

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

September 2021

70p

Inside:

Pulford
Year 4 went to
Blue Peris,
got soaked,
had a crazy time,
and toasted
marshmallows

“God calls us each by name”

Mother Kirsty
reflects on
ministry, both
hers, and ours

**At last ...
we have some
diary dates,**
including
the Bike 'n' Hike
&
a PigNic for
Harvest Festival

and finally ...
Alan Perrott was
inspired by
Saint Finbarr



All Saints Leighton Buzzard

Team Rector & Vicar of All Saints:

Rev'd Cate Irvine

The Vicarage,
Pulford Road, LU7 1AB 01525 373217

Curate:

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 pccsecretary@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.

God Calls us by Name

by Rev'd Kirsty Borthwick



As I write, I'm in my 7th week as a Deacon and immensely grateful to have been called to this Team to serve as your Curate. Thank you for your prayers and for the warmth of your welcome.

After a turbulent 18 months – a mass exodus from college at the start of lockdown, a brief spell studying abroad and an unexpected return to living with my parents as I finished my college-based training – it's testament to your kindness that I'm feeling so settled here already. It has been a delight to begin to get to know those of you at All Saints, and I'm really looking forward to meeting many of you across the whole Team in the months and years ahead.

One aspect of ministry I've already had plenty of chance to get stuck into is the sacrament of Baptism (something I'd been really looking forward to!). Between officiating at those baptisms and reflecting on my own ordination just a few weeks ago, I'm reminded of the wonderful truth that God calls us each by name.

"I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43.1)

This is such a gift – the gift of being known and loved. God our Creator, whilst caring for all of creation, is still concerned very specifically for you and for me. But it's also a challenge laid before each of us, because we are summoned to respond to that call.

This was the Collect (prayer) used at the ordination service a few weeks ago:

*God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us
into the fellowship of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants now to be ordained
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

We are all called, to a whole variety of ministries: be that ordination, lay ministry, teaching, hospitality, pastoral care, family life or many other things. But at the same time God calls us all to one simple, shared task. As God, in his love for us, calls us by name, we are being called – each and everyone one of us – to a ministry of love. We're called to be instruments of God's love, in our homes, in our churches and in our communities.

Thank you for being instruments of love in your warm welcome to me these last few weeks. Please pray for me as I step out into a new shape of ministry. I promise to pray for you in your own ministries too.

Mother Kirsty

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

St. Leonard's, Heath & Reach

Sundays:

8am: Holy Communion

11am Holy Communion (in church & via Zoom)
(first Sunday of the month is a Family Service)

Tuesdays: 7pm Holy Communion

Morning Prayer via Zoom:

9.00am Monday - Saturday

www.saintleonardschurch.com

St. Michael's, Eggington

Sundays:

9.15am 1st & 3rd Sundays: Holy Communion

St. Nicholas', Hockliffe

Sundays:

9.30am Holy Communion

St. Michael's and All Angels, Billington

Sundays:

11.15am Holy Communion

Good Shepherd, Greenleas School, Sandhills:

Sundays at 9.45am:

1st Sunday: Holy Communion and
CGS Juniors at Greenleas School

2nd Sunday: 'In the Community' at Astral Park

3rd Sunday: Family Service at Greenleas School

4th Sunday: Bring and share breakfast and
Holy Communion at Greenleas School

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.

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.

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

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

Contact Details on Page 2.

News Roundup

Following the easing of restrictions the Coffee Shop is back to counter service.

*** **

Lunch Club will resume on September 8th. Priority will be for those with outstanding tickets from pre-lockdown. There will also be more space as there will be tables in church to avoid crowding in the North Transept. Any questions to Margaret Wallace on 07983 989406.

*** **

Toddler Time will resume on September 15th. For more information, or to book your place, please contact Julie Dolton on 07954 148128.

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.



Worth a smile

How different churches cope with adversity

When a Methodist minister falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, “That was an experience, how do I learn from it?”

When a Catholic priest falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, “I must have done something really bad to deserve that.”

When a Presbyterian minister falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, “That was inevitable, I’m glad it’s over.”

When a Baptist minister falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, “Which one of my deacons pushed me?”

When a vicar falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, “Will I need a faculty to get the staircase repaired?”



Why is it that everyone can remember their childhood phone number, but can’t remember the password they set up yesterday?



My three-year-old was saying his nightly prayers in a very low voice. “I can’t hear you,” I finally whispered.

He said firmly, “Wasn’t talking to you.”

Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony, July:

3: Stuart Buchan & Mia Harrison at St. Michael's;
24: Ross Mackay & Bianca Morland at All Saints

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

Holy Baptism, July:

11: Annabelle Grace Fraser, George Robert Ball;
25: Verity Iris Emerton, Oliver Louie Caleb James

'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'

R.I.P. July:

12: Violet Beetlestone at All Saints; 13: John Plumridge at The Vale Crematorium;
19: Michael Hodder at St. Leonard's; 20: Dorothy Abraham at St. Nicholas;
23: Brian Liscoe at All Saints

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

Years Mind, September:

1: Peter Rolls, Ruth Cursons; 2: Sheila Binns; 3: Stella Aris, Ben Reeve, Irene Hillis, Leslie Slater, Charles Moore, Bryan Gilbert, Barbara Law; 5: Betty Hill, Jim Bright; 6: Brenda Burchell; 7: Roy Pritchard; 9: Les Wood; 10: Edith Boyce, Leslie Scheu, Edward Pyman, Milbrough Mary Morgan; 11: Thomas Grant, Peggy Wallace; 13: John King; 14: Clive Slater, Winifred Weeden, Rose Magee; 16 Peggy King, John Tennant; 18: Stuart Mead, Leslie Howard, Vernon Jessup; 21: Jim Wright; 22: William Kingham; 24: Joyce Pim; 25: Ruby West, James Lander, Mary Davies; 26: Freda Goodger; 27: Beatrice Thompson; 28: Sandra Keen; 29: William Brantom, Gordon Durrington; 30: Margaret Madigan



LEIGHTON BUZZARD MUSIC

LIVE PROFESSIONAL CONCERTS

Saturday 18th September 2021

Change of venue:
at St Barnabas, Linslade

7:30PM

Outstanding young oboist

Amy Roberts

with pianist **Gamal Khamis**

Book tickets now via the TicketSource link on

www.lbmusic.co.uk

Please note that tickets will **not** be available on the door.

Leighton Buzzard Music is a registered charity no: 1183681



Diary Dates

5th September

Services as usual including

All Age Communion All Saints 11.30am

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



8th September

Lunch Club All Saints 1.00pm



12th September

9.30 Parish Eucharist:

The choir will finally return to sing live in services.

This will be an opportunity to:

say goodbye to a retiring head chorister,
thank one staying on and welcome her new deputy,
and greet our new organ scholar.



19th September

Services as usual including Pet Service All Saints 11.30am



3rd October: Harvest Sunday

9.30 Parish Eucharist for Harvest

11.30 Harvest Messy Mass

12 noon **PigNig Harvest Lunch**, from 12noon;

Tickets available from the office.



*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.*



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*

On a musical note.....



On Saturday 4th September, at 7 pm, the choir is giving a concert in Soulbury church to help with their much-needed fundraising. Tickets are £15 (including refreshments afterwards) and can be obtained by phoning 07850 903819 or emailing soulburychurchevents@gmail.com.

This came about as a result of Alexander Olleson's success as BBC Chorister of the Year. All of a sudden we are famous and Alexander was good enough to agree to sing a few solos in the concert. There will be a mixed programme including choir items, and performances by 2 or 3 other soloists, notably Natasha Seale and Father Grant. I appreciate that this is late notice, but do come along and support us (and Soulbury church) if you read this in time. But be quick - over 100 tickets have already been sold.

This year we are saying goodbye to Gracie Longworth, who has been in the choir for many years. She passed her RSCM Bishop's medal a long time ago and would have taken (and passed, I am sure) the prestigious Gold Award had it not been for COVID. Gracie is going to university at Lincoln to read Architectural Science and Technology.

Our other joint Head Chorister, Grace Webb, is staying on to do a gap year and will continue in her role as Head Chorister for another year. I am delighted to announce that Francesca Price has agreed to become Deputy Head Chorister.

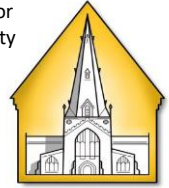
And, for the first time since Harvey, we have an Organ Scholar for the coming academic year. Samuel Kemp lives in Caddington and is a pupil at the Purcell School of Music in Bushey, where he is about to enter the sixth form. He has just passed his ARCO exam and has applied to All Saints to gain some experience working with a choir with under-18 singers.



Paul Dickens

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



O Lord, my God, how great thou art ***Pulford School Residential Trip to Wales - August 2021***

*“When through the woods
and forest glades I wander,
and see the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.....”*

After all of the uncertainty of the last eighteen months, thirty of our year four children finally set off for a week’s residential experience at the Blue Peris Mountain Centre in Llanberis North Wales.

We chose to come to this spectacular part of the world as the landscape is so very different to that which is found in our home town of Leighton Buzzard and therefore there are many opportunities to try new experiences that would not be possible in Bedfordshire.



On the first day we headed over to Anglesey where we visited the Sea Zoo which has a series of displays showcasing the variety of sea life that is found around the shores of our country. After lunch we spent the afternoon in Newborough Forest which leads down to a wide sandy beach. (If you have an opportunity to speak to one of the children they will tell you that they spotted one of the very rare Anglesey bears which apparently live in the forest!!!)

The next day we headed inland to one of the river gorges and spent several happy hours using zip lines to cross the river, scrambling over rocks and up waterfalls and generally getting completely soaked.



On our final day we visited the Llanberis Slate Museum where we were able to learn much about the history of slate quarrying and the lives of the miners.



With lots of good food, huge ice creams and evening activities such as orienteering, table tennis and pool, we then returned home with thirty very tired and happy children who told us that the trip was “fun, exciting, soaking and crazy”.

Most especially this year though, was the opportunity for us all to be together after so long of not being able to socialize with each other.

***"Then sings my soul my saviour God to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art."***

Dave Heather

Lift your eyes ...
Looking at some of All Saints' curiosities
with thanks to Terry Warburton and John Sykes for their insight and photos.

Furnished in style

All Saints has some interesting items of furniture which thankfully escaped fire in 1985.

The two chairs now in the sanctuary of All Saints, against the north wall, can confidently be dated to 1670. They are made of English walnut, except for the seat rails which are beech.

In 1665 a device was imported from the Continent which, when used in conjunction with a lathe, produced "barley twist" turnings easily and mechanically. Virtually all fashionable chairs had these turnings. Genuine 17th century chairs like these two, have the spirals all turning in the same direction, whereas so-called "Jacobean" reproduction chairs of the Victorian or later times have the spirals of the two back uprights going in opposite directions to give a neater symmetrical effect.

The carvings on the chairs represent rosettes and simplified acanthus leaves. The carving is shallow and simple and this helps to date the chairs. The design is typical of the early Charles II period. Later in the 17th century chairs become elaborate and flimsy.

The credence table in the sanctuary is worth a look too, made of yew with its barley twist legs.

The altar rails are very fine too, carved by craftsmen in Jacobean times. It is possible to put your fingers through the wonderful fretwork. Look for evidence of the fire on the altar rail.





The **reredos** behind the high altar is another example of highly skilled work, this time of the early 20th century. The angels are beaten leather, made locally. The figures are nicely carved in wood and the central panels are alabaster.



Our wonderful **eagle lectern** is perhaps the oldest of its type anywhere in Britain. What tales it could tell if only it could speak, as it has stood in All Saints since 13th century. From it hangs a chain to secure a Bible in English in the time of Henry VIII.



The **misericords** (tip up seats in the chancel) are fascinating to study with many carved features. We don't know where they originated, there are all sorts of theories, but they were from a much larger building than All Saints, perhaps a cathedral or Abbey church, but probably not St Albans, as recent investigations indicate they would not fit there.



Bereavement group ***by Jane Smith***



-Bereavement Support Café-

I am the administrator for the Bereavement Group, a small team of dedicated people who offer comfort and support to the bereaved.

During lockdown we have had to change the way we work, contacting each other and the bereaved by phone or e-mail, rather than in person, but as things begin to return to “normal” I thought it might be of interest to readers to learn more about how the group works.

The Office Manager e-mails me the funeral arrangements forms which provide the details of the deceased and information on their next of kin and the funeral service. I record the information in a notebook and on a spreadsheet.

On the first Tuesday of every month the Bereavement Visitors and I meet for a short service where we light candles and pray for the sick, bereaved and recently deceased. We share out the funeral arrangements forms and copies of the parish magazine to visitors who will go on to see the bereaved who live within the Ouzel Valley parishes. I send a copy of the magazine and a letter of condolence to those who live outside the area. Sometimes there is also the CD or memory stick from the funeral service to pass on. Again, if it is outside the Ouzel Valley I post it, or deliver it by hand if it is not too far away.

On the first anniversary of someone’s death I post a “Thinking of you” card on behalf of the Team Ministry to the next of kin and twice a year I send out invitations to a service of thanksgiving held in the Spring at All Saints and in the Autumn at St Barnabas, when they can light a candle to remember their loved one.

Visitors to the Christmas Tree Festival can hang a star with their loved one’s name onto a tree of remembrance and the stars are blessed and burned later in the year.

Some people decline the support offered by the Visitors when they call, but others value continued contact. The bereavement café, held in the afternoon on the first Sunday of every month in the coffee shop, provides a source of great comfort to them. It offers a place to share a cup of tea and some cake, and provides an opportunity to meet others who may also feel lonely and lost and a place where they can feel loved. The visitors lay on mindfulness activities and offer prayers, naming individually those who have died recently.

The role of Bereavement Visitor is extremely rewarding and the group has received many e-mails and letters of thanks from those who have found the support invaluable. If you would like to become part of this group, please contact Dot Jessup or me.

Jane Smith

St. Nicholas, Hockliffe

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Churchwardens: Brian Speller: 210565;

Roger Spalding: 07451 877501



“Then the Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” 1 Kings 19 v11-13

During the pandemic, I'm sure I'm not alone in finding it difficult to maintain my faith at times. For so long we have worshipped at home or separately in church, masked and unable to mingle. While I'm grateful at St Nicholas's to have had the option of worshipping on Zoom each week, it in no way replaces to act of coming together, sharing communion and fellowship.

“After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.”

Elijah expected to find God in the powerful wind or the mighty earthquake but God was not there. We might hope to experience earth-shattering proof of God's existence but often we will find him in the small things instead.

Whenever I have doubts, I find God in a sunset so vivid that I have to pull over in the car to look at it properly. Or in the gentle breeze rippling the leaves in the woods. He is there in an unexpected act of kindness or when an offer of help comes unbidden, and in the warmth of the sun shining on closed eyelids.

In churches, especially those like St Nicholas, old buildings designed when worshipping communities were very different from today, we can find ourselves bogged down with the enormity of the task ahead of us, keeping the building well-maintained, warm and inviting. Of course, this is important so we can continue to serve our neighbourhood.

But we mustn't forget the small things too: welcoming back returning members, resuming the simple act of being allowed to sing in our services, offering refreshments now that mingling is once more permitted and re-starting the groups and events that to encourage both regular and new members to engage with our Christian community.

I'm sure you are all familiar with the hymn Dear Lord and Father of Mankind. Chris Bowater, the Christian songwriter, took the last two verses and set them to a different tune. They focus on the *“still, small voice of calm”*, the quiet that we need to hear God's voice. It's been difficult to find over the last crazy eighteen months with everyone at home, so much less contact with the people beyond our immediate family. Now, though, we can see hope emerging. St Nicholas's held cream teas with live music at the end of July and hopefully this is sign of a gradual return to normality.

But if you are finding doubts creeping in or a sense of disconnection, look for God in the small things. In my experience, he is there to be found when you need him most.

Do look on YouTube for the Chris Bowater song: *Drop thy still dews of quietness*

Claire Vogeli

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

EST 1923

DILLAMORE

FUNERAL SERVICE LTD



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



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



St. Michael's, Eggington

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Church Officers:

Carol Hart 384634; Paul Brown 751861



Can you believe it is September already? I think one reason it appears to have come round so fast might be that we are starting to get back to something approaching “normal”.



In Eggington on 04 July we held the wedding of Stuart and Mia at our beautiful village church. The bride arrived to the sound of the bagpipes played by a Scots Piper friend of the groom – quite a sight in a small Bedfordshire village! Once married, the Piper led the happy couple out again as they made their way up to Eggington House for their Wedding Reception.

Then on 18 July, we held the popular Cream teas event in the churchyard. The weather was glorious, and to allow for social distancing the teas were served to visitors seated in the churchyard by six Girl Guides and their leader from 3rd Heath & Reach Guide Company.

Live music was provided by Andy Tournay and his very talented friends, with recorded music prepared and streamed by Linda Morris. Huge thanks are due to everyone who helped in so many ways leading to an impressive sum of £397 being raised from the donations on the day. The Graveyard service and tree dedication element originally planned to take part before the Cream teas event will now be given its own time, on Sunday 26 Sept.

In August we had several baptisms in Eggington church, including baby Hugo Robert, a brother for William, whose Baptism service in January 2020 was the last to take place before the Covid virus stopped us all in our tracks. Happiness and blessings to all these families and their children taking their first step in the life of Christ.

Finally, on 11th September we have the annual Beds and Herts Historic churches Trust “Bike and Hike” event. Despite its name, you can also drive a car, ride a mobility scooter or on horseback as well as Biking and Hiking to visit as many churches as you are able on the day, sufficiently challenging to merit sponsorship but something you feel able to do. You can go as near or far as you like, with 21 different areas across Beds and Herts. Sponsor forms and posters are available from Anne Sheppard at Eggington, and they will also be at St Leonard’s Heath and Reach. Last year a total of £112,000 was raised for the Trust, which is given back to churches needing help to fund various building and maintenance issues, so it is a really good cause to help, and half of what you raise goes to your own church! Why not give it a try, you are sure to have a great day!

Anne Sheppard

St. Michael & All Angels, Billington

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwardens:

Sandra Brewin 373644; Julia Haviland 850380



On Monday 14th August Lawrence Fountaine died at home after many months of deteriorating health. Lawrence, whose home was in Billington for most of his life, was known and loved by nearly everybody who lived here. He attended the school in the village (which has been closed for many years) and afterwards worked in farms and gardens in and around this area. He and Hazel and their daughters Tina and Lisa lived on Stanbridge Road until fairly recently, when they moved to Leighton Buzzard. Lawrence, or Lob as he was widely known, was a kind and gracious man, a friend to many, a gardener par-excellence, and was full of fun and humour. The work of his hands can be seen in many gardens in Billington. Speaking on behalf of the Bowls Club, we miss him hugely. We want to express our sympathy to Hazel, Tina and Lisa, and to all the members of Lob's large family. Happy memories of Lob will live on for many years to come.

We were encouraged on Saturday 14th August when ten people turned up to help in the Church and Churchyard tidy up. Those who came worked hard for over two hours to cut hedges, clear drains, weed footpaths and clean the Church interior. Has anybody else suffered from carpet moths in their Church?! We have a bit of an infestation and they have been chomping away at the kneelers and pew runners so beautifully embroidered by members of the congregation several years ago.

On Friday 3rd September we are starting up the "Friday Club" again, 2.30-4.30pm in the village hall. All are welcome to come for chat, refreshments, and catching up on news from the last 18 months.

On Saturday 4th September we will be celebrating the end of Lockdown, inviting everyone in the village to CREAM TEA in the Church and Churchyard from 3-5pm.

Sandra Brewin

**St. Michael's & All Angels
Billington
invite you to celebrate
the end of Lockdown with
Cream Teas
Saturday 4th September 2021
3.00 pm to 5.00 pm
in our beautiful churchyard.**



Good Shepherd, Sandhills

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwarden: Steve Nixon



**CHURCH of the
GOOD SHEPHERD**

Social summer



We have had a social-focused summer this year, with services replaced by a series of COVID-safe events and gatherings.

August for many of us at the Church of the Good Shepherd (CGS) has been a time to catch up with family, go on staycations and generally replenish our batteries. A new-born baby girl and granddaughter have also been keeping two of our families busy too.

So CGS Juniors put their glue sticks down, our 'roadies' that set up the IT kit to deliver hybrid (in person and on Zoom) services could uncross their fingers and house group, Oasis tea and chat and the CGS Youth Gathering could take a break from Zoom-based socials.

The PCC opted this year for a mixed diet of face to face gatherings from walks in Rushmere to Olympic-themed events in Astral Park.

The younger visitors won a competitive sack race with a photo finish, while the adults redeemed themselves with a good effort in bean bag throwing. Discus and football was also enjoyed alongside Olympic-themed Lego for those looking some something less energetic.

We also held a Hope After Covid event in July to help the Sandhills community remember, reflect and recover from their COVID experiences and encourage them to gather hope for the future.

Many local people approached our eye catching rainbow balloon archway to talk to us and join in with the activities on offer. These activities included salt dough hearts for people to decorate and hang on a tree, paper tags to write remembrances on and hang on the railings around Astral Park Sports and Community Centre and a thanksgiving graffiti wall. We also gave out postcards with restorative activities.

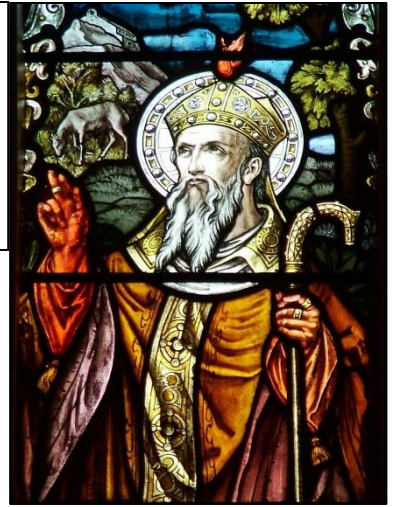
We can now approach September, refreshed and ready for what Autumn may bring.

Jo Bellamy

Saints on Earth

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

Saint Finbarr



Coming from the Land of Saints and Scholars (aka Ireland) I had no shortage of saints and other potential inspirational heroes when I was growing up.

With a rich history of mystics, healers, holy people and Christian martyrs, Ireland was a veritable 'breeding ground' for saints.

While these all sound like fascinating and inspirational people, acts like driving the snakes out of Ireland and killing dragons were a bit much for me to aspire to, and the whole martyrdom thing didn't really appeal to me either.

Saint Íde sounds like a bit of a trailblazer - leaving home at 16 on a donkey, bringing her younger sister Fíona with her, she set up a monastic school at Killeedy and later became the foster mother of the saints of Ireland.

Saint Patrick was our patron saint of course and he gave us a day off school every year, but I wasn't too keen on his lifestyle of minding sheep, being captured by slave traders and having to deal with all those snakes.

The 7th century St Fechin always appealed to me as he would to any teenage boy, but other than inspiring the wonderfully named town of Termonfeckin in Co Louth little more is known of him unfortunately.

Fortunately there was a more appropriate and down to earth saint that I could look up to. Saint Finbarr sounds like an ordinary lad, born the son of a blacksmith in about 550 near Bandon in West Cork where my family are from. Originally named Lóchán, he was renamed "Fionnbharra" (Fairhead in Irish), on account of his fair hair.

He studied for the priesthood in Ossory in County Kilkenny and went on pilgrimage to Rome with some of the monks, visiting St David in Wales on the way back. On his return, he built a hermitage on a lake in Gougane Barra in West Cork - one of the most beautiful and peaceful places I have ever visited. He settled for about the last seventeen years of his life in the area then known as Corcach Mór na Mumhan (the Great Marsh of Munster), now the city of Cork, where he gathered around him monks and students. This became an important centre of learning, giving rise to the phrase "Where Finbarr taught let Munster learn", which is the motto of University College Cork where I studied.

Finbarr became the first bishop of Cork and died at Cloyne on 25 September 623. It is said that when he died the sun did not set for two weeks. Finbarr subsequently became the patron saint of Cork where I was born and lived, and his feast day on 25 September is the day after my birthday.

There has been a place of worship at Finbarr’s monastery in Cork since the 7th century. The present cathedral of St Fin Barre was completed in 1879, designed by the great Victorian architect William Burges. It is a magnificent a Gothic Revival three-spire cathedral built of local stone from County Cork. I was lucky enough to be able to sing in the choir of St Fin Barre’s Cathedral for 5 years with my brother while I was at university. My attachment to St Finbarr continued after I moved to England, I was subsequently married in St Fin Barre’s Cathedral and my children were christened there.

Finbarr was an ordinary lad from West Cork... You don’t have to be a super-hero to be a saint. St Finbarr may not be the most well-known saint – even in Ireland – and he wasn’t a superstar who performed legendary miracles, but he has played an important part in my life and I have always regarded him as my personal saint.

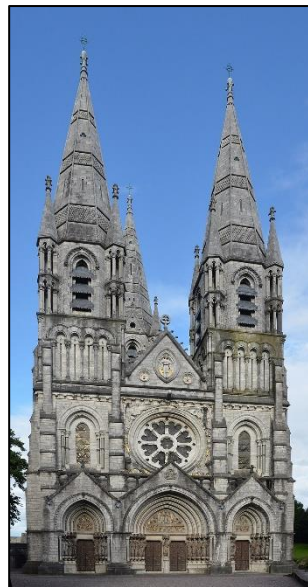


Photo of St. Fin Barre cathedral above courtesy of Steven Lek

Alan Perrott



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Bike 'n Hike in Beds 'n Herts

GOING FOR GOLD in 2021

Saturday 11th September



In Olympic style, over the last four years, All Saints has been awarded two Bronze and two Silver certificates for raising over £4000. So it is perhaps rather ambitious to aim for a Gold Certificate which requires over £3000 instead of over £500 or £1000.

I have been involved with Bike 'n Hike since 2015 and took over the local organisation of the scheme from Nick Clarke in 2018. Over the last six years, I have twice walked 19km visiting 12 churches in the villages, Linslade and Leighton Buzzard. In 2018 I was personally awarded a Bronze certificate for raising £621.

I only mention this because this year I will only be able to walk 4km and visit 8 churches as I have a commitment to sing later in the day.

Regrettably this must be my last year as Church organiser for the scheme so we will be looking for somebody to take over for 2022.

However, for this year, we are now looking for sponsors for 2021, walkers, hikers, drivers, horse riders and church helpers. So please respond positively.

To summarise the scheme, Bike 'n Hike aims to raise funds, half of which goes to All Saints, so five people over the last four years have raised over £2,000 for church funds. The rest of the sponsorship goes to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust to offer essential grants for church repair projects. So please ask me for a Sponsorship Pack and start collecting sponsors to see if we can "Go for a Gold Certificate"!

Brian Bainbridge

[NB: As Brian mentions, half of what members raise goes to their own churches, while half goes to BHHCT. Each church in the Team will welcome your support for their participants. In particular see Eggington's article on page 17. Ed.]

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

