

# 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*

**October 2021**

**70p**

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It's OK to look silly,  
says Fr. Bernard

At last, the choir is  
singing again, very  
"glad to go  
into the House  
of the Lord"

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from BHHCT Hikers

Basilisks and  
Cockatrices – more  
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inspired by Trevor  
Huddleston

Harvest &  
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team churches

*Cover Picture:*  
*St. Michael & All*  
*Angels,*  
*by Linda Hewitt, artist*  
*& resident of Billington*



# 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](http://www.allsaintslb.org.uk)  
**Email:** [parish@allsaintslb.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:enquiry@allsaintspreservationtrust.org)  
Website: [www.allsaintspreservationtrust.org](http://www.allsaintspreservationtrust.org)

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

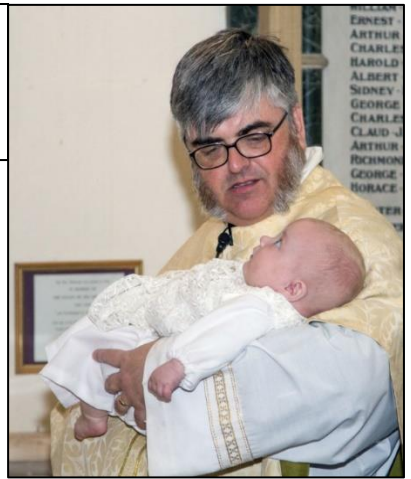
**Advertising:** Please contact the Parish Office, 01525 381418; [parish@allsaintslb.org.uk](mailto:parish@allsaintslb.org.uk)

**Distribution:** Stephen Jury 01525 381936; [stephenjury21@btinternet.com](mailto:stephenjury21@btinternet.com)

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***Look ridiculous –  
life is a funny business  
by Rev'd Dr. Bernard Minton***

People ask me why I let my hair get so long. Sometimes I reply that it's a cheap version of a mid-life crisis; sometimes I say that since every husband is always irritating to his wife, it's a good idea to create a lightning conductor, in case irritation spreads to something important, like my book-buying habit! Sometimes I blame laziness; sometimes a desire to look like an Orthodox monk. All of those reasons are true, up-to-a-point.



But there is another reason. I deliberately look ridiculous, because I think *everything* is funny, and especially it is funny that we take ourselves and this world so seriously, as though it were going to last for ever, and as though everything we do or say here matters in some Great Scheme of Things.

Everything, in every walk of life, has to have strategies, and important-sounding acronyms. In business; even in the Church; and very much in politics and law: everything is a matter of life-and-death, and we are all so important, and responsible, and clever, in our serious suits with our serious policies, building the New Jerusalem initiative by initiative.

But really we are just playing 'house'. We are children dressing-up, and rushing around 'pretending', and we understand almost nothing about what is real and true.

I suppose I should make it clear: I don't think this world is unimportant – not in the least. And I think that each of us is priceless and extraordinary and beloved. But we are *children* – toddlers, at best. This world is precious, delicate, exquisite: a jewel. And we are set within it as incredibly precious ornaments. But we are not valued because of what we do, or say, or think, or make; any more than a parent values the pictures made by their child at nursery for their intrinsic qualities. The scrawls and daubs so proudly displayed are valued for the love that animates and motivates them. They are valued for the love that inspired them in the child, and because of the love that the parent has for the child and everything that relates to them.

We are incredibly loved and valued, but not because we earn it: rather the reverse! I like being silly, but I also think it's really important! Silliness helps reminds us that we are not from 'round here'. These customs are not eternal. And 'round here' isn't actually from 'round here', either. We are really all 'of heaven', and we are slumming it in the mess we have made, waiting to be re-deemed, to be picked up and cuddled, and tickled under the arms.

***Fr. Bernard***

## *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

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: All Age Service

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Baptism

6pm Said Evening Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: followed by Benediction

#### **Weekdays:**

#### **Holy Communion**

7.30pm Tuesday

(Service of Healing on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.saintleonardschurch.com)

### **St. Michael's, Eggington**

#### **Sundays:**

9.15am 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Holy Communion and  
CoGS Juniors at Greenleas School

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: 'In the Community' at Astral Park

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Family Service at Greenleas School

4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

1<sup>st</sup> 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

It is with regret that we have to announce that the Coffee Shop will no longer be open on Fridays. It will continue to be open on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

\*\*\* \*\*

A calendar of photos of All Saints Church for 2022 has been produced as a fundraiser for the church. They are available now at a cost of £10 each. Please contact Jenny Huskisson on 757013 if you would like one.

\*\*\* \*\*

Grand Tree Festival raffle tickets are now available from the church at £1 each. The prizes are as follows: 1st Prize £250 in cash, 2nd Prize £50 Waitrose voucher, 3rd Prize £30 Morrison's voucher. All proceeds are for the upkeep of All Saints Church. The raffle will be drawn 20th November at the Tree Festival.



**PARAPROSDOKIANS...** (*Winston Churchill loved them*) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected, and frequently humorous.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right – only who is left.

They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted the pay cheques.

*And that old, unanswerable one, favourite of all parents everywhere:*

You must be tired or you wouldn't be cross.



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

# Parish Registers

## Holy Matrimony, August:

14: Christopher Emmerson & Tiffany Howett at All Saints; 21: Jason McGovern & Sharon Brandy at All Saints; 28: Lee Major & Sarah Trinder at All Saints, Graham Linger & Charlene Rooney at All Saints

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

## Holy Baptism, August:

8: Jayme-Leigh Pearl Drakeley, Kobe James Hughes, Leila Jane Marie Mayhew, Dallas James Lewthwaite; 22: Matilda Rose Collins, Jude Arthur Leo Ambrose, Mimi Jean Weaving

*'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'*

## R.I.P. August:

11: Ryszard Majchrowski at Bierton; 16: Trevor Watts at All Saints; 19: Audrey Cross at All Saints; 23: Jean Goodwin at Bierton

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

## Years Mind, October:

1: Vera Delafield, Arthur Waldock, Henry (Topper) Baines, Diana Reynolds; 2: Walter Sandifer, Paul Kaye; 4: Sybil Lawson; 5: Jim Aris, Rita Styles, John Sandifer; 6: Winifred Hart; 7: Laurence Nash, Anne Gittins, Edna Forward; 9: Francis Williams, Hilda Plenderleath, William Delafield; 10: Sheila Twivy; 13: William Sutton, Rosemary Wells; 14: Gilbert Inglefield, Harry Tingey, Emma Smith; 17: Doris Wells, George Simmonds; 19: Hugh Harmer, Marjorie Duff, Adelaide Lack, Joan Lawrie; 20: Pat Harris, Andrew Craddock, Donald Butler, Eric Underwood; 21: John Skinner; 22: Harold Rolls, Wally Fountaine; 26: Grace Nash, Frank Pateman; 30: Helen Lau; 31: Trevor French



## LEIGHTON BUZZARD MUSIC

Present 2 LIVE PROFESSIONAL CONCERTS

Both at St Barnabas Linslade at 7.30pm

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Cellist **Leo Popplewell** with  
pianist **Antonina Suhanova**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Vienna Mozart Trio**

**Tickets available** via TicketSource.

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

Further details at [www.lbmusic.co.uk](http://www.lbmusic.co.uk)

Leighton Buzzard Music is a registered charity no: 1183681





# Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

*Bike 'n Hike in Beds 'n Herts*

Once again, Brian, Maggie and Katrina covered fantastic distances and discovered all sorts of treasures while hiking for the BHHCT. Between them they visited almost 30 churches, and raised well over £1000, of which half comes to All Saints, and half goes to BHHCT. Highlights included St. Barnabas' Community Garden, an empty bench at the Market Cross, and being greeted back at All Saints by Rosemary Warburton, who spent 7 hours keeping the All Saints Church door open to welcome over 20 visitors.

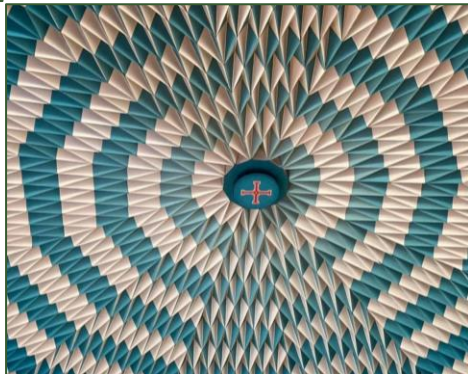
Katrina walked 18 miles to visit 21 churches. Extracts from her running commentary, posted with photos on FaceBook, included the following:

- \* lovely chalk grassland and wildflower meadows of Dog Kennel Downs;*
- \* a warm welcome at some Dunstable churches ... the chalk tracks of Totternhoe, singing to my heart's content disturbing nobody! Hedgerow berries to munch en route.*
- \* best afternoon tea at St Mary's Eaton Bray.. so lovely to see old friends, ...*



Very many thanks to all our very generous sponsors. You can still give, either in person, or visit [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) and search for our pages.

**Commentary & photos by Brian Bainbridge & Katrina Grant**



*Anti-clockwise from top left: Katrina at Edlesborough; Madonna of the Magnificat, Dunstable Priory; tea at St Mary's Eaton Bray; ceiling St. Mary's Dunstable RC; window, St Giles Totternhoe; refreshment en route; Brian & Maggie, arriving back at All Saints LB.*



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## On a musical note.....



I am delighted to report that the All Saints, Soulbury fund-raising concert given by Alexander Olleson and our choir on 4<sup>th</sup> September raised about £2,500, plus some Gift Aid. On top of that, a retiring collection for refugees from Afghanistan raised over £300. My thanks to the choir, to our soloists Alexander, Gracie, Olivia, Natasha, Bee, Saffron, Grace, Father Grant and Robin and to Craig Nathan who accompanied everything so brilliantly. Here is the programme:

I will sing with the Spirit	John Rutter
How beautiful are the feet	G.F. Handel
The Lord's my shepherd	Howard Goodall
Sophisticated lady	Duke Ellington
I give to you a new commandment	Peter Nardone
O for the wings of a dove	Felix Mendelssohn
A COVID lament (sung to Anglican chant)	
Three little maids (Mikado)	Gilbert & Sullivan
I waited for the Lord	Felix Mendelssohn
I am the very model of a modern Major-General	Gilbert & Sullivan
Pie Jesu	Gabriel Fauré
Hippopotamus song (all - chorus)	Flanders/Swann
Jerusalem (all)	Hubert Parry

### **“I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord” (Ps 122).**

After 18 months absence from the stalls, it was wonderful to hear the choir, augmented with a few ex-trebles, sing the opening words of Parry's magnificent anthem: “I was glad” (with Parry's sudden change of key to emphasise the gladness) and to hear our new Organ Scholar, Sam Kemp, start the service with that stately organ introduction..



We took the opportunity this year not only to welcome our new Head and Deputy Head Choristers (Grace Webb and Francesca Price) and Organ Scholar (Sam Kemp), but also to say goodbye to previous Head Choristers (Gracie Longworth and Genevieve Pughe), whose usual leaving services were curtailed by Covid. Thank you to them for all they did for the choir and the church. We very much hope to see them at Christmas, when the Midnight Mass choir features an ever-growing number of ex-trebles!!

**Paul Dickens**

# Calendar of Events



**3<sup>rd</sup> October Harvest Festival**  
*Services as usual including*  
**Messy Mass** All Saints 11.30am  
**Pignic** All Saints 12noon



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

**6<sup>th</sup> October**

**Lunch Club** All Saints 1.00pm



**15<sup>th</sup> October**

**Crafty Natter** All Saints 1.30pm



**17<sup>th</sup> October**

**Services as usual including All Age Communion** All Saints 11.30am



**31<sup>st</sup> October All Saints Sunday**

**Services as usual including Messy Mass** All Saints 11.30am

**Festal Evensong followed by Soup & Fireworks** All Saints 5pm

*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.*



**All Saints Church**  
**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November

If your organisation is interested in exhibiting then please contact the parish office.  
email - [treefestival@allsaintslb.org.uk](mailto:treefestival@allsaintslb.org.uk)

# ***John MacDonald, RIP***

***Engineer and creative mechanic, faithful servant, friend.***



Memories of John remind us that he was a much loved member of All Saints Parish in Leighton Buzzard. For as long as we can recall John was a Server or sideman at the 8.00 am Service, ensuring that all preparations were complete. Additionally Fr. Len Lack and Readers organised an “Outreach Church” in Brooklands School. John was usually on hand to set up and serve for these services. He helped at Fetes and fundraising as well as serving on the Fabric Committee. If anything needed repair, here was your man.

By coincidence John and I became employed at the ERA research factory at Dunstable during 1965. The Motor Industry was developing vehicles to operate reliably with modern petrol also meet the exhaust emission standards required for many car markets. Engineers from many car factories consulted ERA about their designs for future vehicles. During the years of 1966-7 John moved to Vauxhall Cars to use his specialist knowledge in the experimental department at Luton.

Later as retirement approached John and I increased our efforts to tidy All Saints churchyard. John had resurrected two old grass mowers that had been donated. Also collected were garden tools for churchyard management, and the old existing shed became a place for men to collect, work, and make tea. John pressed the PCC and Treasurer to purchase a “ride on” mower to control untidy areas around the church. The mower gave excellent service but was unreliable for use in long grass with unseen graves, memorials and mole hills. We became experts in mower maintenance!

The Churchyard Team grew Christmas trees donated during January each year by Parish members, and could provide the church with a tree and other various decorations. The trees were often 20 feet tall and required at least six men to position them. During cutting, one tree fell unexpectedly to trap Mike Nash who was photographing events. A very grumpy Mike was unravelled from the errant tree, and revived with coffee and cakes.

Through the years, the Churchyard team has matured, members have eased down. The wood shed was replaced by a handsome brick built workshop with electric lights and tools. An annual “Church yard working party” is attended by the “BEE” team members and Nature Survey supporters.

***David Williams.***

*Foot Note: English Racing Automobiles (ERA) was founded in 1933 The Company produced a number a racing cars that were purchased or driven by famous drivers from that time. The Dunstable Factory started operation in 1947 and continued past 1950. Some of the ERA directors went on to form the well-known racing car enterprise - BRM.*

# *Lift your eyes ...*

## *Looking at some of All Saints' curiosities*

*with thanks to Terry Warburton for his help with this series*

### **What the Devil:**

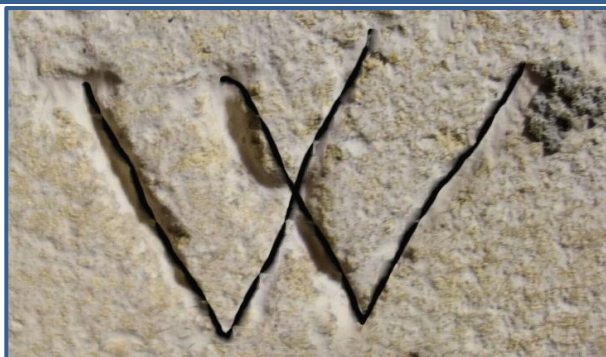
#### ***Cockatrices, basilisks, and graffiti***

A search of the walls and the older furnishings inside All Saints will reveal some very curious images: demons, pentangles, and mythical creatures are there in abundance, reflecting a medieval belief in the presence of a malevolence much nearer to everyday existence for ordinary folk than for the people of today.



The wall marks are called '*witches' marks*', put there not to encourage the black art but to ward off the very real threats just waiting an opportunity to strike if people lowered their guards. Psalm 91.13 reminds that fierce creatures, manifestations of the devil, are trampled underfoot by the power of God, so some protective help was necessary.

This belief is reflected in the medieval scratchings which are slowly becoming more visible in our church as centuries of limewash, put there after the reformation, gradually wear away. The marks reflect, not so much the official belief of the Church, but more the belief of the common man who considered that the misfortunes of life, including illness, storms, crop failures and other disasters, were related to their own bad thoughts, words or deeds, allowing the power of malign spirits to take them on.

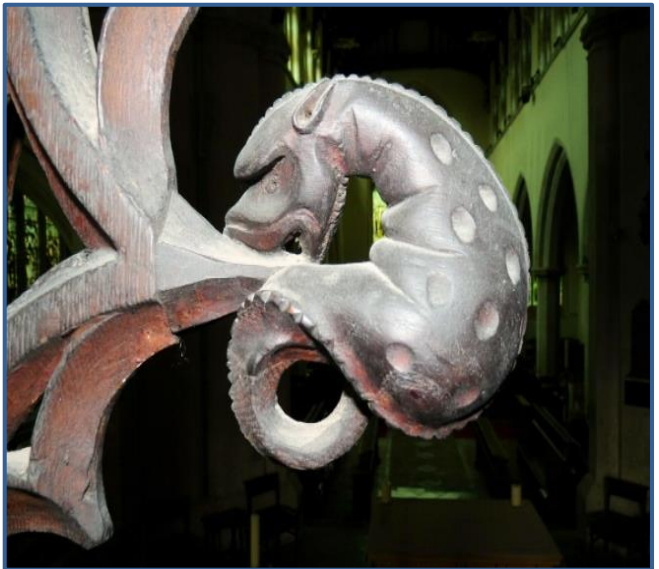


I have outlined the graffiti above to show them more clearly. The "W" is actually "V V", probably for "Virgo Virginum" a reference to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The star shows one of the many pentangles in the church, seen in medieval times as seals of protection.

There are many other types of graffiti in All Saints, some representing soldiers, knights, windows, birds, coats of arms, matrimonial disputes and more. Take a walk round with a torch and hold it to the walls at different angles to change the shadows. You may be surprised at what you can see.



A demon in the crossing on the west pier and another carved into the altar rails.



Cockatrices, mentioned in the Old and New Testaments and believed to be hatched from a cockerel's egg by a serpent, have a cockerel's head, wings and a serpent's body. Similar in its effect is a basilisk, the most feared of evil creatures. It is "half a foot long with white spots who lives in dry places". It will kill a man simply by looking at him and his scent will also kill. These are depicted on and near to the All Saints' rood screen. Of course no-one who had seen a basilisk has lived to describe it!

*Terry Warburton*

## *All Saints Churchwardens celebrating one of our young people*

When you were a child, who were your heroes? Batman, Superwoman, Tin Tin, or were they real people that you admired? Did you ever meet them and have a conversation? (How about this as an idea for future articles, Ed?)

See the article below from Henni, who attends All Saints and is one of our young choristers. She didn't just read about her favourite subject, but went the extra mile to find out more. How many more of us would have loved to share that live stream meeting?

Well done Henni for being so enterprising!

*Janet Wenborn*

### *Yellowstone live streams me!!!!*



On the last day of school some of my friends came round to my house for a live stream with a young woman called Maddy Jackson. Maddy is one of Doug Smith's wolf biologists working in Yellowstone Park, USA. Doug Smith is the man who reintroduced wolves back into Yellowstone (1996). I wrote to Doug because I wanted to learn more about wolves. I found him in my book called "Earth Heroes" by Lily Dyu. Maddy wrote a letter back to me and sent photos of Yellowstone wolves.

On the live stream Maddy showed us a wolf and cougar skin and skull from the park. She gave us a power point about the history and wolf population of Yellowstone Park, which was very interesting. She showed us lots of photos of the wolves in 1996 being released with GPS collars on them. The GPS tracks where they are and what they are doing.



At the end we asked some questions like, how old are the wolf pups in the packs? And why did you want to be a wolf biologist? I love wolves and even more now! - That is how I ended up being offered a live stream with Yellowstone, it was awesome!!!!!!

Why don't you write to your earth heroes?

*Henni Seale, aged 9.*

## ***St. Nicholas, Hockliffe***

***Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeny***

***Tel: 01525 237633***

***Churchwardens: Brian Speller: 210 565;***

***Roger Spalding: 07451 877 501***



### ***Watching The Detectives***

One bright day in August, The Lady Of The House – in line with current church practice to acronym, she will be known as TLOTH moving forward. So, one bright August Day TLOTH said, "Do you fancy spending Saturday doing something different?"

It was clear that, TLOTH was pursuing her own agenda with this question. My mind, as rapidly as senile decay would allow, reviewed what the agenda might be: solving a Swedish flat pack 3D jigsaw puzzle; trekking relentlessly around shoe shops and then, several hours later, to buy the first pair that TLOTH had tried on; or visiting a well know jewelers and sighing over gems that cost more than a house.

To my surprise it was none of these. Apparently, TLOTH had download an APP! The app would require us to report to Market Square, Leighton Buzzard, where we would become detectives investigating the murders of 4 policeman by a modern Jack the Ripper. Like lightning my mind, see reference to mind above, saw the flaw in this scenario. Given how long it has been since we saw a police officer in Leighton Buzzard, it seemed very unlikely that there would be 4 of them. Still, go with the flow.

It was a beautiful sunny Saturday when TLOTH, Millie our faithful police hound and self arrived at Market Square. Taking a self-conscious glance around I saw that we were not alone. Some very serious chaps in a group nearby were all sporting hats in the style of the maestro, Sherlock Holmes. Elsewhere, a group was studying their phones, shading them with their spiffing FBI baseball caps.

"Gosh" I thought, examining our elegant summer wear, "We're underdressed. "

Nine o' clock came and TLOTH's phone came to life and showed a map of Leighton Buzzard. The map showed various locations where witnesses and suspects could be interviewed about the crime. Off we plodded to the Golden Bell. No, not to wet our whistles, it was nine o' clock in the morning. When we arrived the display on TLOTH's phone showed a cryptic question.

Millie did not have a clue, my mind was frozen, see reference to mind above, but TLOTH was on the case. Typing her answer into the phone produced a statement from one of the witnesses to the crime. After we had collected all the statements and clues, much, much later, we called a case conference and all 3 of us agreed on the culprit. Inputting our answer solved the crime.

We had had a very enjoyable day and had discovered our town in a different way.

It was this sense of discovery that made me reflect that if we looked at The Bible with the same sense of discovery, we might find a lot of clues about our Lord and our faith.

***Roger Spalding***

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# **St. Michael's, Eggington**

**Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney**

**Tel: 01525 237633**

**Church Officers:**

**Carol Hart 384634; Paul Brown 751861**



Well hello: How are you? What a question. How to answer? We made it to October - some are in great shape, others are struggling and are in our thoughts. I should think most are somewhere between the two. I find there is something rather settling about this time of year. As I write, we have seen the children return to school, we wait to realise the impact of that and the village has returned to its term time rhythm.

I noted yesterday that it was dark by 19.30 and lights were on as I drove home. This morning I was woken by geese flying overhead off to wherever it is they head off to. It is still warm and we are teasing the last of summer colour out of the garden with our dead-heading. Leaves are settling on the ground. These things are all rather familiar. We have been here before. That in its self can be a comfort.

As I say, I find it rather settling, almost as if we too need a rest. But will we rest? I doubt it. On we go - we have things we can now do: some are old favourites, some are untried before and some we don't really want to face - but we will. Facing uncertainty has become common-place and I am hopeful that we know now, better than we did before, that we can ask for help and that perhaps that help may be closer to home than we thought 18 months ago.

There has been much talk of 'getting back to normal', whatever that means. Some are well ahead, some remain cautious and, for some, normal has been redefined.

To test the waters, I had tea out last week - well rather more 'in' than 'out'. Yes, I drank tea and ate cake indoors - not outside on a picnic chair, park bench or some such. Again all rather 'settling' - I plan to do it again.

Meantime, the work continues in the church garden and real progress can be seen. Do take a stroll through if you can. We are very lucky to have such a peaceful place to enjoy, right on our doorstep.

We hope to re-start the 'Elevenses' coffee mornings. I would welcome any thoughts you may have on this matter. Contact me at [michelleplummer2@icloud.com](mailto:michelleplummer2@icloud.com)

As you will see below, services are happening in St Michael's, but if you might like to attend via zoom, contact Rev'd Noel.

## **Dates for your diary:**

*3<sup>rd</sup> October*

*Harvest Festival Service at 9.15am*

*9<sup>th</sup> October*

*Working party at the church from 10.00am*

*17 October & 7<sup>th</sup> November*

*Services at 9.15*

**Michelle Plummer**

## **St. Michael & All Angels, Billington**

**Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh**

**Tel: 01525 838450**

**Churchwardens:**

**Sandra Brewin 373644; Julia Haviland 850380**



### ***Harvest time – a time to share many things:***

**News:** We were delighted at the success of the Cream Tea on 4th September. The weather was so kind, all were able to sit outside and 48 people turned up for a couple of hours of chatting while enjoying homemade cakes and scones. Thank you to all those who helped with this event.

**A date: Harvest Festival** will be at 11.15 am on Sunday 3rd October at St Michael and All Angels. Non-perishable gifts of food and toiletries will be appreciated.

**A Harvest story:** *There was a farmer who grew excellent quality wheat and every season he won the award for the best grown in his county. One year a reporter from the local newspaper interviewed the farmer and learned that each spring, the man shared his seed with his neighbours so that they too could plant it in their fields...*

*"How can you afford to share your best wheat seed with your neighbours when they are entering their crops in the competition with yours?" the reporter asked.*

*"Why that's very simple," the farmer explained. "The wind picks up pollen from the developing wheat and carries it from field to field. If my neighbours grow inferior wheat, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of all the wheat, including mine. If I am to grow good wheat, I must help my neighbours to grow good wheat too."*

*Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches; for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.*

### ***And finally: a hymn about sharing harvest bread, [from The Trussell Trust]***

Now the harvest is all gathered,  
Let us eat the sharing Bread,  
In our fam'ly all together,  
As our custom is, we said.  
And we pass the Bread among us,  
Thanking God that all are fed.

But there comes a gentle knocking,  
Just before we break the Bread,  
From our neighbours in the doorway:  
'Harvest failed for us,' they said.  
So we share the Bread among them,  
Thanking God that all are fed.

Soon we hear a growing murmur,  
As we eat the sharing Bread,  
From the neighbours of our neighbours:  
'We are starving, friends,' it said.  
Then we stretch the Bread out further  
Thanking God that all are fed.

When the world begins to clamour,  
We cry, 'Take our sharing Bread,  
Miracles we cannot offer!'  
'Oh, it happened once,' they said,  
'Thousands of us ate together  
Thanking God that all are fed.'

***Good Shepherd, Sandhills***

***Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh***

***Tel: 01525 838450***

***Churchwarden: Steve Nixon***



**CHURCH of the  
GOOD SHEPHERD**

### ***Halloween without the ghouls and ghosts***

We each have our own views on Halloween and make our own decisions as to how we do or do not recognise the Pagan festival.

For families not keen on Halloween, it can feel difficult to ignore the excitement around this day – the sweets, the outfits, the pumpkins, the sweets...

However, for those uncertain of how to balance the feeling of missing out with their own convictions, there are plenty of alternatives.

At the Church of the Good Shepherd a few years back, we organised a light party for Messy Church, using ideas from the Scripture Union light party pack that is available to download from their website.

Light party ideas include making glow in the dark play dough, bead and clay candle holders or just dance around in the dark with glow sticks or torches. You could also paint or glue coloured tissue paper to glass jars to place a candle in. I still have my Remembrance Sunday glass jar sitting on my kitchen windowsill that I made at our Messy Church 5 years ago.

Another alternative is to celebrate the Christian harvest festival with pumpkin carving. Each year, the pumpkin carving artistry gets better and better. If you are not feeling that ambitious, one of the easiest to cut is the cross which looks great with the light shining out. Or better yet, get the glitter and paint out and decorate the pumpkin. Seasonal wreaths seem to be the thing at the moment too. Why not go on an autumnal walk gathering items for your front door adornment?

World Vision have a Pumpkin Heroes initiative which include videos of a fun pumpkin character for younger kids and you can request a free pack online with games, crafts and activities.

Finally, and not to be overlooked, is All Saints Day on the day after Halloween, where kids can dress up as superheroes or saints.



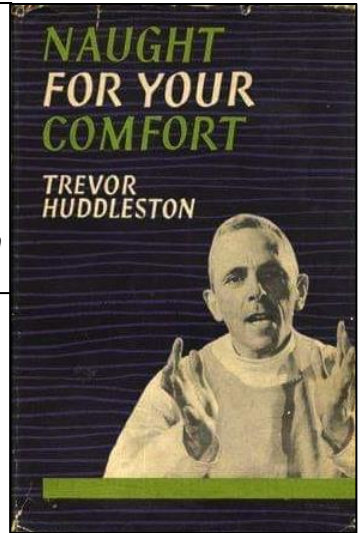
***Jo Bellamy***

## **Saints on Earth**

*Personal accounts of the wide-range of spiritually significant men and women who have inspired and influenced us.*

*Canon John Payne-Cook looks at the life of*

### **Trevor Huddleston**



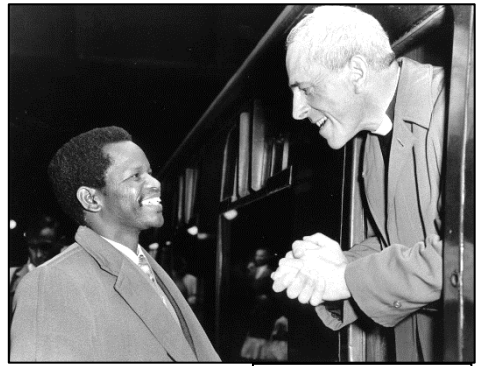
When asked to consider a saintly influence on my pilgrimage I was immediately drawn to this remarkable man. Though not officially classified as a saint he was surely one of the spiritual giants of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Born in 1913 in Bedford, he was educated at Lancing College and at Christ Church College Oxford before training for Ministry at Wells Theological College.

He began ministry in Swindon in 1936 and after his curacy went up to Mirfield in West Yorkshire to test his vocation as a monk with the Community of the Resurrection. My own path through life seemed to follow his via Lancing, to Oxford and to Mirfield, though I simply prepared for ordination at the College of the Resurrection where I was deeply moved by the experience of worshipping with the Community but obviously never became a monk! It was as if the ghost of Trevor Huddleston was going before me.

After four years he was sent by the Community to lead their work in Sophiatown on the outskirts of Johannesburg which in 1943 had a population of about 80,000 mostly poor and oppressed Africans. He spent twelve formative years there and came to love and wonder at the vitality and warmth of the people who lacked almost everything that his middle-class European upbringing would regard as essential for wellbeing. Probably the best-known story of his time there is of how he was walking down a dusty street one day, dressed in his white cassock and wide brimmed hat when he saw, on a balcony, a black woman with a young boy. She was a cook at a hostel for blind women. He simply raised his hat to her and greeted her as he passed. She was the mother of the boy whose name was Desmond Tutu. Through Trevor's ministry, Desmond discovered his vocation to the priesthood and would become Archbishop of Southern Africa with an influence for Christ all over the world. Desmond wrote in the foreword to Trevor's biography:

*'I couldn't understand a white man doffing his hat to a black uneducated woman. I now know that he was a man of very deep prayer and that that is what sustained him in his campaigns to alleviate the sorry lot of the people he loved so dearly. He was a spellbinding speaker as he sought to raise the consciousness of South African whites to the plight of the blacks.'*

When I was studying Theology at Oxford it was reading the book that he wrote from his experience of ministry in South Africa, 'Naught for your Comfort' that kindled in me the desire to fight the racism that bedevils the lives of so many. Trevor was to become one of the major faces and forces of the Anti-Apartheid Movement during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He worked closely with all the main black leaders of this movement including Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela, who was working as a young lawyer in Sophiatown while Trevor was there. They became close friends and collaborators so that when Mandela was finally released after 27 years imprisonment and then elected as first ANC President, he was there to support him.



*With Oliver Tambo*

His determination to fight what he believed to be a profound spiritual as well as political evil clearly brought him into conflict with many both in the church and in politics. Indeed, it was his deep involvement in both, which helped me to see that it is in fact impossible to keep these in separate boxes. The Gospel of Christ has powerful implications for the whole of our life on this earth, spiritual and physical. This drives me to address the major challenge of the century in which we now live, that of our changing climate and the spiritual and physical necessity that we address this much more powerfully than we have hitherto. We cannot escape the truth that those who are suffering most from the rise in global temperature are those who have contributed least to the continuous outpouring of noxious gasses. The polluters, including ourselves, continue to grow ever richer and remain largely blind to the folly of their, and our, actions. The climate crisis we face has deep connections to the racial crisis created in South Africa 80 years ago which drew out of Trevor Huddleston such a heroic response.

As I reflect on these things towards the latter part of my life, I am conscious that my small efforts fall very far short of what my saintly brother contributed. However, it may be that the combination of Benedictine spirituality, devotion to Christ in communal obedience, a spirit of sacrificial self-giving and a willingness to live a simple life with a very low carbon footprint is a blueprint for how humanity must adjust to what is coming.

Trevor spent the years after his return from South Africa in 1956 as Novice guardian at Mirfield, then as Bishop of Masasi in Tanzania. From 1968 he became Bishop of Stepney in London Diocese and then from 1976 Archbishop of the Indian Ocean based in Mauritius. He left in 1983 to return to a restless retirement back in England and died back at Mirfield as part of the Community that shaped his life in 1998. I thank God for Trevor Huddleston and pray that something of the Spirit that moved him may be present in the Church today.

***Canon John Payne-Cook***

***Climate change and COP26:  
public meeting on 16 October***

**10am – 12noon at All Saints**

COP26, the UN's international Climate Change conference will take place in Glasgow in November, when world leaders meet for important climate negotiations. It's of crucial importance if we are to avert disaster for our planet, but what do we know about it, what does our government hope to achieve, and what can we do?

Hear from our key speakers:

Paul de Zylva, Senior Nature Campaigner for Friends of the Earth,  
and energy expert Neil Witney,  
Senior Policy Adviser at the Dept. for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The event is being run by South Beds Friends of the Earth  
and will be chaired by our MP Andrew Selous.

There will be opportunities to ask questions and there will be information displays.



***Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN): walking to  
COP26***

Hundreds of young Christians are leading a pilgrimage relay the whole length of the country, walking all the way to Glasgow in time for COP26.

They set off after the G7 summit and Mother Kirsty joined in the St Alban's Diocese section. The pilgrims will be travelling through Newcastle Diocese and Southern Scotland this month and will take the opportunity to call on world leaders to address climate change. The Roman Catholic Church has a similar event with its Camino COP26. Please pray for those taking part.

The event is organized by YCCN, a community for those aged 18-30 who are interested in climate justice motivated by faith. Find out more at [www.yccn.uk](http://www.yccn.uk)

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