

# 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*

**June 2024**

**70p**

## **Inside:**

Looking at the  
work of Churches  
Together  
Noel McGeeney

Mother Kirsty  
discusses the  
minor prophets

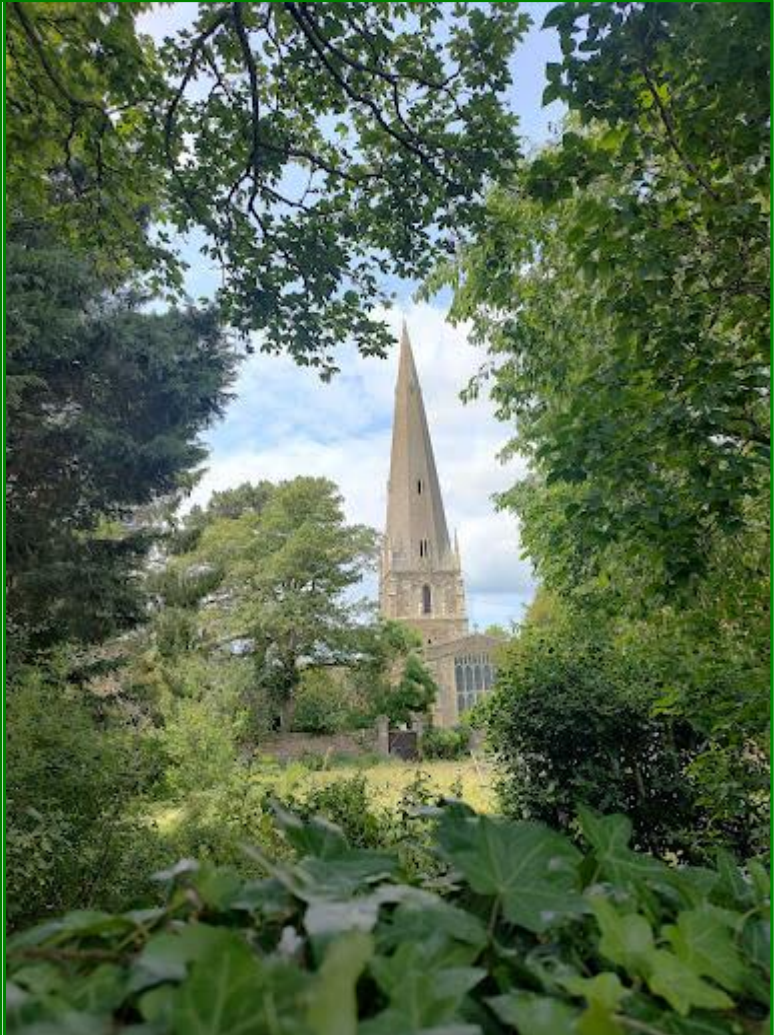
Pulford has a new  
roundabout and a  
new dog!

The story of the  
Village Pump at  
Heath & Reach

8<sup>th</sup> June

- Make seed bombs,
- Toddle with Toddlers
- Volunteering Fair
- The start of Big Green Week

English Summer &  
Cream Tea dates



# All Saints Leighton Buzzard

## Team Rector & Vicar of All Saints:

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Rev'd Dr. Bernard Minton 01525 372149

Rev'd Steve Marsh 01525 838450

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Canon Don Brewin 01525 373644

Canon Grant Fellows 01525 381418

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[magazine@allsaintslb.org.uk](mailto:magazine@allsaintslb.org.uk)

**Advertising:** Please contact [magazineadvertising@allsaintslb.org.uk](mailto:magazineadvertising@allsaintslb.org.uk)

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## ***Leighton Linslade Churches Together - Who we are and what we do***

***By Rev'd Noel McGeeney***

At our first meeting of Leighton Linslade Churches Together after the pandemic 2022, a handful of people showed up. We asked ourselves to identify our purpose and we concluded that we should continue as an Events group.

We were concerned with the growth of poverty in the town, so we planned to bring together all the groups who work to alleviate poverty and get them talking and listening to each other. We planned the meeting for December 2022 and called it the 'Advent of Poverty'.

We had a good turn out and got started by asking the question: "What do you need?" We then broke into groups for discussion.

The following September, we followed up with a second session, had a good turn out and interesting discussions. The two main events which LLCT organise are the Walk of Witness on Good Friday; and a Hustings before a general election.

Last December and last month we spent from 10am to 3pm on the High Street on a market day. We were ten volunteers, 2 together per hour. Under a canopy, we have a banner, an A frame with information to signpost local charities, and prayer cards. We also have a CD player and some camping chairs. We feel we need to have a regular stand on the High Street for people to get used to us being there, so that we become a familiar sight.

At our last meeting we asked the question: "Do the six or seven of us really speak for all the other churches in the town?" So I sent out an invitation to church leaders to come to a lunch later in May to chat about the future of LLCT. I have asked for an RSVP before the end of April. I am writing this on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April and have got one positive reply and one sorry, other than from the handful of us who are meeting anyway.

Bedford churches together held their annual meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April and the point was made that traditionally Ecumenism was mainly about the mainstream denominations. Now there are 50 member denominations in Churches Together in England. These include independent charismatic churches, Orthodox congregations, Global Majority and British Minority Ethnic churches.

I suggest a good motto for Churches Together would be, "We are one not because we think alike but because we act together".

On our day on the High Street in December 23, one person did stop and say he was very happy to see Churches Together witnessing as One. We are also an Ecumenical group that have been going into two care homes for the past decade.

***Fr. Noel***

## *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)

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Messy Mass

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: 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: Sung with hymns  
(NO choir) followed by Benediction

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Said Evensong

#### **Weekdays:**

#### **Holy Communion**

7.30pm Tuesday

(NB: temporarily 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays only,  
with Service of Healing on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)

10.00am Thursday

9.00am Saturday

### **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, 7.30 - 9.30pm.

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

*Contact Details on Page 2.*

# News Roundup

## Announcement of appointment:

The churchwardens are pleased to announce the appointment of Prebendary David MacGeoch as Team Vicar of All Saints Leighton Buzzard. David is currently the Vicar of Glastonbury with Meare, a post he has held for 15 years, 11 of which he was also Area Dean of Glastonbury Deanery. David will be moving here with his wife Kathy, middle son, three dogs and 7 hens! David will be licensed on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September by Bishop Alan, the Bishop of St. Albans.

Please hold David and Kathy in your prayers as they prepare for this new chapter in their lives.



## Worth a smile

### With June weddings in mind...

"If we did become engaged, would you give me a ring?" she said.

"Yes, of course!" he replied. "What is your number again?"



Young man asked to describe his mother-in-law: "Generally speaking, she's generally speaking."



Signing the register at a wedding, the groom had difficulty in making his ball-point pen work. "Put your weight on it," said the vicar.

So the groom complied: 'John Smith (twelve stone, four pounds)'



They say he married her because her aunt left her a fortune. He hotly denies it, saying that he would have married her, whoever left her the fortune.



A clergyman phoned his rural dean. "I regret to have to inform you that my wife has just died. Could you please send me a substitute for the weekend?"



The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.



**Right: so this is what the Wilkes Walk is really about!**



...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...

# Parish Registers

## Holy Matrimony, April:

20: Luke Birtles & Elysia Allsopp at All Saints

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

## Holy Baptism, April:

14: Evie Faith Ellis, Jamie Tama's Morling, Robin József Morling

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

## R.I.P. April:

16: Muriel Chandler at All Saints; 25: Owen Rock at Bierton; 29: Keith Boyce at All Saints

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

## Years Mind, June:

1: Lucas Pollard; 2: Barbara Macdonald; 3: Ira Bowerman; 4: Karl Jones, Rosemary Mason;  
5: Norman Griffiths; 7: Dorothy Speller, Beryl Jessup, Sidney Westwood;  
8: Robert Molloy, Doris Pullin, Shirley Jones; 9: Ann Meredith, Michael Nash;  
11: Peter Beecroft; 13: Davina Baker, Jasmine Baker; 15: Jean Waudby, Cyril Burchell;  
17: Sheila Piedot; 18: John Shelley; 20: Margaret Leath, George Willett, Doris Froud;  
21: Marie Cooper; 23: Edgar Hart, Carol Green; 24: Norman Dillamore;  
27: Elsie Beauchamp, Eddie Shephard; 28: David Ingledow, Rosemary Plenderleath;  
29: Marjorie Bewick; 30: Paul Bottos



## ***Totally Leighton Buzzard is planning 2 events "Great Big Green Week"***

from 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to raise awareness and encourage action to tackle climate change.

### ***Volunteering Fair on 8<sup>th</sup> June:***

at All Saints Church.

To promote volunteering opportunities locally. If you can get involved with either of these events, please get in touch.

Find out about ***"Totally Leighton Buzzard"*** on our website

<https://linktr.ee/leightonbuzzard>

or via our social media pages on Instagram or Facebook @totallyleightonbuzzard or join the Repair Cafe Facebook group.

You can email the group at

[totallyleightonbuzzard@gmail.com](mailto:totallyleightonbuzzard@gmail.com)

**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



The start of the summer term at Pulford is always very busy. This year saw the advent of an all-inclusive roundabout.



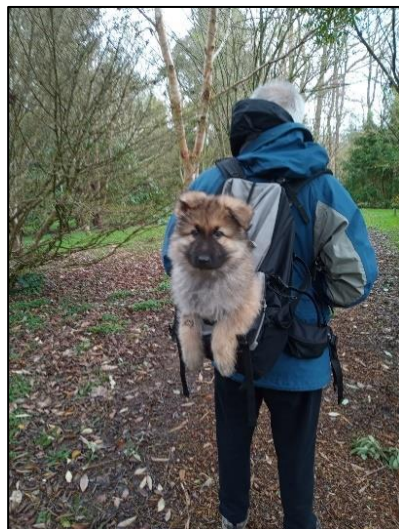
The PTA have been working very hard to raise funds, and an extremely generous anonymous donation was made to support the purchase of this roundabout. This enabled it to be installed over Easter. It is completely flush to the surrounding surface allowing children who use walkers or wheelchairs to use it. Many children enjoy the sensory feedback the roundabout gives them, and all are enjoying it to the full. A very tight timing and queuing schedule has had to be implemented, with the children very keen that they get their fully allotted time!!

Future PTA fund raising events are a Father's Day breakfast for school families, mufti days and a Summer Fayre on 29<sup>th</sup> June 11-3pm. All very welcome.

The other excitement was the arrival of a new school dog. Bozley is already very much at home. He is a delightful addition to the Pulford family.

The start of the week of 17<sup>th</sup> June sees a new Church Trail. This term the theme is the 'Church Year'. This is an All Saints Church and Pulford School collaboration, ably organised by Mrs Borelli. Each day there is the opportunity for other Lower schools to enjoy participating in this chance to learn about the Church. The trail lasts for a week and the school is very grateful to all the volunteers who support this worthwhile event.

**Tessa Rees, Deputy Head**





## The Gentleman Gardener

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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

Refurbished Hall available for hire.  
Regular or occasional bookings



Capacity approx 130  
Easy access. Car parking  
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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.*



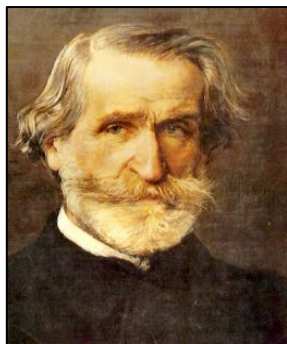
*selections\_pet\_garden*



*On a musical note.....*



*a stunning venue for  
a mesmerising performance of Verdi's Requiem*



If you happened to be in All Saints Church. Leighton Buzzard at 7 29 pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024, you just wouldn't have known what was about to happen to you. Obviously, you were there because you were about to perform or listen to the Verdi Requiem sung by Stewkley Singers and members of the All Saints choir community. But what you didn't know was just how superb that performance was going to be. The choir, under the expert guidance of Stewkley Singers' Musical Director Jenny Morgan and a reduced size orchestra, gave one of those once in a lifetime performances that was so full of sheer musicianship that it was difficult to believe they were amateur singers.

The orchestra and soloists were impeccable but it was the choir, from the whispered Requiem at the very beginning to the final fortissimo with its top C for the sopranos in the Libera Me towards the end, which was the star of the show.

The first performance of this iconic work took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1874, at the church of San Marco in Milan, with Verdi himself conducting a 100-piece orchestra, a choir of 120, and four soloists, including the soprano (Teresa Stolz) and mezzo-soprano (Maria Waldmann) who had sung Aida and Amneris respectively in Aida (1871). The event was a success, and was quickly followed by performances at La Scala, after which Verdi took the work on a triumphal tour of Paris, Vienna and London, where he appeared at the new Royal Albert Hall.

The response to the Requiem was surprisingly mixed. Although the public responded with immediate enthusiasm, some critics complained that Verdi's music veered too far from the sacred toward the popular, specifically towards opera. The German conductor Hans von Bulow was in Milan at the time of the first performance and had a statement published in the following day's newspaper declaring that "Hans von Bulow was not present at the spectacle." He later described the piece as "Verdi's latest opera, in ecclesiastical dress." Hearing of this remark Johannes Brahms studied a copy of the score and responded, "Bulow has blundered. This is a work of genius." To his credit, Bulow later changed his mind and sent a letter to Verdi recanting and asking for forgiveness.

Operatic it certainly is and to this day some people object to its being sung in a place of worship for that very reason. But that is to limit the art of the musician, who should be free to find his/her own interpretation of the underlying lyric. After all, we seem to be happy with modern-day, jazz masses.

*Paul Dickens*

# Calendar of Events

**2<sup>nd</sup> June**

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



**5<sup>th</sup> June**

**Lunch Club** North Transept, All Saints 1pm.  
Tickets £6.00 available from the Coffee Shop.



**6<sup>th</sup> June**

**Corpus Christi** Holy Communion All Saints 10am; Holy Communion 8pm

**8<sup>th</sup> June**

**Love Nature in the Churchyard** 10.30am -2pm

**Volunteering Fair** 10am – 2pm

**Big Green Week** 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June

**Toddler Toddle, in aid of Mothers' Union "Away From it All"**

10 - 10.30am; 0-9 years olds and their parents welcome to join us.  
All are welcome to sponsor us!



**21<sup>st</sup> June**

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



**24<sup>th</sup> June**

**Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer**

Mothers' Union have 4 million members in 86 countries and every hour of every day someone in the Mothers Union is praying for named dioceses around the world. Join us for our slot in the global wave of prayer 4- 4.30 pm on Monday 24th June in the south transept.



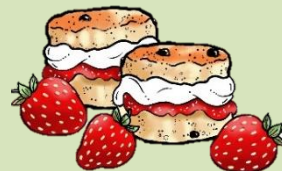
**29<sup>th</sup> June**

**Italia Day** Billington Village Hall 12 noon



## Summer Cream Teas

### in English country churchyards



**Hockliffe:** 1<sup>st</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> July, and 10<sup>th</sup> August

All 2.00 - 5.00pm

**Eggington:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 3.00 - 5.00pm

**St Mary's Old Linslade:** open first Sunday every month 2.00 – 4.00pm



All Saints Parish Church Leighton Buzzard

# SUMMER FETE

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July - 11am to 3pm

Fete set in Church Grounds



FREE ENTRY

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

STALLS - MUSIC - REFRESHMENTS - ETC



*on ...*

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



Heath and Reach?

Oh yes! That's the place with the pump house in the middle of The Green, isn't it?

It is also the village with a lovely thriving village Church although you would hardly know it was there as you enter the village from the town, due to the enormous conifers that line the road. St Leonard's was built as a private chapel connected by a path from the large house opposite, long before the road was built to separate the two.

In the nineteenth century, some villagers had a well in their garden, but many had to walk to the one situated at the junction of Heath Road and Shenley Hill Road. That area was known as "Duck End" and there was a cluster of small, thatched cottages.

This well stood in the middle of the road next to the pond. It wasn't very deep, and much of the water drawn from there was contaminated, at a time when diphtheria, cholera, and tuberculosis were common diseases.

There were plans to sink a new well on the grassy bank nearby, but this was rejected, partly because it was thought to be too dangerous a place with the traffic at the junction; and partly because Mr. Bushell, the owner of the land, was not willing to give up his freehold to allow villagers to have a right of way to get to the well.

In 1859, before the formation of the Parish Council, all the big decisions were made by the two Church Wardens, and they decided that a well should be sunk on Heath Green where it is today. It was 100 feet deep and supplied reasonable drinking water for the village.

# The Village Pump Heath & Reach



Moving on to 1873, Mr William Abraham, a gentleman who “loved the village where he had lived all his life”, worked tirelessly with a committee to get a shelter built over the well, to protect villagers from inclement weather; with a clock tower at the north end.

He built a scale model of the building and took it around to people he thought could afford to fund it. This resulted in enough money to purchase the clock, with £20.00 over to enable them to build the tower to house it. It is believed that the Rothschild Family and Angela Burdett-Coutts, the richest heiress in England at the time, donated much of the money needed for the project.

When the building was complete, Mr Abraham said:

*“I trust God will make this well of pure water a blessing to the parishioners, a means of increasing their comfort and promoting their health”.*

**Richard Page, Churchwarden of St Leonards.**

**Research by the Late Geoff White, Former Churchwarden of St Leonards.**



With thanks to John Hurst, [www.villagepumps.org.uk](http://www.villagepumps.org.uk) and the late Geoff White, for the pictures which show the pump house and clock; a single throw flywheel and crank pump, with counterweight, under the clock tower; two dedication stones inset into the wall, reading “In memory of William Abraham, May 12, 1873; & “This pump was presented by Mr. W. Brantom”; the pump house and clock today receiving some T.L.C; and the pump in 1915.

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

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

***Tel: 01525 838450***

***Churchwardens:***

***Stuart Blofeld; Katharine Reedy***



**CHURCH of the  
GOOD SHEPHERD**

### ***Where heaven and earth meet***

I recently returned from a trip to the Lake District for a family gathering to remember my mother's cousin, who died recently. She had requested that her ashes be buried in the graveyard at St Patrick's Patterdale, a stunningly beautiful spot. One family member – of no particular church affiliation - commented on the effect of entering the church grounds and what a profound and spiritual experience it was. All around us was the most incredible and awe-inspiring scenery.

We've had several conversations in our church community recently about the places that help us to feel God's presence near to us in a more real and immediate way than usual. These are sometimes referred to as 'thin places', where the boundary between heaven and earth seems blurred. Often, although not always, they are viewpoints from the top of a hill or mountain. Life and indeed church life, can become very busy. It reminds me that it is important to stop and take in the view when we can, in order to stay connected with God. We all need a re-set from time to time.

The bible gives us that bigger picture of God's love for the world. There are examples of 'mountain-top' encounters with God. Yet we all know that life isn't always like that, and we also see what God's love looks like on the ground in the person of Jesus. During his ministry on earth, Jesus came under great pressure. He had time for people, and yet there are many times when Jesus withdrew to be alone and pray.



Taking time out can feel counter-intuitive, yet it's the model we are given in scripture. The view from the top of a hill can act as a reminder of God's unending love and an encouragement to pursue life-giving spiritual rhythms. What are the places or practices that help you stay connected with God? How might you re-set your life this summer?

*Patterdale, nr Ullswater*

***By Katharine Reedy***

## **St. Nicholas, Hockliffe**

**Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney**

**Tel: 01525 237633**

**Churchwardens:**

**Brian Speller: 210565; Tom Ware**



We have now come to the end of Easter, and most of us are hoping for some warmer weather, when we can get out and about, or even go away on holiday or for a short break. We all need to take a step back, and take time to relax and unwind from stress and anxiety. Be it a short or long break from our usual chaos, a holiday from the usual is essential, (even Jesus went up into the mountains).

When I get stressed, I like to sit in the garden with a calming book and appreciate how fortunate we are! There are so many people in the world, who are in desperate situations, and cannot find solutions to their problems.

Joining together with friends and family, we can be thankful together, at home, on Zoom, or in Church.

### **THANK GOD FOR THE LITTLE THINGS**

*Thank God for the little things, that often come our way,  
The things we take for granted, but don't mention when we pray,  
The unexpected courtesy, the thoughtful, kindly deed,  
A hand reached out to help us, in the time of sudden need,  
Oh, make us more aware, dear God, of the little daily graces,  
That come to us with 'sweet surprise' of never-dreamed of places.*

(From Lovingly, Poems for All Seasons  
by Helen Steiner Rice)

Our condolences go to Harry Oliver whose mother, Margaret Field, was laid to rest on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Carol Speller.**

## **Summer Cream Teas in English country churchyards**

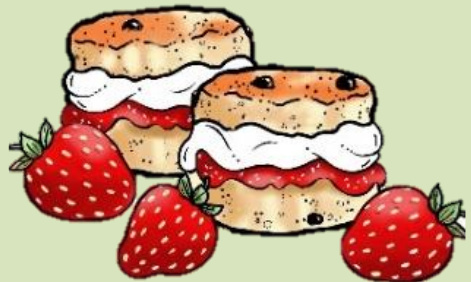
**Hockliffe:**

1<sup>st</sup> June,

20<sup>th</sup> July,

10<sup>th</sup> August

All 2.00 - 5.00pm



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

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

***Tel: 01525 838450***

***Churchwardens:***

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



According to the Church Times there is a nation-wide problem across Church of England in churches trying to recruit men and women as Churchwardens. Some churches are managing with no Churchwardens at all; others are struggling with just one. There used to be a stipulation that no warden should officiate for more than 3 years, but this rule has long been discarded. The situation is inevitable as most congregations are dwindling in numbers and wardens who remain are generally older and less dynamic. At a recent very useful team meeting, organised by Fr Noel (no clergy invited!) a suggestion was made by one participant. She pointed out that the plethora of information, demands and expectations which come from the Diocese by e-mail was overwhelming and off-putting for anybody thinking about whether they could take on the role of Churchwarden.

She put forward the idea that most administration could be shared centrally for the whole team. She was thinking of such matters as safeguarding, Quinquennial inspection arrangements, questions as to the best person to contact for building repairs, decoration and organ maintenance. This would obviously cause more work for the central administration, but an amount could be collected from each parish to cover the extra cost. This would free up Churchwardens to spend more time on Pastoral and worship matters.

We have been blessed during Rev'd Steve's sabbatical leave in having visiting clergy preaching at our services, as well as different readers from the team leading services. Archdeacon Dave has been with us twice and Bishop Richard once. Archdeacon Dave appealed to us to be 'real' in our love for one another as Jesus' love was real for his disciples.

After the service he stayed on to try and address the concerns of villagers about the extension of Grovebury Quarry and the impact it will have on the village. He was speaking on behalf of the Church of England but pointing out that he had no power whatsoever to influence decisions made by the Church Commissioners about the sale of their land to Aggregate International.



We want to thank our readers from St. Barnabas, Eggington and Leighton Buzzard: Ian Woodward, Linda Morris, Charles Amis and Roger Collor for faithfully supporting St. Michael and All Angels while Rev'd Steve has been away. By the time you read this, he will be back and we look forward to hearing of his adventures.

Please remember ITALIA DAY, on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon in the Village Hall. Everybody very welcome.

***Sandra Brewin***



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

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

***Tel: 01525 237633***

***Church Officers:***

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



I first wrote an article for St Michael's page in Saints Alive two years ago when we moved to Eggington from Watford. It was such a big decision for us after thirty-seven years in our house. We knew everything would change but little did we know how much for the better.

St Michael's church is indeed the hub of the community & we were welcomed by all. We now feel like such a big part of the church.

I joined the WI also & have already made lifelong friends. Eggington has enriched our lives for sure.

Today I'm writing about encouragement, as I remember very well my parents encouraging us when my siblings & I were small & of course you carry it on with your children & grandchildren, as we do with Lucia. Something we should all do as each and every one of us still need it even as adults.

Encouragement is no doubt one of the best motivators there is. It's needed in everyday life, jobs, school, sports, games, and at home. Encouragement allows people to feel wanted and loved. I know just hearing the words "good job" mean a lot. In fact, it can keep us striving to keep doing a good job and possibly even excel. Sometimes it takes a lot of energy to try and do the next task at work even though it's a familiar task. It's a beautiful thing how simply being recognized for something can totally change or make one's day.

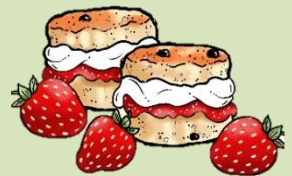
If we can encourage others to live for Christ, we are doing tremendous work in the Kingdom. If we tell others they are representing Christ as well, it will motivate them to keep doing it. When it comes to encouragement, no task is too small or ordinary. Most of the time people appreciate it the most when the little things are noticed. As believers, it is our duty to encourage one another; it is our duty to make sure our brothers and sisters are on the right track; it is our duty to love one another as we love ourselves. Reinforcing each other can do no harm, and if we can all abound in doing so, there's no telling what heights we may achieve and what kind of example the world would see in ourselves. Lift each other up! Every day!!

***Jackie Townsend.***

## **Summer Cream Teas in English country churchyards**

***Eggington:***

**28<sup>th</sup> July 3.00 - 5.00pm**





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## Love Nature in the Churchyard



**Saturday 8 June, 10.30am – 2pm,  
All Saints Churchyard**

This event celebrates nature and our beautiful churchyard which is recognized as a haven for wildlife and a wide range of wild plants and trees. Activities are free and suitable for adults and children and include:

- Make wildflower seedbombs to take home and grow
- Help with our Nature Count – part of a national audit of biodiversity in churchyards
- Play our wild nature bingo game
- Follow our tree trail and learn about the many different species

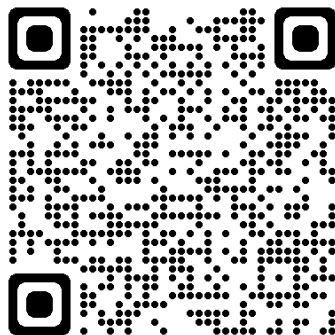
There will also be a range of pollinator friendly plants to buy at the plant stall.

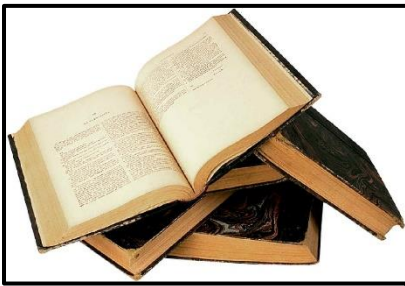
Love Nature in the Churchyard comes at the start of Great Big Green Week – a nationwide celebration of action on climate change. Find other events in Leighton Buzzard at [www.greatbiggreenweek.com/find-an-event/](http://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/find-an-event/) or click the QR code.

We are also taking part in a national event called Churches Count on Nature which is a national audit of biodiversity in churchyards – it's easy to take part, you just count all the different wildlife or plants that you find and there will be guidance on the day.

If you would like to help or be involved on the day, or would like to join our Eco Church Group, please get in touch.

*Katrina Grant*





## ***Biblical Genres***

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

*This month:*

***The Minor Prophets ...  
by Rev'd Dr. Kirsty Borthwick***

In his article on the Major Prophets last month Canon Don introduced us to the idea of prophecy. He talked of the threefold shape of the gift of prophecy: it is a “forth-telling”, a sharing of words coming forth from God; a “fore-telling”, a warning of what is to come; and it is an act “discerning the spirits of the heart”, in other words an act of counsel calling us back to better thought and action. We see all this again in the Minor Prophets - those twelve books of the Hebrew Bible with which our Old Testaments end. And remember, the number twelve matters in Scripture. It’s a symbol of completeness, of the fullness of God’s people. Think of the twelve tribes of Israel, or the twelve disciples, or even the twelve baskets of food leftover after Jesus feeds the five thousand. The number twelve is important.

So, as Canon Don also helpfully pointed out, don’t let the words ‘minor’ or ‘major’ fool you into categories or hierarchies of importance. The Minor Prophets are no less significant than the Major Prophets we explored last month - they’re simply much shorter. And, in my humble opinion, that actually makes them far more interesting to grapple with. Each of the Minor Prophets would make a good bible study series for anyone looking to read Scripture more closely over the coming weeks, either on your own or together with others. Why not pick one at random and give it a go?

So who are the Minor Prophets? The twelve in the order we find them in our Bibles are: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. They were likely among some of the last books of the Old Testament to be compiled and they are located in our Bibles roughly in chronological order in terms of the events to which they claim to speak (events ranging from the 8-5th Centuries BC).

Their location is quite different in the Hebrew Bible, which ends not with the prophets but with the historical books. And of course this is a definite editorial choice, because in our Old Testaments the minor prophets play a vital role not only speaking to events in the centuries before Christ, but in prophesying the arrival of the coming Messiah, who the Christian community recognise as none other than Jesus.

For perhaps what is most striking for us in the Minor Prophets – and echoed in the Major Prophets also – are the ways in which they foretell the Incarnation.

The Minor Prophets are frequently quoted or alluded to in the Gospels and it is a very deliberate choice at All Saints to include a reading from the Minor Prophets at our Easter Vigil each year (namely Zephaniah 3.14-20). The influence of the Minor Prophets is certainly weightier than their size!

Most of these books contain three types of material which help give the prophetic texts their distinctive character:

- autobiographical material written in the voice of the attributed prophet,
- biographical material about the prophet from other voices,
- and the voice of the prophet as they proclaim oracles or speeches prophesying the word of God.

In amongst this, my favourite Book of the Bible stands out: the Book of Jonah! Jonah is the only Minor Prophet that takes a narrative form - in other words, it tells us a story. It makes it a delight to read. It's an excellent example of Hebrew wit, telling us the story of Jonah in such a way that his ridiculousness shines forth for all to see, so that we hopefully learn to be a little less cowardly and grumpy than him. (If you've never read past the bit with the big fish, do; chapter four in particular is brilliant).



And, of course, since it is with the Book of Malachi that our Old Testament ends, it would be remiss of me not to comment on it also! Malachi is hugely lacking in historical details, making it hard to place and interpret. Most striking is its concern for what is referred to as the 'Day of the Lord'. And it is how it understands the Day of the Lord that reminds us that the prophets were sent by God not just to foretell the future, or interpret the present day, but to speak judgement, calling the people out of sin and back towards a right path. And thus it is with this that our Old Testaments end:

*"Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse."* (Malachi 4.5-6)

As we open our New Testaments to the birth of Christ and the ministry of John the Baptist, Elijah's counterpart, it is these words that are to ring in our ears. For it is under the rule of Christ that our hearts are transformed, and justice and mercy made fully known.

**Mother Kirsty.**

# *How to recycle medicine packaging*



Last year we took the difficult decision to stop collecting medicine blister packs. Because of the massive response to the appeal, we just could not keep up. We were taking sacksful to Milton Keynes Superdrug where a manufacturer was able to collect in bulk and recycle the plastic into useful everyday objects. We learned recently that Superdrug Milton Keynes are no longer collecting the packs.

Blister packs are made up of plastic and other materials, and plastic packaging in the UK accounts for nearly 70% of our plastic waste, so it's worth doing!

Boots are now trying out a similar scheme at some of their pharmacies. This doesn't yet extend to Leighton Buzzard, which would make this very convenient for those who supported our collection but if you are visiting Berkhamsted, the Boots there will accept packs for recycling. For details, visit:

<https://www.recyclenow.com/how-to-recycle/recycling-medicine-packaging>

The good news is that a number of other medicine packaging components that you can recycle at home. These include the cardboard boxes your pills came in, and the paper instruction leaflet that came with them.

If your pills or vitamins came in a hard plastic tube, bottle or pot, these can go in your plastic recycling once it's empty, while glass medicine or pill bottles just need a quick rinse out and then they can join your glass recycling from home.

## **As ever please remember to**

**REDUCE** waste - buy only what you need;

**REUSE** - limit single use items;

**RECYCLE** - allow someone else to make use of things you no longer need.



**Alison Dobbie**



## REPAIR CAFE LB 2024 DATES

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  - April 27th
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  - November 23rd
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