

february 2022

Fruits Growing in God's Love ©Parish Pump 2022



grapevine

50p

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

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grapevine

February 2022



February is difficult for many of us: Spring seems a long way away: it's too dark and cold and dreary and we're still in a kind of jet-lag from trying our best to find ways of celebrating Christmas, appropriate to Covid-times.

I'm with Richard Ormston's appeal [p15] to 'get over' Christmas and celebrate Candlemas - the time [he characterised] when Jesus 'finds his voice' and 'changes the landscape of our existence'.

Which is exactly what planning for, and appointing a new incumbent is all about. We are all, perhaps, looking for something/someone slightly different: but we do need to pray that we at least have choices, and that the result of all these deliberations is that we appoint the person who God truly means for us. And the best we can do about that is coming to any or all of the Prayer Meetings scheduled in the Diary on p30.

The future may well mean 'changing the landscape of our existence.' That's rarely a bad thing!
Jude Curtis, Editor

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Items for the
March 2022 edition should
be sent by

Sunday 13 February

preferably by email to:
missjudecurtis@btinternet.com

Ron writes . . .

Dear Friends,

It's Coming Soon!

That day when we all run to the front door to see if the postman has left a card – and whether we can guess which heartthrob it has come from!



I have tried to discover what I can about St Valentine. It seems that there may have been several. Two St Valentines were both martyred during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius. Since both these are remembered on February 14, it is difficult to know which has become the patron saint of romance.

Romance is one of God's gifts. It reminds us that we cannot be complete human beings, except through relating to others. This applies to us all: whether single or married. It is the quality of our friendships and relationships that makes us human.

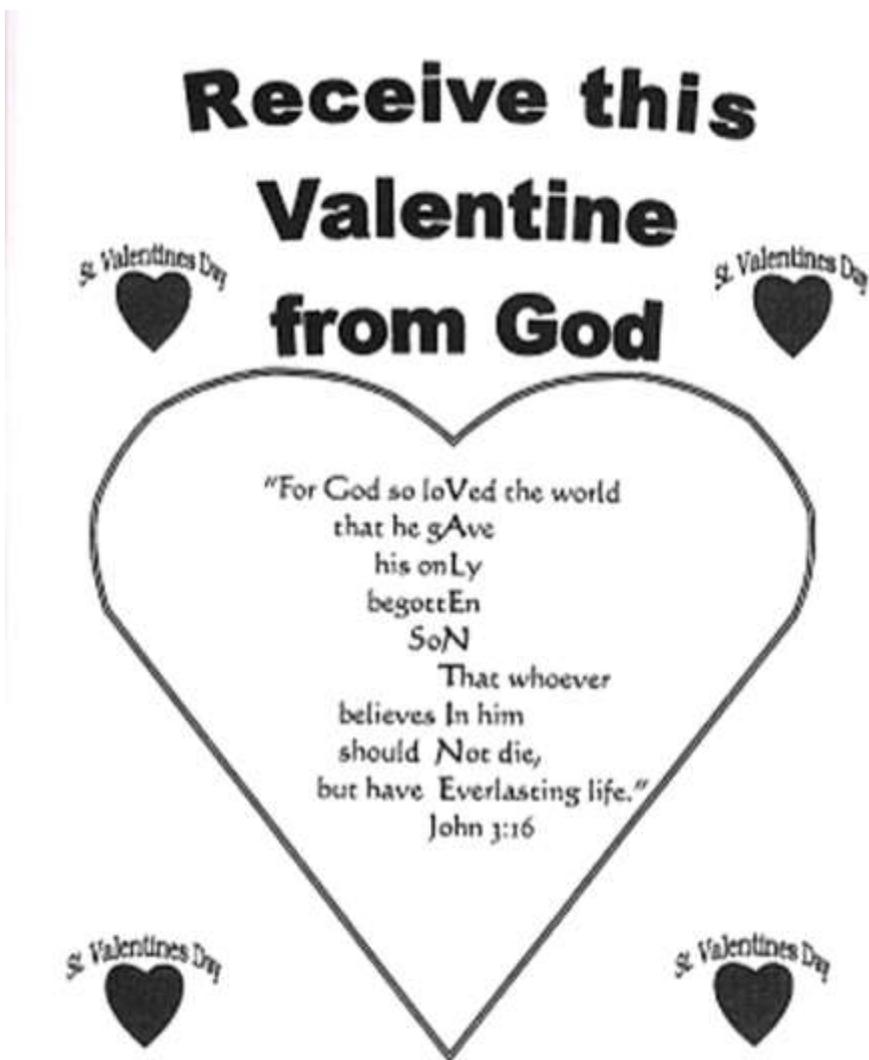
So as St Valentine's Day approaches it is a good opportunity to take another look at our wife or husband or relative or friend. It is very easy to take them for granted, to assume that we know how the other person thinks or feels and so not to take the trouble to ask them; and then to assume that they know how you think and feel and so not bother to tell them, and then complain that you're always misunderstood!

Good relationships depend on communicating – and this is true of the greatest relationship of all, the Romance between God and us. It can be a stormy Romance, it can involve misunderstandings. That's why it's important that we communicate and tell him how we think and feel; and listen to Him tell us how *He* thinks and feels, and discover that He really loves each of us - that each of us is the apple of His eye.

One of my favourite passages from the Bible is this verse from John's first letter. "We love because He first loved us" [1John 4.19].

Let us discover that first Love: the Love Jesus brought us, the Love that took Him to the Cross, the Love that is always there, waiting for us to realise it, waiting for us to respond, because our hearts are filled to bursting with Love for Him.

Ron Elverson



The trouble with Wood Pigeons . . .



The trouble with wood pigeons is they all tend to look the same. Well, one of my yard habitués, Silva, is different, but so different that I think he's become either the victim of avian racism, or lunch for a passing red kite. I haven't seen him for a month or two. You may remember from an earlier Editorial he/she - another visual mystery with wood pigeons - had a lot of pink, white, brown speckles, and other variations. You could see him/her a mile off. I've missed the chance, sadly, to catch 'it' on camera.

I've tried hard to compensate by trying to distinguish between the other habitués: all wood pigeons: - therefore all named Tonto. I've spent happy hours monitoring their behaviour in the hope that this will provide distinguishing characteristics in lieu of different feathered livery. Perhaps their approach to, and techniques of, sipping water from Granddad's bird bath, or dismembering a suet treat, are relevant? So far this has produced few clues but hours of pleasure leaning on the balcony rail as far away from my PC as possible.

The bottom line is - they are all birds. Their behaviour is in their DNA and developed from millennia of selective choices in order to survive and thrive. They share their success stories in their appearance: physical adjustments to make the best of their environment, skeletal structure, wing span, longevity, reproductive success and flexibility of diet.

Like humans, any individual wood pigeon is primarily 'bird' - with all that implies - and only secondly an individual. This is an inalienable truth in the heads of [most] wood pigeons, but not in humans if the current state of the world is anything to go by.

The temptation is that we only have to spot another human being to start breaking them down into components: sex, age, race, hair colour, skin colour, visible affluence/poverty, dress code, visible aggression and take it from there. Once we add less-visual 'facts' to the mix we probably add in education, status, address and house size . . . We've already done the cataloguing on past experience and acquired prejudice as to whether this is friend or enemy. I don't think this makes us more discerning than other species - just more comprehensively divisive.

I was struck this week by the fairly long list of proposed laws sent up from the Commons and dramatically defeated by the House of Lords. In particular, I noted, the attention being paid to adding another sub-division to the general label of 'Hate Crime'. The question was whether crimes against women - ie expressing and acting on misogyny - should have a separate listing.

Doesn't this rather miss the point? Particularly for any Christian!

Isn't the issue here, surely, that 'hating' people - **all** people - is bad in itself. Does it really help to portion up the world into labelled groups, rather than address our underlying inability to cooperate with, live along side, and ultimately love one another?

It won't surprise you that it was the influence of something I'd recently read that prompted my response. It wasn't that I didn't know this already: it's just that sometimes books underline what you already know. In this case it was Nnedi Okorafor's *Who Fears Death?* that hammered home the connection.

This is a tough book to read. It is meant as fantasy but draws so strongly on the reality and tragedy of life in parts of Africa at the moment that it's hard to remember this. I was totally confused for the first 200 pages, particularly by that fudging together of contemporary novel with fantasy. So much so I was ready to give up. I took, instead, quite a long break. When I gave it a fresh shot it suddenly began to make sense. It strongly addresses this business of perceiving the world as made up of distinct groups of people, rather than 'humans' and the sadness and violence that springs from that. In particular, divisions in the world portrayed in the book are determined by factors as diverse as skin colour and being one of twins. It speaks from the place where a human being can feel both inside and outside a society at the same time because of others' perception of them as 'different'.

The end of the book, where the central character feels herself taken to pieces then put back together again by the 'Creator', was much easier to identify with!

Jude Curtis, Editor

* Nnedi Okorafor, *Who Fears Death?* (London: Harper Voyager, 2018)

St Mary's News

From the Registers

Funerals

Monday 20 December 2021

Margaret Clarke

Tuesday 21 December 2021

Sylvia Joy Weeks

St Mary's Church Office is now regularly open on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00 to 12 noon.** We ask you, please: still be alert to current Covid regulations and avoid gathering inside the office.

PCC Meeting - December 2021

Fifteen members were present at the PCC on **7 December 2021**, held in the lower vestry hall. There was no meeting in January.

- Marion Bates gave her usual informative report on **Church Finances** and although we have been through difficult times with reduced giving due to Covid restrictions, we are in a fairly comfortable position financially.
- The committee made some important decisions, including agreeing to looking into employing a **cleaner for the halls** and **continued prayer** for the parish profile and future incumbent.

Flower Rotas

February 2022

Behind the Communion Table

6 Barbara Coxon

13 Julie West

20 Cynthia Brown

27 Ann Harris

Note for arrangers: *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.*

Memorial Chapel

There are no flowers this month: if you would like to give flowers in memory of loved ones please contact Brenda Dixon: 01933 358982

- **Helen, as our youth and family worker**, has done a sterling job in organising various activities for children and their parents and we hope to build on that good work.
- As an experiment, for this coming year our **PCC meetings will be reduced to six**, that is every two months.
- The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 1 February at 7.30pm in the Lower Church Hall.**

Jennie Bone, PCC Secretary

St Mary's News

Craft and Coffee

The next craft and coffee meeting is on Tuesday 1 February, 10.00 to 12 noon in the Church Hall. Admission is £1.50 which includes refreshments and watching the demonstration.



This month we have a **Valentine theme** and will be making hearts, for which there will be a small charge for materials. Everyone is welcome. For more information give Lynne a call on 01933 353655 or email lynne@lateralflow.co.uk



St Mary's Ladies' Group

The Ladies Group is on course to start again on **Wednesday 9 March** at 2.15pm in the Church Hall. This meeting will have a very short AGM and then Linnet has very kindly

agreed to come and speak. Her talks are always well worth hearing. The programme and prayer cards will be available at this meeting so I would urge our members to come along. It would be lovely to see everyone again and I hope and pray that we will be able to continue our meetings in the future. *Cynthia*

Advance Notice

World Day of Prayer in 2022 will be held in **St Mary's Church, Rushden** at **2.00pm on Friday 4 March** - **Please put the date in your diary now!**

Mission Quiz

Thank you to all who entered the 2021 Mission Quiz. **£337 was raised for Mission Funds.** Congratulations to the winners: Sue Starling, Pat Wadsworth and Graham Chilton.

For full answers and list of fully correct entries go to p13.

Thank You!

Many, many thanks for the cards and presents we received on the occasion of our **Platinum [70th] Wedding Anniversary.** We are really grateful.

Sheila and Derek Tansley

News continues over the page ...

St Mary's News cont . . .



Christmas Collection

The Open Plate collections and money donated for signing **The Big Christmas Card** raised **£343.60** which has been sent to ENCS for the work of the Food Bank and homeless projects.

Helen Smedley has now ended her time on the staff at St Mary's. We are so grateful for her enthusiasm, imagination and the myriad other initiatives and contributions she has made to the life of the church, both as Intern and Children and Family Worker and wish her very well for the next stage of her life - hopefully still as part of the St Mary's congregation.



World Day of Prayer

WDP this year is on **Friday 4 March at 2.00pm in St Mary's Church, Rushden**. It's open to anyone in the Community. We would love to see many of you joining us this time.



Monthly event for dads, stepdads, granddads or male carers and their younger children [0-6 yrs]. Children enjoy a range of toys including bouncy castle, sit-on cars and inflatable ball pool.

Saturday 19 February

9.30am—12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

Adults £5: children free

Just turn up!

Refreshments will be served in the church hall after the service. The title this year is '**I know the plans I have for you**' and has been prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We would also like some help, especially giving out the service booklets on the day. If you can help: talk to Helen Allan.

Thank you ... To everyone who donated at the **Christingle Service** in December. Over £150 was raised for **The Children's Society** and

St Mary's News cont . . .

... thanks too for taking part in **John's Quiz** which raised £285 for the Society.

There were **three winners with 99 points** who received £10 each. Winners were **Mrs M Bates, Northants, Mrs S Smith, Bucks and Mr D Walsh from Bristol.**

John's new Quiz titled 'There's No Place Like Home' is now on sale. Price £1 from Anne Riley, Pam Bailey, Mary Hadley and Joy Holloway on 01933 318415.

News from the Czech Republic - Our Partners in Mission: **Lea & Petra Williams**, working in Brno, with the Church **Mission Society**, tell us that they and the children have now recovered from Covid.

They have got to know local Christians and are praying that the Lord will provide a worship space, which can be used on weekdays as well as on Sundays. Let's join them in trusting him to do this, as we thank him for all his blessings.

Sue Eagles



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"

Newton News

Flower Rota - Altar Flowers

6 February – June Clarke

Jean Perry

It is with great sadness that we learnt Mrs Jean Perry, a former active member of our church, died peacefully at her home on the 13 December 2021.

Jean left Newton Church to move to Spain to live, and later returned to Northamptonshire

Helen Lines

Good to know

Rushden and Newton WI

The next meeting will be at **The Windmill Club, Glassbrook Rd, Rushden, NN10 9RP at 7:30 pm on Thursday 10 February**. The speaker will be from the charity **Babybasics**.

On Thursday 10 March the speaker is yet to be announced, but Visitors are always welcome, please come along and give us a try! Contact is Julia: 01933 317846

Online Shopping Safety Guide

- Avoid clicking on sponsored links or adverts in search results.
- Check the web address carefully to ensure you visit the genuine website.

- Do not rely entirely on product or online store reviews as these could be faked.
- Avoid social media posts offering vouchers, coupons and discounts unless verified.
- Use a different strong password for each account.
- A great way of making a strong password is by combining three random words.
- Never share account passwords with anyone no matter who they claim to be.
- Consider using a reputable password manager if you have multiple accounts.
- Minimize the personal information you supply when setting up a store account.
- Use a credit card or trusted payment provider when making an online purchase.
- Never accept requests to pay by bank transfer vouchers or PayPal friends & family.
- Always remember to sign out of your online shopping accounts.
- Close old or dormant online accounts that you no longer use.

Christine MacKenzie



Winners & answers of the Mission Quiz 2021

1 Abusive 2 Advance 3 Ambushed 4 Babushka 5 Bacardi 6 Bon vivant 7 Business 8 Cambuslang 9 Colobus 10 Columbus.

11 Combustion 12 'Dam Busters' 13 Debussy 14 Descartes 15 Disadvantage 16 Divan 17 'Don Carlos' 18 Donovan 19 Erebus 20 Escargot.

21 Evangel 22 Evans 23 Filibuster 24 Gallivant 25 Havana 26 Incubus 27 Levantine 28 Macaroni 29 Nicaragua 30 Nimbus.

31 Observant 32 Ocarina 33 Oscar 34 Pavane 35 Red-carpet 36 Reincarnation 37 Robusta 38 Rosebush 39 Savanna 40 Savant.

41 Scarborough 42 Scarlet 43 Strip cartoon 44 Uncaring 45 'Uncle Vanya' 46 Vanessa 47 Vanilla 48 Vicarage 49 Woodcarver 50 Yerevan.

I allowed the following alternative answers (some reluctantly):-

1 Abusing 2 Strombus 22 Bevan 38 Saltbush 44 Careless or Carefree 47 Caramel.

I could not accept: Combusting for A burning which is combustion.

Carmunnock is south of Glasgow whereas Cambuslang is southeast of Glasgow.

Savannah with an H which is too long.

One lady when clearing her late mother's house found the quiz part completed. She finished it and scored 50.

I must thank Susan Perkins of Higham Ferrers for selling a large number of quizzes all over the UK. I had 33 entries from Scotland.

We raised £337, slightly more than last year's record. Of the 179 entries 59 were all-correct, 27 with 49 and a half and 31 with 49 marks.

The winners are Sue Starling, Dereham, Pat Wadsworth, Frome and Graham Chilton, Rushden.

Other all-correct entries were received from:-

M Allan, Mrs Pat Allen, Andrew Ashenhurst, Pam Bailey, D Banks, Marion Bates, Mrs I Beedham, Helen Bromfield, Chris Brougham, Joan Caplen, Yvonne Chittleburgh, Jeanne Clark, Liz & Martin Cromwell, Charles Crosbie, Gina Crouch, Mary Crouch, Kathryn Dale, Valerie Downie, Ena Edwards, Eileen Foxcroft, Richard Freeman, Barry Fryer, Mrs S Gordon, Mrs J Hardy, Chris Hoskin, Diane Humble, Mrs M Hutton, Judy Jackson, Sheila McGregor, Marion McGregor, Gill MacKinnon, Patricia MacPherson, Mrs J Mitchell, David Nash, Karen Neyler, Mrs M Neill, Helen Ougham, Mrs V Parsons, Mrs LK Porter, Mrs S Powell, Jean Redsell, Ms K Reid, Chris Richardson, CW Saul, Eric Savory, Mrs E Scott, Dorothy Smith, Jeanne Spackman, IS Spinks, Mrs J Still, Brian Stone, KW Titmuss, AP & LV Townend, Mrs P Turpin, Margaret Westwood and Jean & David Winfield.

Peter Chamberlain

Good to know . . .

ENCS

Vote at a local Tesco store for funding for ENCS!



Until 31 March, a customer vote is taking place in six local Tesco stores to give shoppers a chance to vote for funding for equipment for the new day centre for homeless people in Church Street, Rushden.

They are the **Wellingborough Superstore**, and 3 **Express stores** in Wellingborough, as well as **Rushden**.

ENCS needs 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 food bank and homeless accommodation

Café volunteers – as mentioned previously, we are hoping to open our 'café' at our new premises (19 to

21 Church Street, Rushden) 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.

Ridley Hall

As part of its lay ministry training, **Ridley Hall, Cambridge, is now running training in sports ministry**, for people who may be called to work as Christians within the world of sport, whether in a church setting or the wider community. A lot of the training is provided online, so that learning can be done flexibly, to fit in with people's circumstances. Do you know anyone who may be interested in this? Details are available at <https://www.ridley.cam.ac.uk/lay-ministry/your-calling/sports-ministry>.



Changing the Landscape

As we reach Candlemas on 2nd February we finally wave a fond farewell to Christmas and Epiphany and all that goes with the great season of celebration. At this point, Jesus begins to move from childhood to adulthood and the bulk of the gospels to do with his life and death and resurrection unfold through the following pages. **After Candlemas Jesus finds his voice.** We have so much to look forward to at this time of the church's year. The lectionary between Candlemas and Good Friday and then Easter through to Pentecost and beyond speaks of the Jesus who changes the landscape of our lives. Indeed, he changes the landscape of history.

A less significant 'February event' happened on 6th February 1783. Lancelot Brown died. Who? Lancelot Brown? He was a gardener. A gardener? He was England's greatest landscape gardener. Really? But we remember him by another name. We call him Capability Brown. Ah yes. If you walk through Burghley Park in Stamford, you see the handiwork of Capability Brown. Or if you want to travel further, try Blenheim Palace or Stowe or Chatsworth. In these grand surroundings you will see the work of the great Capability Brown. He was called 'Capability' because of his habit of describing the great 'capabilities' of his clients' landscapes. On a website dedicated to him, it says this:

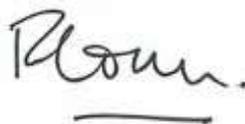
Lancelot 'Capability' Brown changed the face of eighteenth century England, designing country estates and

mansions, moving hills and making flowing lakes and serpentine rivers, a magical world of green.



He moved hills and made flowing lakes.
He changed the landscape.

Jesus, through his death on the cross and his resurrection from the tomb, changes the landscape of our existence. We no longer drag the accusing weight of the past behind us. We are forgiven by his grace and given hope and a future. Jesus looks at your life and sees great capabilities. It may be February and we may be surrounded by a pandemic – but that is great news.



Richard Ormston
Archdeacon of Northampton

Diocese of Peterborough – Magazine Resource – February 2022

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Book Review



***Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer [SCM Press]**

This is not a new book. It was written in Germany in 1938 as a guide for students preparing for ordination, but it was soon widely recognised as a devotional classic within the wider church.

The English translation was first published in 1954. I read it for the first time over forty years ago, and encountered the treasures it contains. Reading it again more recently, I sense that its teaching on the church as a community is as relevant today as it was forty years ago, as, indeed, when it was written, as the clouds of war threatened Europe in 1938.

It poses many enduring, testing questions to faithful Christians, and provides deep insights into how they may be answered. I find it enlightening and full of challenge and I hope you will too.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was an eminent theologian in Germany. During the rise of the Nazi party he was head of a seminary where he taught pastors within the 'Confessing Church', many of whom went on to witness - often at great personal

cost - against the evils of the Hitler regime.

Bonhoeffer was martyred for his courageous witness in April 1945.

The theme of this book is community. The opening paragraph quotes Psalm 133.1 - "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity".

Under the headings of Community; The day with others; The day alone; Ministry; Confession and Communion, Bonhoeffer addresses key facets of what living together consists of in a Christ-centred community.

A couple of quotations can give a brief glimpse of the challenging nature of Bonhoeffer's book.

For example, "Jesus lived in the midst of his enemies... so the Christian too belongs not in the seclusion of a cloistered life but in the thick of foes".

Also "The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship is listening to them... many people

are looking for an ear that will listen... Christians are talking when they should be listening... he who can no longer listen to his brother will soon no longer be listening to God” .

If you would like to know more about Bonhoeffer himself, there is an excellent biography by Eric Metaxas - *Bonhoeffer* - published by Nelson, which is highly recommended.

Tony Smith



Helen's electric-powered chasuble was the envy of everyone

LAST MINUTE

Lent Studies

Lent is fast approaching. **Ash Wednesday is 2 March. Embrace The Middle East** have launched their usual series of **Lent Reflections** which can be accessed for free by signing up on their website - embraceme.org.

The **printed Lent Study Guide - Days to Lament** - is also available from the Embrace Shop on the same website, which offers more in depth exploration of the weekly themes and costs £2.

Cover Illustration

If you're wondering about this: as a church we have been studying and considering the Fruits of the Spirit for a few months now. It has been the focus of a number of sermons. The references given in this representation are slightly different from the 'Fruit of the Spirit' Life Builder Study book that Home Groups have been using this year and last, but the message is basically the same. All the characteristics here come together in one tree.

Meet the Congregation - Helen Allan

Helen arrived during Advent, on 23 December 1953, in Devonport, Plymouth. She was the middle child of three, born to parents Margaret and Francis Jago. Her father worked as a civil servant in Devonport Dockyard.

Helen says she had a lovely and happy childhood, spending a lot of time with her Nan, learning to cook and knit, both of which she loved!

She attended Whitleigh primary school, then went on to Stoke Damerel High School. There she enjoyed Domestic Science and Maths. Memories of school include playing games in the rooftop playground, and watching the odd netball going over a very high fence into the streets below.

Leaving school at sixteen she went to Catering College and, once qualified, became a chef, and then manager in several different types of establishment.

During her first marriage she had three sons who wanted to attend Sunday School with their friends. This eventually involved her in Church life and she became a Christian.

Years later, Helen looked to God for a challenge, and this saw her moving to the Carlisle Diocesan Retreat Centre at Rydal Hall, where she worked as Assistant Manager and Chef. It was challenging work but very rewarding.

Eventually she moved south to Emmaus Village, Carlton, working there for eleven years and becoming Manager after the first year. Again: challenging but rewarding.

During her time at Emmaus she met and married Garry: the wedding was in 2010 at St Mary's Church, Carlton - a very memorable event. Between them they have a large family of children and grandchildren.

Intending to retire after her stint at Emmaus, and moving house to Higham, she went to work for East Northants Community Services [ENCS], which, as we know, supports Recovery House, the Night Shelter and the Food Bank. She finally retired in 2019.

Now she has time for Indoor Green Bowling, gardening and walking with their lovely dog, Annie.

Helen joined St Mary's Church in 2016. She has gradually become involved in the Pastoral Care Team, helping in a mentoring capacity and helping out at the Thursday T&C sessions.

She loves the welcome and fellowship she's found at St Mary's

Roving Reporter



Good to know . . .

Peterborough Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship (DEF) - members' prayer meeting

from 12.30 to 2pm on **Thursday 3 February** on Zoom, focusing this time on involvement in schools (including non-church schools) and lay ministry in the Diocese. Lay people and clergy are both warmly encouraged to join.

Details from Andrew Presland (01933 31927 or andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com)

"The knitting circle are playing their part in our heating efficiency programme."

Before & after

Potted History of the Churchyard Workers

Written By Fred Bass - March 2000

About 33 years ago when three of our church members retired from work, they volunteered to tidy up the churchyard, especially just inside the back entrance to the car park as this was very overgrown with nettles and weeds. They then planted two trees, a crab apple, which died last year and a Prunus near the tool shed, this was finished the year before I started as verger.

They continued to come and help me when I needed it. When I had a holiday one of them would unlock the church at 8 in the morning, if there was anything that needed to be done, he would attend to it, then go home leaving the church unlocked until he came back at 5 o'clock to lock up. They also covered for weddings and funerals. As they got older and stopped coming, more newly retired men replaced them. Some years ago, the men decided that they would come every Wednesday, so they became known as the Wednesday Men.

Now we include ladies in the team if any would like to volunteer. We now mainly look after the rose bushes and flower beds and my wife grows most of the bedding plants. There are now over 3,000 hyacinth bulbs in the churchyard that have all come from two dozen bulbs which we had in our garden at home nearly 40 years ago.

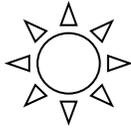
We are now hoping to get the Archdeacon's permission to plant the Millennium Yew Tree in the south west corner of the churchyard near The Wheatsheaf. This has been propagated from the Crowhurst Yew, Surrey which is estimated to be 4,000 years old.

We hold a coffee morning when we need money for replacement roses and other necessities. People often ask us when we are having another one so that they can come and show their appreciation.



The Gardeners

... & after



from the 2021
gardeners

Not much has changed in the churchyard as my wife now grows most of the bedding plants, the yew tree they set is still growing but the Prunus is no longer there as it became poorly with a fungus. We don't hold coffee mornings any more but perhaps that would be an idea for the future. Robert Bates



Today's 'boys' left to right:
Mick Hadley, Robert Bates,
Peter Coxen & Tony Coles

1970s and left to right are Bob
Craddock, Ralph Jolley and
Albert Barnes. Note the 'collar & tie'
dress code.



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Looking Back at Parish Magazines

50 years ago

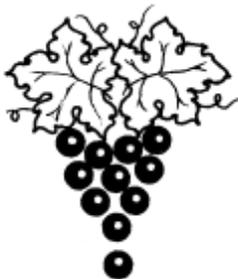
February 1972

News from the Organisations

The Young Wives Fellowship will hold their annual dinner on Thursday February 3rd at the Westward Hotel at 8.0pm. Our monthly Coffee morning will be at 42 Portland Road on Tuesday February 8th from 10.0am.

From the Diocesan Magazine

2 Scholarships of £400 each are available for the daughters of clergymen at St Mary's Hall, Brighton, an independent school of 350 pupils [founded in 1836]. Full details from the Headmistress



25 years ago

February 1997

Holthorpe Hop

You are invited to the Holthorpe Hop on St Valentine's Day, Friday 14th February. The evening takes place from 7.30pm to late in St Mary's Church Hall and includes hot food and a disco of music from the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s with DJ Gary Wright. It will also provide an opportunity to find out a bit more about the parish Houseparty on 11th to 13th April and to meet people who are going. ... But there's no obligation to sign up!

Tickets for the evening cost £3 each and are available from Chris Brett [St Mary's], Quentin Chandler [St Peter's], Chris Beckhurst [Whitefriars] and Bill and Val Cummins [Newton].

Crossword No 385

ACROSS

1 St. --, Italian monk (8)

5 Jezebel's husband (4)

8 Account of a late person (8)

9 Country mentioned in Genesis 14:1 (4)

11 'God moves in a -- way', (hymn) (10)

14 -- Mary (6)

15 Second Coming (6)

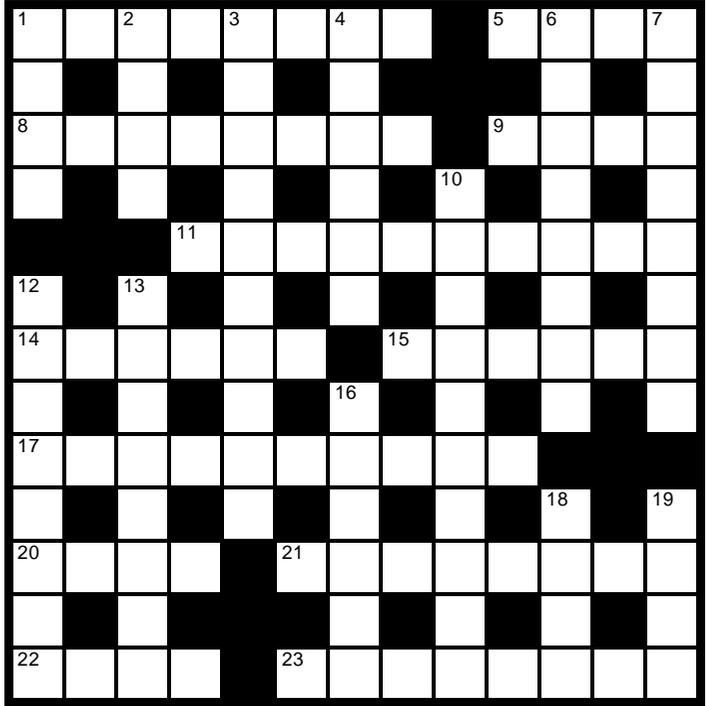
17 Lecturing on standards (10)

20 Peruse (4)

21 One of the clergy (8)

22 Dull pain (4)

23 'How --, how --', (carol) (8)



Solution to No 384

DOWN

1 Leviticus eg (4)

2 Tack (4)

3 An English RC translation of Scriptures (5,5)

4 Junior cleric (6)

6 Holy (8)

7 Area laid waste by air-raid (8)

10 Ride in tent (anag.), orthodox RC (10)

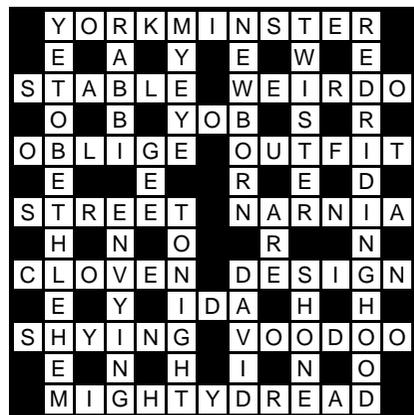
12 Hail Mary (3,5)

13 -- smokies (8)

16 St. Francis of -- (6)

18 Let it stand (4)

19 Ask on one's knees (4)





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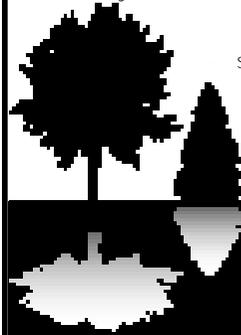
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Belfry Gossip

We continue to ring for Services and practices, and everyone's ringing is still improving following the enforced lay off. Also we rang a Quarter peal for the Carol Service before Christmas, which was a treat because it is now more difficult to get enough ringers together.

To welcome the new year Simon invited some extra ringing friends to join him to enable a peal to be rung here on a Tuesday evening. This was successful - thanks everyone.

The Wellingborough Branch have now had several meetings: these being at Irthlingborough (8 bells), Wollaston (6), Stanwick (6), and held its AGM at Irchester (8).

A quiz was held at Earls Barton, with seven teams taking part. After 120 questions, the teams from Bozeat and Rushden tied for a joint first place. Well done everyone.

At the AGM at Irchester more the thirty ringers enjoyed an afternoon of ringing followed by a Service, tea and the meeting. Following the minutes of last year's Zoom AGM, New members and Quarter peal certificates were presented, before the year 2021 was reviewed, with reports of the ringing activities since the pandemic restrictions were eased, the financial situation and maintenance assistance given.

Nominations were then made for Guild officers in readiness for the Peterborough Guild AGM in June and Branch Officers were elected - we still retain three St Mary's ringers.

A proposed program of events for this year was accepted and news and other information from around the branch were given. Thanks to everyone for coming concluded the meeting.

We soon hold our tower AGM, and the next Peterborough Guild 10-bell practice. More about these next time.

Tintinnabulum



Mission Matters

On a scale of 1 to 10, how much does mission really matter to us?

As Christians, we are familiar with “The Great Commission”. Jesus commands his church in every generation to “Make disciples of all nations.” [Please read these important verses below]

As members of St. Mary’s Church, Rushden in 2022, how are we doing?

You probably know that every year we allocate our church tithe and a number of other donations to the work of mission. News of our Mission Partners and their ministries is shared in various ways, and we bring their needs to God in our prayers. We encourage church members to attend local area Church Mission Society meetings, and, from time to time, we are able to enjoy fellowship with our Link missionaries as they come to speak to us.

Would you agree, though, that, at times, it can be far too easy to be preoccupied with our own immediate concerns and let them take precedence over our commitment to mission? Do we always love our mission partners and those to whom God has sent them as we love ourselves? Do we intercede for them faithfully in a way that honours and delights him?

I am challenged by my own questions, and maybe you are too. I pray that, as a church and individually, we may reassess our response to “The Great Commission”, and that God will lead us forward, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit and encouraged by Jesus’ promise - “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Sue Eagles

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28. 18-20

Church Diary

February

- 1 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Craft Group** meets in the Church Hall, with coffee [or tea]. More on p9
Tuesday: 7.30pm - PCC Meeting, in the Lower Church Hall.
- 2 **Wednesday: 10.30-11.00am - Prayer Meeting in Church**
- 3 **Thursday: 12.30-2.00pm - Peterborough DEF, Members Prayer Meeting** on Zoom. More details and access on p20
- 9 **Wednesday: 10.30-11.00am - Prayer Meeting in Church**
Wednesday: 7.00pm - Prayer Meeting in Church
- 16 **Wednesday: 10.30-11.00am - Prayer Meeting in Church**
- 19 **Saturday: 9.30-12 noon - *Who Let The Dads Out?***, in the Church Hall: see Box on p10
- 23 **Wednesday: 10.30am - Prayer Meeting in Church**
Wednesday: 7.00pm - Prayer Meeting in Church

March

- 1 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Craft Group** meets in the Church Hall, with coffee [or tea]
- 4 **Friday: 2.00pm - World Day of Prayer** in **St Mary's Church, Rushden.** Please put the date in your diary now! More information on p10
- 9 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies' Group** meet in the Church Hall - **Speaker: Rev Linnet Smith**
- 19 **Saturday: 9.30-12 noon - *Who Let The Dads Out?***, in the Church Hall: see Box on p10





Services for February 2022

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 6 February - Fourth Sunday before Lent

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

Sunday 13 February - Third Sunday before Lent

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

Sunday 20 February - Second Sunday before Lent

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

Sunday 27 February - Sunday next before Lent

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

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays February 3, 10, 17, 24 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:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/stmarysrushden>.

— The Back Page —

