

COMMENT

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCHES IN TRING



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Editorial

Welcome back to Comment after a short break!

Just before Christmas a member of St Peter & St Paul's Church celebrated her 90th birthday. Before the congregation sang her Happy Birthday and shared the delicious birthday cake baked by Janet Goodyer, we learned that Daphne Nash had started doing the Church cleaning when she was only 72. Thus, after eighteen years at the job, she was finally retiring. Those of us who may have thought 55, 60 or 65 a good age to duck out of Church responsibilities might feel duly humbled by such commitment and service!

At the other end of the scale, you don't have to be of more mature years to write for Comment. We have been



delighted to receive some articles written in this edition by young people from 11 to late teens as well as those in their ninth decade. So don't feel your contribution would not be welcomed – I love to hear the ping of articles arriving in the Comment inbox. There is no such thing as 'too young' or 'too old' for any task you are willing to undertake. One of those teenage contributors also said the immortal and unique (in my experience) words: 'Thank you for asking me to write!' Please don't wait to be asked!



The Editor

Living in the moment



As we move into February, I imagine a number of you will have already broken your New Year's resolutions. I haven't, because I didn't make one. I have stopped pretending that this year I am going to be tidier. It isn't going to happen. Instead there will be more frustrated hours spent in the Rectory trying to remember where the car keys are. Some people seem to be able to manage to come in through the front door and put everything away in its allotted space. I have no doubt that this makes life far easier, but for some reason it is utterly beyond me.

However, the one thing which we are quite good at doing is storing our Crib set. There is almost as much as ritual in packing it away as there was in

getting it out in the first place. The tree went away at Epiphany, but the crib set in our house (and in Church) stays out until the Feast of the Presentation, or Candlemas on 2 February. This year they will probably get a day's extension as we will be waiting until Sunday to celebrate Candlemas in Church. It is a simple wooden set of figures which I bought for Jane before we were married. It came from a village at the base of Kilimanjaro. When it is packed away it goes into the same plain cardboard box that it was packed into when I bought it.

The liturgy we use for the Presentation explicitly looks back to Christmas and forwards to Lent. Packing stuff away can feel like that too. After the crib set goes away, things can feel a bit bare (as can our gardens in February) and in storing them safely we are looking forward until next year when they come out again. What these miss is the sense of living in the moment and enjoying

the present. The story of Simeon and Anna is about an encounter with Christ. It isn't about past or future, it is about the present moment. I like to think that our ritual of packing away the Crib is about marking a special moment, and enjoying it.

Whether or not you have any February



traditions, I hope that you are able to enjoy the present, and not just hark back to earlier celebrations, or desperately look forward to the coming of Spring. Instead treasure what today brings.

Huw Bellis, Tring Team

New Year Blessings

*Take down old,
Wish in new.
Dust away excess
Of Christmas well spent.
Decorations pushed in bags,
Sealed until the next season of goodwill.*

*Best wishes folded,
Put away.
Jollity packed in cardboard boxes.
Trees stripped
Of Christmas finery,
Standing bare in cold January light.*

*Light of New Year
Clears senses.
Simplicity returns.
A gentle wave
Of new beginning washes over us,
Breathing quiet peace and love.*

Vicki Gentle

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen!



It was Christmas 1952 and my family were based in BAOR Germany (British Army of the Rhine). School term had ended and our Brownie Pack was taking a break.

Brown Owl had set us a challenge over the holiday to find ways of raising money to buy a new toadstool for our meetings.

My two friends and I decided we would go carol singing around the family quarters. Dressed in our ski outfits and snow boots to face the bitterly cold snowy evening, we trudged round the houses with our collecting tins, our voices raised against the winter wind. Whether or not it was our poor singing or it was too cold for doors to open, after an hour we hadn't collected very much money.

Then I had an idea! 'Let's go over

to the barracks and visit the NAAFI Canteen. It will be warm there and full of soldiers celebrating'. My friends were very reluctant to go but I assured them it would be OK as my father was NAAFI District Manager (true) and I had been in the canteen loads of times (not true).

Finding ourselves outside the door of the canteen, our courage failed us. We were just about to leave when the door opened and a very jolly Corporal stepped out.

'Hello, what are you doing here?' he asked.

We explained our purpose and we were immediately led into the very smoky, noisy canteen smelling of beer.

'Right, listen up you lot!' shouted the Corporal. 'These little ladies have come to sing you some carols.'

Cheers from the soldiers! A table in the middle of the Canteen was cleared of beer bottles and glasses and we were lifted up onto it – our stage! Starting nervously with 'Good King Wenceslas'

we soon found an appreciative audience and responded to requests for favourite carols. When we finally ended with 'Away in a Manger' you could have heard a pin drop apart from a few quiet sobs from the audience. Then there were loud cheers of appreciation and empty beer glasses were passed round for the collection. We had never seen so much money, too much for our collecting tins. The barman found us a large paper carrier bag to take the money home.

We were very pleased with our initiative. Unfortunately my parents were not pleased: in fact, they were furious!

'What on earth were you thinking of? The canteen is no place for little girls... Very embarrassing for your father...' etc. It was the first time that I had heard the words 'inappropriate behaviour'.

On the bright side, Brown Owl was delighted and didn't seem to mind that the money smelt of beer. Oh yes, and we did get our new toadstool!

Linda Downey, St Peter & St Paul

Social activism at Youth Café



In November 2018 St Peter & St Paul's Church Youth Café had a visit from the Vicar of St Mary's Watford, Tony Rindl, who spoke about the work his church community

is doing to welcome and help refugees in the local area. Tony spoke of how welcoming and kind his church community have been to Persian/Iranian refugees in the congregation and how his father was a refugee from Austria at the beginning of the Second World War.

This was a topic close to one of the Youth Café members, since coming back from holiday recently they discovered they had unknowingly transported an immigrant from Calais to the UK. The visit from Tony made the Youth Café reflect on several things; how we can unfortunately be subconsciously influenced by the negative way the media portrays refugees and in turn how we can 'unlearn' these limiting and shortsighted ways of thinking by employing common sense and compassion.

Importantly, the visit made us wonder what we can do to help and support refugees in the UK and local area, coming up with several ideas such as volunteering where various refugee schemes and networks are operating. This is the website for the Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership <https://www.wtrrp.org.uk> where you can find information on volunteering opportunities such as fundraising, administration, befriending and many more.

During the talk, Tony proposed the idea that there is no such thing as an illegal immigrant – which mostly all of us agreed with, since we believe there is nothing illegal about someone fleeing a country out of fear and seeking refuge in another country. Whether you agree with that idea or dismiss it as 'left-wing nonsense', it is a very compassionate stance and I believe we all need to be a bit more compassionate, especially to those who need it the most.

Katie Arber, St Peter & St Paul

Refugees or migrants?

As reported in the November 2018 edition of Comment, the Immigration Act of 2016, which was revised to allow unaccompanied refugee children safe passage to Britain, was abandoned in February 2017 by the Home Office.

Known as the Dubbs Sheme after Lord Dubbs, who was himself a refugee from Czechoslovakia in 1939 under the Kindertransport sheme, many people campaigned to get the Safe Passage scheme reinstated. This included a group of writers and illustrators who produced a book, *The Day War Came* by Davies and Cobb, telling the story of a child refugee from Syria, which they distributed to MPs.

At Christmas a statement on refugees and migrants was issued jointly by the Churches' Commission for Migrants (CCME) and the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

It was handed to the European Parliament's 1st Vice President, Mairead McGuinness.

'In the spirit of Christmas, we ask you to work and pray for a welcoming and inclusive community in Europe... We call on the nations and the people of Europe, on the political leaders and on our Churches: don't allow us to become

indifferent to the suffering of others. Let us rather cherish the dignity of those who need our help and recognise that welcoming the stranger is part of our Christian and European heritage. May we be courageous and confident in the Son of God, the Light of the World, whose birth we celebrate. Christ will show us the way for a future life together...'

You can read the full text on the CEC website.

This was all drowned under the weight of Brexit news.

However just before Christmas, refugees, or migrants as they were now called, entered the news headlines. They were sailing small or inflatable boats across the Channel to reach Britain. Let us remember that welcoming the stranger, particularly children, is part of our European heritage and a biblical command. And read again the promise above: 'Christ will show us the way for a future life together...'

Leslie Barker, St Peter & St Paul



Biblical heroes and heroines



Many of you might already be aware that each year during Lent, the Tring Team arrange a series of film screenings on a particular theme.

After having looked at a range

of topics such as virtues and vices, youth, ageing and gender in the previous years, we return this season to more explicitly religious aspects. Yet, this is not merely a reflection of the fact that we are, after all, a church. As is evident when looking at the list of films below, over the last few years we have seen a resurgence of biblically themed epics in cinema. And our list is just a small selection of the films on offer.

What's more, both explicitly religious and secular film-makers were drawn to these stories. For example, director Ridley Scott attempts to offer scientific explanations for both the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea in *Exodus – Gods and Kings* (2014), although it still features God in somewhat unusual ways. Darren Aronofsky's take on the story of Noah, which draws – amongst

other things – on extra-biblical Jewish writings portrays the patriarch as a deeply troubled and sometimes cruel man. *Samson* (2018) presents an action-packed epic with a strong religious ethos made by Pure Flix, an explicitly Christian film production company. Also last year, *Mary Magdalene*, starring Joaquin Phoenix as Jesus, tries to give the well-known story a feminist spin, while *Risen* (2016) explores the passion narrative from the perspective of a Roman centurion.

As this short overview shows, there are a whole range of reasons why filmmakers look to the Bible for inspiration, not least because there are just so many great stories to be found. The popularity of these subjects, however, seems to have waxed and waned over the years. So, it might be a bit surprising that these films seem to have become popular again in our alleged age of secularisation and ever declining church attendance. What is it that attracts non-religious audiences to see these films and how are religious and secular filmmakers exploring issues of spirituality and divine providence?

There will be plenty of opportunities

to discuss these and other questions after each screening. We also plan an accompanying workshop or lecture during Lent, so please look out for further details on the Tring Parish website and the pew sheets. Screenings take place on Sunday evenings at 6.30pm in Aldbury Church Chapter House. Refreshments are also available.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Sylvie Magerstaedt, St Peter & St Paul

Dates and films for the 2018 Lent series

10 March: Exodus – Gods and Kings (2014)

17 March: Noah (2014)

24 March: Samson (2018)

31 March: Mary Magdalene (2018)

7 April: Risen (2016)



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Baby Song Time



If you come into St Peter & St Paul's Church on a Monday morning, you will NOT hear the sound of tiny baby voices singing hymns and anthems in three part harmonies.

But what you will hear are the voices of loving and caring mums, dads, grandparents, childminders, etc. singing to their babies: nursery rhymes and action songs, cuddles and crying, laughter and cooing.

We meet during term time, from 11.00am until 12.00 midday. So if you have, or look after, a baby from birth to crawling (inclusive) please come and join us for half an hour of singing followed by half an hour of chatting and refreshments.

I am not qualified in child development and I am not a professional singer. I am a mum, loving and interacting with my baby, and inviting

others to join me in this very friendly and relaxed group.
Pippa Wright, St Peter & St Paul



Join the World Day of Prayer



World Day of Prayer is an inter-national, inter-church organisation led by women which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

You may by now have realised that this used to be called The Women's World Day of Prayer. Last year local committees voted to fall in line with much of the world and drop the word 'Women's'. The organisation is vast, with an international committee in New York and national

committees in participating countries. The day of prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer, spoken in native languages, travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some thirty-eight hours later. That is quite something!

The theme this year is 'Come – Everything is Ready'. The invitation is for everyone – men, women and children – to join in this day of prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the

barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

In Tring we hope to hold services in New Mill Baptist Church at 2.30pm and 7.30pm on Friday 1 March. The times will be confirmed by posters in Churches during February. Those of us who went to a preparation day in November realise what a welcoming service this is going to be and hope that you will put the date in your diaries and come along to join the world in prayer.

Jill Smith, St Peter & St Paul

One of the world's great evils?



Richard Dawkins is an eminent biologist and populariser of science. His books on science are readable, lucid and entertaining. But, for me at least, when he

starts to talk about religion, his respect for evidence and his desire to understand other points of view disappears. Religious faith is 'blind trust, in the absence of evidence, even in the teeth of evidence' and even 'a kind of mental illness', one of the 'world's great evils, comparable to the smallpox virus but harder to eradicate'.

I attempt to show it is no such thing: firstly by showing that some of the world's top scientists believe in God; secondly by showing that science and religion are complementary searches for truth; and thirdly by pointing out that science does not provide knowledge which is as certain as Dawkins pretends.

Scientists and people of faith

There are two great honours for scientists in this country. The first is to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, which is open to British and Commonwealth scholars. To have the letters FRS – Fellow of the Royal Society – after your name is very prestigious. While doing some research a few years back I used to visit the Library of the Royal Society in London. Every time I visited the building I was asked by the receptionist, 'Are you a Fellow, Sir?' I wish! I am sure the Fellowship notification letter recognising my achievements teaching lower-stream Year 11 GCSE Physics on a wet Friday afternoon in Hemel Hempstead is on its way.

The highest scientific honour is a Nobel Prize for that subject. I have been lucky enough to meet and talk to two recipients of the prize for Physics. The first, when I was studying A Level Physics, was Abdus Salam, Professor of Theoretical Physics at Imperial College, London, who won the prize for his contribution to the electroweak unification theory. The second was while I was training teachers in Oxford, where I met Antony Hewish, Professor of Radio Astronomy at Cambridge, who received the prize following the discovery of pulsars by one of his students, Jocelyn

Bell Burnell.

Abdus Salam was a Muslim until his death in 1996, Antony Hewish is a Methodist, Jocelyn Bell Burnell is a Quaker. Does Richard Dawkins really think that Abdus Salam was and Antony Hewish plus Jocelyn Bell Burnell really are mentally ill? or following their faith without regard to rational thought? Are these three scientists, who are at the top of the tree in their own disciplines, guilty



of turning off all powers of thought when it comes to religion?

Antony Hewish argued that religion and science are complementary. 'The ghostly presence of virtual particles defies rational common sense and is non-intuitive for those unacquainted with physics. Religious belief in God, and Christian belief... may seem strange to common-sense thinking. But when the most elementary physical things behave in this way, we should be prepared to accept that the deepest aspects of our existence go beyond our common-sense understanding.'

Thomas Huxley, biologist and great man of Victorian science, once said that science was 'organised common-sense' but I think that is too simplistic. This might have been partially true for biology in the C19th when much work on classification of species needed to be done. Modern physics, when you get past the basics of 'most metals expand when heated', is far from common sense. This has led to matter itself as being described as 'a myth' by one scientist and another scientist writing that 'the very distinction between

something and nothing has begun to disappear'. Those who have followed the discoveries at CERN will know how complex and 'non-common-sensical' the great work done there is.

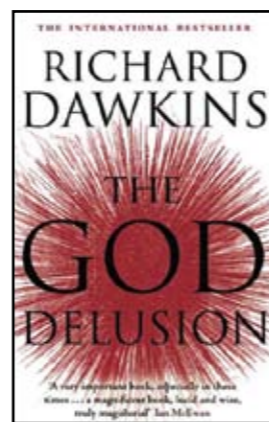
I don't think that Hewish is saying that because the world of fundamental particle physics is complex, then anything goes. What I would argue (and I think he is arguing for) is that science and religion are complementary ways of trying to find the truth. So, for example, both science and religion can contribute to the understanding and significance of the origin and the evolution of the universe: science contributes more to an explanation of what actually happened and religion more to what it means for human living.

To give another example, when a man and a woman fall in love with each other and kiss, science has something to say on the matter. It can talk of increased pulses, blood flowing to parts of the body and so on. This is part of the story. But literature has something to say on the matter too: the sonnets of Shakespeare are worth reading on the subject of love. So are the novels of Jane Austen and William Boyd, to name but two.

A scientist who thinks that only science has the sole claim to providing the truth is missing part of the story. (One of my Chemist friends used to discuss novels and Buddhism with me. Her Chemist husband refused to read novels because 'they are not true!'). Both science and literature have something to say on love – they are complementary. Science and religion are both complementary in our understanding of 'life, the universe and everything'.

Dawkins on evidence

Dawkins opens up the question of proof, faith and evidence in science and religion. He seems to hold the view that religion relies on faith 100% and



science on evidence 100%. He appears not to be too keen on admitting that, in science, there might in some cases be perhaps 60% certainty that a theory is correct. I am reminded of the saying of Richard Feynman, the American atheist and Nobel Prize winner for Physics, that scientific knowledge is a body of statements of varying degree of certainty – some most unsure, some nearly sure, but none absolutely certain. Dawkins seems to have a rather simplistic view of science which lacks the historical insight to see that science changes over time and theories once held to be true are often modified and sometimes completely discarded, such as the theory of the ether, discarded in the 1930s, as the means by which heat from the sun reaches us through the vacuum of space.

What is faith?

Here is a definition given by W H Griffith-Thomas, one-time Principal of Wycliffe Hall, an Anglican Theological College in Oxford: '[Faith] affects the whole of man's nature. It commences with the conviction of the mind based on adequate evidence; it continues in the confidence of the heart or emotions based on conviction, and it is crowned in the consent of the will, by means of which the conviction and confidence are expressed in conduct.'

Blind faith?

For Griffith-Thomas, as for me, there are good reasons for faith. Dawkins thinks that religion is 'blind faith'. For me, I believe in God because such a belief best explains why there is something (the universe) instead of nothing. I believe in God because of 'the starry heavens above and the moral law within'. I am a Christian because of Jesus and the Resurrection.

Do read Dawkins – he is interesting. But do take a large packet of salt with you as you will need more than one pinch of the stuff. If you want to look at the evidence for Jesus, read one of the Gospels. The documentary evidence for his existence is better than for some Roman Emperors. My favourite Gospel is Luke but do check for yourself. Many, but not all, who have tried Christianity have found it works for them. If you haven't already, do try the experiment yourself.

Jon Reynolds, Tring Team

A locum-ing we will go...

Our second summer holiday locum was in St Jean de Luz and Biarritz in South West France. We had the children with us and there was a small Chaplain's house near the beach and the local congregation made us very welcome. Again there were people from many countries who came to worship with us.

One night we were entertained by a French family who had helped the escape of many English pilots who had been shot down during the war and were trying to reach Spain. They had a barn with a false wall on the top floor up a ladder and in the darkness they would help them to escape the Nazi troops so as to be able to carry on fighting.

The grandfather of the family told of one night when they had three pilot 'guests' in the loft when suddenly the Nazis raided their farm and demanded to search everywhere. They combed every room of the house and then went into the barn. There were three normal walls and one false wall upstairs where the young pilots were hiding.

Two of the Germans were sent up the ladder and began poking about with their rifles. They knocked at two walls and then the sergeant shouted down, 'There's no one here'. And they came down and left.

The courage of that family was breathtaking. If you as a civilian in occupied France were caught helping the 'enemy', you would be shot at once. As the German troop drove off cursing they had not found anyone,

the family breathed again and opened a bottle of vin rouge to celebrate their survival – and the young pilots were invited to join them! This story made us realise how much we owed to the French Resistance and the way they risked death so many times.

We had a great holiday, but there was one amusing incident near the end. We were having lunch in the garden one day when suddenly there was a noise of a car crash. We all rushed out to find a young man clambering out of his Renault full of guilt and apologies in a state of shock. He had hit the back of our car! We ended up calming him with a glass of local brandy and giving him tea and sympathy as well! He paid for the repairs and we parted good friends.

But the final problem came when we were staying in a French bnb on the way home to Calais and the car was broken into; many of our clothes and the children's games were stolen. You have to be ready for anything if a locum-ing you will go!

Ian Ogilvie, Tring Team



Moving on...

In October 2018, my job contract came to an end so it is with great sadness that I am now leaving Tring.

Three years ago, when I got a new job in the Natural History Museum in London, I moved here because I wanted to live in a smaller town in the countryside with a sense of community. I was not disappointed in my choice, and was made to feel welcome by all the people at St Peter & St Paul's from the first time I came. I have felt it to be one of the friendliest churches I have been in, and have found my faith deepening during my time here.

I have very much enjoyed being

involved in a number of activities through the church, particularly TAYA (Tring Anglican Young Adults), house groups, and the Church music. Through these I have made some great friends and had many interesting conversations.

With my new job, I am moving to Oxford, but I hope to still come back occasionally to keep in touch with people. God bless.

Isabel Fenton, St Peter & St Paul



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Not just on Sundays

Midweek activity at High Street Baptist Church

High Street Baptist Church's vision is to be an inclusive organisation that reaches into, and engages with, the community. Although a place of worship on Sunday mornings, we strongly believe that 'church' is not just for Sunday. As a result, we run a number of midweek activities, from children's and toddler groups to groups designed for older, or socially isolated, people.

Carolyn Boulton is our Children's Coordinator, and has established three very busy groups running Tuesday to Thursday 9.30-11.30am. Each day has a slightly different focus, with newborns through to pre-schoolers being offered a safe, fun place to be. Parents and carers enjoy a cuppa, and have the chance to meet up with friends or make new ones.

Every Tuesday 9.30-11.30am, Activity Room offers a number of craft activities based around a theme, for children aged 0 to 3 years. Tots on a Wednesday includes soft play and creative activity. Thursday Café is usually a little quieter, so ideal for really little ones.

Coffee for a Cause is also open every Tuesday, from 10.00am-12 noon – a welcoming space for anyone who wants a hot drink and delicious cake. All donations go to the Baptist Missionary Society.



Seniors Games Afternoon
Wednesdays
 2pm - 4pm
 £2 per person

Traditional games
 Refreshments
 Quiet space

Afternoon Games meets every Wednesday from 2.00-4.00pm, and is

targeting those who are alone, or socially isolated. The group has been steadily growing, and also enjoys special one-off events such as a Christmas carol service, Bingo and excursions. As well as an excellent range of cake(!), there are plenty of games and puzzles to choose from.

Friday Café is open to all, and is open every Friday from 12 noon to 1.30pm. The team of cooks serve up a homemade hot meal and a choice of wonderful desserts.



Who Let the Dads Out? is a monthly group for male carers and their children under 7 years old. The group takes place on the first Saturday of the month from 8.30-10.00am. There are bacon butties, newspapers and plenty of toys and soft play for the youngsters.

The most recent addition to our midweek activity is our HP23 Youth Group, meeting on Monday evenings, for children in Years 5 to 8. There are fun (messy!) games, tuck shop and discussions. The group has been growing steadily, and a recent highlight was a youth weekend away at Fort Rocky.



Another Tring Rothschild



We have only recently finished commemorating the centenary of the Armistice, and yet fifteen years after the end of the First World War, Hitler rose to power in Germany and, within another six years, Europe was again on the brink of major conflict.

As a keen amateur genealogist I had been looking at the 1939 Register for a while and it had come up with a good deal of new and useful information on a number of people. However, I had only just thought to check on who was living in our house in Tring on 29 September 1939; when I did so, the name leapt off the screen and I was instantly intrigued.

At the start of the Second World War, Parliament approved the establishment of a National Register linked to the provision of identity cards that every man, woman and child had to carry at all times. In order to obtain the information for the cards, 65,000 enumerators delivered forms to every household in the country and the resulting register provides details of the full name, birth date and occupation of each household member. The register was made available through the National Archives in 2015 and more recently has been searchable online through a number of family history websites (entries for individuals who are, or may be, still living, are redacted). Some years ago I had put together a 'history' of our house and the plot upon which it had been built but details relating to the building's occupants were only available as far back as the mid-1940s. Now I could see exactly who was living in the house in the autumn of 1939, which was perhaps only five or six years after it had been

built. And it came as quite a surprise – this was a three-bedroomed, semi-detached house with one toilet and a small bathroom and yet there were no fewer than nine occupants! The house (much-extended since we moved into it in 1982) was home to three generations of a family whom I now know to have been Russian émigrés – and about whom I may write on another occasion – and alongside them was a housekeeper and a 22-year-old refugee and 'mother's help' called Ilse Rothschild.

Determined to find out more about Ilse, I searched online databases and came up with a possible marriage for an Ilse Rothschild in 1940, followed by an emigration to the USA. However, this would apparently have led me on a wild goose chase because I then came across someone in Australia who had an Ilse Rothschild in their family tree and with an identical birth date to the young woman living in Tring: 26 April 1917. This must be 'my' Ilse, so I made contact and we began to share information. My correspondent is the daughter of Ilse's cousin and she has been able to tell me a little more about the young woman who found herself, with a war looming, in a leafy suburban road in Hertfordshire looking after a businessman's grandchild in what must have been a very crowded household.

Ilse had been born into a Jewish family in Germany; her cousin suspects that there is some connection way back in previous generations to the banking Rothschilds, but nothing has yet been established on that score. Ilse's father Norbert Rothschild – a provision merchant – married Johanna Daniels in London in November 1911 and her uncle, Julius Rothschild, married Johanna's sister, Frieda. Julius and Frieda Rothschild evaded the Nazis and lived in Paris until their deaths in 1961

and 1990 respectively. Ilse's parents were not so fortunate: Norbert perished in Theresienstadt in September 1942 and Johanna in Auschwitz in 1945. It is hard to imagine what it must have been like for Ilse, separated from her two brothers and her parents and having fled from Germany as the persecution of Jews intensified towards the late 1930s; she must surely have feared just such an awful outcome.

As soon as I began to look at her family tree, the reality of what this dark period of history must have meant for families like Ilse's began to come into focus: by the time that I had two dozen people mapped out in her extended family I had discovered that six of them had died in death camps during the Holocaust.

However, Ilse survived, as did her two brothers, Hugo and Friedrich. All of them eventually emigrated to America, where Ilse eventually married a fellow German Jew called Walter Katzenstein. He had also lost family to the Nazi regime during the 1940s: both parents, a brother and a sister-in-law. Walter and Ilse did not have children and in later life they moved to Italy, where Walter died in 1991 and Ilse in 2010. She had travelled a long way from Tring, but she was a survivor.

Nicky Bull, High Street Baptist Church

Footnote: I have since searched through all of the 1939 register for Tring and have found no other people listed who are specifically identified as either émigrés or refugees (as the occupants of our house were). I am therefore all the more interested in pursuing their stories. However, if any reader is interested in knowing who was living in their pre-1939 Tring home, and possibly a bit about them, please do contact me at n_bull@hotmail.com.

The People's Walk 2018



My son-in-law was fortunate enough to receive two tickets in the People's Walk ballot and he invited me to be his guest on 11 November 2018, the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day.

We joined the entrance queue in St James' Park/Mall at 10.00am. We went through the first checkpoint fairly quickly, then out onto the second in the Mall which was more thorough. We were given identification wrist bands which also indicated which group we were allocated to for the final walk.

We then had a three-hour wait before moving off on the walk itself. During this time refreshments were available – tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits, and as much as you wanted, free of charge.



Several large TV screens had been erected the length of the Mall to enable the cenotaph service to be followed. Just before 11.00am, right in front



of me came a detachment of the Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery with well-groomed horses and drawing two shining field guns. Eleven o'clock the first gun was fired on Horse Guards Parade and most people jumped out of their skins! Two minutes later the second salvo, then the horses returned.

During the two-and-a-half hour wait, people from all parts of the UK were chatting away and joining in the songs that were being played during the Veterans' March Past.

Approaching 12.30pm, the first group prepared to move off for the walk along the Mall through Admiralty Arch, turning right into Whitehall, quickly followed by

Group D, our group.

As we walked along at a leisurely pace, many people were still behind the barriers and they clapped us warmly.

As we approached the Cenotaph, several young scouts (boys and girls) were waiting in a very organized manner to receive walkers' floral tributes and to lay them out on display.

A short halt at the Cenotaph, then onto Temple Station and home.

Thank you, Daren, for inviting me to accompany you on this historic occasion, a day I will never forget.

Douglas Purse, St Peter & St Paul

A visionary project



People in the community and beyond were inspired and moved by the Poppy Project display in November 2018 in St Peter & St Paul's Church.

They were also generous in donating when they visited the installation. In total the Poppy Project raised £1,597.00. This includes donations given in the Church in November of £1,097.00 and also £500.00 raised by two Lace and Craft

days and other donations to the Poppy Project. This total amount will be split between the Royal British Legion and the War Memorial refurbishment fund.

The Poppy Project team would like to thank the church for allowing us to use the building for the installation and for their support throughout the project, and to the many in and beyond the community for their enthusiastic knitting, sewing and financial contributions.

The Poppy Project Team

It was a visionary and very significant project for a very significant occasion. The publicity and social media coverage

was well done and the project, which I believe was two years in the planning, was extremely well executed. The members of St Peter & St Paul's were extremely proud that their Church was the venue for such an appropriate celebration of the 100 year armistice anniversary.

Chris Hoare, St Peter & St Paul



Parish registers

Baptisms

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

Olivia Turner
Ellora Sharon Maria Vogan

Funerals

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

Dennis Robinson 79 **Evelyn Thomson 91**
Jim Baldwin 83 **Joan Stedman**
Dennis Howard Guy 89 **Raymond Milson**
James Kenneth Watson 83 **Doris Susan MacKenzie 89**
Amelia Roberts 21

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Engaging with attachment and trauma issues

In January of 2019 Tring School embarked on a two-year national project focusing on attachment and trauma in schools. The whole school staff began receiving training about attachment theory and how trauma impacts on young people's lives and education. The school are working with The Rees Centre and the University of Oxford during this time. It is hoped that that the training will give staff a greater insight into how to deal with young people who have experienced trauma in their lives and that the data collected will help shape this national study.

The school became involved due to their work with a number of students who are 'looked after' children (children who are being fostered or in care) and the close links with the Hertfordshire Virtual School. As Acting Deputy Headteacher, I have been leading this work and put the school forward to be one of nine pilot schools in Hertfordshire. We are really looking forward to being part of this national study. It will really benefit our staff, giving them a greater understanding of the issues surrounding some of our most vulnerable young people, changing the way we deal with them on a daily basis and hopefully making a greater impact on their lives. We are always looking at ways to improve our pedagogy and also as a Church of England School, this project aligns with our Christian ethos.

Alex Timpson was a fierce campaigner on children's issues who, with her husband John, the chairman of the family firm of cobblers and key-cutters, fostered some ninety children over thirty-one years. Sadly she died in 2016 at the age of 69. Sir John Timpson said: 'Alex was an inspiration to me, not only in my private life, but in my work life as well. She always emphasised the importance of relationships, and set an example of kindness that James and I have attempted to incorporate into our business. Alex always wanted to give something back in life. The charity we have created is Alex's legacy to all looked after children.'

The Alex Timpson Trust supports the development of training courses on attachment awareness and the three books John Timpson has written on the subject - 'A Guide to Attachment', 'How to Create A Positive Future' and 'Looking After Looked After Children' - will be

made freely available to help raise wider awareness of the reasons why some looked after children behave in ways that are challenging and perplexing.

Research

The Alex Timpson Trust's work to support the emotional needs of looked after children in schools will be monitored by the Rees Centre, University of Oxford in association with the University of Chester. The Trustees have pledged £750,000 from the Trust to support this important research project over the next five years.

These monies will fund further initiatives that will inform and influence the content of teacher training courses in general.

Attachment and trauma

Why do we need a programme like this? The needs of children and young people in care and on the edge of care are a particular challenge to teachers and schools. Teachers and other school staff feel insufficiently prepared in attachment and social learning theories to work effectively with young people who experience trauma and unmet attachment needs. The failure to adequately meet these needs is likely to contribute further to the documented poor outcomes of these young people. The Programme recognises that work with children and young people who have experienced trauma or neglect cannot focus on attachment alone or attachment in isolation. Social learning and resilience are also important.

Aims of the programme

The aims of the Alex Timpson Attachment and Trauma Programme are: to raise school staff awareness and increase understanding of the role of attachment and trauma in children's education and strategies to better address their needs; reduce exclusions from school and improve attendance of children who are vulnerable; improve educational progress and the well-being of children who are vulnerable; develop the confidence and skills of teachers and other staff to address trauma and attachment; identify the most effective approaches to address attachment and trauma in schools; build a strong national evidence base for schools and national policy-makers to draw upon in making

decisions and allocating resources.

The programme in schools

The Alex Timpson Programme will support and build the evidence base around staff development on attachment and trauma in a minimum of 300 schools (in approximately 20-30 local authorities) over the next five years. Pupil Premium/ Pupil Premium Plus and schools' own budgets are used to cover the cost of the training. The Programme at the Rees Centre will pay for the development and evaluation of the Programme. It will also disseminate the learning in order to influence practice and policy more widely.

Nigel Barlow

Acting Deputy Head, Tring School

Café at New Mill



If it's Thursday lunchtime then it must be time to turn up at New Mill Baptist Church for a delicious bowl of hot soup, jacket potato and salad followed by scrumptious cake. The fare is simple and the company friendly. Make a date in your diary to join friends or make friends at this warm and welcoming café. Please join us whenever you can.

Julie Harris, New Mill Baptist Church



Why does slavery still exist?



On 20 November 2018 Esther Swaffield-Bray gave a talk in the High Street Baptist Church Hall, Tring. The event was brought by Churches Together in Tring and the Justice & Peace Group, Tring.

Esther works for the International Justice Mission (IJM), a global non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the poor from violence by rescuing victims, bringing the criminals to justice, restoring survivors to safety and strength, and helping local law enforcement build a safe future. It is the world's largest anti-slavery organisation and rescued 4,616 people from slavery in 2017.

Two children will be sold into slavery somewhere in the world every minute. A parent can be lied to, drop off a child at school and not see that child again. A woman can be drugged and then taken to a foreign country. Currently over 40 million people in the world are in slavery. The human trafficking trade is worth 150 billion dollars, and online exploitation (for example where money is taken from foreigners to stream sexual abuse of children) is the newest form of slavery. According to the Home Office (though other estimates vary widely) there are about 13,000 cases of slavery in the UK at present.

Slavery is illegal everywhere in the world but enforcement systems are lacking. According to a survey

conducted by the World Bank in 2014, the number one concern of poor people in the world today is safety. When we think of the needs of the poor we readily think of hunger, disease, homelessness, contaminated water, illiteracy, lack of education and joblessness. All these are pressing problems and the world is addressing them. But what the world hasn't been doing, at least to any great extent, is to tackle the main concern of the poor which is safety. The police and others in the criminal justice system in many developing countries are poorly paid and bribery and perverted justice are endemic, and only those who can afford to pay are helped. It is a fact of life that the poor face every day.

The Philippines used to be the epicentre for making minors available for sale in the commercial sex trade. In 2006 the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation commissioned a study to audit IJM's work in Cebu City, the country's second largest metropolitan area and it was hoped at the outset that there would be a 20% reduction in the availability of children in the commercial sex trade over four years. The team worked hard to increase local law enforcement, and criminal charges were brought against many suspected sex traffickers. When the four years were up, the auditors found a 79% reduction in the availability of children in the commercial sex trade!

So the broken criminal justice system in the Philippines has started to be repaired, and much of the violence there has now stopped. IJM partners local



Talk by Esther Swaffield-Bray authorities in many other parts of the world too, to rescue victims of modern slavery, to work to restore them (through IJM's aftercare programmes), to bring criminals to justice and to strengthen justice systems.

What can we do to help end slavery? William Wilberforce said that awareness, money and prayer are needed to end slavery.

The current campaign of IJM is 'Make slavefree normal'. 25 million people are in forced labour slavery. Many are making the products we buy every day. The campaign asks us to

- Buy ethically. Buy from brands taking active steps to stop slavery and exploitation. Plus, show you care by writing to your favourite brands and asking them what they're doing to stop slavery in their supply chain.
- Stop slavery at source. IJM finds out where slavery is taking place, rescues victims and prosecutes the criminals who are enslaving others. Through our work with local police and governments, we've seen dramatic reduction in slavery in places we've worked. You can take action against slavery by becoming a Freedom partner with IJM.
- Raise Your Voice. Nothing happens just because we are aware of modern slavery, but nothing can happen until we are. Your voice matters. Use it to let people know that slavery still exists and it's closer to home than

people think by talking about this on social media.

Raising awareness about slavery

We have power as consumers. We can make supermarkets aware of slavery. We can ask them not to endorse brands that are not ethical. The Fairtrade movement started from consumers demanding fair products. Perhaps we can say that consumers would be helped by seeing something is slavery free. A letter to a supermarket could for example thank them for serving Fairtrade coffee but go on to say that we would love them to ensure their products are slave free. I have written already to the CEOs of several companies on behalf of the Justice & Peace Group.

It is best to target companies. 71 per cent of companies have said they are not sure if they had slavery in their supply chain. Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 a commercial organisation having a total turnover of over £36 million must prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year of the organisation. If an organisation has a website it must publish the statement on that website. Under the Act a slavery and human trafficking statement for a financial year is: (a) a statement of the steps the organisation has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in

any of its supply chains, and in any part of its own business, or (b) a statement that the organisation has taken no such step.

The UK leads the world with this legislation.

Funding rescue at source is also a key way to tackle the problem: you can do this at ijmuk.org/give.

How to identify slaves

Pointers are: a tattoo with a bar code, evidence of sleeping on the premises (mattresses could be visible at the places where they work), lack of correct documentation. Generally they are forced

to do high-cash low-contact work (such as at car washes and seasonal work on a farm).

The modern slavery helpline is 0800 0121 700. This number can be called anonymously to report a suspected slavery situation. A police response would be triggered by two or more calls from members of the public.

With thanks to Polly Eaton for the photo of Esther Swaffield-Bray and to International Justice Mission (with faces obscured to protect identity) for the other photos.

Michael Demidecki
Justice & Peace Group, Tring



Slavery in India at a brick kiln



Slavery in India at a rock quarry

Piano and More... and more



This series of concerts began in 2017 and centres around the 1906 Bechstein grand piano at St Peter & St Paul's Church. Entrance is free, with a retiring collection for Church funds and toward the refurbishment costs of the piano.

The concerts are generally of chamber music, for which the Church acoustics are perfect, and the new lighting adds to the atmosphere.

We are fortunate in Tring in the many local musicians – pianists, singers, instrumentalists and conductors, amateur and professional, who live in the area, and freely share their time and talents.

After each concert tea, coffee and cake is served, with the opportunity to meet the musicians.

The last concert in The Piano and More Series for 2018 was a special one for Advent. We had students from local schools taking part, and they also played to a high standard. The piece which most struck me was Blake's The Snowman, performed by Esther Birch on the trumpet. It sounded sad to me as I contemplated his eventual melting.

The series continues through 2019, and you can find details on the website, www.piano-and-more.org. uk. Programmes are provided at the events, with details of the pieces to be

performed, together with notes on the performers.

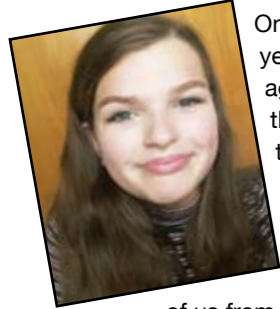
A previous concert which I particularly enjoyed featured the cello. I decided then that with its rich sound it was my favourite stringed instrument. So now my music collection has grown and includes cello recitals by Jacqueline du Pré.

Many are involved in organising and running the concerts led by Anna Le Hair. Thanks to them all for enjoyable Sunday afternoons.

Leslie Barker, St Peter & St Paul



Sleeping out for DENS

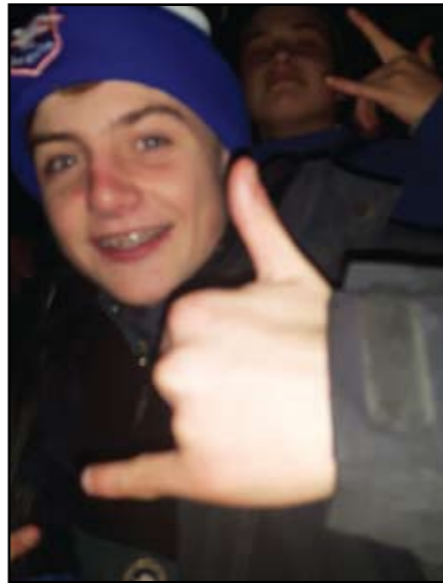


On 7 December last year, Youth Café once again completed the DENS sleepout, this time among ninety people sleeping outside Hemel Hempstead School. For some of us from the Tring Team, this was our fifth sleepout. Every year has been entertaining but highlights this year were Sam's hot water bottle and cuddly toy.

It is often enjoyable for George, Sam, Lucy, Eleanor and I because we are spending a night in good company and it feels like a bit of an adventure. We are all excited as we pack ourselves (and a substantial amount of cardboard) in the minibus. This year there was a silent disco for those sleeping out, which we chose not to take part in. Although we

enjoy ourselves, this seemed too much. We were there to raise money for an important local charity and to most of us, a silent disco felt as if it was to our benefit more than those who are helped by the charity. It was a good reminder of how humbling the experience is alongside our enjoyment. The homeless are certainly not having silent discos but they are also often not in the company of friends. To have to sleep outside, away from the safety of a school with first aid on immediate hand, alone and in the cold is a much more difficult experience than the one we had.

The sleepout remains an insightful experience and is valuable for all of us who take part, reminding us how important our donations are to DENS to help with the foodbank and to help prevent homelessness. This time the Sleepout raised £13,600 in total.
Eliza Bellis, St Peter & St Paul



News of former clergy

The Revd Philippa Segrave-Pride was Team Vicar at All Saints, Long Marston, St Cross, Wilstone and St Mary's, Puttenham from 2002-2004. She grew up in Shropshire before moving to Birmingham, where she studied Theology at Westhill College. She spent a year working for the Student's Union before being accepted for Ordination training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, in Oxford.

From 1999 she served in a variety of parishes in rural, suburban and urban settings including our own. She established pastoral care teams, new children's ministries and trained new clergy. She has a great love for the work of the Taizé Community and helped lead several Diocesan youth pilgrimages.

Philippa emigrated to Canada in 2013 with her husband Ronan and

daughter Caitlin after Ronan was offered a transfer with his work. After enjoying a year-long Sabbatical as a member of the congregation of Christ Church, Vancouver, she was offered the position of assistant to the Dean with responsibility for Pastoral Care and Liturgy. This included looking after members of the congregation who were ill, in hospital or nursing homes while also helping with baptisms, weddings and funerals.

On 1 January this year Philippa will take up her new appointment as Archdeacon at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. This is a part-time appointment of 24 hours per week, with primary responsibilities in the areas of pastoral care and liturgy; taking part with other Cathedral clergy in the Sunday

and weekday celebrations of Eucharist, and being a resource to members of the Cathedral requiring pastoral care in hospitals or at home. Philippa will also coordinate the Cathedral's baptismal ministries and share in weddings and funerals.





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A very special baptism



Advent Sunday was a particularly special one for me this year as I was hugely privileged to be in the Church of St Peter & St Paul to baptise my eight-month-old grandson, Gabriel – and what a hopeful Sunday on which to become a member of the church, one of Christ's pilgrim people, the first day of the church's new year and the beginning of the journey towards Christmas.

I was warmly welcomed back to the Church in which I worshipped and worked for a good few years. It was lovely to hear familiar voices and catch up on news. I am very grateful to Huw Bellis and Jane Banister for enabling me to baptise my grandchildren – as they said, it's a tradition in this Church now. Their three children were all baptised in St Peter & St Paul by their grandfather.

The last time I was here leading worship was five years ago when I baptised Gabriel's big sister, Meredith. I was delighted (and a little relieved because I hadn't wanted to impose on her decision-making) that my daughter Pippa asked me to baptise her children. All my children have enthusiastically supported me in my ministry but this was a very particular affirmation. My 'Yes!' response was directed back to



Pippa with a hug but also up to God with gratitude. I could get theologically verbose here in an effort to describe my feelings but 'like hiding under a duvet with a sparkler' is as near as I'm going to get; warm, bright and a little bit dangerous! Baptising is always a privilege, a responsibility and a delight, but baptising my own grandchild magnified it all.

Signing Gabriel on his forehead with the invisible and indelible sign of the cross and pouring water on his head in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit were joyful and mystical



moments, but the moment with an impact that surprised me was when I held up newly-baptised Gabriel as high as I could, facing the congregation, to see his new family. So many of the faces smiling back at us were people I know from the years I worshipped here regularly with my own young children, first as a member of the congregation, then as music director and lastly as ordinand. Some of those present were choristers I trained as children, now in Church with children of their own; many are the same people who cheered me at my ordination and sent me out to my new parish with their blessing; friends who were with us at Pippa and Matt's wedding and Meredith's baptism; mourners with us at the funeral of my youngest son, Henry, who was present in our hearts as we sang the offertory hymn to his favourite tune, the Londonderry Air.

In my eyes and heart and mind, this was a glorious vision of what the church is and a reminder of the Communion we all share – which, of course, was what the next part of the service made manifest, in bread and wine.

Jane Nash, 'retired' priest

Hidden secrets of Tring



In 1918, by the end of the Great War, Lloyd George's government was faced with enormous problems. The economy had been devastated and there was unrest amongst the workers. High inflation, a shortage of jobs and housing, and high food prices were some of the other difficulties. Also, huge numbers of ex-servicemen were coming home, many of whom were wounded, physically and mentally.

Meanwhile, in other parts of Europe there was revolution, and the government feared that these ideas could spread.

Lloyd George, from his earliest days, had championed the 'liberation' of land; he advocated it should be taken from the aristocracy and given to the people. During his political life he had made various proposals in this direction, but

candidates, asking what acreage was wanted, what their agricultural experience was, whether housing was needed, and if they had any funds available. They also asked about marital status and family.

Locally, the Hon. Charles Rothschild was asked for land, and he sold 180 acres, part of Dunsley Farm, to the County for £5,110. The men requested different-sized allotments; some were for pasture, others for cultivation. Unfortunately, no plan has been found to show who was allocated what area. However, we know about one man, Mr E.A. Jeacocks, who wanted to set up a plant nursery and a fruit orchard. He was already employed as a Head Gardener, and claimed that he needed to live close to the site. He requested 2 acres and a cottage. This he was granted, and the amazing thing is that the plot, and his house are still here in Tring, and still being lived in.

This photograph shows the cottage



it was only after the War that he came close to realising them. The 1919 Land Settlement (Facilities) Bill, although far from his original hopes, did actually result in small areas of land being allocated to ex-servicemen.

How did this work? The Bill enabled County Councils to acquire land, either by purchasing or renting, mainly from the large landowners. Hertfordshire was one of the Counties that took it up, and the minutes of meetings, from which this article is taken, are in the County Archive. A Land Agent was appointed and applications were invited from ex-servicemen (those who had been exempted were also eligible). Selection committees were held to interview

on Cow Lane in the spring, with blossoms from Mr Jeacock's original apple orchard. We know a little about the construction; the plan was one drawn up by a County architect, which was used all over the County. It is a good design, very practical for a family (Mr Jeacocks was 35 years old, and married) and the quality of the construction was excellent. Since its completion in 1921 it has been slightly altered to make it more comfortable for modern living. The tenant moved in at a rental of £30 per annum. However, there must have been water problems, because the 35-foot well had to be dug even further, to a depth of 61 feet at a cost of £1,030 14s 0d. The well is not accessible now.

The whole small holding, the land, cottage and barn, have a Grade II listing, called Dunsley Bungalow by Historic England. The barn next to the house is divided into a cartshed (sic) and a piggery. Like the cottage, it is timber-framed and still in excellent condition.

We know the stories of two further men who took advantage of the Land Settlement scheme, because their grandchildren live in Tring and are able to tell us about them. Walter James Wilkins was exempted from war work because he was engaged in conveying hay and straw to London, bringing back soot. He acquired 25 acres also on the Dunsley Farm, where he kept cows which he milked initially at the current Dunsley Farm. As others gave up their tenancies, he gradually took over another 25 acres. 'Punch' Wilkins was well known in Tring, and he became a milkman working 7 days a week, 365 days a year. His traditional cart (now owned by Dacorum Heritage Trust) was pulled by a horse which knew the customers and the route. His granddaughter still lives on, and farms his original Hertfordshire Rural Estates land.

Charles Hearn had served in the war. He was awarded a small holding on Oddy Hill, known as 'Bob's Meadow' where he kept pigs, a few sheep and chickens. He too expanded his holding in time; both men worked very hard, and for them, at least, the scheme was successful, enabling them to get a better foothold in life than they would otherwise have had.

Whether the funds spent on the project over the whole country was money well spent, is not known. But we do know that there was no revolution.

Shelley Savage
Tring & District Local History & Museum Society

Please visit the Tring Local History Museum, The Market Place, Brook Street, Tring, to see many exhibits and displays about the lives of the people of the town and the villages around it. The museum is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm (3.30pm November to February) on Fridays and Saturdays. Admission free. More detailed information can be found on the website www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk

A very happy 90th birthday!

Just before Christmas 2018, Daphne Nash celebrated her 90th birthday. In St Peter & St Paul she was surprised by a cake and being sung to in the service, and at home her wider family gathered to celebrate with her.

Daphne is pictured with one of her sons, her daughter and three of her grandsons as well as her sister and brother in law from Leamington Spa and various nieces and nephews who had driven up from Norfolk. The cake was made by her daughter Barbara and was filled with raspberries and decorated with blueberries and strawberries. The small family group is of Daphne with her two sons, John and Stephen, and her daughter, Barbara.

Daphne was born in Hemel Hempstead in 1928, the first of three children. She spent her childhood at Ashley Green just outside Berkhamsted. After leaving school, she became a nursery nurse and had her first job in Ashley Green. She moved to Hindhead in Surrey, then to London, but feeling a future in London was not for her, in 1946 she joined the Land Army and was



posted to Markyate. It was while working in the Land Army that she met her future husband, Bill.

After marrying in 1949, they moved to Bill's farm at Felden just outside Hemel Hempstead and Daphne settled in to a new life as farmer's wife and, subsequently, mother of their three children, John, Barbara and Stephen. In 1985 Daphne and Bill moved to Tring where she still lives. Sadly Bill died in 1982.

As well as her three children, Daphne now has four grandsons, Andrew, Edward, Michael and Robert; and two great grandchildren, Emma and Paul. The family is widely scattered with her children in Kendal, London and Linslade; and grandchildren in Fareham, Germany, Linslade and Cambridge.

John Nash, son and Janet Nash, daughter-in-law of Daphne Nash St Peter & St Paul



RIP dad



When I flew out from London to Cyprus just before Christmas it was a murky, drizzly day. The hems of my husband's jeans were wet and cold from the puddles in Aldbury. The tops of the trees were shrouded in a dreary damp mist and we had that misty rain which doesn't look much but soaks you through to the bone almost as soon as you step outside.

It was miserable.

Sitting on our plane waiting to taxi to the runway, it was hard to see out of the windows which were covered in raindrops. Given the reason for our trip and the weather, it was hard to feel anything but flat, tired, sad and depressed. The engines rumbled and off we went. I felt, as I always, do that anxiety and helplessness. I'm a bit of a control freak (no really!) and have to remind myself that the pilots are well trained, experienced and have not entirely selfless reasons for the take-off to go well. I remind myself that God blessed these clever folk with the ability to lift several tons of metal into the air successfully time and time again.

I say a prayer or two just in case.

It seemed an eternity powering through thick clouds. For several moments it felt like we belonged neither on the ground or to the sky. Held in limbo, restrained by seatbelts trusting in those pilots to keep us safe and help us to get where we need or want to be.

Then a burst of dazzling sunlight flooded the cabin. The clouds receded to form a soft carpet and above us and around us only blue sky as far as the eye could see. I noticed the raindrops had vanished from my window and I had a clear view for miles. I felt my mood lift and started to feel more positive about my trip. I remembered I would get to see friends and family and share memories of Dave, my stepdad, and my children's grandad, with other people who loved him too.

It felt to me that those few minutes from runway to sky were a great analogy for the grieving process.

Dave drove me to my uni interview, he taught me to drive, he walked me down the aisle, he cradled my newborn

babies, he taught my eldest son to ride his bike... you get the picture. He also encouraged my older boys to teach a pet bird to say 'Beaky's a b*****' (words we don't print in Comment) which resulted in one of my sons getting lines at school for using the B word in the playground. He taught my home counties born-and-bred children to use the Black Country phrase 'Tara a bit' instead of goodbye. When I was a teenager, he took delight in finding pubs with steak and sundae meal deals where we would encourage each other to overeat; then I would drive him home, L plates firmly attached to a fabulous Ford Capri. When he moved to Cyprus with my mum, he swapped the search for giant steaks to a hunt for enormous pork chops and we carried on our relaxed relationship which included food, drink and lots of chat.

Dave might have been a man of few words at times but he touched everyone he knew with his love, humour, wisdom and generosity. These early days without him feel like a British autumn day to me: cold, often lonely, dreary. Many hours of darkness to endure as the light that was Dave seems to have been extinguished from our lives. And when it's autumn in Britain the balmy, sun-filled days of summer seem an age away. You can hardly remember what it feels like to be warm, relaxed and happy, enjoying garden parties and barbecues with friends.

Likewise, when someone dies, it is difficult to remember a time when you were not swamped with grief. You cannot imagine that like the seasons which roll round regardless, time will bring you back to a place when you don't feel this depth of anguish, sadness and regret. You cannot imagine life ahead without the one you love.

Just as you trust the pilots on the plane, you have to have faith that this raw grief will pass. Place yourself in God's gentle hands and let him carry you awhile. As it says in 1 Peter 5:7, 'Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you.' It doesn't matter if you don't feel God is there or even if you don't believe in God. God believes in you.

You might wonder why, if there's a God, he or she allows cancer and other awful conditions to take good people away from us. I don't know the answer to that. I do know that situations like this bring out the very best in people. I know my mum has been truly touched by the love, help and support she has experienced. She keeps telling me how amazed she is, how unexpected it is. She hadn't realised that so many people love and care for her too. Maybe we have to take that as some comfort – that terrible times can give us opportunities to share our love and God's love through our words and actions.

Dave himself was not 'churchy' and yet I like to think that he has been pleasantly surprised to find a sunny vine-covered heavenly Taverna where he is sitting with old friends. They are probably sharing a beer and maybe it's the one place where the pork chops are even bigger than in Cyprus. There will be no pain, no struggle to walk or breathe and no fear. Only blue skies around him.

Faith or no faith, Dave was a good man and I believe my God will recognise that and welcome him with open arms.

It's hard for us, left behind, missing him dreadfully, but we must move onwards and upwards, just like that plane, out of the clouds and into the sunshine.

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



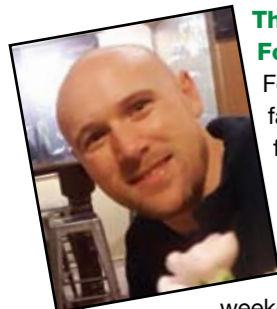
Fort Rocky



I went with the Rock Solid Youth Group from St Michael's, Newhaven, to Fort Rocky in 2006. There were ten young people, with Sara our Youth Worker, and me in the party. We had an enjoyable, exciting and challenging time, which led to lasting relationships between the leaders and youth.

Most of the activities were very popular so were off limits to the leaders but I managed to try the climbing wall and some archery. Fort Rocky is an excellent way of pointing young people towards Jesus.

David Whiting, St Peter & St Paul



The adventure of Fort Rocky

Fort Rocky was a fantastic weekend of fun and games for young people and group leaders alike. The well organised activities over the

weekend included a giant inflatable obstacle course, real life 'Mario Cart', an escape room, scavenger hunt and perhaps best of all was a session of outdoor activities which featured abseiling and a giant zip line.

The weekend provided a brilliant atmosphere for everyone to have a great time and to build relationships. Amongst all of the action were a selection of roadshows where the Youth for Christ team explained a number of important truths to the young people about God, who he is and how he feels about them and how he can help them in their lives.

Each individual probably responded to these truths differently but whether they took a giant bold stride closer to God or perhaps just a single, simple but crucial truth was tucked away into their heart for the future, it was worth every bit of effort put in by Youth for Christ. It was an awesome weekend!

**James Cave
High Street Baptist Church**

Coming closer to God

There are many things to say about Fort Rocky, but I'm sure you don't have all day, so I will describe as best I can

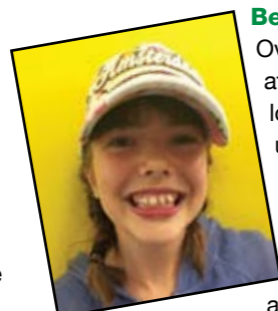


how brilliant it was. From the moment I arrived, I felt at ease. The adults really understood us – we became friends with them. As well as the comfort of the relaxing atmosphere, there was also the introduction of the thrilling rivalry between the red, yellow, green and blue tribes. A series of side-quests entertained us when we were not completing inflatable assault courses, searching for treasure or solving puzzles at the risk of our team's top spot on the leader board!

The adults at Fort Rocky made learning about God easy and fun. Over the duration of my short stay, I became closer to God and some of my friends decided that they wanted to learn more about Christianity. On the final day, after the Mega Challenge, Beth, one of the leaders, talked to us about God more deeply. At any point we could leave, but many of us stayed – not because others stayed but because we wanted to. In those few moments, I felt closest to God and really understood what everyone had been talking about over the last few days.

I would definitely recommend that you go to Fort Rocky. It was really fun: you can make friends, relax and learn a lot. If you do decide to go, I hope you have just as much fun as me, though I don't think I need to worry!

**Amelia Butler
High Street Baptist Church**



Being better

Over the weekend at Fort Rocky we looked at levelling up. By this we mean becoming a better person and helping others. We enjoyed learning more about God and had



fun playing games. In some of the games we played, we were split into four tribes so that we were with other children from other churches. This meant we could meet other Christians and make new friends through God. Every challenge we did was extremely fun and had a short message about God somewhere throughout it. We also had a great time watching movies with hot chocolate. However, because of all the fun, games, activities and late nights we all came back exhausted.

**Nell Asquith, age 11
High Street Baptist Church**

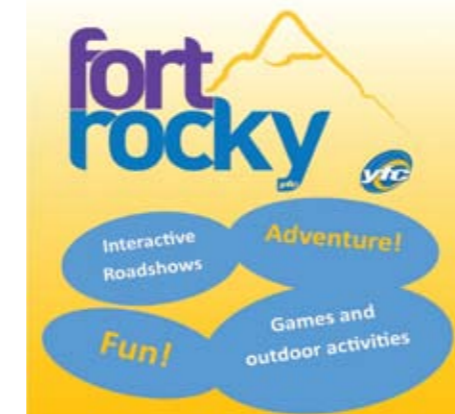


Don't give up!

Twelve of us from High Street Baptist Church went to Fort Rocky. We spent hours doing outdoor activities, inflatables, roadshows, films and much, much more! It was an amazing trip that anyone would enjoy. During our time there we focused

more! It was an amazing trip that anyone would enjoy.

During our time there we focused



on the story of Joseph. We learnt that during the times when his life was hard, Joseph never gave up on God. He got given an incredibly powerful job from Pharaoh to which he could have said, no, that's too hard, I'm going home, but he didn't. He trusted that God had a plan for him and look where he ended up! He came across many struggles in his life that must have been crazy difficult (being thrown down a well, getting unfairly chucked in prison) and yet he trusted God and even though our lives can be hard, we must remember that God is always there and that he has a plan for us.

**Fern Asquith, aged 12
High Street Baptist Church**



Here dead we lie

Sunday 9 December 2018 was a mild, sunny winter's day. It was just the weather we needed for the New Mill Baptist Church congregation to assemble outside in the graveyard to pay tribute to the cross of Private Charles Miller.

Members of the Tring and Berkhamsted British Legion were present with the Standard Bearer, Chris Richards, to take part in a short service led by David Norkett. David read the WW1 short poem by Alfred Housman.

*Here dead we lie
Because we did not choose
To live and shame the land
From which we sprung*

*Life, to be sure,
Is nothing much to lose
But young men think it is,
And we were young.*

It was a simple and fitting service to commemorate the local man whose name appears on the War Memorial outside the Parish Church but didn't have a marked grave. The poppy wreath was laid by Pauline Wakefield from the British Legion, watched by members and neighbours of New Mill Baptist Church. Roger Dorman played the trumpet for the Last Post.

Private Miller's cross is a symbol to remember so many like him who fought in WW1 and were invalided home without any further mention afterwards.

Julie Harris, New Mill Baptist Church



Chris Richards with the lowered standard at Private Miller's cross



Some of the members and neighbours of New Mill Baptist Church

Being confirmed



Confirmation can be the Cinderella of our services – people know what baptism is, but confirmation is less clear. It has also become more separate from First Communion than it used to be – in our Churches we

welcome young people to communion if they are seven or over and are regular worshippers (and it needs to be them and not their parents who worship).

At confirmation, the candidates make the promises for themselves that others made for them at baptism. For some, this happens as teenagers, for others it is an event that happens later in life. Each year there are confirmation services held all over the diocese, and we feel very blessed as a parish that we have had a confirmation service several years running in our Church and have asked for another one as we have enough candidates.

This year we had seven candidates from our parish – four teenagers and three adults, one of whom was to be baptised as well. This is a fantastic number and what made it even more memorable was the fact that all the candidates were male. I know that gender should not matter, but congregations are usually made up of more women than men, so we were delighted to prove that this is not always the case. Each of the candidates had a different journey to this point, and it is

always an honour to be with them on the next stage of that journey.

It also proved to be an eventful week – Sam B became a godfather on 1 December, and Trevor became a grandfather!

We wish them all every blessing.

Jane Banister, Tring Team



Talk to people!



As of 14 December I completed my first term of A-Levels at Aylesbury High School. The past term has been intense to say the least, the step up to A-Level from GCSE is tough and I'm not sure a long two-and-a-half month summer prepared me for it. In addition (a rather large addition) I have also begun sixth form at a new school.

It varies from school to school but the majority of Tring students who chose to do A-Levels remain at Tring School. However, due to circumstances with my A Level options, that wouldn't have been the right decision for me. Therefore, I looked around a few other local schools and found that AHS was best suited to me. Moving school was an incredibly daunting prospect.

Almost all of my friends attended and continue to attend Tring School. I'd never considered not attending Tring School, so much so that I didn't even take 11+ exam in Year 6, and was incredibly comfortable in Tring. Despite the knowledge that in two years, everyone will be scattered all over the place, moving at this stage felt bizarre. Having just done the two-year process of GCSEs, I know how quickly these

two years will go by, which puts new friendships in a strange place. I have been incredibly fortunate to have made a solid group of friends quite quickly and feel very settled.

In the first few weeks fitting in felt odd: when you spend a lot of time in one environment you become accustomed to the little intricacies of the place. Things become commonplace and to an outsider it feels as if you are very much not in the circle. There are attitudes in the High School which feel different from Tring; it feels as if people put greater pressure on themselves and take certain school events more seriously – and some of these things came as a bit of a shock.

However, the atmosphere of A-Levels makes everyone, new and old, feel a little overwhelmed and the benefit of the heavy workload means you aren't spending a lot of time with nothing to do while not knowing people; and I've found everyone to be incredibly welcoming.

I've spent a lot of time trying to think what I should say in this article so it isn't just a rambling story but I think what is most useful would be some advice for anyone considering making some kind of move: the most valuable thing is to talk to people. I spoke to people who had moved to Aylesbury High School from Tring School and people who had subsequently returned, as well as people

who had moved elsewhere to take French. It gave me some insight into the process of moving and has been a major factor in me finding the courage to make the move. Schools are always short of time and overstretched so they often don't have the opportunity to set up these kinds of conversations, and Open Evenings don't always show students at their most honest (considering there is often a teacher right behind them)! Therefore, I had to take matters into my own hands and one of the blessings of social media is the ease of talking to people in an instant.

I found every person I spoke to was willing to talk honestly about their experience and I would encourage any students looking at moving to make contact with others to share their experiences. Or, for students who aren't moving but are unsure about their subject choices, there is no harm in talking to older students and asking for advice – they are generally happy to help.

Overall the past term may have been intense but it has shown me that for the position I was in, I made the right decision. The advice of others has been invaluable in that situation.

Eliza Bellis, St Peter & St Paul

Confirmation: then and now

Gwen Hewison is a regular member of the Parish Church in Tring. At 97 she doesn't walk very well and her sight and hearing are not as good as they used to be.

But Gwen remembers her Confirmation. Gwen used to live in London and went to St Thomas' Church in North Kensington. On her 21st birthday she was admitted to hospital with a burst appendix and was told she would not recover. When she got home after her illness, her mother was very concerned that she should be confirmed after her brush with death.

Her Vicar tried to get her into classes

locally and found that she could be confirmed in none other than St Paul's Cathedral. It used to be the custom that girls wore white for their Confirmation in the Anglican Church. Now this was 1942 and Gwen had no 'posh clothes' suitable for the occasion and couldn't get the coupons to buy something even if she could afford them. So the Vicar's wife lent Gwen her own white tennis dress, an elderly lady in the congregation lent her a veil edged with gold crosses – and Gwen wore these plus her brown brogue shoes for the service! She was one of 100 candidates confirmed in the crypt of St Paul's because it was wartime.

There is less formality now in the dress code for the service and being smart is a bonus.

None of the seven Confirmation candidates in St Peter & St Paul's – all male – wore a tennis dress or veil in November 2018 – but they were all very smart. But coming as you are is better than not coming at all.

Bishop Michael of Hertford, who presided at the Confirmation Service in Tring Parish Church last November, said afterwards that coffee and cake was customary after a Confirmation but Huw Bellis' paella was exceptional!

Annette Reynolds, St Peter & St Paul

Flowers in St Peter & St Paul's Church



Do you enjoy flowers?

Do you buy flowers but are not sure how to arrange them to enhance their beauty? Are you interested in learning the basics of arranging flowers in Church? Are you interested in joining a flower arranger's rota for an occasional weekly duty? Are you interested in helping with funding flowers in Church?

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, then we can help you!

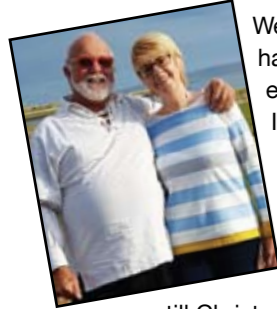
We are happy to organise a workshop to show you how to do the basics and to answer any questions you may have. No commitment to join a rota at this stage is needed if you just want to find out more. We all started at not knowing anything, but with help and encouragement, we have developed our initial interest into a passion for flowers that enhances our beautiful Church for all those who worship there and visit during the week.

Please contact Janet Goodyer on 01442 824929 or jjgoody@ntlworld.com to find out more or to offer your help. The workshop(s) will be daytime, evening or Saturday mornings, depending on demand.

Janet Goodyer, Margaret Oram & Diane Jarvis, St Peter & St Paul



Letter from Orkney



Well! here we are, still hanging on to the edge of the world. I expect when you read this, Christmas will be a fond memory and 2018 history. For us on the 4 Jan 2019 it is still Christmas. We were so glad to get home.

2018 saw guests with us through early summer then onto our narrowboat for a couple of months followed by three weeks touring Hong Kong, Tasmania and mainland Australia. Arriving back gasping, we set off again to Brum to celebrate Carrie's big 'O' birthday, finally arriving home mid-December, just in time to get the decorations up and write the cards.

This year we decided NO PRESENTS except for the grandchildren. We made and painted many of our cards, resulting in a glitter palace for a living room. With the savings made we decided to split the money between the Orkney equivalent of DENS and our local Salvation Army.

The Orcadian Christmas is very much a family affair with seasonal socialising done at the Kirk or in the pub and there is ample opportunity for both. We had a lovely Choir concert at St Magnus Cathedral and attended St Mary's Carol Service then a 'Midnight Mass', only up here the Mass is at 5.00pm. I guess it is because there are no lights whatsoever outside Stromness and the population is scattered all over the hills, so getting home in the dark can be challenging in the wind and rain.

We spent Christmas and new year on our own for the very first time ever, and it was wonderful. A dinner of Grahame Senior's pheasant and a wild Orkney Goose followed by my best Whisky and a good film. New year was much the same except the wonderful Edinburgh Hogmanay on telly with a bottle of Lanson to see the new year in.

2019 is going to be a good year

Our building works should conclude in February, giving me a studio, Carrie a place to do her writing and for us both, a nice area to read BOOKS – made of paper.

The winter winds are back with a vengeance. We now wait for each person to exit the car to avoid the

'Orkney Door', where the car door is bent around the hinges. It is quite warm most of the time, 10 degrees Centigrade, which is warmer than many places in Scotland and even England. November and December have been cloudy, grey, dark months but, now we enter January with nights getting shorter, Spring on the way and the winds bringing ever-changing huge skies, it is exhilarating and beautiful.

Carrie has started training with CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) and she is on a writing course to improve her skills in fiction writing. She is also proposing to drive for the Red Cross, getting the elderly to hospital (probably with me in mind). She is also on the Vestry Committee for St Mary's. As for me, I am still painting, with one piece on exhibition in Kirkwall, practising the Bodhran (an Irish frame drum) and now Fabric Supervisor for St Mary's.

Life goes on here in the short dark days of winter, Fishermen are out, their small boats braving the wild sea in front of our house, the farmers are getting going with the Sheep Topping and field preparations for spring sowing. Kirkwall bustles with builders and shopfitters readying itself for the spring onslaught of cruise liners, and our lovely builders gave us a hamper for Christmas. Now they are up on the roof in the wet windy dark, working hard to complete outside work before the 'real' winds arrive.

And Us, well we light the fire, look out of the window and thank God we have found our promised land. Next time I expect Carrie will have a lot of interesting stuff to tell you.

Carrie and I wish you all a very Healthy, Happy and Peaceful new year filled with love and chocolates (someone has to eat them).

Mac Dodge, St Mary's Stromness



Men's Society



Co-incidences

Some Christians speak of 'God-incidences' when events co-incide 'by chance' to bring joy and other good outcomes. John calls them encounters.

John recalled a holiday in France: 'When swimming in Lake Annecy I was greeted by the only other swimmer who happened to be a fellow hockey player.'

Jeremy recalled a chance exchange with Christine Rutter which led him to sort out the damp problems at Puttenham Church so that the Diocese would allow the refurbishment work to proceed.

Ted said that after basic Navy training, two and a half years later, he met with a colleague from the course, serving on the same ship.

David W also recalled a holiday co-incidence from his father. While on holiday in Swanage he met a relative he had not seen for forty years, looking into the same shop window. This led to a renewal of their friendship.

David G was walking down a steep lane in Jersey when he was astounded to meet a fellow member of Tring Choral Society, who is now behind the recently completed lighting project at St Peter & Paul.

I recalled stopping to fill up with petrol when returning from a church weekend away. The car would not restart so I walked the couple of miles home. On Monday morning when the workshop was open I returned to the garage, and by co-incidence a work colleague stopped for petrol, and gave me a lift to work several miles away.

I suggested that co-incidences could be anything from just low probability events to God's direct intervention.

It is good being reunited with old friends through chance meetings. Some encounters have lasting consequences like meeting a future wife.

I have experienced God's guidance through co-incidences, such as when the Christian Union at uni wanted someone to design posters; and the sermon that Sunday was on Bezalel who designed the ark of the covenant.

Does God 'interfere' with the normal run of the world to provide 'God-incidences' for us? The two 18th century

evangelists, John Wesley and William Whitefield, spent a lifetime arguing opposing points of view.

The challenges of modern living

This was our last meeting of 2018. David G found it very difficult to deal with the renewal of insurances, MOT, and car recovery with the AA. His advice was to stop automatic renewals and look at all the comparison sites, and to do them in order. He discovered that new customers get the best deals, and the longer you stay with one company the higher the annual increase. No loyalty discounts! Martin had recently experienced this problem, and taken several hours to sort it out – time only available to the retired.

I believe that computers have passed the peak of user friendliness and are now getting more complicated. I held up the instructions for my cordless phone which cover two sides of A3 in small print. As with other items, for instance cameras, I only know how to use the basic functions. Browsers have been redesigned for apps and I find it difficult to locate the website I want.

However, those who use Apple say they do not have the same problems – unless you want to bank in Tring, where not even Apple can help. Now the last remaining bank has closed, not only individuals but businesses, churches, clubs and societies all have problems of banking cash and cheques received.

Thank you to John Hawkes

We surmounted one common problem of today – that of finding people to run clubs, organisations etc. At the beginning of January John Hawkes announced that he had decided to stand down from his role as chair and group co-ordinator of Tring Team Men's Society. We are very grateful to John for steering us for so long during a time of transition.

Thank you to Jeremy Buckman

Within days, Jeremy Buckman had agreed to take over the role.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6 February when the topic will be Social Awareness. All men are invited and as usual the meeting will be at 7.30pm at the Half Moon in Wilstone. For information on future meetings, contact Jeremy at jeremybuckman814@gmail.com.

Leslie Barker, St Peter & St Paul

Baby's First Christmas

Thank you to Gary and Rachel Stanley, to Matt and Pippa Wright and Tom and Fran Prescott for photos of their babies enjoying their first Christmas at the end of 2018.



George Brian Paul Stanley was born on 17 April 2018 so was 8 months old on his first Christmas. George was baptized in St Peter & St Paul on 30 September last year.



Gabriel Nigel Henry Wright was born on 8 May 2018 so was 7 months old. As you will have seen earlier in this edition of Comment, Gabriel was baptized on Advent Sunday, 2 December last year.



Evelyn Sophia Prescott was born on 15 May 2018 so was also 7 months old on her first Christmas. Evelyn was baptized on 4 November last year.

The Editor

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Tweet of the month

I have been interested in birds since I was very young. My interest in wildlife in general started before I went to school and certainly before I was eleven my primary focus was birds. To this day I'm not sure why. It may be because they were visible and easier to see than most other wildlife, or possibly their diversity – I just don't know.

I can't remember when I first heard about Hummingbirds either and it was probably the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, found as far north as Canada, which started that awareness. As the years went on and my knowledge of Hummingbirds increased there was one species that really caught my imagination – Sword-billed Hummingbird. It isn't the biggest or smallest hummingbird and it isn't the most colourful either. However, its name gives a clue to its distinctive feature. To say it has a long bill is an understatement. Proportionately it has the longest bill of any bird and is the only bird with a bill longer than the rest of its body.

Sword-billed Hummingbird is found in the northern half of South America along the Andean mountain chain from

Venezuela to Bolivia at reasonably high altitude – between 1700 and 3300 metres above sea level. The bill is so long that it is held up at a steep angle when the bird is at rest to reduce



strain on the bird's body. The long bill is normally used to probe flowers – particularly with long corollas (the corolla is the flower's petals and in this case they have formed a long tubular structure). Some species of plant are so heavily reliant that they would die out without Sword-billed Hummingbirds pollinating them.

In 2006 I went to Ecuador and saw forty-five species of Hummingbird in

eight days! The names of some of them were as amazing as the birds themselves: Shining Sunbeam, Gorgeted Sunangel, White-booted Racket-tail and Rainbow-bearded Thornbill to name but a few of them. Indeed I went back in 2010 and saw forty species of Hummingbird and nine of these I'd never seen before. However, the one I remember best from both trips is the Sword-billed Hummingbird. Seeing it was a dream come true and getting photographs of them the icing on a very large cake.

Obviously one question that we as Christians might be asked about is Creation versus Evolution. Sword-billed Hummingbird is one of the most specialised birds in the world that relies on very specialised plants that in turn rely on it for pollination. I know that some people believe in Creation as literal truth. For myself I believe that Genesis is man's simplified account of evolution, but God was the start of evolution and is with us today. Watching such a miraculous creation flying around and feeding, it is easy to believe that God was involved in its creation.

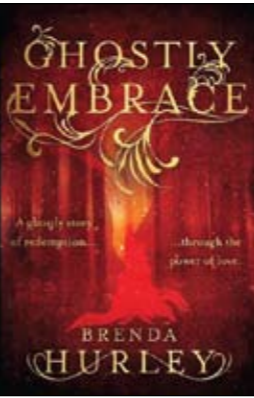
Roy Hargreaves, St Peter & St Paul

A ghost story with a difference

So! I wrote a book; or, as Ernie Wise might have said, 'A book what I wrote'.

I have been on a journey that lasted a few years, one where I got to know my ghostly character Louis very well.

Where did it all start, I hear you ask? Well, I suppose it started with my admiration of Mike Waterhouse's work, a wood carver who lives and works in Cheddington. I first saw his carvings of the green man, a deity of the woods and excess, a pagan god portrayed with a human face surrounded by hair made from oak leaves and acorns. Such clever work and so beautiful.



Louis was born. Louis became very real to me, which I guess happens when one spends so

Some time ago I visited a National Trust propriety in Dorset called Kingston Lacy. I was astounded when I saw ornate carved shutters on the windows of the main room. Followed by seeing an elaborate frieze of wild life and fruits and grasses carved on a single piece of wood, made by the Dutch/English artist/sculptor and woodcarver Grinling Gibbons.

Then in one of the bedrooms sat a carved headboard on a four-poster bed. At that point I didn't know who had produced such remarkable work. I stood and wondered who and what kind of a person could make such fine pieces. Only a master carver could have produced such difficult and intricate objects. The more I thought about the clever hands that had made them, the more a clear image emerged in my mind.

Louis was born. Louis became very real to me, which I guess happens when one spends so

much time developing the character.

When he was killed with a bread knife by his jealous wife, his life's blood was absorbed into the carved bed he had made for them as a wedding gift. Not realising he had died, he refused to go into the light, the doorway to the next life. His blood traps him to the bed: when it is sold, he is sold with it. He is a spirit, who has had to learn to live without hope in a netherworld, until he meets an unusual family.

He was a man betrayed by love, only to find it again centuries later when he meets and helps two special ladies, connecting to them by visiting and loving them in their dreams. Louis is the original dream man.

The book can be ordered at Waterstones in paperback, ISBN 978-78901-712-0 or at Amazon. It is also available as an e-book.

Brenda Hurley, St Peter & St Paul



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Timothy Dudley-Smith



Writing these few articles about hymn writers I am struck by how many hymns some writers wrote and how few are in common use. Timothy Dudley-Smith is very well known for a few hymns such as 'Tell out, my soul...' and 'Lord, for the years...' produced in the 1960s. But by 2006 he had produced 321 hymns! In that year he was described as 'the foremost Evangelical hymn writer in the second half of the twentieth century'. It was also said of him that he alone in that time had produced 'the highest percentage of Rolls Royce texts and a very small scrapyard of old bangers'.

Timothy Dudley-Smith was born in 1926, the son of a school master. He started writing verse from an early age. After school at Tonbridge he went to Pembroke College, Cambridge, reading first Maths and then Theology, before going on to Ridley Hall to be trained for the priesthood. On Ordination he served his curacy in Erith and then became Head of the Cambridge University Mission in Bermondsey. In 1955 he became Editorial Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance and also editor of a new magazine, *Crusade*. From 1959 – 1973 he worked for the Church Pastoral Aid Society and began at that time to write hymns. His next appointment was Archdeacon of Norwich in 1973. In 1981 he was consecrated Bishop of Thetford. He retired in 1992 and now lives in Ford, Salisbury.

In May 1969 he read the version of the Magnificat in the New English Bible and declared 'I saw in it the first line of a poem'. He speedily wrote the rest – we know it now as 'Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord'. Older readers may well remember that in the 1960s there was a period of revision of

the services of the Church and a move to greater use of modern translations of the Scriptures. He claimed that he never wrote hymns, saying 'No, I can't write real music and I am totally unmusical'. However, the text was included in the Anglican Hymn Book which was published in 1965. When it was first sung at a Clergy Conference it was 'nearly sunk' by the tune selected. Later the tune 'Woodlands' was produced, which, as has been said, 'took it all round the world' and into 130 hymn books!

Along with this celebrated and much-used version of the Magnificat, Bishop



Dudley-Smith has provided us with 'Faithful vigil ended' as a version of the Nunc Dimittis. And among other hymns he composed are several versions of Scriptural passages, the Psalms, one from Daniel and also one based on a prayer of St Augustine.

'Lord for the years' was written on a train journey home from the Centenary of the Scripture Union in 1967. Archbishop George Carey chose it for his Enthronement Service and an extra verse was added for the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's Accession: 'Lord, for

our hopes, the dreams of all our living, / Christ and his kingdom one united aim; / Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving, / Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your name.' It was, however, stipulated that this verse should not become a permanent part of the hymn!

He also wrote a whole new hymn for the Jubilee – 'To God we come in prayer and praise'. The tune for 'Lord for the years' was written by Michael Baughen, a colleague of Timothy Dudley-Smith, and later Bishop of Chester. He also wrote many texts and tunes for hymns although one verdict is that 'his tunes were more enduring than his texts'.

But what of the other hymns of Timothy Dudley-Smith? Mention has only been made of three. Hymns Old and New has these three and two others. However, Complete Anglican Hymns New and Old has a dozen or so more. No doubt readers will know others from other books. So we have, for example, a hymn to celebrate God's word in creation – 'Before the world's foundation', or on the theme of conservation – 'The God who set the stars in space', or, to honour Christ's Ascension – 'Risen Lord in glory seated', and the Resurrection – 'The final triumph won' and finally Christ's work is affirmed in 'Prince of Life and Lord of Glory'.

When Bishop Dudley-Smith was awarded

a Doctorate of Divinity by Durham University it was said of him, 'He has crossed the boundary between religion and popular culture by writing hymns that are known and loved throughout the world, not just by committed believers but by "the man in the street"'.

Perhaps I may end with the opening words of one of his hymns: 'Light of the minds that know him, May Christ be light to mine'.

Martin Banister, St Albans Abbey

Notices from the Tring Churches

ST MARTHA'S METHODIST CHURCH



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Ladies Friendship Club will meet again at St Martha's on Tuesday afternoon 5 February, when Ruth Watkin will talk about Daffodil Day, the annual singing concert at Westminster Central Hall.

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.

HOUSE GROUPS

John and Jennifer's House Group meets again during February on Wednesday afternoons, 13 and 27 February, at 20 Verney Close.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's event will take place on Friday 1 March at New Mill Baptist Church. The theme will be 'Come – Everything is Ready' and the service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia.

DAFFODIL DAY

This year's Daffodil Day event will be held on Monday afternoon 4 March at Westminster Methodist Hall in London. Those planning to go should make their interest known and check for

travel arrangements (lifts to Hemel and onward coach to London).

Sunday 3 February 10.00am
Linda Hillier

Sunday 10 February 10.00am
Revd Rachael Hawkins

Sunday 17 February 10.00am
Communion
Katie Breedyk

Sunday 24 February 10.00am
John Benson

NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH



MILL CAFÉ

Thursdays 12.00 midday

February 10.30am
Morning Worship
Jon Neall

10 February 10.30am
Remembrance
Kenneth Payne

17 February 10.30am
Morning Worship
Harold Liberty

24 February 10.30am
363 Church Anniversary
David Nash

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

Fraturdays 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 All Age 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 Evening Prayer 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
6.00pm Alternative Communion CW
Tring

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 Sunday Worship Puttenham

STICK SUNDAY WALK

3.00pm from St Mary's, Puttenham

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

DACORUM FOODBANK

Weekdays 10.00am St P&P

BABY SONG TIME

Mondays in term time 11.00am St P&P

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

FIRST SATURDAY LUNCH

Saturday 2 February
From 1.00pm for those who have been
bereaved to meet and eat with others.
Contact Margaret Oram for information
on 01442 824575.

CTT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday 2 February at 8.30am
New Mill Baptist Church

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

BOOK GROUP

Fourth Sunday in the month 6.45pm
St P&P

RICHARD GRYLLES WORKSHOP & CONCERT

Saturday 2 February
9.30am or 5.30pm St P&P

CRAFT AND A CUPPA

Tuesdays 2.00pm, St P&P

FOTCH SPRING LUNCH

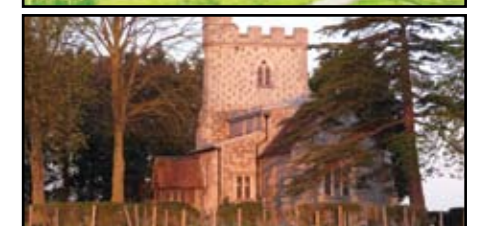
Table Top Treasures with Stephen Hearn
St P&P Parish Hall 10 February 12.30pm

MEN'S SOCIETY

Wednesday 6 February 7.30pm
Half Moon, Wilstone

PIANO & MORE

Sunday 10 February 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

Ted Oram
01442 824575
ted@oram-home.net

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
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01442 824929
jjgoody@ntlworld.com
tringparishhall@hotmail.com

Hall Secretary
Barbara Anscombe
01442 828325
Bandb33@talktalk.net

Safeguarding
Jenny Scholes 01442 825276

**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
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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 33

ANSWERS ACROSS

1. EVANGELIST
8. REPLICA
9. LEPER
10. LEEK
11. LECTURNS
13. SAINT
14. RITES
16. LUTHERAN
17. MASS
20. CLOSE
21. GENTILE
22. BLASPHEMER

ANSWERS DOWN

1. ENROL
2. APPRECIATION
3. GRIP
4. LEAVEN
5. SALUTORY
6. SPIRITUALISM
7. TRUSTS
12. ETHEREAL
13. SOLACE
15. RANGES
18. STEER
19. INCH

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