




november 2021

grapevine

50p

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

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grapevine November



Steve is saying goodbye in his own 'Swansong' on the next page, which only leaves me to mention how much his contributions have immeasurably improved the quality of grapevine over the last 12 plus years.

Saying goodbye to **Sue** Prior from the point of view of grapevine will be - sorry, Steve - just so much more difficult!

Her eagle-eyed proofing [particularly on the technical subject of 'Widows & Orphans'] and bottomless tact when I've got something completely wrong; her profound biblical knowledge and inexhaustibly happy disposition are irreplaceable.

With her back at base, I've been able to swan off for months at a time, filing my copy via the ether with impunity, confident that it will, always, come right by the time we go to print.

So thank you Sue - I can't even think what I'm going to do without you! ... But I do know you're leaving a pretty formidable team behind! *Jude Curtis, Editor*

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Items for the
December 2021/January
2022 edition should be sent by
Sunday 14 November

preferably by email to:
missjudecurtis@btinternet.com

Steve writes . . .



Dear Friends,

This letter for November's *grapevine* is the swansong of my 'Letters from the Rector' – not just as Rector for Rushden and Newton Bromswold but as a stipendiary clergyman of the Church of England. I will take my last services in Rushden on 7 November and within a few days we should have packed our belongings and moved to our new home in Gloucestershire.

As might be expected, the anticipation of moving raises many emotions. I always feel a certain wistfulness when a chapter in my life draws to an end. I can remember being somewhat sad on leaving my primary school (although I wouldn't admit it to the head teacher when he asked!) - how much more when nearly forty years of full time ministry draws to a close. Both Sue and I will certainly miss many of you lovely people. It has been a privilege to live and work among you here.

I am so grateful to God that he permitted me to work here for my last position as an incumbent. I have served here half again as long as in any other benefice in my ministry and it has provided me with opportunities to pursue ministry in new, creative and exciting ways – as well as the tried and tested – alongside others who are also looking to grow as disciples of Jesus and want to share the Good News of his Kingdom with others.

I looked back at the article I wrote preceding my arrival here in May 2009, when I mentioned that "my ministry seems to have alternated between urban and rural, with Rushden and Newton Bromswold for the first time combining both." I have greatly appreciated being able to keep a foot simultaneously in both worlds, comparing and contrasting ministry in each setting.

Although the preaching series on *Fruit of the Spirit* will continue through November, my last sermon in our current series will be on *faithfulness*. This *fruit* is one which we are urged to nurture in our own spiritual lives, but we see it most clearly as one of the characteristics of God himself, that we are to emulate.

Sue and I certainly thank God for his faithfulness to us over the years: first in leading us to the UK, to which I had felt for some time that God was

directing me, although I didn't have a clue how to go about it. God introduced us to people who could advise us and, step by step, we found our way to Wycliffe Hall in Oxford where I was introduced to the Church in Wales. We felt the Lord leading us to each of the parishes in which we served, sustaining us through the difficult times which inevitably arose, and generously giving us the joy of ministering together with others, seeing God at work. Seeing people come to faith, grow in faith and share that faith with others has been a great privilege.

We also trust in God's faithfulness to Rushden St Mary's and Newton Bromswold, as you continue your worship, witness and service to the Kingdom, even while you are looking to God for guidance in the provision of your next Rector.

Sue and I are both, of course, looking forward to our new home and some of the freedom that retirement will bring. Our interest in gardening and walking is no secret, and the Lord has graciously given us opportunity to pursue both in our new home in Gloucestershire. Having our dear and oldest friends just ten miles away will be another blessing. We have been reminded several times that we are not retiring from God's Kingdom (!) and while we do not yet know where we will be worshipping, we trust that in his faithfulness, God will guide us to the place in which he wants us to serve him in new ways.

Towards the end of this month, the Christian year comes to an end, beginning again with Advent Sunday (28 November). We pray for all of us that God will open up new possibilities to worship, serve and rest in his love as we continue to entrust ourselves to our good and gracious Saviour, who is faithful to us in all circumstances.

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, 'The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him.'*

Lamentations 3.22-24

Blessings in Jesus, Steve

Do you mind Mindfulness?



Some people get inordinately upset about mindfulness, to the extent of regarding it as a direct threat to prayerfulness or conventional meditation. For them it is inextricably embedded in a liberalised world that is galloping away from faith into some kind of minestrone soup of junk teaching, far too fast for their personal comfort.

Some people think the *opposite* of mindfulness is Christian selflessness and sacrifice. Well, not exactly! Some think that all it means is thinking about yourself rather than others. Well, not that either ... They confuse it with concepts like 'self-image' and 'self-worth'. And certainly it accepts some of that, but it is not, primarily, *about* that.

Mindfulness is much closer to an 'active awareness'. It's about being 'mindful' not just of yourself but those around you - and not just in the Covid-way of maintaining a proper distance when out and about that we learned, [fairly reluctantly in some cases,] in the early stages of pandemic behaviour. Mindfulness is about awareness both physical and mental: it means being 'mindful' not just of your own self but of what's around you: the feel of the air, the smell of autumn, the fierce murmur of a brook in spate, the first cuckoo and, particularly, what I was writing about last month, that 'impression' of the world around you, that is felt, startlingly, not just in your head, but in the memories in your feet and hands and taste buds.

Most usefully, it's a way of slowing down, or, even better - stopping completely - and taking stock of both yourself and your surroundings. We don't ever do this often enough. Our good intentions conspire to keep us busy, and active. We strive to be productive. A claw-back to The Protestant Ethic: we always want something to show for the day that's just ended instead of melting into pure thankfulness.

On the other hand, in an age that welcomes mindfulness on the one hand, and a concentration on, and interest in, the physical and emotional bits of our world in the present, it has been forced to develop in parallel with

behaviours and bits of kit [my Dad's universal expression for all technology] that pull in the totally opposite direction.

Instead of Linus's wistful, cartoon figure from the '60s, clutching his comfort blanket to the refrain of - 'Hello, sky, hello birds, hello, trees . . . ', we have equally rapt, but ultimately entirely shut



-off, faces staring into an I Pad or smartphone, engaging at a comfortable distance - they believe - from other people and other things: as if they, not the people at the other end of the line, are immune to their immediate surroundings. The inevitable collisions and traffic infringements in real time add a totally different dimension to setting foot out into the big wide world for the rest of us.

The danger is in believing that what is 'happening' on your mobile device is more real than what is happening around you in your real body and in real time. This becomes a version of the 'real world' without engaging all five senses not to mention your brain. What a shame.

Yes, I've often made business calls with my business voice and wearing pyjamas. I may even have [tacitly] misled people as to my actual location. We've probably all been grateful at some time for the anonymity of information technology. I personally find Zoom more challenging and intrusive than an aggressive charity door-knocker trying to sign me up to a Direct Debit. I can't bring myself to treat it as 'reality', but as an emotional purgatory with its own attendant stage fright.

Mindfulness, on the other hand, is a lot like Linus's childlike immediacy of perception. It is not about naval-gazing, over-thinking, agonising, conceit or self-obsession. It's more about awareness and letting go: appreciation of things whilst holding them lightly. It doesn't involve agonising, lengthy heart-searching.

It's more akin to the body scan a convalescent applies to their recovering self, to check what's in working order and what's not, without being judgemental about either.

Jude Curtis

St Mary's News

From the Registers

Baptism

Sunday September 26

Tracey Ann Cave

Linda Ann Wilson

WEDDING

Saturday October 9

Jade Hayley Campion &

Nathan Journeaux

FUNERAL

Thursday October 7

Hilary Mary Trowell [84]

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.

Craft & Coffee [or Tea]

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 2**

November from

10.00 to 12.00 noon.

Brenda will be

leading us in a craft

with a Christmas theme. There is no charge for the craft (just the usual £1.50 admission). Contact is Lynne on 01933 353655.



Flower Rota - November



Behind the Communion Table

7	Remembrance
14	Remembrance
21	Jane Brown
28	Julie West

Note for arrangers: The church is generally open on Friday and Saturday from 9.30 - 11.00am. Please check for times of weddings and funerals in the week you plan to arrange. Also contact Bob Bates [358005] if you wish 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 on stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com. You'd be very welcome to the team

Memorial Chapel

7	Mrs Kelland and Mr Craddick in memory of Mr and Mrs Craddick
---	--

14	Remembrance
----	-------------

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

St Mary's News

Belated Congratulations

... to **Joy and Graham Cartwright** and **Jan and Richard Denny** who all celebrated their **Diamond Wedding Anniversaries in October**.

St Mary's Ladies' Group

The group met again on **Wednesday 13 October in the Church Hall** for another - very welcome - afternoon of chat and refreshments, and, in the company of **Rev Steve Prior** who entertained us with a sumptuous and gently amusing account of how he ended up as a Rector - definitely against the odds - although at the end of the talk I think we all appreciated how important a role Sue had played in his career choices!

I particularly liked the confession that early on in his Christian life he rejected the whole idea of ordained ministry because **'It messes up the weekend!'**

Sadly, but sensibly, It has been decided to sit out the remains of this episode of Covid-19 over the winter and reconvene in March 2022, when, hopefully, the situation will appear much clearer. All ladies will be welcome then: just come along or if you need more encouragement please phone Cynthia on 01933 359590. LGPO

Just a few 'Thank You's'!

"I have been overwhelmed with the kindness people showed me, while I was away from church and after I could, thankfully, return. Thank you for all your cards and good wishes; the food, flowers, and visits. They are much appreciated and have uplifted me. Anne Riley

"Many thanks for the good wishes, cards, presents, and charity donations on the occasion of our Diamond Anniversary. God bless.
Joy and Graham

"Thank you for the little posy I received after the Harvest Festival: I was so, so, pleased: it quite made my day!"
Sheila Tansley

Recent PCC Meetings September 2021

There was only one item on the Agenda for this meeting - finding a successor to Steve and to learn about the process, procedures and timeline involved with that task.

The PCC were joined by Mike Duff, Patronage Secretary of CPAS who led the meeting, Archdeacon Gordon Steele, Chris Youngman, Rural Dean, and members of Newton Bromswold PCC. JB

continues over the page ...

St Mary's News cont . . .

October

- The PCC received a report on the **Church Fete and Heritage Day**. **Funds raised amounted to £554.75.**
- **Church Away Day at Christ the King, Kettering** with Archdeacon Richard Ormiston as guest leader, was well received. Eighteen people attended and all enjoyed an inspiring day, looking to the future with hope.
- Reports were also received on **Finance, Fabric and Children & Youth Ministry**. The PCC ratified our current safeguarding policy and Mission Tithes to be divided between CPAS, Tearfund, Langham Partnership, Church Army and CMS.
- **Lockdown measures** were discussed, and Steve will be meeting with the church wardens for their two-month review. Rotas have been set until the end of 2021.
- **Carolyn Wignall** will replace Sue Prior as **Synod Rep** and **Martin Compton** will be the rep on **Rushden Council of Churches**.
JB

The Children's Society

On behalf of the Children's Society, the Rushden fundraising committee would like to thank all supporters

for their generosity. After the recent **Box Opening and Coffee Morning**, £1687.24 has been sent to the society for their work among vulnerable families, children and young people.

As a committee we hope you will continue to support The Children's Society with donations, prayers, or by buying a Quiz Sheet from Joy Holloway.

The committee were sad this was the last event after 43 years and the hard work of so many people. We thank you all so much.

Mary Hadley

Joy Holloway still has Quizzes ...

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 still on sale from Joy Holloway 01933 318415 or the Church Office.

Peter Chamberlain's latest

Quiz ... is still available. 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.

St Mary's News ...

Christingles

The Annual
**Christingle
Service** will be
held as usual on
Saturday



December 4 at 2.00pm and ...

Helen Smedley will be in the **Church
Hall on the Friday afternoon**

**[December 3] from 2.00pm making
the actual Christingles.** Anyone
who would like to join her will be
very welcome! Refreshments will
be provided.

Away Day in October

The Away Day at Christ the King,
Kettering in October gave all the
attendees food for thought.

Archdeacon Richard Ormiston is a
clear and conscientious speaker and
he has no illusions about the

problems we face as a Christian
community in today's world. His
attitude of optimism without
illusion was refreshing and he spelt
out the challenge for us all as
Christians looking to the future.

It was reassuring to know that the
business of finding a new
incumbent is to be attended by a
pair of safe, sensible but
imaginative hands.

Of equal importance to attendees
were the magnificent refreshments,
magically delivered throughout the
day by Sue Prior. Splendid!

Thank you to the organisers, to Paul
for the music, and particularly the
thoughtful and prayerful
contributions of all who were there.

Ed

Children's 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: full
details on p30 in the Church Diary**



Newton News

Flower Rota

November

7 Mrs Beeby

21 Helen Mayes

Harvest Festival and Sale

The Church was decorated lovely for Harvest Festival.

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

Thank you, too, to everyone who supported **The Harvest Sale**, which raised £406 for Church Funds. A special thanks to **Patrick, the landlord at The Swan** for hosting the evening and to **Glyn for acting as auctioneer**.

Remembrance Sunday

A special service for Remembrance Sunday will be held on the **14 November at 10:45am ahead of the Communion service**. The Collection from this service will go to the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**.

Carol Singing

Newton Church will be Carol Singing in **The Swan on Monday 20 December** at 7.30pm. Please come and join us.

You might . . .

Pilot Project

Leaving a gift in your will to your local church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support its mission and ministry in your community. Making a will and keeping it updated is the only way to make sure your wishes are carried out after your death, giving you peace of mind that you can continue to support the family, friends and charities you love.

This autumn, the Church of England has partnered with Farewill - the National Will Writing Firm of the Year 2020 - to offer an online will writing service, which you can do from the comfort of your home in less than 30 minutes. Farewill's specialist team are available to help you over the phone or live chat 7 days a week, 9am-7pm. *There are a limited number of wills available on a first-come-first served basis.*

There is no obligation for anyone to leave a gift in their will to their church. However, if you decide that you can, your gift - great or small - will make a real difference to your church's life for future generations.

Go to the website at <https://farewill.com/peterborough-diocese> to find out more.

... be interested in this

An update ...

on the planned **Rushden East** housing and industrial development [Rushden Sustainable Urban Extension] was provided recently by North Northamptonshire Council for the East Northants Community Leaders' Lunch. The main details of the development are available at <https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/RushdenEast>, and the latest information is that it is currently in the application phase where the applicant is busy preparing responses to the issues raised during the consultation phase of the application.

There are two relevant **planning applications** (SUE – 20/01453/OUT and NE/21/01124/OUT) and the main determining factor on timing is the work being done on updating the Transport Assessment to determine the actual impact of the development on the road network and the mitigation measures needed and when.

Some time ago - before the pandemic - a **group was set up to represent the views of local churches** in discussions relating to the development, such as the main housing needs, the provision of community facilities and the case

for having at least one Church of England school serving the development.

Until recently, Tony Smith has played a key role in taking forward the work of the group, but has decided that the time has come for him to stand down, thus creating a vacancy in the group. If you think that you might be being called into this area of activity - or simply wish to know more about what's involved - please contact either Tony Smith - a.smith729@btinternet.com or 01933 314292 or Andrew Presland andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com or 01933 316927.

Identity matters - a **Christian Institute** meeting taking place near Huntingdon, at **Warboys Baptist Church** (73 High Street, Warboys, Cambridgeshire, PE28 2TA) from 7.30 to 8.45pm on **Tuesday 9 November**. Two staff members of the Christian Institute will be considering what we can learn from the Bible about how to respond to radical gender ideology (transgender and related issues). They will also think about current challenges to the sanctity of life and religious freedom Details are available from Nigel Graham on 01487 823405.



Local News . . .

Hang up on Fraudsters

They'll call you on

the phone posing as bank staff, police officers or other officials claiming there's been fraud on your account and that you need to take urgent action. They are convincing. They may even ask you to check the number on your phone display matches your bank's registered phone number. Don't trust the display as the number showing can be altered by them.

Remember a bank or the police will **never**:

- Phone you to ask for your 4-digit card PIN or your online banking password, even by tapping them into the telephone keypad.
- Ask you to withdraw money to hand over to them for safe-keeping.
- Ask you to transfer money to a new account for fraud reasons, even if they say it is in your name.
- Send someone to your home to collect your cash, PIN, payment card or cheque book if you are a victim of fraud.
- Ask you to purchase goods using your card and then hand them over for safe-keeping.

If you get a call like this, hang up, wait five minutes to clear the line,

then call your bank or card issuer on their advertised number to alert them to the scam.

Chris MacKenzie

A Community Opportunity with a difference

HMP Five Wells in Wellingborough opens early in the new year, housing around 1,700 male Category C prisoners. It will be run and managed by G4S, and volunteers are needed to join its **Independent Monitoring Board**.

Its role is to monitor the fair and humane treatment of prisoners and the delivery of programmes and living arrangements.

Members also receive complaints from prisoners, prepare reports on their monitoring activities and review decisions made in the segregation unit to ensure proper practice has been followed.

Who can apply? Any member of the community – look on the IMB Website and there is an advert with access to an Application Form that can be completed.

If you would like to have a chat about the role please feel free to contact the Board Chair – David Culwick – 01933 318025; email bess27@hotmail.com

More local news on p22 ...

The Gardeners' Report

I'm sure that you've all missed reading about the gardeners' exploits as it has been a year since I last wrote a report. Since then, we have become world famous after featuring on the "Love Rushden" face book page. We know it's been seen worldwide because Peter White's daughter, Elizabeth, who lives in America saw it.

During the lockdown of January to April we were unable to look after the churchyard so when we finally re-started in April there was lots to be done. Our first tasks were weeding and rose pruning. By the time we had finished this all 2,000 of the hyacinth bulbs needed dead-heading, then it was the turn of the daffodils and tulips. Unfortunately, while we were completing these jobs, the weeds continued to grow and it was only a couple of weeks ago that we felt at long last we had got the better of them. For the first time in two years the churchyard was looking at its best.

The roses have been flowering well all summer and the cosmos and tobacco plants have once again been magnificent. These will now be pulled up and added to one of the four compost heaps (if anyone would like compost for their garden, please ask for some as there is lots that is ready to be used).

The salvias by the North door have been replaced with pansies and we hope you enjoy the tub of bulbs and violas. It is a shame that some of the rose trees are beginning to show their age and have had to be replaced. As we have had problems getting roses to grow in the same place as the ones we have taken out they have been replaced by bearded iris.

Some of you may have noticed the small vegetable patch by the West steps where we have grown tomatoes, courgettes and sweetcorn. Sweetcorn was a dead loss but the tomatoes were quite prolific especially the Auntie Madge, which were not affected by blight. We hope that this new venture will continue next year and possibly extend in size so that we can provide delicious tomatoes for the congregation (Steve has asked for some Auntie Madge seeds for his new garden).

The garden team hope that you enjoy the fruits of our labour.

Bob Bates



PS One last plea - can anyone tell us how to get rid of bindweed?

Book Review



Here Are Your Gods

Christopher J.H. Wright [London: IVP, 2020]

Some members of St Mary's will remember the author of this book preaching in our church on behalf of the Langham Partnership, one of our Mission Partners. His book is subtitled "Faithful Discipleship in Idolatrous Times" - words that summarise his central message.

If, like me, you look at the world with its bewildering array of problems and hope to better understand the issues they raise and their underlying causes then I recommend this book to you. If, like me, you are trying to listen to God and discern his will for yourself, his church and our country then this book can be a helpful voice to pay attention to.

However, my recommendation comes with a health warning. If you do not want to have some of your assumptions challenged, or are disturbed by the prospect of radical changes to your thinking, then this book is not for you.

The book is divided into three parts; The Lord God and other gods in the Bible, Political Idolatry Then and Now, and God's People in an Idolatrous World. The first part explains how the Jewish nation's understanding progressed from

seeing the Creator God as one of many gods, to seeing Him as their special God amongst many, to the final realisation that their God is the one and only true God, all others being no more than the product of mankind's imagination, a process that leads inevitably to lives shaped by idolatry.

In the second part of his book the author presents many clear examples of how Western civilisation generally and God's people in particular have fallen into the trap of uncritical collusion with the false gods of the culture in which we are living.

The final third of this book addresses the question "what is required of us now, as God's people". The author's answer begins with the advice that we must resolve to turn away from the multiple false gods that so easily infect our Christian lives with idolatry. We are reminded of Joshua's words (Joshua 24) "choose this day whom you will serve. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord". What this can mean for us in practical terms is spelt out in the final chapters of this challenging book.

Tony Smith

PRAYER for the WORLD

Dear Friends,

As this magazine insert appears, the long-awaited United Nations **Conference of the Parties (COP 26) on Climate Change** will have started in Glasgow and Italy.

Political, scientific and religious leaders from around the world will be meeting to review progress since the previous summit in Paris.

You'll expect me, as Chair of the Diocesan Environmental Group, to encourage you to take an active interest in COP26, but can I also plead with you to pray for the success of this meeting, for the sake of our children and grandchildren and our friends around the world who are more vulnerable than ourselves.

Here is a suggested prayer, written by Roman Catholic Bishops and the relief agency

+John
Bishop of Brixworth



Loving God,

We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.

Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Amen

Diocese of Peterborough – Magazine Resource – November 2021

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The Poet, The Snipe, the H1 bus . . .

The Poet & The Snipe was a chance piece of nature eventing on **Radio 4 on 10 October** at 4.30pm, which is now **available on BBC Sounds**.

The poet concerned, Paul Farley, looks at [what he sees as] the vital connection between poets and birds - particularly apt in a church magazine when he finds himself imagining snipe calls as evocative of a 'creaky, woody kind of church or chapel'.

There are shameless pieces of bird/human anthropological confusion in this piece - 'The lapwings are all up for their interviews' is a nice instance - which you will love or find both tedious and unscientific.

Equally anthropomorphic is the ongoing soliloquy about climate change and its effect on bird populations, but his intimate connection with bird life is absolutely clear when he says he 'the first encounter with a snipe is

just a sudden burst of adrenaline'.

You'll love it or hate it but it's well worth a listen in.



Help Wanted!

There are a number of **roles and jobs** at St Mary's that need replacement staff or additional help. We have taken many far-reaching decisions during the pandemic and hugely expanded our technical demands and much of the experimental stuff has proved very positive.

- More Computer Operators are needed for the Sunday 9.30 service. If you think you could help, please contact Sue Prior (07952 721419)
- Someone with admin skills and time to volunteer on Thursday mornings in the Church Office, from 10am-12, please stop by the Church Office Tuesday to Thursday 10-12noon.
- Is there someone with ability in designing or updating websites? If so, please contact Sue (07952 721419)

Hymn to the H1

The connection here might not be obvious but my growing number of miles walked in lockdown has been enormously expanded and enhanced by rediscovering the **H1 Circular Higham Bus**.

Every walk starting from home - I may not have taken this into account when I recklessly dumped the car - means covering some less than spiritually uplifting pieces of

... and More Stuff To Think About

Rushden, complete with traffic fumes and crowded pavements **before you hit Nature Proper**. The H1 - not to mention its acceptance of Bus Passes - solves this problem in one stroke.

Starting from College St, by the old Ritz Cinema, the near-bottom of Wharf Rd is around 4 minutes away, with easy access over the bridge onwards to Irthingborough or Rushden Lakes, or, by turning right to the River Walk. The same is true of dropping yourself off on the old Stanwick Rd, crossing the bridge over the By Pass and following the old footpath back to Rushden, past the old quarry, through Chelveston and [eventually] to Slater's Lodge.

According to a note on the bus itself there is a rumour that the H1 is due to stop running. **This is just not true!** For me the idea of substituting people travelling singly in cars for half a busload in the neat H1 is a no-brainer!

Expresslines is currently celebrating its **Fiftieth Anniversary** in service. The business has been family run since it started and just this year it has been acquired by **Clapham Cars** who are looking to grow the business and give back to the community.

Their plan is to offer day excursions at a reduced rate to senior citizens, children and practically anyone who has been affected by Covid. There will also be a number of free tickets available on every excursion they offer throughout 2022 on Day Trips covering Brighton, South End, Central London, Cambridge, Oxford, Great Yarmouth and much more.

Growth has meant they are able to offer more vacancies and increase both their team and expertise. There are many jobs currently available that range from drivers and passenger assistants to customer service representatives and mechanical fitters.

For more details and timetables for H1 and the other local buses go to expresslines.co.uk

COP26

Worryingly, ahead of COP26 we hear of leaked documents, seen by BBC News, that show countries like **Saudi Arabia, Japan and Australia** are trying to change the IPCC document - a crucial scientific report that evaluates global warming - by arguing against draft recommendations about the speed of fossil fuel reduction and playing for time. *BBC News*

Tracey Cave

Tracey was born on 23 November 1964 at the Islebrook Hospital in Wellingborough .

Her parents, Jean and Rex, are well known to most of us from church. Rex was a carpenter working with a local firm, and Jean a bank clerk at the National Provincial Bank , until Tracey was born. She was followed in 1968 by Beverley, and they lived in Barnwell Drive in a house which still belongs in the family.



When Beverley was born, Tracey was upset, as the nurse handed the baby to her father when she had been told it was her baby!!! She has clear memories of going to prenatal appointments with her Mum and seeing her go off to hospital in the middle of the night!

Another strong memory as an under-three is of being a bridesmaid to her aunt. Tracey clearly remembers carrying flowers, shaped into a ball, and wearing a long, soft, red velvet dress!

Next door to the family lived Nichola and Germaine Smith, who she saw each day and they all went to Tufty Club together!

Tracey went to the original South End Infants on High Street South and loved the pretend sweet shop in Mrs Spavins' class, and cutting tissue into doilies - in fact ALL the craft lessons, including weaving and cross stitch.

She moved up to the Juniors and remembers learning to play the recorder left-handed. Then it was Whitefriars Junior school, when it first opened in 1973, where she was in the choir and the netball team. Finally she went to Chichele Girls' School, where she made life-long friends. There she developed a life-long passion for family history and got a History A level. She also continued with her music and was in several choirs and music group: she even went to Vienna with the Choir and Youth Orchestra!

Leaving school at eighteen she went to Roehampton University and was awarded a degree in History and Religious Studies. She was also a member of the choir whilst there - but has never joined another since leaving in 1987.

After university she was not sure what she wanted to do as history-based jobs were rare in this area, and by this time she had a fiancé in Rushden [who she'd met at St Mary's YPF].

The first job she was offered was in government accountancy. Her relationship didn't last but her career path did.! She worked briefly with Kettering Borough Council and Northants County Council before getting a job with Wellingborough Council and, since the reorganisation, she is now working for North Northants Council.

After that seven year engagement with the lad from YPF she married Dean, with whom she had twins, Emily and Alice, in 1994.

Sadly they separated in 1998. and during a rebound relationship her daughter Genevieve was born.

Since then Tracey has brought the girls up herself.

Tracey has come to church regularly for big festivals but is now a regular and was recently Baptised during the 9.30 service at St Mary's.

Roving Reporter



Those questions

Biggest Influence

My mother - she has always been there for me

Hobbies

Family history and craft

Guests to dinner?

My family, including my dad and a selection of ancestors, who have led interesting lives

What would you serve?

Roast dinner followed by apple crumble

Favourite Place?

Too difficult to choose but I love my home town - I'm a homebird at heart!

Proudest Moment?

... are all related to my children: degree ceremonies, weddings and a passing-out parade for the Metropolitan Police!

Special Treat?

Afternoon Tea!

Favourite Book of the Bible ?

Job ... Because it reminds us to put our faith and trust in God despite the bad things that happen to us!

More Local News

Rushden and Newton WI

Rushden & Newton Bromswold WI meetings will be held at The **Windmill Club, Glassbrook Road, Rushden** NN10 9 RP at 7.30pm on **Thursdays, 11 November and 9 December**. For the moment they are social meetings.

Look forward to seeing members and new members: come and give us a try. Contact Julia, 01933 317846

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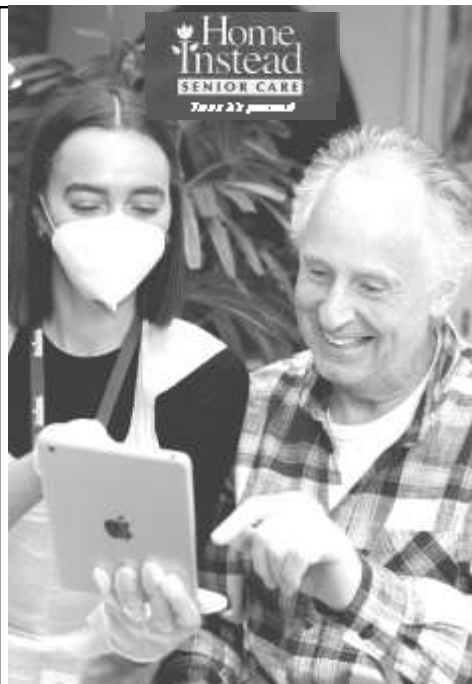
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Looking Back at Parish Magazines

50 years ago

November 1971

PCC Notes

We have purchased a house and found a curate to fit it and now all that remains is to pay for it. Most of the money must come from a loan, obtainable it is hoped from the diocese, which it is intended to repay in five years.

Staff costs money beyond the provision of house and payment of stipend and much of the last meeting was spent in discussing telephone, insurance, etc, connected with Curate 2.

The Rectory gates should prove less of a test of strength to open since the carrying out of repairs.

Following a visit from the Fire Office several other alterations of a minor nature must be made to the fires in the Vestry Hall. D.B.C.

25 years ago

November 1996

Rector's Letter

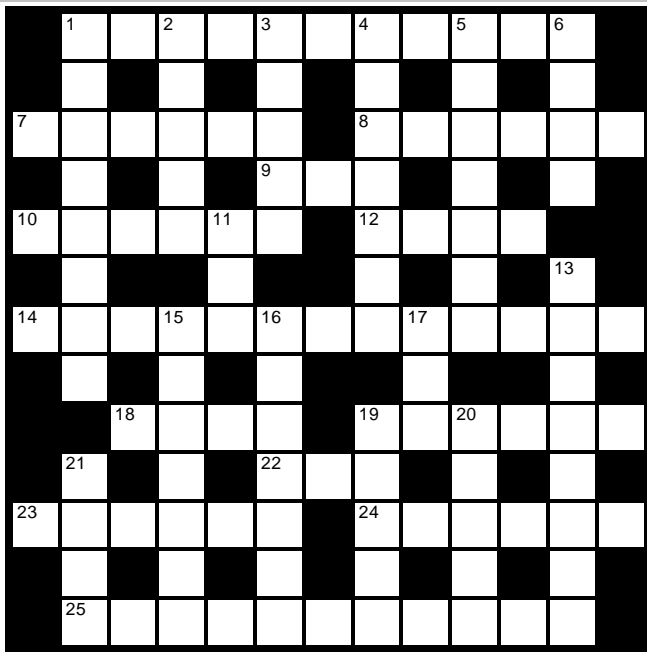
In the St Albans Diocesan Newsletter just recently, the Bishop gave an example of the average job description for a new incumbent. He must be 'a preacher, teacher, communicator, administrator, listener, leader, visitor, encourager, smiler, consoler, someone who can fill the church [preferably with young people] and convert any potential financial shortfall into a profit.' If there is such a person then you have been short-changed! ... My aim has always been to be 'the right person, in the right place, at the right time.'

Rev Alan Smith on leaving Rushden after 13 years as Rector.

Crossword No 383

ACROSS

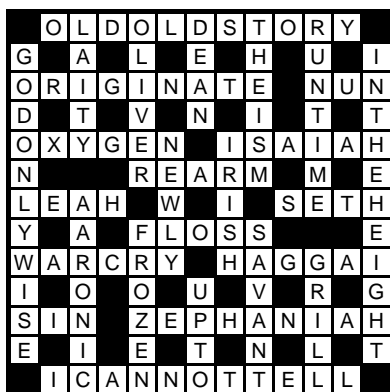
- 1 'Like a -- -- flowing',
(hymn) (6,5)
7 Brother of Simon
Peter (6)
8 Cited (6)
9 Old French coin (3)
10 Name given to
Jacob (6)
12 Fleur-de-lis (4)
14 September 29th
(10,3)
18 Egg on (4)
19 '-- Jesus, meek and
mild', (hymn) (6)
22 Spoil (3)
23 Horse-drawn
carriage (6)
24 The man (anag.)
(6)
25 'Lord of all --', (hymn) (11)



DOWN

- 1 Solitary and celibate (8)
2 Italy's largest lake (5)
3 Drying cloth (5)
4 -- mass (7)
5 Fiddles (7)
6 Regretted (4)
11 Aeon (3)
13 Unending (8)
15 Stimulated (5,2)
16 Aural covering (7)
17 Hail (3)
19 Holy platter (5)
20 Saltpetre (5)
21 Home of Goliath (4)

Solution to No 382





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Mission Matters - Financial Update

November 2021

At this time of the year, we like to inform you about all the contributions St Mary's has made to our Mission Partners at home and abroad. We give a 10% tithe of our Church's General Income which means this year we will distribute over £9,024 to our five mission partners.

During the year Brian and Val Hodgkin retired from Wycliffe Bible Translators and as a result the tithes have been allocated as follows:

25% to CPAS

20% to Tearfund

25% to CMS - to support our new Mission partners Lea and Petra Williams for their work in Brno, Czech Republic. We were introduced to them at our services on 29 August 2021.

15% to Langham Partnership

15% to Church Army

The Good Friday collections this year raised £159 and will be donated to CMJ.

The Mission Quiz sheets are available at a cost of £1 each, and the majority this year are being distributed by email, or sold in person after the services.

The Harvest collection raised £326.29 which was donated to Tearfund.

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

Martin Compton



UK AND IRELAND
Langham
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Wycliffe
Bible
Translators



Belfry Gossip

We have settled back in nicely again and **our brains are now working better** and we are looking to ring some different methods too. We are hoping there will be some half-muffled ringing for Remembrance this year.

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

The Peterborough Guild held a successful **Summer Festival meeting at Thrapston**. The weather was nice so we could gather in the churchyard when not ringing. After a period of open ringing, instead of the normal inter-branch Striking competition, a friendly one took place instead. Four teams were drawn at random from the assembled ringers and their striking was judged by Simon with assistance from Toby Bence.

Following the competition, a meeting was held in the hall, during which a message was read out from the **Bishop of Peterborough** (Guild patron) welcoming us back to ringing.

A report about the recent Central Council of Ringers meeting was given; grants from the Bell Fund awarded (to Earls Barton, East Hunsbury, Pattishall & Wollaston) and 50-year membership certificates presented (one to Pam), and then the result of the friendly competition announced - Team 2 best. There was also plenty of opportunity to catch up with friends again after the long layoff.

The Wellingborough Branch held ringing meetings at Mears Ashby and Rushden. It was nice to see so many ringers in the morning. The evening ringing was not so well attended but nevertheless it was a good start to having meetings again.

Tintinnabulum



Church Diary

November

- 2 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Craft Group: a Christmas Project**, Church Hall,
- 4 **Thursday: 7.00pm - The Snow Goose by Paul Gallico:** a Northamptonshire Community Foundation event at St Mary's. Tickets £3 from fabulaarts.co.uk or on the door.
- 9 **Tuesday: 7.30 - 8.45pm - Christian Institute Meeting at Warboys Baptist Church** - for more detail see p 13
- 11 **Thursday: 7.30pm - Rushden & Newton Bromswold WI, meeting** at The Windmill Club, see p 22
- 23 **Tuesday: 12.30-2.00pm on Zoom: DEF [Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship] Members' Prayer Meeting.** Lay people and clergy are both warmly encouraged to join. Details from Andrew Presland - 01933 316927 or andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com
- 20 **Saturday: 9.30am-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** - Church Hall
- 27 **Saturday: 9.30-3.30pm - Children's Craft Day** - Church Hall: Join us for a day of crafts, activities and fun, while we explore what Christmas is all about. Open to all primary school aged children. Costs: 1st child = £10, Siblings = £5. Lunch provided.
- 27 **Saturday: 7.30pm - Fynnius Fogg.** Rotary Club of Rushden at The Goods Shed, Rushden Station. Tickets at £10 from Osbornes, Rushden and Sidey Design, Higham.

December

- 3 **Friday: 2.00pm onwards - Making Christingles for Christingle** - see p11
- 4 **Saturday: 2.00pm - Christingle Service at St Mary's**
- 7 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Craft Group:** Church Hall
- 9 **Thursday: 7.30pm - Rushden & Newton Bromswold WI, meeting** at The Windmill Club, see p 22
- 20 **Monday: 7.30pm - Carol Singing at The Swan, Newton.**

Forward Planning

- 22 **January 2022: 7.00-10.00pm - The Northampton Male Voice Choir [Lite] with Elli McAspurn.** Tickets £12 from Sidey Design Higham Ferrers

Services in Church - November 2021



St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 7 November - 23rd Sunday after Trinity - Faithfulness

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

Sunday 14 November - 24th Sunday after Trinity - Gentleness

9.30am	All Age Service	10.45	Act of Remembrance followed by Holy Communion
10.55am	Cenotaph Service		
11.30am	Morning Prayer: Remembrance		

Please note this service follows the Cenotaph Service and is timed accordingly

Sunday 21 November - 25th Sunday after Trinity - Self Control

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

Sunday 28 November - First Sunday of Advent

9.30am	All Age Service		
11.15am	Advent Praise	11.00am	Family Holy Communion

Midweek Service in St Mary's Church

Thursdays November 4, 11, 18, 25 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: search or go to stmaryschurchrushden.org for the links

— The Back Page —

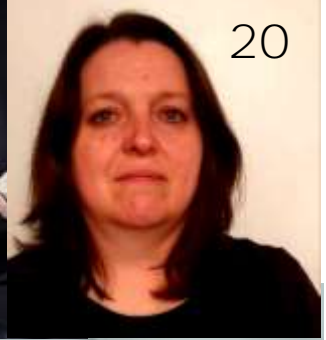
4



11



20



18



Lest we forget