

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

March 2024

70p

Inside:

Paul Simon & Seven Psalms give Fr. Steve cause to ponder a journey in faith

Fr. Noel discusses

Wisdom

in the series on Biblical Genres

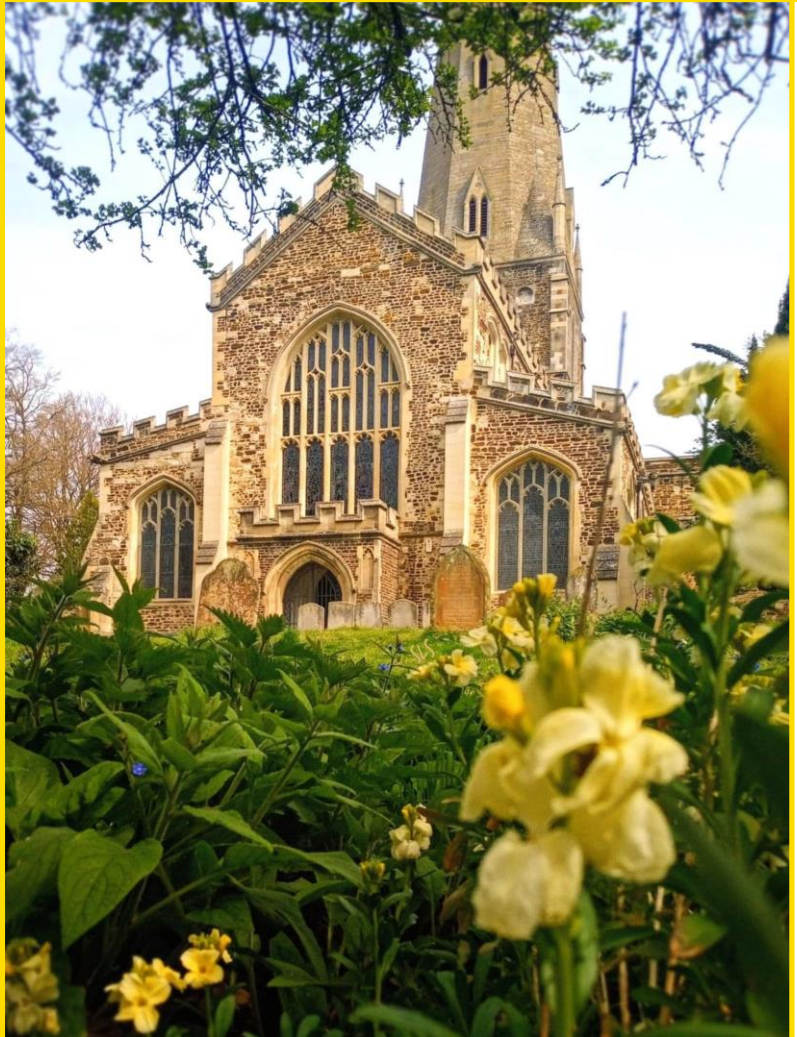
History in the OVT area

St Mary's Old Linslade

A great Taster Evening raising money for good causes (while having fun)

PLUS

**THE BIG
PLASTIC
COUNT**
11-17 MARCH



All Saints Leighton Buzzard

Team Rector & Vicar of All Saints:

In Vacancy

The Vicarage,
Pulford Road, LU7 1AB 01525 373217

Curate:

Rev'd Dr. 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:

Canon Malcolm Grant 01525 372771

Canon Don Brewin 01525 373644

Canon Grant Fellows 01525 381418

Rev'd Steve Davies 01525 381418

Diocesan Readers

Roger Collor 01525 376430

Geoffrey Huskisson 01525 757013

Geoffrey Marchant 01525 371797

Linda Morris 07943 053793

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

Phil Tingay 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
Email: parish@allsaintslb.org.uk
Facebook: All Saints Leighton Buzzard

Office Manager & Vicar's PA 01525 381418
Jo Waller

Head Verger
Lindsay Bevis 01525 381418

Director of Music & Choir Master
including Leighton Young Singers Club
Paul Dickens 01525 210210

Free Will Offering Scheme
Mark Jeeves 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
Website: www.allsaintspreservationtrust.org

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

Advertising: Please contact magazineadvertising@allsaintslb.org.uk

Distribution: Stephen Jury 01525 381936; stephenljury21@btinternet.com

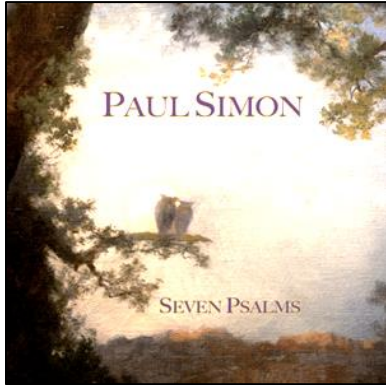
This magazine may not be reproduced in any form without permission. We only use images which are in the public domain or for which we have permission. We are happy to discuss the matter where it is believed this may not be the case. Views and opinions expressed in Saints Alive do not necessarily reflect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

Paul Simon & The Seven Psalms

By Rev'd Steve Marsh



Have you ever acted on something you have heard in a dream? Paul Simon has. On the night of January 15th, 2019, Paul Simon, of Simon and Garfunkel fame, had a vivid dream in which he was told 'You're working on a piece called Seven Psalms'. The dream was so striking that Paul wrote this down and felt compelled to respond. He released the Seven Psalms album last year to great critical acclaim.



The album considers Paul's wrestling with belief in God and his own mortality, as heard in the album's opening lyric '*I've been thinking about the great migration, noon and night they leave the flock*'. Paul also explores the themes of forgiveness, doubt, the nature of love and in the last song 'Wait', how as an 82-year-old he is not ready to go on the 'great migration'.

The first Psalm is called 'The Lord' in which Paul presents a multitude of images and metaphors for God.

The first verse says '*The Lord is my engineer, The Lord is the earth I ride on, The Lord is the face in the atmosphere, The path I slip and I slide on*'.

The image of the '*engineer*' refers to the sound engineer, often Paul's creative partner in the recording studio, hinting at him sensing God as a creative partner. The image of '*The Lord being the path that he slips and slides on*', is an insight into how Paul views the journey of faith, not always easy, feeling that he is barely managing to stay on track.

Paul's images of God and of the faith journey made me consider, what are my own? I often think of God as the Great Designer. Creating with great care, intentionality, ingenuity, flare, and beauty. Not just at the dawn of creation but continuing to design afresh in response to it.

I often think of my faith journey like a walk through a great forest. Most of the time in the shade of the trees, not being able to see the destination. Then coming into clearings where I can see a beautiful view, a majestic mountain, sense the warmth and light of the sun and glimpse my destination. These beautiful moments inspire me as I head back into the forest, giving me hope for my onward journey.

What are the images of God and the faith journey that are important and inspiring to you? I encourage you to listen to Paul Simon's Seven Psalms album to accompany you as you consider this question. It may also prompt you to listen out for how God might be inspiring and envisioning you in your dreams. Maybe you might write your own Seven Psalms.

Rev Steve Marsh

Our present pattern of services across the Ouzel Valley Team

All Saints

Sundays:

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist

11.30am (usual pattern but can vary occasionally)

1st Sunday: Messy Mass

3rd Sunday: All Age Service

2nd & 4th Sunday: Holy Baptism

6pm Evening Prayer

1st Sunday: Choral Evensong Plus

3rd Sunday: Sung with hymns

(NO choir) followed by Benediction

2nd & 4th Sunday: Said Evensong

Weekdays:

Holy Communion

7.30pm Tuesday

(Service of Healing on 3rd Tuesday)

10.00am Thursday

9.00am Saturday

St. Barnabas, Linslade

Sundays:

8am Said Eucharist

10am Parish Eucharist

6pm Evensong

www.stbarnabaslinslade.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.

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, 7.30 - 9.30pm.

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

Contact Details on Page 2.

News Roundup



All Saints Holiday Club 12th - 16th August
"Everyone's a winner".
Application forms available after Easter.



*** **

If you use the services of one of our advertisers, please mention Saints Alive to them, so they know their support of our magazine is worthwhile!



Worth a smile

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, 5-year old Bobby was kept home from church with his granny. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained. Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"



Pew sheet notice that went wrong....

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.



A vicar was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked." "Well, at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"



When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles same as you. For 40 days he drove the Ark before he found a place to park.



Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony, January:

No Weddings

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

Holy Baptism, January:

14: Corrie Weston, Jacob Weston, Harrison Weston-Felmingham

'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'

R.I.P. January:

5: Rosemary Forsyth at Bierton; 5: Donna Perry at All Saints, June Fensome at Crownhill;

12: Elizabeth Barnett at St. Mary's; 24: Michael Bell at St. Mary's;

25: Rodney Walshaw at St. Mary's; 29: Iris Osborne at Bierton

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

Years Mind, March:

3: Madge Taylor, Betty Wille; 4: George Perry; 5: Bunny Winter; 6: Keith Irvine;

7: Ivor Prewett, Audrey Cooper; 8: Alfred Bolton; 9: Norman Rumbelow, Richie Prince;

11: Marian Wallis, Julia Bicknell; 12: Margaret Nash; 15: Arthur Robinson;

16: Walter (Jim) Dell, Laura Fox; 17: Rodney Austin; 18: Amy Rumbelow;

20: Cora-Anne Ingram; 21: Frank Scammell; 23: Susan Lennard; 28: Beth Durrington;

30: Richard Greensted



LEIGHTON BUZZARD MUSIC

LIVE PROFESSIONAL CONCERTS

Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre, Lake St, LB. LU7 1RX

Saturday 16th March 2024 at 7.30pm

**Renowned bassoon virtuoso Laurence Perkins
with Yoshiko Endo, piano**

Programme includes:

Vaughan Williams ~ Studies in English Folksong

William Hurlstone ~ Sonata in F

Paul Reade ~ Catalonina

Edward Elgar ~ Romance, Op 62

Please note: Book via TicketSource or at the door.

Please see links on the website, www.lbmusic.co.uk

Leighton Buzzard Music is a registered charity no: 1183681



Pulford VA Lower School

Head Teacher: Rev'd Dave Heather, MBE

Office Manager: Mrs Alison Quick

Tel: 01525 372188

Website: www.pulfordschool.org

A church school for
a whole community



Starting the term this year without the nervous anticipation of an OFSTED inspection has not implied in any way that the school can sit back on its laurels, but has reinvigorated everybody towards building an even better school.

The term started with renewed intentions, aims and expectations as they work towards achieving a vision of the school family, that values the uniqueness of each child, ensuring high expectations, thus enabling each child to fulfil their potential.

Any organisation is only as good as its constituent parts and the successful running of any school depends on each part of the school making a positive contribution. At Pulford, this includes dinner staff, cleaners, office staff and all manner of volunteers and helpers as well as the teachers and pupils. So a big thank you to everybody at the school.

This is even more apparent in times of tight financial control with limits on spending which may curtail what the school would like to achieve if they had the funds available.

Looking at some inspections in the past it is fortunate that some of those points highlighted in the 1920s and 1930s such as poor ventilation and toilets no longer apply, as does the reflection on the lack of woodworking facilities and poor tree health when gardening seemed to be important.

On a national scale we have seen recently how much the government has highlighted the need for a good attendance record, especially after Covid, when the percentage record has generally declined. The school monitors most assiduously the attendance record of all classes as we have seen there is a definite correlation between attendance and achievement. This includes absence due to parents taking pupils out of school for holidays during term time.

The school continues to work towards its School Improvement Plan which is ongoing throughout the year with one aim being to bring the general level of writing up with the levels of reading and mathematics which is in line with national aspirations after Covid.

The SIAMS report on the school's performance highlighted that the staff work tirelessly to ensure that pupils are enabled to do their best and that pupils know that they can rely on the teachers in all situations.

Bearing this in mind one of the items from the School Improvement Plan is to ensure that the work undertaken is reviewed to ensure a good work life balance for all staff.

It was pleasing to note that the inspectors in their report said that the Governors know the school well due to their active involvement and we will be continuing our oversight as the year progresses.

Geoff Huskisson



The Gentleman Gardener

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

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

For all your painting and decorating needs ...

J. M. Wyatt



Painter and Decorator

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

Tel: (01525) 379520

Call for free quotations and advice

CARPENTRY & JOINERY SPECIALIST

David Casey Carpenter

32 Ave Grimaldi
Luton
LU3 1TJ

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

McTimoney – Corley Technique Skeletal Practitioner

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

Backache. Headache. Migraine.

Neck problems. Sports injuries. Sore muscles
or just “out of sorts”?

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

Refurbished Hall available for hire.
Regular or occasional bookings



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



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

Selections

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



selections_pet_garden

On a musical note.....

Here is a Facebook Post by HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace:

“Samuel Kemp FRCO

We offer our warmest congratulations to our senior organ scholar, Samuel Kemp, who has been successful in the examination for the diploma of Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.”



I am sure that everyone here at All Saints will wish to congratulate Sam on this magnificent achievement. To get some idea of the standard of achievement, you might like to know that in 2023, only 17 organists were awarded FRCO and a good number of those were not UK based.

Paul Dickens

Calendar of Events

3rd March

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



6th March

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

Tickets £6.00 available from the Coffee Shop.



10th March

Mothering Sunday Services as usual including All Age Communion All Saints 11.30am



15th March

Crafty Natter All Saints 1.30pm - 3.30pm



School services:

26th March

Leighton Middle School Easter Services All Saints 11am and 1.30pm

27th March

Pulford School Passiontide Service All Saints 10am

Family Service Dates for March

3rd March: Messy Mass 11.30am

10th March: Mothering Sunday All Age Communion 11.30am

24th March: Palm Sunday

Procession with donkey from the Market Cross followed by Sung Eucharist

31st March: Messy Mass for Easter Day





HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2024

PALM SUNDAY 24th MARCH

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Procession with donkey from the Market Cross

followed by Sung Eucharist

6.00pm Stations of the Cross

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION

8.00pm Addresses by Mother Kirsty

MAUNDY THURSDAY 28th MARCH

10.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Sung Eucharist and ceremony of foot-washing followed by
Watch of Prayer until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY 29th MARCH

12.00 noon A time for reflection with music and readings

12.45pm -1.50pm Preaching the Passion

2.00pm - 3.00pm The Good Friday Liturgy

HOLY SATURDAY 30th MARCH

9.00am A quiet service of reflection

9.00pm Easter Eve Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

EASTER DAY 31st MARCH

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Festal Eucharist for Easter Day

11.30am Messy Mass for Easter Day

6.00pm Festal Evensong



*History all around us,
shaping the
worshipping community
in The Ouzel Valley*
on ...



Passengers on a train between Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes get a fleeting glimpse of St Mary's Old Linslade, standing in its churchyard. Few people realise that for many hundreds of years, until St Barnabas' was built 1849, this was the Parish Church of Linslade.

The stone structure we see today is 200 years older than All Saints Leighton Buzzard and is likely to have replaced a wooden Anglo-Saxon church. In 2019, experts who analysed surviving painted decoration on the Chancel Arch concluded that the stone church was built between 1080 and 1110, when Hugh de Beauchamp owned the Manor of Linslade. Before his arrival with William the Conqueror, Linslade belonged to Queen Edith, the widow of Edward the Confessor.



Ancient paint, old stone, and generations of love and care at St Mary's, Old Linslade

Since it was built, the church has undergone repairs and alterations, but the simple Nave and Chancel footprint has remained essentially the same. The Tower is a C15th addition. As well as the painted decoration on the Chancel Arch there are other interesting things to see inside. The Norman font, with its carved stone beasts, dates from about 1210. The wooden rood screen dates from the early C15th, although it was repaired in the C19th. Set into the wall to the left of the screen is a late C15th carved stone nave altar. In the Chancel there are several memorials, including one to the Corbet family, who were Lords of the Manor of Linslade from 1544 to 1821. In the Nave a brass plaque records the generosity of Henry Finch, a Linslade philanthropist and Churchwarden, who paid for the extensive renovation of the church in 1897, which saved the building from complete ruin. He also had the lych gate built, which now stands incongruously in the middle of the churchyard. At the time, it was part of the churchyard boundary wall, before the churchyard was extended in 1928.



These days there are monthly services at St Mary's, with extra services on special occasions, especially on Easter Day, when an Easter Vigil service is held there beginning before dawn. There are a few weddings and funerals there each year. The church is open to visitors on the first Sunday afternoon of the month from Easter to September.

The churchyard is entirely maintained by a group of volunteers who mow and strim following a plan developed by the Living Churchyards Project designed to preserve the biodiversity of the site. Over 100 plant species have been identified, many of them rare.

Good Shepherd, Sandhills

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwardens:

Stuart Blofeld; Katharine Reedy



**CHURCH of the
GOOD SHEPHERD**

Reflecting more on Romans

In the last issue Katharine reflected on our first sessions of the Romans course we have been studying in home group, introducing the image of travelling over a mountain as we pass through the chapters. Having now completed the course I found myself reflecting particularly on the imagery used.

The setting of the videos in Rome brought the picture of the house churches meeting in secret around Rome and how special this letter would have been to the Christians hearing it. The letter is clearly personal, Paul mentioning people in the church by name. and throughout there is a theme of unity. Presenter Andrew Ollerton points out that Christianity's teaching of equality between Jew, Gentile, rich, poor, men, women and different nationalities, was a radical idea in the status driven Roman society.

The explanation of how we share in the death and resurrection of Jesus, and the symbolism of Baptism for me was one of the most striking images portrayed in the course. The picture of nailing our old life to the cross with Jesus so that we die, are buried, and raised with him to a new life freed from slavery to sin, is both powerful and awe inspiring.

Paul talks about God's plan for His chosen people and His will for us who do not have to be born into His family but are adopted through Faith and share equally in the gifts that are granted to His people. The fact that we share in Jewish history by becoming a Christian is well illustrated by the image of a new shoot being grafted onto an old olive tree which can then flourish and produce fruit again. There is explanation about how God gives us different gifts within a community and how we should look at using those skills to glorify God together rather than envying the gifts of others.

Ever practical, Paul urges us to be good members of society, respecting authority but to obey God first. He urges us to contribute positively to society.

Paul urges us to go out into the world so that everyone can know about the Gospel and the image I take from this is from Romans 10:15 "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" It reminds me of a sermon I heard about the difference between a believer and a disciple in that a believer is comfortable in their Faith whereas a disciple often finds themselves outside of their comfort zone as they take their Faith into the world.

Although I often find myself outside my comfort zone, I'm not sure I'm always a good disciple but how good would it feel to have beautiful feet!

Fiona Dry

St. Nicholas, Hockliffe

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Churchwardens:

Brian Speller: 210565; Tom Ware



How quickly the time rolls on into March. The beginning of Spring, and I feel and think this is my favourite month of the year, when everything is waking up after the winter. The garden is awash with the white of snowdrops, and the yellow aconites. The birds are making their presence heard, especially our wrens who make their nest above the back door.

We had some sad news last month, that our dear friend Yvonne Stott had died at her home in Gloucester. We will have had a memorial service in St. Nicholas on 19th February, to celebrate her life.

Yvonne, who previously lived in Wing, moved into a Pages Close alms house, and lived there for about 20 years, where she met Julie and Mick. Julie who came to St. Nicholas Church, would come with Pauline Shanley and Yvonne, and be our regular and faithful attendees. She also became a member of the P.C.C., and supported us, not just weekly, but for all our events – she would always be there to help us.

She was a member of the W. I. and also did folk dancing. Yvonne would always be knitting, or lace making (which was my hobby too). She also liked to decorate dolls houses, and Yvonne, Brian and myself would have a day out every year to Birmingham to visit the Miniaturama Exhibition.

She took great pride in her garden and home, and she would always be redesigning something!

She will be sadly missed by all from St. Nicholas Church.

Carol Speller

The Miracles of Easter

The sleeping earth awakens,
The robins start to sing,
The flowers open wide their eyes
To tell us it is Spring,
The bleakness of the Winter
Is melted by the sun,
The tree that looked so stark and dead
Becomes a living one.....
These MIRACLES of EASTER,
Wrought with divine perfection,
Are the blessed reassurance
Of our Saviour's Resurrection.

St. Michael & All Angels, Billington

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwardens:

Sandra Brewin 373644; Julia Haviland 850380



Garden of Rest

The Garden of Rest in the churchyard was established about forty years ago and at that time it was decided not to have individual memorials because they would either get lost in the grass or if standing proud would be a problem when cutting the grass. In the years since about thirty people have been interred in the Garden and relatives would sometimes lay flowers on 'their plot' Recently people started leaving more permanent memorials and so in 2020 it was decided to avoid this and at the same time provide a record of all those interred, a memorial should be erected to which plaques could be fixed commemorating each person.

You can imagine there was much debate in the PCC as to the design of the memorial, but it was eventually decided a simple wall about 2 feet tall and 5 feet long at the entrance was the correct form. That is when the problems started. Who would have thought building a little wall would create so much paperwork. The Diocese could not decide if a faculty was needed, first they said no and then changed their mind. We have been back and forth to them with plans and specifications and notices to be displayed and at last we have the faculty and can go ahead. Who would have thought a wall could cause such problems. Now we just have to build it!

Billington Village Hall

When the hall was built in the 1960's no one had thought of buildings being 'environmentally friendly.' The result was that there was no insulation of any kind in the committee room. A thin layer of panelling was fixed straight onto the block walls. With the assistance of a lottery grant the room has now been completely stripped out and insulation added to the walls and ceiling before replastering and changing the lighting to LED. The opportunity has been taken to renew the floor covering and the room now looks so much better as well as being much warmer when in use.

The NHS

Recently a young member of our congregation had to have emergency surgery at Milton Keynes Hospital. He was in theatre for five hours and then a team came from Oxford to transfer him to intensive care at The John Radcliffe Hospital. The staff at both hospitals could not have been more caring and undoubtedly saved his life. People grumble about the NHS and although there can be reason for this, we are just so grateful they were there when needed and so no grumble this time – just a huge thank you.

David Thompson

St. Michael's, Eggington

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Church Officers:

Carol Hart 384634; Paul Brown 751861



Hello,

My turn to write here has come round again. Harry's piece last month is a hard act to follow, but here goes.

My question to you, "how busy are you?" *Busy: Having a great deal to do.* I feel like I am a busy person. I like being busy. Busy is often my happy place. Even my 'me' time seems to be very busy. But even this seasoned busy type can occasionally get in a right old, unmanageable, spin. I am of working age – but do not work in the conventional sense yet I seem to find myself occupied morning until night doing goodness only knows what. I know a lot of people. Some seem equally busy and say they wish they were less so. Some are less busy and say they wish they were more so. If we get to choose, we are encouraged to find the magic balance. The Sunday papers spend a lot of words informing us on how to get a balance on practically everything be it food, exercise, carbon footprint through to the mythical work/life balance. So now, many of us, are all busy trying to get that balance. More busy-ness. I spend time with people who either physically or mentally are not able to partake in this frenetic busy world that some of us are busy buzzing round in. I am lucky, I am in a phase where I get to choose my state of busy-ness but I am reminded daily that a) many do not have this luxury of choice and b) this is likely to be a temporary phase and I need to keep a grip. I have found that our lovely church garden at St Michaels is a great place for me to 'get a grip'. So perhaps next time all this busy-ness, whether self-inflicted or otherwise has you in a spin– give the garden a whirl, it oozes balance. *Balance: An even distribution of weight enabling someone to remain upright and steady.*

More useful information: Blister pack recycling has resumed at the church. Please leave ONLY empty blister packs in box at the back of the church and these will be recycled through Terracycle.

The monthly coffee meet, 'Elevenses', continues into its 17th year and everyone is welcome. First Wednesday each month at 11am in the church.

Michelle Plummer

Forward Dates:

2nd March: Quiz night in Eggington Village Hall – 7.00pm.

Tickets £8.00 from Angela 210240.

3rd March: Service at St Michael's 9.30am

6th March: "Elevenses' in the church 11am

16th March: working party in church and church garden from 10.30am

18th May: plant sale



**CHARLOTTE LYONS
PHYSIOTHERAPY**

Leighton Buzzard Physiotherapy Clinic

Providing Treatment for: Muscle, Joint, and Nerve Injuries, Sports
Rehabilitation, Post-Op Rehabilitation and Dizziness.

Craven House, Water Lane, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1FA

www.charlottelyonsphysiotherapy.com

charlottelyonsphysio@gmail.com

07446 765945



Computer Support & Services

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

Computamation Services Ltd.

email: john@computamation.co.uk

Telephone 01525 261381

Mobile 07968 536068

**AUSTIN &
CARNLEY**

SOLICITORS

Local experts in Conveyancing, Wills & Trusts, Probate, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Family, Employment, Commercial Property, Dispute Resolution, Motoring and Criminal Defence.

Advising the people of Leighton Buzzard and surrounding areas since 1884

For advice you can trust in a language you can understand,
contact us on 01525 372140

or email us at: office@austinandcarnley.co.uk

Bridge House, Bridge Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1AH

www.austinandcarnley.co.uk



Taster Evenings are back with Terrific Tapas raising funds for Cancer Charities



On the Wednesday before Lent, after a 3-year break, we relaunched our popular taster evenings with a Spanish themed Tapas night.

The North Transept was decked out like a Taverna, and the wine and conversation flowed, while Tapas (little plates) were replenished from the amazing spread homemade by members of the church family.

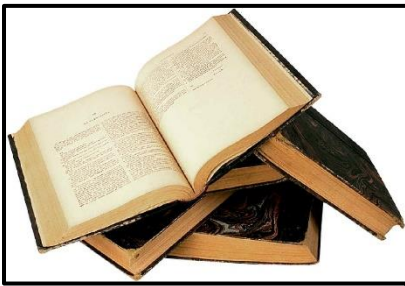
Thank you to everyone who helped make this evening a success by attending, cooking or manning the bar!

We are pleased to be sending £400 to each of our chosen charities – Prostate Cancer UK and Oracle Cancer Trust.

Look out for next year's Mexican Night!

Lindsay & Jo





Biblical Genres

*A series exploring
the different kinds of writing in the bible.*

This month:

Book of Wisdom...
by Rev'd Noel McGeeny

The Book of Wisdom is one of the last books in the bible to make it into the Old Testament. It was probably written around 50 BC; and it was written in Greek, which is why you find it in the Catholic and Orthodox bibles but you don't find it in the Jewish or Protestant bible. The other 'hidden' or 'deuterocanonical' books are: 1 and 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, Sirach and Baruch, 7 in total. Thus, 66 books in the protestant bible and 72 in the Catholic and orthodox bibles.

Wisdom was clearly written in Greek. It shows a lot of Greek philosophy. It speaks about the afterlife; and in the afterlife it says that we will be souls with God. It doesn't say bodies. It doesn't have a sense of resurrection. But it does have a sense of the divine recompense, of a judgement at the end of time. If we are good people we will be rewarded. If we are bad people we will be punished.

Remember throughout a lot of Jewish history that wasn't the case. People believed that everyone went to Sheol. Good, bad and indifferent, Sheol was a 'holding' tank. It wasn't a reward or punishment. It was simply where you subsisted. You didn't even exist. This speaks about the fact that the evil say that a person who dies young is punished and the author says 'No. That person is with God. That's a reward.'

The earliest idea of 'wisdom' is that consists of simple folk sayings, such as "*a stitch in time saves nine*", or "*early to bed early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise*". You do find such sayings in Sirach and in Proverbs.

But the Book of Wisdom has personified wisdom. It is not just sayings. '*Wisdom*' has become a special messenger of God. And in fact, it is '*wisdom*' to seek God and to know God. Wisdom was present when God created the world, as an architect, a blueprint for creation. Wisdom is offering herself to anyone who seeks her. She goes through the city looking for the uninitiated, the foolish. She offers them a meal of bread and wine.

Does that sound familiar? That's why when Jesus took bread and wine at the last supper, the disciples finally understood that when they spoke about '*Wisdom*' in the Old Testament they were really speaking about Jesus. They just didn't know it yet.

It also speaks about King Solomon. He is considered to be the wisest of all kings. In certain ways, he was wise. Remember how the queen of Sheba came to visit him to find out if it was all true; and she went home saying indeed, it was all true. He also did some foolish things, such as building temples for his pagan wives. Unfortunately, he was so insistent on building new buildings and new cities that he almost bankrupted the nation. That reminds us that while we all have our talents, we also all have our faults.

Solomon, though, is considered to be one who sought wisdom. Remember when he went to the shrine, instead of asking for long life or victory over his enemies or for great riches, all he asked for was 'wisdom', so that he might guide the nation.



The second half of the Book of Wisdom deals with the whole Exodus experience. It tries to show that the

Egyptians were being punished because of their sinfulness. In Rabbinic circles there is an old saying: *"As the sin - so the punishment"*. When you choose a certain sin, it already carries, in itself, the punishment you will receive.

For example, St Paul says, in The Letter to the Romans, *"Romans worshipped animals, so they became beast-like."* And that's why so many of the plagues in Egypt are animals: the lice, the frogs... all of these animals were coming because the Egyptians worshipped animals. Whereas the Wisdom of God protected the Israelites and brought them home to the Promised Land.

What can we learn from this? First of all, when we sin, we are asking for loneliness, asking for selfishness. Why should we be surprised if God gives us what we asked for? Sort of like the old lesson: *"You made your own bed and now you must lie in it."*

But if God lets us feel the consequences of our sins, it's not because he wants to punish us, or hates us, but rather that he wants us to learn the lesson that sin can never bring us true peace; can never bring us joy. It's only by following God, as the Israelites did, that we will be able to enter his promised land.

We have been recently informed that plans are emerging to designate 2025 a year of spiritual renewal and well-being in the diocese. Building on our common call to look to God and our commitments to mutual flourishing, a menu of opportunities for laity and clergy is being compiled. It is likely to include a range of retreat opportunities, time for spiritual refreshment and well-being activities, along with schools of prayer and theology. Watch out for further details which will be published shortly. It would be wise for our Team Council to take full advantage to promote as many activities for as many of us as possible.

Noel McGeeney.

Count your plastic for one week 11-17 March 2024



For one week in March, thousands of households, schools, community groups and businesses will be coming together to count their plastic waste. And sharing their results to help form a national picture of the state of plastic waste in the UK.

Billions of pieces of plastic packaging are thrown away by UK households every year, and just 12% is recycled in the UK. But with plastic, there is no such thing as “away”. We know that it doesn’t biodegrade, it pollutes oceans and rivers and kills countless creatures.

Almost a quarter of a million people took part in The Big Plastic Count last year, and already nearly 70,000 have signed up for 2024. You can help by taking part and it couldn’t be easier. Watch this brilliant video to find out more: <https://thebigplasticcount.com> or QR



Why is this important?

The findings will be critical ahead of the Global Plastics Treaty, where nations will come together to set new global rules for the production of plastic. This Treaty is a once-in-a-generation chance to protect our planet from plastic pollution. If the UK government, with its powerful position on the world stage, champions bold, decisive action, we can help end the age of plastic.

How to take part – it’s really easy

1. **Register** as a household, school, group or business. Use this QR code or visit <https://thebigplasticcount.com> You will be sent a free pack with everything you need (on recycled paper and plastic-free!) There is a special pack and extra resources for teachers and schools.

2. **Count up** all the plastic packaging you throw away for the week 11-17 March. Then submit your results on the website.

3. **Know your plastic** - you will receive a personal plastic footprint which shows where it ends up. Once all the results are in, the national picture will be published, helping to influence the government to take action.

This isn't about feeling guilty about the amount of plastic you use! Too much single-use plastic is produced and there aren't reusable alternatives that suit everyone's needs. Together we're gathering the evidence needed to push for proper action on plastic.

If you do take part, I would love to hear how you get on.

Katrina Grant on behalf of the Eco Church Team



REPAIR CAFE LB 2024 DATES

Runs from 10.30-13.30

Royal British Legion,
Bossard Hall, West St,
Leighton Buzzard

- March 23rd
 - April 27th
 - May 25th
 - June 22nd
 - July 27th
 - September 28th
 - October 26th
 - November 23rd
- Free to attend
 - Book online or just turn up
 - Donations welcome
 - Bring 1 portable item
 - Cake & refreshments available
 - To volunteer let us know!



linktr.ee/Leightonbuzzard

ULTRAWOOD INTERIORS LLP

*Shop local
for your fitted
kitchen furniture*

*Over 35 years
in business*

25-27 Bridge Street
Leighton Buzzard
LU71AH



www.ultrawoodinteriors.co.uk
Free no obligation estimates
and design service

info@ultrawoodinteriors.co.uk
01525 850169

BILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Available for hire
Capacity approximately 100
Good car parking

*Special rates for regular
weekly bookings*

**Please contact
078 3509 7932**

EST 1923
DILLAMORE
FUNERAL SERVICE LTD



Independent Funeral Directors
Golden Charter Funeral Plans
Monumental Services

16 Old Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire, LU7 2RF
Tel: 01525 372210

Email: info@dillamorefuneralservice.co.uk

www.dillamorefuneralservice.co.uk

HAVE YOU TRIED THE REFILL WAY TO SHOP YET?

WE'RE A SHOP MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE CHOCOLATE
BUTTON AT A TIME!

Love the planet

Cut out single use plastic.

Love your wallet

Buy only what you need,
when you need it.

Love your gut

We sell good quality, organic produce.

Love variety

Over 365 products and products
not available in supermarkets.

Love flexibility

Online order and deliveries available.

Love people

We support fair-trade, living wage
& co-operatives



Moving to a bigger shop in April!

7 - 9 Friday St, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1DU

therefill@outlook.com

www.therefill.co.uk

