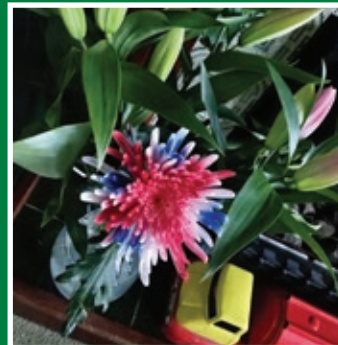


COMMENT

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCHES IN TRING



What's on in July and August in Tring Church

Services at Tring Church

Sunday 2nd July

8am Holy Communion traditional language
10am Communion with craft activity **

Sunday 9th July

8am Holy Communion traditional language **
10am Worship for all

Sunday 16th July

8am Holy Communion traditional language
10am Communion with craft activity **

Sunday 23rd July

8am Holy Communion traditional language
10am Communion with craft activity **

Sunday 30th July

8am Holy Communion traditional language
10am Communion with craft activity **

Sunday 6th August

8am Holy Communion traditional language
10am Communion with craft activity **

Sunday 13th August

8am Holy Communion traditional language **
10am Worship for all

Sunday 20th August

8am Holy Communion traditional language
10am Communion with craft activity **

Sunday 27th August

8am Holy Communion traditional language
10am Communion with craft activity **

** Streamed service on our website and YouTube

Mid-week Services in Tring

9.15am Tuesdays

Usually Holy Communion

10am Thursdays

Holy Communion in traditional language

Lots more going on



Mondays 3.30pm - 5pm

Youth Café in term time Toast, chat etc for secondary school kids

Food Bank

Monday to Friday
10am - 12noon.

Drop-off donations and collect food



Tuesdays 2pm - 4pm
Craft and a Cuppa

Drop in for chat, cuppa and bring a craft to do if you would like to

Social Coffee

Fridays, Saturdays

10am - 12 noon,

and after Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday services



Piano & more series

Sundays 9th July and 13th August



3pm for an hour's concert of music followed by refreshments.

Free but collection for church and piano expenses

Everyone is welcome to join us at any of our church services and activities.

He restores my soul!



You might think I'm going to write about Psalm 23, but no, not this time. Instead, as I sit down to write, the sun is shining through my window, and I've come inside from putting small plants in the garden. The feeling of summer is getting closer, and with that comes the potential of planning for trips away on holiday in a few weeks' time. I'm sure many of you will have somewhere booked and plans will be coming together to be with family or friends to enjoy some 'down time', or at least doing something different.

I remember back to holidays when our children were small, and to be honest it really wasn't much of a rest at all. But a different environment was always nice, and meeting different people on camp sites was good for everyone. In my view, just knowing that a break from the usual routine is just up ahead really helps to keep me going.

I remember back to when I used to work in London for a medical centre that supported missionaries or others who were working with NGOs overseas, and one of the medical doctors would regularly say to these worn-out folks that holidays were not luxuries but 'needed spaces' to allow one's body, mind, emotions and spirit to settle into a different rhythm. He was also an advocate of booking another holiday as soon as one got back from the last, as he recognised that the simple fact of knowing rest was again up-ahead would keep people's resilience higher. I liked that advice.

Yet, I have wondered at times, and possibly prompted by living in other

cultures, if our expectations that we should all have holidays is, in fact, a very western, and somewhat indulgent, expectation? Not, of course, that everyone in the UK has a holiday; I had a conversation with a farmer's wife just a few years ago, who was running a site with holiday cottages, who told me in no uncertain terms that my expectation of two weeks' off was not a feature in her life! (I'm sure she had no idea that her comment made me feel very awkward!)

Just for fun I have typed into Google (other internet browsers are available, of course!) 'Should Christians have holidays?' As I scroll down, I see a linked question was 'Did Jesus ever take a vacation?' The answer is that nothing is written about him taking a holiday as we might, BUT he did retreat at times to pray; and on at least three occasions, Jesus took off with his disciple friends for some rest and renewal. We also know that he went with his family and wider Jewish group to the festivals that were celebrated each year, as part of their tradition (Luke 2:41-52). We also know Jesus went to friend's wedding, which culturally, would have been spread over several days. So clearly life for Jesus did have variety, and I'm sure he was fun to be around. (We also know that he was a man who believed the Sabbath day was a feature of the week that shouldn't be denied, as our bodies were not built to work without a break. But I'll leave the topic of how well we keep the Sabbath for another day!) What I do read, and take comfort in, is Jesus saying, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.' (Matthew 11:28-30 New

Living Translation)

Jesus wants us to stop and take stock of how weary we may be and know that the feeling of exhaustion is not one that he wants for us. He wants us to enjoy our lives, as well as to spend time with him, so that we will find rest for our core inner being.

I think having holidays away from whatever routines we generally have is important. That doesn't necessarily mean that we have to travel far. Having days out from home may be just as beneficial as heading far away. As a child I remember how my grandparents stopped heading to Devon each year, but instead took 'holidays at home' as they called them. They knew that their own bed and creature comforts were best suited to being restful. It was the change of routine that was so helpful to restore them, body and spirit.

As I head off for my two-week break this year, I've asked a friend which book she would recommend I could take to draw me closer to God. I've learnt that if I'm intentional about taking Jesus on holiday with me (I hope you know what I mean), that I return all the more refreshed. So yes, in one way I see it as a luxury for me to step out of the church work, and leave the responsibilities with others for that time, knowing that I'm not indispensable. But I also believe wholeheartedly that Jesus would want me to step out of my routine, enjoy whomever I may meet this year, and expect he will guide me along different paths.

I really hope that you too have space to recharge somehow and enjoy whatever your break from routine may look like. Who knows, maybe I'll meet you on the campsite this year! That would be nice.

Jackie Buie
New Mill Baptist Church

A Morning Resolve

I will try, this day, to live a simple, sincere and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy

in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust, and a childlike trust in God.

As I cannot, in my own strength, attain this measure of wisdom and power, I make humble and firm resolve

to seek all these things from my heavenly father, in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and through the mystical and mighty energy of his Holy Spirit.

Supplied by
Judith Orrell
formerly St Peter & St Paul

A treasure chest for a prayer life

Those who came to the first of the new series of Quiet Days at St Mary's, Puttenham, on 23 April were offered a spiritual feast. Canon Alan Hodgetts led us gently but confidently to experience the presence of Christ with us. Starting with centring on our breathing and recognising the gift of breath as it refreshed different centres of energy (eg our hearts), we brought our minds back from ourselves to the centre of the group and remembered our Lord's promise that he would be in the midst of us. This was enhanced by a very beautiful icon which Canon Alan had written himself. We then read and meditated on St Paul's description of Christ in his letter to the Philippians: the



approachable Christ who 'being found in the appearance as a man, humbled himself and became obedient...'

After an excellent lunch with home-made soups, in the afternoon we went into the church. We were told to take our time getting there and to choose our own 'threshold' on the way. As we stepped over this 'threshold' something very special would happen – giving us a strong sense of expectation as we came in and sat down.

Canon Alan then led us into an Ignatian meditation

on the conversion of St Paul, that extraordinary confrontation on the road to Damascus, inviting us to imagine we were one of the characters in that story as it unfolded. Later on, in discussion, it transpired that unexpected blessings really do happen...

While the day had been advertised as a toolbox for our prayer life, the reality for me was more of a treasure chest.

Save the date: 19 August

Our next Quiet Day at Puttenham will be on 19 August within the octave of St Mary's Patronal Festival. It will be a full day, planned around a monastic timetable with regular periods for worship and for refreshments. In between there will be opportunities for exercise, reading, creative drawing etc, and just chilling out in the peaceful setting of Puttenham, where there has been a church since Saxon times.

Our hope is that a lot of people will come for at least part of the day. We will need to know numbers for catering, especially for lunch. Full details of the programme will be available nearer the time, but please keep 19 August free.

Celestria Bell
St Peter & St Paul



Meet Walter



Being a Head of Year was always one of my ambitions that came true in 2016. One of the most unusual and uplifting things that has happened, not only in this

role but in over twenty-five years of teaching, is being presented in my last assembly prior to the Easter holiday with a toy monkey. There I was, planning to speak of some spiritual themes, when suddenly, there is a member of Year Nine giving him to me. I was virtually speechless!

In a flash, I declared that his name was Walter, as per Walter Rothschild, of course. I decided that he was going to join my husband, Alex, and me on holiday and we would keep a photo-diary of his adventures. Highlights included ice-cream in North Devon and meeting

my mother and having a Devon Cream Tea at Woody Bay Station on the iconic Lynton to Barnstaple Railway. Walter has also been to see my mother-in-law in her care home, living with dementia. Bringing Walter with us on our visits has been a godsend. The picture shows them having coffee together! She's starting to recognise him and welcomes him with enthusiasm (mother-in-law in pink top). He brings her much joy: as a former teacher, she liked how he has come into my life.

I've reported all this back to the



pupils. As a result, this has opened a valuable opportunity to listen to their own experiences with dementia in their families.

It is not for me to define where my pupils are at in their spiritual journey or quest, but via this quirky gift, we are all learning so much.

Sarah Bell
Tring Park

Drainage works update



Work to improve drainage beneath St Peter & St Paul's Church were completed before the summer, with several phases of work from late February 2023

to maintain access to the building. These works were essential to help protect the church building from damage. The drainage was no longer functional and at the last quinquennial survey, it was noted that rainwater was being discharged alongside the historic walls. The soft friable Totternhoe clunch used as material for the walls is vulnerable to water damage from constantly being soaked, so this work has helped preserve and maintain the building structure.



The photo above shows part of the existing drainage which was completely obstructed with debris and unable to be unblocked in situ. The work was undertaken in accordance with a faculty granted by the diocese. Some of the conditions granted required us to notify



Lead coffin discovered at shallow depth during excavations

an appointed archaeologist if any remains were found. Any remains had to be recorded and removed for reburial as close to the point of origin as possible. On day two of the works, excavations found some lead and work was stopped until the archaeologist could inspect. The edge of a lead coffin was found, date unknown without disturbing the coffin which was surprisingly close to the surface, probably indicating that this was once a superstructure but now lost in the mists of time. It's likely that it was a very wealthy person as a lead coffin would



Some of the bone fragments discovered during excavations

have been very expensive and is unusual; also, its location was very close to the church – as close to being buried inside the building as possible.

A number of bone fragments were also found during the excavation and were potentially of Victorian vintage. These were kept and later reinterred as close as possible to the area they were found once the works were completed.

All of these items were measured and recorded by the archaeologist for the future.

Legally all the excavated materials (spoil) are required to stay on site. The contractor carefully stockpiled the arisings to avoid damage to existing trees and minimise impact on any other biodiverse features on site. The area has made a remarkable recovery since then.

Andrew Kinsey, St Peter & St Paul

TRING CHARITIES
(Registered Charity No 207805)

ALMSHOUSES IN TRING

From time to time, one and two-bedroom bungalows become available to let, for people who currently live in Aldbury, Long Marston, Marsworth, Pitstone, Puttenham, Tring, Wigginton or Wilstone.

Applicants, one of whom must be aged 55 or over, must not own their own home or have significant savings.

Applicants will be asked to supply personal financial information to prove their beneficial status.

The average weekly maintenance contribution (equivalent to "rent" for housing benefit purposes) is £107 for a one bedroom property and £126 for a two bedroom property.

If you would like to be considered for the Waiting List, please telephone Elaine Winter, Secretary to the Trustees, on **01442 827913** (weekday office hours only), for an application form or email info@tringcharities.co.uk

The Children's Society No child should feel alone

PLEASE JOIN US AT HOME IN THE

GREENWAYS GARDEN

FOR A RELAXED AL FRESCO GET-TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

11.00AM – 3PM SATURDAY 1ST JULY 2023




PLEASE COME AND JOIN US
Coffee & Cakes in the morning
Simple Cheese & Wine Lunch
(Please book as space is limited)

**A NICE RAFFLE TO REWARD YOU!
LIVE MUSIC TO CHARM YOU!
A SALES TABLE TO TEMPT YOU!
GOOD COMPANY TO RELAX YOU!**

For further details & to Book for Lunch
Please ring Prue & Grahame 01442 822770

Holy oil



At the coronation of King Charles III on 6 May, he was anointed with oil, as was Queen Camilla. This oil was made from sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli,

benzoin, amber and orange blossom, and was blessed in Jerusalem. The tradition of anointing with oil goes back to the earliest Old Testament times and is found in most Christian denominations.

In Genesis 28:18 we read that 'Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it'. In Exodus 25:6 the Israelites were commanded to bring 'spices for the anointing oil' as part of the preparation for the building of the Ark of the Covenant. The ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Hindus, Jews and Buddhists all used oil for anointing. Kings were anointed, individuals were anointed for healing and Mary Magdalene anointed Jesus. So, the anointing of King Charles and Queen Camilla was in a long tradition of humanity using oil to anoint for many purposes.

The Hebrews anointed their priests. This was initiated in Exodus 29 when the ritual of anointing Aaron and his sons as priests is described. In Leviticus 14 the anointing of people who brought sin offerings is described. Kings were anointed (1 Samuel 10:1), the Hebrews also anointed guests with oil on arrival, a

Middle Eastern habit. In Luke 7:44 Jesus says to his Pharisee host, after Mary Magdalene anointed him with perfume, 'You did not put oil on my head but she has poured perfume on my feet' – a rebuke about his host's lack of traditional hospitality.

Oil for healing was used in the early church. This prayer has been traditionally attributed to Sarapion, the bishop of Thmuis (AD339–360) in Lower Egypt: 'Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ... we call upon you and we implore you that healing power of your only-begotten may be sent out from heaven upon this oil. May it become to those who are anointed (or to those who receive of these your creatures) for a rejection of every disease and every sickness, for an amulet warding off every demon, for a departing of every unclean spirit, for a taking away of every evil spirit, for a driving away of all fever and shiverings and every weakness, for good grace and forgiveness of sins, for a medicine of life and salvation, for health and wholeness of soul, body, spirit, for perfect strength'. Today the Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran and many Anglican churches use oil, or chrism, for anointing. This is to anoint those being baptised, those being confirmed, the sick and the dying, priests being ordained and buildings or objects being consecrated.

Protestants originally rejected the use of oil for anointing. In the 16th century Martin Bucer said that anointing was 'neither ancient, nor commended by any precept of God or laudable example



of the saints; but has been introduced by a distorted imitation of an apostolic act, of whose imitation the ministers have manifestly neither a mandate nor a faculty'. Today many Protestant churches anoint with oil. In most cases this is at a healing service or by a minister with an individual who is sick. The Methodist Worship Book contains a healing service with anointing oil as do the Presbyterian and Congregational optional rites. Many Baptist churches have healing services at which those who wish to can be anointed with oil. The Salvation Army in the Punjab regularly has anointing with oil.

Most Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran and Anglican dioceses have an annual service to bless each church's supply of oil or chrism, usually on Maundy Thursday.

In the New Testament James says in James 5:14 'Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.' This makes it clear that anointing with oil for healing has been part of the church's activities from the very earliest days of the church.

Does your church anoint with oil?
John Allan
High Street Baptist Church

Breaking free from generational poverty

When Toilet Twinning began, there was only a handful of supporters and we offered people the opportunity to twin their loo with a latrine in one of two countries, either Burundi or Chad. Now we have raised more than £15m to-date for water and sanitation programmes in more than twenty countries. These days, 20,000 people twin their toilet each year!

Tearfund are now wholly responsible for the leadership of Toilet Twinning, alongside a fantastic staff team and an incredible network of UK supporters.

I continue to hold an unshakeable, deeper-than-ever, passion for justice for the incredibly resourceful people whom I have met as I have travelled

to some of the remotest places on the planet to come alongside people living in desperate, grinding, generational poverty.

Over the years, I have met and cried with families in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Central African Republic and so many other amazing countries. It has been an honour to be introduced to many of these communities as 'the toilet lady'!

Your Toilet Twinning support is more crucial than ever. By twinning your toilet you are enabling people to have their first-ever toilet and break free from generational poverty. As Toilet Twinning ushers in a new era, I want to thank you for all you do to flush away poverty for

the 1.7 billion people without a loo.
Lorraine Kingsley, Toilet Twinning
www.toilettwinning.org



TRING
BREWERY Co.
MARQUEE

Tring
enjoying life Together

BIG QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday 13th July
Doors & Bar 6pm • Quiz 7.30pm
Tring Brewery Marquee, Pound Meadow

Tickets

Adults £8 / incl. BBQ £13
Max. 6 people per table

From

www.tringtogether.org.uk
Tring Brewery CASH ONLY



TRING
BREWERY Co.



THE TYRE CHANGERS

OUR NEW TYRE CHANGER BASE IS OPEN

Unit 5C Airfield Industrial Estate,
Long Marston HP23 4QR

In addition to our popular **mobile service**, that can visit your home or work, we can now also offer a **drive-in facility** by appointment.

We offer a wide range of **Premium, Mid-range and Budget** tyres at competitive prices and can now accommodate the largest of alloy size and low profile run flats.

Do you need new tyres, or have a puncture?

Please let us know and we will be happy to quote and make an appointment.

Not sure of the condition of your tyres?

We can have a look for you, just get in touch.

Wheel swap needed?

Winter and summer wheel swap also available.



Please call or text on **07746 903 095** or email **info@thetyrechangers.co.uk**

Stephen Hearn

Tring Market Auctions

Antique and Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers. Est. 1982

Our salesrooms continue to attract a wide range of customers from throughout the UK and across the world and we deal with almost everything that comes out of your home whether 17th century or 21st century.

Visit our website and view the sales catalogues with accompanying illustrations, you will find us at www.tringmarketauctions.co.uk

- Valuations for Sale, Probate & Insurance
- Total and Part House Clearance Specialists
- Fine Art and 20th Century Decorative Arts Sales
- Fortnightly Sales of Antique & Modern Furniture and collectables

We provide a full service to meet all your requirements



www.tringmarketauctions.co.uk

The Market Premises, Brook Street, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5ED
c. 01442 826446 e. sales@tringmarketauctions.co.uk



Ear Ache?
Blocked Ears?
Sore or Itchy Ears ?
Call Maria on
07398183247
Ear Care Practitioner
Domiciliary Wax Removal

"Both children have had a fantastic time at Heirs & Graces Nursery and I have gone to work each day knowing they were safe in your hands."

Heirs & Graces Day Nursery

A place where
CHILDREN SHINE...



Open
from 7.30am
until 6pm



Childcare vouchers accepted Free hours scheme accepted
Sited in a beautifully converted Victorian home conveniently located on Tring High Street.

High quality food prepared by our fabulous chef.

Find us on - www.heirsandgracestring.co.uk
Telephone: - 01442 891818

Heirs & Graces Day Nursery, Florence House,
2 Christchurch Road, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 4EE



Where is home?



Following bereavement, those most closely affected are advised to wait at least a year before making any major decisions. Councillors, doctors, support services all offer the same guidance, and it was advice I was happy to take when my mother passed away in October 2021.

The 'year' means different things to different people – it may be the anniversary of the death, of the thanksgiving or funeral service, or the scattering of ashes. But, a year after living through all the anniversaries appertaining to that person, it is hoped that decision-making will be easier and more rational, and less affected by emotion.

Coming from a family who have lived in Tring and Wilstone for at least six generations, I am now the only descendant still resident in the area. It was understandable that the question I was most frequently asked was, 'Are you moving?' This often meant specifically to Bristol, where my brother and his family live. The answer to that was easy: 'No, I am not moving to Bristol'; but it did raise several other questions which I had never before fully considered. What is 'home'? Where is 'home'? What determines the criteria to call somewhere 'home'?

To get to Bristol on public transport means going through central London. I am not a city person and the journey clarifies that. I can't breathe in cities: they seem stifling, claustrophobic almost, and coming back on the last leg of the journey from Euston to Tring, as the landscape opens up and the fields and then the hills appear, I can breathe fresh

clean air again. I am home.

I use public transport because I don't drive. That means I walk a lot, and very often for pleasure. So 'home' needs to be within easy reach of basic shops but also accessible to countryside. Tring is well suited for both. I can walk to Wilstone, the reservoirs, College Lake, along the Wendover and Grand Union Canal. Going the other way is Tring Park, Wigginton, the Chiltern Hills – all within reach of my front door. On this score, the rest of the family are very envious. That is home.

The house I live in has been the family home since it was built in 1956. Would it hold happy memories or ghosts? I am lucky; for me there are no ghosts, it is simply the place I have always lived in, but other people are not so fortunate and the need to move on is very strong and understandable. What about some of the contents, or chattels, as the solicitor calls them? My mum played the piano: I am completely tone deaf and cannot play any instrument, so I suggested to the rest of the family that perhaps the piano could go. Absolutely no way! All four of them are musical and play a variety of instruments, including the piano. So, it stays; I polish and dust it, and there it sits in the lounge, enjoying the morning sunshine, awaiting their next visit. Oh well, it's a good place to display photographs.

And then there are people. Living on your own can be challenging at times and moving would take me nearer to my family, which would be wonderful, but all my friends and former work colleagues are in this area. I also have a church family and practical involvement keeps me in touch with many people in the local area. My neighbours are very supportive, and the local bus driver drops me at the end of the road when I am laden down with shopping from Tesco's. If I moved, who would look after the neighbour's

cat? Poppy had a rough start in life and it has taken years to gain her confidence. A change of cat sitter wouldn't please her.

But there are also the people from the past, my forebears, whose graves I can visit, whose history I find so fascinating, and who give me the anchor to call this place home.

Some of these considerations are minor and eighteen months ago could have been overlooked, but they make up the whole. Life can never be perfect: there will always be bad days as well as good. Trying to see the bigger picture is not easy, but the image tends to become clearer over time and the advice to not make any rushed decisions was advice well given. It will not work for everyone but does help to mitigate the possible regret of 'being wise after the event'.

However, the final question had to be, if I moved, where would I choose to go? My brother identified two small towns, each about twenty miles from Bristol, which could have been a possibility. My instinct was to move east, maybe Suffolk, which I have always loved for its wide open spaces and rural life, but that would have been totally impractical. So, Tring it is. In retrospect, the advice to wait a year has proved very valuable. Whether it is the small things (do I really need twenty dinner plates?) or the major things (should I move house?), time puts things in perspective and helps rebalance life; and faith cements it all together. Besides, I am not sure anyone would want the house at the moment! The roof has a leak, last year's storms took out a fence, the bottom has fallen out of the garden shed, and the lounge hasn't been decorated for thirty years. This is all enough to keep me busy, but not enough to stop me going for a walk or searching for more ancestors!

Alison Cockerill
St Cross, Wilstone

Quiet Time

Need space to
contemplate?

Pop in to

St Martha's Methodist Church

Chapel Street/Park Road, Tring

Every 3rd Saturday of the month between 10am and 3pm

(circumstances may cause variations in times)

further information from: **Gill 07909527306**



Poem of the month



Is this poem what it seems – a patriotic plea to restore England to its ancient rural peace? That might explain why it has become almost a second national anthem.

It first appeared, not under the title 'Jerusalem', but in Blake's preface to 'Milton: a Poem' and, over 100 years later in 1916, was put to music by Hubert Parry and given the title 'Jerusalem' – as part of an attempt to bolster people's spirits during the First World War. Six years later it was orchestrated by Elgar and became the rousing anthem which we know today.

The imagery is complex and the allusions (as far as we can interpret them) are drawn from Scripture (Lamb of God, Countenance Divine, Jerusalem, Chariot of Fire), classical mythology (golden bow, arrows and spear of Apollo, the god of the Sun) and early English history (Joseph of Arimathea). The reference to 'dark satanic mills' has been interpreted not necessarily as the encroachment of industrialization but to churches and

organised religion, of which Blake was often scathing.

So maybe this work is actually a satire on the excessive nationalism which prevailed at this time – it was the time of the Napoleonic Wars. We shall never know.

William Blake was born in 1757 in Soho, one of six children of a hosier. Apart from a few years spent in Sussex, he spent all his life in London, and, though he railed against the injustice and exploitation of the city, he claimed it was the only place he could 'see his visions and dream his dreams'. From an early age he showed great artistic ability but his father could not afford to send him to be taught by a great painter, so he was apprenticed to an engraver. During his working life he moved to various premises in London but never managed to achieve fame or financial success. In 1782 he married Catherine, whom he taught to read and write and who became his lifelong assistant in the printing and illustration of his works. Imbued with a detailed knowledge of the Bible and boundless energy, Blake was given to strange visions (the inspiration of many of his drawings) and thought by many of his peers to be insane. Nowadays he is

regarded as an important forerunner of the Romantic poets and a gifted visionary poet and artist. He died in 1827.

Kate Banister
St Julian's, St Albans

Jerusalem

*And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green:
And was the holy Lamb of God,
On Englands* pleasant pastures seen?*

*And did the Countenance Divine,
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here,
Among these† dark satanic mills?*

*Bring me my bow of burning gold:
Bring me my arrows of desire:
Bring me my spear: O clouds unfold!
Bring me my Chariot of fire!*

*I will not cease from Mental Fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand:
Till we have built Jerusalem,
In England's green and pleasant land.*
William Blake, c1808

* no apostrophe in Blake's original version
† these changed to those by Parry when he composed the music.

In Full Flower The Bishop's Garden

This is a dahlia called 'The Bishop of St Albans' which I grow in my garden.
Bishop Alan

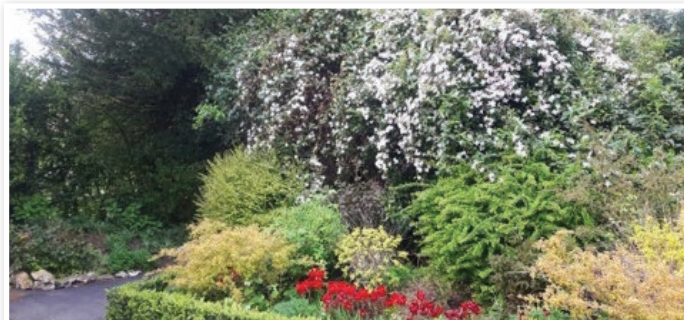
Open Garden every Sunday between
18th June-6th August
2-4pm

Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane St Albans AL3 4HD

Entrance £4 per adult (children free) as you enter.
In aid of the Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust

Dogs on leads
No toilet facilities

Queries Monday-Friday, 9am - 5 pm only. 01727 229 073
jsmith@stalbens.anglican.org



The 'I am' sayings of Jesus



Most of us take for granted the fact that there are four Gospels and that their natural order is Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Have you ever wondered why there are four

Gospels, not one? After all, there is only one gospel, that is, the good news about Jesus, to which all four gospel writers bear witness. In the early centuries of the church there was an attempt to put all four together. This 'Harmony of the Gospels' was popular for a time, but eventually discarded so effectively that we do not even have the full text nowadays.

While all four Gospels have their own characteristics and interests, it can be helpful to be reminded that Mark is generally thought to be the first; that his book was supplemented by Matthew and Luke, who both drew on a hypothetical document (known to scholars as Q) as well as their own sources. John, however, took a different approach – one of which was to present Jesus' teaching in long discourses rather than short stories or parables. One particular characteristic of John's Gospel is to base much teaching on a series of 'I am' sayings. There are seven such sayings but two have more than one word. So we have Our Lord described as Bread, Light, Door, Shepherd and then together Resurrection and Life, followed by Way, Truth and Life, with Vine at the end of the list.

It may be of value to think first about the two seemingly simple words 'I' and 'am'.

One of the great characteristics of us as people is language. It is something we take for granted. After all, we learn our

own language virtually without thinking about it. We use some words frequently and some rarely. The analysis of how we use words and put them together is fascinating and the number of words is enormous.

To start with 'I' or 'me', it is one of the words we learn early on but do not always get right. A baby may say 'Me, good boy' but soon learns that some words in English have different forms according to how they feature in a sentence (though not many compared with some languages). We all know what we mean by 'I' or 'me' even if we don't use the correct one at times. ('Between you and I' is a very common mistake!) We are also used to the verb 'to be' with its different forms, am, is, are, art, etc. We know what 'I am' means but, in this context, we are to remember it is a phrase that can simply mean 'yes'. 'Are you Martin?' can be answered with 'Yes', or 'I am'. More usually we tend to say 'That's me' although grammatical purists would like that to be 'That is I'.

In John 6 when Jesus comes to the terrified disciples walking on the water, he says, 'It is I; do not be afraid'. The original Greek says, 'I am'. Again, when Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, in answer to his question, 'For whom are you looking?' and their reply 'Jesus of Nazareth' his answer is literally 'I am'. This answer causes his arresters to step back and fall to the ground. Clearly in the mouth of Jesus, 'I am' is more than just 'It's me': it has a profound effect on the hearers. Thus 'I am', by itself, carries a lot of meaning.

If we go back to the Old Testament, we find 'I am' is a divine name – the sacred name of God, Yahweh, or more familiarly, Jehovah, which is derived from the verb 'to be'. So in Exodus 3:14 we

read that God said to Moses 'I am who I am' and goes on to tell Moses to say to the Israelites 'I am has sent me to you'. Clearly 'I am' is a, if not the sacred name. The Greek version has 'I am the existing one'. All this is background to much of John's Gospel. Further, the divine being, 'the great I am', was a familiar religious term, both from the Hebrew Scriptures, but also found in other philosophies and belief systems of the day, Mithraism, Gnosticism and others.

The first readers and hearers of the fourth Gospel, therefore, would have been familiar with the representation in the Old Testament of God who is unique: 'I am the Lord and no other', the one who causes to be, who creates, the one who forgives sins – and so on. Indeed, Isaiah 43:25 reads 'I am he who blots out your transgressions'. In the Hebrew the 'I' is repeated twice in its own emphatic form and in the Greek 'I am I am', twice making 'I am' a name. In the Passover ritual occur the words, 'I am not an angel ... I, and not a messenger; I Yahweh – this means I AM and no other.'

All this gives the 'I am' sayings great weight and this is particularly important when we come to the first, and, in some ways, the most challenging example, namely 'I am the Bread'.

This sort of language with the emphasis on 'I am' would be familiar and so, perhaps, a little more acceptable, to those other religious beliefs and systems of the age. In other words, the fourth Gospel gives us these distinctive titles of Jesus, using terminology which was familiar to many. In following articles, the 'I am' formulas referring to Jesus will be considered in the order in which John's Gospel presents them.

Martin Banister
St Alban's Cathedral

Parish registers

Baptisms

We welcome this child into our church community and pray for his family.

Ben Cole

Weddings

We offer our congratulations and prayers to these couples as they begin their married lives together.

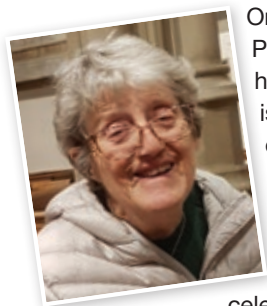
Rob Deason & Lucy Smith
Thomas Wolfe & Elise Hook
Ashley Register & Joanna Birkett
Martyn Crawley & Chrishelle Redlich
Jason Andrijasevic
& Elizabeth (Libby) Garside
Carl Alan Dell
& Samantha Emma Marshall

Funerals

We thank God for the life of the departed and pray for comfort for those who mourn.

Janet Collings 85
Paula Bachelor 68
Jacqueline Nind 69
Betty Aston 95
Henry McKinley 95

Red Cross Garden Party at Buckingham Palace



On 19 July 2008, Prince Charles (as he was then), who is the president of the British Red Cross, gave a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to

celebrate 100 years of the Red Cross. There was a ballot for places and I was lucky enough to get an invitation, along with other members from Tring, Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead.

We all travelled together by minibus, leaving Tring at 2.00pm in pouring rain(!), and parked in The Mall, then joined the enormous queue to get into the Palace, still in pouring rain... We slowly made our way in which took 45 minutes, because we all had to be checked against our tickets and passports for security. The rain was still pouring down and I was really glad I had worn my mac and had my new broly.

Everyone had made such an effort to look nice, and I saw many stunning outfits and hats: it was like a wedding only more so, with rain. Some people had no macs, so they were given plastic ponchos to wear as we went in. Once inside the courtyard, there was a huge red cross on the ground and sixty brand new Land Rovers drawn up around it. These had been given to the Red Cross to mark sixty years of Land Rover, to be used all over the country and the world. There were several queues of people slowly making their way into the Palace, where our tickets were taken and we were inside, out of the rain, at last.

Inside, Buckingham Palace is stunning with thick red carpets and gold everywhere, even up on the ceiling. We went through two rooms and then out onto the terrace which overlooks the garden, and as we came out into the rain again, I was completely taken back by what I saw! A sea of umbrellas stretched right across the gardens, right to the lake, a rainbow of colours. I have never seen so many before, and that is the image which sticks in my mind most of all. There was a very long marquee on one side of the garden, stretching nearly along its whole length, we reckoned about 300 feet, and two smaller marquees on the opposite side. The Band was under

cover, but otherwise, everything was out in the open, all the little tables and chairs... What a shame it was raining!

We went to the big marquee for our tea, and all the people in wheelchairs were under cover at the front. The marquee was divided up by red ropes into about thirty sections, and each had three people serving, so although there were 7000 people there, it wasn't as chaotic as it could have been. There were thirty big green vases of beautiful yellow lilies on the tables which had a gorgeous smell.

We were each given an oblong china plate, with a place to put the china cup and could help ourselves to the most delicious buffet. There were finger-sized sandwiches (no crusts of course!), cucumber and mint, tiny bridge rolls, with salmon filling, coffee profiteroles, little mousses, squares of very dark chocolate cake, with a gold crown on the top, scones with cream and raspberries, very light sponge cake slices, rich fruit cake – to name the ones I can remember – and a nice cup of tea, which we all needed desperately.

After tea, we went into the garden again, and down towards the lake, where the Band was playing some nice Glenn Miller type music, and I felt like 'singing in the rain' and twisting my umbrella, like Gene Kelly.

The Palace gardens are really lovely. The lake has ducks on it and there are beautiful trees all around, and a spectacular herbaceous border, full of all sorts of flowers. Apart from a single tower block in the distance, and a couple of cranes, there is no sign of London at all. It's hard to imagine it's just the other side of the wall, although I expect you can hear the traffic.

We realised that everyone was getting into lines to see Prince Charles and Camilla, so we joined the crowd. At this point, I spoke to lots of people and found they had come from all over the country, Dorset, Surrey, Essex, Kent, Northumberland, Scotland to name just a few. Everyone was very friendly, and we were all making the best of our special day (in spite of the rain). I turned my back on the crowd and 'people watched'. There were the most amazing outfits, all colours of the rainbow, with matching hats, and under umbrellas. Some of the



men were in morning dress, with grey top hats, but most were in suits. Nobody was in Red Cross uniform, or medals, but some had their service badges, and I wore my forty years one.

Someone said Queen Elizabeth was watching, and we could see a little pink figure up at the window. Soon Prince Charles and Camilla came by. They stopped and spoke to some people in the front row, and Juliet got to shake Prince Charles' hand. He said he was 'sorry it was so wet', and he felt guilty, as it had been his idea. Hardly his fault it rained though!

Camilla was in a coffee-coloured outfit, with a beige mac, just like ours! Shirley said 'There you are, we are in the right clothes', which made us laugh.

After they had gone by, we felt we could do with another cup of tea so went back to the marquee, and I had another sandwich and piece of sponge cake. While we were there we met three ladies from Perth Red Cross. Two had come down on the early train that morning and the younger one on the all-night bus which took ten hours! They said they had a member who lives in Luncarty, where my son lives! By this time, it was nearly 6.00pm and we had to get back to our minibus.

The ground underfoot was absolutely sodden and the courtyard outside the Palace had huge puddles. As we went out, someone said it was the 'wettest Garden Party they had ever had', and that there had been 'one month's rain in a day'. The Red Arrows should have flown over, but it was too cloudy for them.

The Footmen were dressed in their best red uniforms, which apparently are only used for state occasions, so we were very honoured. It was a wonderful day, and made me feel very proud of being part of a great organisation. All day, despite the rain, I never heard a cross word or complaint from anyone. I'm sure we all appreciated being able to celebrate 100 years of the Red Cross.

Erica Guy
St Peter & St Paul

Tweet of the month



I thought I'd stay with Sri Lanka this month and if, like me, you have looked at the picture before reading this, you are probably wondering what

a picture of a chicken has to do with Sri Lanka. Then you might wonder why have I included a domesticated bird in my tweet when I am interested in wild birds. Well, this chicken-like bird is actually a wild bird – it is a Sri Lanka Junglefowl and it looks like a chicken with good reason. All of our domesticated chickens, more than 1,600 different breeds across the world, are descended from Junglefowl.

There are four species of Junglefowl in the world and they are all found in the Indian subcontinent and/or South-east Asia. The most widespread is the Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*), which is found in the Indian sub-continent, apart from Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and then east across South-east Asia and onto the western Indonesian islands – Sumatra, Java and Bali. Grey Junglefowl (*Gallus sonneratii*), is confined to central and southern India. Green Junglefowl (*Gallus varius*) is found on Java and eastward along the Indonesian islands to Alor. Finally, and unsurprisingly, the Sri Lanka Junglefowl (*Gallus lafayetii*), is only found on Sri Lanka and is one of the birds I most wanted to see while I was there.

It is thought that Junglefowl started to be domesticated at least 3,000 years ago and some estimates go back 10,000 years, circa 8,000BC. What is clear is that Red Junglefowl was originally the source of domesticated chickens – hence

the chicken's scientific name, *Gallus gallus domesticus*, which means it is considered to be a subspecies of Red Junglefowl. However, characteristics found in some modern-day chicken varieties that could not arise from Red Junglefowls indicate that there is some influence of Grey and Sri Lanka Junglefowls in some of the chicken varieties and Green is also likely to have played its part in the past too.

One of the reasons for the domestic chicken's success is the relatively low amount of food required for them to produce eggs and basically to become fully grown. There is a good reason why they are called Junglefowl – they do like to live in jungles so there is no need to cut down trees to keep them! Their preference for forests was one reason why I found Red Junglefowl and Grey Junglefowl so difficult to see and I thought Sri Lanka Junglefowl might be the same. However, they turned



out to be easy to see. As you can tell from the photograph of this wild bird, it wasn't shy (but most weren't that approachable).

When asked the question, 'Which came first, the chicken or the egg?', the answer is neither, it was the Junglefowl.

So, we have domesticated animals that were arguably 'created' by humans so we can treat them as we like then. NO, of course we can't, they came from, and are still part of God's creation, so they should be reared in good conditions and not treated cruelly. After all, chickens are no different from dogs in one sense, and we wouldn't put up with their maltreatment, so it should be the same for all animals we interact with, even ones we eat – especially if we call ourselves children of God. God doesn't only care about sparrows: he cares about chickens too.

Roy Hargreaves
St Peter & St Paul

A new Tring Park tradition



We began a wonderful new tradition here at Tring Park. We planted a tree for the class of 2022 and it is doing well.

Many of these young people were in my tutor group when younger. I like to pray for them when I pass it. I feel that, like the tree, they are becoming established in their new lives as young adults and will continue to grow.

Sarah Bell
Tring Park



MUSIC IN THE Marquee

SATURDAY 15TH JULY | DOORS OPEN 7PM
POUND MEADOW, STATION RD | MUSIC STARTS 8PM

The Very Lazy Sundays



ADVANCE TICKETS
ADULT £12 / STUDENT £5
TRINGTOGETHER.ORG.UK OR
FROM **TRING BREWERY** CASH ONLY
£15 / £7 ON THE DOOR

Food & Tring Brewery Bar



Finding the brilliance in everyone

Do you watch Gardeners' World on BBC 2? If so, you will have seen Sunnyside Rural Trust, which is just up the road in Berkhamsted, featured on 12 May.

Arit Anderson, garden designer, writer and presenter on Gardeners' World, visited Sunnyside Rural Trust in May 2022 and spent a day immersed in talking about and seeing the benefit of horticulture as therapy for wellbeing and working with adults with learning disabilities. Impressed with our work, the Gardeners' World team came back to film and spend time with teams at Hemel Food Garden and then popped over to the Northchurch site for some more shots.

Trainees worked with Arit through the day on several jobs and were featured talking about what they do and what they learn whilst at Sunnyside, individually and as teams. Katie spoke about her experiences and Lewis, who is now one of their gardeners, loved his catch up with Arit over the onions. It was great to see them all taking part, chatting and enjoying the experience – in front of the camera!

Arit is passionate about the environment and so are Sunnyside. Their allotment vegetables and some perennial plants are grown from seed in peat free compost. Lovingly nurtured and cared for by Trainees, all of whom have additional needs. At Sunnyside Rural Trust they are sowing seeds for the future, supporting Trainees to grow in confidence, develop new skills and to contribute positively in a working horticultural environment.

Keely Siddiqui-Charlick, CEO, walked around the site with Arit, discussing the values at Sunnyside and what they do and what their aims are.



Arit Anderson & Keely Siddiqui-Charlick, CEO taking tea

What is Sunnyside Rural Trust?

Sunnyside Rural Trust is a registered charity that supports young people and adults with learning disabilities by offering training and employment opportunities within a social enterprise setting. We offer a wide range of employment opportunities including growing and selling fresh produce eg fruit, vegetables and salads; poultry keeping; PAT testing; garden design and maintenance; allotment makeovers; warden services; and growing and selling a wide range of plants including Dacorum Borough Council bedding plant contract. We sell our produce and services through our two farm shops, local networks, regular markets stalls and local events.

We believe what sets us apart is that we are training and employing some of the most vulnerable members of the community and giving them responsibility for tending where they live. Only 5% of people with learning disabilities are in employment in the UK; and we want to change this.

The Sunnyside vision is to empower vulnerable people to reach their full potential and lead a healthy life through horticultural training and work. Our job is to find the brilliance in everyone.

Lots of 'in flower' plants are displayed next to the Sunnyside Up Farm shop & Café at Hemel Food Garden, open Monday to Saturday, 10.00 until 3.00pm. The café menu includes homemade vegetarian and vegan options as well as barista coffees and organic products made from the Sunnyside fruit and vegetables, such as jam, chutneys and apple juice sold in the farm shops.

You can also go to their perennial plant Click&Collect page, which will be updated regularly: Shop – Sunnyside plants click & collect (peoplesfundraising.com).

They also run a veg box scheme from their Northchurch site, who grow a lot of the vegetables. Picked fresh and prepared by trainees, you can sign up and order when you want for collection from a few of their locations.

'We believe tending where you live creates strong community, a sense of belonging to the individual and a feel-good factor for everyone.'

Gemma Vine & Matt Ripley
Sunnyside Rural Trust
publicity@sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk,
07535 696 031



Katie & Arit Anderson



Lewis & Arit Anderson



Potting up



Some of the plants we grow

Hurrah for big town events!



Since Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee in 2012, St Peter & St Paul has joined with the community for at least ten big town events from the start and end of World War I to Charter

700 to last year's Platinum Jubilee. It's tempting to say 'Phew, now we should get a few years' rest' but actually I am thinking 'What's next?'



Large scale events involving the biggest public building in Tring are a joy to behold. For weeks beforehand different groups come up with creative, fitting and fun ways to get involved and the feedback afterwards is super. This week someone said to me how much they had enjoyed the Coronation Party and then FOTCH Family Fun Day. 'We've had a couple of lovely days in the church recently – really nice.'



Tring's Coronation Party, Monday 8 May 2023

Three highlights from me:

A sizable number of people dressed-to-impress on the day. We captured some great photographs, but my favourite was the breast-feeding baby. We had to wait until they had finished before they started in their own photo. I hope they get to see this and keep the photo as a memory. With a birthday nearly a century earlier, my second highlight was the 95-year-old who told me that they were very, very grateful to be included in the celebration. 'I never thought I'd see this day.' They went home on the free transport minibus which, in its own way, was a highlight. We did this for the first time for the Platinum Jubilee and helped make the party inclusive and available to everyone. (Thank you Community Action Dacorum for the bus and thank you Tring Town Council for paying for it.)

Finally, I heard about a small child who enjoyed being saluted by the Air and Army Cadets... and then got a free camouflage jacket



from the fancy dress stall. They had a great day and, again, I hope that's a memory that will stay with them.

Thank you to Michelle Grace for leading the Celebration service for the Coronation. Thank you Tring Brewery, Ridgeway Scouts, Tring Local History Society, Tring W.I., Osborne Property, Army and Air Cadets and all the Tring Together volunteers. Thank you Tring Town Council, The National Lottery Community Fund and CDA Herts for providing the funding to enable Tring to make some new memories.

Vivianne Child
Tring Together



Recognising reconciliation



A report from an Israeli-Palestinian women's workshop

After our initial meeting in the Jordan Desert, we met once again in Bethlehem

for a profound, emotionally charged weekend workshop. April was a busy holiday month, so our participants shared the central themes and traditions of Passover, Easter and Ramadan. We prepared a lovely Iftar table [Iftar is the fast-breaking evening meal of Muslims in Ramadan] and lit Shabbat candles, honouring the faiths of our participants.

In the spirit of sharing religious traditions, we decided to dive a bit deeper and explore the formative and challenging realities that have shaped the lives of these women. A Palestinian refugee shared her grief and the frustration of living in a perpetual state of waiting – waiting to be able to go back to her family home, a place she has never been before. When the conversation shifted to the topic of security, one of the Israeli participants explained that this was a major concern for her community due to the history of expulsion and discrimination the Jewish people have undergone, acting as a constant reminder of their vulnerability and triggering them to respond forcefully.

Unfortunately, we do not have to look back in time to recall moments of



A deliberately connected circle

despair. There has been another wave of violence and unrest, this time affecting one of our participants in the most painful way. This is a normal situation for our region but, for the ladies who had just made a commitment to work together to understand each other, it was very challenging.

Empathy circle

We decided to address the recent hostilities with an Empathy Circle. A large candle was lit in the centre, and everyone was invited to light a smaller candle from it and speak about their feelings and experiences in this traumatic time. Some expressed their sadness and shock, and some were too overcome to speak, so they silently lit a candle.

These times and discussions are difficult. It is hard to hear from others how they have suffered. To NOT hear them, though, is worse.

Musalaha Newsletter 2022

<https://musalaha.org>
colin.briant@hotmail.com

Such groups may seem a long way from Tring, though maybe less so in this last year as people from the international news have come into Tring homes. As I described last month, the BBC recently broadcast an exploration of the personal history of four UK Palestinian and Jewish families, going back two generations to 1948.

I am planning to create a small, short-term discussion group in Tring in the Autumn to explore these issues, beginning with the two BBC programmes. Would you like to join us?

Colin Briant,
High Street Baptist Church

Pastoral care training



I spoke at St Peter & St Paul's Annual Meeting about the pastoral care course which Linzi and I intended to run in June / July this year. We have now decided to postpone

the course until October, which will hopefully give everyone time to plan this into their diaries.

Pastoral care is an important part of any flourishing community and we all need to play our part in ensuring that we have good pastoral care. The training is intended to give us the tools, experience and confidence to do this.

To some of you reading this article, you may already be thinking that all of this is beginning to sound a bit scary and that it isn't really for you. I think, at the moment, I may be in the same place as you! However, I do think that we need to think about pastoral care differently and look at the whole area more widely.

Linzi and I believe that pastoral care encompasses a very wide range of activities from formal pastoral visiting after a bereavement to having a friendly chat to the person sitting next to you in church on a Sunday (or Tuesday or Thursday...) and continuing that chat over a coffee. So Linzi and I encourage you, between now and when you first see the pastoral training advertised, to think about what pastoral care you

offer at the moment within and outside the church community; what you might need to make that pastoral care more effective; and what encouragement you might need from the training to extend the pastoral care that you offer.

Hopefully, if we all do this, then our pastoral care for each other and outside the church community will be even better than it is today.

Think about your involvement in pastoral care and pray for guidance from God for what he may be asking you to do so that you can respond to the pastoral training invitation when you see it.

Tim James
St Peter & St Paul

Ring for the king!

Last time I wrote about my introduction to bell ringing, my awe and wonder at the bells' impressive sonorous sound calling out over the town to 'Come! Come and worship!' Now, better acquainted with the bells as I am, I love them even more.

'Ring for the king in Tring!' was the enticing slogan put about by our Tower Captain in sufficient time for me to improve from my snail-like progress to something more resembling that of a tortoise; but as always, perseverance shall be my watchword and I remain ever hopeful that those co-ordinated skills of brain and body will one day be my prize.

One of our regular ringers at Tring had previously rung at the late Queen's Jubilee, but that, she said, was with assistance. Now, such was her improvement and confidence that this time she was able to ring for her king on Coronation Day completely unaided. How lovely! What progress!

Another of our ringers seized the privileged opportunity to ring for his king in the small village of church of Puttenham where, these days, the bells rarely give voice at all; but on this royal celebration, awoke to action once again. How beautiful! How appropriate!

There must be a good number of UK citizens for whom this was the second coronation they have been privileged to see, and one such venerable octogenarian rings faithfully at Tring tower with as much skill and stamina as a man half his age: so, he rang for his king as he had for the late Queen before that.



The tower captain, also, not being satisfied with just ringing for his king in Tring, drove fifty-five miles to his home town of Shenfield in Essex to ring a quarter peal for his niece's wedding there.

So I, together with many millions of people around the realm, say sing or shout 'God save the king!'

Johanna Morgan
Tring Tower Bellringer

BELLRINGING FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III & QUEEN CAMILLA

On Saturday, 6 May 2023
Tring, Hertfordshire
St Peter and St Paul

General Ringing

June A Abraham
Catherine Anderson
Howard Collings
Philip E Dobson
Dawn Milne
Johanna M G Morgan
Joshua E Owen
Lancelot E Owen
William J K Postle
Hellen E Saunders
Jonathan C Smith
Sally J Smith

Rung to celebrate the coronation of TM King Charles III and Queen Camilla



Wishes for the new king and queen



At Tring's Coronation party on 8 May we made a video, asking people for their wishes for the New King and Queen. The mood of the people videoed was 90% positive, with the main wish being that Charles and Camilla have a long and successful reign and that they continue the good work that they have already started. Our video stars hope that the couple are respected, just as Queen Elizabeth II was and that they appreciate what an amazing and diverse and interesting country we live in. There was also much talk of the service that the couple offer to the country and that they

should inspire others to also serve.

The word cloud below reflects the words most used in the video and the mood was summed up by the person who said, 'I wish for the king and queen to have a long and glorious reign and for them to unify the country'.

Vivianne Child, St Peter & St Paul



© Chris Jackson

Anyone for tea?

The tent was up with bunting flying, the cakes laid out, urns bubbling and sum-up machine ready! That was the start of our Coronation Tea Tent afternoon. After running the Jubilee Tea Tent, we had made some changes to 'make our lives easier' – or so we thought.

When an event is arranged in Tring, the community really does make the

effort and comes all out. The service in St Peter & St Paul's ended and suddenly we had a queue of hungry and thirsty customers. That queue stayed for the next two hours.



Luckily we had prepped the scones from Sandwich Plus, although they didn't last long and more prepping was needed; and Tarboush, Tring's new Lebanese restaurant, donated trays of chicken and fish pastries which went down a treat! Thank you to all the people who made or donated cakes. The good news was that we sold out of cakes by 4:30pm. The bad news was that we sold out of cakes by 4:30pm!

The churchyard was full of families and friends

enjoying themselves with music from Tring Music Partnership and a special closing rendition from the outgoing Mayor Christopher Townsend of 'I did it my way' will not be forgotten.

A wonderful event and for the next coronation / jubilee / royal wedding, we have a plan...

Trish Dowden
St Peter & St Paul



What a jolly day – and a jolly good result!



Over the years the FOTCH Family Fun Day on the first Saturday in May has seen every kind of weather – but seldom sunny! Given what happened on this year's

Coronation Day on 6 May the switch to 20 May proved a blessing in disguise. It was the best day's weather we have ever experienced and the sunny conditions were mirrored by the sunny mood of all who participated.

An excellent musical programme

The musical entertainment programme was, as usual, coordinated by Vivianne Child and, with the help of Robin Schafer of Tring Music Partnership, a varied and enjoyable programme was presented. Unfortunately, Bishop Wood School

were unable to attend on this occasion. After a charming opening selection from Piano & More with Anna Le Hair, Dundale School performed stunningly and with both the prize winners of the Roland Stevens Awards performing, a virtuoso performance on the new organ we are trialling from Cliff Brown, and a grand finale from Tring Ukulele Band, we had something for every taste.

Roland Stevens Awards

This year's Roland Stevens Awards winners – which were judged by Robin and Tring Music Partnership – were QuoteBook and Oscar Atkins. The certificates and cheques were presented by Robert Stevens in memory of his grandfather and, as above, both winners performed to great applause. Robin also gave us a splendid performance on the piano and the whole musical programme was started off by Anna Le Hair. There is no doubt whatsoever that music is alive and well in St Peter & St Paul's Church.

Heritage Awards

Two Heritage Awards were presented by FOTCH, the first being for Lottie Lashley, who has done an excellent job in moving us effectively into communication via social media, and also to Helena Cook, who has continued to administer the membership group with great effectiveness.

A jolly good result

Perhaps one of the stars of the whole show was the condition of the churchyard, which has recovered with remarkable speed from all the ground works that have been carried out over the winter; it was the perfect location for picnics and family get-togethers. People lingered long after the official end of proceedings and enjoyed the ambience. As well as meeting the prime objective of being an enjoyable and welcoming occasion, the day produced a good contribution to FOTCH funds and some £4000 was delivered, much needed replenishment, of course, after the very considerable investment the Friends have made in the vital drainage works that have been carried out throughout the winter period. Hopefully the foundations will now be secure for another 1000 years!

Finding out more about FOTCH

If you would like to know more about how you can help support the preservation of our heritage building in its splendid green



setting, please do contact us and join in with FOTCH. You can contact either the secretary info@fotch.co.uk or the chair Richard Abel or any of the trustees. We are always looking for new energy and new ideas about future events and activities. FOTCH is truly there for the long term to ensure that the heart of Tring maintains its character and ability to be open and welcoming to all.

An exciting Auction Evening

Our next big event will be on 29 September 2023 at Tring Market Auctions. This will be an auction evening with some exciting entertainment and the opportunity to bid for some splendid prizes. There will also be a first-rate buffet, Tring Brewery ales and a range of wines as well as musical entertainment. It is an excellent opportunity to mark the changing of the seasons and support the society. Tickets are now on sale – see the appropriate posters for details.

The FOTCH 100 Club – an opportunity

Family Fun Day saw the first of our super draws for the 100 club and the three winners were John Bly, Simon Greenwood and Liz Bendall. The next draw will be at the autumn event on 29 September. We now have a couple of numbers available as people have moved away. If you would like to be a member, please do contact me.

Thank you!

Finally, I would just like to give a big thank you to our splendid team of organisers led by Maria Lashley and Andy Hall with sterling assistance from a legion of volunteers, all of whom know exactly what they are doing and make it happen without stress. Thank you all for giving us such a good day and a good result.

Grahame Senior
on behalf of FOTCH

THE OLD PASTURES
LUXURY ACCOMMODATION FOR DOGS
Icknield Farm, Icknield Way, Tring, Herts HP23 4JX

Luxury heated accommodation for your dog
Only 8 large kennels giving your dog the extra care and attention they deserve. All dogs are walked twice a day.
Holiday homes for small animals.

DOG GROOMING
BATHING, CLIPPING, TRIMMING, NAILS AND EARS.
WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE. EASY WALK IN.
NON-SLIP SHOWER IDEAL FOR OLDER AND BIGGER DOGS.
WE CAN CATER FOR ANY SIZE DOG. EASY PARKING.

Mrs. Duggittles

PET SITTERS
WHILST YOU'RE AT WORK, ON HOLIDAY OR DURING ILLNESS, WE WILL COME & VISIT YOUR PET IN YOUR HOME.
ALL TYPES OF ANIMALS.
MEMBER OF N.A.R.P.
FULLY INSURED.

01442 824856

WILSTONE STICKS
Handcrafted by John Evans

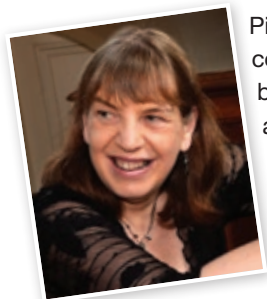
Member of The
BRITISH STICKMAKERS GUILD
www.wilstonesticks.com
Telephone: 01442 822115



An excellent musical programme

The musical entertainment programme was, as usual, coordinated by Vivianne Child and, with the help of Robin Schafer of Tring Music Partnership, a varied and enjoyable programme was presented. Unfortunately, Bishop Wood School

SOS – your Piano & More concerts need help!



Piano & More concerts have become an integral and looked-forward to part of what happens at St Peter & St Paul's Church. They give younger

musicians just starting out, as well as more established performers, the chance to play to a kind and warm audience in a beautiful and ancient place of worship, free of charge (although donations are always generous and welcomed). They are a chance for people to get together and have a cup of tea and a cake and meet each other and the players, and they bring a range of people into the church, many of whom might not have come in otherwise.

Of course, these concerts don't happen without a dedicated team of helpers, and we

are enormously grateful to our wonderful Duty Wardens, and those who help out with the teas. However, we do need more people to be on our tea rota – Edmund and I will do our best to help when we can, but we can't always be there (although we do try to be) and I am often performing myself! We also do a lot of work behind the scenes, putting together posters and programmes, finding performers, etc, and, of course, I have to rehearse for

the concerts as well.

We will need to change the concerts from monthly to less frequently next year unless we can find more people to help us, unfortunately. Please do think about whether you might be willing to volunteer. Concerts happen mostly on the second Sunday of the month (with just a few exceptions) and to help with the teas you would need to arrive at around 2.20pm, put out cakes onto plates, prepare for serving tea and coffee after the concerts, which start at 3.00pm and usually last for an hour, and then clear up afterwards. All is usually finished by 5.00pm at the latest.

If you feel you might be able to volunteer, even just once or twice during the year, or if you feel that you might be able to help more regularly, perhaps once every two concerts, please email me on musalanna@annalehair.co.uk. Thank you so much!

Anna Le Hair, St Peter & St Paul

Piano & more series *An hour of music on Sunday afternoons*

Helen Godbolt *Cello*

Colin Stevens *Piano*

Folk song inspired works by Kodaly, Bruch & Ferguson for solo cello and cello/piano duo

Sunday 9th July
at 3pm

followed by tea and refreshments

Tring Parish Church HP23 5AE

Free admission, with retiring collection

For further details see:

piano-and-more.org.uk
or Google **"Piano and more, Tring"**



Feedback



Further to the article in the May edition of *Comment* about Tring Good Companions, in the 1980s members came over to

Biggleswade, led by Gladys Hull and Vera Goodall, to afternoon tea and entertainment by my Guide Company, 2nd Biggleswade Guides. They were awarded their Hostess Badge and Entertainment Badge! As far as I know, a good time was had by all!

The photo is of my husband Ian with his chorister's loyal service medal – many years of which, of course, he served in St Peter & St Paul's, Tring!



We saw the Tring Pilgrimage at St Albans on Easter Monday – but I am afraid we cheated and went all the way this year by coach. I used to walk from Tring when I lived there and have been going ever since 1962!

Rosamund Drakes
formerly St Peter & St Paul

Why do you worship where you do?



In the May issue of *Comment* the Editor reported that when asked this question, most people had responded 'because I am Methodist, Baptist, Anglican', but hadn't

expanded on the reason for their particular choice of church.

I was not brought up to go to church and have no memory of faith being part of family life. I have vague memories of morning assembly at senior school, where the preferred hymn always seemed to be 'Ye Holy Angels Bright'. Upon leaving school in 1975, I joined Marks & Spencer, at a time when Bank Holiday trading was unheard of. But a few years later, when the company announced they were going to open on Good Friday, it was accepted that everyone would work, unless they had a strong religious reason for not doing so, because Good Friday was deemed a religious holiday, not a bank holiday. For me there was something 'wrong' about working on Good Friday, and I requested exemption on faith grounds, which was granted. Fortunately, I was not questioned on my reasons, because I am not sure I could have articulated an acceptable reply. From what I can recall I was one of three employees who did not work on Good Friday, and that abstinence remained all my working life. But I was not a regular churchgoer at that time, not even an intermittent one!

At some point in the early 1980s my parents started attending services at St Cross in Wilstone. The connection with Wilstone was already very strong. My mother's mother, maternal grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc, all came from the village and, as a family, we were very close to those relatives still living there. As a young girl Mum had spent many holidays with her grandparents: she



adored them and the life the village offered. When she returned to work after having a family, her first job was at Wilstone School, and my dad was soon on the list of 'helpers' at The Half Moon, working (I suspect for nothing) in the pub when times got really busy. I cannot remember the exact date when I started attending services, but I do recall I didn't enjoy Communion, because the vicar at the time, the Revd Trevor Johns, intoned (I think that is the right word) the order. All the services were in the evening, using the Book of Common Prayer, because Long Marston held the morning services. The vicar was responsible for both churches, as well as Puttenham, and couldn't be in two places at once.

In 1982 my parents became founder members of the Friends of St Cross, formed to 'repair and restore' the church, and that really confirmed the connection to Wilstone, which has remained solid ever since.

My brother's two children were both christened there, both my cousins were married there, and all family memorial services are held there. One of my cousins won't 'do' Christmas until she has been to the Carol Service at St Cross, and although she has lived in London for over forty years and is a regular attendee at her local church, is still a member of the Friends and requires regular updates on the church.

But for me, it is more than family history. I like villages, small places, and all they offer: knowing I can rush into the shop for a pint of milk when we run out at church, and return later to pay; knowing where to get the keys for the village hall and who to ask for help if the cooker doesn't work; knowing where to get the church keys if I have forgotten mine; in the autumn knowing which hedges produce the best blackberries and which parts of the canal towpath are likely to be flooded. In a small community it is possible to be 'somebody' while remaining 'nobody'. I like that.

As far as the church is concerned I can do things that hopefully make a difference. Cleaning is easy in a small building, particularly one with a simple layout like St Cross, and because everything is scaled-down, I can



multitask, which suits me, most of the time. I am a Martha, not a Mary. We don't have rotas, people just do what needs doing, and although a small congregation is not to be recommended in some ways, it does mean everyone knows everyone else and keeping in touch is easy. Opinions are easily sought and hopefully all views can be taken into consideration when decisions are made.

Throughout my life I have always relished peace and quiet, and that is more abundant in a village. Sitting outside on the new decking I can hear sheep in the neighbouring fields, rather than the distant noise of the A41 bypass. People's voices are more distant, more spread out, always there, but not intrusive. Looking around I can see many buildings, but mercifully they are low level, and the trees and open skies are the dominant features – God's creation is very close and very accessible.

But perhaps the most precious time is when I am the only one in the church, and I have got it all to myself. My faith is very simple and I am in awe of the understanding and learning of others in the parish. For me a church is God's house, and although he is everywhere at all times, the essence of faith is concentrated in the church building.

As Archdeacon (now Bishop) Jane said when she visited Wilstone, 'the walls are full of prayers'. I find the 'church' more accessible in a small building.

When sorting through all the family memorabilia earlier in the year, among my grandmother's possessions I found her membership card of the Church of England Girls Friendly Society, citing seven years faithful membership 1911-1918 at St Cross, Wilstone. She was confirmed at St Cross in April 1915, married at St Cross in 1923. I appreciate carrying on her legacy, albeit in a slightly different way: still the same church, still the same village. She would recognise both.

Alison Cockerill, St Cross, Wilstone

Benedict of Nursia, father of western monasticism



I was 12 years old and he 55 when I first met Dom Camillus. I enjoyed chatting with a gentle, little old man (to my 12-year-old sensibilities) who looked exactly how a monk should. At that point, Camillus had been a monk for twenty-nine years and was guest-master of the abbey I was visiting. When he died, thirty years on, he had been at the same abbey for fifty-six years and had served as archivist, shopkeeper, sub-prior, infirmarian and Chapter Clerk. In the intervening years I discovered that he had been an RAF



navigator during WWII and subsequently trained as a chiropodist before his vocation came to him, out of the blue, on a London bus. He made his profession as a Benedictine at Prinash and was sent to Pluscarden in Scotland to study for a short period. There he remained. That Camillus spent the greatest part of his life following 'the Rule of Benedict' (which Martin wrote about in May's *Comment*), might surprise the man who wrote it, for Benedict did not set out to found a monastic order.

Benedict was born in Umbria around AD480. He was sent to Rome to be educated, but was dismayed by the immorality and materialism of his fellow students, so he withdrew to live as a hermit in the mountains outside Subiaco. A group of men gathered around him, but this first foray into community life ended badly – some, who thought him too strict, attempted to poison him. The legend goes that while saying grace before eating, Benedict made the sign of the cross over the poisoned wine; the cup shattered, spilling the poison, and he was saved. Religious images of Benedict often depict a broken cup.

Still, the move from hermit to community life had begun. Benedict, along with the monks who remained loyal, moved south to Monte Cassino where, around AD530, they built the first great monastery. It was there that Benedict wrote his instructions on how a



monastery should be run. The Rule is not one of asceticism but of transformation. It teaches the dignity of all labour and the importance of order and planning.

Benedict died at Monte Cassino in about AD550 but his remains were removed in the 7th century to the Abbey of Fleury, on the banks of the Loire, in France. His feast day is 11 July. Monte Cassino was destroyed by the Lombards around AD585, by the Saracens in AD884, by the Normans in 1046, by an earthquake in 1349, and by Allied bombing in 1944. But each time it has been rebuilt and it remains the mother house of the Benedictine order.

At Camillus' funeral, the abbot preached on the text, 'Happy are the gentle', which is how the Jerusalem Bible translates 'Blessed are the meek'.

Linzi James, St Peter & St Paul

My 4-step guide to happiness and wellbeing

Exercise

Exercise doesn't just have to be for your body – it can be for your mind too! Exercise can be anything from a 5-minute jog to a 30-minute workout and more! It is scientifically proven that exercise makes you happier. Here's why! Exercise increases lots of chemicals associated with feeling happy, confident and less stressed. Some of these chemicals are endorphins, adrenaline and (here's a long one) endocannabinoid. Try saying that quickly!

People

Did you know that the people with whom you surround yourself have an effect on your wellbeing? If you are

around people who make you feel bad and you can't have fun with them, then that affects how you feel elsewhere. If you surround yourself with people who you can relax and be yourself with, that impacts you positively.

Do things for you

If you always put others before yourself, then sometimes you could forget yourself or forgo opportunities so others can have them. If you put yourself first, it can fill you with happiness. Try making a list of the things that you can do that make you happy. Every day, every other day or even every week, try to do something from your list. It can be anything that makes you happy.

Be kind to others

You may be thinking 'Wait, didn't you just tell us to do things for ourselves?' Yes, I did, but if you can do a bit of both equally, it can be great. There is a children's book about filling people's buckets. If you do something good for someone else, it not only makes them feel good, it also makes you feel good. You fill everyone's buckets. Even better, if you do something for someone else, it could encourage them to repeat the good deeds (pay it forward). Then, not only have you made one person feel good, in a domino effect, you have made lots of people feel good!

**Grace Fowler
Year 8, Tring School**

Letter from Orkney



One of the pleasures of living on an island is overseas trips to the other Orkney Islands. The book 'Light between Oceans' featuring a lighthouse was read by my book group and, as a result, some of us decided to stay in a lighthouse keeper's cottage on North Ronaldsay, the most northerly and remote of the Orkney Islands. Most people feel Orkney mainland is remote, but North Ronaldsay takes remoteness to a whole new level.

On arrival at the island airport Barbara, Susan and I looked for Billy who had said he would meet us there to take us to the cottage. There was no sign of him. As we stood surrounded by our bags – all food had been brought with us as there are no shops on the island – Barbara rang Billy. He cheerfully answered his phone: it transpired he was on the plane from which we had disembarked and was airborne on his way to Kirkwall! This nonsense about turning phones off on aircraft was clearly not something that bothered him. He suggested we call Chris for a lift before he ended the call.

It was a shame we didn't know who Chris was.

Fortunately a man from Scottish Water appeared, so we persuaded him to take our luggage in his small van to the cottage and we would walk. He reluctantly agreed saying it was only about two miles away. In the event, it turned out to be 4½ miles.

As there are two lighthouse cottages, Barbara had called Billy's wife to ask which would be ours. 'Ah, it could be No. 1, although I think there might be someone staying in there, although he should have left by now, but I don't know if he has. Or it might be No. 2, which I think has been cleaned and should be unlocked. You'd be best to try that one.'

We duly did try No. 2 cottage and it seemed likely this was the one for us as it was unlocked, uninhabited and certainly clean and nicely furnished. Hooray! It was, however, cold and despite our best efforts with the central heating programmer, no heat was forthcoming. I called Billy again, who, on being told we couldn't get the heating to work explained, 'That's because there's no wind. If there's no wind, the heating won't work. Oh, and if you want a shower, you can get one if you go outside round the building, past

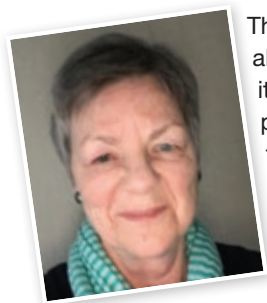


the coal bunker and go in the concrete building.' We decided we could do without showers for a couple of days.

Despite all this, our visit was judged to be successful, mainly because of the lighthouse itself. To stand at the base of it at night and see the beams of light circling slowly was a truly magical experience and worth the lack of proper heating and washing facilities. The otherworldliness and vagueness of the island inhabitants just added to the feeling of being away from the modern world – maybe not a bad thing in these troubled times.

**Carrie Dodge
Milestone Church, Dounby**

Do you have a FOTCH sweatshirt?



The recent articles about FOTCH and its history have prompted me to wonder how many people out there still have their FOTCH sweatshirt. I can't recall which year these were produced, but I seem to remember that they came in two colours: navy and silver grey. (*The Editor has one in a bright blue!*) I decided that the grey one would be more useful because it would go with just about everything – so I bought one, and it did; and I've worn it pretty well non-stop ever since.

The earliest photo I can find is this one from a holiday in the New Forest in 1999. Occasionally people have asked me about the logo and about Tring, and I've been happy to tell them about the lovely friendly town we settled in when

we got married fifty-five years ago. The sweatshirt is still in very good condition, and as I write, is drying in my garden on the washing line!

We came to Tring in 1968 and I joined the Choral Society almost immediately when Ro Stevens was its conductor. St Peter & St Paul's Church became very familiar to me and has been for fifty-five years. The parish church is an integral part of the heart of Tring and when FOTCH started, it seemed an obvious thing for us to join.
**Rosemary Southworth
FOTCH member**



Embracing birthdays



A decade ago, there were two approaches, it seemed, to a significant birthday... run for the hills or embrace it! The latter perspective brought over sixty friends and family together in the Tring Park Mansion on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in half term.

Most were unfamiliar with the school and so were suitably impressed. A local caterer and her team transformed our Red Room into a café with my mother-in-law's pretty embroidered tea cloths decorating the tables. One of the dance pianists kindly came to play. Gazing out onto the lawn, where knots of friends were chattering as their children played freely in the sunshine, is a most delightful memory.

Several hundred pounds were raised for both the school scholarship fund and the hospice that nursed a special guest who could not be there, my wonderful father, Michael.

The cake was a highlight of the event. Mansion in cake form was a crazy vision I had from watching too many creative cake shows. However, India, a former pupil, pulled it off with aplomb. Her commissions have been the 18th birthday cakes of our Upper 6th who knew her and, thus, on being shown them, I saw how good she was and wondered if she fancied a challenge.

Since then things have changed: of course they have. Change seems like one of the prices we pay for life and love. Several members of the family have died. I value the Jewish traditional phrase that is used when you are speaking of someone who died 'May their memory be a blessing'. For others there, their latter years are currently or were not easy. Dementia has had a most fierce impact. There have been times when it is hard to accept things. However, Helen Keller, whose faith was quite something, said, 'When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us'. Corrie ten Boom



spoke from deep experiences, including surviving a concentration camp. She challenges us by asking us to 'Let God's promises shine on your problems'.

So approaching the next decade, I am perhaps more at ease with change. Prayerfully I am seeking a way that accepts change and challenge because the results are not always negative. The goblins in my head are sometimes winning still but I am understanding them more. Also, I can always turn to these quips:

'Age is not important unless you're a cheese.' Helen Hayes

'Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.' Mark Twain

'Fifty is only 14 in scrabble.' Anon

'When you turn 50, perhaps you are really turning 18 with 32 years of extra experience!' Anon
Sarah Bell, Tring Park

The organist on the organ...



Our 'Makin Windermere 3-45D' organ has been on loan from their parent company 'Church Organ World' since the day before Ascension Day. Anyone who has been to services in late May and early June will have heard it.

There are many issues with the current pipe organ due to the passage of time. Addressing all these issues requires a full rebuild of the current organ or replacing it with a new digital organ. A full rebuild would cost somewhere between four and six times as much as getting a new digital organ installed. In addition to that, a pipe organ needs at least two tuning and maintenance visits each year for which we have to pay. A digital organ needs no tuning whatsoever and is fully guaranteed for ten years: there will be no expenditure required at all during that time.

I am often asked whether I have a preference between the types of organ and my answer is what matters most are (i) the feel and playability of the organ console; and (ii) the quality and quantity of the sound. These two points have nothing to do with whether the instrument uses wind and pipes or electronics and loudspeakers to produce the sound.

First and foremost, let me explain about two aesthetic issues of the trial installation which would not apply if we proceeded with a digital organ purchase and installation: the loudspeakers would be completely out of sight up inside the pipe organ (it was intended to do this for the trial as well but, at the last minute, was not possible for health and safety reasons); the organ console would be colour matched to surrounding woodwork in the church.

As well as using the Makin organ for services during the trial, several other local organists have been in to play it and experience it. The comments which follow are a high level summary from us all.

Comments on the organ console:

- The instrument is an absolute delight to play. The touch and feel of the keyboards is just right, all nice and even and a sensible light, but not too light, touch: such a difference from the physical hard work involved playing the pipe organ.
- Some more thought needs to be given as to the correct place for the console to be situated. Before the installation I was quite convinced that the place it has been put was the most sensible place. But, having experienced it there, I am now not so sure!

Comments on the quality and quantity of the sound:

- It has a greater variety of sound than the current pipe organ, not hugely so, but enough to be very useful.
- The tuning is excellent and will remain so whatever the temperature and will not require regular tuning visits to maintain this.
- The sound quality is good and will not deteriorate over time in the same way that a pipe organ's sound always does.
- There are some exquisitely beautiful sounds. Equally there are some sounds that were not to



all the organists' or congregation members' tastes – one can't please all the people all the time!

- The balance of sound volume between the swell organ and great organ did not seem correct to me. This would probably be addressed during the 'voicing' process that would take place for a real installation.

Your feedback is important and useful. If you have any comments about what you have heard and seen, please email me at the organist@tringchurchmusic.org.uk or speak to me in church after a service.

Cliff Brown
St Peter & St Paul

Updating the organ for the 21st century



The Victorians – or some of them, at least – were not lacking in confidence and cash to make big changes to their buildings and monuments.

Their impact is visible across the parish, but not least in St Peter & St Paul's Church in Tring; the pews, pillars and many of the stained-glass windows, were installed in the late 19th century. Their legacy was audible too, with the installation in 1890 of the magnificent organ which is the basis of the instrument we see and hear today. In skilful hands the organ has provided a fitting accompaniment to reflective worship, but also to major celebrations like the recent coronation.

The organ is, however, at the end of its life (the last extensive and expensive refit was carried out forty years ago), and is beyond economic repair. So the parish is seizing the opportunity to install a state-of-the-art organ (just as the old one was back in 1890). In May we had

a three-week trial of a Makin Windermere organ, on loan from the makers.

The new organ was played for a range of events, including three Sunday services, and also the FOTCH Family Fun Day. A number of organists had a chance to try it out. The feedback from the musical experts was very positive; they say that the new instrument provides everything needed to support the whole range of worship in the church, and it is much easier to play than the old one (which, sadly, is also out of tune). The congregation were very impressed too, with uniformly positive feedback about the tone and range of the new organ. People said they often forgot that it was a different instrument.

In its trial form, the new organ was not a pretty sight, with a mass of boxes and wires filling one side of the choir stalls (sixteen boxes with forty-four speakers). In a permanent installation, the speakers would be concealed within the space occupied by the old organ. It would look like an old-fashioned pipe-organ



but with all the advantages of being modern. The organ console was placed next to the lectern, where the organist can be much more aware of what is happening (and what it sounds like). In a permanent installation the console would be moveable, to allow for staging, choirs, orchestras... I think it is clear that we like the new organ; we have to decide now whether and how we might afford it (purchasing a Makin Windermere 45 would cost about £70,000).

You can find out about the history of the organ in St Peter & St Paul's Church here: <https://www.tringchurchmusic.org.uk/organ> or for more details about Makin and the organs they make, visit here: <https://www.makinorgans.co.uk>.

John Whiteman, Tring Team

Jane Ducklin
OSTEOPATH

Professional and effective relief of back pain, postural problems and muscle and joint pain

18 Christchurch Road, Tring HP23 4EE
Tel: 01442 890073 Mob: 07973 188420

Highly qualified and registered with the General Osteopathic Council

Osteopathic Care for all the Family
Serving Tring since 1995

TRING CHARITIES
(Registered Charity No 1077157)

MILLENNIUM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Are you hoping to go to University or College in 2023, but are concerned that financial resources might not match up to the requirements?

Are you under the age of 22? Have you lived in Aldbury, Long Marston, Marsworth, Pitstone, Puttenham, Tring, Wigginton or Wilstone for at least three years?

To see if you would be eligible for a grant, apply to Tring Charities' Millennium Education Foundation for information and an application form.

Website details: www.tringcharities.co.uk/education
Telephone: Elaine Winter, Secretary to the Trustees
01442 827913 Email: info@tringcharities.co.uk

Please note that the closing date is 15 November 2023 to lodge a completed application for grants payable from Autumn the following year..

A diary of (one person's) Christian life



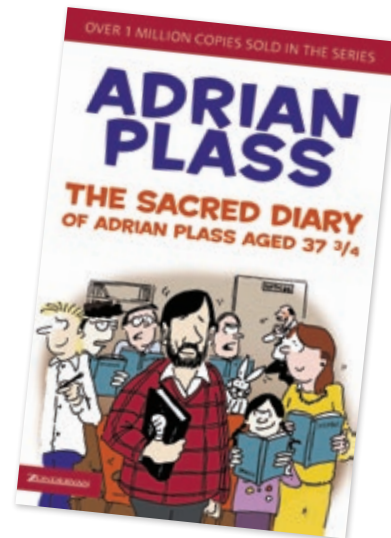
'Despite everything, it's good to be among people who are doing their best to do what God tells them. We're a funny old crowd though, aren't we?' This pithy statement in

'The Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass aged 37 ¾' could equally well have been made about members of Tring Parish. Others seem just as apt: 'I could be a really good Christian if other people didn't mess it up all the time'; or 'Wish there was an easy way of knowing when thoughts are just thoughts, and not messages from God'. The (fictional) diary contains daily observations and reflections over six months from Adrian, with his long-suffering wife Anne, and teenage son Gerald. It narrates his daily struggles to live out, indeed sometimes to live up to, his beliefs, the highs and lows of being an active part of what seems to be quite an evangelical community. Adrian struggles to say no to requests, and is regularly anxious about not living up to the expectations of other people or of

God (and sometimes is not clear about the difference). He sets himself tests, like trying by the power of faith to move a paperclip (inspired by a passage in chapter 17 of Matthew's Gospel: 'Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."'). As his wife says: 'Why would God want you to move a paperclip?'

The book is written by a man called – no surprise – Adrian Plass, who at the time of writing it was – also no surprise – nearly 38 years old. However, the real Adrian Plass has a wife called Bridget (and four children, none called Gerald), and they have both worked in residential childcare before joining a faith community in North Yorkshire. The diary has sold over a million copies across the world, and Plass has written more than forty other books.

It is dry rather than raucous humour, with a self-deprecating tone. Some members of the Parish Book Group were engaged by the diary and its insights into human nature, while others were quite put off by the style of humour.



Some also found the evangelical setting rather jarring. The word plays scattered through the book appealed to a minority of readers in the group, but we were pleased, as ever, to gather on a sunny Sunday evening to share our thoughts.

The Book Group will be meeting again on Sunday 16 July. We'll be welcoming Rev'd Canon David Holloway who will be sharing his reflections on faith and poetry. Get in touch for more details.

John Whiteman
Tring Team

Time passes – but God gives generously, again and again



2020 marked 150 years of Methodism in Tring: a moment to celebrate, but how to do so?

'How about a Flower Festival?' said Jean. We all agreed that

would be a very good idea and plans were put in place for the end of September 2020. Like so many plans for that year, however, they were plans that had to be cancelled as we all dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic and were unable to mix with others as we had done so easily before.

As we began to return to something like normal, Jean once again brought up the idea of a Flower Festival. Is it something we could do? We might be three years late, but it felt wrong not to mark an anniversary such as 150 years. After Covid-19 we were tired and older than we were before, but we felt that we wanted to give it a go and with Jean's confidence and energy and trusting God, we began to make plans!

It was during the 1830s that Revd Thomas Russell was in charge of St Alban's Methodist Mission and pioneered new work for the Methodist Church in a wide area. Methodism in Tring, Berkhamsted and Ley Hill owes much to the success of this evangelist. The first Methodist Chapel in Tring was built in Langdon Street and the foundation stone was laid on 22 September 1870.

In the early 1970s it seemed that unity between the Methodist and Anglican Churches was imminent and a decision was made to move from Langdon Street to share with the Anglicans at St Martha's. The discussions did not progress, but the Anglicans and Methodists shared the building happily for many years. When the Anglican congregation ceased to meet and the Methodists wanted to improve the facilities, ownership of St Martha's passed to the Methodist Church in exchange for their share of the Church Hall. It is a privilege to now care for this Grade II listed building which was built around 1880.

Given that the anniversary marked the passing of time, it was decided that the theme of the Flower Festival would be 'Seasonal Splendour', an opportunity to



celebrate all that God gives us throughout the seasons of the year. This resulted in an arrangement celebrating Valentine's Day, another celebrating summer days at the beach, another celebrating bonfire night and many more. From a donkey poking his head out of the pulpit for Palm Sunday, three crosses with only dark foliage for Good Friday and a flower pancake for Shrove Tuesday, there were some really imaginative interpretations that brought the seasons to life and made you think again about what they mean to us. I was reminded that time passes, but God is eternal and gives generously time and time again. I was also reminded that as we look to the future, however uncertain it might be, we can trust God to continue to be generous, to continue to guide us, wherever that might lead.

On the Saturday evening of the Flower Festival it was a privilege to welcome Alexander Ardakov to St Martha's once again. Alexander Ardakov is an international pianist and it is always a wonder to attend one of his concerts.

On this occasion he was playing pieces by Chopin and Rachmaninov. It was a wonderful evening.

On the Sunday evening, we welcomed Pam Rhodes to lead a Songs of Praise. Giving some of the history of the hymns we were singing alongside anecdotes about her life and her experiences presenting Songs of Praise for the BBC, it was another wonderful occasion and a chance to have a good old hymn sing!

It was a lovely weekend and we give thanks to God for the many people who came through the doors, the conversations that were had and everyone who gave their time so generously. Thank you to all who supported us. We hope you enjoyed it! Now we look ahead to the next 150 years. Where will that take us? I don't know, but as we walk with God, I know that it will be an adventure and that he will always be by our side.

Rachael Hawkins
St Martha's Methodist Church

The Loving Earth Project



We were delighted by the response to our Loving Earth workshop during Tring's Great Big Green Week in June. There is still time for you to get involved

and create a textile panel to join the exhibition we will be holding in September (the Season of Creation). Panels need to be 30cm x 30cm

square and may be made using traditional techniques such as sewing, crochet, appliqué or more experimental collage and mixed media. The panels present the things we love – people, places, creatures, and other things – under threat by climate change.

The process of creating the panels is designed to help us engage creatively and constructively with these issues, without being overwhelmed. The panel may take some time to design and create and you may choose to meet up with others to work together during this process. We would like each panel to be accompanied by a written reflection – a few words or several paragraphs if you prefer! You can learn more about the Loving Earth Project here: <http://lovingearth-project.uk>.

To help you get started we can supply a base panel for you to work on, as well as connect you with local sewing groups if you'd like to meet up with others. If you would like to take part please email Polly at admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk.

Polly Eaton
High Street Baptist Church

9.30 - 11am
Saturday 8 July
(Not meeting in August)

£3 suggested donation

Dads, uncles, grandads, carers etc., bring the children and join the fun!
Tea, coffee, newspapers, bacon butties, plus plenty of toys, games, activities and screens.
Suitable for children aged 0-10yrs.

High Street Baptist Church, 89 High Street, Tring, HP23 4AB
admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk www.tringbaptistchurch.co.uk



Useful contacts

TRING TEAM PARISH

Team Rector (Tring & Puttenham)
Rev Huw Bellis
2 The Limes, Station Road
01442 822170 or
07411 483229
huw@tringteamparish.org.uk
(Day off Thursday)

School Chaplaincy and Team Vicar
(Aldbury, Tring School)
Rev Michelle Grace
Aldbury Vicarage
01442 851200
michelle@tringteamparish.org.uk
mgrace@tringschool.org
(Day off Friday)

School Chaplaincy and Team Vicar
(Tring School, Long Marston, Wilstone)
Canon Jane Banister
01442 822170
jane@tringteamparish.org.uk
jbanister@tringschool.org

Diocesan Lay Ministers
Jon Reynolds
01296 662326
jonreynolds1386@gmail.com

Grahame Senior
01442 822770
gsenior@seniorpartners.co.uk

Mike Watkin
07715 553556
mike.watkin@btinternet.com

Parish Co-ordinators
Roy Hargreaves
01442 823624
roy.hargreaves@btinternet.com

Vivianne Child
01442 826092
vchild@childassociates.co.uk

Parish Advisor
John Whiteman
01442 826314
john@tringteamparish.org.uk

Church Wardens
Roy Hargreaves (Tring)
01442 823624

Jane Brown (Aldbury)
01442 851396

Christine Rutter (Puttenham)
01296 668337

Canon Jane Banister
(Wilstone)
01442 822170
(Day off Thursday)

Judith Weatherill
(Long Marston)
jweath76@gmail.com

Tring Team Administration
Administrator
Trish Dowden
admin@tringteamparish.org.uk

Janet Goodyer
pewsheets@tringteamparish.org.uk

Hall Bookings
Janet Goodyer
01442 824929
jjgoody@ntlworld.com
tringparishhall@hotmail.com

Hall Secretary
Barbara Anscombe
01442 828325
Bandb33@talktalk.net

Safeguarding
Jon Reynolds
07712 134370
safeguarding@tringteamparish.org.uk

ST MARTHA'S METHODIST CHURCH
Minister
Rev Rachael Hawkins
01442 866324
rachael.hawkins@methodist.org.uk

Senior Steward
Rosemary Berdinner
01442 822305

AKEMAN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
Minister
Vacancy

Administrator
Emma Nash
01442 827881

CORPUS CHRISTI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Parish Priest
Father Sean Thornton
seanthornton@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator
Nicole Brandwood
tring@rcdow.org.uk

HIGH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
Ministers
Joe Egan 07521 513493
joe@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk

Ruth Egan 07521 513494
ruth@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk

Assistant Minister
Kevin Rogers
km_rogers@outlook.com

Administration/facilities hire
admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk
01442 824054

NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Minister
Rev Jackie Buie
07549 432582
minister@newmillbaptist.org.uk

Church Secretary
Valerie Carr
07831 709793
secretary@newmillbaptist.org.uk



Hall Hire
Andrew Webber
07773 148706
treasurer@newmillbaptist.org.uk

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP
affiliated to
Churches Together in Tring

Secretary
Michael Demidecki
07887 980004
michaeldemidecki@gmail.com
www.justiceandpeacetring.org

OUR CHURCHES ONLINE
www.tringteamparish.org.uk
www.tringchurchmusic.org.uk
www.stmarthas-tring.org.uk
www.tringbaptistchurch.co.uk
www.newmillbaptist.org.uk
www.akemanstreet.org
www.berkotring.org.uk

SOCIAL NETWORKING

 Tring Parish
 @revhuw

COMMENT
Editor
Annette Reynolds
07968 312161
comment.magazine@gmail.com

Advertising, Distribution and Treasurer
Barbara Anscombe
01442 828325
bandb33@talktalk.net

Design
Kev Holt, Ginger Promo

Please contact Barbara Anscombe if you would like to take a subscription to *Comment*: £15.00 for 10 issues each year. The magazine can be posted to you with an additional cost for postage at current rates.

Articles, photos and publicity adverts for the next edition should arrive with the Editor no later than the 1st of the previous month.

COMMENT DEADLINES

1 January
1 February
1 March
1 April
1 May
1 June
1 August
1 September
1 October
1 November

NB There is no magazine for January or August



CECILIA TEA ROOMS.

Cecilia Hall, Puttenham
Friday 7th July, 3-5pm

Full afternoon tea with homemade sandwiches and selection of cakes.
£5 per head. Booking is essential -
Phone Christine on 07514 548289



High Street Baptist Church - Tring

Growing in the message and challenge of God



For details about our services, prayer meetings and special events visit our website.



Morning worship

Worshipping together in our building and at home

Sundays 10.30am

zoom

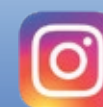
Meeting ID: 978 9592 0392 Password: highstreet



Church office
Revd Joe Egan
Revd Ruth Egan

07977 230175 or admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk
07521 513493 or joe@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk
07521 513494 or ruth@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk

www.tringbaptistchurch.co.uk



tringbaptistchurch



High Street Baptist Church

TRING
BREWERY Co.
MARQUEE



BLUES FEST

JULY 16TH
TRING BREWERY MARQUEE
POUND MEADOW TRING HP23 5NG

Food available,
Burgers &
Pizza & Chips

MARK HARRISON BAND

"A Bit Different & Kinda Groovy"
Cery's Mathews Radio 2

LONG ROAD HOME

"Rock-Solid Blues!"

The Shufflepack

"Never Play the Same Thing Once"

TICKETS £15 ADVANCE, £17 ON DOOR DOORS & BAR 12.30 BANDS 13.00 - 16.30



Tickets:
www.bluesbartring.co.uk
www.tringtogether.org.uk
In person Tring Brewery HP23 6HA