

# COMMENT

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCHES IN TRING



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## Editorial



No one who knows me even a little would call me patient. Once I know something needs to be done, I am on it. It's a miracle my husband has stayed with me for so long, this being the case. As soon as the idea is in my head, it has to be acted on. So whether it's planning a holiday, decorating a room, rearranging the furniture or digging a new flower bed, once the idea is hatched, it needs to happen.

Except life is not like that most of the

time. Many things are out of our control and rely on external circumstances or other people. We have to wait...

I am not good at waiting (it goes hand in hand with not being patient!). So I spend the time doing things, preparing, planning, thinking, imagining... praying... oh, and probably talking – just a bit.

So when our lives take a turn which means unpredictability is built in; that expectations are raised only to be dashed; that 'nothing is ever definite' – it is very testing.

Once I would have said that such things are there to teach us patience, to wait, to learn, to listen – and maybe good things will come of all the

frustrations we have experienced in the last few months. But right now, while it is still happening, while there are no certainties and all too many maybes, I can only say that I thank God for friends and family who have been there to support and help and encourage.

Many readers of Comment will be facing much worse circumstances in their lives – the uncertainties may be much more daunting or life-changing. I hope that if you are one of them, you too know the support and love and care (and sense of humour) of those around you, who are the hands and feet and voice of God in your situation.

**The Editor**

## Ethical consuming



In one of my meanders round the internet (I was task-evading as usual) I found an Instagram page called PreachersnSneakers. Set up in America, it shows pictures of some of the

most famous and media-savvy ministers, alongside the cost of their fashionable trainers. I did not even know that you could spend over \$3,000 on what my mum stills calls pumps, let alone why you would want to. Several of those ministers are uncomfortable about this, but it has raised an interesting discussion on how one lives and what one should spend money on. The argument seems to be that the money raised from books published by the ministers can be spent on what they wish; that they are preaching a prosperity gospel; and that some of these are gifts from the manufacturers.

Life is very different in British churches. As yet any books that might be published are still in my head, and not a source of income; the gospel I hear is definitely not the prosperity one; and if we did get any gifts from luxury shops, our first thought would be 'ooh – we could give that as a raffle prize'. I should also declare, in the interests of openness, that my shoes are wide fitting, comfortable little numbers, bought in the sale!

How to be an ethical consumer is an issue for all of us, and is never easy.

I am sure many of you remember the early days of Traidcraft, when the tea and coffee did not taste wonderful, but we soldiered on because it was the right thing to do. Since then the quality and the range has improved dramatically, and fair trade and ethically-sourced items are also much easier to buy elsewhere, as well as more fashionable. Last autumn, when it looked like Traidcraft might go under, I started looking for other suppliers and found a wonderful ethical firm to supply toilet paper – it ticks all the right boxes including reinvesting a percentage of profits in providing clean water supplies in countries round the world. The only issue is the name which was obviously picked to appeal to millennials, but is not a name that fits well in this magazine ('Who gives a c\*\*\*')!

We are urged to look at what we buy as clothing: buying cheap clothes that we see as disposable means that there is a huge amount of waste, and those who make them are paid a pittance. Yet buying far fewer and more expensive items is not an option that is open to all. We can reuse and recycle, and every High Street has plenty of charity shops – yet if we all buy second hand, where does that leave the manufacturers?

I am very uncomfortable about the huge firms that do all that they can to avoid paying tax in the countries where they operate, and boycotting them completely requires more willpower than I have. There is still, however, the method we used in the protest against

Nestle with their promotion of baby milk, which was to stop buying one item, since it is such a big firm. So now any books I buy online I try to get from independent sellers, or the online firms that support them, rather than from Amazon.

'Love one another as I have loved you' is the commandment Jesus has left us and surely this needs applying to all areas of our life, including how we behave as consumers. Together, we need to have the conversations, pass on good ideas and speak out in order to follow that command. So maybe every time we look at our shoes, whether sneakers, brogues or sandals, it can be the reminder we need that the path we take has to be the ethical and moral one, however difficult it is.

**Jane Banister, Tring Team**

### Shoes made for walking

And whatever kind of trainers or walking shoes you wear(!), please join the walkers raising money for Christian Aid on Sunday 19 May, starting out from St Peter & Paul to walk a half marathon around our beautiful parish; or walk the shorter walk between the Churches in Tring. Ask people to sponsor you or sponsor another walker. I will be walking even though my fitness is definitely suspect after two months in plaster! So if you can't find someone else to sponsor, please sponsor me (any sponsorship I raise will be doubled!)

**The Editor**

# Epistle to the Romans



## The longest epistle

One learned commentator described his first contact with the Epistle to the Romans as 'overwhelming', and so it is. It is not only the longest letter; it is also the one with the most theology in it. It is the most studied, the most influential, the most contentious. This last superlative is applicable in that the debate over its main ideas split Western Christendom at the Reformation. All this and more means that while it is the most important of the Pauline writings it is not one to start with. It stands in contrast, for example, to 1 Corinthians where Paul is dealing with problems and issues in a particular church, some of which strike a chord still. But Romans is a long summary of Paul's faith. It sets out his faith in a grand sweep, one might say, rather than dealing with an aspect of that faith, or a problem of morals, or of Christian practice and worship.

## Paul's theology

Paul writes from Corinth to Rome in about 57/58AD to a church he has not yet visited. He was not the founder of the Roman church which seems to have been in existence by the early 50s, having probably received the faith from members of the Jerusalem church. Paul has finished his Eastern Mediterranean mission (Greece and Turkey in modern terms) and wants to launch a major mission to Spain in the far west in those days, a plan he never managed. To do so he would obviously go via Rome. Before visiting the Church there, he wants to present his faith in an anticipatory statement. To a church he has not visited he writes to say 'This is what I believe'. Of course, his personal conversion, the way he has come to faith in Christ, colours all he writes. Though not often put in these terms it is worth remembering how different were the religious experiences of the two pillars and founders of the Roman Church, as they came to be regarded – Peter, a disciple of Jesus for three years, the man who confessed Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, but also one who at crucial moments even denied he knew him; and Paul, a persecutor who had a sudden and dramatic conversion.

## Justified by faith

So from Paul we have this apologia for his life and belief concentrating on what God has done through his Son and how we benefit by our faith in him and yet trying to do justice to the strict Jewish faith in which he was brought up. What matters now is not keeping the Old Law but how all is changed by faith in Christ crucified. Hence the first section of the letter deals with the Righteousness of God revealed through the Gospel. This is the power that brings salvation to every believer, first the Jews and then the Gentiles. We must remember Paul is always trying to balance the fact that the Jews were God's uniquely chosen people with the belief that now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile. God's righteousness is revealed whereby God justifies both Jews and Greeks by their faith in him. Paul goes back both to Abraham and, indeed, to Adam to show God works through faith. It is not by keeping the Law but by faith that we are made right, justified, and this goes on from Abraham. He is the great example of faith in God before any Law was revealed.

## God's amazing grace and love

In Romans chapter 5 Paul shows what is involved in divine love – a willingness to die for those who do not deserve such graciousness. Here Paul maintains sin entered the world through one man and so death spread to all. To explain this he looks back to the story of Adam and it is from here that the idea of 'original sin' arises (though the term only dates to St Augustine in the fourth century). Paul reads Genesis in the light of Jesus and not the other way around. His prime concern is not the sin of Adam but the superabundant grace of Christ. Christ's death annuls the binding power of Mosaic Law. However, although Christ delivers us from death and sin we are still 'creatures of the flesh'. In chapter 7 Paul tells of his great struggle 'I do not

do what I want to do', in spite of the fact we should live according to the Spirit of God who raised Christ. Through this we become children of God and call him Father. This leads on to a splendid and encouraging passage where he puts the question 'If God is for us, who is against us?' He then ends with the great answer 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God and Christ Jesus'. Looking back to his original belief Paul writes about how justification through Christ is reconcilable with God's promises to Israel. Why have the Israelites, who received God's promises through the Law and the Prophets, rejected Christ? Israel looked for righteousness by their deeds in keeping the Law and not through faith in Christ.

## Be model citizens!

In chapters 12 and 13 Paul tries to encourage Roman Christians although he has not met them. It is, of course, the opposite situation to the Corinthians to whom he has just written and whose particular problems he is dealing with. One of the interesting features of this exhortation is the instruction to be subject to the governing authorities (appropriate words to those who lived in the capital of the Roman Empire). The Emperor was regarded as God's servant. (The emperor Nero has not yet shown hostility to Christians!) So Christians are to be model citizens. Attitudes about the Emperor changed when Nero's persecutions in 67AD saw the deaths of Peter and Paul! Acts ended with Paul under house arrest in Rome. The Epistle concludes with Paul's future plans and his hope to go to Spain before a final chapter of greetings to Roman friends – twenty-six are named including a woman addressed as an apostle. Such is a brief introduction to the most profound of the Epistles, which takes a lifetime to appreciate and understand!

**Martin Banister, St Albans Abbey**

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  - AN ENJOYABLE DAY TOGETHER
  - 5 YEAR PLAN FOR THE TEAM
- **LOGISTICS**
  - @CECILIA HALL POTTENHAM
  - EARLYISH START, WORK ALL MORNING AND THEN HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER

# Children's Society Garden Day

## 'You are nearer to God's heart in a garden...'

This famous line from Dorothy Gurney says a lot about our national character; I believe it is undoubtedly true that we Brits enjoy many pleasures in our gardens.

On Saturday 15 June we shall be holding the Annual Box Opening Garden Day in the garden here at Greenways and we very much hope you will be able to come and join us.

This will be our 22<sup>nd</sup> such event since we started holding the annual count of Children's Society boxes at a social event in June 1997 – and it has proved very popular over the years. The idea is that all those generous-hearted



individuals who keep a Children's Society charity box in their homes all year bring them along to be counted and also enjoy hospitality and relaxation with their fellow donors. It's a little bit like the annual round up except without cowboys or sheepdogs!

## Too much fun to give up?

Last year we announced that after 21 years it was time to hang up our gardening shoes and aprons, but we have been rather persuaded otherwise by our ever-loyal band of box-holders (well over 100 still) and our super-energetic helpers. The general view seems to be that it's a day in the seasonal calendar of Tring activities that has become well-established and is much enjoyed. The Children's Society organisers are also very keen for us to continue; so as the Spring sap rises we are going to give it another go. Poor Rachel Brockie, our Children's Society regional contact, has recently fallen off her horse and is rather poorly in hospital so it hardly seems fair to disappoint her!



Hopefully she'll be well enough by June to join in the fun as she usually does. We hope you will join us too.

## Everybody is welcome

You do not have to be a box holder to come along and enjoy the garden. Everybody is welcome and there are stalls selling home-made cakes and preserves, a selection of plants and a bring-and-buy collection together with a dedicated raffle with some splendid prizes.

The main objective is to relax in good company and enjoy catching up with each other. We serve coffee and home-made cakes from 10.00am-11.30am and then from 11.30 onwards switch to some splendid summer wines, a selection of canapés and light lunches.

It starts at 10.00am and ends at 2.00pm for 'last orders' and we very much hope you will find the date convenient to join us. Admission is free but donations are appreciated for coffee and cakes and there is a modest charge for lunch.

If you would like further details about any aspect, please do contact us, and if you'd like to make sure of a table for lunch, it's always helpful to know in advance.

The Children's Society is one of the longest-standing Church of England charities. In today's fractured and



challenging world for young people it has a vital role in joining together social and health services, education and families in a way that supports the individual young people at a most vulnerable time in their lives.

Every penny raised goes direct to Children's Society funds to continue the



good work and Tring has an excellent tradition of being a major supporter of this charity.

The Children's Society is our Parish mission focus during May and June and the Garden Day on the 15 June is the main event.

We look forward to seeing you all to enjoy a good time in good company for a good cause.

**Prue & Grahame Senior**  
**St Peter & St Paul**  
**Tel: 01442 822770**

# Tring: a fairtrade town



## Where can I have a Fairtrade cuppa in Tring?

The short answer is Dunsley Farm Tea Room, Ugly Bug Café (at Tring Museum), Beechwood and The Espresso Lounge are the only places that currently guarantee serving you a Fairtrade cup of coffee.



In preparation for Fairtrade Fortnight Tring's Justice & Peace Group I visited most of the cafés and eateries of Tring to chat about Fairtrade Fortnight and find out who was serving or selling fairly-traded produce. The visits opened up conversations about Fairtrade and raised awareness about labelling and resulted in staff and managers looking

into their products. Sometimes staff quickly went to the lines which they knew were Fairtrade, other times there were confused looks and 'Mmms' as they picked up packaging and wondered what they needed to look for.

There were positive surprises too: Fancy That sells Fairtrade gifts including jute bags and picture frames. The two stand-out examples, with a wide range of products, were Marks & Spencer and Healthfare. Healthfare has gifts as well as a variety of food and drinks.

During Fairtrade Fortnight, the Justice & Peace Group held a display at Tesco and a stand at the Farmers' Market to raise awareness about Fairtrade, encourage Tring-ites to consider opting for Fairtrade, and raise awareness within the community about where to buy Fairtrade goods in Tring and the surrounding villages.

The national campaign during Fairtrade Fortnight focused on a living income for cocoa farmers. A living income means enough money to live a simple but dignified life, paying for essentials such as clothing, medicine and school. We believe this is not a luxury but a human right. You can read more about this and the action you can take at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk).

In May 2019 Tring's Fairtrade Town

status is up for renewal. This is an important time for us to take stock and make sure Tring is doing all we can to make choices which support producers. Over the coming weeks the Justice & Peace Group will be updating the guide to where you can find Fairtrade products locally. Schools and businesses need to be involved too: the tea, coffee and sugar used in these establishments can be Fairtrade!

To encourage the town to be fully aware of the issue of Fairtrade, in April the Justice & Peace Group arranged a talk from David Taylor, of the Fairtrade Foundation, at High Street Baptist Church. The purpose of the talk was to encourage individuals, and organisations, to fully understand the importance of sourcing products that are Fairtrade.



## So what can I do?

Firstly, please do ask about the source of tea, coffee and sugar when you eat

out in Tring. Fairtrade versions of these products are readily available and can make a huge difference to producers all over the world.

Next, we suggest you are pro-active when you go shopping. Find out where you can get a Fairtrade version of the product you need – go to the Co-op for wine, Healthfare for tea or chocolate bars for example.

Finally, please do choose Fairtrade; it really does make a difference!

If you are interested in joining the Justice & Peace Group, please contact Michael Demidecki on 07887 980004/01442 823514 or [michaeldemidecki@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldemidecki@gmail.com).

**Polly Eaton, High Street Baptist Church**



## A Prayer for Fairtrade

Lord, forgive our silence.  
 Forgive our reluctance to speak up for others.  
 Forgive our reliance on goods which have been produced unfairly at the expense of the poor.  
 Forgive our lack of awareness of how our clothes are manufactured and our food produced, and our mistaking unneeded goods for essentials.  
 Lord, enter the silence of our hearts and lift them up with fresh understanding derived from the wisdom contained in your word.  
 May we be ambassadors for Christ in bringing reconciliation between producer and consumer, those exploited and those who benefit from their exploitation.  
 May all our labour be valued and rewarded justly.  
 May our lifestyles reflect a care for creation and humanity.  
 May we appreciate the gift of life and in so doing respect the lives of all God's children.  
 Lord, you reconciled the world to God through your suffering on the cross.  
 May your reconciling power make us one with all who need fairness in their trading and systems which promote justice.  
 Amen.

[www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)





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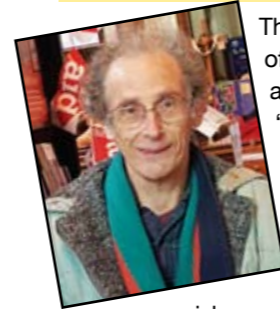
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## Faith



The March meeting of the Men's Society addressed the subject 'What is our faith?; how do we answer when challenged?' This was based on a sermon given in the Tring Team parishes on Luke 8:22-25, the account of the disciples caught in a storm on Lake Galilee, when Jesus had fallen asleep. On awaking and stilling the storm, Jesus asked them 'Where is your faith?'. Clive R said he had a simple faith stemming from John 3:16. The apostle wrote that God so loved the world that he gave us his Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have everlasting life.

Clive G had a general feeling of being protected by someone from above, and that following the Ten Commandments was a good way to live.

David W's faith began as a set of rules, something legalistic (as mine also began). He had neglected John 3:16, but now has that faith in God's love.

I wondered why the experienced fishermen were so afraid, but it does say that water was beginning to fill the boat. Perhaps the storm was unseasonal.

I recounted staying in a hotel on the shore of Galilee. One night there was a thunderstorm and strong winds, and in the morning the hotel terrace was strewn with debris by this unexpected storm.

Martin first really learned about faith issues when he attended confirmation classes in his early teens.

Mike believed that a superior being was looking after him as he had been brought through, amongst other things, three brain haemorrhages; and now funding is in place for his total hip replacement.

Jeremy shared that he couldn't remember ever not believing in God and Jesus Christ, which could be because he was brought up in a Christian family and encouraged to go to Church and be confirmed. He values the comfort of feeling that he can have a relationship with a greater Being and enjoy his protection.

One problem with faith was: is it in God, the Father, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit; which led into a discussion on the Trinity.

The different creeds which set down the content of our faith were aired; although different, sometimes in important aspects, most thought they were written to give a set of beliefs



for all Christians. I said I had been told they were written to highlight differences and show who was orthodox and who were 'heretics'.

Although we shared our beliefs about personal faith, most of the ensuing discussion was about theological or academic faith – one question being about whether this faith could change with history (Henry VIII) or justify women priests? or does faith transcend the everyday developments in life?

Jeremy is investigating visits for us to make in the summer. Previously we had visited other Anglican Churches, museums and the Mini factory. We may be able to visit Edlesborough Church high on its Chiltern bluff.

All men are invited to attend meetings which are usually on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (meals available) at the Half Moon in Wilstone. For details of meetings, including lifts, contact Jeremy, email [jeremybuckman814@gmail.com](mailto:jeremybuckman814@gmail.com).

**Leslie Barker, St Peter & St Paul**

## Smoked salmon pasta

I used to make this swift and simple pasta dish all the time. It was perfect for quick suppers or nice lunches for visiting friends. But after discovering I had a dairy intolerance this dish containing creme fraiche was reluctantly discontinued from my menu plan.

Then my friend introduced me to an oat-based creme fraiche substitute which amazingly turns out to be as good as the dairy version. I'm not being rewarded in any way to promote the Oatly brand but I found it so good I wanted to share. So here it is – my dairy free yummy smoked salmon pasta dish enlivened by red onion cooked in sugar to add tangy sweetness to the dish.

### Ingredients (serves 2-3)

Prep 5 mins, cooking time 12-15 mins  
120g smoked salmon slices  
200ml Oatly Creamy Oat Fraiche or traditional dairy creme fraiche  
1 small red onion, peeled and thinly sliced

2 tpsps sugar  
splash of olive oil  
250g tagliatelle pasta, fresh or dried.

### Method

Add around a tsp of olive oil to a pan on a medium heat then add onion and sugar. Cook gently for around 5-10 mins until the onions become sticky. Don't be tempted to increase heat too much or cook too long or the sugar will burn.

Meanwhile add pasta to boiling water (salt if you wish) and cook as per instructions on packet. Slice smoked salmon into strips.

When cooked, drain pasta thoroughly, stir through onion and salmon being careful to ensure it is well distributed throughout the pasta.

Finally stir through your creme fraiche or substitute and serve with a grind of black pepper.

**Afra Willmore  
St John the Baptist, Aldbury**



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## Marriage: in safe hands



It's becoming a bit of a spring tradition that the Tring Team welcomes future wedding couples to a friendly and marriage-affirming Church service, followed by a get-together to talk about

their wedding plans, finishing with a large lunch. This is becoming an enjoyable annual part of our marriage-ministry and something that is much appreciated by our wedding couples.

This year we ran the event on the 24 March, on a beautiful sunny day, with the Church looking at its best and the wedding couples looking lovely, if a little nervous. We had ten wedding couples from across the team, enjoying meeting new people 'in the same boat', as well as having the chance to ask Michelle and Huw all those questions that they were too nervous to ask before. I led the discussion, Barry cooked a splendid lunch and Tring Brewery provided the beer – what's not to like!

This is the third such event that we've organised, and I am always surprised and delighted by what gets discussed. There is something wonderful about sharing the details of other people's wedding plans and hearing of the amazing care that goes into a wedding. I am guilty of taking it for granted that everyone comes into the Church as much as I do and therefore I expect everyone to know the Church etiquette that I take for granted. But one lovely couple had decided to attend our meeting because they hadn't both been into the Church together before. They were impressed at how lovely it is, they mentioned how good the lighting was and how BIG the Church is. (NB no one paid me to repeat the comment about the lighting!) Another couple asked whether dogs were welcome in Church. That's a tiny question (the answer is yes, if well behaved), but something that had obviously been on their mind.

During the discussion part of the event we asked people to talk in small groups about why they chose to get married in Church. The replies are fascinating, ranging from 'Church and our faith is very important to us and we wouldn't get married anywhere else' to the bluntly honest 'the building will make



Joe and Suzanne

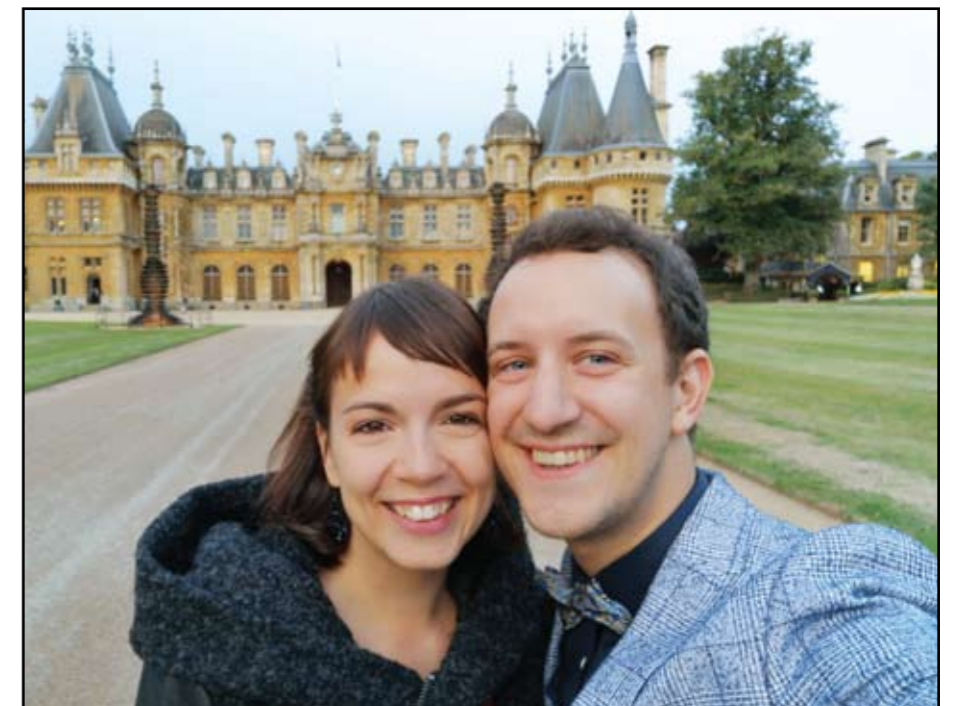
a nice backdrop to the photographs'. All reasons are fine with us... we just want to share the building and share God's love for marriage with everyone who finds their way to the Tring Team Parish.

Over lunch, the couples shared their experiences of their wedding planning so far. One local gents' outfitter has definitely picked up some business following recommendations from around the room. And I was fascinated to hear about the tech solutions that are being used to track RSVPs: one couple had their own website where guests could choose their food, get accommodation recommendations and find the post-code for the reception, all in the one place. Another couple were using [paperlesspost.com](http://paperlesspost.com) to manage their

'save the date' RSVPs because they wanted to be eco-friendly (AND, when an email arrives, it is accompanied by a cartoon pigeon). And hats off to the bride who gathered her bride-supporters together for evenings of hand-applying diamante crystals to their wedding trainers.

However, underneath all the shopping and the 'to do' lists there was an overwhelming spirit of caring for their guests, worrying about relatives travelling from far-afield and wanting to make the day special for them too. All the wedding couples were charming people and I think the future of marriage is safe in their hands.

**Vivianne Child, St Peter & St Paul**



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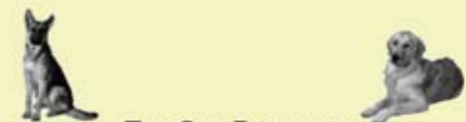
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# Dropping out of church



The number of people attending a Church on a Sunday for an act of worship has been in decline for many years, probably throughout my lifetime, and I am now in my 81st year.

The days when Sunday was seen as a day of rest and for going to Church have long since passed. Do people have less faith today than say 100 years ago? I suspect not; but Sunday is now a day of leisure and high activity and the Church has to compete with that trend for its congregations.

Unfortunately, it would appear that the greatest fall out is among the younger age groups which means that the average age of congregations is rising. However, are there other reasons why people drop out?

I personally have dropped out twice and on both occasions have returned, probably stronger than before. In a previous article I described how I first dropped out of Church when the adult male section of the choir of which I was a member was disbanded in order to accommodate the wishes of a very young and talented organist and choirmaster. The Vicar should not have allowed it to happen, but he did and it caused me to drift away from the Church for a period of ten to twelve years.

During that period I met and married Olga, qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and we had two children. When our daughter was old enough I started to take her to Church for the morning service. We were well received and I was soon invited to re-join the choir and eventually became a Church Warden, a position I held for nine years until, as a family, we moved to Wilstone in 1984.

I accept that this is probably not a common reason for people to drop out of Church but I am aware of it happening to bell-ringers and it can, of course, occur where people do not like the Vicar or the form of service.

In moving to Wilstone I achieved a boyhood dream of owning a house with a large garden, one-and-a-third acres, in fact. Having had a full size allotment at the age of 12, I was not deterred by the size of the garden, but having to commute to Harrow each day to work

meant that there were considerable constraints on how I allocated my time. Something had to give and so began for me and my family another period away from the Church, this time lasting for in excess of twenty years. At that time St Cross Church was only used for services two or three times a month, so for the main festivals we would attend either Aldbury or Tring, but I did not get the 'lift' from those services that I thought I would and we simply became used to not going to Church.

My way back to the Church probably began at the end of 2003 when I underwent a quadruple heart bypass operation at the John Radcliffe hospital. Revd Philippa Seagrave-Pride was the Vicar of Wilstone at the time and, although we were only passing acquaintances, she came to visit me in hospital. As a result we became good friends, although she never pressed me to return to Church and, of course, during 2004 moved away from Wilstone. Although after three months I had recovered well from the surgery, operations of this magnitude leave their mark and I soon began to realise that I could no longer achieve what I had in the past, the garden was becoming too much for me and Olga to manage, and that we would need to consider moving house.

It so happened at the time that sixteen houses were being built in the village behind the Church so we decided to have a look and found them to be to our liking, with a small garden and splendid views over open land at the back. We agreed to buy one and were the first to move in in October 2004. We were now living in the heart of the village and with more time at our disposal, soon began to meet more people, some of whom were involved with St Cross; through those connections we found ourselves being invited to assist at various events and functions and attending the coffee mornings.

When Revd Joanne Wetherall arrived as Team Vicar and introduced weekly services we decided to give our support and from this point gradually became more involved. I was asked if I would assist with the

maintenance of the Church grounds which I was happy to do as I was missing my gardening. Olga became a member of the 'Friends' which in turn led me to become more involved in the day-to-day running of the Church. This did not go unnoticed and the outcome was Revd Jo asking Olga whether she thought I would consider standing for election as a Church Warden. Olga, of course, said yes and so I was invited to stand and was duly elected alongside Andrew Minter who had held the position with distinction for a number of years. Andrew was a great help in allowing me time to re-establish myself in the role but unfortunately after one year he decided to stand down due to failing health. This left me as the sole Warden but, realistically, for a village Church the size of St Cross, one is sufficient.

Revd Jo moved on in 2015 to be replaced by the Revd Didier Jaquet with whom I enjoy an excellent relationship. This, coupled with the help of Olga and secretary Alison, has enabled us to create a good working team.

So, is moving house an important factor in the decline in the size of congregations? Not having done any research in the matter I am not able to answer that question but I believe it is something of which the Church needs to be aware.

**Ken Martin, St Cross, Wilstone**

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# On the eve of war



In the February edition of Comment I wrote about Ilse Rothschild, a German Jewish refugee who in September 1939 was living in what is now our home in Grove Road.

Hers was a rather sad story – probably echoed up and down the country in the lives of those young Jewish people who just managed to flee Germany before the Second World War, leaving friends and relatives behind. However, the family for whom she was working in 1939, and who were also living in Grove Road, opened up another and wider story of Jewish families who had sought refuge in Britain from earlier waves of persecution. Ilse was a mother's help to the family of Salamon Hille, a widowed, retired furniture-maker whose household also included his two married daughters and their husbands, an adult grandson, a housekeeper and one other individual whose record is 'redacted' but whom I believe was almost certainly his six-month-old granddaughter, Cherrill.

Salamon Hille had been born in Lubtz, near Minsk, Russia (now Lubcha, Belarus) – the son of Leiser and Malke Hille. He married Celea in about 1892 but at the time of the census in 1901 he was boarding alone in Mile End, London and working as a boot clicker. This would have involved cutting out

the component parts for boots or shoes, either by hand using a template or by operating a cutting machine. It was a job most often done by younger members of the workforce so it may be that Salamon, aged 31, had taken a fairly lowly job because his English was not yet good enough for more skilled work. However, it appears that he was a talented craftsman because by 1911, by which time the family was reunited and living in Stepney, and following a period during which Salamon had been employed by a wine merchant, he had turned a love of furniture and a hobby as a restorer into a business. He was listed as a cabinet maker and managing director of Hille & Co. Ltd, the company he founded in the East End of London in 1906, initially to renovate and reproduce eighteenth-century furniture. The 'public' story of Salamon Hille and his company is well documented both online and in a book produced to accompany a 1981 exhibition staged at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Having recently spoken to Salamon's granddaughter Cherrill, I have heard how Sir Roy Strong was persuaded that this showcasing of the company's work should mark its seventy-fifth anniversary. I had also discovered early on in looking at the Hille family, that the company pioneered the very first polypropylene stacking chairs – so Tring can boast a connection to these chairs, which many thousands of people all around the world have used in schools, halls and churches.

From my own research, and from talking with Cherrill Scheer, I have found out a good deal more about the Hille family beyond their connection with iconic furniture. Cherrill remembers her mother Rachel talking about how Celea Hille, who had been a silk merchant, fled the pogroms in Russia in 1905 together with her three children, concealed in a hay cart. London provided a new home for the family, and along with very many other Jewish refugees they settled there and worked very hard to build a new life. Both of the Hille daughters married and I have found out that their husbands both also had eastern European ancestry: Minnie's husband Harry Luck was born in Warsaw, Poland and Rachel's husband, Morris Goldman (later known as Maurice Hille), born in Spitalfields, London, was the son of a tailor – Samuel Woolf Goldman – who had been born in Vilna, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania).

Salamon's son Benjamin initially proved much more difficult to trace: he appears on both the family's 1911 census record and also on their naturalisation application that same year. However, he then disappears and it was only having spoken to his niece that this was finally explained. Apparently he emigrated to America sometime between 1911 and 1930, having changed his name to Lionel Conisa – not something I would have been able to trace! Conisa was his mother's maiden name and at least one US record lists him as Lionel B. Conisa, so it would seem that

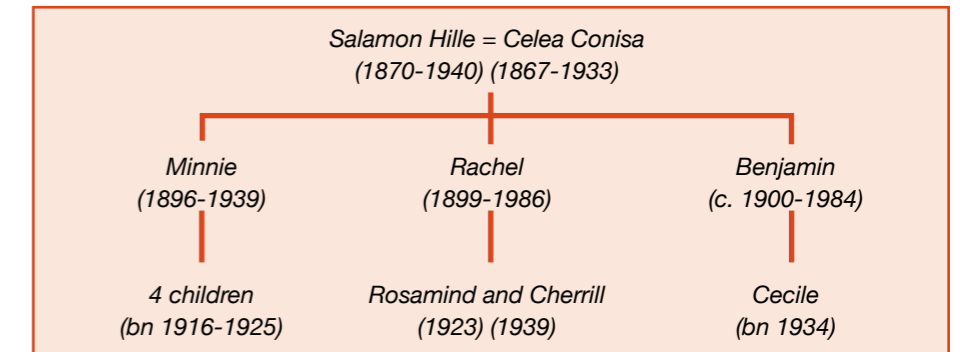
he did keep Benjamin as his middle name. Many other Jewish refugees who initially came to Britain also later went further west to the United States but the departure of businessman Salamon Hille's only son does suggest to me that they were by no means close; it also perhaps explains why Rachel, her husband and their children reverted to her Hille surname. Salamon Hille was a perfectionist by all accounts, 'a despot in his search for excellence', and Benjamin may not have been able to cope with this, while Rachel had 'a precocious talent for drawing and design' from a young age and proved to be a better fit for the family business.

By the 1930s the company had an international reputation and in 1932 Salamon, who was not in good health, retired and Rachel, known as Ray, took over. She had married Maurice Goldman in 1922 and although both listed with this surname in the 1939 Register for Coopersale in Tring, this has been overwritten to show the later change – something that must have been really quite unusual for the time (so unusual was the use of Rachel's abbreviated name that she was wrongly recorded as male!). Salamon's older daughter, Minnie, had married Harry Luck in 1915 and they were also at Coopersale on Grove Road in 1939, along with one of their four children, Cyril Maurice Luck-Hille, a 23-year-old articled clerk. Of their other children, Leslie Luck was 20 and I have not found him anywhere in the 1939 Register, so I suspect he was already overseas: he died in October 1941 in Nigeria, a pilot in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. Basil Michael Luck would have been just under 18 in September 1939 and possibly away at school; after marrying in 1949 he emigrated to California in the 1950s. And Cicely Pamela Luck, known as Pamela, was with her cousin, Ray's older daughter Rosamind: both girls attended North London Collegiate School and had been

evacuated from Edgware to Luton earlier in 1939. I wonder whether this may possibly explain the family's presence in Tring, rather than at the home they had all occupied for a number of years in Bethune Road, Stamford Hill, London. Another explanation may be to do with the ill-health not only of Salamon Hille, but also his daughter Minnie, who died of cancer in Coopersale in Grove Road just four and a half weeks after the 1939 Register was taken; she was only 42 years old.

In 1940 further tragedy struck the

been born in the same Essex town where Maurice Goldman was living in 1922 when he married Rachel Hille (Westcliff-on-Sea). However, it turns out that the Southend and Westcliff area was specifically recommended in the late nineteenth century to those living in the East End of London and whose health was not good. As a result, a Jewish community gradually became established there and it is now one of the foremost congregations in Anglo-Jewry. Leslie Julius's grandfather, Julius Nadelsticher – a London tailor with



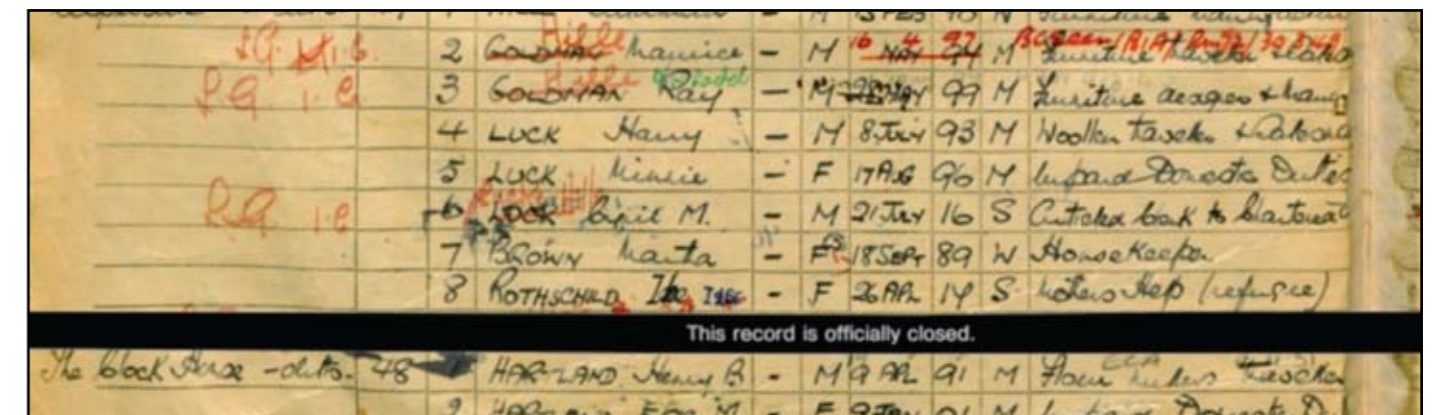
family who had been living in Grove Road: in August Salamon Hille died as a result of a brain tumour, at the family home – 144 Bethune Road, Stamford Hill. Within months this house was severely damaged in a bombing raid and then, in December, Hille & Company's works in Old Street, London were destroyed in the Blitz. Cherrill believes that at this stage the family may have again lived in Tring for a while, possibly in nearby Cow Lane.

After the war the company moved first to Hainault in 1950 and then to Watford in 1951. Hille House, designed by Ernő Goldfinger (who gave his name to the famous James Bond character) is still there, in St Albans Road. Meanwhile, in 1944 Ray Hille's older daughter Rosamind married Leslie Julius, and in 1945 he joined the business. Leslie had been born Leslie Julius Nadelsticher in Essex in 1917. I was intrigued by the coincidence that Leslie had apparently

a wonderfully appropriate surname – arrived in Britain from Shedlitz (now Siedlce), Poland between 1887 and 1890. While some of the members of this family Anglicised their surname to Needlesticher, Leslie dropped it altogether in favour of his middle name. Both Rosamind and Leslie were key figures in the development of Hille furniture, while Ray's other daughter Cherrill joined the company in the same year and eventually became the marketing manager.

So from distant parts of Europe, three Jewish émigré families, the Hilles, Lucks and Goldmans, all found their way to London and, forty or fifty years later, members of these families – now part of one extended family – were living in our house in Tring, and a number of them went on to make a significant contribution to the history of British furniture design.

**Nicky Bull, High Street Baptist Church**





## Hospitality, Methodist style



St Martha's recently hosted All Saints' Church in Berkhamsted for a wonderful afternoon tea. A variety of sandwiches were followed by cakes galore, all provided for us by the wonderful Jean and her helpers. Even the tea cosies were all different with their own special character.

The event was planned following a request from All Saints' that they would like to come and see our new extension and it seemed right to put our kitchen

properly into action.

Entertainment was also provided, with a couple of songs from the musicals, an amusing reading about trying to give a cat a tablet, a poem by Charles Wesley, a piano solo and a song from a scratch choir. A 'name the logo' quiz tested our brains alongside a 'name that hymn' quiz (could we identify the hymn tune played in a different and unique way?).

It was a lovely afternoon and an opportunity to talk to people we had not seen for some time. Our thanks to all involved.

**Rachael Hawkins**  
**St Martha's Methodist Church**



## International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated in March, a celebration of fearless, revolutionary, passionate and yet suffering women everywhere. Whilst there are many inspiring women written about in the Bible, it is fair to say that they do not always get the recognition they deserve, as opposed to their male counterparts.

As well as biblical women, whose legacies still live on today, there are many other modern day heroines equally as deserving of commemoration. Maya Angelou, for example, one of the first significant African-American poets, has left her mark in history. Many of her poems are inspired by Christianity, as well as her own life. Born in 1920s America and abused as a child, she wrote her way to revolution and achieved over thirty honours and countless awards. Her most famous poems include: *Still I Rise*, *Phenomenal Woman* and *On the Pulse of the Morning*.

Another woman from history whose achievements ought to be celebrated is Emmeline Pankhurst. Perhaps to most,

her name is just that – a name, but she's arguably the person responsible for the freedom in democratic voting that women have today. Leader of the infamous suffragette party and known Christian, her militant leadership secured the voting rights for all women by 1928 and she left her mark in history as the epitome of resilience, defiance and power. She is remembered as a fearless and triumphant leader who broke down barriers and set a new precedent.

Aside from the fields of literature and politics, women like Katherine Johnson dominate the fields of maths and engineering. Born into a racist Southern America in the early 20th Century, Katherine Johnson played a significant role in taking humans to space. She was employed as a physicist and mathematician at NASA during the 60s and faced relentless discrimination whilst working there. Segregated workplaces and bathrooms miles away wouldn't deter her efforts however and it is largely thanks to her and women of her division that the men got all the way to space.

There are countless more women from history and the modern day that could be mentioned here, all of their achievements just as inspiring and revolutionary; however there are also so many women from the Bible who also hold a place in history. Mary Magdalene, Ruth, Esther, Abigail and Hannah are merely a few examples of women from Christianity who are emblems of making do in bad situations and being diligent to create change, despite the way of the world.

We can learn so much not only from modern-day women but also those lost to the pages of the Bible. There is no shortage of ruling, powerful women in the Bible, yet also those who have had their fair share of hardship. Perhaps it is equally as important that they are remembered too. After all, according to the Bible, 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus'.

**Evie, Year 10, Tring Park School**

## Postcard from the edge



We really are on the edge of the country here – the local trains are Greater Anglia and we live in between the two last stations on the line, so we've effectively moved from one side of East Anglia to the other! We're still only a short distance from Tring, but seem to be a lot further from our families and the universities that Cat and Nat go to.

To be honest I thought that it would be really easy moving from one place to another – it's not as though we've never done it before! I thought the kids would all be really happy too – to live by the sea and have an endless choice of beaches to try out! To be honest, even on a grey and wet day, there is nothing more relaxing than heading out to the prom to listen to and watch the waves crashing down on the beach or the rocks – and then seeing a tiny seagull bobbing around on the waves! I'm surprised that they don't get seasick, it's not something I ever had to contemplate before. Being here and having the time to sit and contemplate is a real gift. It makes me so aware of the power and majesty of God and also makes me realise how small I am in the universe.

Adapting to new things has been interesting. When you've lived in Tring for a while I think you start to take for granted the fact that it's a smallish market town where everybody seems to know everyone. I'm still a little surprised after six months that I have to explain who we are and what the name of our church is. Here there is

very much a culture of passing through, unless you're retired! I've lost count of the number of people who ask me how I'm enjoying retirement! My mum took early retirement at 50, but I still haven't reached that age so I'm wondering if Tring keeps you young and Frinton makes you look older?! Whenever I go into the shops people here don't seem to remember who you are, as they did in Tring, and that always seems to hit a sore spot with me. I remember years ago when I worked in London and attended Holy Trinity, Brompton, every week – and without fail, every week someone would ask me if it was my first Sunday there... I left after six months and found a Baptist Church instead. As churches I hope we've moved on from that way of welcoming folk each week.

I really missed the Tring World Day of Prayer group this year. That in particular made me feel a little homesick! The 'Can-do, and definitely Will-do' attitude that Tring has is incredible. The way in which Churches Together in Tring works is also amazing! I'm still getting used to all the different churches here and I'm hoping that by the first Friday in March next year I'll be able to take part and that people will recognise me a little bit.

By the time you read this, you will have done the yearly trek to St Albans on Easter Monday – our thoughts will have been with you in spirit! We will have done the local Pier to Pier (and back) Walk raising money for a local hospice here. It will only have been 14 miles [The Editor is cringing at that word 'only' as she contemplates the same distance in aid of Christian Aid!] and will also have been on a much easier terrain than the Easter Monday Walk!



I feel so fortunate to live in a beautiful place and I think I've mastered the language here – although at work they always question my short vowel pronunciation and think that it's hilarious!

Our church, Homelands, is a really great place. We have a good location in that it's in a little shopping centre and are surrounded by houses and Old People's Homes. Our aim is to reach out to everyone locally and to be in the heart of the community. A large number of the congregation are retired folk from the East End so many of them have only been here a few years. There are very few who have actually grown up here and been here a while.

We're blessed with a number of retired clergy and also a fair few retired missionaries. So we feel part of an interesting crowd of people with all backgrounds and experiences. We feel that as we care for those around us, we in turn are being cared for too.

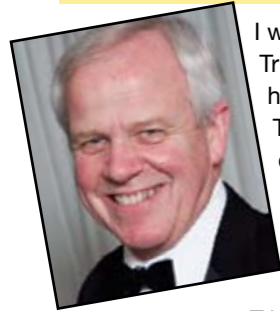
Please pray for us as we continue to reach out to those who need us. Pray for our family as we each come to terms with new ideas and new ways of doing things. College hasn't been a massive success for Ellan, so pray as we find ways of getting round that and the consequences for her as it means she's not meeting new people and making new friends. Pray for the Frinton Mission which will take place in the summer under the umbrella of Frinton Area Churches Together.

So the question is: Will you come and visit? We'd love to see you and welcome you to this part of the world, where you can see the sea every day and feel the wind in your hair!

**Kate Openshaw**  
**ex-New Mill Baptist Church**



# A life in Tring with music



I was born and bred in Tring – my father and his father also lived in Tring and my mother came from East Ham in London.

My father, Roland Stevens, was Choirmaster at Tring Parish Church in 1956 and, for a while before that, at St Mary's, Northchurch. It was at St Mary's that my musical activities started as a choirboy, aged 5. I also started having piano lessons at age 5, with Mrs Wallace, the wife of the owner of a (long gone) sweet shop at 54 Western Road.

At age 14, I joined the Tenor section of Tring Choral Society, conducted at that time by my father, and when the regular accompanist Edward Bell (my father's cousin) was taken ill, I became the Society's rehearsal accompanist and organist for performances. In those days, we rehearsed in the (now demolished) Methodist Church in Langdon Street.

An illustrious five years at Hemel Hempstead Grammar School led to me leaving at age 16 and taking five-year Articles of Clerkship (as they were then known) with a firm of chartered accountants in Berkhamsted.

Whilst in the fourth form at school,

I was offered the position of organist at Tring – my father had introduced me to the organ as soon as my legs were long enough to reach the pedals! As an articulated clerk I was earning less than £4 per week and in place of a salary for organ playing, the church, very thoughtfully, offered to pay for me to have organ tuition at Trinity College in London on Saturday mornings. I studied there with Geoffrey Hanson and emerged clutching a diploma.

Two years later I qualified as a chartered accountant. Jane and I were married in 1971 and, as family and work expanded, I had to give up the regular weekly commitment as organist and, by then, Choirmaster at Tring Parish Church – handing over to Keith Pearce who took the choir to great heights. Believe it or not, for several years we had more than thirty boys in the Church Choir!

My father became unwell in 1974 and I was asked to take over conducting the Choral Society. I jumped at the opportunity and we started performing larger-scale works using orchestral accompaniment in 1976.

In my business life, I was fortunate to be offered a partnership with Grant Thornton. I worked within the Oxford Group, based in Aylesbury, for fourteen years before another stroke of good

fortune found me working as Finance Director for a small but rapidly growing public company in high-technology electronics distribution. We eventually had businesses all over the world and I had to plan very carefully to avoid being away from home on Monday evenings!

The business never stopped growing and ended up employing 3,500 people. In 1991 the company was acquired by the German power conglomerate E.On and after a further eight years 'commuting' to Dusseldorf, I decided to retire – I was rarely at home, rarely in the UK (other than on Monday evenings) and was in the happy position of being able to choose to spend more time at home pursuing my musical interests. These included a new adventure performing a tribute show to Flanders & Swann with Mike Bernstein and lots of two-piano work with Margaret Flanigan.

What else do I do apart from musical things? Well, we have four children and several grandchildren all of whom we see regularly, I'm pleased to say. I also have one or two small residual business interests and for the last fifteen years or so I have been Chairman of Tring Charities – an Almshouse Association that manages thirty properties in the town.

**Colin Stevens, Music Director  
Tring Choral Society**

# Who is Syrie Barnardo?

Most people have heard of Thomas Barnardo, but who is Syrie Barnardo and what did she do?

The story of Dr Barnardo setting up a ragged school and residential homes for disadvantaged boys at the end of the 19th century has been told many times. It's even taught in schools. One of our Comment readers, Roy Hurley, was in fact a Barnardo's boy and told us his story a while ago.



*Dr Thomas Barnardo, Syrie Barnardo and their daughter Marjorie in 1905*

While his wife, Syrie Barnardo, played a crucial role in the growth of the charity, in Victorian society it wasn't considered 'proper' for women to seek the limelight so most of us haven't heard of her.

Sara Louise Elmslie, known as Syrie, married Dr Thomas Barnardo in 1873. A fellow philanthropist, she was just as interested and dedicated to social care for children as he was. At the time, it would not have been appropriate for an unmarried man to provide care to girls, but following their marriage, the couple were able to establish the first Barnardo's home for girls.

A philanthropist in her own right, Syrie had already set up her own ragged school, and her marriage in 1873 paved the way for the charity's work helping girls – a legacy that continues to this day.

Described by her contemporaries as 'determined', it was Syrie's involvement that led to the opening of the first girls' home in 1876. She helped to create a group of cottage homes, as well as a school, Church and hospital, at what became known as the Barnardo's Girls Village Home in Barkingside, Essex.

Without her, an estimated 8,000 girls who lived, learned and played there would have remained in the slums of London's East End, begging and at risk of ill health and exploitation.



*Girls reading at the village in 1927*

The girls who came to the village not only had somewhere safe to grow up, but were given opportunities to develop and thrive.

They were often helped to find employment and many trained as nursery nurses, paving the way for us to pioneer the first nursery-nurse training scheme.

### Recognition of her legacy

After the death of Dr Barnardo in 1905, Syrie continued to play a crucial role in

the growth of the charity until her death at the age of 96, in 1944. To celebrate Syrie and her contributions to the charity, and as part of our 150th anniversary in 2016, a rose was specially bred and dedicated to her. The Sweet Syrie rose is a tribute to the legacy of Syrie Barnardo.

It's only a shame that her achievements and the impact she had on the lives of thousands of young girls didn't get the limelight she deserved at the time.

**Barnardo's press release**



*Girls at the gates of the village*

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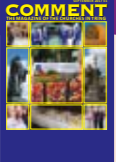

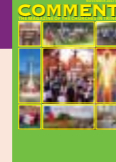


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**COMMENT**

The magazine of the Churches in Tring

Please submit your article to the Editor by the 1st of the month.  
Aim for 400 or 800 words and please send a head and shoulders colour photo or jpg and any other photos in high resolution.  
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## Inspiring Bible characters



**A Nobody (name not known)**  
This is about a man who played a very small part in the Bible story so we have no name or connection; nor do we know if he was a believer in God; yet what he said in about one minute had enormous consequences for the future of mankind and he certainly would have had no idea of the significance of what he said. In case this puzzles you, it is based in Genesis chapter 37:15-17.

Joseph (another great hero for us) had been sent to find his brothers and our 'Nobody' put him on the right track, having eavesdropped on their conversation and knowing where his brothers were going.

We all know the events which followed when Joseph met up with his brothers: he was put in a pit to die; bought by merchantmen; sold as a slave in Egypt; unjustly thrown into prison; promoted to the second highest position in the land; reunited with his brothers; his whole family settle in Egypt; the exodus under Moses, leaving the land many years later; the conquest of the Promised Land by the nation into which, years later, Jesus was born.

It would not be right to ask 'What if?' about anything in the past or speculate on what could have happened, but this was no coincidence for a 'Nobody' to start a train of events which continued to the time when God stepped into human history to save mankind.

We shall never know the consequences of some of the apparently insignificant things that happen to each one of us on a daily basis, let alone the really major events in our lives, but this very short incident (which is probably not rated very highly in the Bible narrative, even if it is known) tells me that we shall never know the consequences of a word here or an action there, but if we live in the will of God and trust him fully, I believe he can use us for good in this suffering, confused world.

This 'Nobody' was used by God for a very special purpose. Maybe God has a special purpose in what we say or do to make known his great plan of salvation.

**John Young**  
Akeman Street Baptist Church



**Gideon**  
Having written a piece on the work of GideonsUK last month, it's maybe not surprising that I've chosen Gideon as the Bible character to whom I feel some affinity!

His story can be found in Judges chapters 6 and 7.

Writing to the Corinthian church, the Apostle Paul said: '[T]he foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength... think what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise... not many were influential, not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1 Corinthians 1:26-27).

This principle can be seen at work throughout the Bible – and indeed the whole history of the church. Time and again God chooses the most unlikely people to be instruments of his will. Gideon is an excellent example of this. I can identify with him on many levels: he was timid, hesitant and fearful. Not someone cut out for heroics. He then gets a call from God to lead an uprising against the oppression of the Midianites. He must have been petrified. This may be why he asks God for not just one but three miraculous proofs to confirm that this call was genuine. Hardly a great example of faith! To make things worse, Gideon sees his army reduced from 32,000 to just 300. What a crazy thing for God to do! But here is God's 'foolishness' at work; by using crafty tactics Gideon's small force was able to scatter the enemy and bring deliverance, where a larger force fighting a pitched battle would probably have been defeated.

All this must have been a transforming and life-changing experience for Gideon. His story can be an encouragement for us. Like Gideon I guess most of us are timid and a bit scared as we try to live out Jesus' call to discipleship in a world whose values are so often at loggerheads with those of the Kingdom of God. Let's pray that God will work through our many weaknesses and with his power bring something of his



**Thomas**  
Probably my favourite biblical character is Thomas. Thomas is the patron saint of India and Sri Lanka and the city of Pula in Croatia. His name means 'twin'. He is often called Doubting Thomas and that is one of the reasons I like him – who wouldn't doubt the story of a man rising from the dead?

But he could also be called Whole-hearted Thomas. There is also a touch of Eeyore about him (the pessimistic donkey in Winnie-the-Pooh).

He appears in all of the Gospels in the list of the Twelve Apostles but it is in John's Gospel that we get to know him. In John 11:16 he rather cryptically says to his fellow apostles, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' when Jesus says he is off to see Lazarus. When Jesus himself says in John 14:5, 'And you know the place where I am going,' Thomas replies, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus then said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'

The most famous incident involving him is when Thomas is not with the rest of the disciples when, after his Resurrection, Jesus appears to them in the Upper Room. When told of this Thomas said he needed visual and tactical proof of the Resurrection before he believed. A week later he gets exactly that and exclaims, 'My Lord and my God' (John 20:28).

Doubt is a part of life for most Christian people. Thomas is not the only significant doubter in the New Testament. Even John the Baptist doubted. He sent messengers to Jesus asking, 'Are you he who is to come (ie the Messiah) or shall we look for another?'

Forget the probably: he is definitely my favourite New Testament character – our eldest son is called Thomas.

**Jon Reynolds, Tring Team**

# How to create a Church magazine



I was 18 when I first had anything to do with a Church magazine and what I remember was realizing how important it was to catch people's interest, whether in the story heading or the way a story was told. I was asked to help then because I was supposedly good at spelling and grammar – and I am still 'old school' and care about the use of apostrophes; using 'different from' not 'different to'; 'fewer people' not 'less people'; the use of the subjunctive: 'If I were' not 'If I was'.

I was asked to help with Comment magazine five years ago for the same reason: 'Would you proofread Comment for us?' I didn't hesitate to say YES.

I don't pretend to be creative and admire people who write compelling stories and have books published. But I am well practised, at least, (note the use of the s in practised for the verb and the c – practice – for the noun!) in proofreading and grammar.

Comment had originally been the magazine of the Parish Church in association with St Martha's, the Methodist Church, for historical reasons. (Please let me know if you know how this came about and how long ago it happened.) By the time I became involved it was clear, at least to me, that it would make more sense to include other churches if they were willing. We are, after all, the body of Christ, whatever style of worship we prefer, the nuances of our theology or the shape of the building in which we worship. In those first few months, Comment 'morphed' into the magazine of the churches of Tring and the villages.

There seem to me to be several main avenues to walk if you want to plan content – and yes, whatever it looks like or however we may fail, there really is a plan!

## Events

We want to write about events in advance so people are informed and come to those that will interest them and which they might enjoy. We want reports afterwards that tell us how good they were so others will want to come next time or catch up on what they missed.

For me, the best reports include why the meeting was good, what it meant to the writer of the article, what effect it had on them. Interestingly the young people who wrote recently about Fort Rocky ticked all those boxes!

If you attend any church group or meeting and would like to tell us about it, PLEASE do! Someone once said to me 'Why do you always include the Men's Society but not the ones I go to?' The answer is simply that we are nearly always sent an article from the Men's Society on time but rarely do they come from other groups. They don't have to be a long essay – just sum up in a few paragraphs why you enjoyed it and I will print them.



## People

I am particularly interested in people and I suspect you are too, especially if it's someone you think you know a bit but an article tells you much, much more. I would much rather hear interesting things about people now when I can engage them in conversation about it than at their funeral when I realise I didn't know them at all!

It has been great to hear about Wendy Hinds and Michael Demidecki's achievements and also the stories of Peggy Cooper, Douglas and Lilian Purse and Rosemary Duck. Pam Cockerill, Roy Hurley, Kate Openshaw, Vicky Baldock and Rosemary Berdinner wrote stories about their childhoods that roused lots of interest (and caused old friends to get in touch again afterwards). Jenny Revell wrote about her guide dogs and Jenny Hoare about her sheep. Pamela Everton wrote about The Salvation Army, John Allan about being an oblate at a Catholic monastery, Chris Hoare about bell ringing; Ian Ogilvie writes entertaining stories about the places he has visited all over the world as an Anglican priest; we have welcomed

new ministers to Tring and seen them leave us. Hannah Asquith and Gill Kinsey wrote about God guiding them to the jobs they are in. Nicky Bull writes regularly about our responsibilities to our planet, Polly Eaton about Fairtrade and our responsibilities to others in need and Leslie Barker about refugees. There have been countless interesting stories about your families who have been involved in wars... and about weddings, tragedies, illness, childlessness, fostering, adoption, births and bereavements.

I am always intrigued to be reminded how many people from Tring and the villages not only live here, they have lived here for ever, and sometimes so have their families. As a migrant from Middlesex, who has barely been back to my roots except for weddings and funerals of relatives, it catches me when I hear the stories of people who have been here as long as Pam Cockerill or John Bly and his family. Recently we learned that the ancestors of the Cockerills have also lived here for generations. If you have stories of your family's relationship with Tring because you are not just passing through, not only I but many others would like to know about it! We see Tring changing around us but your stories bring that to life.

## Faith

We have included faith stories and faith journeys and how our faith affects us when troubles come (and would love to have more), your favourite hymns and stories about hymn writers; book reviews and film reviews; different denominations and the nuances about what we share in common and what divides us; the stories of saints, ancient and modern; styles of worship from Taizé to the Book of Common Prayer; what matters most to each of the churches in Tring and the villages and how they aim to welcome those who are old friends and those who come into our churches for the first time. We have looked at the ways things have changed over generations of worshipping in Tring and how people feel about those changes. We have explored Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest; baptism, marriage and funerals; the changing role of women in the ministry.

## Issues

We have had Brexit, homelessness,

loneliness, justice, conservation, global warming, climate change, the Grenfell Tower tragedy, refugees, trafficking, slavery, gender, the role of women, poverty, attachment theory, mental health issues, science and faith... We have promoted charities who deal with issues close to home and those on the other side of the world.

If your own concern has not yet been addressed, please let me know and tell me how we can do it in this magazine.

## Be a reporter!

I am a regular member of the Parish Church and the people there are accustomed to me highjacking their story for Comment! But if I have never spoken to you or you attend a different service or a different Church, we are all missing

out. If you are reading this and know someone with a story to tell, please be a reporter. Encourage them to write it. Help them to write it. Share it with us all.

## Be a guest Editor

Would you like to be Comment's Editor for a month? Would you like to plan the content or suggest themes or help in any other way? Don't wait to be asked – we would welcome your contribution to keep Comment relevant and interesting. We don't aim to be sensational or even very controversial – we try to get views on both sides of any argument – but we do try to stimulate, challenge and inform. If we fail to do that for you, please help us to do it better.

**Annette Reynolds, St Peter & St Paul**



# A curate in waiting



What a year! As many of you know, I will be joining you from 1 July as Assistant Curate and I cannot wait! I won't repeat the personal detail I gave you in my previous introduction, however, needless to say things have been pretty manic in preparation for our move over to Tring.

In the next couple of months I will be resigning from my full time job in Human Resources, renting out our current house, the kids will be changing school and our lives will take on a whole new perspective. Huge stuff, and I couldn't be more pleased about it. It's not all been plain sailing and we're not quite there yet; however, I can say that throughout it all, I have been very aware of God holding us.

Every bump in the road, he's been there. Every tear that's been shed, he's been there. Every celebration and joy, he's been there. God has knocked over every barrier and pushed open every closed door. He truly has been our strength and joy, our rock and anchor. This is why I had an anchor embroidered on to my ordination stole; whatever the storms of life, God is the constant: he will keep us safe.

Training as a curate has been an enriching experience in so many ways. At the very beginning you are told to expect 'formation' and if truth be told I didn't quite comprehend what to expect

from this statement. However, over the last three years I now have come some way to understanding. Certainly my knowledge of scripture and various theological debates has deepened, as has my practical experience, but I felt something far more intense going on.

This will be hard to translate into words, as it is more of an overall feeling, but I feel that my whole being has been profoundly moved, as though the Holy Spirit has been preparing me for what is to come. Some of this was especially apparent during my time working as a hospital chaplain at Watford General Hospital over the last year. Being invited to sit with people during their most vulnerable moments is an incredibly humbling experience. Praying, chatting, laughing, listening or just simply being with people, has opened my eyes to just how important the pastoral care we all give to our neighbours is to our ministry.

As I reflect on my journey so far, never before have Jesus' words in the Gospel of Matthew (chapter 6, verse 25) been truer, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life', and I've felt that my faith in this has really been put to the test! Jesus asks us to have faith in God, to trust that he knows what's best for us, to focus on the Kingdom of God and, as St Julian of Norwich said, 'all manner of things shall be well'.

I have always felt reassured by these words and Chris, Samuel, Noah, Teddy the dog and I are hugely excited to begin our new lives in Tring, serving the people of the parish and building lifelong relationships through Christ.

See you all soon and if you're free on 30 June at 11.15, you'd be very welcome to attend my ordination at St Albans Cathedral.

**Sarah Marshall, soon to be Tring Team**



## Faith and physics

I am a physicist – and a paid up member of the Anglican Communion. I am sometimes accused of being irrational, and going against the basic modus operandi of my academic discipline – adherence to the Scientific Method as the best way to learn about the world, or, to put it another way: how we think we know, that we know, what we know!

The Scientific Method reveals that all scientific knowledge is to some extent provisional. No matter how much evidence can be mustered in favour of a theory, just one validated false prediction is enough to realise that the theory in question cannot be the whole truth.

I want to draw a distinction between faith and belief. For me belief is stronger than faith for it relies on evidence.

I have never seen an electron. I do have direct experience of some of the evidence that electrons do indeed exist. I also know of many scientists who have investigated the matter and also accept the reality of electrons. Accepting the reality of electrons makes sense of so many things I know about the world: understanding how light bulbs work, why materials have different strengths, what happens in a chemical reaction, how a digital camera takes and preserves an image. In fact, almost everything we are aware of depends upon what electrons are doing.

Scientists no longer doubt the existence of electrons. Is a belief in God in any way like my belief in electrons? Can I use scientific arguments to defend a belief in God?

Let's look at one argument based on physics for the existence of God. For planet Earth to support life depends, amongst many things, on the very precise nature of an esoteric and extremely feeble nuclear interaction taking place deep inside our Sun. It has to be precisely right for conditions here on Earth to be suitable for life to exist. Surely this is too much of a coincidence? For some this means that the odds are stacked heavily in favour of God. Although it may be hard to believe in God, taking everything scientifically into account, it is even harder not to believe in God.

The trouble with this type of argument is that it ignores the consequences of the fact that as time goes by, scientific knowledge improves. The basic aim of fundamental physics

is to unify our understanding of the physical universe. As our theories develop, by trying to falsify them we find that many apparent coincidences – and much fortuitous behaviour – can be explained. They come to be understood directly as a consequence of the laws and principles of physics.

So I do not need to accept the existence of God to understand the way the world around me 'works'. What I have found intolerable is that we, as investigators of the world, could be explained in essentially the same way. Human beings are more than just the functioning of an intricate set of scientific laws.

As we understand more about our scientific selves, as we delve further into molecular biophysics, as we find that the strangeness of quantum theory appears to be vital for life, we marvel at the subtlety of it all. But this in itself is not, for me, evidence for God. It seems to me that there are aspects of being human that cannot be understood, let alone predicted, even if we had a perfect understanding of how all the physical bits of us worked.

For me there would be no meaning to life if it were only to be understood in scientific terms. Delving into scientific mysteries is not the way to know if there is a God.

However, God does not exist just because I find a world without a God intolerable. God does not exist just because I want him to exist. On the contrary, I can only exist because God wants me to. For me, God is revealed by my interaction with others; in the circumstances when God acts through others on my behalf or through me for the benefit of others.

There was a lady living in London – she had two sons. The eldest was doing very well at school, but was unsure what he wanted to do next. Although no one from the family had been to university, his mother was very keen for him to go, and worried that he might miss the opportunity and come to regret it. She prayed for guidance. Her younger son was having a holiday in the care of a family friend who happened to be a monk at a monastery. The younger son was quite unaware of his mother's anxiety. I was also staying at the same monastery on a personal retreat. At the time I was not a confirmed Christian,

although I was exploring what such a commitment might mean for me. My questioning and search sprang from my dissatisfaction with science as the only explanation of the world around me.

My experience at the monastery, and the fact that I had been guided there by someone who understood something of my needs, I now see as God's way of helping me through others. Both the younger son and I were due to end our stay at the monastery on the same day. As he lived not far from where I intended to go, his temporary guardian asked me if I would give him a lift home in my car. When we arrived, his mother insisted that I stay to tea as a way to say thank you for bringing her son home. Over tea she began to talk about her older son, and her worries about his future. 'Wasn't it unwise to pass up the opportunity to go university?' she asked. She was not to know that not only did I work in a university, but that one of my responsibilities as a lecturer was as admissions tutor for my department. I counselled her that a gap year was often a positive advantage, and that in any case he could apply for a place and, if successful, could ask for it to be deferred for a year. This proved to be a course of action that satisfied all concerned.

Through me God had answered the woman's prayers. Of that she had no doubt whatsoever. This is the sort of happening that shows me that God is real.

Often we may never know the significance that our actions and words have for others, but they can, and do, reveal much about the reality of God, just as the actions of others can confirm his reality for us.

To return to those electrons and God... I have evidence for both – so belief in both makes the world easier to understand. I know many others whose belief in either electrons or God (or both!) bolsters my beliefs – I do not need to be acquainted with all the evidence for either electrons or God myself, to come to accept both as ways to understand how I experience the world. In fact, I'm sure more people are brought to a belief by exposure to it, rather than by argument for it. If argument alone is all that was needed, then perhaps many more scientists might believe in God?

**Dr Richard Marshall**

## The past is another country

Living behind and above a shop was an experience a little different from most of my friends. My grandfather, John Gower, was an oil merchant and hardware dealer at 56-7 High Street, Tring. When my father, Archie Gower, moved there in the 1920s, there was no running water and no electricity. We had a large yard with many warehouses, a brick building which had a bakery in the cellar and a loft entered by a ladder in the yard which contained mats and light fittings. There was a two-storey stable at the end of the yard which had a high wooden side perfect for playing tennis against. We had a swing in one of the open warehouses and a wonderful seesaw made by my uncle. I was put inside the crates when they arrived in the horse and cart so that I could hand out the lovely crockery and I measured out soda into bags.



One side of us lived Mr Singlehurst, the butcher, who had a slaughterhouse where he killed pigs; on the other side was the Co-op with little cups on a wire



that were sent round to the till.

We played in the hayfields where Mortimer Hill is today. Mr Stuart's nurseries were on the left and at the top was a paddock and a path leading to Grove Park surrounded by a beautiful wild flower meadow. We also played in the streets of Tring Triangle: spinning tops, hoops and fairy cycles, marbles for the boys and skipping for the girls.

Running up to school at Tring Junior Mixed (our headmistress was Miss Baker who terrorised generations of Tring schoolchildren), we passed a butcher, grocer, garage, Mrs Wheeler's clothes shop, the Church Square, shoe shop, Brown and Merry, another butcher, greengrocer, jeweller, newsagent, wool shop (Mrs Smithson was a harridan!), Mr Gates' toy shop, barber, The George, opticians, chemist and another shoe shop. Past the school was Mrs Castle's sweetshop, Luck the Ladies outfitters, the hairdressers and a general store. Tring was full of shops – and that was just one side of the road.

Our gentry were the formidable Miss Vaiseys who had their own pew at church and held the Youth Club in their house. They were named after flowers: Violet, May, Iris, Margaret, Lily, Veronica and Olive. Miss May married the curate in Tring before my time and moved away. They also had the 'deserving poor' to tea: I don't think I did their aspidistra much good by the cups of bitter coffee I poured into it and I wasn't invited again after breaking a croquet mallet and hiding it in the hedge. Lord Walter Rothschild gave out the Sunday School prizes and I remember receiving them from him.



Going to the Parish Church in the 1930s meant wearing a hat if you were female. Confirmation meant wearing a white dress and veil and taking Holy Communion at 8.00am before breakfast. We had Matins at 11.00am but children left before the sermon; Sunday School was in the afternoon and Evensong in the evening. The Church was packed for both Matins and Evensong. We felt very superior to Chapel children.

We attended King's Messengers from age 8 which was held in the Church House. We knitted vests for the 'poor heathen children overseas' and prayed for them and sang hymns. I enjoyed the plays we put on most of all, sometimes with music by Roland Stevens (father of Colin) who was then about 16.

We were allowed to go for a walk on Sundays but not to play out; my mother would not knit or sew. I knew all the canticles and the Te Deum by heart. For a while I became a bellringer, taught by Nathan Brackley. Later I joined Young Wives and Mothers' Union. My contemporaries were Peter Minall, later Vicar of Stroud (who was the nephew of Lord Rothchild's taxidermist, Alfred Minall) and Bob Metcalfe. Peter was a forerunner of FOTCH, appealing to the people of Tring to help raise funds to maintain St Peter & St Paul's after the war.

I was baptised in St Peter & St Paul's Church where until recently, I sung in the Choir and wrote the names in the Book of Remembrance. But when I came to be married there I was told that 'mixed marriages' were not acceptable: Norman, my husband to be, was that most shocking of things – a Methodist – and had to be confirmed first!

**Grace Hodge, St Peter & St Paul**

## A locum-ing we will go...



Barcelona was another stop in our holiday locum trail, perhaps better known for the Olympics and the famous Las Ramblas. But there is also a very modern and flourishing Anglican Church in one of the suburbs, with an excellent Chaplain's flat at the top of the building.

We arrived at the airport and the Churchwarden, who met us, asked me to go immediately to the bedside of a man from the congregation who was dying. I was ushered into his flat and duly talked and prayed with him. The next day his wife rang to say he had died peacefully in the night and could we have a funeral in two days' time? She was a Catalan lady, who had married an English businessman and lived in Birmingham much of



her life. Her husband had promised in retirement they would go back to her hometown of Barcelona. Sadly a year after they returned, he developed cancer and died that day.

There was a large congregation for the funeral of English and Spanish people. The funeral director and his staff were unbelievably scruffy and casual and sat outside smoking cigarettes during the service, visible to everyone through the tall window which was the height of the Church. My sermon was translated, sentence by sentence, by a bilingual English resident, and when the service was over, the men took the coffin to the hearse. As we drove along, his widow complained about the casual behaviour of the undertakers and how different it was from England!

We arrived at the cemetery where he was going to be put in the family tomb – unlike the UK this is a tall shed-like building and, inside, about twelve long drawers. Each family member would lie in one of them. We got out ready to begin the committal to find the undertakers could not find the key so a car set off back to Barcelona to collect them! The widow was furious as well as very distressed. Again the undertakers lounged beside the tomb and started to smoke. The widow's brother, a very distinguished looking Catalan, rebuked the men. Then one of them accidentally kicked the glass door of the tomb – and

it opened!

The coffin was then brought to the drawer which was now open where the body would lie. I had to restrain the men from putting in the coffin before the words of committal. Afterwards, when they tried to put it in, they found it was too long for the allocated space! One of the staff then brought out a small saw and started to chop away the end of the coffin – and after two attempts, they got it inside. By this time the widow was hysterical and her brother incandescent with rage.

We said the final prayers and the widow and I were driven home. 'This would NEVER have happened in England; really these Spanish undertakers are unspeakable!' Her words as a Spanish lady! It was certainly very different from any funeral I have ever taken in my ministry, but I suppose you can say it was a 'learning experience'!

The rest of our fortnight was fairly quiet(!) but there was a large and welcoming congregation, with some retirees but mostly families working in the city. The Church was a real centre for the community away from home to have a group of people who shared their faith with each other and had a social centre where they could feel at home. There was a lively ministry going on and we enjoyed our time there very much.

**Ian Ogilvie, Tring Team**

## My faith journey



Christianity was a big part of my primary school: we had weekly chapel sessions, sang hymns practically all the time and it was there I learnt the most about Christianity, Jesus and developed my Christian faith.

Then when I went to secondary school, my faith waned and became more of an afterthought. This was partly due to the more secular environment of my secondary school, where religion wasn't as important as it was in primary school.

Then one evening, when I was either 14 or 15, I was sitting in my bedroom

when I was suddenly overcome with an indescribable feeling of God's presence and benevolence. I intrinsically knew it was God. It was as if God had contacted me to bring me back to my faith.

So, I spoke to a friend from school whom I knew went to the youth group at my local CofE Church (St Peter & St Paul) and I asked to come along. It was through going to the youth group (Youth Café as we call it) that I reconnected with my faith. Subsequently I became part of the Serving Team at the Church and eventually went on to be confirmed in October 2017. Without that religious experience, I don't think I would have the faith I have today.

**Katie Arber, St Peter & St Paul**

## COMMENT The magazine of the Churches in Tring



**Never miss out on your copy of COMMENT again, by taking out a subscription.**

**Contact the treasurer, Chris Hoare on 01442 822915.**

## FOTCH Family Fun Day



**Always the 'Hottest Day of the Year' – whatever the weather!**

Every May on the second Saturday (11 May 2019) the whole Church and Churchyard of St Peter & St Paul is packed with the people of Tring enjoying being 'at home' with the whole church community. It's a day for going to the top of the tower and taking your favourite soft toys for the flight of their lives – courtesy of FOTCH and those capable folk at RAF Halton. Annual Flight certificates and proof of courage are something of a rite of passage for the cuddliest of stuffed toys!

If you prefer to keep your feet on the ground, there is all-day catering and comfort food in the Church; a wonderful barbecue at lunchtime in the churchyard and the essential refreshments at the Tring Brewery Bar as well as candyfloss and ice-creams. In-Church entertainment features an all-day cavalcade of choirs and musicians from our schools and church groups; there are also exhibition items and competitions, and outside there are plant stalls, toy and book stalls, jewellery and trinket stalls and the ever-popular home-made cakes and preserves.

For fun and games there's everything from a ginormous bouncy castle to 'beat the goalie' and if you are feeling lucky, the raffle always has lots of fantastic prizes to win.

Most of all, it's a day for just enjoying the heart of Tring with all your friends and appreciating the fact that the Parish Church building and grounds and the welcoming church community are there as an asset for everyone in Tring. Admission is entirely free (although there's a charge for the fantastic 'Flight of their Lives' and bravery certificate); and everything raised on the day goes direct to FOTCH funds which are responsible for so many improvements to the Church facilities. Things like the marvellous new lighting system, the sound and projection system and improved access to the tower are all benefits that everyone in Tring can safely enjoy.

Of course, it all takes a fair amount of work and planning. If you can help

in any way please get in touch with the overall organiser Helen Dunford (01442 981 377), FOTCH Secretary Trish Dowden (01442 826 320) or me (01442 822770); the details of the individual stall organisers are shown in the panel.

If you would like to join FOTCH and help preserve the heart of our town for all future generations to enjoy – and have lots of fun in doing that – you can get a membership leaflet from any of the above or pick one up on the day! Let's make 11 May 2019 a true Family Fun Day for all to enjoy here in the heart of Tring.

**Grahame Senior, St Peter & St Paul**

### Contact numbers for contributions

#### Plants

Annette Reynolds – 07968 312161

#### Toys and games

Sandra Luddington – 01442 822 683

#### Jewellery and trinkets

Prue Senior – 01442 822 770

#### Cakes and preserves

Alison Bickerton and Grahame Senior 01442 822 770

#### In-Church catering

Barry Child – 01442 826 092

#### Raffle prizes

Helen Dunford – 01442 891 377

#### FOTCH displays

Grahame Senior – 01442 822 770

### FOTCH Friendship Service

On Sunday 12 May at 6.00pm we have our annual Friendship Service in St Peter & St Paul's. This is a chance to relax and reflect on the great benefits friendship brings to all in our community and to celebrate all that it means to us. We will be very much focusing on young people and all they can bring to our community – after all, FOTCH is all about the future. Please come and join us for this short and joyful act of thankful worship.

### FOTCH AGM

On Monday 13 May our AGM is held in St Peter & St Paul's Church and all are welcome to come and support the trustees, officers and activists who make FOTCH what it is.

## The frozen Roman

**The Badapple theatre company present ... The frozen Roman**

A clandestine meeting at the Phoenix pub gets heated as the villagers rack their brains for new ways to fight the imminent housing development that threatens village life as they know it. The discovery of an ancient Roman site under foot may just throw them a lifeline if they can somehow authenticate their mysterious findings.

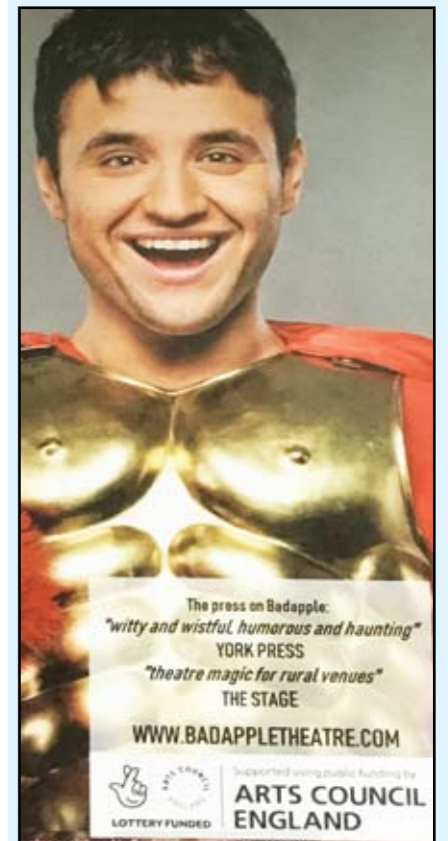
But things are not always what they seem!

Expect a double dose of comedy as the situation goes 'ballisticus maximus' in this new comedy.

Come and see how it all turns out.

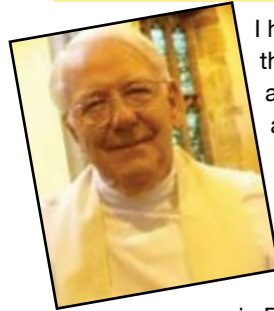
**Cecilia Hall,  
Putterham  
HP23 4PR  
30th May 2019  
7.30pm**

Tickets 07514 548289 or  
01423 339168  
£12/£10 Concs. £6 under 16s  
Buy tickets  
at [www.badappletheatre.com](http://www.badappletheatre.com)



The press on Badapple:  
"witty and wistful, humorous and haunting"  
YORK PRESS  
"theatre magic for rural venues"  
THE STAGE  
[WWW.BADAPPLETHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.BADAPPLETHEATRE.COM)  
Supported through public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND  
LOTTERY FUNDED

# A change is as good as a rest...



I have been in prison three times: not, as it happens, as an inmate – but first to visit a former pupil (in for manslaughter) once in Winson Green Prison in Birmingham (an old-fashioned decrepit place which reminded me of the 19th century; and then secondly to Bovingdon, where he was later transferred and is very different with modern facilities. Suffice it to say he became Editor of the prison newspaper and did two broadcasts on Radio 4, becoming what they call a ‘trustee’. He is now out and leading a normal life.

Some people feel that prisoners do not have a tough enough time ‘inside’, but from my small experience as a visitor, it is knowing that you are locked away from those you love and from society and can’t go for a walk, or drop into the shops or see friends, which is the greatest punishment of all.

My third visit was as a locum Chaplain at Long Lartin Prison in Worcestershire to cover the Chaplain’s summer break and I took the Sunday service for three weeks. At the time I visited, the prison had only been open a few years and was state of the art in design. It housed some of the most dangerous IRA prisoners, murderers and other violent offenders.

I arrived on the first Sunday to be signed in, have my fingerprints taken and be thoroughly searched before I was ushered into a small corridor. The door slammed behind me and another one opened in front where I was met by an armed guard and taken to the Chapel area. There I met the Sacristan,

a burly, heavily tattooed guy called Joe, who later told me he was in for grievous bodily harm(!). He took me upstairs to meet the Organist, who would only play traditional hymns (‘None of this modern stuff,’ he said!) and was in for selling top secrets to the Russians, having been an RAF pilot! The lesson reader then appeared and again insisted on the King James Bible for all the readings. He had been the brains behind ‘Operation Julie’, the biggest cannabis haul ever found in Cornwall and was in for a long stretch.

The Sacristan had laid out the Communion vessels with great care and the congregation began to arrive. Attendance was entirely voluntary and about forty men of all ages and races turned up. Without the prison uniform they could have been any congregation in the C of E – except a bit younger! But what I found most off-putting was seeing four guards sitting in different positions with guns very visible the whole time.

The Gospel for the day was the story of the Good Samaritan and perhaps a bit near the knuckle for my Sacristan and some of the other worshippers, as the reader spoke about the man beaten up by the roadside. I can’t remember what I preached about but it was by far the most difficult sermon I have ever had to write!

Afterwards I chatted to some of the men with armed guards hovering around, and when the Sacristan and I had finished tidying everything away, he invited me for coffee in his cell. Long Lartin Prison has about twelve wings, each self contained, where the cells are all open during the day and they could make tea or coffee in the communal kitchen. At night the cells are locked electronically and to use the toilet you press a button: the door will open only

if no one else is out at the same time. It seems a civilised way of avoiding riots or other trouble.

I sat chatting to Joe in his cell and he proudly showed me pictures of his wife and children. He pointed out a boy who looked about 14 and told me that was his oldest son. He scratched his head and said, ‘I don’t know what’s got in to him. He was up at the juvenile court last week for stealing.’

Tact made me remain silent, but as the father had been in and out of jail all the boy’s life, he hadn’t had a great example to follow.

At Long Lartin facilities were excellent: it was clean and the men could wander about the wing and, during exercise periods, go outside to the sports fields. I don’t believe we need to return to the 19th century days of Oscar Wilde having to work on a treadmill, but the real punishment is that of the deprivation of Liberty, something we all take for granted. Even after five hours in Long Lartin, I felt claustrophobic and was grateful to leave the prison in my car. Joe, the Sacristan, said that he hoped the faith he had found in prison would help keep him on the straight and narrow when he was out. I hope and pray it has done.

A final thought: how often do we actually pray for prisoners in jail and the guards who work there under very difficult circumstances? I am afraid I don’t do so very much. But the Christian gospel surely is about forgiveness and I know that there are many men and women in prison who would appreciate our prayers. After all, as the old cliché has it, ‘There, but for the grace of God, go I.’

**Ian Ogilvie, Tring Team**

# Tweet of the month

In Deuteronomy 14:13 it says ‘the buzzard, the kite of any kind’ in the list of unclean birds that the Jews were told not to eat. Most, if not all, birds of prey, carrion eaters, and a number of birds that eat fish, are also included in this list. In some translations of The Bible Red Kite is mentioned while others mention Black Kite but the NRSV just says kite.

At present the Red Kite is pretty rare in Israel and the Black Kite is common, but thousands of years ago this may not have been the case and Red Kite could have been common there. However, the Black Kite does not live up to its name and isn’t black and the Israeli bird can look quite reddish on the body. So it is possible that the idea of them being Red Kites might have come from these reddish Black Kites.

Whether it means all kites or a specific species doesn’t matter. The Red Kite’s habit of eating carrion would have placed it firmly in the list of unclean birds and not to be eaten by the Jews; not that I would want to eat one anyway! Anyone who looks up into the skies over

Tring would be hard put not to see a Red Kite at some point in the year as they are a common sight these days.

In medieval times Red Kites were commonly seen over towns and cities across Britain. However, by the 1600s



they were started to be treated as vermin as they were wrongly accused by farmers and gamekeepers of killing their animals. So began a persecution that resulted in the Red Kite’s extinction by the late 19th century in England and Scotland and the population was reduced to one breeding pair in Wales

by the 1930s! Fortunately they survived and began a slow recovery, but the population was still vulnerable and I went to central Wales to see my first Red Kite in 1979. My second was seen on The Isles of Scilly in 1986 – an amazing record at the time. Coincidentally it was 1986 when a plan to reintroduce Red Kites to England was formulated. In early 1989 young birds were released in The Chilterns near Stokenchurch. Further birds were released over the next five years and it is fair to say this reintroduction has been a great success with Red Kite now a common site along the Chilterns and beyond.

As someone who has always thought that God’s creation was wonderful, it is amazing to see how well it can recover if given the chance. Okay, Red Kites may have been deemed unclean and not to be eaten; yet they are still God’s creation and here because he wants them to be. How much more must he love and care for us that he sent His Son to bring us back to him.

**Roy Hargreaves, St Peter & St Paul**

# Parish registers

## Baptisms

We welcome these children into our church family and pray for their parents and Godparents.

**Agatha Quin Brooman  
Lucas Stephen Wiles-Young  
Farrell Smith**

## Funerals

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

**Jean Horwood 79  
Mike Rickaman 66**

1			2		3		4		5			6
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12			13		14		15					
16									17			
18					19				20			21
			22									
23									24			

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Rules (4)
- Format of worship (4)
- Meaningful biblical story (7)
- Relating to religious images (8)
- Small measure (4)
- Musical instrument (4)
- Relating to scripture (8)
- Pretend not to see (5) (3)
- Method of fixation (4)
- Put Comment together (4)
- Jewish Spring festival (8)
- In name only (7)
- Now it’s your turn (4)
- Wrong focus of worship (4)

**CLUES DOWN**

- Famous chief priest (4)
- Round and round (4)
- Heat resistant vessel (8)
- Brother of Cain (4)
- Belief of after-life (8)
- Separate items (4)
- ‘.....’ in a manger (7)
- Vessel holding the wine (7)
- Regretful (8)
- Gift of divine favour (8)
- First garden (4)
- Increase the pressure (4)
- Nothing else (4)
- Existing (4)

**Answers on page 34**

## Letter from Orkney



On first appearances Orkney does not seem to be hugely culturally diverse. When out and about the vast majority of people appear to be of north European origin and, as pointed out by comedian Jason Manford when he ventured this far north recently, it may be thought Orkney could do with a bit more colour in its life. However, there are a number of Thai and Asian people here, two Syrian refugee families have been resettled on the island, and of course people from the European mainland live and work here. It does appear though, at least in my experience, that the biggest influx of migrants are from either Scotland or England. It's an interesting experience being regarded as an incomer by the native population, but in general Orcadians are very welcoming and although I have heard – second hand – of occasional grumps about the number of people coming to live here from other places, it is recognised that outsiders bring benefits to the island.

We have certainly been contributing to the local economy by providing several months of work to a local building contractor who has been building a new garage and converting the existing garage into a new room. It may be recalled by attentive readers (there may be one or two?) that this has been mentioned in previous columns.

Several times. Work has now been ongoing for five months which is quite a long time to have people turning up early in the morning, and to be providing endless cups of tea to ensure they keep working, and keep coming back. They turned up every day, working through ferocious winter winds and rain including up on the roof, and have been unfailingly cheerful and helpful. They've also done an excellent job. At the time of writing they have nearly finished and I shall miss them – in my experience a very unusual thing to say after having builders in. Mind you, having a number of tall, strong, cheerful good-looking chaps wandering around the house doing useful work, and Hoovering up after themselves – what's not to like?!

A huge new window in our new room displays the panorama in front of us, part of which incorporates Scapa Flow, one of the biggest natural harbours in the world. Major commemorations will be taking place soon, remembering the scuttling of the German Fleet there on 21 June 1919. German Rear Admiral von Reuter gave the order for this to be done in the mistaken belief the post-war peace talks had failed and he feared the Allies would seize the ships for their own purposes. This was the largest ever loss of shipping in a single day in history and Rear Admiral van Reuter was eventually credited by the Germans with preserving the honour of their High Seas Fleet as it never fell into the Allies' hands. This is just one of the major events in military history that has happened here: for



such a small and remote set of islands, a lot has certainly taken place, which may be partly why we have so many visitors. Apart from the scenery, wildlife, archaeology, great food, great local beer, and excellent distilleries producing rum, gin and whisky. Come and visit – you'd be very welcome!

**Carrie Dodge, St Mary's Stromness**

## Glimpses of God

In a recent sermon I quoted a poem, **Folk Tale**, by R S Thomas which I have found helpful over the years. For some it may seem a little negative, speaking of a hidden and distant God, but for me the emphasis is that even a glimpse of God is enough to sustain us. I encourage you to remember when it is that you have had glimpses of God, whether it was a mountain-top experience, or kneeling in a stone Church, or through encountering the love and generosity of a fellow pilgrim.

However you have encountered God, may you find your faith refreshed and have the courage to share it with others. I commend to you the works of R S Thomas. My copy of his poetry is found in *Collected Poems 1945 -1990* Phoenix Giant 1993, but there are many other collections available.

**Huw Bellis, Tring Team**



## Exploring mystery

What do we talk about when we speak of God and his creation? This month's exciting and diverse events and courses here in the Adult Learning Programme at St Albans Cathedral provide many perspectives. You can explore the all-consuming relationship between God and his people in the Old Testament, or the work of great theologians across the ages. You can wrestle with questions of transcendence, or the meaning of the soul, or freedom in a Christian context. Or you can approach creation through other creators: Mary Shelley's exploration of the perils of being a creator, or CS Lewis's reworking of Christianity in a fantasy setting.

St Albans runs a series of events for adults to continue the long tradition of learning at the abbey. Our termly events cover a diverse range of subjects – from medieval languages to science and faith, from art and music to theology – and we hope to welcome you at any or all of these events!

### TALKS

#### What is Transcendence, Anyway?

Date: Monday 13 May

Time: 7.30-9.00pm Price: £10

What does transcendence mean for us today? And has it always meant the same thing? In an inspiring and challenging talk about transcendence in the Christian tradition, especially concerning the person of Jesus, Dr Tim Boniface will present an approach to transcendence that is ethical, historical, interpersonal and immediate.

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr Tim Boniface, Theologian and Author of 'Jesus, Transcendence, and Generosity'  
Venue: The Crossing, St Albans Cathedral

#### Destructive Creation in Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'

Date: Wednesday 22 May

Time: 7.30-9.00pm Price: £10

Mary Shelley's gothic masterpiece is a chilling, incisive tale that warns of the perils of ego, vanity, and selfish ambition. Viewed through the lens of the Christian narrative, it can also serve as an exposition on what happens when human beings try to usurp or twist God's place in our lives, and in creation itself. This talk will explore the rich parallels between Shelley's original 1818 text and the Christian scriptures, to tease out the

novel's warnings about the desolation that results from the deadly sin of human pride.

Tutor: The Rev'd Peter Godden, Tutor in Literature and Theology  
Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

#### The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God: C.S. Lewis, Narnia, and the Planets

Date: Wednesday 29 May

Time: 8.00-9.30pm Price: £10

Tolkien thought Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia were written in a slap-dash manner, and many have shared his view, describing the books as a 'hotch-potch'. Other readers have argued that Tolkien was wrong and that the Chronicles have an underlying coherence, pointing to such possible unifying themes as the seven sacraments or the seven deadly sins. But these explanations haven't proven persuasive and Narnia's inner meaning has remained a puzzle. Michael Ward has finally solved the mystery. In this talk, drawing on his best-selling and award-winning book *Planet Narnia*, he shows what Lewis was really up to in these seven classic stories.

Tutor: Dr Michael Ward, Fellow of Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford  
Venue: Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

### STUDY DAYS

#### Why the Soul Matters

Date: Saturday 11 May

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Price: free (ticket required)

What does it mean to have a soul? We're living in a moment when traditionally religious concepts such as the soul are receiving renewed attention as part of a reaction against postmodern burnout and a wider struggle to live meaningfully. Often these contemporary discussions of the soul reach back to ancient Greek ideas about happiness and beauty, as well as to ideas of the self in Christian theology. Thinking about the soul helps us to address fundamental questions about human dignity and what makes life worth living. The workshop will consist of three presentations – by an academic philosopher, a teacher of philosophy, and an arts entrepreneur.

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

#### Old Testament in a Day

Date: Saturday 18 May

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm Price: £25

To many people, the Old Testament is uncharted territory, and not a little daunting. This day aims to give an overview of the Old Testament as the story of God with his people, Israel. It looks at the relationship of the Old Testament to the New, asks what we mean by scripture as the inspired Word of God, how we read it, the variety of literature it contains, and what we know, or do not know, about how it came to be. We will then focus on the study of a variety of passages.

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr Kevin Walton, Canon Chancellor

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

### COURSES

#### Great Theologians

Date: Thursdays 2-30 May

Time: 8-c.9.45pm Price: £60

This course investigates classic responses to some of the most challenging theological questions through a tour of the life and works of some great theologians, including, amongst others, Augustine of Hippo, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Karl Barth and James Cone.

Tutor: Dr Robbie Leigh, Head of Religion and Philosophy, Highgate School  
Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

#### Freedom and the Christian Life

Date: Wednesdays 15 May - 12 June

Time: 8-c.9.45pm Price: £60

'As slaves of God, live as free people' (1 Peter 2.16). One of the most cherished values in Western society today is freedom, but what exactly does it mean for Christians to live today as 'free people'? This course explores how theologians have taken up biblical themes such as original sin, divine freedom, the work of the Spirit, and authority and obedience in the life of the Christian community, giving students an opportunity to consider how some of society's fundamental political and ethical convictions about freedom and liberty may be reshaped by the gospel.

Tutor: Dr Sam Hole, Tutor in Theology

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

To book tickets and see the full Adult Learning programme: go to our webpages at [www.stalbanscathedral.org](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org) and go to the Learning pages; call the Box Office on 01727 890290 or visit the Box Office in the Cathedral Gift Shop.



# Notices from the Tring Churches

## ST MARTHA'S METHODIST CHURCH



### FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Ladies Friendship Club will meet again on Tuesday afternoon 7 May, when Chris Burrows will present a talk about the SANDS charity (stillbirth and neo-natal death).

### JEAN'S CAFÉ

Making use of our new kitchen facilities, Jean will continue to provide lunches at the Church every Tuesday from (12.00 midday to 1.30pm). Everyone is welcome to drop in for soup, lunch, tea or coffee, etc. Saturday afternoon teas will start later in the spring.

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Just an advanced reminder that the next council meeting is due to take place on Saturday 8 June at 10.00am.

Sunday 5 May 10.00am  
**Revd Brian Tebbutt**

Sunday 12 May 10.00am  
**Revd Rachael Hawkins**

Sunday 19 May 10.00am  
**John Watkins**

Sunday 26 May 10.00am  
**John Benson**

## NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH



### MILL CAFÉ

Thursdays 12.00 midday

Sunday 5 May  
**Les Elbon**

Sunday 12 May  
**John Allen**

Sunday 19 May  
**Kenneth Payne**

Sunday 26 May  
**Bob Little**

## TRING COMMUNITY CHURCH

### SERVICES

Every Sunday 10.30am  
Nora Grace Hall

## CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

### SUNDAY MASS

Confession 5.15pm & by appointment  
Saturdays 6.00pm (Vigil)  
Sundays 12.15pm with Children's Liturgy  
Coffee afterwards

### WEEKDAY MASS

Mondays 10.00am  
Thursdays 10.00am  
Rosary Prayer group after Mass

### THURSDAYS

Christian Meditation Group  
8.00pm in Sacristy

### FRIDAYS

5.00-6.00pm Church Hall  
SPOG (Small People of God)  
Age 7 + onwards:  
**Tricia Apps**

### SATURDAYS

9.00-10.00am **Tricia Apps**  
Sacramental Preparation  
First Reconciliation and Communion

### SUNDAYS

2.00-3.00pm Power Hour  
Group Years 7 - 9

### JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

**Michael Demidecki**  
michaeldemidecki@gmail.com

### ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays, after 10.00am  
Mass

### LADIES GROUP

**Annabelle Halliday**

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**Viv Bryan, Helen Bojarski**

### SAFEGUARDING

**Caroline Burmaster**  
tringsg1@rcdow.org.uk  
**Mary Miles**  
tringsg2@rcdow.org.uk

### MEDITATION

Thursdays 8.00pm

## HIGH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Service at 10.30am with Junior Church and Crèche

### SUNDAYS @ 7

First Sunday of the month at 7.00pm

### ACTIVITY ROOM

Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am  
Craft, stories, songs and more! Suitable for 0 to 4yrs

### COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Tuesdays 10.30am - 12noon  
Coffee in the foyer in aid of BMS World Mission

### TOTS

Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am  
Baby play area, soft play, trikes, scooters!  
Suitable for 0 to 4yrs

### GAMES AFTERNOON

Wednesdays 2.00-4.00pm  
Traditional games, puzzles and refreshments

### PLAY CAFÉ

Thursdays 9.30-11.30am  
Relax while the little ones play  
Suitable for 0 to 3yrs

### FRIDAY CAFÉ

Fridays 12.00-1.30pm  
Freshly cooked lunches

### WHO LET THE DADS OUT

First Saturday of the month at 8.30am to 10.00am

# Tring Team Anglican Churches

The Tring Team consists of five churches: St Peter & St Paul in Tring; All Saints, Long Marston; St Cross, Wilstone; St Mary's, Puttenham; and St John the Baptist, Aldbury.

### 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
8.00am Holy Communion BCP Aldbury  
10.00am Worship for All Communion Tring  
10.00am Sunday Worship CW Long Marston  
10.00am Worship for All Aldbury  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Wilstone  
12.00 midday Baptisms Tring  
12.00 midday Baptisms Aldbury  
3.30pm Holy Communion Puttenham

### 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion CW Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion BCP Aldbury  
10.00am Holy Communion Long Marston  
10.00am Sunday Worship Wilstone  
10.00am Worship for All Tring  
11.30am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
3.30pm Service of Light Puttenham  
6.00pm Evening Prayer Long Marston

### 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Wilstone  
10.00am Worship for All Long Marston  
10.00am Holy Communion Aldbury  
12.00 midday Baptisms Aldbury  
3.00pm Stick Sunday Service with tea  
3.30pm Taizé Puttenham

### 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Tring  
10.00am Worship for All Wilstone  
10.00am Holy Communion Aldbury  
10.00am Holy Communion Long Marston  
3.30pm Evensong Puttenham

### 5TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Tring  
10.00am Holy Communion Long Marston  
10.00am Holy Communion CW Wilstone  
3.30pm Service of Light Puttenham

### DACORUM FOODBANK

Weekdays 10.00am St P&P

### BABY SONG TIME

Mondays in term time 11.00am St P&P

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Mondays 9.00am Morning Prayer Tring  
Tuesdays 8.30am Morning Prayer Tring  
Tuesdays 9.15am Holy Communion CW Tring  
Wednesdays 8.30am Morning Prayer Aldbury  
Thursdays 10.00am Holy Communion BCP Tring  
Fridays 8.30am Morning Prayer Tring  
Fourth Tuesday in the month 10.00am Holy Communion Wilstone

### YOUTH CAFÉ

Mondays in term time 3.30pm St P&P  
Secondary School aged children meet for toast, crisps, coke and chat.

### MEDITATION

Thursdays 8.00pm Corpus Christi

### COFFEE MORNINGS

Tuesdays 10.30am Aldbury  
Tuesdays 10.30am Wilstone  
Fridays 10.00am St P&P  
Saturdays 10.00am St P&P

### YOUNG ADULTS GROUP TAYA

First and third Thursdays 7.30pm St P&P  
A discussion group for young adults

### CTT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday 4 May at 8.30am

### FIRST SATURDAY LUNCH

Saturday 4 May  
From 1.00pm for those who have been bereaved to meet and eat with others.  
Contact Margaret Oram for information on 01442 824575.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

Second Sunday in the month 11.20am  
St P&P Emmie Hobbs Room

### AFTERNOON TEA

Fourth Tuesday in the month  
2.00-3.30pm All Saints, Long Marston

### FOTCH FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 11 May at 11.00am St P&P

### FOTCH AGM

Monday 13 May at 7.00pm St P&P

### MEGASTICK WALK

Sunday 19 May at 11.00am St P&P

### BOOK GROUP

Fourth Sunday in the month 6.45pm  
St P&P

### CRAFT AND A CUPPA

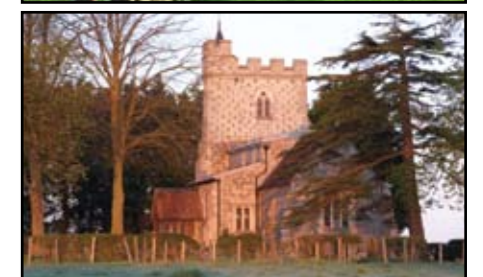
Tuesdays 2.00pm, St P&P

### MEN'S SOCIETY

Wednesday 1 May 7.30pm  
Half Moon, Wilstone

### PIANO & MORE

Sunday 12 May 3.00pm St P&P



# 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**  
(Long Marston, Tring School)  
Rev Jane Banister  
01442 822170  
jane@tringteamparish.org.uk  
jbanister@tringschool.org

**Associate Priest**  
(Wilstone)  
Rev Didier Jaquet  
didier@tringteamparish.org.uk  
(Day off Saturday)

**Diocesan Lay Minister**  
Mike Watkin  
01442 890407

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

John Whiteman  
01442 826314  
john@tringteamparish.org.uk

**Church Wardens**  
Chris Hoare (Tring)  
01442 822915

Ian Matthews (Tring)  
01442 823327

Jane Brown (Aldbury)  
01442 851396

Ray Willmore (Aldbury)  
01442 825723

Christine Rutter (Puttenham)  
01296 668337

Ken Martin (Wilstone)  
01442 822894

Rev Jane Banister (Long  
Marston)  
01442 822170

**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  
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**  
Rev David Williams  
01442 827881

**Administrator**  
Emma Nash  
01442 827881

**CORPUS CHRISTI  
ROMAN CATHOLIC  
CHURCH**  
**Parish Priest**  
Father David Burke  
01442 863845  
davidburke@rcdow.org.uk  
www.rcdow.org.uk/tring

**HIGH STREET  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Minister**  
Vacancy

**Assistant Minister**  
Kevin Rogers  
km\_rogers@outlook.com

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

**NEW MILL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Minister**  
Vacancy

**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.uk  
www.rcdow.org.uk/tring

## SOCIAL NETWORKING

 Tring Parish

 @revhuw

## COMMENT

**Editor**  
Annette Reynolds  
0845 8681333  
07968 312161  
comment.magazine@gmail.com

**Distribution**  
David Whiting  
01442 767403  
davidswighting@aol.com

**Treasurer**  
Chris Hoare 01442 822915

**Advertising**  
Sue Mayhew  
0845 8681333

**Design**  
Doug Hewitt  
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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

## Crossword puzzle answers

From page 29

### ANSWERS ACROSS

1. LAWS  
5. RITE  
7. PARABLE  
8. ICONICAL  
10. INCH  
12. HARP  
14. BIBLICAL  
16. BLIND EYE  
17. NAIL  
18. EDIT  
15. BLESSING  
19. PASSOVER  
22. NOMINAL  
23. NEXT  
24. IDOL

### ANSWERS DOWN

1. LEVI  
2. SPIN  
3. CRUCIBLE  
4. ABEL  
5. RELIGION  
6. EACH  
9. CRADLED  
11. CHALICE  
13. PENITENT  
18. EDEN  
19. PUMP  
20. ONLY  
21. REAL



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and capture the  
flight award certificate?



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For further information telephone Helen Dunford on 01442 891377 or Grahame Senior on 01442 822770

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