

# 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*

*May 2023*

*70p*



## **Inside: music, colour and collaboration**

Singing at Canterbury Cathedral, through the eyes of younger members;  
& with other town choirs in Stainer's Crucifixion for Good Friday.

The Young Singers sing a lot too –  
anticipating a joint concert with our own trebles in July (see centrefold)  
Fr. Bernard discusses vestments and the colours of the liturgical seasons;  
Pulford looks outward, sharing so much in the life of the town.  
And news and views from other Ouzel Valley Team churches.

# All Saints Leighton Buzzard

## Team Rector & Vicar of All Saints:

### Rev'd Cate Irvine

The Vicarage,  
Pulford Road, LU7 1AB 01525 373217

### Curate:

Rev'd Kirsty Borthwick 07865 748966

### 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

Canon Grant Fellows 01525 381418

### Diocesan Readers

Roger Collor 01525 376430

Geoffrey Huskisson 01525 757013

Geoffrey Marchant 01525 371797

Linda Morris 07943 053793

Tricia Humber 01525 381184

Laurelin Burge 01525 371849

Katharine Reedy 07932 359815

Frank Reedy 07777 659128

### Churchwardens

Sam Smith 07414 620754

Bill Webb 01525 383356

John Sykes 01525 852218

### PCC Secretary

Judith Lakin [pccsecretary@allsaintslb.org.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@allsaintslb.org.uk)

## All Saints Parish Office

All Saints Church, Church Square,  
Leighton Buzzard LU7 1AE  
Open Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm  
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

### Head Verger

Lindsay Bevis 01525 381418

### Office Manager & Vicar's PA

Jo Waller

### Director of Music & Choir Master

#### including Leighton Young Singers Club

Paul Dickens 01525 210210

### Free Will Offering Scheme

Mark Jeeves [treasurer@allsaintslb.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@allsaintslb.org.uk)

### Sunday Saints Co-ordinator

Alison Dobbie 01525 759259

### Mothers' Union Branch Co-ordinator

Janet Wenborn 01525 370987

### Tower Liaison

Margaret Birtles 07949 141211

Kevin Pughe 07402 233022

Barry Eglesfield 07967 755148

### Toddler Time

Julie Dolton 07954 148128

### All Saints Preservation Trust

30, High St, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1EA  
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 [magazine-advertising@allsaintslb.org.uk](mailto:magazine-advertising@allsaintslb.org.uk)

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

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## *Colours of Day – it's all in the clothes*

*by Rev'd Dr Bernard Minton*



Elsewhere you may find an article on vestments in worship. I ran out of space, so I am cheating, and using this letter as an Appendix to it! I wanted to list the liturgical seasons and colours used in the Church of England, most of which are the same as the Roman Catholic Church. Here they are:

**Advent:** start of the Christian Year. Four Sundays before Christmass. Season of preparation for Jesus' First (Christmass) and Second (Day of Judgement) Comings. Purple is the colour of penitence and preparation – I don't know why!

**Christmass:** 12 days between 25<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> January. White or gold, the sign of purity and rejoicing because you can see any blemish on white fabric immediately, and because light shines white in the darkness. (White is worn for every major feast or celebration, unless it has a special colour of its own).

**Epiphanytide:** from the Feast of the Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> January), to the Feast of Candlemass (2<sup>nd</sup> February). An 'echo' of the Christmass season; white is used.

**Lent:** 40 days of fasting and preparation for Easter. Penitential purple or unbleached linen are used. Decorations may be shrouded or removed, especially in the last two weeks of the season.

**Holy Week:** Red is the colour of blood, used now and for celebrations of martyrs. (Maundy Thursday has white vestments with a red or purple backdrop because it is a day of both celebration and sorrow; Good Friday is red or black – the colour of mourning used at requiems and funerals).

**Easter:** white or gold, for the 50 days of the season, ending with:

**Pentecost/Whitsun:** the feast of the Holy Spirit, whose colour is the red of fire and flames.

Outside these seasons the colour is green, the 'default colour' of the Christian year, used in the weeks between Candlemass and Lent, and the months between Pentecost and All Saints', except for Festivals.

Lastly, a '**Little Advent**': the Kingdom Season when, at the end of the year, we reflect on this world and the world to come. All Saints' Day and Christ the King, the beginning and end, are white or gold; Remembrance Sunday can be black, as is All Souls' Day; but otherwise the colour is red.

These are the main seasonal colours, but there are always variations. Sometimes blue is used in Advent; blue may also be used for the Virgin Mary. Both seasons of penitence and preparation may have a 'refreshment Sunday', when the rigours of the season are relaxed. As a sign of this, rose pink may be worn: this applies to Advent 3 and Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday), and is the reason why Advent wreaths have three purple or blue candles, and one pink one!

*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 Evening Prayer

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Choral Evensong Plus

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.stbarnabaslinslade.uk](http://www.stbarnabaslinslade.uk)

### **St. Leonard's, Heath & Reach**

#### **Sundays:**

8am: Holy Communion

11am Holy Communion (in church & via Zoom)

1<sup>st</sup> Sundays: 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**

9.30am 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: Holy Communion

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

9.30am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays: Family Communion

4<sup>th</sup> 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:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Holy Communion & CGS Juniors

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Family Service

4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

1<sup>st</sup> 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, Friday & Saturday 10am-2pm.

*Contact Details on Page 2.*

# News Roundup

## Toddler Toddle with &

Members of the Mothers' Union in St Albans Diocese are calling all Toddlers (and parents) to do their bit to help those less fortunate.

A Sponsored Toddle will take place after Messy Mass at All Saints Church on 4th June. More information from the posters during May and from sponsor forms. Any donations collected by the toddlers will be given to "Away From It All Holidays" (a Mothers' Union holiday scheme) and to four refuges within the diocese. Older children may take part!

\*\*\* \*\*

**All Saints Holiday Club 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> August**

**"It's Circus Time"**

Application forms available after Easter.



## *Worth a smile*

*When children meet the Bible, the result can be unpredictable. As in these answers to a school chaplain's efforts to teach RE...*

- ~ The main purpose of the prophets was to set up the lights for when Jesus came on the stage.
- ~ The Kingdom of God is no ordinary place like the bathroom at home.
- ~ Jesus said: If you want to divorce your wife leave a note for her on the table.
- ~ Jesus healed a man with a weathered hand.
- ~ Some of the seed from the sower was carried off by Satan.
- ~ The last verses of Mark's gospel were written later by a unanimous person.
- ~ Jesus first proclaimed the gospel to the Jews: He told them to make love to each other.
- ~ An altar is a stall for candles.
- ~ An example of Holy Orders are the Ten Commandments.
- ~ An epistle is the wife of an apostle.



How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark, to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?



How many women can one man marry? A little boy who attended his first wedding worked that one out pretty quick: the answer is 16. It's easy, if you think about it. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer.

# ***Parish Registers***

## **Holy Matrimony, March:**

No weddings

## **Holy Baptism, March:**

12: Clark Jeffrey Barkat Beer, Harry William Barnes, Rosie Florence Sarah Harmer, Hunter Nigel Michael Harmer, Max Stephen Albert Harmer, Tia Antigoni Deakin

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

## **R.I.P. March:**

3: Joan Alcock at St. Michael's; 8: Cyril Cawood at Berton, Robert McClelland at St. Mary's; 10: Joan Bloxham at All Saints; 24: Ronald Laws at St. Barnabas; 27: Cyril Hyde at Berton; 29: Susan Connew at St. Barnabas

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

## **Years Mind, May:**

2: Philip Meredith, Colin Sykes; 3: Dennis Duff; 5: Frederick Groom, Frederick Foskett; ; 6: Robert Molloy; 8: Victor Norman; 9: Valerie King, Margot Freeman; 10: Vera Elliott; 11: Marjorie Holroyd; 12: Percy Collor, David McCormick; 13: Kenneth Watts; 14: Aubrey Marchant; 15: Marion Butler; 17: Mollie Biggerstaff; 18: Alexander Wood; 19: Patricia Munroe; 20: Edith Sutton, Kevin Smith, June Audas; 23: William Atkinson, Wingate Underwood; 24: Paul Reynolds; 25: Patricia Olds; Karolyn Jones, John Watkiss; 26: Christine Roe; 27: Cyril Stratton, Olive Aris; 28: Ethel Gilbert, Eleanor Edgoose; 29: Amy Willett; 31: Dawn Twist

## ***Bob Walters – RIP***

Bob was many things to many people – sister to Anne, husband to Nerissa for 53 years; father to Sian; stream train enthusiast travelling to Germany and Poland many times in order to drive the trains, combining this with his love of photography, always off somewhere with his camera!

He was for most of his working life, a Technical Engineer in the television industry, with spells in South Korea and Amsterdam as well as the UK.

He also loved DIY - turning his hand to lots of projects for Nerissa, Sian and latterly St Nicholas Church in Hockliffe.

In later years he also became a whizz in the kitchen rustling up anything from a full English breakfast to a tasty risotto or scrumptious sausage casserole.

He was a great friend to many through all these activities and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



# ***Pulford VA Lower School***

***Head Teacher: Rev'd Dave Heather, MBE***

***Office Manager: Mrs Alison Quick***

***Tel: 01525 372188***

***Website: [www.pulfordschool.org](http://www.pulfordschool.org)***

A church school for  
a whole community



## ***Looking Outwards***

Life at Pulford is always hectic and never boring! On top of the classroom learning there is Worship, Forest School, Sports Clubs and Little Saints to name but a few. With such a full schedule it might be tempting only to focus inwards when we assess what the school seeks to do and what it is achieving, but this is to overlook the place that Pulford holds in the wider community of Leighton Buzzard.

As a Church of England school, we believe we have a responsibility to live out our vision and ethos beyond the confines of the school, and our strong and enduring relationship with All Saints is crucial in helping us achieve this. In November, we led acts of Remembrance for many of the town's other lower schools, and in March the Easter Trail at All Saints saw over 700 children pass through All Saints to learn more about the Easter Story and the impact it has on their everyday lives. These Trails happen 2 or 3 times a year, and are a collaborative effort between Mrs Borelli of Pulford and Lindsay Bevis at All Saints, supported by many wonderful volunteers.

Of course, Pulford looks outwards in other ways too; for many years the Football Festival has been a highlight of the sporting calendar, the Maypole dancers always delight at the May Day fair and there are even plans afoot for a flash mob singalong at the market cross (postponed from last term owing to typically rainy weather).

We often talk about the Pulford's family and, without question, it is one of the school's greatest strengths. It gives me much pride that we open this family to our town as we seek to grow God's family through Faith, Hope and Love.

***Ed Price,  
Chair of Governors***







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## Eileen M. Naples

BSc., AMCST  
Ryecroft, Plantation Road, Leighton  
Buzzard, LU7 3HT

**01525 377384, or 07774 901293**  
email: eileennaples50@outlook.com

## St Leonard’s Church Hall Heath and Reach

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stleonardheath@gmail.com



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01525 372 204

## *Selections*

*Pet, gift and garden.  
Household, kitchen tools and  
electrical items.  
Calor Gas, DIY and repairs.  
Memorial.*



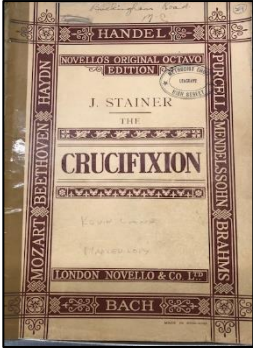
*selections\_pet\_garden*



## *On a musical note.....*



### *A community collaboration produced a stunning performance of Stainer's Crucifixion*



We must offer our congratulations to Paul Dickens, our Choir Master, for having the vision to co-ordinate a community performance of Stainer's Crucifixion as an act of worship on Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023. This was particularly emotional after the disappointing cancellation of a performance in March 2020 because of the Pandemic.

At 6.45pm, the Samaritan Room was packed with the 60+ community choir, all dressed in black, with ages from 8 to 80+ years. There was silence as we filed down the stairs and took our places in the church. The congregation of at least 150 waited expectantly as the organist Sam Kemp and soloists David Emerson (tenor) and Edward Price (bass) started the dramatic story of the Passion of our Lord. The first controlled, intense notes of the choir filled the church with surprising power.

This act of worship was a distinctly community achievement as the conductor, organist, both soloists and choir members were all from the Ouzel Valley Community. Involved in the choir were All Saints Choir, the Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers and singers from other local churches and choirs in the surrounding villages. All Saints rehearsed during their regular Friday evening choir practices, while joint rehearsals for other singers were co-ordinated by Samuel Huston, conductor of the Festival Singers, in St. Barnabas Church Linslade, accompanied by John Wearmouth.

Stainer and his librettist, Rev. J. Sparrow Simpson, composed this oratorio in 1887 and dedicated it to Stainer's friend and pupil, W. Hodge, and to Marylebone Church in London. It was designed to be sung by a parish rather than a cathedral choir but there is no doubting the sincerity of the choice of words and the emotional impact of the music. The style is based on the traditional pattern of recitatives and choruses used by J.S.Bach and Handel for oratorios. The dramatic style is reminiscent of Mendelssohn, for example in the repeated "Fling Wide the Gates" chorus.

The performance was a very moving experience which clearly presented the capture, trial and death of Jesus. The tenor and bass soloists projected the recitatives in a clear and controlled but very powerful style and were ably supported by the organ. The choir gave a very musical and effective treatment of the choruses between the recitatives. The anthem "God so loved the world" was, as always, very emotional and the congregation enthusiastically joined in the hymns especially "Cross of Jesus" and "All for Jesus". The performance was a remarkable achievement by the community of the Ouzel Valley and it will live for a long time in all our memories.

*Brian Bainbridge*

# Calendar of Events

**3<sup>rd</sup> May**

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

Tickets £5.00 available from the Coffee Shop.



**5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Coronation Events** – please see page 11

**18<sup>th</sup> May**

**Ascension Day** Holy Communion All Saints 10am, Sung Eucharist 8pm

**19<sup>th</sup> May**

**Crafty Natter** All Saints 1.30pm - 3.30pm



**21<sup>st</sup> May**

Services as usual including All Age Communion All Saints 11.30am

Looking forwards:

**Music in June: Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts** All Saints 1.00 – 1.30

6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> – a variety of styles and performers.

Details to be announced



**20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Plant Sale** Eggington Churchyard 10 30am - 12 30pm



LEIGHTON BUZZARD



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- Sun 14 - Vegan visiting Market
- Tues 16 - Young Traders Competition
- Sat 20 - Farmers and Producers Market
- Sat 27 - Handmade and Craft Market
- Sun 28 - Street Food Heroes visiting Mkt

LEIGHTON BUZZARD MARKET



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THE  
CORONATION  
KING CHARLES

III  
2023

*All Saints Parish Church*

# CORONATION WEEKEND SERVICES

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May - 7.30pm

The Coronation Explained: What happens  
and why, a talk with Mother Kirsty\*

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May from 2.30 - 4.45pm

Explore the Coronation: Activities, craft  
and opportunities to pray, all ages welcome  
Come and go!

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May - 5pm

A Service of Prayer on the Eve of the Coronation

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May

8am - Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist\*

11.30am - Messy Mass

6pm - Choral Evensong

followed by a bring and share supper

All services with the  
Coronation celebrated



*\*Service will also be live-streamed on the YouTube Channel -  
All Saints Church Leighton Buzzard*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND





*Groups and activities,  
sustaining the  
Christian community of  
The Ouzel Valley Team  
on ...*



Since September 2022, a small cohort of kids has arrived each Friday in term-time, full of energy, to enjoy singing and games for an hour on Friday evenings in the North Transept.

Led and entertained by Saffron Pughe and Peter Mundy from All Saints choir, ably assisted by Katrina Grant, Julia Dickens and other occasional assistants, they have a calming arrival activity or chat before the evening starts. It is an informal affair with about half the time dedicated to fun singing of rounds, folk, Disney and other kids' songs, some with clapping and other actions.

Saffron has taught the children basic breathing techniques, and their ability to sustain their breathing has noticeably improved. The children come from a range of schools. Over the short time that they have been together they have learned how to listen to each other, working together, and bonding into a choir. Saff is quick to pick up on mistakes and repeat exercises; and the children's stamina and listening skills are coming along nicely.

A break for a drink and biscuit leads onto a short session of games, helping to build friendships, and involving much laughter. Occasional appearances bring the children into the church to perform – such as featuring at two Mayor's Carol Concerts, a Mothering Sunday service, and an end of year concert for their parents.

Thanks to some funding, Young Singers have their own Bluetooth speaker, which greatly aids the practices; and thanks to Saffron's boundless energy and hers and Peter's musical skills, the children are turning into happy and confident singers.

## *This month Leighton Buzzard Young Singers*



Saffron has recently decided that they are ready for something new. The hope is to stage a Musical in the summer. So your next opportunity to hear them will be July 16<sup>th</sup>, for a contemporary afternoon learning about Viking behaviour with Monks, Viking raiders and some rather fed-up Viking women who want to go off on raids with their men. Who'd be a Viking Woman? The children are quick to learn the songs and now is the time to start learning the script as well!

The choir was set up to be a form of outreach, and the Friday evening session is the same time as junior choir practice – which might seem odd but occasionally the groups get together – partly to satisfy the inquisitive minds of the Young Singers who ask what the older children are up to as they can hear them singing in the background on the few occasions when they are actually quiet 😊!

To date one Young Singer has graduated to the “blues” and while several more would like to, their other weekend commitments prevent them from making the step. Recruitment is anyway not the primary aim.

There are some spaces for more Young Singers – simply drop an email to ask Paul ([pmjdickens@gmail.com](mailto:pmjdickens@gmail.com)) or speak with Saffron or Peter if you wish to know more.

***Saffron Pughe, Peter Mundy & Katrina Grant***



## ***Good Shepherd, Sandhills***

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

***Tel: 01525 838450***

***Churchwardens:***

***Stuart Blofeld & Katharine Reedy***



**CHURCH of the  
GOOD SHEPHERD**

### **Easter fun at CGS –**

### **The building blocks to a new worshipping community**

Easter is obviously a key time of year for the Christian church as we praise and acclaim what Jesus Christ did for us on the Cross. It's also a great time of year to reach out to the local community and bring them into the church which may not necessarily be on Easter Sunday. School holidays can be especially challenging for families with parents under pressure to entertain their children whilst often having to work at home and juggle childcare commitments. As a dad of a 14-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son I know exactly how this feels. So, this Easter the Church of the Good Shepherd invited families to enjoy time together at our Lego, Hot Chocolate and Stone Painting community event! It was definitely a winning combination with many new families joining us at Astral Park for the first time.



The children (and even the adults!) loved the Lego which allows so much creativity, imagination and you could see the simple joy this brought to those that came. The possibilities are endless, and this is exactly the same when building God's church in the community. As a Pioneer Missioner you need to use your imagination, and get creative with your ideas to reach out to families that wouldn't walk into church on an Easter Sunday. CGS is building a worshipping community at Astral Park but we do this in many different ways, through our Sunday community café and by trying new ideas.

Every time we do something new it just feels right, we connect with new people, meet new families and it's starting to feel like we are creating something really special.

The humble Lego brick on its own may not look very special but when you bring them together you can really start to build something extraordinary and unique, and we know that God is building something just as extraordinary and unique at CGS and Astral Park. It just starts with a conversation and a hot chocolate.

***By Stuart Blofeld***

## **St. Nicholas, Hockliffe**

**Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney**

**Tel: 01525 237633**

**Churchwardens:**

**Brian Speller: 210565;**

**Roger Spalding: 07415 877501**



***It is with very great sadness that we announce the death of Bob Walters, long-time member of St. Nicholas and major player on the PCC for many years. Amongst many contributions to the life of St. Nicholas was his installation of the PA system, management of the current repairs programme, and Chief Pourser of the Wine at St. Nick's Suppers. He will be deeply missed; and our thoughts and prayers are with Nerissa and Sian. Bob died while this article was still in draft form on his computer:***



St. Nicholas PCC have been busy over the last year trying to raise funds for repairs to the fabric of St. Nicholas. We need to raise around £115,000 (at today's inflated prices!) to replace guttering, downpipes and underground drainage; repairs to all windows, both glazing and stonework; general repairs to masonry and the replacement of the south porch roof. All required to make the building weatherproof for the foreseeable future.

This is only Phase 1 of what is needed at St. Nick's. Interior redecoration is required, as is repair or replacement of the pews in the Nave, which are slowly sinking into the soil beneath them. Re-wiring and replacement of the 1950's heaters and lighting would also be beneficial. Ultimately, we would like to install toilet and kitchenette facilities, which would enable the church to be hired out to the village for various functions. At the moment Hockliffe has no village hall facilities and we see the church as being able to provide some of these.

We were very grateful to receive a grant of £10,000 from the Beds & Herts Historic Buildings Trust last year, and have just received news of a further grant of £10,000 from the Mrs B L Robinson's Charitable Trust. Currently, we have a further £18,000 available in our Fabric Fund, but we need to raise a lot more if the work is to go ahead.



We also have further grant applications in the pipeline; The Benefact Trust (£10,000), The Francis Coales Charitable Foundation (£10,000) and The Gale Family Charity Trust (£10,000). We are also going to apply to the Central Bedfordshire Council Community Assets Grant Scheme; they may give up to £25,000 if we are lucky (!)

Any help with fundraising would be much appreciated if we are to achieve our goals for our small but dedicated congregation and the village.

**Bob Walters**



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

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

***Tel: 01525 838450***

***Churchwardens:***

***Sandra Brewin 373644; Julia Haviland 850380***



As we celebrate Easter and the joys of the risen Christ there are moments when we remember those who have already left our congregation and can no longer celebrate with us. Particularly of note is the wonderful legacy to Michael Grant: the long stretch of daffodils as one enters and leaves Great Billington. Michael organised us for many years into groups of Saturday morning daffodil planters.

As in previous years, a number of us came together for the solemn Tenebrae service at St Michael and All Angels on Good Friday evening. Despite the strong reminder of the terrible events of that day, it is also a moving and meditative service and includes some beautiful poems which give opportunity for contemplation. Two days later, the flowers, the brightness and the relief of Easter Day come with such rapidity and change of mood it is hard to comprehend.

In 2020 All Saints Leighton Buzzard organised a trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play: The Oberammergau villagers having promised in 1633, the year of the plague, to perform the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ every tenth year. As with so many events, this had to be postponed due to Covid and instead took place last summer, the All Saints' Group attended the 42<sup>nd</sup> enactment of the play in June 2022. The play is a wonderful re-enactment of the events of Holy Week, a great part of it is choral and amazing that the cast and singers are all drawn from Oberammergau. It is a requirement that the main parts are played by residents who have lived in Oberammergau for more than 25 years. The number of participants filling the enormous stage is staggering.

Apart from the Passion Play, Oberammergau is famous for its talented carvers of religious subjects and has a museum filled with both wood carvings and reverse glass paintings. The beautiful wood carvings displayed date back to the 1700s.

Although it all takes place within one day, the length of the play gives it a feeling of many days duration and imbues a feeling of having lived through the events. There were a number of aspects which viewed the events from differing perspectives from the frequently held view, particularly Judas as betrayed rather than betraying - a concept, I understand, already believed in some circles to be the case. Easter is complex and will always leave us pondering the events.

In our congregation and the community of the village we now look forward, in the very near future, to the coronation celebrations. The invitations have been extended for the lunch and many plans are afoot.

***Sunday 7 May:*** Prior to the Coronation lunch, a service at 11.15 am, at St Michael and All Angels, Great Billington, to celebrate the Coronation of the King and Queen.

***Rosamond Clayton***

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

***Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney***

***Tel: 01525 237633***

***Church Officers:***

***Carol Hart 384634; Paul Brown 751861***



I thought I would tell you about the altar frontal in St Michael's. It is called an All Season Altar Frontal, because it has all the colours of every church season. It is a lovely scene from the countryside, with fields of various greens and a river and several farm animals. It also has butterflies as there are always some in the church. It was made by the nuns in Turvey Abbey in 2001, after visits and discussions about what we wanted. It was made in memory of Mr and Mrs Waldock and Mr and Mrs Stockman and was paid for by their families.

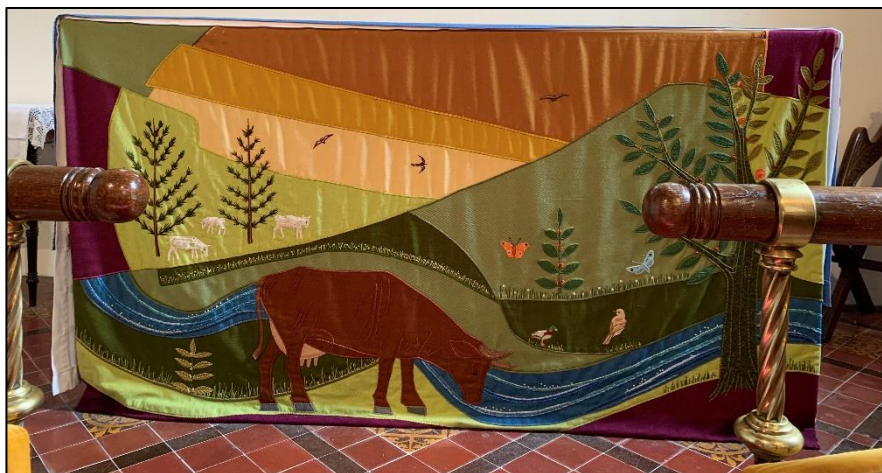
Mr and Mrs Waldock lived in the village for many years just across the road from the Church. They attended regularly, Mr Waldock was a server at services, and they are buried in the churchyard. They are the parents of Arthur Waldock who lives in Stanbridge now.

Mr and Mrs Stockman are my parents and they lived in Houghton Regis. They came to the Church to attend services with my family, weddings, christenings etc. When Colin and I were renewing our wedding vows on our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Mum and Dad were renewing theirs for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Unfortunately, a few days before this dad had a stroke and was in hospital so they could not renew their vows at that time.

The Altar Frontal is a lovely way to always remember our families every time we are in church.

Future Events at St Michael's are the Plant Sale on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June in the Churchyard from 10.30am till 12.30pm. I do believe that refreshments will be served in the village hall at the same time. Do come along for a browse at the plants and a chat.

**Carol Hart**





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## ***The choir sang at Canterbury Cathedral.***

***Here's what some of the younger members of the choir thought ...***

Canterbury Cathedral, founded by St Augustine in 579AD, is a unique place of worship, a major pilgrimage destination and a masterpiece of art and architecture.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April, All Saints Church choir was invited to sing at Canterbury Cathedral, and I was very excited to go.

**When I went to Canterbury Cathedral, I was, at first, very surprised by the size! You could fit about three, or maybe more, of All Saints church! I started to explore, walking around (I was definitely not lost)!**



The best part was because we got to look all around the church. My favourite part was the Crypt where lots of bodies are buried. (That was my favourite place too.)

Then it was time to meet the rest of the choir, get our cassocks, and go to the cathedral's choir stalls to have a practice so we knew what we were doing.

We got our whites and went to the North Transept where we waited nervously and then it was time. . . Everybody was excited walking into the cool of the cathedral.

... It was such a good feeling ...

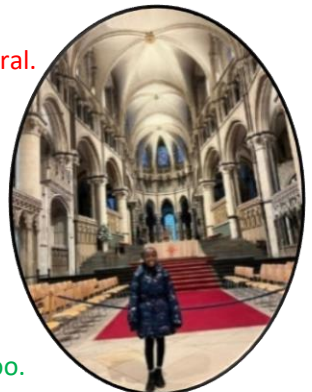
... angelic voices broke the tranquil silence as the choir of All Saints Church beautifully sang some lovely pieces: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Sumsion in A) followed by "O thou the Central Orb". (This was my absolute favourite piece.)

**The sound we made was beautiful! It filled the entire cathedral.**

**"I loved the experience, and would highly recommend visiting Canterbury Cathedral. And if you do, I hope you have an amazing time, like us."**

**"One of the most memorable events we have ever sung as choristers at All Saints. We would without a doubt recommend going to Canterbury once again."**

What I loved about Canterbury Cathedral was, it was such a Grand Building, and it had such an amazing history behind it too.



**It gave me goosebumps, to be singing in such an outstanding place.**

***Henni Powell; Fraser Elliott; Chebet Rotich; & Livya & Elisha Arya***





## ***Tell out my soul:***

*A series exploring elements of our worship,  
what we do and why we do it.*

*This month:*

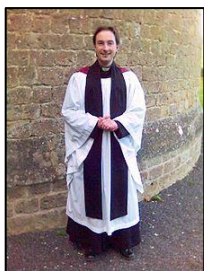
### ***Vestments...***

***by Rev'd Dr. Bernard Minton***

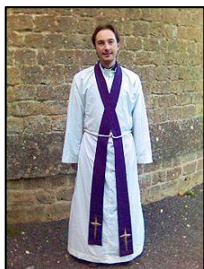
Anyone who's ever seen me will know that I am the least qualified person to talk about clothing. I look as though I got dressed in a hurry, in the dark, and was then dragged backwards through a particularly hairy hedge! As far as I am concerned, clothes are something worn for two reasons only: to avoid public scandal, and for warmth! But even I am not completely unmoved by beautiful fabric, and over the centuries Churches have commissioned many beautiful furnishings.



Because we believe that God created this sensual world and saw that it was good, and because we look for the resurrection of the body and the redeeming transformation of this sensual world in which we experience God sacramentally, beautiful fabric is as appropriate a part of our worship as beautiful music, scents, and language. We bring the best of all that God has made as we come to worship.



Vestments in worship also serve additional purposes. In the priestly rites of the Old Testament, and in many other religions, special ritual clothes are a sign that something extraordinary is happening: that worship involves not merely this ordinary world, but also something transcendent. Ritual clothing has been a part of human worship for millennia, probably. In the Old Testament, this practice is developed; the Priestly garments worn by Aaron and his successors are not merely a sign that God is involved in worship, but are also a kind of Hazmat suit. We, as sinners, cannot stand before God, because His Glory would destroy us in our present sinful state. Priestly garments are a ritual, prayerful protection, to stop the holiness of God from consuming our sinfulness.



This is where things start to get a bit more controversial! Because the Christian answer to this 'risk' of God's holiness is not clothing, but baptism. In baptism, we put on Jesus, and He becomes the garment that we wear. So, in a very important sense, there is no necessary and distinctive Christian clothing, and no special clothing Christian ministers need to wear to stand before God. All of us are clothed with Christ, and that is all we need. He is the new High Priest, ministering in the Heavenly Temple, and we all serve in Him.

This is why the ‘special’ clothes that clergy wear today, owe in fact everything to humanity’s inherent conservatism, and very little to theology! The most theologically important garment that clergy wear is the stole, which is both a Roman scarf of office, and a towel of service, like the one that waiters carry on their arms in posh restaurants! The stole is the primary sign of those who have been ordained: when worn over the shoulders it indicates the priestly office, and when crossed, it indicates diaconal service (usually). In both cases it symbolises the yoke of service in Christ to which the wearer is called.



But of course, the most visible garment clergy wear, especially at the Eucharist, is the chasuble. In fact, like the stole, and like every other garment clergy wear, this started out life as a fairly ordinary, everyday piece of Roman clothing. The chasuble was originally simply a woollen overcoat, like a poncho, that Romans wore to keep out the cold and rain. Its name indicates that: it means ‘little house’. It was probably very useful in the catacombs, and most Christians would have worn one at worship in the first few centuries if they owned one.

Likewise the white garment underneath, called the alb (meaning ‘white’), was originally the kind of tunic that everyone wore. Even the cassock (from the French for ‘long cloak’) was originally the kind of smock everyone wore in the middle ages. As fashions and styles of clothing have changed, ministers have kept using the older garments, which have slowly become regarded as specifically theirs in a way they weren’t originally. They have acquired a ritual significance that harks back to the Jewish Temple, and reminds us of the awesome, numinous presence of God in worship; but we should remember that before all else we are all clothed in Jesus, and nothing else is necessary beyond that.

Once they became identified specifically with the ordained and with ritual uses, the chasuble, stole and alb became quite beautiful and ornate. The practice also developed of using different colours to mark different seasons and themes in worship: I have listed them elsewhere, but should note that there is no universal agreement on what different colours mean: different denominations have different customs. There are some very ancient traditions and associations, such as using white or gold to symbolise Heaven; red for blood and for the Holy Spirit; and black for death and mourning. But it really depends on what ‘works’ – on what helps bring out the colour and flavour of that particular celebration for your particular community.

This reminds us of the point of worship: that we are bringing ourselves to God, and offering Him all that we are, and all that we have, of which our words, music and clothing are all tokens. We bring all these things to our Father, like children bringing pictures home from School. Among them, we bring bread and wine and – as He has promised – God takes that bread and wine and transforms them into Himself for us: but that is next month’s article, on the Eucharistic Prayer!

**Fr. Bernard**

This month we are bringing news of two projects we have been working on over the last year.

***Tree Trail:***

How many of you have seen the numbers by the trees in the churchyard? The churchyard workers have put together a tree trail with the help of Dr. Stephen Jury. The trail is available from the display at the entrance to the coffee shop and contains interesting information about the trees in our churchyard. Please replace the map and information when you have finished your visit so that someone else can use them.



***Blister pack recycling:***

We wish to thank the people who have been bringing in their empty medicine blister packs for us to take for recycling. Having set up the blister pack collection we are sad to have to call a halt to the project. The collection was sparked by Sunday School wanting to make a difference by enabling people to recycle their medicine blister packs via Superdrug pharmacies. In the last 17 months we have collected over 100kg of the empty packs and a few people have taken huge bags of them up to Milton Keynes Superdrug shop which is the nearest collection point for us.

Sadly some people have not been donating the correct items and we have been forced to sort through the box, discarding tablets, plastic phials, foil containers, plastic bottle tops among other things, some of which can be recycled in household collections. Also we are not able to keep up with the volume of your donations. As we have not been able to find a local pharmacy which is willing to take part in the scheme, we have reluctantly decided to stop the collection at All Saints Church. One good outcome is that we have established that the people of Leighton Buzzard are keen to recycle their blister packs so we hope that people will find ways to take their own packs (and possibly their friends' packs) up to Milton Keynes when they are going there to shop. The Superdrug in the Centre has a pharmacy where the packs can be handed in to the staff.

***Alison Dobbie***



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