

Saints ALIVE

The magazine of:
All Saints, Leighton Buzzard
St. Nicholas, Hockliffe
St. Michael's, Eggington
St. Michael and All Angels,
Billington
The Good Shepherd, Sandhills

July / August 2021

70p



Inside this Summer Bumper Issue:

Fr. Noel looks forward to unlocking

Pulford School Council has been busy writing letters

All Saints Churchwardens need help

Terry Warburton remembers building an extension

Eco News, views from around the team, and a musical crossword

All Saints Leighton Buzzard

Team Rector & Vicar of All Saints:

Rev'd Cate Irvine

The Vicarage,
Pulford Road, LU7 1AB 01525 373217

Curate:

Rev'd Kirsty Borthwick 07865 748966
138 Brooklands Drive, LU7 3PG

Team Vicars:

Rev'd Noel McGeeney 01525 237633
Rev'd Dr. Bernard Minton 01525 372149
Rev'd Steve Marsh 01525 838450

Associate Priests:

Rev'd Wyn Jones 01525 373638
Canon Malcolm Grant 01525 372771
Canon Don Brewin 01525 373644

Diocesan Readers

Roger Collor 01525 376430
Geoffrey Huskisson 01525 757013
Geoffrey Marchant 01525 371797
Linda Morris 01525 371750
Tricia Humber 01525 381184
Laurelin Burge 01525 371849

Churchwardens

Janet Wenborn 01525 370987
Bill Webb 01525 383356
John Sykes 01525 852218

PCC Secretary

Sharon Fryer pcsecretary@allsaintslb.org.uk

Head Verger

Lindsay Bevis 01525 381418

All Saints Parish Office

All Saints Church, Church Square,
Leighton Buzzard LU7 1AE
Open weekdays from 9am – 1pm
Tel: 01525 381418

Website: www.allsaintslb.org.uk
Email: parish@allsaintslb.org.uk
Facebook: All Saints Leighton Buzzard

Office Manager & Vicar's PA

Jo Waller

Director of Music & Choir Master

Paul Dickens 01525 210210

Young Adults

James Legg 01525 379427

Free Will Offering Scheme

Jenny Huskisson 01525 757013

Sunday Saints Co-ordinator

Alison Dobbie 01525 759259

Mothers' Union Branch Co-ordinator

Janet Wenborn 01525 370987

Tower Liaison

Kevin Pughe 07402 233022
Margaret Birtles 07949 141211

ACTIVE Youth Group

Lindsay Bevis 01525 381418

Toddler Time

Julie Dolton 07954 148128

All Saints Preservation Trust

30, Hockliffe St, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1HJ
E-mail: enquiry@allsaintspreservationtrust.org
Website: www.allsaintspreservationtrust.org

Saints ALIVE: Items for publication to the Editors: Jo Waller & Julia Dickens, preferably by e-mail magazine@allsaintslb.org.uk

Advertising: Please contact the Parish Office, 01525 381418; parish@allsaintslb.org.uk

Distribution: Stephen Jury 01525 381936; stephenjury21@btinternet.com

This magazine may not be reproduced in any form without permission. We only use images which are in the public domain or for which we have permission. We are happy to discuss the matter where it is believed this may not be the case. Views and opinions expressed in Saints Alive do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, the parish, or the Church of England.



The summer of 21

By Rev'd Noel McGeeney

The phrase, the *summer of 21*, reminds me of the rock classic by Brian Adams, *“The Summer of 69”*. He reminisces, *“those were the best days of my life”*; the build up to the summer of 21 feels like that. Full of possibility, freedom, and days without end. June 21st, the summer of 21, is the day lockdown ends, or so we believe at the time of writing.

By the time you are reading this in July there will be a greater appreciation for the things we took for granted before the pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns. We will not forget Hands-Face-Space, as indeed it is good advice all the year round. We will have a greater appreciation for a visit to or from our families, days away, holidays when possible, and seeing the extra-ordinary in the ordinary events of our lives. I have started back visiting care homes, having to do a lateral flow test before I go in. Thankfully I can do the test at home.

I am looking forward to visiting St. Alban's Cathedral and to visiting the Ramryge chapel especially. For me it is the best kept secret. Within it there are a set of six sculpted and etched Perspex angel figures depicting emotional stages in the bereavement journey, designed by Claudia Ashley-Brown for the empty statue niches. You can buy a picture set in the bookshop, each card depicting a stage in the grief process. Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, Acceptance, Peace. I have referred to the Ramryge chapel as a place of pilgrimage at several funerals over the past year, a place to sit with the angels, and find peace.



By the time of reading, I will have had a two-week camping holiday in Scotland, and a real hope to hop over to Ireland to visit family by the end of July. By mid-August I hope to say, *“those were the best days of my life”*!

Of course, we can say with the psalmist, *‘this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it’*. Today is the best day of our life; it is, when you have companionship, people to share the day. It is all well and good to be resilient, but we need company. The word ‘companion’ comes from two Latin words, ‘com’ meaning with and ‘panis’ meaning bread, so a companion is one with whom I share the same bread. As Christians and Churchgoers we are companions on a pilgrimage together building the Kingdom of God in the world. The Eucharist is our bread of life. We don't need to know more than that, for the summer of 21, to be the best days of our life.

Our present pattern of services across the Ouzel Valley Team

All Saints

Sundays:

Please note new times which allow for cleaning between services

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist

11.30am

1st & 3rd Sundays: All Age Service

2nd & 4th Sunday Holy Baptism

6pm Said Evening Prayer

3rd Sunday: followed by Benediction

Weekdays:

Holy Communion

7.30pm Tuesday

(Service of Healing on 3rd Tuesday)

10.00am Thursday

9.00am Saturday

Morning Prayer: St. Hugh's Chapel

9.00am Tuesday – Friday

St. Barnabas, Linslade

Sundays:

8am Said Eucharist

10am Parish Eucharist

6pm Evensong

www.linslade-parish.org.uk

During Lockdown, services in Heath & Reach, Eggington and Hockliffe are being shared by Zoom from each church in rotation at 10am. For details please contact Fr Noel McGeeney.

St. Leonard's, Heath & Reach

Sundays: Occasional services

8am Holy Communion

For details please visit:

www.saintleonardschurch.com

St. Michael's, Eggington

Sundays: Occasional services

St. Nicholas', Hockliffe

Sundays: Occasional services

St. Michael's and All Angels, Billington

Sundays:

11.15am Morning Prayer

Good Shepherd, Greenleas School, Sandhills:

Sundays at 9.45am:

1st & 3rd: Communion

2nd: Messy Church

4th: All Age Worship

Service times may vary.

For details of services and all other events, please see the websites.

Sunday Saints: for age 3+ year olds, meets during 9.30am Sunday service at All Saints.

All Saints Toddler Time: meets in All Saints on Wednesdays during term time. From 9.30 – 11am every week except 1st Weds of month.

£1.50 per parent / carer & child; 50p extra per child; refreshments included.

Both of these activities will restart in October

ACTIVE: (Senior Youth Group for age 11+) **not meeting at present because of a lack of leaders.**

If you could help, please contact the office.

Young Adults: meets fortnightly on Tuesdays at 8pm. See Facebook page "All Saints Young Adults".

Bereavement Café: a support group offering friendship and understanding.

1st Sunday of the month, 2.30-4pm The Spire Coffee Shop, All Saints

Choir Practice: Normally Friday evenings, 6.45 trebles; 7.30 adults, but variable at the moment.

Bellringers: Practice on Monday, 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Spire Coffee Shop: Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 10am-2pm.

Contact Details on Page 2.

News Roundup

Welcome to this Bumper 'Holiday' issue of *Saints Alive* for both July and August. All information is up to date as at the time of publication. The next issue will be in September.

*** **



Advance notice:

Bike 'n Hike for 2020 raised a remarkable £1,204 so remember that £602 will have been sent to All Saints funds. This year's event will be Saturday 11th September so keep this date free and be prepared to support this useful source of funds for Historic Churches and All Saints finances.

☺ *Worth a smile*

With holidays approaching, some of the following may strike a chord ...

- ☺ The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.
- ☺ If they squeeze olives to get olive oil, how do they get baby oil?
- ☺ Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have had to wait for them?
- ☺ How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
- ☺ Children's wisdom: In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java.
- ☺ Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes when he had the chance?
- ☺ I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.
- ☺ Me in 2019: If I could just have a week with nowhere to go and nothing to do, I could get my house in order.
Me in 2021: Nope. That wasn't the problem.
- ☺ The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.
- ☺ The sacristan was in a hurry to inform the congregation that their minister had recovered from an illness, so he put the following notice outside the church:
God is good. The vicar is better.
- ☺ A question for anyone holidaying in the Lake District or Wales:
Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- ☺ If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the 'terminal'?

Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony, June: 19: Matthew Comb & Sarah Cory at St. Nicholas

'Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate'

Holy Baptism, May: 23: Christopher Junior Dushaun Gavin, Brandon Richard Smith, Kiki Abomide, Christopher Llian Wadcock

Holy Baptism, June: 13: Evelyn Anne Culham, Uma Margaret Glencross;
27: Gabriel Armando James Moura

'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'

R.I.P. May: 13: Stephen Clark at St. Barnabas; 28: Marjorie Holroyd at All Saints

R.I.P. June: 2: Sidney Willis at Bierton; 9: Martyn Clarke at St. Nicholas; 10: David Woolmer at Bierton; 11: Rodney Glover at Bierton; 23: Malcolm Lowe at Bierton;
28: Shirley Inns at All Saints

'Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die'

Years Mind, July:

1: William Gilbert, Margaret Nash; 2: Edith Benton; 3: Harry Powell; 6: David Edgoose; 7: Albert (Ted) Rhodes, Vicki Smith; 8: Ruth Kiddle, Stephen Goodger, Hazel Jones; 9: Florence Groom, Elizabeth Hankins, Meg Hollins; 10: Joy Reynolds; 11: Eva Milne, Ray Naisbitt; 12: Frederick Benton; 13: Primrose Cox; 14: John Ferguson; 15: Ethel Scott, Helen Webster; 16: Steve Hill, Victor Conquest; 17: Canon Alan Freeman, Josie Watkiss; 19: Christopher Hinchliff; 20: Blake Edwards; 25: Dick Spratley, Mary Wilson, Joan Kemp; 26: John Brantom, William Parris; 29: Charles Beauchamp, Anthony Pantling; 31: Arthur King

Years Mind, August:

2: Annie Clements; 4: Frances Tarbox; 5: Peter Harris; 6: John Connew; 7: Norman Rumbelow, Bert Whitney; 9: Marion Deeley, David Harrington; 11: Lionel Allen, Olive Joynes; 12: John Froud; 14: Henry Weeden; 16: Wilfred Dumble, Margaret Dumble, Douglas Coulthard, Violet Ferguson, John Killman; 18: Thomas Froud; 20: Doreen Rolls; 21: Edith Todorovic; 22: Arthur Woolhead, Elsie Daniel, Doris Dunnett; 24: Leslie Nash, Linda Wood; 26: Bernard McAuliffe, Dr. José Esteves Penna Firme; 27: Catherine Flynn; 28: William Savage; 29: Joseph Arnold; 31: Beatrice Campbell



LEIGHTON BUZZARD MUSIC LIVE PROFESSIONAL CONCERTS

Saturday 18th September 2021 at 7:30PM

Amy Roberts

Outstanding young oboist with pianist

Gamal Khamis



Theatre Box Office 0300 300 8125;
www.leightonbuzzardlibrarytheatre.co.uk

Further details at www.lbmusic.co.uk
(subject to LB Library theatre being able to open safely)

Pulford VA Lower School

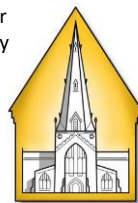
Head Teacher: Mr Dave Heather

Office Manager: Mrs Alison Quick

Tel: 01525 372188

Website: www.pulfordschool.org

A church school for
a whole community



The Pulford School Council



We are the Pulford School Council. We have been thinking about the problem of litter. We have decided that we should be 'anti-litter'. We are making posters to encourage people not to throw rubbish on the floor. We join together at lunchtime as groups of friends to keep our school tidy.



It is important that animals don't eat litter because it can kill them.

We have joined the Plastic Free Schools Campaign. This will encourage everyone in school to cut down on single-use plastic. At lunch time we encourage people not to bring packets of e.g. sweets or plastic bags. We try to have water bottles which we can re-use (but not glass) and only to fill our bottles with the amount we can drink. We also try not to use cartons of drink or throw litter on the ground - always put it in the right bin.

The PTA and Pulford Trust have helped us buy a new minibus. We are very proud of it.

***Primrose, Molly, Lily, Lewis,
Natalie, Evie and Naomi***

PS There is more from the School Council on pages 9 & 11.



The Gentleman Gardener

Let your local RHS qualified gardener make your garden beautiful, from simple garden maintenance to redesigning your garden.

Please call Barry
01525 222451 or 07541 196384
to pop round to have a chat.

For all your painting and decorating needs ...

J. M. Wyatt



Painter and Decorator

4 St Leonards Close, Leighton Buzzard
Beds, LU7 3DF

Tel: (01525) 379520

Call for free quotations and advice

Nettie Forsyth

Challenging Behaviour
Counselling
and Wellbeing Services

07480 486 703

challenging-behaviour
@hotmail.co.uk

www.help-with-challenging-
behaviour.co.uk

Chiropractic

*McTimoney – Corley
Technique*

**A gentle, effective, whole body
treatment**

Backache. Headache. Migraine.
Neck problem. Sports injuries. Sore
muscles or just “out of sorts”?

Eileen Naples

BSc. DC(OCC), MBAAC

Telephone (01525) 377 384

St Leonard’s Church Hall Heath and Reach

Refurbished Hall available for hire.
Regular or occasional bookings



Capacity approx 130
Easy access. Car parking
Contact **07502 320 023**
stleonardheath@gmail.com



36 High Street, Leighton
Buzzard, Beds, LU7 1EA
01525 372 204

Selections

*Pet, Gift and Garden.
Kitchen & workshop
DIY & repairs
Games & models*



*selections_pet_garden
www.selections-
web.co.uk/petandgarden*

An extra message from Pulford School Council:

We also sponsor Bahati who lives in Kenya. We enjoy helping her education, receiving and sending letters. (See page 10 for a picture of Bahati's school.)

A message to my sponsor

Date 2/4/2021

Dear pulford school council,

Hi! I greet you in Jesus name. How are you?

I hope you are fine with your family. My family and I are also fine too.

Here in Kenya it's too hot. But there is no wind. I would like to inform you that I did my final examinations for grade 8 and now I am waiting for the results. I am hopeful my results will be good to promote me to High School of my choice.

Allow me to share with you a memory verse from the book of psalms 9:1 "I will praise you Lord with all my heart, I will tell of all the wonderful things you have done."

Your loving daughter.

Bahati

TO: Bahati
FROM: Pulford School Council

CHILD'S NO:
YOUR COM:

Date 17/5/21

Hi Bahati my name is Naomi

hope your doing fine you

and your family. Hope this

letter finds you well, its

Spring here soon to be summer

although it feels quite

cold! it must be warm

were you are. I have some

questions for you, whats your

favorite color (mine is purple)

whats one of your hobbies

(mine is swimming) what do

you like to do (mine is telling

jokes). I have a little sister

and I live with my mum

and dad. From Naomi.

These copies are a little difficult to read so here is the text. First, Bahati's letter:

Hi! I greet you in Jesus name. How are you? I hope you are fine with your family. My family and I are also fine too.

Here in Kenya it's too hot. But there is no wind. I would like to inform you that I did my final examinations for grade 8 and now I am waiting for the results. I am hopeful my results will be good to promote me to High School of my choice. Allow me to share with you a memory verse from the book of Psalms 9:1 "I will praise the Lord with my heart; I will tell of all the wonderful things you have done."

Your loving daughter.

And then Naomi's reply:

Hi Bahati. My name is Naomi. I hope you are doing fine, you and your family. Hope this letter finds you well, it's Spring here, soon to be Summer although it feels quite cold! It must be warm were you are. I have some questions for you. What's your favourite color (mine is purple). What's one of your hobbies (mine is swimming). What do you like to do (mine is telling jokes). I have a little sister and I live with my mum and dad. From Naomi.

Congratulations to Katrina Boyce as she wins an award for 30 years of volunteering

In 1990, The Leighton Buzzard Centre for Health, Healing and Counselling was inaugurated at All Saints Church. Katrina was instrumental in setting it up with the encouragement of the then Vicar, Fr. Peter Whittaker.

The centre celebrated its 30th anniversary in late 2020 and offers a weekly session in which people can access help and support, with volunteer therapists, trustees and local clergy offering a range of activities and therapies. The centre, inspired by Katrina, has helped hundreds of people since its inception. It is open to all, whether they have faith or not. The volunteers, therapists and trustees are drawn from a range of churches and offer support to people who often have life limiting conditions.

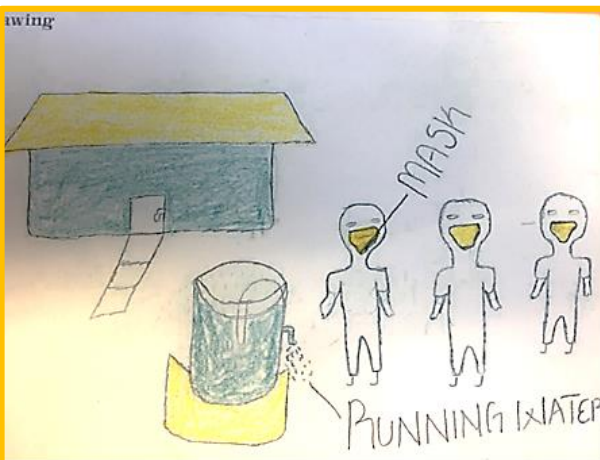


It now meets at The Sacred Heart Church on Thursdays as the refurbished hall provided much needed space.

Katrina's contribution was recognised by her nomination for a Community Volunteer Award and she received this from the Town Council. Normally it would have been presented at the Civic Service: it was announced then but the presentation took place on Friday 11th June. The photograph above shows Katrina with the Town Mayor, Councillor Farzana Kharawala.

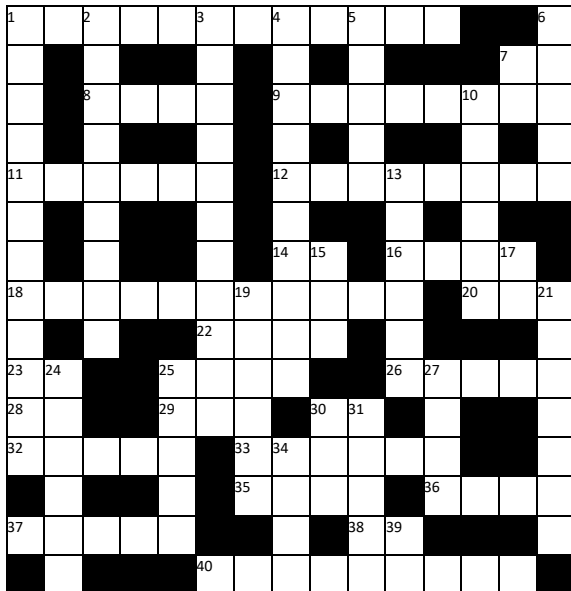
All Saints joins in congratulating Katrina on this well-deserved accolade.

John Wallace



Pulford School Council sponsors Bahati, who lives in Kenya. Bahati sent this picture of her school in Covid times, showing children wearing masks, and with a water tank full of clean running water – something of a luxury in many areas in Kenya.

See page 9 for some letters between Bahati and Naomi.



Riddle Answers, from Page 12

1. The third room. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead.
2. The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry (shot; held under water; and hung).
3. Charcoal, as it is used in barbecuing.
4. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow!
5. The letter "e" which is the most common letter used in the English language does not appear even once in the paragraph.

Crossword answers are on Page 20

Across

1. German Romantic composer: "Titan Symphony" (6,6)
7. 1783 Mozart opera: "___ sposo deluso"
8. Musical piece for 3 performers
9. 1882 opera by Richard Wagner
11. Baroque work type: Concerto ___
12. 1787 Mozart opera: "Don ___"
14. Galilean moon of Jupiter
16. 1937 opera by Alban Berg
18. Getting faster
20. German 20th century composer: "Circe", "Der Revisor"
22. Baroque plucked string instrument
23. Instruction to play the entire work again (abbrev.)
25. Low female singing voice
26. British Romantic composer: "Pomp and Circumstances"
28. Spanish article
29. "Vivace" is ___ slow
30. Musical instruction: very softly (abbrev.)
32. Hungarian Romantic composer: "The Legend of St. Elisabeth"
33. Title of Beethoven's 3rd symphony
35. Silent interval between two notes
36. Symphony by Camille Saint-Saens: "Urbs ___"
37. German Classical composer: "The Clock", "Drumroll Symphony"
38. Medium on which most classical music was sold in 2010
40. German Classical composer: "Ode to Joy", "Fidelio"

Down

1. Baroque composer: "Water Music" (6,6)
2. Quietly, in an undertone (5,4)
3. Tenor member of the string family
4. Playing a chord as a rapid sequence of notes
5. Slowly, broadly
6. Hungarian-British conductor (1912-1997)
7. Solfeggio for the sixth note
10. Last, often triumphant, movement of a work
13. Fast, as in a cadence
15. Number of singers in an aria
17. TLD for Uganda
19. British composer of chorals and anthems, born 1945
21. German conductor, worked with the Berlin Philharmonic
24. Focal, most emotional moment of a musical work
25. First name of German composer Bruckner
27. 1978 opera by Albert Reimann based on a Shakespearean king
30. Position (abbrev.)
31. Tonal quality of a musical note, frequency
34. Song by Claude Debussy: "De ___" (first of four in cycle)
39. Solfeggio for the first note

Calendar of Events

4th July

Services as usual including Messy Mass BBQ All Saints 11.30am

Bereavement Support Group Coffee Shop, All Saints 2.30pm – 4pm



1st August

Services as usual including Messy Mass All Saints 11.30am

Bereavement Support Group Coffee Shop, All Saints 2.30pm – 4pm



27th-29th August

Inspire: A Festival of Faith and Hope All Saints

More details will be released nearer the time. See page 16 for details.

*As restrictions continue to be eased more events will be added back into the diary.
Please check the weekly news sheet and the website for up to date information.*

5 Riddles...

1. A murderer is condemned to death.

He has to choose between three rooms.

The first is full of raging fires,

the second is full of assassins with loaded guns

and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years.

Which room is safest for him?

2. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes.

Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together.

How can this be?

3. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and grey when you throw it away?

4. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday?

5. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!



(Answers on Page 11)

ALL SAINTS
PARISH CHURCH

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 3rd July
11am to 3pm
Fete set in the Church Grounds

FREE ENTRY- FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
Stalls - Music - Refreshments -Etc
All activities will follow the government COVID-19
guidance at the time

Lift your eyes ... Looking at some of All Saints' curiosities

with thanks to Terry Warburton for his help with this series



Memories seem to be shorter than ever these digital days. People and events come, attract attention and when they move on are put out of mind until something happens to stir a thought. Our old church has been through a lot in its lifetime, never more so than in the 1980s. Once in a while it may be worth looking back to see what was gained - and lost - in years since then.

Left is a picture of the old single storey choir vestry, next to the organ blower room, put there in the early 1900s, but damaged in the 1985 fire. As major repairs were planned to the whole building, thanks to a timely bequest a new two storey extension was conceived for the north side, which is now the coffee shop, toilets, parish office, linking a newly created St Hugh chapel to an upper room in the north transept.



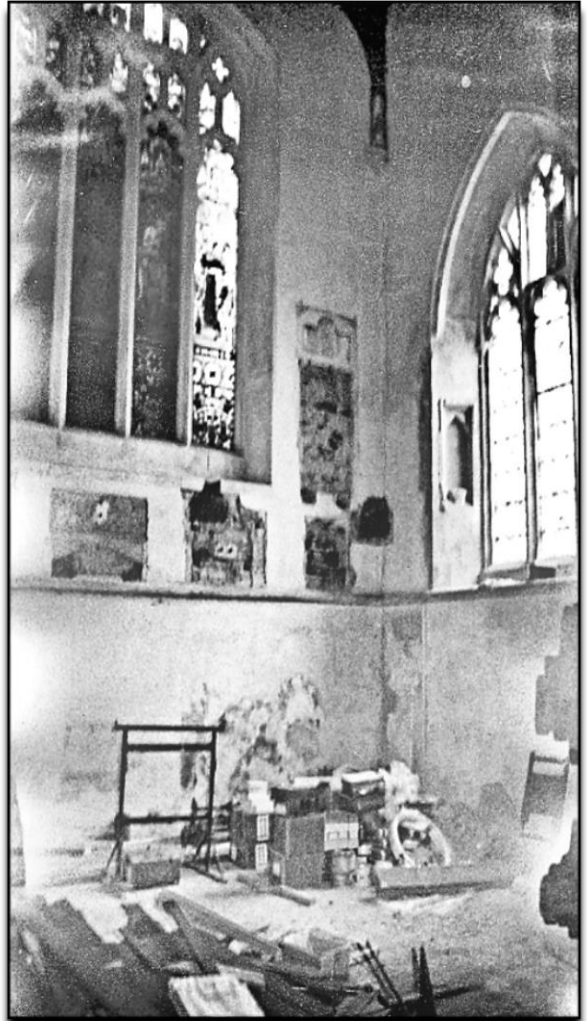
The "internal" upper door in the picture above came from the old building which was demolished. A door was also cut through a north transept window to create access to a new meeting space.



Before the 1985 fire, the north transept was part of the main church just as the south transept is today.

Taking advantage of an opportunity presented by the repair programme, it was divided horizontally to create an upper room, named "The Good Samaritan Room" after the story in the north window.

It is now our choir vestry. Pictured right is one of the last views of the entire space, just before the upper floor was added.



AUGUST
28, 29, 30

Inspire

Definition :

1. *Fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.*
2. *Breathe in (air); inhale.*

Speakers

Poetry

Prayer

Art

Music

Craft

Conversation

Worship

What inspires you?



INSPIRE

A FESTIVAL OF FAITH AND HOPE

All Saints Parish Church Leighton Buzzard

We all need time and space to reflect on the pandemic and we all need hope as we look forward. Over the bank holiday weekend we will be offering space to think, pray and talk. There will be speakers, music, cafe conversation spaces, craft and activities.

The events will run from Saturday 28th to Monday 30th August. More details will be on our Facebook and webpage, but please keep the dates!

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland invites us all to focus our worship on the preparations for the COP26 gathering in Glasgow in November. Please use this prayer regularly in the period between now and then.

One of the five Anglican Marks of Mission is 'to strive for the integrity of creation, and sustain and the life of the earth'. We are called in this work of mission to worship, to commit to action and to speak up about our care of God's creation.

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of this world, we thank you for the wonder, for the beauty but also for the fragility of the life you have given us. Help us all to be more aware of the grave dangers we face through our dependence upon the burning of fossil fuels for our energy, for our industry and for our comfort.

We pray for the leaders of all the nations as they prepare to meet in Glasgow that you will inspire them to listen to and to learn from what the scientists are saying, to plan binding resolutions to radically reduce carbon emissions here and in every country.

We pray too for all who are seeking new ways to reduce the carbon footprint of humanity, those researching the development of new green technology, hydrogen power, carbon capture and whatever will enable our children and future generations to live free from the fear of the collapse of civilisation.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Climate Sunday

All Saints Leighton Buzzard

CAFOD cafod.org.uk
Christian Aid ChristianAid.org.uk
Tearfund tearfund.org
ARocha UK arocha.org.uk
Operation Noah operationnoah.org
Green Christian greenchristian.org.uk
Climate Sunday climatesunday.org

**2 messages from the Churchwardens:
“Welcome, Mother Kirsty” ...
and “We’re looking for help:
What could you do?”**



Unfortunately, here we are, still in lockdown, but things are slowly gearing up within All Saints Church.

By the time you read this, we will have welcomed Mother Kirsty into the fold. She will be helping Mother Cate, but she will also be experiencing services in all churches within the Ouzel Valley Team, so please introduce yourself (although don't expect her to remember your name after the first meeting!)

As more services and events are opening up within the church, more volunteers are required.

- If you can help at services by reading, being a sides person or a server, then please put your name forward – full training will be given.
- We also need help to keep the church clean and tidy (we can't keep those spiders out), so if this is something that appeals, please get in touch.
- The Coffee Shop is also now open between 10 and 2 on Tuesday, Friday & Saturday. This is currently with a waitress service so along with waiters and waitresses, we still need people to make sandwiches and do the washing up! We are happy to welcome anyone and if you are volunteering but attend one of the other churches in the Team, don't forget that you can earn much needed funds for your own church.
- We require more leaders for Sunday Saints (Sunday school for younger children) and for ACTIVE Youth (for those aged 11+).
- Saints Alive Magazine needs someone to manage the invoicing of its advertisers.
- The choir would very much welcome new singers, both adults and children.
- The 11.15 All Age Worship band is an eclectic group of musicians – playing a wide range of instruments. Whatever you play, Paul Dickens would love to hear from you.



If you would like to help with any of the above, please contact the Parish Office on 01525 381418 or parish@allsaintslb.org.uk and Jo or Lindsay will make sure your details are passed on to the appropriate co-ordinator.

Finally, we hope that you manage to have some sort of summer break so that you feel refreshed and ready for September when we hope that church life will be back to an All Saints 'normal'.

Janet, Bill & John

St. Nicholas, Hockliffe

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Churchwardens: Brian Speller: 210 565;

Roger Spalding: 07451 877 501



It is 36 years ago that I first drove through the village of Hockliffe on my way to the Estate Agents in Leighton Buzzard. Hockliffe would become a signpost for Sue and me as we frequently journeyed between our parents' homes in North West London and our first home in Leighton Buzzard. It is a leap of faith when, overnight, you have the confidence as a young couple to say you are coming home, even though a few months previous, home was with our parents 40 miles south down the M1.

Hockliffe became familiar very quickly as our first cat spent his holidays at Dick Whittington's Cattery. The White Hart would host many family celebrations during the 1980's/90's. Yet, in those early years when Peter Whittaker and Anthony Hulbert were vicars of Hockliffe, my connection with St. Nicholas' Church was incredibly through the Saints Alive article, and, the occasional stewardship event before the establishment of the Ouzel Valley Team. (Some of you may remember the gathering in Brooklands School one Sunday afternoon – though the year has slipped my mind now) What a change!

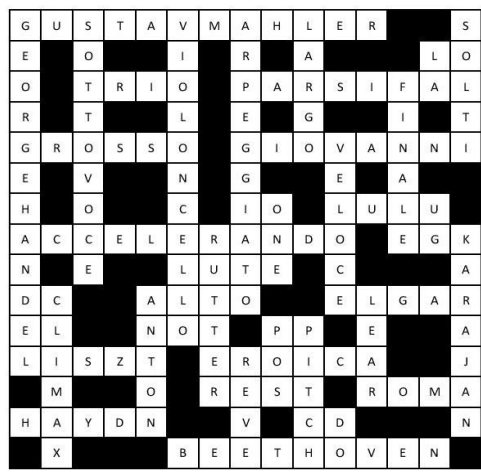
Christian mission in Hockliffe for the community of faith here has become a massive challenge in recent years when you consider the PCC members now account for almost 50% of the Electoral Roll. It is patently clear from our recent APCM that the fabric of our little church building is going to occupy our agenda and MAP in the years ahead. From my teenage PCC experience, 'fabric' matters competed with the London Diocesan Quota, the 'high' liturgy and worship style and the charitable giving. Quota and fabric will be a balancing act here too, as we face the future at St Nicholas.

Joining the Electoral Roll and PCC at All Saints brought home the magnitude of the restoration following the catastrophic fire in 1985. Since then, my involvement on the Fabric Committee oversaw the splendid restoration programme culminating in the re-consecration in May 1990. Many parishioners call All Saints their second home and there is no less emotion felt by the parishioners for their church building in Hockliffe.

As an Ex-Officio member of St Nicholas PCC it is frustrating to see the workload of our prevailing Quinquennial when we have insufficient funds to progress the works that are a priority. In nine years' time we will be expected to have a church that has a zero-carbon footprint, let alone running water and toilets.

So yes, the call is for serious prayer for God's guidance and the power of the Holy Spirit to inspire us. We can dream dreams of the vision we have of a versatile, re-ordered church building, with fabric priorities behind us, a 'hub' that provides for the community 7 days a week, where the glory of God in our worship continues to be streamed for the wonder of all.

Geoff Marchant



Independent Funeral Directors
Golden Charter Funeral Plans
Monumental Services

16 Old Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire, LU7 2RF
Tel: 01525 372210
Email: info@dillamorefuneralservice.co.uk

www.dillamorefuneralservice.co.uk

Computer Support & Services

- 🔧 Windows and Mac trouble-shooting
- 🔧 Hardware & software sales
- 🔧 Internet & email assistance
- 🔧 Small networks installations
- 🔧 After-sales service & support
- 🔧 Virus & Spyware removal
- 🔧 Upgrades & repairs
- 🔧 On site visits

Computamation Services Ltd.

email: john@computamation.co.uk

Telephone 01525 261381

Mobile 07968 536068

St. Michael's Church
Eggington

Cream Teas and
Tree Dedication Service
Sunday 18th July 2021

3.00pm to 5.00 pm

Come and enjoy the scones,
cream and jam in
our beautiful churchyard.
Payment by donation.



St. Michael's, Eggington

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Church Officers:

Carol Hart 384634

Paul Brown 751861



History and Mystery in our churchyard.

This month, the second part of Paul's mini-series: Mystery

David Stevens. This is where a mystery comes in. There was this mound of ivy in the churchyard, which had been assumed to be an old tree stump, but on investigation it was found to be the headstone and footstone of David and Ann Stevens and their two children, Mary Ann and Jethro. Ann was buried in 1891 and David in 1896. Records show that there was a shop and post office and that the Stevens were grocers there. Some records indicate that David was for a time the post master but other records do not verify this.

The interesting question is that when the headstone was uncovered it was facing west which is not normal as headstones usually face east. Was this a mistake by the undertaker or is there another reason why it was positioned to face west?

Gunner Leslie Walter Turner. This is the only Commonwealth War Grave in our churchyard.

Leslie was born 21st June 1920 to Walter and Lily Turner, who lived in Manor Cottage, Eggington. His father was a shepherd and lived between 1882 and 1940 and his mother lived between 1883 and 1964.

Before enlisting, Leslie was a builder's labourer. He joined the 356 Battery of the 111 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment of the Royal Artillery, which seemed to be manning searchlights. At the time of his death, it appears that the 356 Battery had been in operation at Scapa Flow then in Liverpool during their blitz. But at this time, I am unable to verify or add any more detail.



Paul Brown

St. Michael & All Angels, Billington

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwardens:

Sandra Brewin 373644; Julia Haviland 850380



Here at St. Michael and All Angels we are looking forward to welcoming Rev'd Kirsty Borthwick to the Ouzel Valley Team. She can be assured that she will receive a very warm reception when she is able to come to Billington.

On Saturday 21st May we were delighted and amazed when over 30 people from the village turned up in the village hall car park to take part in a grand litter pick. We were honoured to be joined by our MP Andrew Selous. Countless bags of trash were collected and, after a few days, were picked up from outside the village hall by the council. I wish I could say that the verges and ditches are now clear. Very quickly the streets were strewn again, mainly with McDonalds and KFC rubbish.

I expect like us, many people have been watching more tele than they would do in normal times. Somebody once said: "You don't need to read a Christian book to tell a Christian story". It occurred to us that the drama "The Pact" was one such story.

Four lady workmates take their very drunken boss from a party for a joke and dump him in a wood. He is alive. Feeling guilty about what they have done they return to the scene later that night and find him dead. Naturally they under suspicion from the police of being guilty of murder. He was in fact killed by the daughter of one of the friends. Eventually one of the group of friends, a Christian lady, confesses to the murder, even though she is innocent. This allows all the others including the guilty daughter to go free, to enjoy life in all its fullness. Is this an allegory of what Jesus has done for us?

Sandra Brewin



The Good Life Refill Refill & Zero-Waste Shop

Find us in our new shop:

**A.F.Reid & Son.,
19 High Street,
Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1DN**

- 1) **Bring** your own containers.
- 2) **Fill** with organic foods and cleaning products.
- 3) **Weigh** it and pay per gram.

Find our product and price list online:
www.thegoodliferefill.com

thegoodlife-refill@outlook.com

07517085608



Good Shepherd, Sandhills

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwarden: Steve Nixon



**CHURCH of the
GOOD SHEPHERD**

Biblical Blooms

After a soggy May, June well and truly delivered on the sunshine. Sodden gardens have suddenly burst in to life, local garden centres have queues and garden waste bins are overflowing. In my garden the birds noisily play in the wildly overgrown rose bush during the day and the pungent aroma of honeysuckle fills the air at dusk.

The Bible is teeming with plant related symbolism to represent growth, hope, healing but also temptation and bitterness. In the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32), Jesus explained that the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which starts as a tiny seed and can grow and flourish to become the largest of all garden plants.

The citron is referred to as a '*goodly fruit*' (Leviticus 23:40). The citron or 'etrog' in Hebrew, was offered as thanksgiving to God.

A tree that may have mistakenly earned a bad reputation is the apple tree. It is commonly depicted as the tree in the Garden of Eden that Adam and Eve ate fruit from. However, it appears that the translation from the Hebrew Bible to Latin led to the Hebrew word 'peri', which seems to mean all sorts of fruit, to be translated to the Latin 'malus' which can mean apple tree. This translation caught on with many paintings and literature, such as John Milton's Paradise Lost, depicting Eve with an apple. But the fruit may have been other fruits such as a fig, an apricot or a pear. Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling fresco features Eve eating from a fig tree.

Finally, this one fascinated me too - wormwood. I'd never heard of it before, except for Wormwood Scrubs prison in London, which was named as such because it was built on scrub land where the plant grew.

Wormwood is a bitter herb that has been used for all sorts of digestive problems. It is also an ingredient in the alcoholic drink Absinthe, a favourite tippie of Oscar Wilde, which was banned in the US until 2007. Bear with me here - I got lost in a Google rabbit hole looking it to this. Anyway, high doses of a chemical compound in wormwood can be toxic.

Wormwood is featured in Revelation as one of the apocalyptic events. The plant is the name of a 'star' that falls to earth, makes water bitter, and kills many people (Revelation 8:11). Elsewhere in the Bible, wormwood is used to describe people as bitter or poisonous. In a warning against adultery, Solomon explains "*But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.*" (Proverbs 5:4).

I'm off to enjoy an evening in the garden now. I might skip the Absinthe though and settle for Pimms with a slice of goodly fruit instead.



Jo Bellamy

Saints on Earth

Personal accounts of the wide-range of spiritually significant men and women who have inspired and influenced us. Roger Collor looks at the lives of

Unsung Saints



In a moment of uncharacteristic foresight last September, I thought I should buy a diary for 2021. Covid infections at that time were running at 4000 per day and deaths were in the ‘teens but we – rightly – had been warned that there could be a dramatic rise in the figures and I felt that I wanted to keep a diary of what was happening. We were in France at the time and I spotted just the job, a page per day, in the local supermarket and, having just about remembered the French for the months and the days of the week from schooldays, popped it in the basket.

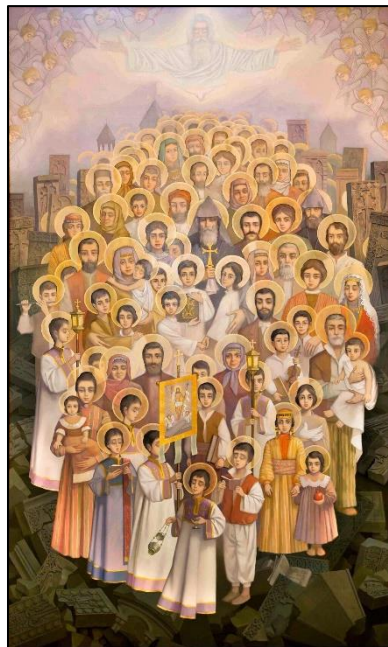
That afternoon, glass of wine in hand – of course, you will say – I flicked through the pages in slightly more detail than at the time of purchase and found that each page, and thus each day, was dedicated to a particular Saint. A fascinating hour or two ensued as I waded methodically through the calendar, finding Saints that I’d never heard of before. Did you know that 2nd May is St. Boris’s Day and – yes – there is indeed a St. Roger who just squeezes in the year-end at 30th December! It also answered the puzzling question of why the local ‘boulangerie’ always displayed a board with mysterious wine-like names chalked up but with a different one each day. At one time, I had innocently thought that it was pure advertising and that when St. Emilie was written up (19th Sept, by the way) it was a local mis-spelling of St. Émilion, stacked invitingly on the shelves inside, whilst St. Rosalie (4th Sept) could hopefully have been good to drink lightly chilled, although I never found it.

Then I remembered that on my bookshelf at home was a book of Celtic Saints – a whole crowd of them – like St. Helen Luyddog who is credited with ‘making’ many of the early main roads in Wales, don’t ask me how! Or St. Illtyd who was one of King Arthur’s knights but gave up power and riches to become a monk. It seems that there are a lot of Saints about, not just the ones that immediately come to mind, like Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, or that roll off our tongues without even thinking that we’re using their names - think ‘St. Albans’ for instance or St. Neots or St. Ives (actually after St. Ia).

The Catholic Saints of my French diary were pious men and women recognised as exceptional by popes and canonised with the title “Holy” but others, like the Celtic and more local saints, were never made so by Roman popes but by popular veneration. Their religion was more often than not, framed within the activities of everyday life and their Sainthood tended to be gradually bestowed by general acclaim in many, if not most, instances.

But many as these named Saints are, perhaps we are missing something by defining them too rigidly, for down the ages there must have been other folk who by their steadfast devotion in one form or another, were just as responsible for passing on the faith from one generation to another. They lived and live in every parish, quietly encouraged by the Holy Spirit to do a particular job that allows the Church to function. So my chosen 'saint' is not one, but the many, past and indeed present, who quietly devote a slice of their lives to the continuance of the Church in so many ways. Before retirement, I spent some of my work time visiting parishes to hear how they used their church buildings and their ideas about how to develop the Faith within their area.

Needless to say, I met some fascinating people. I would suggest that each of them had 'saintliness' in one way or another. One lady churchwarden of a very rural parish had taken the closure of the village shop as a challenge and had the church vestry fitted out with shelving and stocked with a commendable range of basic goods, organising a rota to open on two days a week so that the elderly shoppers needn't make a difficult bus journey into town. It showed a caring Faith to the rest of the village. Another nearby parish had 'the cobweb man' who, for many, many years had been available in the area to use his very long bamboo pole with duster attached to remove cobwebs and dust from church windows and beams in the roof. Then there are the pew polishers and hassock makers and so many others carrying out necessary tasks. While hearing about and seeing these things, I would also hear about and sometimes meet long-serving Sunday School teachers and sacristans not to mention the churchyard tenders and tree trimmers that abound. These people are to my mind the actual Saints who keep the churches and parishes open for business.



I can recall in our own parish back in the 1960's a veritable institution when George and Amy Willett (Brian's Mum and Dad) lived at No.1 Pulford Road – opposite the Vicarage. George and Amy were so welcoming that it became a collecting point most days but always after services, when cups of tea were always available. I calculated that in one year George had made in excess of 3000 cups of tea for folks who dropped by. Amy dusted the church and George mowed the churchyard and both were always available for wisdom and a shoulder to lean on.

So yes, my choice is not one saint but the many without whom our churches and our faith would not survive except for their quiet and special devotion to a duty that we cannot do without. To them, I say "Thank You".

Roger Collor

**Soft plastic recycling now in Leighton Buzzard
7 things you can recycle at Tesco**

The scrunch test!

If you can scrunch it
with your hand into a ball,
it can go in the
soft plastic recycling bin.



Our local Tesco now accepts soft plastic items for recycling. You know – those items that can't go in the domestic recycling bin, such as: bread wrapper bags; cling film; crisp packets; fruit and vegetable packaging; salad bags; baby food and pet food pouches. Tesco aims to collect and recycle 1000 tonnes a year. Most councils don't collect soft plastic from homes for recycling and it therefore often goes to landfill, so this is a positive step.

The collection point at our local store is just outside the exit door.

Once collected, the old soft plastic is sent for recycling where it is washed, sorted and processed before being turned into new packaging for items such as food, household and beauty products.

Churchyard nature count

Thank you to everyone who joined in the churchyard nature count in June. The data that you sent by email or on paper will be verified by experts working with the charity Caring for God's Acre, so it may take a while before being added to the national database. We look forward to finding out what creatures and plants you spotted. All Saints already has 128 different species including rare lichens and dragonflies listed on the database at www.burialgrounds-places.nbnatlas.org



Our Diocese and the environment

St Albans' Diocese is promoting the Eco Church scheme and supporting parishes with environmental projects such as Living Churchyards and measuring their energy footprint. Find out more here:

www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/environment-events-news

Katrina Grant

CARPENTRY & JOINERY SPECIALIST

David Casey

Carpenter

32 Ave Grimaldi
Luton
LU3 1TJ

Phone 0780 1234 629
E-mail mail@davidcasey.co.uk

**BILLINGTON
VILLAGE HALL**

Available for hire
Capacity approximately 100
Good car parking

*Special rates for regular
weekly bookings*

**Please contact
078 3509 7932**

Leighton Foot Care Practice

**New patient appointments now available
with Leanne Salloum MCFHP MAFHP Dip**



01525 382 900 / 07852 989 445
25 Millbank, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 1AS
Clinic and Home Visits available

**Dunstable Decor / DIY Services (Kirkstone Drive-SW)
Home 01582 700944 or Mob. 07745 979276**

- ❖ Decorating - to include wallpaper, gloss and emulsion etc.
- ❖ All Property maintenance duties to your home carried out in a professional manner. For example:-
- ❖ Laminate wooden flooring – clean & precise fitting.
- ❖ Garden - grass, hedges, shed felt, decking, fences, gates.
- ❖ Drives, paths & patios Powerwashed (clean & non-slip).
- ❖ Shelving, flat pack assy, blinds/curtains, pictures/mirrors.
- ❖ Hire me for the day to complete your 'must do' tasks!
- ❖ Friendly, courteous and reliable service – free quotes/advice.
- ❖ Fully insured (1M Public liability) **Thank you. John**

www.georgebrowns.co.uk

For the very best in garden machinery, the ranges, the choice, the customer service and after-sales back up, you can rely on our experience and qualified advice to steer you in the right direction.

Home demonstrations on all garden tractors.

Part exchanges welcome.



SERVING CUSTOMERS SINCE 1830

Grovebury Road Leighton Buzzard LU7 4UX
Telephone 01525 372062

Open 6 full days a week Monday - Saturday 8.00am to 5.00pm

Free customer parking

Other branches at:

Buckingham, Chelmsford, Chesham, Daventry & Haddenham

The regions foremost
LAWNMOWER
AND GARDEN MACHINERY SPECIALISTS



HAYTER Kubota MOUNTFIELD TIGER STIHL WESTWOOD

BROWNS ANGLING SUPERSTORE

Mail Order Service Available

Run by Anglers...for Anglers!

Stockists of major manufacturers - all at competitive prices

Alarms/Baits/Bivvies/Bobbins/Carryalls
Clothing/Landing Nets/Lines/Reels/Rods
and Rod Holdalls

Telephone 01525 216370

LATE NIGHT FRIDAY'S until 6.00pm

Visit our superstore or buy on-line...

www.brownsangling.co.uk

