

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 2022

70p

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All Saints Leighton Buzzard

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Faith & Fun

By Rev'd Kirsty Borthwick



In the Gospel according to St John, Jesus tells us he has come to give us life in all its fullness (John 10.10)

As we enter the summer months, take the time to live in the wake of God's abundant grace – to enjoy the warmth and sun (God willing – it is an English summer after all!), the longer evenings, and opportunities to gather in community and celebrate our shared life.

Our faith is supposed to fill us with joy – whether that's a sense of hope and perseverance in times of struggle, or a deep happiness in the good times. And with the end of the school year on the horizon, with church fetes underway and with a week of joyful chaos planned at the All Saints' Holiday Club, this summer holds lots of potential for fun and laughter. Take those opportunities when they come and may you find in them the love and joy of God.

During my time at theological college, I once gave a paper on Lego at a very formal theology conference. It was mostly a bit of fun to wind up all the serious academics, but it raised an important point, which weaves its way through church history: our God is a God who plays. There's even a formal Latin term for it: *Deus ludens*.

This is not to say that we should take God less seriously, but rather that we find in the Christian tradition a God who is creative, who gifts us the performance of liturgy to enable us to worship him, and who sets us rules to live by not to limit us, but to give us boundaries - like the fence around a playground - in which we can safely flourish. Maximus the Confessor, a Byzantine theologian from the 7th Century, describes the Incarnation as a great act of play, in which God enters the world of the weak and foolish (1 Corinthians 1.25) for our flourishing. More recently Jürgen Moltmann, in the 20th Century, pointed to the Resurrection as God's great act of liberating laughter; "where, O death is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15. 55-57) we laugh as Christ wins victory over all evil!

So, in continuity with Jesus' call in the Gospels and encouraged by the teaching of the Christian tradition – ancient and modern - find the time to play this summer, in worship of our God who plays.

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)

1st Sundays: Family Service

Tuesdays: 7pm Holy Communion

Morning Prayer via Zoom:

9.00am Monday - Saturday

www.saintleonardschurch.com

St. Michael's, Eggington

9.30am 1st & 3rd Sundays: Holy Communion

St. Nicholas', Hockliffe

9.30am 2nd Sundays: Family Communion

4th Sundays: Holy Communion

St. Michael's and All Angels, Billington

11.15am Holy Communion

Good Shepherd, Astral Park Sports & Community Centre, Johnson Drive, Sandhills, LU7 4AY:

Sundays at 9.45am:

1st Sunday: Holy Communion & CGS Juniors

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

3rd Sunday: Family Service

4th Sunday: Bring and share breakfast and Holy Communion

Free pop-up café every Sunday from 9.45am

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

All Saints Toddler Time: All Saints every Wednesday during term time, at 9.30am & at 1.30pm. £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.**

Leighton Young Singers Club: for children in Years 2-6, meets on Fridays at 6.30 - 7.30pm.

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: Friday evenings, 6.45 trebles; 7.30 adults.

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

Spire Coffee Shop: Tuesday & Saturday 10am-2pm; Friday 10am-12noon (drinks & cakes only)

Contact Details on Page 2.

News Roundup

Welcome to this Bumper 'Holiday' issue of Saints Alive for both July and August. The next issue will be in September.

7th July **St Boisil of Melrose - patron saint for ordinands?**

Remembering especially Mother Kirsty and Dave Heather at this time.

Have you ever noticed how life-enhancing good ministers are? St Boisil (d.c.661) should be their patron saint. He did nothing spectacular, but he did everything that mattered:

- Boisil was a monk who became abbot of Melrose, in the Irish monastic tradition;
- Boisil knew about God, he had spent years in study, which earned him respect.
- Boisil walked with God – his transparent holiness made people love and trust him.
- Boisil could hear God speak – he was so open to God's Spirit that he was even given the gift of prophecy, which is God speaking through one person into specific situations in other people's lives.



Knowledge of God, obedience to God, and a prophetic gift from God. It is faithful Christians such as Boisil who have kept the Church going over the centuries. Sadly, in 661 Boisil caught the plague. He spent his last hours on earth reading St John's gospel with Cuthbert, another Celtic monk, who also caught the plague. Boisil prophesied that Cuthbert would live, but that he would die.

But this did not trouble him: Boisil knew in whom he believed and was looking forward to finally seeing his beloved Master, face to face.



Worth a smile

A woman went to the beach with her children. Her four-year-old son ran up to her, grabbed her hand, and led her to the shore where a dead seagull lay in the sand.

"Mummy, what happened to him?" the little boy asked.

Not wanting to upset him, she said: "He died and went to heaven."

The child thought for a moment and said, "And God threw him back down?"



One Sunday a minister announced that the church needed some extra money. He asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra, and as an enticement, added that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

The offering plate was passed around, and to the minister's amazement, someone had put in a cheque for £1,000. He shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to thank the person who'd given the cheque. A very quiet, elderly lady shyly made her way down to the front of the church. The minister told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much, and asked her to pick out three hymns. Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation. She pointed carefully to the three handsomest men in the building and said: "I'll take him, and him, and him."

Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony, May:

28: Thomas Ingram & Daisy Clark at All Saints

Holy Matrimony, June:

4: Curtis Paine & Emma Walters at All Saints

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

Holy Baptism, May:

8: Arabella Pixie Rose Dunn, Edward Harrison Wilde Dunn, Connor Darran Compton

Holy Baptism, June:

12: Louis James Doughty, Freddie Michael Doughty, Callie Wynter Kalabza, Willow Anna Balle, Oriana Nataalka Klymyszyn, Maisie Grace Hughes, Darcey Jean Louisa Kettle; 26: Matilda Georgia-Mae Tottle, Jayden Kai Irving-Spendley, Hudson Maddox Bath, Oakley Theodore Bath

'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'

R.I.P. May:

6: Stephen Aris at All Saints; 13: John Coleman at St. Nicholas; 24: Sylvia Weston at Bierton; 26: Juliette Middleton at Crownhill; 31: Doris Langstaff at St. Barnabas

R.I.P. June:

10: Alexander Wood at Bierton, David McCormick at All Saints; 14: Margaret Boyle at Crownhill; 16: Frederick Tucker at St. Leonard's; 20: Geoffrey Urie at St. Leonard's; 27: Dawn Twist at All Saints; 28: Malvern Collier at St. Mary's, Iris Calamassi at Vandyke Road Cemetery; 29: Ena Edwins at Bierton

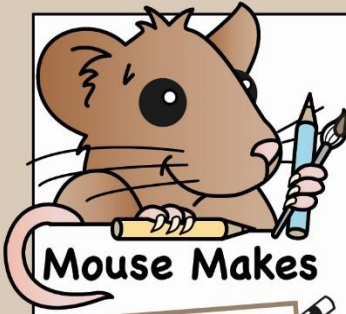
'Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die'

Years Mind, July:

1: William Gilbert, Margaret Nash; 2: Edith Benton, Brian Liscoe; 3: Harry Powell, Dorothy Abraham; 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; 16: Steve Hill, Victor Conquest; 17: Canon Alan Freeman, Josie Watkiss; 19: Christopher Hinchliff; 20: Blake Edwards; 22: Ryszard Majchrowski; 24: Trevor Watts; 25: Dick Spratley, Mary Wilson, Joan Kemp; 26: John Brantom, William Parris; 29: Charles Beauchamp; 31: Arthur King

Years Mind, August:

1: Audrey Cross; 2: Annie Clements; 3: Jean Goodwin; 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



Mouse Makes

Cross out all the X
to find the bible verse:

NXOXWXTXHXRFXEAX
 XRXEXMXAXNXYYOXT
 XHXEXRXTXHXIXNXGX
 SXTXHXAXTXJXEXSXU
 XSDIXDX.WXEXRXEXE
 XVXEXRXYXONXEXOAFX
 TXHXEXMXTXOXBEXW
 XRXIXTXTEXNX,IXSXU
 XPXPXOXSXETHXAXTX
 TXHXEXWXOXRXLXDXI
 TXSXEXLXFXCXOXUXLD
 XNXOXTXCXOXNXTXAI
 XNXTXHXEXBOXOKXS
 XTXHXAXTXWXOXULX
 DBXEXWXRXIXTXTXEXN
 X.JXOXHXNX2X1X:2X5X

What did Jesus turn
water into?



John 2:1-11

Who's mother-in-law
did Jesus heal?

Matthew 8:14-15

How did Jesus get out
to the disciples
in the boat? ☆ ☆



Matthew 14:22-27

Who did Jesus raise
from the dead?

John 11:38-44



How long had the
woman at the synagogue
been disabled?

--- years

What did she do after
she was healed?

Luke 13:10-13



Who did Jesus
heal when his ear
was cut off?

Luke 22:47-51

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus fed thousands
of people from a
few loaves and fish,
... not once but twice!

READ
Matthew 14:13-21
AND
Matthew 15:32-39



In each story...
How many loaves
and how many fish
did Jesus have?

How many people
were fed?

How many baskets of
broken pieces were
left over?



DID YOU KNOW?

There
are over

37

miracles of Jesus
recorded in the Gospels.

How many of them
do you know?

F A L S H B J O H E A L E D
 I S T T W L W M I R A C L E
 S P G O A I I D E A F A I M
 H E A R T N N Y J I S S W O
 C A L M E D E A D S I T A N
 K K P A R A L Y S E D O L S
 M U L T I P L I E D E U K T
 J E S U S I C K E M U T E W

Find these words
in the word search

JESUS • MIRACLE
 DEAF • HEAR • BLIND • SEE
 PARALYSED • WALK • SICK
 HEALED • DEAD • RAISED
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On a musical note.....



Those of you who enjoy listening to classical music but who were not able to come to the concert on that Friday evening at the beginning of the Inspire weekend, missed a real treat. We heard both professional and amateur musicians playing a wide range of music, spanning more than 900 years. It lived up to the Festival's name - a truly inspirational evening, with performances of a very high standard.

The Giocoso wind quintet were first on and also lived up to their name with a lively performance of Haydn's Divertimento, which made us all smile in appreciation. Later on in the evening, they played a further 4 pieces, including a beautifully rhythmic "Tango" from the Tea Dances by Geoffrey Keating.

Carl Moulding, from the All Saints choir, played an organ arrangement of Handel's "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" from the oratorio Solomon, which was well received by the audience. We could almost hear the two oboes from the original orchestration dancing together.

Edward Price, a member of our congregation, father to our Deputy Head Chorister Francesca, and member of the BBC Singers, sang two songs by Arthur Sullivan, sensitively accompanied by his wife, Sian. Ed's wonderful voice resounded throughout the building firstly in search of the "Lost Chord" (composed by Sullivan at the bedside of his dying brother) and secondly during a memorable performance of "Sweethearts", one of three songs which Sullivan wrote in conjunction with WS Gilbert independently of the well-known operettas.

Roy Howat, international pianist and academic (and also a parent of two of our choristers) put our new piano through its paces with Elgar's "In Smyrna" and two well-known Chopin Waltzes. Later on in the second half Roy treated us to stunning performances of 2 Chopin Études and a relatively unknown mini-masterpiece by Schubert.

Olivia Olleson, another member of our choir, received thoroughly well-deserved thunderous applause for her performances of two Grade 7 flute pieces. Accompanied by her father, her poise, technical brilliance and above all musicianship shone through in spades and belied her age (12).

Our other two performers were Rebecca and Anna Ryland-Jones, soprano and cellist, who are sisters. Their performances of "O Solitude" by Purcell, 2 Hildegard von Bingen antiphons and the Akhmatova Songs by John Tavener left us all utterly entranced with the sheer beauty of what we were hearing. Anna also played "Chant" by Tavener (for solo cello) to great effect.

Ed rounded off the evening with a jolly rendition of the Major General's patter song from Pirates of Penzance. The chorus sections are very high to sing, but the audience did its best.

Wow. As I said, if you missed it, you really missed out!!

Paul Dickens



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike
BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
Bike 'n Hike in Beds 'n Herts

Saturday 10th September
Please put the date in your diary!



All Saints now has a team for this year's Bike 'n Hike. If you would like to join Katrina Grant, Mother Kirsty, and Emma and Steve Birtles you would be most welcome. We are planning a 15mile hike mostly off-road. But beware - one of us likes to sing along the way!

Please contact Katrina 07531 748339 or katrina.r.grant@btinternet.com for information.



We hope that more people and groups will be actively involved this year. It is great fun, good exercise and a very useful cause to repair our wonderful heritage of Historic Churches.

Dunstable Priory received a grant of £10,000 for roof repairs in 2020/2021. And St. Nicholas Hockliffe has just been awarded the same amount, for work make the church dry – see below.

All Saints raised a total of £1555 last year half of which comes to help our parish finances. We were awarded a SILVER CERTIFICATE for last year's efforts.

Brian Bainbridge & Katrina Grant



St. Nicholas, Hockliffe benefits from BHHCT Grant

We have recently been awarded a grant of £10,000 from BHHCT, for which we are very grateful, to go towards repairs to the outside of the church, starting with repairs to gutters and drainage to help eradicate the dampness which the building suffers from. Repairs are also needed to stonework and windows. The inside of the church requires re-decoration and attention to the wooden pew plinths, a new heating and lighting system, the list seems endless! Nice to have would be toilet facilities and a kitchenette to make the building suitable for multiple uses in the community, but as we have no water supply, this would also need to be laid on.



Bob Walters

After the Party:

“Well,” said the Queen to the little bear “where do you go from here?”

“I am not sure Your Majesty,” Paddington Bear answered with a tear. “You see the Browns have all grown up and gone on their separate ways. I am now homeless as I have nowhere else to stay.”

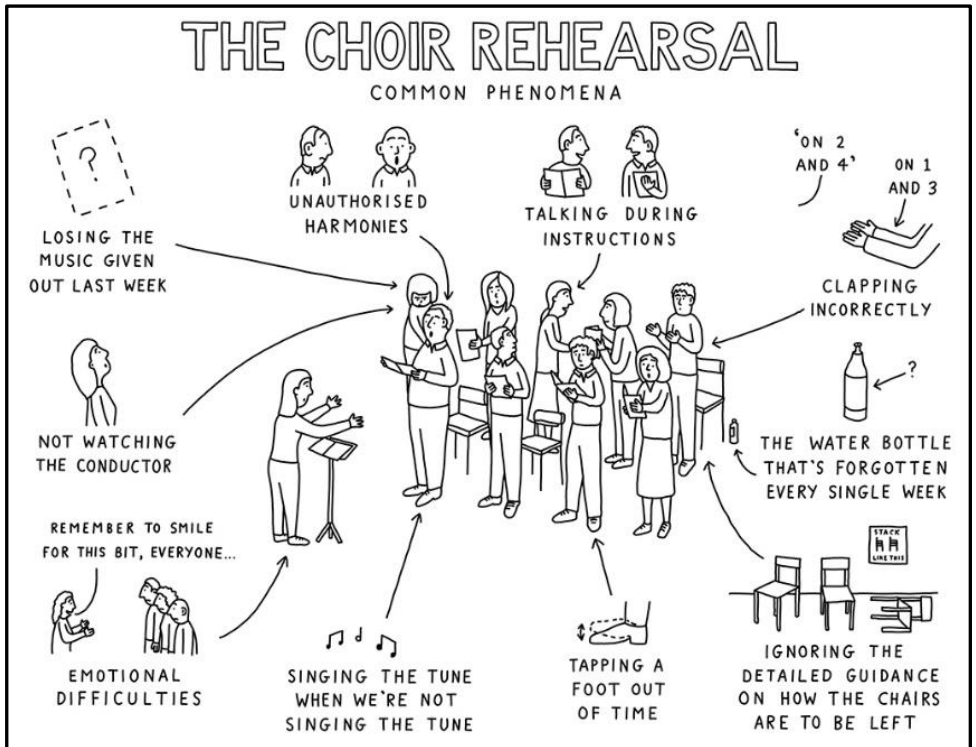
“Well, my little friend,” the Queen replied to him “this will never do at all. I too am all alone. You can move into my palace. I’m sure we will have a ball.”



The little bear looked up and asked “Will there be marmalade, dear Queen?”

“Of course,” she replied, “the biggest spread of sandwiches you’ve ever seen. And cups of tea and crockery that you can drop and I will never never mind.”

The little bear replied “Your Majesty, I accept your offer. You are very very kind.”



Calendar of Events

2nd July

Summer Fete All Saints 11am-3pm



3rd July

Services as usual including

Mother Kirsty's First Mass All Saints 9.30am

Messy Mass BBQ All Saints 11.30am

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

6th July

Lunch Club in the North Transept, All Saints 1pm.

Tickets £5.00 available from the Coffee Shop.



15th July

Crafty Natter All Saints 1.30pm - 3.30pm



17th July

Services as usual including All Age Communion All Saints 11.30am

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



3rd August

Lunch Club in the North Transept, All Saints 1pm.

Tickets £5.00 available from the Coffee Shop.



7th August

Services as usual including All Age Communion All Saints 11.30am

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



15th – 19th August

'Jungle Fever' Holiday Club

All Saints 9.45am – 12.15pm (9.30am on Monday)

Service and BBQ 6.30pm on Friday



21st August

Services as usual including All Age Communion All Saints 11.30am

All Saints Parish Church Leighton Buzzard

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 2nd July - 11am to 3pm

Stall holders are needed as well as general helpers
If you would like to register your support, then please
email or call Richard Parsons
01525 371159 or 07395 051176
eparsons77@gmail.com



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Leighton Buzzard Music is a registered charity no: 1183681



Around the Ouzel Valley Team

Eight churches, each special in their own way, but all being Christian witness to the whole community of Leighton Linlade & the villages of the Ouzel Valley



There is treasure in Old Linlade which is far from hidden as it stands on a hill overlooking the railway and the canal. St Mary's Church has stood for more than 1000 years as a place of worship. Our guide book tells us that Linlade had a settlement in Saxon times which would have had a wooden building for a church before the current building was erected. Investigations reveal that the current building dates from between 1080 and 1110 with wall painting, which were analysed confirming the dates.

Nowadays the building is still in use for services. We have had weddings here. One couple requested it because a parent was baptised at St Mary's. We have had baptisms and, of course, funerals and the burial of ashes, in our Garden of Remembrance.



This month, Welcome to St. Mary's, Old Linslade Treasure on the hill

The first Saturday of every month there is a communion service at 09:30 just before the Friends of St Mary's begin maintenance work on the grounds and building. Conservation dictates that certain parts cannot be mowed before the end of July and other parts after the end of July.

Strimming around the graves, to the right of the driveway is fiddly.



Other services held there are the Easter Sunrise service, well attended even though it starts in the dark, and cold.

St Mary's Patronal festival, in August is followed by a picnic lunch.

Carols and readings in December with the readings being of a Christmassy nature.

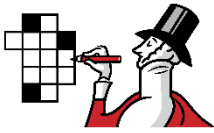
The Friends of St Mary's also organise cream teas (14th August 3pm) and a Cheese and Wine evening with a Quiz (16th July 7pm).

In spring time we have a wonderful show of snowdrops followed by a busting forth of daffodils.



This year St Mary's will be open on the first Sunday of each month until October. And don't forget Butler's Bog, there for inconvenient moments during your visit.

Emma Morris



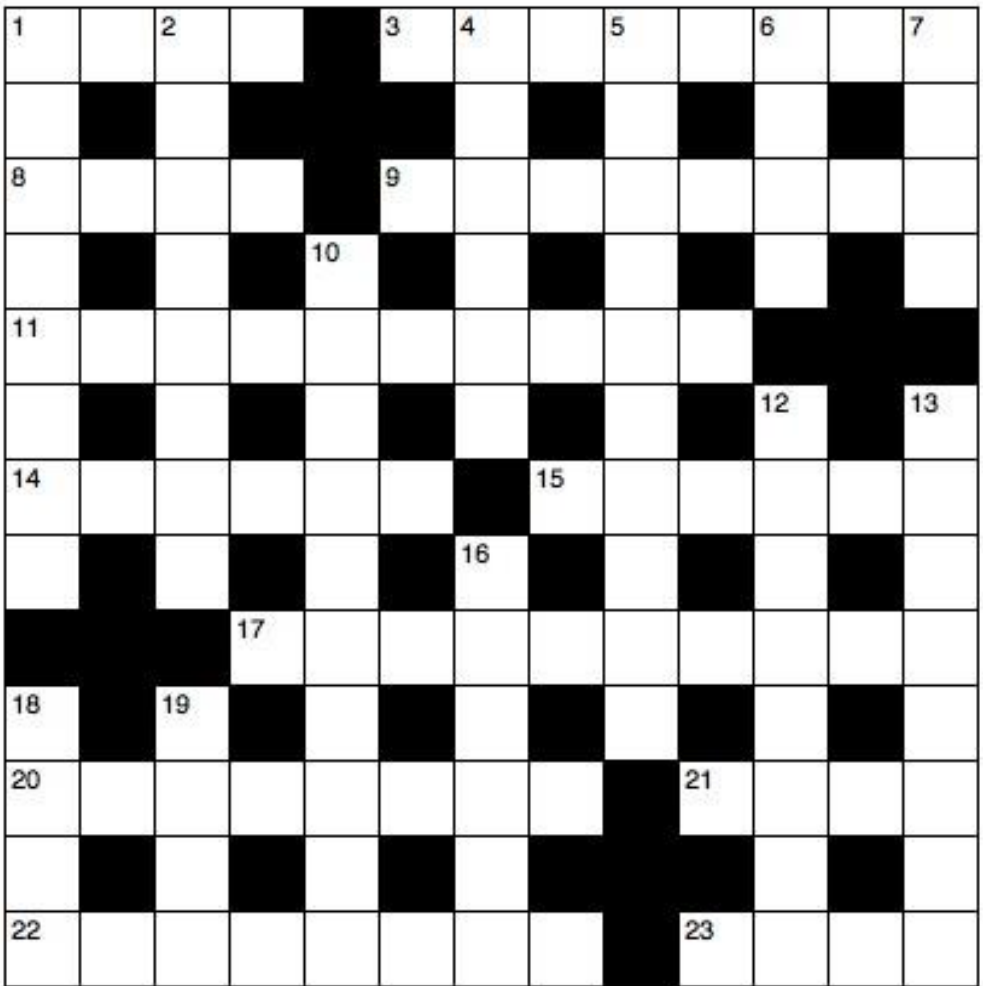
SUMMER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment (Ephesians 4:31) (10)
- 14 In Cain (anag.) (6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5) (10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church (8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John 10:22) (10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demons - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear (James 2:21) (8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha (6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis 25:34) (4)
- 19 Rear (anag.) (4)



ACROSS: 1, Wife. 3, To battle. 8, Obal. 9, Disciple. 11, Bitterness. 14, Niacin. 15, Attain. 17, Passionate. 20, Tertiary. 21, Meet. 22, Weakness. 23, Deer.

DOWN: 1, Woodbine. 2, Feast day. 4, Orient. 5, Accusation. 6, Type. 7, Eyes. 10, Dedication. 12, Gadarene. 13, Ancestor. 16, Esdras. 18, Stew. 19, Area.



Some more to smile about ...

Summer guide to modern science around the house

1. If it's green or it wiggles, it's Biology.
2. If it stinks or explodes, it's Chemistry.
3. If it doesn't work, it's Physics.



Grandchildren: Grandchildren are God's reward for not strangling your own children.

Good Shepherd, Sandhills

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwarden:

Steve Nixon



**CHURCH of the
GOOD SHEPHERD**



Jubilant Jubilee Celebrations

Along with much of the country marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Church of the Good Shepherd put on its own thanksgiving celebration on 5th June.

There was a short celebratory service at Astral Park Sports and Community Centre with live music from our band and plenty of Jubilee-themed cakes on offer.

Children enjoyed creating a patchwork wall hanging made of individual pictures of crowns, corgis and castles tied together. Some imaginative bunting, decorated during an outdoor painting session earlier in the month, adorned the building.

Special thanks went to Katharine Reedy for leading on the organisation.

Jo Bellamy



St. Nicholas, Hockliffe

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Churchwardens:

Brian Speller: 210565; Roger Spalding: 07451 877501



How to Grow A Church

No idea? Nor did I.

Step 1. I had a zoom meeting with Dan Drew of the Diocesan Flourishing Churches Team. Dan was very encouraging about our strategies and events for growing our church, e.g., harvest supper, cream teas, St Nick's Supper. He pointed out that statistically, our congregation as a proportion of our village population, is ahead of the national average.

We then moved on to how we can contact and encourage more people to come to church. Dan said that churches, generally, are moving away from the church web site and engaging in social media as a way of making contact with area. In particular, there is a great use of Facebook. I pointed out that none of the current PCC felt themselves to be competent in using social media, including me.

Dan said that running a social media campaign had to be part of the process:

1. We need to listen to our context.
2. What is the demographic of our village? Who are we trying to attract to our church?
3. It is no good planning a campaign aimed at young family groups, if our village people are mainly over 60.
4. How do we find out what they want from church? We ask questions and we listen. Where do we do this? Anywhere: the school gate, the local park, the shops, and the pub.
5. We need to tell people about what we are doing. We don't have to solely use social media.
6. Dan gave an example of a church that was organising prayers for Ukraine. They used posters, word of mouth, A-frames with posters randomly placed round the village; they had a banner printed for about £30 and they had a little stall on the main road with prayer cards that people could fill in.
7. Check your user pathway: If somebody new moves into your area, how will they find your church? Does your website come out first in Google? Will your church show up with a Facebook page?

So, we came back to Facebook. I had told Dan that Hockliffe had its own Facebook page. I had also told him that St Nick's was having an Open-air Songs of Praise in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. Dan then challenged me to use the village Facebook page to advertise our event.

Making a poster, using a template I found on line, I then used the poster as the cover picture for an event on Hockliffe Village Facebook.

1. Will our event be accepted for Facebook?
2. What effect will it have on attendance?

Did I mention that I am saying lots of prayers?

Roger Spalding

St. Michael & All Angels, Billington

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwardens:

Sandra Brewin 373644;

Julia Haviland 850380



Billington Jubilee Party

If we can't celebrate together when a Queen attains seventy years of inspiring reigning, then when can we rejoice?

Many of the people of Billington joined in the events which the "Jubilee Committee" had arranged.

On Thursday evening, a "Sausage Sizzle" was organised in the field beyond the Church. Colin Gibbs-Jones brought along his gas bar-b-que on which he cooked nearly 100 sausages aided by Julia Haviland and Tanya Gibbs-Jones. Jean Albertella provided ample fried onions and condiments, all washed down with by the appropriate drink Tizer (when did you last taste that?). We were surprised and pleased when 70 people turned up complete with picnic chairs and other additions to the feast. We watched and as the sun set over Leighton Buzzard a special crown made by Geoff Haviland and hoisted on high by a huge pole was lit up. The Church was also flood lit, with apologies to our bat congregation.

Sunday's weather was doubtful so the planned picnic on the green was moved inside the Village Hall. Two tables, the length of the hall were set up, with gazebos on the patio for those determined to be outside. Each group or family brought their own food and drink, but the toast to the Queen was drunk with Prosecco provided by the Parish Council.



The sun came out so Alison Spencer was able to take the children out onto the green for games. She and others judged the creations the children had made in the Crown Competition. All were given prizes. There were balloons galore and Her Majesty, though not able to be present in person, stood on the stage (very still, made of cardboard) reminding us why we were celebrating.

Added to all that there was a magnificent photographic exhibition of old and not so old Billington set up by Sue Collings.

A welcome cup of tea was provided by Rosamond Clayton, after which all party-goers gathered in front of the newly planted Queen's Canopy Tree for a group photograph.

We want to thank all members of the Jubilee Committee for organising such enjoyable and memorable events.

Sandra Brewin

St. Michael's, Eggington

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Church Officers:

Carol Hart 384634

Paul Brown 751861



Volunteering

It often seems that the UK relies on volunteers. When we volunteer with a charity we give our most precious resource, our time. But it is not just charities who need our help. A small army of volunteers underpinned the success of the 2012 London Olympics. It was not possible to walk down a Central London street without meeting a volunteer wanting to guide you on your way. The same will happen in Birmingham for the Commonwealth games this summer. In the midst of the pandemic, thousands of people stood up to help the housebound, cook meals, sew face coverings for anyone who wanted them and scrubs bags for nurses and medics, and man, or woman, the vaccination centres, once they got going.

So why is it that so many people want to freely give their time? I was one of these people, and for 13 years, until the pandemic struck, spent at least one day a week volunteering. I started off at the Volunteer Centre Leighton Buzzard. It was suggested that I go to meet the organiser for a drop-in centre being set up by a national charity. I was taken on and while I was helping I was learning a lot that helped me. I ended up volunteering behind the scenes at All Saints Church and in the Coffee shop for several years. It is surprising how much can be learned on the volunteering journey, and how many lovely people there are to meet. The most enjoyable experiences were those dealing with people. Simply making sandwiches, toasting tea cakes, serving tea and coffee, and a few words and some respect can make a visible difference to someone else's day.



The Church of England must be one of the biggest charities in the country, and one of the wealthiest. Even so, without its teams of volunteers, it would grind to a halt. In the Ouzel Valley Team, just the clergy, office staff, and a few other roles are paid; but most, from the servers and sidesmen through the Church Wardens and PCC members to the cleaning and church yard maintenance teams, rely on volunteers.

Few volunteers look for recognition, but I was struck by a sign that appeared in the window of the Age UK shop in town. A public recognition of their volunteers. As the best people in the country say:

"Hip, Hip, Hooray".

Susan Bradley



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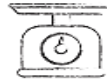


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Inspire 2022



Last summer Mother Cate started Inspire. When we were moving out of lockdown there was a need for time and space to reflect upon faith and hope. As this summer comes around, it is evident that these pillars of faith and hope are still as important.

Inspire is where our church can think about our church. On the Friday we opened with an evening of musical delight. Musicians from our community and beyond came to invoke contemplation and joy. Conversation - which seems to be at the heart of the Inspire festival - took shape the next day with discussions on the theatre of worship, taking concepts of the theatre and weaving them with beautiful expressions of faith as Mother Cate talked with theatre maker Katie. Fr Paul was joined by Ed and Sam for dialogue on how music and our life of faith interplay; how one is an outpouring of the other which then leads to a deeper realisation of love. Craft, creating and resistance were held together by Mother Cate. Craft not only deepens wellbeing but it sits as links with an authentic expression of Christianity through prayer, mediation and an ownership of things in a world where too much is bought. 'Theology in the pub' was led by Mother Kirsty and Brian, without a pub. Together they joyfully disagreed through the liturgy, salvation and robots, and animal symbolism in church history. Mother Cate and Mother Kirsty then held an opportunity for silent prayer and learning about the rosary. Like with the rest of this day it soon became apparent that what we wish as a community is conversation. Such conversation continued into the evening in-between some excellent folk music and supported by the church bar.



On Sunday morning the three congregations of All Saints came together for our joint service in which Peter and Jesus had a good think about how to build a church. Many stayed on for the BBQ lunch where we were serenaded by the Children's Orchestra. In the afternoon, it was an absolute delight to be joined by The Underground Clown Club for a performance of surreal and silly poetry.

Beautiful silliness somehow gave way to a little tranquility as the children of Forest Church explored our churchyard and taught the grown-ups how to tune into nature. Conversation still flowed in the Conversation Cafe. Finally our songs of praise brought together our favourite hymns to conclude our time.

Mother Cate extends her deepest thanks to all welcomers, greeters, cooks, poets, table movers, decorators, bar keepers, artists, musicians and craftspeople who made it all happen.



... Rest

by Rev'd Cate Irvine

A series exploring some of the ways we encounter God in the world and in our lives.

Summer is a time when many people look forward to a break from work, perhaps a holiday with family or friends. A time when life slows down a little and perhaps we think about taking some rest. I wonder what rest means to you?

Is it simply a cessation of activity? A time to relax? A pause between one thing and the next?

Rest can be all these things but when we are talking about rest in the context of our faith then it can be so much more than that. We know that rest is built into the way that God created the world and we talk a lot about sabbath, but in a world that increasingly functions 24/7 what does that actually mean to us? And how do we find God in our resting?

Very often we think and talk about activities and methods for finding God, so to think about finding God in our rest can feel counter-intuitive. We also know that God created each of us with different gifts, temperaments and needs, so it's not surprising that what counts as rest for one person may not be what is truly restful for someone else. In recent years people have started to write about the seven types of rest that all of us need. These are physical; mental; social; spiritual; sensory; emotional and creative rest.

It may be that you need to find more rest in one of these areas than others. It is also important to say that rest doesn't mean stopping doing things. In the pandemic many of us were forced to stop doing things, but for most people this did not feel restful. Rest is about doing the things that will restore and renew you. For example, it may be that time spent in the garden, swimming or doing gentle exercise is physically restful for you even though you are still using your body. Likewise social rest may not be total isolation for you. It may mean spending time with people who you can be completely yourself with.

As Christians we are called into relationship with God and with each other. Part of this means growing in our understanding of who we are. Too often our spiritual work can be seen as self-indulgence, but it is part of our responsibility as Christians to try to understand ourselves. If we can be aware of ourselves then we can take responsibility appropriately for our relationships and the ways in which we behave. One part of knowing ourselves is to be aware of what we need and rest is certainly part of that.

One of my favourite verses of scripture is Isaiah 30:15

"For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:

In returning and rest you shall be saved;

in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

God has built rest into his plan for our lives and to pretend that we don't need it is foolish. This verse makes several things abundantly clear. Firstly that rest, true rest, is holy, it comes from the Holy One. Also that this is part of our salvation, rest is not just something that is a nice optional extra. We need to take this seriously. Finally it is a reminder that our strength comes from God. It is when we can quiet ourselves and return, trustingly to God, that we begin to realise that whatever gifts we have come ultimately from God.

We can get so caught up in all the things we strive for, the things that others expect from us or that we expect from ourselves, that we forget that all that we have, all that we are comes from God. Sometimes we can use these things to hide from God and from ourselves; we can be very clever at finding reasons not to rest in God.

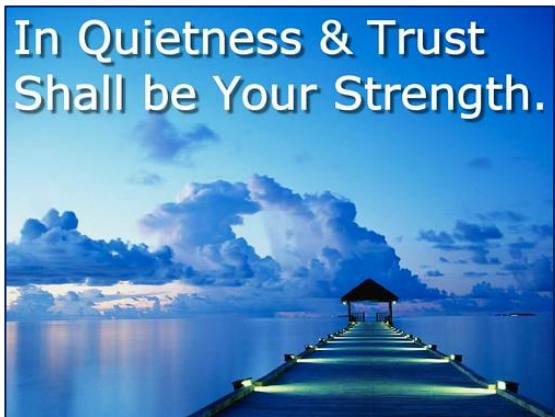
I wonder if this is partly because we fear that if we cease to “do” things, cease to “achieve”, then somehow God will find us unworthy or cease to love us. We might even have to be honest with God about our hopes and fears and the things that we are ashamed about.

If we can get past all these things then we open ourselves up to truly encountering God in our rest – whatever that rest looks like for each one of us. God wants us to be able to rest in him, and God knows that we need that sacred rest, not only because we are human beings with physical limitations, but because until we can let go, we are not fully trusting God. To truly rest in God is to allow God to love us and to begin to understand that God's love is unconditional.

Encountering God in our rest is about recognising our need for God and acknowledging that we are loved simply for who we are. The amazing thing is that if we can begin to live our lives from this truth then we can begin to live from the unconditional love that we find when we rest in God which will help us to reframe not only how we see ourselves, but how we see the world.

*“For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:
In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”*

Mother Cate



Lambeth Conference

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Every 10 years or so, the Archbishop of Canterbury invites all the primates of the Anglican Communion to meet together. The 15th such Lambeth Conference has been delayed by 4 years, first because of considerable internal dissension; and then because of the pandemic. However it will take place this summer, with most of the world's 880+ Anglican bishops present.

In a message recorded at Lambeth, the Archbishop covered a few themes, including his hopeful anticipation for the conference and the focus of the event in discussing what it means to be 'God's Church for God's World.'

"It's my prayer," he said, "that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Lambeth Conference will reinvigorate the Communion with the vision and resources to bring the transforming love of Jesus Christ to every level of society across the world. It will be a time of addressing hurts and concerns; of deepening existing relationships and building new ones; of grappling with issues that face the Church and the world. We will listen to each other; we will seek God's wisdom to find ways to walk together; we will build each other up as leaders."



On Monday 8th August, following the conference, the Archbishop and all 13 bishops of DR Congo will travel to Hockliffe for lunch, followed by time at All Saints from 3.15pm – 7pm.

The afternoon will be hosted by the Congo Church Association, a UK charity celebrating 40 years of working in partnership with the Anglican Church in DR Congo.

It will include a presentation on the work of CCA in these 40 years; an Act of Worship; and tea, kindly provided by the All Saints catering team. There will be social time with the bishops, their wives, and many supporters of CCA.

All are very welcome at all or any part of this – but for catering purposes, please contact Paul or Julia Dickens if you would like to join us.



...just humour him - he's hoping it'll help him reach the young people in his diocese...

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