

DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020 £1

# COMMENT

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCHES IN TRING



**Terry and Stewart**  
welcome customers old  
and new.

Full range of Fuller's  
ales including seasonal  
offerings and a Guest Beer.



Freshly prepared home-cooked food.

Wide choice weekday menu  
and Sunday Roasts.

# THE ROBIN HOOD TRING

CAMRA  
**Pub of  
the year**  
Mid Chilterns  
2008



The Robin Hood Inn  
1 Brook Street, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5ED  
t: 01442 824912 e: info@therobinhoodtring.co.uk

[www.therobinhoodtring.co.uk](http://www.therobinhoodtring.co.uk)

## CAREGivers Required

**Home Instead**  
SENIOR CARE  
*To us, it's personal.*

**Do you have a caring  
& compassionate nature?  
Then you should talk to us.**

We are looking for Caregivers to assist the elderly with non-medical services including companionship, home help and personal care in their own home. No experience is required as we provide full training.



Contact us on **01442 233599**

**Home Instead Senior Care**

The Lockhouse, Frogmore Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9RJ

[www.homeinstead.co.uk/hemel Hempstead](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/hemel Hempstead)

**Are you looking for  
flexible and rewarding  
part-time work?**

## The season of Advent



**A time of hope,  
love, peace  
and joy**

While the outside world has already begun celebrating the materialistic version of Christmas, we, as the followers of Jesus Christ, are beginning a beautiful time – the Season of Advent – with its own distinctive characteristics and dynamics.

Every year, I plan on buying a traditional Advent calendar to help my preparation for Christmas. I like the idea of daily Advent readings (and chocolate!) that helps build my anticipation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Unfortunately, I'm usually busy and forget to buy the calendar until after Advent has already begun. There is usually so much going on: the parties start and before you know it, Christmas is upon us. Advent can become a forgotten season and that is a great pity.

The season of Advent is a time of hope, of expectant waiting, for the amazing gift that God is to deliver and yet, at the same time, a period of slowing down to savour the season. It's a season we can't afford to miss. But why?

Advent is the season that starts four Sundays before Christmas. For hundreds of years, Christians have used this season to remember the coming of Christ and to prepare for Christmas. It's more than just a piece of history, though. So, why do we celebrate Advent? Celebrating the Advent season can help us today to follow Christ more faithfully in at least three ways:

**Advent helps us focus on Jesus**

We've all heard the clichés like 'Jesus is the reason for the season' and 'Let's keep Christ in Christmas'. Even though they are clichés, they contain nuggets of truth. One of the reasons that they exist is that it is just so easy to let all of the activities, and shopping and parties

overwhelm our focus on Jesus. Celebrating Advent gives us daily and weekly reminders through Scripture about who Christ is, and what he did for us, when he came to earth.

**Advent helps us honour Jesus**

The word 'Advent' means the arrival of someone or something important. When an important event in our lives is coming, we work hard to make sure everything is perfect. When an important person is coming to visit, we work hard to properly prepare for them so that they will know they are valuable to us. We plan the menu and the decorations; we clean the house and mow the lawn. We don't just wait until the last minute and throw something together. Similarly, celebrating Advent helps us give Jesus the proper attention and focus he deserves. By focusing on him throughout this season, and not just on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we honour him more faithfully.

**Advent helps us remember Jesus is coming again**

Advent is not only a celebration of Christ's first coming as a baby; it is also a reminder of Jesus' return that is yet to come. Just as God's people awaited the first coming of the Messiah, we now await the return of our Saviour. The four weeks of Advent remind us of both of these comings. In weeks one and two, the Scripture readings look forward to his Second Coming and remind us of the importance of being prepared for his return. Weeks three and four look backward and help us to remember the excitement and expectation that the hope of the Messiah brought to the ancient Jews. It has always been important for God's people to remember that God is up to something, and that we need to live in

**Tring Choral Society  
and Orchestra**

Conductor: Colin Stevens

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

with carols for choir and audience  
including

Christopher Rouse

**Karolju**

Joseph Haydn

**Te Deum**

Geoffrey Hanson

**Carols for Tring**

and featuring

**The Choir of Brookmead  
School**

**Saturday 14 December**

**Church of St Peter & St Paul**

**TRING**

**Starting at 7.30pm**

**(doors open 6.45pm)**

Tickets: £15, Under 18's free  
from Beechwood Fine Foods, Frogmore St.  
Or email: tickets@tringchoral.org.uk

2019

Winter Concert

Tring Choral Society

Registered Charity Number 279885

www.tringchoral.org.uk

expectation of what he will do when he comes again.

In our world, there are so many things that can occupy our attention. The Christmas season is one of the most exciting times of the year, but it is also one of the most distracting of seasons. Even for those who want to keep focused on Jesus, it is difficult to do so. By celebrating Advent, we acknowledge that celebrating Jesus is more than one evening and the following day. The 'how' to celebrate Advent isn't as important as the connection you make with him, so I encourage you to create special traditions as a family so as to grow in him together. Let us be a people who wait in hope, love, peace and joy and acknowledge God's great love and generosity for his people every day of this wonderful Advent season.

May God bless us in these days as we prepare for the religious celebration of Christmas, the feast of heavenly light, when 'the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.'

**David Burke, Corpus Christi**



## Men's Society

With the shorter days and long winter evenings, fewer of the men in the Men's Society are eager to come

out to Wilstone. Consequently on 4 December our meeting will be at the Half Moon in Wilstone at the new time of 12.30pm, with lunch available to those who want it. The meeting on 5 February will be a discussion, again at the new

time of 12.30pm in the same place. All men are welcome!

**Jeremy Buckman  
St Mary's, Puttenham**

# Emmanuel, God with us: The Gospel according to Matthew



Many churches of all denominations follow a three year pattern of readings for their Sunday services. Each year

has an exciting name A, B or C, and the year starts on Advent Sunday. So on 1 December we begin a new year of church readings. During this year we will work through Matthew's Gospel.

### Distinctiveness

- Infancy narrative
- Fulfilment quotes
- Lord's Prayer
- Beatitudes
- Church
- Commissioning of the Disciples
- Anti Semitism

In our Bibles we have four different accounts of the ministry and death of Jesus of Nazareth. Each of the authors have aspects that they want to emphasise. They aren't writing a straight 'history'; instead they are giving us a theology and sharing their understanding of who Jesus of Nazareth was. So how does Matthew tell his story?

Matthew is the first of four evangelists in our Bibles. In antiquity many thought that Matthew was the first written; practically every scholar these days would say that Mark was the first written and that Matthew adapted Mark's Gospel. Only fifty of Mark's 662 verses are not found in Matthew's Gospel. If he were a modern author, he would be had up for plagiarism! Matthew improves Mark's rather rough Greek but, importantly, he adds a substantial amount of teaching. It is useful to see what he thought was missing from Mark and what he has chosen to add to help expand his theology.

We don't need to read too far to work out that there is a significant addition to Mark's story. Mark begins with Jesus being baptised as an adult. Matthew feels he needs to add a story of origins. He tells of Jesus' birth through first his family tree and his Davidic ancestry; then the annunciation to Joseph – the good Jew; his birth in Bethlehem (in Matthew's account Mary and Joseph already live in Bethlehem and only go to Nazareth

after they return from Egypt); the coming of the Magi; Herod – the bad Jew; and the flight to Egypt. Some folk like to think that Matthew got his information from Joseph and Luke got his story from Mary, but apart from the discrepancies in the account, there is nothing in the text to back this up and to try to make the two accounts fit together takes a huge amount of twisting and turning. Instead we are better examining why Matthew tells his story like this.

The clue is in Matthew's relationship to the Judaism of the time. There are many direct quotations from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). Matthew is seeking to show that Jesus is the one expected in Hebrew tradition: he wants to depict Jesus as the new Moses. Various details are reminiscent of Moses' infancy, including a slaughter of the innocents and a flight to or from Egypt. It doesn't end with the birth story. Just as Moses fasted for forty days and nights in the wilderness, so did Jesus. Moses goes up Mount Sinai to receive the law; Jesus goes up the mountain to deliver the new law in the Sermon of the Mount.

So why might Matthew choose to emphasise this aspect of Jesus and give us the lens of Judaism to interpret who he was? I think Matthew was writing his account at the moment in history when the new Christian religion and Judaism parted ways. Is Matthew a last ditch attempt to get them on board? And if they won't come on board, maybe the Gentiles will realise that this Jesus is the proper inheritor of Judaism.

History gives us some clues here. Shortly after the death of Jesus, the Jewish people rose in revolt against the Romans and in AD66 they were successful in driving the Romans out. However, it proved to be a bad move because by AD70 the Romans had brutally smashed the rebellion and totally destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. Without their temple there needed to be a new form of Judaism. This was pharisaic-led Judaism dating from the coalition of Jamnia in AD80. Crucially this saw a parting of the ways with Matthew's Christian community being excluded. Not least because they had played no part in the uprising, the Christian community fled from Jerusalem to Perea. It is likely that many in Matthew's community felt themselves to be the true and rightful

heirs of Judaism and Matthew is trying to prove this by quoting the Hebrew Bible. The sustained attack against the Scribes and Pharisees can be seen as a bitter family feud. Again, in the birth narrative there are good and faithful Jews who listen to God, but others get it badly wrong. How can Herod call himself King of the Jews when he kills his own people? No, Jesus is the real 'King of the Jews!'

This has, however, created a terrible legacy. Through history Matthew's Gospel has been linked with anti-Semitism. There have been pogroms and assaults on Jewish people throughout European history, many of them linked to Matthew 27:25, when Matthew attributes to the Jewish people the phrase 'His blood be on us and our children'. This so-called 'blood guilt' text has been interpreted to mean that Jews, of Jesus' time and forever afterward, accept responsibility for the death of Jesus. It is incredibly hard to read in the light of the holocaust.

Yet we must be careful not to allow this negativity to hide the other special aspects that this relationship with Judaism brings out. Firstly, we see the beginnings of the church as it parts from the synagogue. This new church needs its own ethic. Matthew doesn't have some utopian vision of life in the Kingdom, but he does have a gritty depiction of what life might be like. Into his story of Jesus, he adds in five blocks of teaching mirroring the five blocks in the Pentateuch. This teaching is on the way of life which must be followed by those who want to enter the kingdom of heaven; directions for those who are to proclaim the kingdom to others; the coming of the kingdom; how disciples are to treat one another; and the way to enter the kingdom of heaven. Taken together, Matthew sets out a guideline for a new way of life. It is an alternative community ethic which differed sharply from the dominant ethos of the day.

Despite its ethical teaching, Matthew's story of Jesus isn't a lifestyle guide or a self-help book. As Matthew tells us at the beginning of his story, he wants us to realise who Jesus is: it is a story not about Jesus the man, it is about Emmanuel (God with us) and at the end of the story he reminds us that God is with us until the end of the age.

**Huw Bellis, Tring Team**

# A God-affirmed journey



After a pastoral vacancy period of over eighteen months, High Street Baptist Church were delighted to formally welcome Revds Joe and Ruth Egan to

be joint ministers on Saturday 2 November 2019.

With their visits to Tring during 2019, they have had the chance to get to know us, and us them. During this time they had managed to visit many of our groups as well as Sunday morning services. This resulted in a relaxed feeling between 'us' and 'them'.

The process of offering an appointment to new ministers needs to have a vote at a church members' meeting. At a special members' meeting in July it was overwhelmingly agreed by the church membership to offer Joe and Ruth the position of joint ministers, and they had no hesitation in accepting.

They moved to Tring at the end of October, and have been settling into their new home, with son Caleb and dog Penny. Saturday was also the opportunity for many of their friends and family to see where they had landed! As is the Baptist tradition, members of the congregation they have left, Enfield Baptist Church, joined us for the induction service and celebration tea afterwards. With nearly 200 in our Church, we raised the roof with our singing and had plenty of cake and scones to enjoy at the 'after party'.

During the service Joe and Ruth recounted their experience of seeking God's wisdom as they searched for a church to join, and shared, 'Our call to High Street Baptist Church Tring has been a fairly long, but undeniably God-



affirmed journey.' They shared that it was hard to leave Enfield Baptist Church, where they had spent six years immersed in the church and local community. They completed their ministerial training whilst at Enfield and had the roles of Associate Ministers.

Much of this process is new to me, as I do not come from a Baptist tradition, but I have felt so assured by the whole-church involvement of such an appointment. This was further impressed upon me during the Induction Service, when there was a declaration from Joe and Ruth, as well as from us as a congregation, about what it means to serve the church and community. This covenant is shared here for you to read.

I am sure you will soon meet Joe and Ruth in person over the coming weeks and months. High Street Baptist Church is certainly looking forward to our new adventure with Joe and Ruth and the continuation of our ministry and life in Tring.

**Polly Eaton  
High Street Baptist Church**

Today we bring ourselves and the gifts we have, and we covenant to serve and encourage this church and community; to respect and care for each other, to take responsibility for the people we are and the people we hope to be in Christ as we make this journey together.

We are called to be a prophetic people, working for justice, resisting violence and challenging the abuse of power.

We are called to be an inclusive people, pulling down the walls of prejudice and welcoming the stranger.

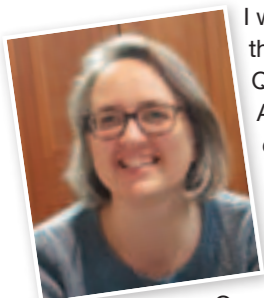
We are called to be a sacrificial people, risking uncertainty, becoming vulnerable, and reflecting the generosity of God.

We are called to be a missionary people, demonstrating in word and action the redeeming love of God in the world.

We are called to be a worshipping people, seeking and celebrating the God who journeys with us, and open to the Spirit in the whole of life.



# Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship Worship



I wrote previously of the arrival of the Rev Quophie Anochie Ababio into our circuit from Ghana and the Circuit Welcome Service at the beginning of September.

Quophie is only in the circuit for half of his time (the other half is spent with the Methodist Ghanaian Fellowship as their chaplain); so the beginning of September also saw his welcome service into that role, a service I was privileged to be a part of.

The service was held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, on Sunday 8 September in the afternoon. Because I was taking services in the morning, I wasn't able to get there for the official starting time, but thankfully did not miss a lot and was able to join the worship early in the service. The service was structured as many of us might expect, with hymns, prayers and a sermon, but there were many differences and it was fascinating to note those and get a glimpse of the type of worship where Ghanaian Methodists feel at home. Here are some of the things that I particularly noted.

## The mixture of traditional, modern and cultural, formal and spontaneous

The service began with a traditional hymn and there were several sung during the service, plus a canticle and a choir anthem. Quophie had said to me beforehand that it is considered strange to Methodist Ghanaians if a canticle is not sung and so a canticle was included. This is something that I have not done for many years and felt very formal, and yet at times there were also people

singing Ghanaian songs while dancing in a long line around the worship area and at one point someone stood up and led the congregation in a spontaneous song. There was an order of service, but there was also flexibility and there was movement and talking at various times: there was no expectation that everyone sat silent in their seats for the whole service.

## The language

Although the service was mainly in English, songs were also sung in a Ghanaian language, and one of the Bible readings was read in what I presume was the same language.

## The offering

Seven chairs were placed across the front of the Church, each with a day of the week and a basket placed on it. As we sang, everyone processed around the Church and placed their offering in the basket labelled with the day of their birth. There was a real feeling of celebration as that was done and apparently there is also great competition as to which basket will contain the most money at the end of the service. I was born on a Sunday and was told that one of my names in asante would therefore be 'Akosua'.

## Thanksgiving Prayer for a Ghanaian King

On the platform behind those leading the service were several women dressed in what looked like traditional Ghanaian dress. At one point in the service these ladies came to the front and I realised that one was wearing what looked to be a felt crown. If I remember correctly, she was becoming a Ghanaian King and this was an opportunity for the Fellowship to pray for her as she began in that role. Why she was a king and not a queen,

who she was the king of and what it meant to be a king in Ghana were all questions that I was left with, but it was fascinating to see the traditional dress and experience the ceremony.

## Colour

Many of the Ghanaians were dressed in clothes made of a green and yellow material that also featured drawings of John Wesley and, I believe, the first Methodist Bishop in Ghana. Those not dressed in this material were mainly in brightly coloured clothes, again giving a great sense of celebration to the service.

The service began at 2.00pm and at 5.00pm began to close, but there was no sense that this was a problem. We were there to join the celebrations of those with Ghanaian heritage and it was a really uplifting, although at times bewildering, occasion. It was an insight into worship in a country where Christianity is growing and vibrant and a reminder that if we found the experience bewildering at times, I suspect the same may be true for those who come to our services from other countries, and possibly even those who have grown up in this country and have never been in a Church.

I felt comfortable because I was welcomed and surrounded with smiles, plus had someone close who could whisper explanations to me and make sure I did the right thing. It reminded me of the importance of appropriate welcomes in our Churches.

We are exploring the possibility of creating a formal link for the circuit with Ghana and so I hope to experience more of the Ghanaian culture and worship. And next time I will have a slightly better idea what to expect!

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

# Congratulations!

Bill and Jenny Bradford celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary in September this year. They were married at St Mary's in Aylesbury on 26 September 1959 just as Bill was completing his National Service at RAF Halton and Jenny was completing her training as an SRN at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

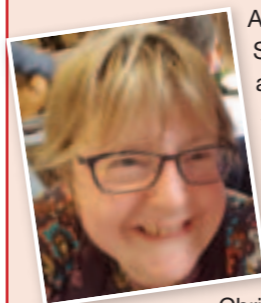
They have two sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Bill has been a Church welcomer at St Peter & St Paul since we have had Open Church there and often contributes articles to Comment.

**The Editor**



# Amazing embroidery



As a thank you to Sarah Marshall for all her help and support at Tring Park School, and as a recognition of the fact that this would be her first

Christmas in Tring, I had a stole made by Annette Howlings, a very talented friend and colleague. The message really spoke to me. Her fantastic craftwork has been much appreciated by many in our community.

Here she describes the process of the intricate machine embroidery.

'I started digitizing about four and a half years ago, all self-taught. Digitizing is a lengthy process. It consists of finding a picture or drawing and manually turning it into stitches.

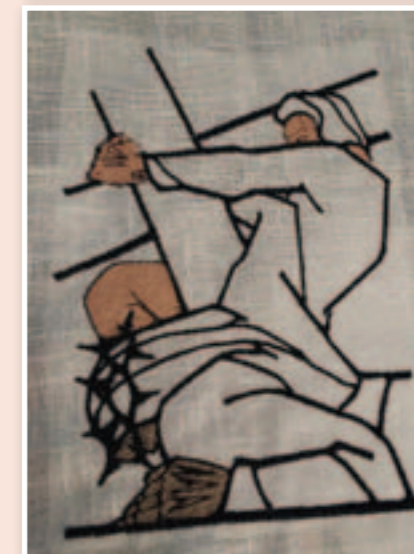
'This particular stitch-out has 45,000 stitches, most done manually within a

software programme on the computer. This is then transferred to a sewing machine (in this case a six-needle machine) to be sewn out.

'Another sample attached is a picture drawn by a member of clergy. I asked if



I could have rights to it to digitize, and that is what I did. It was one of my first attempts, along with a few stoles and some digitizing of the 'Stations of the



TRING CHARITIES  
(Registered Charity No 207805)

## ALMSHOUSES IN TRING

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

Applicants, one of whom must be aged 55 or over, must not own their own home or have savings in excess of £16,000.

The average weekly maintenance contribution (equivalent to 'rent' for housing benefit purposes) is £96 for a one bedroom property and £115 for a two bedroom property.

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

BEECHWOOD FINE FOODS

## The Spirit of Christmas

Gifts for all your family and friends

Gift Vouchers  
Hampers  
A taste apart  
Cheese & Wine Gift Boxes  
Giftsets

42 Frogmore Street | Tring | HP23 5AU | 01442 828812  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK [www.beechwoodfinefoods.com](http://www.beechwoodfinefoods.com)

Graham Blake  
soft furnishing

- Loose covers
- Curtains
- Re-Upholstery
- Tracks & Poles

For personal, helpful service,  
please call  
Tel: 01844 261769  
Mob: 07802 213381

[grahamblake123@btconnect.com](mailto:grahamblake123@btconnect.com)  
[www.grahamblake.com](http://www.grahamblake.com)  
TEN YEAR GUARANTEE

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

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

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

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

01442 824856

## Community-spirited people



*'They don't tell you how lonely it is being a Head teacher. You find it out for yourself.'*

This quote will often be heard in staffrooms, meeting rooms and Head's offices across the land. I think that I must be the exception that proves the rule. Why? The answer is because I have an amazing staff team, leadership team and, importantly, strong governors.

Bishop Wood School is blessed with a fantastic group of Governors who give their time freely during the school day and for evening meetings. Leading this force of volunteers (but really unpaid workers!) is the Chair of Governors (CoG). During my time at Bishop Wood, I have been fortunate enough to have excellent people in that position.

Beth Townsend was my first CoG and really helped me navigate my first two terms at Bishop Wood. Her dedication and drive was infectious and it allowed me to hit the ground running. Beth's term of office came to an end at the end of the school year in 2018. Beth left the governors and school in an incredibly strong position. We will always be hugely

grateful for the impact she had as Chair. Beth was CoG for only two years, but during that time faced just about every challenge a school can face: the recruitment of a new Headteacher, an Ofsted inspection and a SIAMS inspection, amongst others.

Several governors all reached the end of their term at the same time as Beth. What followed was a huge recruitment drive to find community-spirited people who were happy to give up their time, and sometimes their evenings, for the school. Filling all the vacancies, we then



had to find a CoG. Up stepped Father Huw. Huw Bellis is a governor by virtue of his position in the Parish Church. He has been a School Governor for many, many years and agreed to take on the role of CoG for one year until some of the newer members felt confident enough to take it on. Like Beth, Huw has been an outstanding CoG. His ability to be a supportive ear whilst also asking the



difficult and challenging questions has been of huge value to the school and to my leadership of Bishop Wood. Huw is part of the fabric of the school and the Tring community. Whilst his diary-keeping sometimes went awry, knowing that he was always there to help, guide, support and challenge was an invaluable comfort to myself and Jon Hall, the Deputy Head. Huw is a man of his word and, as a result, stepped down from the role of CoG after a year. How do

you fill the shoes of the man who is filling the shoes of Beth? Fortunately, Gerry Miller has decided to take on this role and I am sure he will do a fantastic job.



And so, I would like to say a huge thank you, on behalf of Jon and myself, to all those governors who do such fantastic work under increasingly difficult circumstances. Schools can't run without you. To Beth, Huw and Gerry, a special thank you – for not making it feel like a lonely job, for all your help and support, for the times you brought levity and for the times you have been the voice of reason. It has never gone unnoticed.

**Gary Stanley, Headteacher  
Bishop Wood School**

## Greetings from St Austell!

Greetings to all my friends at St Peter & St Paul. I still miss you all but it has been good to have visits from some from Tring – one of the advantages of Cornwall being a holiday destination.

I am now a member at Mount Charles Methodist Church in St Austell. This was a typical old Chapel, till just over twenty years ago this was knocked down, retaining the old foundations and rebuilt to a new layout – a smaller Church with more rooms at the back including kitchen and toilets. About four years ago the house next door was purchased – the first floor was made into a flat and is let while the ground floor has been made into a coffee lounge, so giving the Church a very useful set of rooms.

St Austell is quite a depressed area and the Church does much to help the local community. 'Butterflies and Babies' is a group for pre-nursery children. A children's choir meets on

Saturday mornings and an adult craft group. A group for dementia sufferers meets weekly. We have a Women's Fellowship weekly meeting with an excellent programme of speakers and a small group within the meeting knit children's sweaters and pram blankets for distribution by the local Food Bank and the blankets for St Peter's, a charity for the homeless based in Bodmin.

In conjunction with Churches Together, we give every child a Bible when they start school. As a follow-up to this, a group go into schools where they take assemblies and act out Bible stories. These prove very popular with the children. Recently they dramatized the feeding of the 5,000. Afterwards one little boy said, 'That was very good, could you do Noah's Ark next time?'

**Dorothy Walsh  
formerly St Peter & St Paul**

## Parish registers

### Baptisms

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

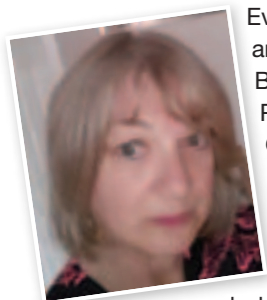
**Phoebe Cowpe  
Joshua Cowpe**

### Funerals

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

**Yvonne 'Cherry' Reavell 90  
Edith Helen Knowles 86  
Barry Streater 85  
Christopher Maybourne 61  
Douglas Christopher Tait 66  
William Stringer 83  
Sylvia Kennett 83  
Annie Jane Banks 95  
Lynne Jennifer Chalker 67  
Nan Hendry 99**

# The Mill Community Café



Every Thursday is an early start for Barbara and Chris Payne, Margaret Gascoine and Pat Hatch. They arrive at New Mill Baptist Church with huge enthusiasm to

start setting up tables and laying them for lunch. Then it's food preparation: delicious soup and quiche heat up and fill the hall with mouth-watering aromas.

When possible, food donated by Tesco is used but otherwise it is laid out on a table where everyone can take something away and maybe leave a donation. The week I visited there was a choice of bread, rolls and a choice of bagged salads. It all looked fresh and inviting.



In a rare spare moment Barbara chalks up the food of the day and there was a varied menu of carrot and coriander soup, hot dogs (with or without onions), mushroom quiche, gammon ham. Help yourself to bread and butter and salad.

The kitchen took orders for omelettes and macaroni cheese so there was something to satisfy everyone's appetite. Take a look at the photos for the splendid desserts and you'll see the high standard on offer.

The team are dedicated to providing a service for loyal supporters of the Café and newcomers are always welcome. They were determined to continue having a weekly Café and we all appreciate their energy and imagination, served with a smile and, of course, lively chat.

There isn't a fixed price list but donations are encouraged. The Café will be open every Thursday from 11.30am – 1.30pm from now until Christmas. Come prepared to be well fed!

**Julie Harris**  
New Mill Baptist Church



# Tring's famous film set

Currently on release is Judy, a biographical drama film about the life of American actress and singer Judy Garland. Set in London 1969, Judy arrives for a run of sell-out concerts at London's Talk of The Town.

The film, directed by Rupert Goold, is an adaptation of the Olivier and Tony nominated play End of the Rainbow by Peter Quilter. Renee Zellweger, along

with actors Jessie Buckley and Michael Gambon, were on the Tring Park site during April 2018 to film some of the scenes. In the film you can spot the basement of the Mansion or Music Room 3 and the Assembly Hall, which was transformed into a very sumptuous hotel dining room.

**Karen Fotheringham**  
Tring Park School



# Is the Parish Share fair?

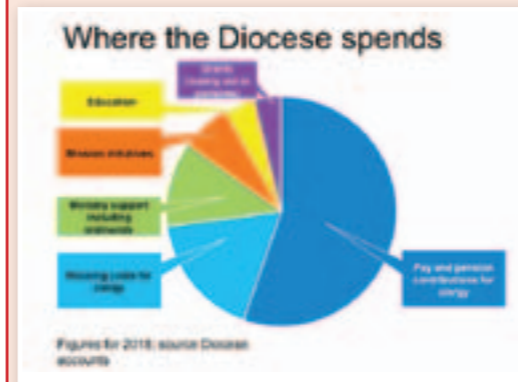


This year Tring Team will pay nearly £162,000 to the Diocese of St Albans, to which it belongs as part of the Church of England.

That's the five Anglican churches in Wilstone, Puttenham, Long Marston, Aldbury, and Tring. This represents about £8 per week for each signed-up member, based on the latest Electoral Roll, and is by far the largest single element in the costs of running the parish. It's called the Parish Share, but is it fair? We'll try to look at this issue, splitting it down into three questions, which get raised by church members (and outsiders too):

- First, should the parish be paying this at all?
- Second, is the amount correct, based on some objective criteria?
- Third, is the money used properly by the people in St Albans?

This is bound to be a summary; there is lots more detail available from the St Albans Diocese website, and various leaflets. Please ask if you'd like to know more on any aspect.



## Why pay the Parish Share at all?

It is described as a voluntary support payment, but there might be a fuss if we said we weren't going to pay, and there is a sort of 'black list' of parishes in arrears. The obligation stems from being part of the Anglican community. What if, in the spirit of Brexit, we could imagine voting for a 'Trexit' from the diocese? We'd have more control over spending, and we'd probably save some money, as shown below. However, we'd have rather more responsibilities, especially for the employment of the clergy. In this hypothetical dream world (and in perhaps another parallel with Brexit), it

might well raise the question as to why the parish exists. A break up at that level would benefit the larger churches against the smaller churches in financial terms. The whole process would be painful and messy, and not exactly consistent with a Christian commitment to loving one's neighbour. It's not really an option.

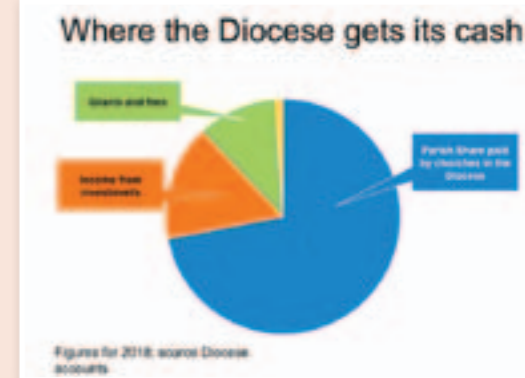
## How is the Parish Share determined?

The basis of calculation of each parish's share is simple in principle, even if quite complicated in precise detail. It reflects:

- First, the number of clergy that we have (and whether they are full-time or part-time), but with no charge for deacons in training like Sarah Marshall;
- Second, how many members there are in the parish, itself measured as a combination of the size of the electoral roll and of how many people come to Church on an average Sunday;
- Third, a rather crude adjustment for the level of prosperity of the parish compared with others in the Diocese. So the Berkhamsted Deanery – a group of parishes which includes us – has a factor more than one while, for example, Luton Deanery has a factor below one; this adds around £20k to our annual payment.

As it happens, Tring's Share is split pretty equally between the clergy element and the membership/prosperity element, each at around £80k for this year. While one can debate the fine detail, the approach seems reasonable in the context of the Anglican community of churches.

The Parish Share accounts for about 70% of the income for the Diocese (in 2018), at just over £13 million. Another major source is income from investments, mainly in property, known as the Glebe lands. Historically individual parishes owned land for the benefit of their clergy, with some having much more than others. Since 1978 the Glebe lands and associated investments have been controlled by each diocese for the benefit of all parishes ('glebe' is just derived from the Latin word for a lump of



earth). The rest of the income for the diocese is from various fees and grants.

## Does the Diocese waste the money?

The main item of spending by the St Albans diocese, at nearly £9 million last year, is the cost of clergy pay, national insurance, and pension contributions (the actual pensions are funded and administered by the Church Commissioners – one of their main roles).

Housing is provided to the clergy as part of their remuneration, and this cost is the second largest item, at nearly £3 million.

Ministry spending (of about £2 million) includes training costs and support for ordinands as well as HR and Safeguarding.

There are some 300 ordained ministers in the diocese, and so a formal management structure is needed to support them.

Mission (£1 million) is mostly spent on employing people to carry out initiatives aimed at sustaining and growing church membership and participation. These range from 'Fresh Expressions', supporting novel forms of church, to 'Flourishing Churches' aimed at encouraging more traditional parishes, like ours. Education includes support for church schools across the Diocese. Grants include support to parishes in particular financial difficulty.

Spending directly on parishes – pay, pension contributions, training and management – more or less matches what the churches collectively pay as the Parish Share.

So, is it fair, overall? I leave it to the reader to decide; perhaps you'd like to write to Comment with your perspective.

**John Whiteman, Tring Team**

**impact**  
SIGNS  
Getting your message across

**Plaques for all Occasions**  
Maintenance Free Stainless Steel  
Traditional Brass

Signs and plaques of all sizes available quickly, efficiently  
and made to your requirements

01296 488902  
info@impactsignsolutions.co.uk  
www.impactsignsolutions.co.uk

**St Kilda's  
Dental Practice**

93 High Street,  
Tring, Herts, HP23 4AB  
Tel: Tring (01442) 826565

J. P. Norris B.D.S. (Lond)  
Miss E. N. Parsons B.D.S. (Lon)  
LDS RCS (Eng)

Give your furry friends a special VE Day Flight at

**25 YEARS**  
1945-2020

**The 2020  
Family Fun Day**

**SATURDAY MAY 9TH 11AM - 3PM**  
**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD**

Teddy Wings Zip Wire • Tower Tours • Bouncy Slide • Heritage Talks  
Toys and Children's Books • 'Wings' Awards • Children's Sweet Tombola  
Tringlers - hand bells • Children's Creative Activities • Cakes & Preserve Stall  
Plant Stall • Jewellery Stall • Fun & Games throughout the day  
Grand Raffle • All Day Refreshments • BBQ & Bar, Coody Floss and Ice Lollies  
Musical Entertainment from Local Schools and Morris Dancers

Preserving the heart of Tring for future generations to enjoy  
For further information telephone Grahame Senior on 01442 822778

SPONSORED BY

TRING MORRIS HARPENDEN Spring Fayre

**MOVE IT  
OR LOSE IT!** **Your First  
Session FREE**



**FABS exercise classes**  
Flexibility, Aerobic, Balance, Strength

**Nora Grace Hall, Tring**  
**Mondays 10.00 to 11.00**

Enquiries: 07988 649275

**COMMENT**  
The magazine of the Churches in Tring



Please submit your article to the Editor  
by the 1st of the month.  
Aim for 400 or 800 words and please send a head  
and shoulders colour photo or jpg and any other  
photos in high resolution.  
Contact [comment.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:comment.magazine@gmail.com)

**MORRIS**  
LUBRICANTS

**JET** DISTRIBUTOR



**BARTON  
PETROLEUM**  
www.bartonpetroleum.co.uk

**Your first call for Fuel & Lubricants...**

## Being doers of the word



Herbert Hoover once said, 'Children are our most valuable natural resource'. It makes sense doesn't it? Without children we have no future, humanity has no future. If children

are our most valuable resource, like all valuable resources they are vulnerable and we need to protect them.

In 1881 the industrial powerhouse of Britain was a cruel and dangerous place to be a child. Children were used as slave labour and orphans in particular were very vulnerable and likely to end up in the workhouse. Edward Rudolf was a hard-pressed Vicar who was shocked to find that children had to spend time begging for bread rather than attending Church or School so he set up the first home for 'Waifs & Strays' with the blessing of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It was a real family home, not a workhouse or orphanage and it flourished. By 1919 the Church of England had some 120 such homes. One of the key strategies was to move the children into real families and have them adopted and cared for for life. In the 1960s the Children's Society was one of the largest adoption agencies in Britain. The Children's Society was living out that message from the epistle of James: 'Religion that is pure and undefiled is this - to care for Widows and Orphans in their distress' and 'Faith without works is dead'.

Today the Children's Society runs NO homes and handles NO adoptions. So what has changed? And what does the Children's Society do today?

### The world has changed...

Society has changed and we have changed. Today's children are not just facing starvation and homelessness on the streets, they are facing up to the frontline of the terrifying uncertainties and cruelties that our modern world bombards us all with... and in many, many cases, they do not have the security of loving homes and families to support and re-assure them. Our insistence on freedom of choice from a very early age brings with it the baggage of a bewildering array of uncertainties. We give our young people options but how do we equip them to cope with the

avalanche of decisions that need to be made?

And what happens when the natural tendency for being a bit rebellious, sulky or resentful (and we've ALL been teenagers) boils over into outright alienation? They run away, 100,000 of them a year, one every five minutes. And that has consequences - 70% of youngsters who are sexually exploited have gone missing; one in ten children has a mental health problem; 3.7 million children are 'officially' living in poverty; 160,000 children (some as young as 5) are functioning as regular carers...

For girls, the biggest problem is peer-group pressure and worry about their appearance, and that often leads to self-harm. For boys the biggest problem is peer-group pressure and that often leads to suicide. For boys and girls the biggest fear is the fear of crime - and recent News reports leave none of us in any doubt that drug crime and all the awfulness that surrounds it is an omnipresent threat to all our young people.

It's not the gritty dramatic fiction of TV shows - it is real and threatening and frightening on the streets and playgrounds and chatrooms of every town.

### So what is the Children's Society doing?

They are working in the thick of this mess for all our sakes. In 2017 they announced their new strategy to intervene and disrupt the cycle of disadvantage that blights so many young lives. They focus on the individual child and they get on their side and win their trust and confidence and fight for them.

They focus on assessing the risk, building a strategy of resilience in the child and delivering the resources to take effective action: risk, resilience and resources - a new version of the three Rs!

In the 1880s when the Children's Society was founded there was no Welfare State and precious little in the way of Public Services. Now there are plenty of resources: Education; the NHS; the Social Services; the Police; The Councils; the Mental Health Services; The Probation Services; but they all work in their own areas. What the Children's Society does is join up the dots. It connects all the separate support resources available to help a child in

need - including the parents - and shepherds the child through all these options in a way that puts the frightened individual child first and gives them some hope of success.

### An uphill fight

Every year the Children's Society produces a report on 'A Good Childhood'; it is a key source for Government, Health and Educational Departments to understand exactly what is going on with our 'Most valuable natural resource' - and do something about it. This year, 2019, it reported that children's well-being - our children's well-being - is at a ten-year low.

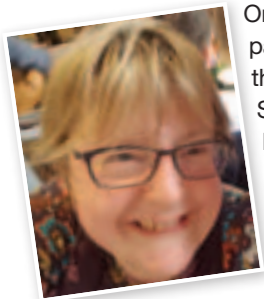
What can WE do about it? We can help the Children's Society to do its job. We can help by Fundraising and organising events (like Christingle); we can make Donations; we can Volunteer as supporters and help things happen; we can Campaign and lobby and argue - and shed light on this secret stain on our Society.

We can be aware that Christ is in the midst of us and that it is OUR job to look out for the little ones... and we can read James' letter and make sure we are doers of the word and not just hearers! Pray that we do.

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



## The teddy bear's harvest



One of the participants for the Tring Park School's Harvest Festival service was Michael, a Liverpool FC supporting teddy bear.

He was used as an extra explanation for our Bible passage, namely the story of the Good Samaritan. To drive home the point that the unexpected happened in this story, the illustration was that it was not dissimilar to a Liverpool fan helping an

injured Arsenal or even Manchester United supporter.

Many thanks to the Parish Church for making the pupils feel so welcome and for the thoughtful way that people in the congregation spoke to the Year 8 participants who helped lead it. They were understandably nervous beforehand but so pleased they had done it afterwards.

Many thanks to Revd Sarah Marshall for all her help and support too; we look forward to welcoming her again to Tring Park School soon.

**Sarah Bell, Tring Park School**



## My Confirmation



I was 13 years old when on Sunday 13 June 1965, a hot, sunny afternoon, it was the day of my confirmation. I had a new white dress made for me by a friend of

my parents, new white gloves and new white shoes. Mrs Hollands put our white veils on our heads and I remember they itched!

There were twenty-four of us from St Peter & St Paul being confirmed by Michael Gresford Jones, Bishop of St Albans, and we were in pairs. My partner was Patsy Carlise.

After the service we went into the Vicarage gardens for refreshments and Robert Stevens took photos of myself and my family. My first Communion was the following Sunday, which was Church parade and I sat with the guides.

**Rosamund Drakes, nee Hardy, formerly St Peter & St Paul**

## Confirmation and faith



Others have written in response to Huw Bellis's request for stories of confirmation and faith a few months ago, and I have envied their recall of events that occurred many years ago.

I was confirmed aged 17 after my conversion aged 16. My family were not church-goers at any stage of their lives and it was because of a friend at school that I was first invited to Church at All Saints in Laleham, and faith was crystallised for me at an evangelical Christian rally of the type some of us may be suspicious of now.

I remember sitting in the Vicarage having preparation lessons but not who was with me or how many there were. Our Vicar was Revd Desmond Guinness (of the famous Guinness family), a man whose sermons were regularly 45 minutes long and took the form of biblical exposition of a kind less common today. He was able to make a whole sermon out

of the word 'But...' in one of the apostle Paul's epistles! I remember Confirmation preparation took the form of going through the 39 Articles (which I suspect I might not wholly subscribe to today). I don't remember which Bishop confirmed me or what I wore but I know my parents did not come to the Church to support me. I had made many friends there in the church who did, however, though I suspect I was a bit disappointed.

Yet here I am, still attending Church more than forty years later. Confirmation meant something at the time though probably less than my conversion. It was the beginning, not the end of the journey, and all these years later I think I am less certain today than I was then about so many things. But while I may be less fundamentalist than I was then, see the Bible in a slightly different light, I know that when I approach the eternal throne I won't be bold because I prayed or did not pray every day, or read my Bible for half an hour daily; it won't be because I went to Church every Sunday or went to the Church Vision Day; it won't be because I have worked all my life in

Christian publishing, producing over 12 million Christian books; or even because I was (or despite being!) the editor of Comment: it will be because I believe the words of that wonderful hymn, 'In Christ alone, my hope is found...' and 'Just as I am without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me and that thou biddst me come to thee, O lamb of God I come'.

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



Please send articles and photos for the February 2020 edition of Comment to the Editor by the end of December at: [comment.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:comment.magazine@gmail.com)

**High Street Baptist Church**  
Growing in the message and challenge of God

**Sunday 15 December**  
10am Bacon butties  
11am Service including Nativity Play

**Sunday 22 December**  
10.30am Morning worship  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

**Tuesday 24 December (Christmas Eve)**  
5pm Outdoor Nativity Service  
11.30pm Midnight Communion Service

**Christmas Day**  
10am All-age Morning Celebration

89 High Street, Tring, HP23 4AB  
Office 01492 824254 [admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk)  
[www.tringbaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.tringbaptistchurch.co.uk)

**Carol Services in Tring Team Parish**

**Sunday 15th December**  
3.30pm St Mary, Puttenham  
With Ridgeway Chorale  
followed by Puttenham Punch and mince pies

**Tuesday 17th December**  
7.00pm Tring School service of Lessons and Carols in St Peter & St Paul, Tring

**Sunday 22nd December**  
6.00pm St John the Baptist, Aldbury  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies  
6.30pm St Peter & St Paul, Tring  
With Tring Church Choir  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

**Christmas Eve**  
7.00pm St Cross, Wilstone  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

#FollowTheStar

TRING TEAM PARISH  
Living God's Love

**Your Christmas in Tring Parish Church**

**Sunday 22nd December**  
6.30pm Carol Service with the Tring Church Choir, followed by mince pies and mulled wine

**Christmas Eve**  
2.00pm Crib Service  
4.00pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**  
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Worship for All Communion  
You may like to bring along a present to show

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

#FollowTheStar

TRING TEAM PARISH  
Living God's Love

**TRING BREWERY Co.**

TRING TEAM PARISH  
Living God's Love

#FollowTheStar

**BEER & CAROLS**

**Sunday 5th January 6.00pm at Tring Brewery**

Sing your favourite carols as we celebrate the birth of Christ and the Epiphany. Food as well!  
Booking essential as space is limited.  
Sign up in your Church or email [janet@tringteamparish.org.uk](mailto:janet@tringteamparish.org.uk)  
**BRING A DONATION FOR THE HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS**



# What is the message of the Minor Prophets?



In the November issue of Comment we looked briefly at the first five minor prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah and Jonah. Here we continue with the next five, concluding in the February edition of Comment with the last two.

## Micah

This book dates from the 8th century BC and starts with denunciations of social evils and the punishment for them, but Micah also goes on to teach peace and security through obedience to God. Micah looks forward to a better future with words about beating swords into plough shares (words also found in Isaiah). 'Nation shall not lift up sword against nation.' More famous and familiar words occur in Chapter 5 which is often read in carol services when we hear about Bethlehem: 'for from you shall come forth one who is to rule in Israel'. And then on Good Friday there are 'The Reproaches' as they are called, which are sung in the Liturgy 'O my people what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me.' Finally, we hear more about punishment but also God's compassion and love.

## Nahum

The seventh of the twelve is Nahum who writes about the fall of Nineveh in 612BC. It is not a book we hear much from in worship. It is all about doom and gloom. What Nahum does is to tell us 'The Lord is slow to anger but great in power'.

The emphasis is rather on the Lord as 'a jealous and avenging God'. Nineveh fares better in the book of Jonah where the Lord spares Nineveh to Jonah's annoyance.

## Habakkuk

The seventh century prophet Habakkuk cries to God 'How long shall I cry for help?' Then we have God's reply. In this book the invasion of Judah by the Chaldeans is predicted and their consequent fall. The third and final chapter is a poem about the Holy God coming from Mount Paran to deliver his people. This is also provided as a canticle for Daily Prayer in Common Worship. One of the finds from the Dead Sea Scrolls is a commentary on this book interpreting Habakkuk in terms of the commentator's own times. But this prophet's fame lies in the fact that he contrasts the Chaldeans filled with pride with 'the just man shall live by his faith'. St Paul quotes this in his letters to the Romans and to the Galatians. It is also found quoted in Hebrews. It is taken up by St Paul as a starting-point to develop the theological concept of faith and the doctrine of justification by faith. This is a central part of Paul's teaching and so a few words in Habakkuk became a prime text for his teaching on faith and justification by faith. This text became a motto, a slogan, a battle-cry. On a lighter note Habakkuk also features in the Apocrypha in one of the additions to the book of Daniel called Bel and the Dragon. Habakkuk in exile had made a stew with bread for the reapers in Judea when an angel took him by the hair to feed Daniel in the lions' den in Babylon. Mission accomplished, the angel then took him back home!

## Zephaniah

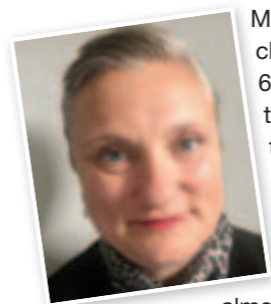
Zephaniah was active in the early 600sBC. He speaks of the Day of the Lord and judgment on Israel's enemies. He also looks forward to the conversion of the Gentiles. In talking of the Day of Judgment Zephaniah uses words like the Day of Wrath, which inspired the Dies Irae, the sequence used in a requiem and now familiar from the church setting of the Requiem Mass by Mozart and many others. After much about judgment and wickedness, Zephaniah in chapter 3 gives us a Song of Joy, beginning 'Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion, shout O Israel' words which are to be heard in the Liturgy on Advent 3, and the Easter Vigil.

## Haggai

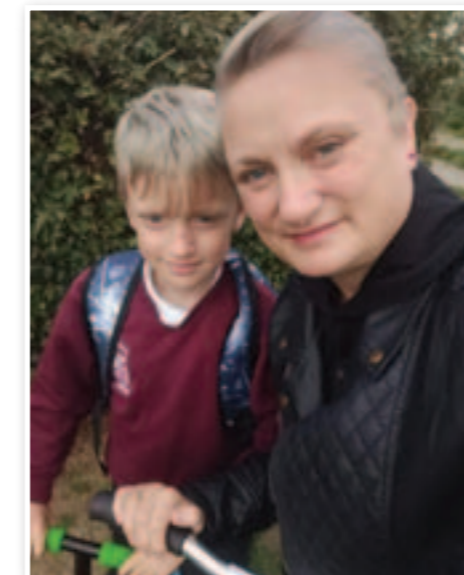
Haggai and Zechariah belong to a later period, that of Persian ascendancy under kings like Darius and Cyrus. Persian rule was regarded favourably unlike that of the Assyrians and Babylonians, perhaps because the Persians made no direct attacks on Israel and Judah and encouraged local cults. Under Darius permission was given for the Temple to be rebuilt. Haggai and Zechariah 1-8 seem to belong together. So Haggai begins with the command to rebuild the Temple and speaks of its future glory. With this comes the assurance of God's lasting presence. The prophet is concerned about political and religious leadership in the persons of Zerubbabel and Joshua, as a dual leadership. There is now no expectation of the Davidic monarchy being restored although there is mention of Zerubbabel being God's choice.

*Martin Banister, St Albans Cathedral*

# A year of 'Lasts'



My youngest child entered Year 6 at the start of this term and after two decades of continuous school run to our village Primary School in Aldbury, I am almost at the end of an era in terms of parenting.



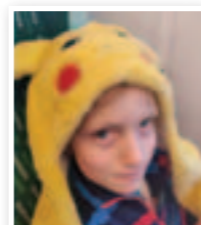
I know from experience that having children in secondary school is a much more remote style of parenting to the primary years.

For a start, I am not so sure who their friends are and might be only on doorstep acquaintance with their parents: you know, where you might chat for a few moments on the doorstep when you are acting as mum's taxi. You might even make it into the hallway, but there the relationship ends.

It's a big difference from the toddler days where their friend's parents were usually your friends too.

I find it hard even to keep up with who their teachers are and certainly wouldn't stop for a friendly chat with them in the playground.

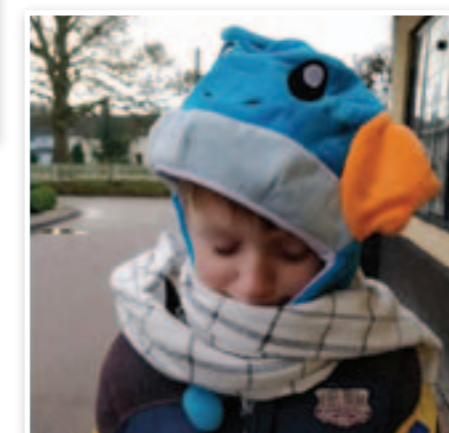
I will miss the school run most of the time (maybe not so much on cold or wet days) but mostly I enjoy our scoot to school (we both have scooters) and our chats about the decomposition progress of Flat Harry (the roadkill hedgehog who's been on the road for quite a while now), Pokémon, tsunamis, bin lorries and so much more.



He's autistic and his range of interest is very wide!



It's not often my youngest holds my hand now but he will often come for a snuggle in the playground, clinging to me like a clip-on-toy if he's feeling a bit anxious. I get hugs from my older children as they leave the house for the bus to their secondary school, but they are usually brief squeezes with dangling bags banging into us as they dash out of the door.



I'll also miss the brief contact I have with other adults as we gather for ten minutes waiting for the children to go into class. It can be lonely being a WAHM (work at home mum) and with pretty much all of my work online, those quick chats can be the only people I speak out loud to all day, apart from my family members.

Even dropping off at secondary is different, as it's usually a car drop, joining the line of other harassed looking parents who are there because the bus didn't arrive, or the little darlings missed it.

I opted to stay at home as a parent so I could be there for Harvest Festival, Sports Day, Assembly and all the other stuff. But interaction with our 'big school' is limited and we aren't even allowed at Sports Day. It's a good school but it feels much more remote than our little primary. So I should make the most of these 'lasts'.

## Last school play

I can't imagine my son joining the drama group or volunteering for the secondary school play so this will probably be his last appearance on stage. Cue camera phone at the ready.

## Last sports day

That's if it happens. The last few have been cancelled because of wet or ridiculously hot weather.

## Last school services

Harvest, Christmas and Easter where the Year 6s usually take a major role in leading the services. Bring on the tissues. It will be particularly poignant as it's been a team effort between family and school staff to bring him to the point where he can usually join in in some way. I'm hoping he carries some of that confidence forward to his new school.

## Last leaving events

He's the seventh child of mine to go through the primary school his own dad attended fifty-odd years ago. At the end of year six they always organise events including a presentation evening, party and service. It will be very strange thinking it's the last time we will be attending these.

A teacher once joked that when the last of my children left, they should name a part of the school after us. As well as being a parent there, I've been a TA, Governor and midday supervisory assistant. I've seen a complete change in staff apart from the school secretary.

I cannot believe it's been more than twenty years since our first school day with my eldest. At that point I never dreamed I would have seven children in total. That's a lot of school runs!



It may be that I have to take him to his new school as the walk up to the bus stop and the ride on a public bus service may be too much for him to cope with, but it still won't be the same as our daily scoot.

*Afra Willmore  
St John the Baptist, Aldbury*

## Computer & Printer Repairs & Support

Friendly, patient and expert help with all your computing needs.

[barry@childassociates.co.uk](mailto:barry@childassociates.co.uk)



**Barry Child  
Child Associates**  
01442 826092  
07879 497704  
No call out fee in Tring



Pain relief from back, neck and joint problems.

18 Christchurch Road, Tring HP23 4EE

Tel: 01442 890073 Mob: 07973 188420

Highly qualified and registered with the General Osteopathic Council

**Osteopathic Care for all the Family**

Serving Tring since 1995

# Tweet of the month

I have been very fortunate to be able to go to a large number of beautiful places to see birds; I have seen birds that are truly breathtaking and people would struggle to believe that such birds could actually exist.

One of the most striking, beautiful birds I have ever seen is the Red-legged Honeycreeper. Honeycreepers are a sub-group of the Tanager family and this family is widespread in the Americas from Canada in the North down to Argentina in the South.

Honeycreepers are small, brightly-coloured birds with a slightly down-curved, dagger-like bill. While they do eat insects and fruit, it is their habit of eating nectar that is partially responsible for their English name. Their scientific name is *Cyanerpes cyaneus*. *Cyanerpes* is based on the Greek words *kuanos*, meaning dark blue, and *herpes* meaning a creeping thing: so literally it means dark blue creeper. *Cyaneus* is also derived from *kuanos* to really emphasize

that the bird is a dark blue bird.

The Red-legged Honeycreeper is found from southern Mexico, through Central America and as far south as Peru, Bolivia and Brazil in tropical forests. The male has a black bill and the legs are bright red – hence its name. Its body is a striking violet-blue and the top of its head is turquoise and while the feathers are often held flat, they are frequently raised to almost upright to form a spiky-looking crest. The wings, tail and back are jet black as is a mask that surrounds the eye. The underside of the wings are a surprising lemon-yellow, in total contrast to the rest of the colours, but this can be difficult to see even when the bird is in flight. The female is a nice green colour with red legs less bright than the male's. You might think that such brightly-coloured birds would be a target for predators but, in the dense rainforest, even the males can be inconspicuous.

Birds as beautiful as the Red-legged



Honeycreeper defy belief and seeing them, it really isn't hard to believe in the God who created the world and all things on it – maybe not exactly in the manner described in Genesis but surely his hand was there, guiding the creation of such beautiful things. Jesus had an inner beauty that surpasses even the outer beauty of the most beautiful birds such as the Red-legged Honeycreeper; and I don't doubt that his inner beauty was there because of God.

*Roy Hargreaves, St Peter & St Paul*

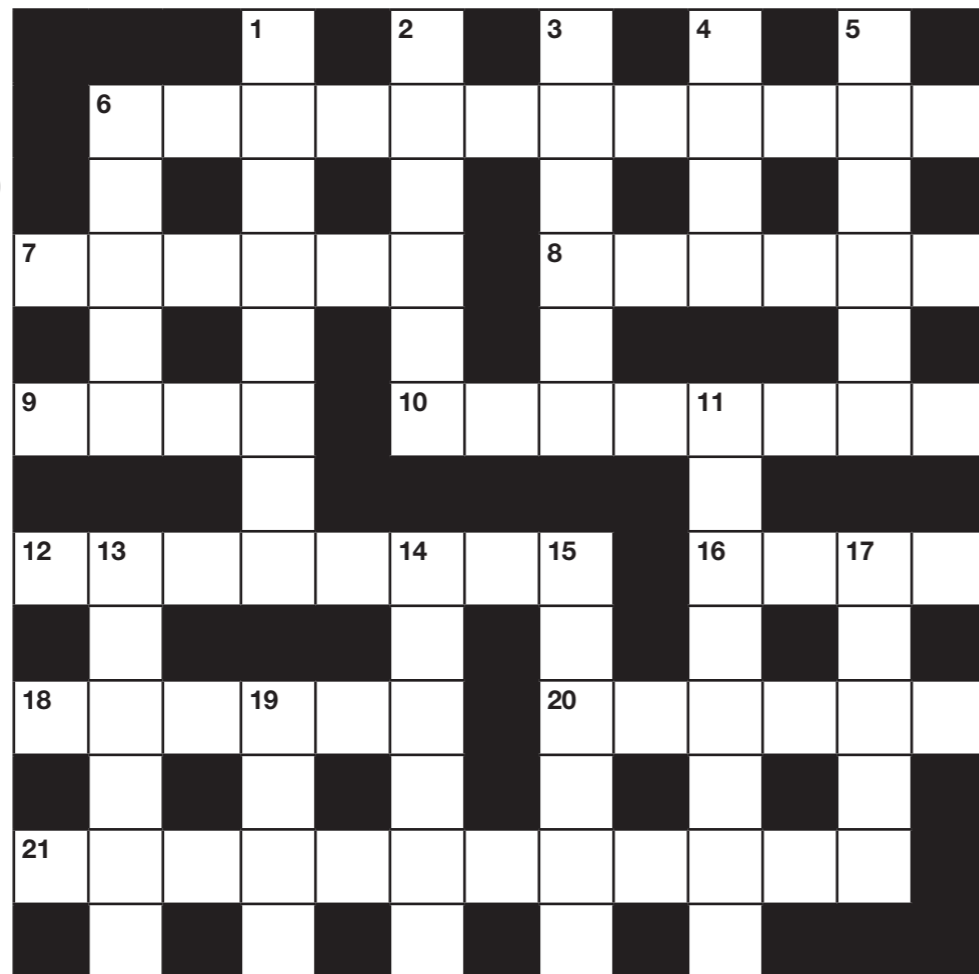
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

- 6. Birth of Jesus (4) (8)
- 7. Dated provider of Christmas food (6)
- 8. Lady's hat (6)
- 9. First garden (4)
- 10. Christmas gifts (8)
- 12. Jesus' place of upbringing (8)
- 16. Carve in wood (4)
- 18. Took place under the mistletoe (6)
- 20. On stage at the pantomime (6)
- 21. Popular Christmas hymn (3) (5) (4)

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Feeds the foetus (8)
- 2. Action to view 10 across (6)
- 3. Jesus' place of birth (6)
- 4. Cooks the Christmas dinner (4)
- 5. Town centre road (6)
- 6. Killed children of Bethlehem (5)
- 11. People's choice of MPs (8)
- 13. Get off the bus (6)
- 14. Senior figures of the Church (6)
- 15. Enthusiastic (6)
- 17. Song of Christmas (5)
- 19. Comfortable seat (4)



Answers on page 38

# Letter from Orkney



We made it home in one piece! After our summer in the south, which was rather like the curate's egg – good in parts – we were not taking it for granted

we would get home to the 59<sup>th</sup> parallel without further incident. Those who were paying close attention to our last two Letters from Orkney (there may be someone) will know there were a few incidents on our 2019 sojourn south.

It was wonderful to be back, although after ten weeks away from home there was a lot of catching up to do. Basically, we were back to reality.

One very important task to be carried out on our return was the presentation of the wonderful poppy wreath so kindly made and presented to me by Janet Goodyer. It was taken to our kirk, St Mary's, in Stromness, and presented by Mac to The Revd Canon Tom Miller. This was Tom's last service before his retirement as our Rector, and he was about to return to his native New York.

It may be recalled that a wreath from Tring being presented in Orkney is especially appropriate. As Janet Goodyer reported in the last edition of Comment, a young man from the Tring area, Able



Seaman Stanley Collier, was killed when HMS Hampshire was mined and sank off the north coast of Orkney. As Lord Kitchener was on board and was also killed, a Memorial was erected in his name, and a wall commemorating the centenary of the tragedy was erected next to the Memorial in 2016. I visited it recently and indeed, Able Seaman Collier's name is carefully inscribed on this wall. The Tring connection, and Stanley's story told by Janet, brought this name to life for me, and was very moving.

As mentioned above, our Rector Tom has returned to live in New York and so St Mary's is in the process of recruiting another Priest to lead our small but active congregation. As a member of the Vestry Committee (I'm not quite sure how that happened) I was involved in helping compose the 'Congregational Profile'. This provided information for applicants with the aim of enticing suitable people to apply for the post. We seem to have done a reasonable job as apparently our Bishop said she was tempted to apply! It was an interesting experience being involved in such a process and we are praying that firstly we attract some



applicants, and secondly that we end up with someone who understands Orkney, loves it as much as everyone here does and leads us with enthusiasm into the future. We have faith that God will ensure all will be well.

The days are drawing in and as daylight gets less, it's time to wrap up warm when venturing out. It is dramatic here with wild winds and rain, and although it's wonderful that so many people visit Orkney in the summer (we already have our first visitors booked to stay with us next year!), it is nice to have the islands to ourselves again.

*Carrie Dodge  
St Mary's Stromness*

# How to save a life

In October three members of the resuscitation team from Stoke Mandeville Hospital came to Tring Park School to teach our prep, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Forms how to save a life with CPR and using an AED.

These training sessions are part of a national campaign called 'Restart a heart'. The Restart a Heart campaign (RSAH) is an annual initiative led by the Resuscitation Council (UK) in partnership with The British Heart Foundation, British Red Cross, St John Ambulance, and Yorkshire Ambulance Service which aims to improve the low

numbers of people surviving out-of-hospital cardiac arrests.

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the training and were complimented by the Resus team for their intelligent questions and participation in the role play scenarios.

We would like to thank Bucks healthcare for allowing their officers to come to school and train our pupils giving them confidence to know what to do if they come across someone in need.

*Lucy Bennett  
Tring Park School Nurse*



# Didier, the Priest



John Whiteman, our Parish Co-ordinator, has been going around asking folk for one word about Didier. For me that word is simply 'priest'. I would therefore like to explain the presents that we bought him from the Tring Team Parish as he leaves us.



either bbq'ing or as a fire pit. However, we also hope that every year at dawn on Easter Day, Didier will find himself presiding at the first Eucharist of Easter, starting in the dark and lighting the paschal candle from the flames of the new fire made in his firepit. The prayer the priest uses as we light that fire says, 'As we watch this light be born and grow in front of us, help us to open our eyes to the wonder around us. Show us how we must live with everyone and everything that surrounds us'. If Didier has one legacy in the Tring Team Parish, it is his emphasis that we must get our worship from Maundy Thursday to Easter Day right. It is the most important thing we do!

We give thanks that Didier has done his part living among us a priest and showing us how we must live with everyone and everything that surrounds us.

**Huw Bellis, Tring Team**



Firstly we have bought him three stoles. His ordination stole, a beautiful white one, was made by Dorothy Walsh. We will now be giving him the seasonal colours of green, red and purple to add to that one. Originally a secular symbol of office among imperial officials of the Roman Empire, it slowly became adopted by members of the clergy to signify their office and is now a garment set aside to be worn by priests. In traditional settings a priest may pray as putting on the stole, 'Lord, restore the stole of immortality, which I lost through the collusion of our first parents, and, unworthy as I am to approach Thy sacred mysteries, may I yet gain eternal joy'.

Secondly we have bought him a fire pit. Our hope is that he and Kathryn will have many pleasant hours with friends in the garden of the house in Stewkley,



## Farewell to the Tring Team



So, in October I was notching up 'last things' as I prepared to leave the Tring Team: final services, saying goodbyes and handing back stuff that I have borrowed. This will be my last contribution to Comment. It will not, however, be my last day of ministry.

In November I joined the Winslow Benefice where I shall be assistant priest once I have been licensed. It is

a smaller team than Tring, set once more in a market town but the area is heading for quite a lot of change with new housing and transport links. So there will be plenty of opportunities and challenges for the benefice and for me (though I can't help thinking the benefice's biggest challenge before Christmas will be me). Pray for them, they will need it!

It has felt like getting ready to start a new school or new job. Once more, I have left somewhere I know and like in order to go somewhere else where I shall be a stranger. It will be odd at first

and I hope I settle in soon. But I will be going hugely appreciative of the great time I have had with the Tring Team and of being one of the church family.

As I said at my farewell service, thank you for welcoming me as a minister and for the patience, kindness and love you have shown me. I am really grateful and, whatever talents and gifts I bring to the next church, they will have been enhanced by you as I trained and ministered with you.

**Didier Jaquet, formerly Tring Team**

## Christingle reflection

I appreciate that the article for the Children's Society Christingle service last month was to commend the service and encourage people to attend and to help, if possible, but I was most disappointed that there was no reference to the origin and meaning of the Christingle. Many people already know but could be reminded and there may be some who do not know.

Many years ago, between 1952 and 1962, I attended a Moravian School in Derbyshire. I have always been an Anglican but the Christingle originally came from the Moravian church. The final prayer of the pre-Christmas service

was 'Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts that theirs like thine become'. The custom went round the world and missionaries brought the Moravian Church to England in 1700.

I do enjoy Comment every month. It is my link to a valued Church and Church Team.

**Judith Orrell formerly St Peter & St Paul**



## How do I get more out of Mass?



As a Catholic, I will focus here on the Mass, but I think the following is equally true for services in other Churches. So when I say 'Mass' think of the service you go to in your own Church.

How do I get more out of Mass? By putting more of ME into Mass! Simple, but not necessarily easy! So, what would help?

I was very into Ann Voscamp's books (I recommend 'One Thousand Gifts') and in one of them, someone said to her 'wherever you are BE ALL THERE!' This idea of mindfulness, which is currently generating a lot of interest, is not new. The latest Dorling Kindersley book 'Practical Mindfulness' defines it this way: 'mindfulness means purposefully paying attention, in the present moment'. How I remember my teachers saying much the same thing!

How often do we come into Church, get into the bench and sit or kneel, take a deep breath as all the previous hour of frantic activity washes over us (especially young families, to get them ready and out of the door, yourself, ready and out, with the car keys and money for the collection)? Or, it might have been that phone call. The internal video replays in our mind, often on a loop.

How can I be 'all there', 'purposefully pay attention' to Mass? To Mass, that is the source, that grounds me in the knowledge and experience of the saving

act of my Lord, Jesus, my Saviour, who said 'Do this, to remember me.' That's what drags me out of bed in the morning? Maybe?

### A little planning and organisation

We plan special dinners, parties, plan and prepare for 'the holiday'. So some planning for Mass is appropriate. Allow time, especially with teens and younger, a little chat the night before might help. They need to know Mass is real and it's what Jesus asked us to do, and, importantly: 'They are precious to God – and nothing can change that!'

### Get there early

I'm the last one to tell others to do this when I'm so hopeless at getting to Mass early! But it's worth it. Being in church ten to fifteen minutes early gives me time to gather my thoughts, my concerns, worries and place them before God in prayer.

### Just show up

When all else fails, and everything appears to be against you, just show up. Simply being in God's presence (rather than hiding in the bathroom till 'they' all calm down!) is an act of worship on your part. Just be in his presence, and breathe him in. If you feel stressed or anxious, take three to five slow, deep breaths before you pray.

### Are you bored?

Yes, admit it. When Mass begins 'be all there' and 'purposefully pay attention' to

what is unfolding in front of you. Don't be blinded by familiarity – open your eyes and see, open your ears and listen and heart to love. This liturgy is old and universal, new and ever changing and ever the same. There is a rhythm to the Mass – sit, stand, kneel – embrace it, enjoy it! Sing?! Yes, you can! It's not a test! When we sing we are praying – twice, we are told!

### Get this

Some kind of publication that has the Mass readings, prayers and reflections eg The Magnificat, Walk with Me, Word Alive (Alive publishing) and others. If you can, read beforehand.

### There's an app for that

You can get apps for your phone, usually free. Pray as you Go (UK Jesuits), Laudate (US Bishops) Catholic Missal & Prayers (Google Play), Catholic Missal (Kingdom apps). This isn't an exhaustive list but all the above are free. My favourite is 'Prayer as you Go' and it has a sister (or should it be brother?) website called 'Sacred Space' run by the Irish Jesuits. Suggestions for other apps gratefully received.

We can so easily switch on to auto pilot, but it really is more satisfying if we try to be more present, focused and thankfully accept, with joy, Jesus' invitation to 'Do this, to Remember Me'.

**Trisha Apps, Corpus Christi**

## Events at All Saints, Long Marston



### Curry & Quiz Night

All Saints' best fundraiser of the year is the Curry and Quiz Night, and it has become a bit of an institution. Long Marston Victory Hall plays host, the Rector spends a day cooking curry, and the wonderful Martin Kelly acts as quiz master, having taken on the mantle from the much-missed Toby Davidson. A raffle (usually heavily based around wine and chocolates) and the generous donation of a barrel of beer from Richard Shardlow at Tring Brewery, add to the fun and the profits.

This year was another successful event. Numbers were a bit down, but it does prove very difficult to find a date that suits everyone – we have one table who book at least five months in advance! The menu consists of beef rogan josh (with a veggie alternative), sag aloo, chana dhal, rice and naan bread. It has also become one of the rituals of the evening that people say to Huw 'I think that was your best ever curry'. There was also enough left over to sell extra portions to take home.

The quiz had something for everyone – sports, geography, maths, popular culture, and the ever popular 'ding bats'. There was also the addition of a new round at the end this year where a right answer would gain you 10 points, and a wrong answer would lose all the points gained in the whole quiz.

A blank answer would mean you stayed the same. Even the boldest were not prepared to risk all at that point.

It was a wonderful evening and it was a home-grown Long Marston team who won – Congratulations!

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard – Martin, Lee, Liz, Jo and Sarah. And, of course, to Huw: do you know, I think it might have been his best ever curry...

Do come and join us next year!



### Hallowe'en

Hallowe'en is an interesting day for churches – some ignore it, some include it in All Saints and All Souls, and others choose to have Light Parties. Culturally it has become much more of an event than it used to be, with costumes and decorations and parties.

Some fear that it talks too much of evil and devils, while others, like me, cannot bear the idea that children can demand sweets and get them. So, in Long Marston, we decided to add an extra element. We open Church from 5.30pm to 7.30pm (which is peak trick or treat time) and serve mini hot dogs and hot chocolate. All we ask is that the children donate some of their sweets to DENS and the Foodbank. There is also a chance to light a candle and to add names to the list for All Souls.

This year we think we had around thirty-five children come in over the evening. Some stayed a while, enjoyed the refreshments, with parents sitting and chatting. Others called in, emptied their collecting bucket of sweets into the donations pot and went out again. People were also very generous with financial donations so that we more than covered our costs.

What all agreed on, though, was that it was absolutely the right thing to do. Rather than just seeing it as 'What is in it for me?', we add the element of 'What can I share with others?'. While the children enjoyed dressing up and an evening walking in the dark, they knew it was also about remembering those we love who are no longer with us. We made sure that the hallowed part – or holy – of Hallowe'en was not forgotten.

Many thanks to Alan, for getting Church ready, serving food, and smiling all the way through!

**Jane Banister, Tring Team**

## Victims of modern slavery



On 25 October ten members from Tring joined with other Mothers Union members from the Deanery for a time of worship at All Saints Church in Berkhamsted.

Our speaker, the Revd Atalie Gaines, talked to us about modern slavery, and how we could help. Mothers Union has joined with the Clewer Initiative to help detect people who are enslaved.

Today people are enslaved in many different ways. Modern slavery happens

in all parts of the world, including the United Kingdom.

In 2016, 3,805 men, women and children were rescued from slavery in the UK, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. There are estimated to be 11,700 victims of modern slavery in the UK.

Many people who end up being enslaved are looking for legitimate work. Traffickers prey on this desire and often deceive people into coming with them to another country with the promise of a good job. Only on arrival do victims discover the truth as they are forced into prostitution or harsh working conditions.

The victims of modern slavery in the UK come from all over the world. The

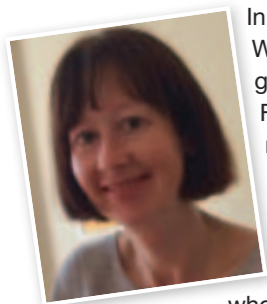
two most common countries are Albania and Vietnam. Many victims are also British – in 2016 it was the third most common country of origin for victims. They fear deportation, or believe they are at risk of violence to themselves or their family at home, so are reluctant to seek help.

Since our meeting we have heard of the people being brought to work here who died on their journey!

If we are suspicious about the circumstances of someone who looks vulnerable, we can phone the Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700, or phone our local police on 101.

**Elizabeth Sims, St Peter & St Paul**

# Community: at the heart of Bishop Wood School life



In July, Bishop Wood School said goodbye to Miss Francis, who moved on to the next stage of her career. As a Tring resident, with children who have benefitted from attending Bishop Wood School, I knew when I saw the vacancy for a class teacher that I had to apply. The opportunity to help children, both academically and socially, to grow and reach their potential – in the same way my children did – was one not to be missed.

I came into teaching later in life. I started off my career working mainly in the information sector. I worked for News International researching information for journalists and reporters. From there I moved on to being involved in projects to build libraries and information centres and develop new community services.

It was only when I worked on a project for adults who could not read or write, that I began to think about teaching as a career. I met people who hadn't had the best start in life and were starting all over again learning to read. When they told me of some of their early

experiences of life and school, which were quite negative, it resonated with me. What gave me hope was when they told me of their teachers now, who were inspiring and motivating them to learn to read. I knew then that I wanted to train to teach.

Since starting on that journey in 2015, it hasn't always been easy. I took a school-based route into teacher training and was thrown straight into the deep end! Helping children to learn, setting them off on the right path and simply enjoying their unique take on life is great fun and incredibly rewarding.

At the beginning of September, I remember nervously approaching the gates of Bishop Wood School for my first day in post. Although excited to meet my new class, I was equally apprehensive about what life as a class teacher in my new school would be like.

I needn't have worried. I could not help but be impressed by the community feel of Bishop Wood School. There is a positive and warm school culture that you can see and feel from the moment you walk through the door. Everyone I met put me at ease.

One of the values which we follow in school is that of community. This isn't a responsibility that the school take lightly – the children take a real pride in

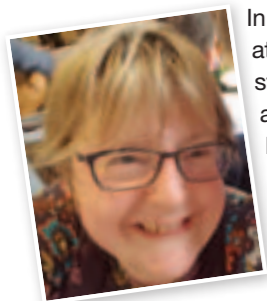
their school community and in looking after each other. I know that community matters, but I haven't spent much time thinking of what community means. I got a true glimpse of this when on my first-time during break duty, a child had quite a nasty fall. One of the older children, who it was fair to say was enjoying his time on the climbing equipment, simply stopped what he was doing and came over to help. When I thanked him, he simply said: *'You don't have to thank me: that's what we do at Bishop Wood'*.

Similarly, during Fun, Fit and Fruity Week, the sheer number of parents who gave up their time to support children to learn Road Safety, and how to be responsible when out and about, moved me.

Never having worked in a faith school before, I was not sure what to expect. I find myself touched by collective worship and the way in which children are guided by Father Huw, Sarah Marshall, Mr Stanley and the teaching staff. Children are encouraged to get involved and to share their views. Pupils come together through shared values, which it seems will stay with them for life. Community really is at the heart of school life.

**Adele Foley, Bishop Wood School**

# Mental Health Day at Tring Park



In the Lower School at Tring Park, we are studying wellbeing as part of the Penn Resilience Programme that helps deliver strategies to help wellbeing as well as problem-solving in all aspects of their lives. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Form, in particular, are looking at the nature of relationships, including the ones that benefit us and the ones that are more toxic.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Form have had input from Elevate to help them with study skills. By having a series of sessions over the GCSE years, we hope to bolster and boost skills to strengthen learning. Wellbeing ideas are inherent in their approach (<https://uk.elevateeducation.com/news/parents/18-apps-a-student-shouldn-t-live-without>). They also offer links to distraction blockers, organisational apps and meditation aids to help with mindfulness.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Form started the year with a series of wellbeing sessions to help them develop their awareness of such matters as they move into a different stage of learning. They will be having regular sessions as part of their vocational programme throughout the year.

In September, at the inaugural Industry Minds Awards, our former Head Girl, Raffaella Covino, won three awards for her pioneering work in this area. She founded Applause for Thought, a non-profit organisation that provides free and low-cost mental health support, talks and workshops to those working in the entertainment industry. Applause



for Thought aims to provide a safe environment for performers to learn more about balancing their mental health whilst pursuing a career in the performing arts. We are delighted and have really benefited from Raff visiting us to talk to our 6<sup>th</sup> Form last term.

Our Medical Centre ran a *'Tea and Talk'* session too.

**Sarah Bell, Tring Park School**



# An epiphany blessing



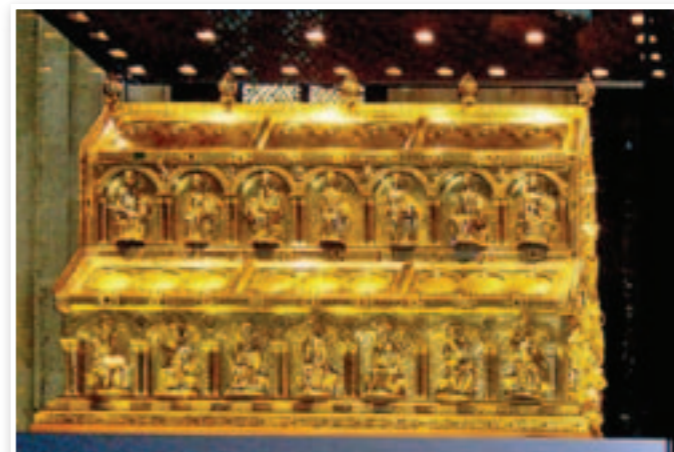
Some years ago on a visit to the in-laws' house, I noticed a set of chalk letters and numbers by their front door. Martin explained that it was an Epiphany blessing from St

Albans Cathedral and that all had been sent home to put the blessing on their own doors. It was the first time I had encountered it, but I liked the idea so we brought it back to the Tring Team Parish.

On the Sunday closest to 6 January, chalk is blessed during the Epiphany 10.00am service and we are sent home with the chalk to write above our home's entryway: 20 + C + M + B + 20. The letters C, M, B have two meanings: they are the initials of the traditional names

of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar but they also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless the house). The '+' signs represent the cross and 2020 will be the year.

You will see this now on our Church doors, outside our Church schools and on a number of parishioners' doors. This summer Jane and I visited Germany and spent a couple of days in Dusseldorf. It is amazing how many doors were marked in this way. I am not sure if it is prevalent across the whole of Germany or just because of Dusseldorf's proximity to Cologne where tradition has it that the remains of the Magi are kept.



Whether you are able to join us for the Epiphany service or not, why don't you ask for God's blessing on your house this January?

**Huw Bellis, Tring Team**



# Aftershocks



October's choice for the Tring Parish Book Group was a new novel by A.N. Wilson.

*'Aftershocks'* describes life in the Cathedral city of Aberdeen, on the post-colonial island

somewhere in the Southern hemisphere. The city was built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in the 'wetlands', in an earthquake zone. When, inevitably, a severe earthquake occurs (brilliantly described), there is widespread and devastating destruction of the fabric of the city and life-changing consequences for its citizens (hence the book's title: *Aftershocks*).

Although Wilson insists that his novel is not specifically about Christchurch in New Zealand, there are, inescapably, many close parallels.

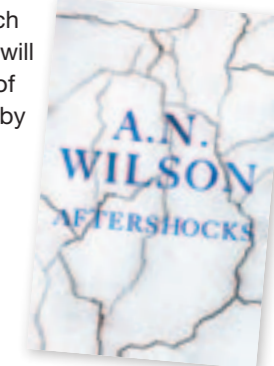
We meet Eleanor, the Dean of the Cathedral, a cradle Anglican, deeply rooted in the faith of her father(s) (sic). We also meet Digby, a classical scholar and teacher at the University, equally deeply rooted in the mindset of the Ancient, pre-Christian Greeks with their pantheon of callous gods, especially as depicted in the tragic dramas of Euripides, Sophocles, etc. What sense can these two so-different belief systems make of an event like the earthquake, which seems so arbitrary and causes so much suffering?

Many of the lesser characters are recognisable 'types': the corrupt property developer, the earnest campaigner, the trendy Bishop who would like to ditch the old-style format of church (along with the severely damaged Cathedral building) in the name of 'Outreach'; and some of the group felt that these characters 'were like chess pieces', to be moved around for the convenience of the plot.

In the end Wilson affirms the centrality of human love and the divine mandate to 'do good', for your neighbour's sake.

Our next meeting is on Sunday 8 December at 6.45pm in the Parish Church when John Lippitt will lead a discussion of *The Human Stain*, by Philip Roth. All are welcome!

**Carole Wells, St Peter & St Paul**



# Vanity Fayre

## Hairdressers

For Ladies, Gents and Children

Established for over 30 years

Come and try our professional, friendly, great value-for-money salon where your wish is our command!

Tel: 01442 822275  
74 Western Road, Tring

**Opening Hours**  
Tuesday-Thursday 9am-5pm  
Friday 9am-7pm  
Saturday 8:30am-1pm  
*Appointments not always necessary*



All new customers: bring this ad for a  
**10% discount**

# CHIROPODIST

## Wendy Hilliard

MSSCh MBChA HCPC Registered

For nail cutting, treatment of hard skin, corns, thickened nails, advice on diabetic feet etc

Please call 01296 630189  
or  
07969 741792  
for an appointment in the comfort of your own home



# Taking to the streets



I am not a natural 'protester', although I do have a chunky sheaf of correspondence spanning the last ten years in which I have sought to raise various issues with my local Member of Parliament, so perhaps I have been in a form of low-level training for something rather more 'activist'. I have also campaigned in fairly quiet ways on issues related to climate change and sustainability both locally and nationally; and a few years ago I did join a number of colleagues on a climate march; but I have watched the growing activities of Extinction Rebellion (XR), Christian Climate Action, and the young school strikers from the sidelines, supporting them theoretically but not physically.

However, a month ago we held a Climate Sunday service at High Street Baptist Church and, as part of an interactive activity, everyone was invited to make a pledge of a single new action they would take, write it on a paper leaf and attach it to a 'tree'. This potted branch, in our Church garden for the outdoor Communion at that Sunday service, is now standing at the front of Church Sunday by Sunday and although it will probably disappear at some point in the coming weeks, it is currently still reminding us of the pledges we each made. Mine was to 'step outside my comfort zone' in support of creation care, although I only had a vague suspicion at that point of what that might involve.

In October there was a whole series of actions taking place in London, and elsewhere, with XR seeking to raise awareness about the climate crisis facing the planet if rapid and dramatic action is not taken very soon to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and avert the very real threat of runaway global warming. Although very many members of the public are supportive of these

actions, even when they themselves are inconvenienced by them, there has been greater controversy than in the April 'rebellion' about some of the disruptive actions that have been taken – and also about the sometimes draconian response of the authorities. Midway through the October 'Autumn Uprising', the Metropolitan Police banned all XR gatherings in London and used a revision of Section 14 powers to threaten protesters with arrest. That evening, I was on my way home from a completely unrelated event in London when I picked up news via the Facebook feed of our



local XR group that on Tuesday there would be an inaugural gathering of 'XR Grandparents' at the Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Palace. Apparently the police had been made aware that this would take place but anyone intending to be there in support of XR was warned not to wear XR badges or be otherwise easily identifiable, just in case. Tuesday 15 October was exactly a week before the date on which my first grandchild was due to be born and I was already planning to be in London that evening to attend an event at which Naomi Klein – social activist and author, most recently on climate change – was speaking. This, then, was the challenge I needed to step out of my comfort zone.

I arrived at the Victoria Memorial at 4.15pm on the Tuesday, fifteen minutes before the official start of the gathering, and slipped into a back row among those already assembled on the steps. Most, but by no means all, of the people there did resemble older-generation 'hippie types' and I could well imagine that

these same individuals had been at CND marches or had camped out at Greenham Common in days gone by. They also all seemed to be fairly seasoned XR protesters and initially I felt rather out of place. But the atmosphere was completely peaceful, and conversations were being had quite calmly with the police officers who were reading out Section 14 statements but only when a couple of people climbed too high up the memorial – to take pictures – was anyone asked to move. For just under an hour the crowd sang protest songs, chanted that they would – in a direct response to a comment made by Prime Minister Boris Johnson – 'rather be a crusty than extinct', and handed out stickers and fabric 'XR Grandparent' badges. Group photographs were taken – some of which appeared in the next day's newspapers – and then we all moved down to the railings of the palace. The police were patient and for quite a while

they left the two protesters who had got round behind them and were lying down immediately in front of the railings alone; they were later arrested, I believe. I spent just over an hour at this XR protest and was struck by how good-natured it was, by the huge flag proclaiming that 'Our Rebellion is an Act of Love' and by the very obvious and genuine fear that these grandparents – a number of them accompanied by their young grandchildren – have for the future.

Am I now a 'protester'? I don't think there is any specific type of person who falls into that category and perhaps there is a capacity for protest of one sort or another in each of us; it just depends on what matters to you most. There will be many people for whom taking to the streets will never be an option, but if you are able to do it and you feel strongly about an issue then I recommend it: it is a good way to be reminded that there are lots of people out there who feel just the same.

**Nicky Bull, High Street Baptist Church**

# LADIES! GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT

**AG INST** breast cancer | Bra Bank

Deposit your used, new or surplus bras into our bra bank. Give them a new lease of life - raising vital funds for research into secondary spread breast cancer.

By depositing your bras in a BRA BANK you will also be helping small businesses across the African continent to sell them at affordable prices.

For more information, or to order your own bra bank email [recycling@againstbreastcancer.org.uk](mailto:recycling@againstbreastcancer.org.uk) or go online at [againstbreastcancer.org.uk](http://againstbreastcancer.org.uk)

**AG INST** breast cancer  
T: 01235 534211 E: [recycling@againstbreastcancer.org.uk](mailto:recycling@againstbreastcancer.org.uk) Registered Charity No: 1121258 [againstbreastcancer.org.uk](http://againstbreastcancer.org.uk)

# WILSTONE STICKS

Handcrafted by John Evans

Member of The  
**BRITISH Stickmakers Guild**

[www.wilstonesticks.com](http://www.wilstonesticks.com)  
Telephone: 01442 822115

## Stories of Christmas past



As a child, I remember, we lived at Cow Roast near Tring and on Christmas Day we would catch the 301 and attend Church with my grandparents and Auntie and then go back to their house for the rest of the day.

My grandparents owned a grocery shop opposite the school in Northchurch and very often someone would knock on the door and ask for something they had

forgotten to buy. During the afternoon, my brother Andrew and myself had to perform, Andrew on the piano and myself on the recorder, graduating to the clarinet in later years! If they were lucky, we would do a duet! In the evening my parents would go home and I would stay in a bedroom in the front of the house with a coal fire listening to the Church clock strike every hour!!

On Boxing Day we returned to Cow Roast and we used to sing carols around our fire. The same thing happened for quite a few years, then when I got married I would be in the choir for

Christmas morning, have lunch at my parents' house, then go and see my mother-in-law, take her with us to have tea with her daughter and family, and then go back to my parents' before we travelled back to Biggleswade a few days later.

After we joined the Church choir here in Biggleswade, my parents came here for the Christmas festivities but we visited Tring before Christmas so we had two celebrations.

**Rosamund Drakes nee Hardy formerly St Peter & St Paul**



When I was a child I lived in Croxley Green and we would go to Church in the morning on Christmas Day where I was in the choir. The rest of the day we would spend at home.

On Boxing Day I would catch the 321 with my mother and sister and go

to my aunt and uncle's house in Watford for a Drakes' family 'do'. Every family would take some refreshments and my mother was famous for her mince pies. I remember that my mother gave my grandpa socks... every year! The grandchildren all had to do a party piece. I played the piano. We then caught the last bus home to Croxley Green.

This happened for a few years until I got married. I then went to Church

where I was in the choir on Christmas day, lunched at my in-laws, went with my wife and mother to see my sister and family, have tea, then returned to my in-laws.

After I joined the Church choir here in Biggleswade, my in-laws came here for Christmas, but we went to Tring for our first celebration.

**Ian Drakes formerly St Peter & St Paul**

were added together with a celluloid fairy with tissue paper wings for the top. The candles were lit with a match on Christmas Day only, the room not left in case the tree caught fire!

We hung up our socks on Christmas Eve and there was a fireplace in our bedroom for Father Christmas to come down the chimney and leave an apple, an orange, some sweets and one little parcel in each sock.

As I write, it seems unlikely, but a grey removal van backed up the drive and dropped off the parcels from various relations by parcel post on Christmas morning! We assumed they had been stored, for our on-foot postman could not have dealt with Christmas parcels.

I wonder how many 'glasses of' were drunk by those men on their 'parcel van' that morning. It was the only day when Daddy saw the postman! He had the glasses and bottle ready! Very few Christmas cards were sent or received!

**Name not supplied**

*Thank you for this article left in the Parish Church for the Editor. But you didn't say who had written it!*

*The Editor*



Christmas was very much part of the Church calendar!

My mother made the pudding in October/November and we all had a stir. She made the cake at the end of November and iced it nearer Christmas and the decorations, used year after year, were two little child models in all white china garments, riding on sledges! The band around it was put on for Christmas Day tea and put away for the next year – and all the years that followed!

Just prior to Christmas, there was an evening auction at the town's cattle market and there Daddy bought a bird that needed plucking, its innards removed, with the liver saved for the gravy! The bird was likely to be a chicken, not a turkey, but a sizeable bird. On Christmas Eve he would cut a piece from a yew, if he couldn't find a fir small enough, pot it up and take it to the 'front room'. We clipped on little tier candle holders with small white candles in them and small coloured glass balls

## Volunteering for DENS at Christmas

### Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 12 December it's Christmas Jumper Day! Dig out your Rudolf jumper and silly Santa hat. Get the whole house or office or school Christmassy (including the bah humbugs) and enjoy festive fun arranging a competition for the best (or worst) outfit. Donate £1 each to DENS to take part.

### Wrapping Christmas gifts for service users

If you have a few hours to spare during the week before Christmas we will be looking for offers of help with wrapping Christmas gifts for our service users.

### Christmas Food Hampers

On Christmas Eve morning a team of volunteers will be working at the Foodbank making up hampers of Christmas food that will be delivered later in the day by more volunteers. Can you help?

For more information contact me on [barbara.hancock@dens.org.uk](mailto:barbara.hancock@dens.org.uk) or 01442 265 687

**Barbara Hancock, DENS**

## More biblical heroes



**Tabitha**  
Tabitha (*Acts 9:36-42*) or Dorcas, Aramaic or Greek meaning Gazelle, was a well-loved and active member of the Christian community at Joppa.

She had died, was washed and laid out, and then her friends impressed Peter of her worth. He prayed over her and she came back to life and was presented to her fellow believers. She says nothing in the account but the miracle was a huge witness to the power of God.

### Jabez

Jabez (*1 Chronicles 4:9-10*) meaning 'born in pain', was a descendant of David. His short prayer (verse 10) is a good example of faith in times of tribulation.

### The unnamed lad

The boy (*John 6:9*) who went to the disciple Andrew and offered his lunch shows how a sacrificial act can lead to greater things. We all have something to give.

### Susanna

Susanna (*Luke 8:1*), meaning a lily, was a woman of means prepared to accompany

Jesus and the disciples on their wanderings and provide for them.

### The captive little maid

The Israelite slave of Naaman's wife (*2 Kings 5:2-4*) showed Naaman the way to healing through Elisha. Her concern for others is something we can all emulate.

**David Whiting, St Peter & St Paul**



## DENS Dacorum Foodbank

Christmas List 2019

- |                         |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ Tinned Meat           | ✓ Cooking Sauces        | ✓ Large Disposable baking trays  |
| ✓ Tinned Fish           | ✓ Rice                  | ✓ 10p Carrier Bags               |
| ✓ Tinned Soup           | ✓ Long Life Fruit Juice | ✓ Mens Deodorant                 |
| ✓ Tinned Tomatoes       | ✓ Long Life Milk        | ✓ Toilet rolls                   |
| ✓ Sponge Puddings/Jelly | ✓ Sugar                 | ✓ Washing up liquid              |
| ✓ Tinned Peas/Sweetcorn | ✓ Coffee                | ✓ Washing Powder & Softener      |
| ✓ Tinned Potatoes       | ✓ Christmas Puddings    | ✓ Cleaning Sprays                |
| ✓ Custard               | ✓ Cereal Bars           | ✓ Sleeping Bags                  |
| ✓ Tinned Fruit          | ✓ Chocolate             | ✓ Large Rucksacks or Sports Bags |
| ✓ Rice Pudding          | ✓ Selection Boxes       | ✓ Woolly Hats/Gloves (Unisex)    |
| ✓ Jams/Spreads          | ✓ Tins/Boxes of Sweets  | ✓ Underwear/Socks (Mens)         |

### Please note that:

- All products must have a best before date of 2020 onwards
- At the moment we have good supplies of Baked Beans, Cereal, Pasta and Tea.
- All these items will be used to help those in need across all DENS Services
- To give us time to sort, the last day for donations is Wednesday 18th December

### Thank you for your support.

For donations/deliveries, Weekdays 9:30am - 2pm The Hub, Paradise, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4TF

For large donations please call to arrange.

There are also donation points after the checkouts at: Tesco Extra Hemel, Tesco Berkhamsted, Tesco Tring, Sainsburys Apsley & Woodhall Farm, and Waitrose Berkhamsted

T: 01442 250969 E: [foodbank@dens.org.uk](mailto:foodbank@dens.org.uk)

[www.DENS.org.uk](http://www.DENS.org.uk) Charity No: 1097185

## A locumming we will go...



Majorca is an island which has a bad reputation as a place full of lager louts and the violence which goes with it. But 95% of it is a beautiful place with a medieval

cathedral in Palma, the capital, with a Gaudi circular candlestick over the high altar, the Summer Palace of the Royal Family is on the coast and the countryside is undulating and most attractive. The heavy drinking is largely confined to three isthmuses where the cunning Spanish built Arenal, Palma Nova and Magaluf to keep those who enjoy that kind of holiday well away from the natives!

We have locummed here three times, taking the boys with us in the past over the years, but most recently just Jenny and myself in 2014 and we enjoyed it immensely. But things have changed: there are fewer resident English than before and so finance to keep the modern Church open is a major problem. I was filling in between chaplains, but the congregation pay for the Church by marketing themselves for weddings! I had four in the short time I was there.

None of the weddings took place in our Church but in different venues around the island. The couples were, in reality, blessed rather than married as they had to have a civil wedding certificate from England to give to me, but we held the full wedding service. The candidates ranged from a London lawyer to a Sheffield plumber, so it was a fascinating cross section of society.

My first one was held in a RC Rococo Church in the centre of Old Palma. There were about eighty people there and I had to compete with a Mass being said in one of the chapels as I led the service; but what a magnificent example of the Church style of its day! It was a building hallowed with prayer for centuries.

Next I was asked to a marina in the north of the island and we held the service in the garden of the local Yacht Club! It was a beautiful day. The local club pianist played the hymns and we were only interrupted once by the blast of a cruiser horn as it passed a few meters outside the marina – luckily not while they were making their vows! Despite the venue it was a moving service and they were most appreciative.

Wedding number three was a long drive up into the hills inland in a disused monastery. They now rented out the Chapel for weddings and the views were

spectacular. The Chapel was 14th century and had plain windows so everyone could see the wild flowers and a simple wooden cross on the opposite hill.

My last wedding was in a manor house near the sea, which had been converted into a hotel. As at the Yacht Club it was outside in a shaded grove near the orchard. This was the plumber and his wife and they loved the medieval building which they had researched online. It was a lovely occasion and another setting I will always remember – plus the two glasses of champagne they insisted I had afterwards to send me on my way back to Palma!

So – no weddings in the Anglican Church? No, and the reason is that it is very new and the couples wanted an ancient building or an outside venue. But why go to a Spanish island to be married? Reasons ranged from family ties to loving it after being on holiday and having visited the monastery in the past. But they wanted an English service and an Anglican priest. So I guess my presence may have helped to keep the Church going in Palma; and who knows how many more weddings will help to ensure the presence of the old C of E on the island!

**Ian Ogilvie, Tring Team**

## Ex-Tringites Golden Wedding



Hopefully many readers will remember Brian and Jenny Mather.

Brian was Headmaster of Bishop Wood School, a Churchwarden at St Peter & St Paul's, an avid bell ringer and a member of 'Pickled Tink'. He was heavily involved in the refurbishment of the bells in St Peter & St Paul among many other activities. Jennifer was a stalwart of the Mothers Union and also a teacher.

They now live in Lympstone, near Exeter, where they are actively involved in many village activities, and so on Friday 25 October, we set off to drive through the abysmal weather down to Devon. After almost six hours, we arrived at our hotel, just in time for dinner. Saturday morning saw plenty of rain but fortunately

we were able to watch the England rugby semi-final and read the papers rather than going for a walk along the seafront as we had hoped.

Saturday evening saw us taking a taxi to the Lympstone Village Hall for the celebrations. This was a ceilidh with Brian acting as principle caller and two guest callers, one being Brian Inall, who organised the Israeli circle dances. We were able to catch up with Elizabeth and Brian and also Jane and Mike Silvey who had travelled down from Chester and Worcester, as well as having long chats with daughters, Anne and Catherine. Hannah, one of the granddaughters, is currently working in Barcelona and was able to join the party for a short while via Skype.

After an excellent evening, including a hog roast from a local farm, we were driven back to our hotel by the other caller and his wife.

Sunday morning saw a great

improvement in the weather and after watching the Wales semi-final, we returned to Tring in around half the time of the outward journey.

**Ted Oram, St Peter & St Paul**



## Walk, talk, pray, laugh

How did I get to go on a Pilgrimage? My friend Jenny asked me to go with her to Santiago de Compostela and Fatima.

### Walk

Wow, did we walk! We walked 17,000 steps one day. We also walked along the Camino in the north of Spain for the last five kilometres, meeting and greeting fellow pilgrims heading towards Santiago. The rain was torrential and we were like drowned rats when we arrived, but our first glimpse of Santiago Cathedral was well worth it.



We walked the Stations of the Cross in a beautiful olive grove outside Fátima, where the apparitions of the Angel took place. We walked as we prayed the Rosary during the torchlit procession around the piazza in Fátima.



### Talk

Walking and talking seem to go together. We were a group of twelve, like the apostles, but we did not know each other. The experience of pilgrimage brought us together as we shared life stories. We were a mixed age group with some more able-bodied than others, but we became a close fellowship helping and looking after each other. How did we get from not knowing each other's name to that in a week? There was also much chatting over lunch and dinner with a glass of wine.



### Pray

We had daily Mass in some of the most beautiful chapels. As we were a small group, the intimacy of it made me appreciate the beauty of our Mass. We prayed the Stations of the Cross, set in a picturesque olive grove, with hundreds of others. Amazingly we moved from Station to Station without getting tangled up in other groups.

We prayed the Rosary in the Piazza following the procession of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in torch light. It was awe-inspiring as we held our candles up each time we sang Ave.

The climax of our prayer was the International Mass on Sunday, in the



open air in the Piazza. There were thousands of people, hundreds of priests and the Bishop. We managed to get to the front so had a really good view. As the bell from the Basilica rang out, the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was taken to a plinth beside the altar. Father David was chosen to do a reading and a prayer during the mass. We were so proud of him.

Many young people took part as well. They held a sea of white umbrellas over the Eucharistic ministers as they gave out Holy Communion. It was so special to be part of a Mass where there were so many Catholics from all over the world. You couldn't fail to be inspired.

At the end of Mass, as the procession of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was returned to the Apparitions chapel, the congregation waved their white handkerchiefs. It was so moving. It was like a spiritual spring clean!

### Laugh

We were not a solemn group. There was a lot of laughter: how we looked on the day we got soaked; how we tried to keep ahead of the rosary groups following us; how we crowded together so we wouldn't get lost in the torchlit procession.

When we parted at the end of our pilgrimage, I experienced sadness, joy, hope and courage: sadness that it had come to an end and that we had all separated, although we have set up a Camino WhatsApp group to keep in touch; joy that I had been able to experience all that the Pilgrimage had to offer; hope that I can hold on to the feelings that it aroused in me; courage to talk about it and share it with others.

If you get the opportunity to go on Pilgrimage, don't hesitate!

**Gerry Booth, Corpus Christi**



# Tring's annual Apple Fayre and Parade



It was a damp morning on Saturday 12 October but this didn't deter people from enjoying the annual parade and then the Apple Fayre Farmers' Market in Church Square.

This year was a very special year for the Farmers' Market as it marked the 20th anniversary of the opening.

The Justice & Peace Group were very pleased to take part in the Parade, with two of us dressed up as Fairtrade bananas. At the Farmers' Market we had a Fairtrade stall and invited the public to take the chocolate challenge. There was Fairtrade and non-Fairtrade chocolate, both milk and plain, to taste and we scored the preferences. The challenge proved very popular and while the results were close, Fairtrade definitely won!

However, this of course was only the taste test, and we feel strongly that on ethical grounds, Fairtrade was the out-and-out winner. To choose Fairtrade, of course, makes a real difference to real people!

This year we are celebrating twenty-five years of Fairtrade products in the UK. Fairtrade started in response to the dire struggles of Mexican coffee farmers following the collapse of world coffee prices in the late 1980s. Following continued appeals for fairness from Mexican small-scale coffee farmers, the Fairtrade Foundation was established by CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Traidcraft, the World Development Movement and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

**Michael Demidecki, Justice & Peace Group affiliated to Churches Together in Tring**  
[www.justiceandpeacetring.org](http://www.justiceandpeacetring.org)



# Tring Linking Lives – the next stage



Tring Linking Lives is now a franchised partner of the national charity Linking Lives UK which now has thirty-six schemes running. It is based at the High Street Baptist Church

but is not an HSBC charity.

Cliff Brown came to the October meeting of Churches Together in Tring (CTT) to tell us of the progress that has been made in the last year. They have managed to gain funding from various sources which has helped them get set up.

Much work has been done by a small group of people since the idea was suggested about eighteen months ago that there should be a way of helping people in the Tring and surrounding villages who feel they are lonely or cut off from the local community.

Loneliness affects not only older

people who may have become isolated through illness or bereavement but can happen at any stage of life, especially at times of changes in one's circumstances. For instance, when a couple move to a new town and one of them works long hours, the partner left at home may find it hard to find new friends; students losing the companionship of their school friends may feel isolated and find that their experience of university or college life does not live up to the bright publicity they were reading before their course began, and so on.

From the Linking Lives leaflet: 'We can provide someone who will visit you in your home, who will listen, take an interest and become your friend; they may take you out if you would like this.'

As well as starting the visiting service, Linking Lives in Tring offers a telephone service, providing a friendly voice at the end of a phone. A directory of local organisations (including the churches) has also been put together, though it is

not yet as complete as they would like it to be.

Cliff Brown from High Street Baptist Church is the Co-ordinator of the scheme and makes an initial visit before an appropriate visitor is introduced. All volunteers are DBS assessed and given training for their role. The visitors would normally visit their clients once a week for about an hour.

There are currently fifteen volunteers and ten clients and both these numbers are expected to grow. Volunteers are being sought – could you be one of them?

There are leaflets about Tring Linking Lives available in local Churches, among other places, and here are the contact details for anyone wanting to receive visits, or who would like to volunteer: Email: [admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk); Phone: 01442 824054; mob: 07494 693862; High Street Baptist Church, 89 High Street, Tring, HP23 4AB.

**Margaret Whiting, St Peter & St Paul**

# Gifts at Tring School

Tring School students have been exploring the school's vision and chosen biblical narrative.

There has been a focus on exploring the variety of 'gifts' that each student possesses and contributes to the school community. In tutor time, each tutor group has created a display, pictured here, to summarise the gifts that each offer.

In PRS lessons, Year 7s have been exploring the school's values and vision and how they link to the school

prayer and have impacted upon their behaviours. Cleverly, they have made their own interpretations of what this means to them.

Finally, during the school's open evening, Year 6 students were asked to bring to Tring School for the following year. We are excited to welcome and aid in the flourishing of these gifts.

**Jennah Hay, Enhancement Leader Tring School**





Old Church House,  
Tring  
**Mummy and me  
Ballet**  
Thursday 9.30-10.00am

**Preschool Ballet**  
Friday 2.15-2.45pm  
Saturday 9.00-9.30am

Contact us for a free trial —  
Email: [admin@thechallisschoolofdance.co.uk](mailto:admin@thechallisschoolofdance.co.uk)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/challdance](https://facebook.com/challdance)  
[www.thechallisschoolofdance.co.uk](http://www.thechallisschoolofdance.co.uk)

*Challis School of Dance*

Stephen Hearn  
**TringMarket  
Auctions**  
*Antique and Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers, Est. 1982*

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

Visit our website and view the sales catalogues with accompanying illustrations, you will find us at [www.tringmarketauctions.co.uk](http://www.tringmarketauctions.co.uk)

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

We provide a full service to meet all your requirements



[www.tringmarketauctions.co.uk](http://www.tringmarketauctions.co.uk)  
The Market Process, Book Search, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 4EE  
01442 820400 • 01442 820400

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

**Heirs & Graces  
Day Nursery**

A place where  
**CHILDREN SHINE...**



Open from 7.30am until 6pm

Childcare vouchers accepted Free hours scheme accepted  
Sited in a beautifully converted Victorian home conveniently located on Tring High Street.  
High quality food prepared by our fabulous chef.

Find us on - [www.heirsandgracestring.co.uk](http://www.heirsandgracestring.co.uk)  
Telephone: - 01442 891818  
Heirs & Graces Day Nursery, Florence House,  
2 Christchurch Road, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 4EE



**DETAIL  
GARDENING &  
MAINTENANCE**  
*Maintaining Your Property's Potential*

01582 529429 | 07984 244494  
✉: [info@detailgardening.co.uk](mailto:info@detailgardening.co.uk)

A local family business offering regular, occasional and one off gardening and maintenance services.

We can help with:

- Lawn Mowing • Hedge cutting • Weeding
- Garden Clearance • Fencing • Power Washing/ Sealing • Turfing • General Maintenance + and much more...

Contact us now for a free quote!

For more information visit us at [www.detailgardening.co.uk](http://www.detailgardening.co.uk)

 DGMaintenance  
 DetailGardening



## In memory of Joan Hollingsworth

Our mum, Joan, passed away peacefully at Leonard Pulham Nursing Home on 16 August. She was 96.

Some of you may remember Joan from way back. We moved to Tring in 1966 – the year England won the World Cup – and she and our dad, Eric, were very much part of the Tring Community from the outset. We don't remember a time when they weren't involved in anything!

Mum was born in Ipswich in 1923 into a working-class family which was full of love and laughter. At fourteen she left school to work as a shorthand typist for an agricultural firm. When war broke out, she told us she was horrified to read a letter instructing farm workers to arm themselves with anything they could find – including pitchforks! Her generation grew up fast: at night Mum volunteered as a telephonist for the Fire Service; blackouts and food rationing became the norm but so did going to dances with servicemen who were stationed in East Anglia!

Joan had been a Brownie as a young girl and continued being involved with the Girl Guide movement. It was through Guiding after the war that she met a young Scout leader, Eric Hollingsworth. They shared a similar sense of humour, fell in love and were married in 1950. Mum saved up her 'coupons' to buy the material for her wedding dress as rationing was still very much a part of normal-day life. We two girls were born in 1952 and 1961 and Dad's job with BP moved us from Ipswich to Chelmsford and then to Tring.

We think those of you who knew Mum will agree she was very funny! She had a wicked sense of humour and an infectious giggle and was able to laugh at herself, which was just as well, as we certainly laughed at her! Not in a nasty way but she was always getting her words, names and phrases muddled up. For example, she would say 'one foul swoop' and 'dressing gowned' and could never get our names right. Dad really suffered with Mum's muddling as 'left' would be 'right, no left, no that way' which made car journeys with Mum navigating interesting to say the least. Yes, very often poor Dad had to 'turn around when possible' with Mum trying desperately to diffuse the situation by telling us to 'look at the view'!

Looking back we wonder if some of her odd sayings had something to do



with the hearing problems which began after a teacher had boxed her ears at school and so plagued her later years. Yet all this muddling did not deter Mum from taking the lead in organisations to which she belonged. She was a Brown Owl, Guide Captain, Leader of Tring Mothers Union, helped run Tring Valiant Club and was very involved in St Pater & St Paul's and FOTCH. Mum was on the flower rota, helped and cooked for various FOTCH events, took part in prayer and bereavement groups and was a well-known member of the church community. She was certainly one who would 'do her best', as she had promised when she became a Girl Guide!

And, of course, she also looked after us. Family meant everything to her and when we were both married and had our own children, she and Dad were very much hands-on grandparents and were closely involved in our lives.

Sadly her hearing continued to decline and Mum became more and more dependent on Dad to be 'her ears'. When he passed away in 2003, she lost more than just her soul-mate and her confidence was smashed to smithereens. This is

where the charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Lucy, an assistance dog, came into her life and enabled Mum to carry on independently.

Deafness is so dreadfully isolating. Yes, it can be really annoying to have to repeat everything all the time but to live in a silent world and to watch everyone else having a good time when you can't join in must be so very lonely. It is an invisible disability and hearing aids are not always the answer. In Mum's case they worked up to a point, but recurrent painful ear infections eventually made using her hearing aids impossible.

For the last few years of Mum's life, we learned to communicate with her in other ways; we wrote reams – in notepads and on wipe-boards; we developed our own form of sign-language and gestures; and Mum taught us that touch, hugs and kisses really said it all and meant the world to her, having lost that sense so many of us take for granted.

For the last three years Mum lived at Leonard Pulham Nursing Home where she was so very well cared for. The staff there loved her as much as we did. Her hearing might have failed completely but her sixth sense, her sense of humour, really came into its own.

Everyone remembers her smile and how she would laugh, say thank you and make them feel cheery. We will be eternally grateful to those people who made the effort to keep in touch with Mum and who found a way to communicate with her.

Mum touched the hearts of many people during her 96 years and we are so very lucky to have had such a special person in our family.

**Mia and Jane (Joan's daughters)**



# Notices from the Tring Churches

## ST MARTHA'S METHODIST CHURCH



### JEAN'S CAFÉ

Jean continues to provide lunches at the Church every Tuesday from 12.00noon to 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome to drop in for soup, lunch, tea or coffee, etc.

Sunday 1 December 10.00am  
Communion

**Revd Rachael Hawkins**

Sunday 8 December 10.00am  
**John Benson**

Sunday 15 December 10.00am  
**David Williamson**

Sunday 22 December 10.00am  
Carol Service  
**Revd Rachael Hawkins**

25 December 9.00am  
Christmas Service  
**Revd Rachael Hawkins**

Sunday 29 December 10.00am  
**John Watkins**

Sunday 5 January 10.00am  
**Christine O'Reilly**

Sunday 12 January 10.00am  
Communion  
**Revd Rachael Hawkins**

Sunday 19 January 10.00am  
**Audrey Cox**

Sunday 26 January 10.00am  
**John Benson**

## NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH



### BRIGHT HOUR

First Tuesday of every month  
2.30pm

### MILL CAFÉ

Thursdays 11.30am-1.30pm

1 December 10.30am  
**Bob Little**

8 December 10.30am  
**David Norkett**

15 December 10.30am  
**Peter Wortley**

22 December 10.30am  
**Aubrey Dunford**

29 December 10.30am  
**Peter Wortley**

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

### 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

### 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

### 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

### 5TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

### DACORUM FOODBANK

Weekdays 10.00am St P&P

### BABY SONG TIME

Mondays in term time 11.00am St P&P

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

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

### YOUTH CAFÉ

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

### MEDITATION

Thursdays 8.00pm Corpus Christi

### COFFEE MORNINGS

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

### YOUNG ADULTS GROUP TAYA

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

### CTT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday 7 December at 8.30am  
St Martha's

### FIRST SATURDAY LUNCH

Saturday 7 December  
From 1.00pm for those who have been  
bereaved to meet and eat with others.  
Contact Margaret Oram for information  
on 01442 824575.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

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

### AFTERNOON TEA

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

### BOOK GROUP

Sunday 8 December from 6.30pm St P&P  
Sunday 26 January from 6.30pm St P&P

### CRAFT AND A CUPPA

Tuesdays 2.00pm, St P&P

### STICK SUNDAY

Sunday 15 December, St P&P

### MEN'S SOCIETY

Wednesday 4 December 12.30pm  
Wednesday 5 February 12.30pm  
Half Moon, Wilstone

### PIANO & MORE

Sunday 8 December 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

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

## Curate

Rev Sarah Marshall  
St George's House  
3 New Mill Place  
Tringford Road  
07538 888502  
sarah@tringteamparish.org.uk

## Diocesan Lay Minister

Mike Watkin  
01442 890407

## Parish Co-ordinators

Roy Hargreaves  
01442 823624  
roy.hargreaves@btinternet.com

John Whiteman  
01442 826314  
john@tringteamparish.org.uk

## Church Wardens

Chris Hoare (Tring)  
01442 822915

Ian Matthews (Tring)  
01442 823327

Jane Brown (Aldbury)  
01442 851396

Ray Willmore (Aldbury)  
01442 825723

Christine Rutter (Puttenham)  
01296 668337

Ken Martin (Wilstone)  
01442 822894

Rev Jane Banister  
(Long Marston)  
01442 822170

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

Janet Goodyer  
pewsheets@tringteamparish.org.uk

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

**Hall Secretary**  
Barbara Anscombe  
01442 828325  
Bandb33@talktalk.net

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

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

**Senior Steward**  
Rosemary Berdinner  
01442 822305

**AKEMAN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH Minister**  
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 Ministers

Joe Egan 07521 513493  
Ruth Egan 07521 513494  
admin@tringbaptistchurch.co.uk

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

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

**NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH Minister**  
Vacancy

**JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP**  
affiliated to  
Churches Together in Tring

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

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

## SOCIAL NETWORKING

 Tring Parish

 @revhuw

## COMMENT

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

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

**Treasurer**  
Chris Hoare  
01442 822915

**Advertising**  
Sue Mayhew  
0845 8681333

**Design**  
Kev Holt  
Ginger Promo

Please contact the Treasurer if you would like to take a subscription to Comment: £10.00 for 10 issues each year. Contact David Whiting if you would like it posted.

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

## COMMENT DEADLINES

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

## Crossword puzzle answers From page 18

**ACROSS**  
6. HOLY NATIVITY  
7. GROCER  
8. BONNET  
9. EDEN  
10. PRESENTS  
12. NAZARETH  
16. ETCH  
18. KISSED  
20. ACTORS  
21. THE FIRST NOEL

**DOWN**  
1. PLACENTA  
2. UNWRAP  
3. STABLE  
4. OVEN  
5. STREET  
6. HEROD  
11. ELECTION  
13. ALIGHT  
14. ELDERS  
15. HEARTY  
17. CAROL  
19. SOFA

# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND THE QUEST FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



Talk by Andy Lillcrap  
co-founder of One Sky Foundation  
a registered Thai Foundation supporting vulnerable children and their families in  
the Thai-Burma border area of Thailand

HOSTED BY JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP, TRING

HIGH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH HALL, TRING  
TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2020 AT 7PM FOR 7.30PM  
ADMISSION FREE, ALL ARE WELCOME





brown & merry



## It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Why? Because MILLIONS search for a  
new home over the festive period!

*If you're thinking of selling, our December marketing campaign could be just what you need. It works for thousands of sellers, year after year, by making sure your property stands out online at a time when millions of potential buyers are searching for a new home. With all the activity and interest, there's no wonder January 2019 was our network's busiest month for agreeing sales in the last year!\**

**But to make the most of all this New Year activity, you need to act now!**

To find out more, call us today

**Tel: 01442 824133**

\* Source Sequence (UK) Limited average weekly sales agreed Sept 2018 – Aug 2019.

If you have instructed another agent the terms and conditions of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions in addition to any withdrawal fees or disbursements.