securing it against future incidents is being rolled out across the county.

“Earlier this year, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold set up a scheme to help farmers and landowners, with a view to intervening early to prevent crime and to assist in tracking down people who are fly-tipping.

The pilot scheme was run in conjunction with the former East Northamptonshire District and

Daventry District Councils and the Commissioner’s Office will now take it forward in conjunction with the two successor authorities, North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council.”
Neighbourhood Alert, 1 Sept 2021

On a personal note . . . the farm entrance that I often use off the roundabout at the John Clark Way intersection with the A6 Bypass to reach the footpath to High Hayden and Slater’s Lodge is now blessedly free of litter, rotting debris and building site cast offs. And thank you, too, to whoever pruned back the double hawthorn hedge to save me and many others being savaged by thorns getting to that point. *Ed*

News from Midshires’ Covert

There will be goings-on at

Midshires Covert on Saturday 2

October made up of **volunteering**

activity from 10.00am to 2.00pm [carrying out a range of pruning/ planting/staking tasks etc] followed

by **cooked food on the camp**

fire [all welcome] and then

a walk in the countryside nearby

from about 3.00pm [all welcome to this too]. All subject to any Covid-

precautions that might still be

needed. More details from Andrew

Presland [01933 316927 or

andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com]



After his induction, Harry met the leaders of the other denominations

Book Review



***Dear England* - Archbishop Stephen Cottrell. Hodder and Stoughton.**

It all began with a question posed by a young woman as the Archbishop was buying a coffee at Paddington Station - "What made you become a priest"? Trying to make the most of this brief encounter Stephen Cottrell said he would give her two answers: a very short one and a slightly longer one. His short answer was "God" and his slightly longer answer was, "I want to change the world."

In this book the new Archbishop of York amplifies his answers under three broad headings - finding hope, taking heart and changing the world. ***Dear England*** is a letter to the people of our country offering guidance as we seek to respond to the impact of Brexit and the Covid pandemic. It is a Christian response from a committed evangelist and pastor who at one time was the Canon Pastor at Peterborough and later part of the Springboard evangelism team.

In the first seven short chapters of he shares the basis for the hope he has as we all face a daunting future. In a jargon-free narrative he gives his explanation of why in his life journey he moved from scepticism to become a Christian, and why his faith in God helps him to make sense of life and fills him with hope.

In chapters 8 to 12 the focus is clearly on Jesus and his Gospel. Here is the basis for what: as individuals, as a church and as a nation, we need to shape a better life.

He writes "we are not to be tied down by, or defined, by the ideas and conventions with which we were brought up". There can be a new beginning when hearts are changed and we receive the heart of Jesus Christ. We become part of a new humanity. In the remaining chapters readers are given ample practical advice on how as Christians we can become agents of change. This advice is accompanied by some very pertinent reflections that can challenge some of the assumptions we may have been happily living with for many years.

In Chapter 16 the issues of climate change and ecology are addressed. The Archbishop's reflections on lessons we can learn by reflecting on the characteristics of trees are, for me, full of helpful insights. I recommend this book. It is an easy read. It is suitable for everyman and everywoman. It is particularly useful to give to that person you know who is asking searching questions.

Tony Smith

Fresh Starts, Farewells, Back to Normal?

October looks like an interesting month for our diocese. Sarah Brown to be installed as Dean of Hereford, Alison Myers as Warden of Launde Abbey, the first face-to-face meeting of rural deans and senior staff for two years, confirmation services starting up again, Gordon Steele's farewell service – and much else.

So are we back to normal? I don't think we'll ever go back to life as it was before Covid, nor should we. Whatever you think of the lockdowns, the mask-wearing, the school closures, the self-isolation and the "pinging", the arguments over preparedness and then over vaccination; whether you think the whole exercise was a massive over-reaction, or that this summer was far too early to lift most restrictions; the pandemic has had a massive and permanent effect on our national life, and we cannot ignore that.

We haven't seen the last of mask-wearing. Our link diocese of Seoul in South Korea demonstrates that. The far east saw a severe outbreak of SARS twenty years ago, and mask-wearing became the rule for a couple of years. When I last visited, 15 years after masks ceased to be compulsory, significant numbers of people were still wearing them in crowded places. In some cases that was because of pollution, but

the reality is that mask-wearing in public has become a fairly common occurrence in the east. On the other hand, in the west, the Covid pandemic seems to have exaggerated culture gaps and reduced politeness and

tolerance. People can get so very heated over the pro- and anti-vaxxing argument, even more so than over Brexit not so long ago.

We haven't seen the last of Zoom and other online meetings. At the very least, I find myself doing one-to-one Zoom chats rather than phone calls, and rather than driving an hour each way for a one-hour meeting. On the other hand, I now have to go to London for House of Lords debates, and can no longer participate via Zoom (which I did for the emergency Afghanistan debate in mid-August).

As church, we are returning carefully, conscious of the possibility of a fourth wave this autumn and winter. We are going back, but to a new normal.



With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Donald". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

+Donald
Bishop of Peterborough

Diocese of Peterborough – *Magazine Resource* – October 2021

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

Local news from ENCS & ENFG etc ...

Help our foodbank

Our foodbank is experiencing low stock and low funds. Can you help? We post what we need every week on our **Facebook page** or alternatively, you can give via our giving page which will allow us to buy what we need each week.

<https://www.give.net/20217071>.

Please share or donate if you can.

New Premises

We are very excited to let you know that we at ENCS are now fully operating out of our new premises, 19-21 Church Street, Rushden [part of the former SERVE premises and opposite the Salvation Army]. Our foodbank is now operating solely from here, so please signpost anyone to this address and we look forward to sharing our plans with you to help more individuals. All our contact details remain the same.

We need you!

We are looking for volunteers to help us with the following:

- Volunteering evenings and weekends (it doesn't have to be every single one) at our Rushden Homeless Accommodation. Volunteers here are vital to our keeping the house open for people to stay during the day.
- Individuals to collect from supermarkets and collection

points early mornings and early evenings for our foodbank and homeless accommodation

- Café volunteers – we are hoping to open our 'café' at our new premises for a good, low cost hot meal for those who are isolated, marginalised or vulnerable. This is not yet up and running but we cannot open until we have people who can help cook and serve clients.

If you think you can do any of the above, please email info@encs.org.uk for an application form or call us on 01933 733001 and we look forward to hearing from you.

Refugee support - Afghan

refugees: at the time of writing, both West & North Northamptonshire Councils have said they will provide support to Afghan refugees with the former speaking in terms of providing initial accommodation and care and support for up to 140 people

Please contact **Andrew Presland** at andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com or by phone on 01933 316927 **if you would like more information on anything mentioned on this page**

Food for thought and prayer ...



The Schools are back already ...

but these prayers, suggested by Helen Lines, from **The Scripture Union** are designed to target the 95% of children who do not come to church - let's pray together this month for the new academic year.

- Pray for the 95%. There's always a mix of emotions as the new academic year begins, and summer isn't always a fun time for everyone. So pray for those who are starting the new school year anxious and already weary.
- Pray for Christian children and young people. Pray that they would be bold and confident as they witness their faith to their friends.
- Pray for teachers, support staff and leadership. Pray for wisdom as they begin a new year.
- Pray for those who are outside of mainstream education. Pray that they would be surrounded with people who will support and champion them.

Autumn Prayer

Dear Loving, Father God,

As the season changes and we enjoy the beautiful colours of autumn, there are other changes which we don't enjoy. Changes we cannot control; changes and suffering in the world, beyond our comprehension; changes to our work routines, or health, or circumstances; changes which cause us anxiety and uncertainty.

When everything seems to be falling around us like the autumn leaves, help us, Lord, to remember that you stand firm. You are our rock. You never change. You are always faithful, always with us, as we move into each new day and each new season.

Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus, so that by putting our trust in Him, we can know the security of your love, for ever!

In His name, we thank you,
Sovereign Lord. Amen,

By Daphne Kitching for Parish Pump

Iris Gilbert

Iris, who has been a staunch member of the 11.15 Service [and one of Rosemary Nayyar's greatest supporters], was born in Oval Rd, Rushden on 4 March 1925, to Violet and Walter Gore. Her mother died when she was tiny and she has no memories of her.

Instead, she grew up with her grandmother in Spencer Road and loved to play in the nearby park, and would escape there in her nightie if she thought she had been put to bed too early!

Iris and her father would walk across the fields to visit Great Grandma Allen, who lived in Bakers Lane, Woodford. Iris loved her father dearly. Like many local people he worked in the shoe trade but was also a talented artist, particularly painting portraits. Sadly her father died when she was in her teens. She had two brothers, Victor and Geoffrey – but Victor also died around then, so Iris had lost three members of her immediate family before she was even an adult!

She was christened at Woodford Church, but attended St Peter's Rushden: her faith kept her going through those difficult times, and she was always sure there was a purpose in her life. She went to Alfred Street School and enjoyed music and singing – she early learned to read music and sang in competitions. That love of music has continued throughout her life.

Leaving school at fourteen she went to work for Sidney and Edith Hawkes at their home at 98 Portland Road – a decision which transformed her life. She became part of the family; helping with household duties and caring for three children and discovered what a happy family life could be like!

During the war years the Hawkes family home was a place of calm and relaxation for visiting stars and entertainers. Iris met many of them, including Bob Hope and Myna Loy: they all felt at home there. She would serve the dinner and then be invited to sit down and enjoy the company.

One evening she was washing up and singing a Glen Miller hit in the kitchen when the man himself came and joined her and helped with the washing up! She maintained that special friendship with the Hawkes family for many years after she left their employment.



At nineteen Iris had to take up war-work and moved to Rushden Sanatorium. Rosemary remembers how the skills she learned there were later used to help older neighbours when they later lived in Kings Road.

Iris was introduced to Douglas Gilbert on leave from the army. He, like her father, worked in the shoe trade after the war and was a talented singer – some St Mary’s people may still remember him. He sang tenor solos in oratorios as well as taking lead roles in the Rushden Operatic Society’s performances. Douglas also broadcast for many years on Midland Radio!

They were married at St Mary’s in January 1948. Cyril Cave was their Best Man and Janice and Eileen Hawkes bridesmaids. They honeymooned close to Bournemouth, then lived briefly in Bedford Road before moving to Kings Road and eventually to St James Close near the Higham border. They had two girls: Rosemary [our organist and choir leader] and Jane: both were christened at St Mary’s.

In 1986 Douglas died but Iris continued as leading lady of the family: a family positively steeped in music. She now lives quietly in her own little bungalow surrounded by lovely neighbours – including long-standing sidesman at the 11.15am service, Hubert Dickens – in a peaceful area of Higham.

Iris says she has always found St Mary’s people to be loving and dedicated from her earliest days to the present day. *Roving Reporter*

Those questions

Biggest Influences

Iris’s father and the Hawkes family

Guests to dinner?

Those wonderful stars met at the Hawkes home in Portland Rd

What would you serve?

Soup, mixed grill and vegetables, fruit and cream to follow

Hobbies

Singing in choirs, knitting, sewing. The grandchildren always said, “Nanny can knit anything!”

Proudest Moment?

“Having my babies!”

Special Treat?

Going to London and enjoying museums, galleries and parks

Favourite Bible verse ?

So many to choose from but The Magnificat is a special favourite
Luke 1. 46-55



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

October 1971

St Peter, Newton Bromswold

I read recently in the magazine of a Country parish that there are less people working the land than has ever been the case in all the long history of our country.

We are a nation of town dwellers to a greater extent than any other comparable community in the world. Before I read of this fact I had neither realised it nor thought about it. So it is a good thing to be reminded of the importance of agriculture. And Newton Bromswold's page in this magazine is a permanent reminder to the town reader of this. We depend on the land and God's miracle of seedtime and harvest.

Rev Michael Wilson

25 years ago

October 1996

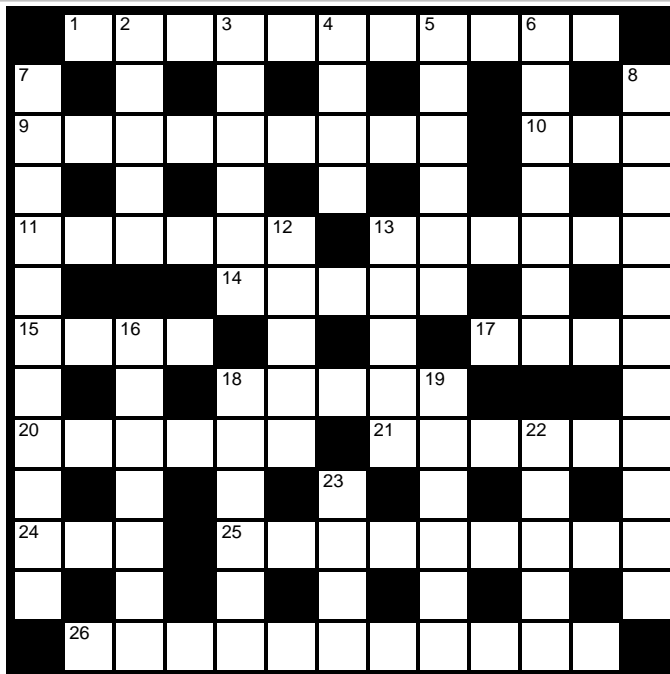
CPAS

The Rev Pam Harvey is a most welcome and popular preacher at St Mary's. She is on the staff of the Church Pastoral Aid Society [CPAS]. They are the patrons of the parish. This means they have the right of appointment of the Rector of Rushden. They appointed Alan, and in due time will appoint the next Rector. Because of this on the last Sunday of October, for the past 13 years a CPAS speaker has been invited to come and preach for the 'Anniversary'. [CPAS] ... Is one of the missionary societies that we support as a Church - it is a home missionary society, which as its aim and motto - "The Gospel to every man's door" . . .

Crossword No 382

ACROSS

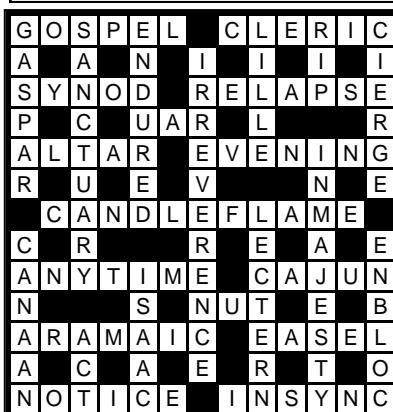
- 1 'Tell me the ----',
(hymn) (3,3,5)
9 Bring into being (9)
10 Sister (3)
11 Gas (6)
13 Book following Song
of Solomon (6)
14 Re-equip with
weapons (5)
15 First wife of Jacob
(4)
17 Third son of Adam
(4)
18 Fluff (5)
20 Salvation Army
publication (3,3)
21 Antepenultimate OT
book (6)
24 Err (3)
25 Book preceding 21 across (9)
26 '---- why He, whom angels worship', (hymn) (1,6,4)



DOWN

- 2 Non-clergy (5)
3 '- Twist' (6)
4 Senior cleric (4)
5 Religious belief (6)
6 Minuter (anag.) (3,4)
7 'Immortal, invisible, ----', (hymn) (3,4,4)
8 'Praise to the holiest ----', (hymn) (2,3,6)
12 Recently (5)
13 Hibernian (5)
16 Of Moses' brother (7)
18 Iced (6)
19 Wise man (6)
22 Broil (5)
23 Until (2,2)

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Mission Matters



King's Lynn Centre of Mission to close

Many of you will remember the visit to St Mary's of our Church Army mission partner, James Hawksworth. He came here in 2019 to tell us about the King's Lynn Centre of Mission. His passion and vision for that work were heart-warming. He told us that his aim was "for people to realise who Jesus is and build a relationship with God."

Since then, the Lord has used him to support and encourage young people from a deprived area of the town who face many problems and hardships. Now, though, the Diocese of Norwich, who funded the Centre, are in financial difficulty and are closing it.

James is to be made redundant in October. Do please pray for him, as well as for his wife, Laura, and their teenage children, Sam and Becky, as they come to terms with this extremely sad situation.

Also, please bring to the Lord the young people whom the Spirit touched through James' ministry, and those who will not be able to share their cares and concerns with him in the future.

As James applies for a new post within Church Army he would be grateful for our prayers. He thanks us warmly for our fellowship in the past, which he has valued very much. Let's ask that he and the family will know deep peace as they trust in the Lord. May they know that he is with them and for them, and that he is leading them forward in his perfect plan for their lives and for his kingdom.

Sue Eagles,

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



Belfry Gossip

We are settling in to regular ringing again, both for Sunday services and practices, and our brains are working again, allowing us to remember some methods and ring them without too many mistakes. We have also welcomed some friends who have joined us on Sundays or at practices.

Of course, we still take ventilation, sanitising, face coverings and distancing seriously so that we can all stay as safe as possible.

Kaylee is progressing nicely, and during a family holiday in Cornwall she joined the practice of one of the local towers and they were very impressed with her ringing. Well done Kaylee!

The Peterborough Guild held a successful ringing meeting at Abington on what turned out to be a very wet afternoon, thankfully a gazebo was brought and helped to keep dry the list of everyone who attended. About 30 ringers turned up to ring and catch up with old friends again after the long layoff. Simon kept the bells going for the afternoon with ringing to suit all abilities. Everyone was very pleased that this meeting went ahead at last, as it was originally hoped to have been held in April.

By the time you read this the Wellingborough Branch will have held a ringing meeting and the Peterborough Guild will have held another ringing meeting with a friendly competition. These meetings will follow all safety precautions and ventilation requirements to make them as safe as possible for those attending.

Tintinnabulum



Church Diary

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 fill in one of the forms in church **as soon as possible** 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.
10.15-12.15: Crafts & Coffee [or Tea], in St Mary's Church Hall - 'Knitting Poppies' - see pg
- 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 information from Andrew Presland: 01933 316927, or andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com
- 14 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - St Mary's Ladies Group** meet in the Church Hall. Speaker Linnet Smith
- 23 **Saturday: 7.30pm start - Quiz Night** at The Swan, Newton . Entry fee £10, prize 4 bottles of wine.

November

- 10 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - St Mary's Ladies Group** meet in the Church Hall. More details nearer the time
- 27 **Saturday: Children's Craft Day** - more details later from Helen Smedley:
01933 312198



Services in Church - October 2021

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 3 October - Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity - Joy

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

Sunday 10 October - Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity - Peace

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

Sunday 17 October - Twentieth Sunday after Trinity - Patience

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

Sunday 24 October - Twenty First Sunday after Trinity - Kindness

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

Sunday 31 October - Twenty Second Sunday after Trinity - Goodness

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

Midweek Service in St Mary's Church

Thursday October 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10.30am Holy Communion [BCP]

Live-Streaming

Both of St Mary's 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 —

