

COMMENT

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Editorial



I started working with the Comment Team five years ago and started as Editor one year later. It surprised me looking back to those issues how much has changed in a short

space of time.

Lots of the advertisers we have now are new though we have a loyal band of people who have stayed with us and supported us for many years. Some contributors had been writing long before I came to the area let alone been Editor; but some have died or moved away though there are many new writers who are submitting their news, views and interesting articles. There is always room for more, so please don't be afraid to offer yours too.

The magazine now welcomes submissions from all the churches in Tring, not only the Anglicans and Methodists which is where it started. We want to hear from all of you, with information and news about what all the people of faith are doing in Tring and the villages. If something has not

been advertised or reported that you think should be – please let me know. As Editor I need you to make me aware of what's going on. Has someone been born, married, celebrated a great event or died? Write a few words and submit a photo to me to record it for posterity.

The magazine is now in full colour. I don't know whether you noticed the transition in the December/January 2017 edition but if you look back at older editions, I think you will notice now! And there are more pages than the 28 pages we used to have – usually 40 (though occasionally we have had bumper editions with 44 or 48 pages).

The magazine was professionally designed from September 2015 by Tring's Anno Domini Publishing at no cost to the Comment reader or the churches (though there was a transition before that where the cover and centre spread was also contributed by Anno Domini). But the designer, Doug Hewitt, is soon to retire, no doubt worn down by all the late changes and additions way after the official deadline! We are very grateful to Doug and to AD for their support over the past few years. But all is not lost. This edition is the first (hopefully of many) designed and put

together by GingerPromo, also of Tring and probably known to many readers. It is great to be able to use and have the support of local people in what is very much a local community magazine. Long may it continue!

The price of the magazine has stayed the same at £1.00 through all these changes, representing great value. We hope that will continue too, though costs of paper and print and postage have risen and the magazine is currently subsidized. Could the cost be raised or would that stop you buying it? There is not much you can buy for £1 any more – and certainly not a local magazine like Comment. Let me know your views.

Finally, my eyes have been blearier than usual in putting this edition of Comment together. I hope it doesn't show! While in the Save the Children Shop this week one of the volunteers who sees me often asked if I would be explaining why in Comment... One or two others have also expected me to write about developments in my life. If you are interested, read on – you will find an article in this edition.

The Editor

Hellos and goodbyes



At the end of last term, goodbyes were said to staff at Tring School moving on to new jobs and places. At an informal event with laughter and tears, heartfelt thanks were expressed for inspiration given; for jobs well done; for the extra mile walked. There were speeches and poems and cards and smiles; and even an ice-cream van! In the same week we also said goodbye to our Year 6s in Aldbury, Bishop Wood and Long Marston schools. Our churches hosted Leavers Services, praying that these cherished young people will know a good 'goodbye', and a great 'hello' at their new schools.

Some goodbyes are much harder than others. Our hardest goodbyes are

often at funerals, at that final farewell, when we may not have any words, and may be feeling numb or overwhelmed or anything in-between. These can be the goodbyes that weigh the most, and so those making them need help to carry them – part of the gift of Christian community.

Hellos are usually more cheerful. We said 'hello' to Revd Sarah Marshall in the summer who has come to join the Tring Team. I hope that she's feeling very welcome in the parish, and that we continue to say good 'hellos' to her as she meets more of us over the coming weeks and months.

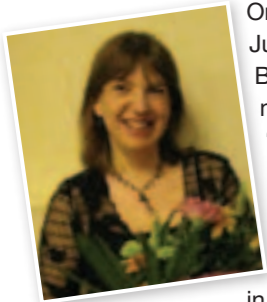
What have been significant hellos or goodbyes for you? Saying that final farewell recently to my father was one of my hardest ever goodbyes. I can remember other emotional goodbyes – to my colleagues at Boots when I left for theological college, and from my previous parish, when I left behind lots

of good friends. And I can remember some exciting 'hellos' too – arriving here two years ago for one.

Our hellos and goodbyes aren't always at significant times. We greet others every day and say 'Hi!' and 'See you later!' Saying a heartfelt 'hello' can mean a lot to someone. 'It's so lovely to see you' or 'I'm glad you came' communicates something deeper than a simple hello, and sometimes this needs to be said and heard. A colleague often used to say 'Go well' – they always felt like very caring words, acknowledging that it mattered what happened to you after you left.

The church family at our parish churches say 'hello' to all those baptised in our parish with these words: 'Welcome to the family of God. You are loved, and we promise to support you and pray for you'. What better hello can we give? Every blessing,
Michelle Grace, Tring Team

The last Book Group... for Didier



On Sunday 30 June, the Parish Book Group met to discuss 'Benediction' by Kent Haruf.

Dad Lewis, living in a small town called Holt in Colorado, has been given only a few weeks to live, and this is the story of that time. Friends pass in and out to say goodbye and give good wishes, and Dad's wife and daughter try to make his final days as comfortable as possible. The shadow of an absent son falls over the book, and Reverend Lyle attempts to mend strained relationships of his own, while a little girl with a troubled past moves in with her grandmother and brings calm and healing. The book explores the pain, compassion and humanity of ordinary people living simple lives.

Most people in the group enjoyed the book, although the subject matter was almost too painful for some. Comments from various group members ranged from 'heartwarming', 'believable', 'a well-drawn picture of small town America' and 'therapeutic' to 'vulnerable', 'real', 'emotional' and 'needs a health warning'. However, I think everyone was in some way glad to have read it, and certainly we agreed that it made us think about facing death and standing up for what you believe in – things we may not have wanted to

consider, but are important and relevant. It's the last book of a trilogy and I for one would like to explore the first two now, although the third one definitely stands alone.

This was Didier Jaquet's last Book Group before his sabbatical, and I know that I speak for everyone in the group when I say that we wish him well and we'd like to thank him for leading the group since its beginning.

The Parish Book Group was Edmund's and my way in to St Peter & St Paul at the end of 2010, and was how we began to get to know people. It will continue under the excellent organisational skills of Jon Reynolds

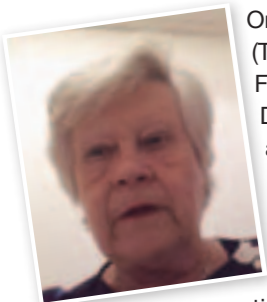
and John Whiteman. Do come and join us – we're a friendly bunch! We usually meet on the final Sunday of the month, at the back of the Church, from 6.45pm until 8.00pm. If you'd like to suggest a relevant book and even lead a discussion on it, please do!

On 30 June, after our considered and often lively meeting, we adjourned to Da Vinci's to drink a farewell toast to Didier and enjoy a delicious pizza and much camaraderie. The next meeting will be on 22 September, when the book under discussion will be 'The Healthy Churches Handbook' by Robert Warren.

Anna Le Hair
St Peter & St Paul's



Our common home



On 11 May CAFOD (The Catholic Fund for Overseas Development) held a training day at Oscar Romero House, their headquarters in London. The meeting began with

first-hand accounts of CAFOD's work in Uganda and Kenya, helping people to find ways of improving their own lives so as to be able to feed their families.

The main emphasis of the day was, however, CLIMATE CHANGE. There were workshops and discussions as to how the UK might reach 'net zero'

emissions by 2045 and a petition was signed addressed to the Prime Minister.

The UK's Climate Change Act ten years ago was a ground-breaking achievement but we now need to increase our ambition. On Wednesday 26 June there was a mass lobby of Parliament, organised by the Climate Coalition, (theclimatcoalition.org) to call for the Government to end the UK's contribution to the climate crisis. There were workshops in the morning followed by a lobby of Parliament in the afternoon. The theme was 'The Time is Now' and while the challenge of climate change is great, to quote Pope Francis: 'Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of

rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start.'

Caroline Burmaster
Corpus Christi



Please send articles and photos for the October edition of Comment to the Editor by the end of August at: comment.magazine@gmail.com

Eileen Wilton: 48 not out



In 1971 Edward Heath was Prime Minister, Jackie Stewart won the F1 Drivers' Championship, Apollo 15 landed on the moon, the Vietnam War raged on and Britain

hadn't even joined the EU yet (or the EEC as it was then.)

That summer, a friend told Eileen Wilton that she was leaving her job as a dinner lady at Bishop Wood School, and asked if she might be interested in taking over. It made sense: Eileen had two children at the school and it fitted quite nicely into her schedule. An interview with the Headteacher at the time, Mr Van As, soon followed and the job was hers. Forty-eight years later, the job title might have changed (for 'dinner lady' read 'midday supervisory assistant'), but Eileen is still here, come rain or shine, looking after our pupils during the lunch hour.

When Eileen started, the school still had its base on the High Street, where the present library car park is, and she remembers Robert Runcie, the then Bishop of St Albans before he went on



to bigger and better things, dedicating the new building on the current site a year or two after she started.

In those days, the school still had its own outdoor swimming pool where one of our playgrounds is now. With a twinkle in her eye, Eileen will admit to sneaking in at weekends for secret swimming sessions with family and friends!

I asked Eileen how children and their play had changed over the years. She said that listening skills probably aren't as good as they were in 1971, and she said in those days there was much more imaginary play and lots more skipping and clapping games. Nowadays, football tends to dominate and the children have

lots more equipment bought for them by the school to play with. And nobody would have dreamt forty-eight years ago that our new facility where the swimming pool once was would be called a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area for the uninitiated.)

Favourite stories? Harriet Ridgway, much-loved and recently departed teacher, was once a pupil here too. Eileen remembers rebuking Harriet for trying to hide her peas under some lettuce to con her that she'd eaten them. Even today, children have to raise their hand for Eileen and her colleagues to check that enough of their main course has been consumed before they are allowed to get on with their puddings.

I wouldn't be so rude as to reveal Eileen's age here, but clearly she is one of our more mature members of staff. You wouldn't know it at our staff social functions. Her laughter and energy put some of us young 'uns to shame. And Christmas at Bishop Wood isn't Christmas at Bishop Wood without Eileen and the rest of us having a boogie to the '80s classic, 'Come on Eileen!'

We're planning a big party in 2021, and you can rest assured the next day will not be a school day!

Jon Hall, Bishop Wood School

Barnabas, an inspirational Bible character



Barnabas was the only one who realised that Paul, the Apostle, had truly been converted from being hostile to the followers of Jesus to

believing he was the one sent from God. All the leading disciples were suspicious of his intentions, understandably.

Barnabas, whose name means Son of Encouragement, accompanied Paul on his journeys into Europe to make Jesus known there. It may be that Paul was the main preacher, but he certainly needed support and encouragement as they faced intense opposition.

In nearly every place they visited they experienced rejection and physical danger, but Paul was never going to give up for three reasons: God had called

him to make Jesus known, particularly to the Gentile world; he had a passion for declaring the Gospel of salvation as the only hope for all mankind; he was greatly encouraged to keep going by his companion, Barnabas.

This leaves us all with an example to follow using a gift that is not always recognised, but is so important. In church life today every leader, whether Minister, Pastor, Evangelist, Missionary etc. needs a Barnabas.

There are continual problems to face and responsibilities which can (and often have) caused depression and a desire to give up through work overload; no growth or numbers declining; dissension within the church; division of time between home and church duties and many others.

Most church members do give support by loyal attendance at everything possible. There is usually a small group who seem always to be

available, yet what about all of us giving a 'thank you' or a word of appreciation; offers to help or just a handshake and friendship.

The same need is for all who are engaged in the Lord's work wherever it may be. A word of encouragement from a 'Barnabas' can do wonders to spur one on. It is a gift God gives for us to use even if we are not leaders.

In the present climate in the country and the world we can all help each other in this way, particularly as we have a message for the world to bring hope to those who despair of the future.

So thank you, Barnabas, for inspiring us to help each other.

John Young
Akeman Street Baptist Church

(I am sure we can start by giving a big 'thank you' to the Editor of Comment for all her hard work in producing an excellent read each month!)

What a difference a day makes...



Sunday 30 July 2019 saw the ordination of a great number of Deacons or 'trainee priests' in the Church of England up and down the country. I was honoured to be one of those and shall attempt here to offer an idea of what it was like and what lies ahead.

In the weeks leading up to the ordination day I found that I was busying myself with a wide variety of 'tasks'; the list seemed endless. I needed to complete a three-year theology qualification, resign from a twenty-year career in Human Resources, relocate my family from St Albans to Tring, move the children to a new school and rent out our previous house.

three-day quiet retreat, courtesy of the St Albans Diocese, we made our oaths to promise to share the message of the Bible and pledge allegiances to both the Bishop and the Queen... we were ready. My peers and I made our way to St Albans Cathedral, kitted out with our brand-new black cassocks, gleaming white surplices and intricately designed stoles. With a mixture of nerves and excitement, we robed ourselves in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral, eagerly anticipating the moment we'd been waiting for.

We could hear the Cathedral filling, the cacophony of hustle and bustle from the arriving congregation filling the vast space. It felt like something special was about to happen. The calling that we had all felt from God many years earlier was finally about to be formalised and bestowed upon us through the blessing of ordination.

We processed two by two into the Cathedral beaming from ear to ear with joy, so many smiling faces of support surrounding and looking back at us. We took our seats. This was really happening. The moment came for Dr Alan Smith, the Bishop of St Albans, to lay his hands on our heads and



There was lots to do: houses to decorate, boxes to unpack, school uniforms to buy, finances to sort and, not least, a completely new vocation to prepare myself for. If truth be told, I seemed to rather avoid the latter, as that would actually involve allowing myself time to properly digest the gravity of the personal change that would take place as I moved into the role of Curate in the Tring Team Parish. I would be working with a team of Priests already well established in the Tring area and need to be ready to undertake a whole multitude of parish activities.

Before that could happen, I would need to be ordained 'Rev'. During a

pray for the Holy Spirit to come down upon us. I guess to many this may seem like a strange notion, but I can tell you (as someone on the receiving end of this!) something profound was taking place.

The service was a spectacle and deeply moving. God's presence in that place was felt by so many. After the service many of my non-Christian friends and family commented that there was something happening that they could not put into words.

One of my happiest memories of the day was the overwhelming love and support I received from so many people, not only from my family and friends,



but also from a huge contingent of the congregation from the Tring Parish. I lost count of the handshakes, names and inspiring words from those locally who made their way over via coach to attend the ordination service.

This gave me a sense of hope and further encouragement about the community I was about to become a part of. There was such a sense of love, support and pride bursting from the Tring Parish and that has been more than evident in the hospitality myself and my family have received in the subsequent weeks.

Being ordained was just the beginning. So far I am loving the Tring way of life and there is clearly lots to get involved with locally, both in a professional and personal capacity.

Please stop me if you see me around town. I would love to get to know as many people as possible! I'm often cycling around the parish, so please do say hello.

God bless,
Sarah Marshall, Tring Team



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TEN YEAR GUARANTEE

Eco-friendly funerals?



Will your grandchildren's world be better if you're buried or cremated?

'We want an eco-friendly funeral. Do you do bamboo coffins?'

This question has been posed to funeral directors for years and more correctly has been changed to 'environmentally-sustainable' in recent times. You see, the bamboo coffins are shipped in from China. The willow coffins are each hand-crafted in Somerset and are £300 more expensive – taking more out of the estate which the grandchildren might benefit from.

'Do I have to have a coffin?' For cremation, so long as your loved-one is on a solid board base and they are covered to maintain dignity, you don't NEED to use a coffin but it may be more than a little odd in the chapel.

What about emissions from the crematorium? DEFRA issued guidance in 2012 to abate the harmful emissions, particularly hydrogen chloride, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds (from methane to polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), mercury compounds and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and furans (PCDD/F) often simply referred to as dioxins. This meant that over the last seven years we saw crematoria costs rise by 80% as the cremators were fitted with advanced technology to remove mercury from entering the atmosphere.

You will only see the shimmer of hot air coming out of the chimneys at crematoria, but behind the scenes, there are barrels of filtered toxins waiting to be safely taken away and disposed of.

The considerations start to filter

quickly into the following: carbon emissions; energy expended; distance for cars to travel; land use/burial space; and cost.

As the baby-boomers reach the natural end of their lives, they often think about what sort of world they are leaving for their grandchildren.

Let's think about this for a moment: house prices are sky-high, driven partly by many factors including land use and costs. Cemeteries are becoming full and the cost of burial is therefore becoming very high as Dacorum Borough Council needs to buy new land and increasingly see the cemeteries as a source of income.

The Church of England fees for funerals have also risen steeply recently but compared to a cemetery, the cost of a churchyard burial saves about £1200 (a grave and interment at Tring or Kingshill cemetery is £2005, the cost at St Mary's Northchurch is £813 in 2019). Of course, your Parish Church may not have any grave space left.

Carbon emissions

'What about the amount of carbon being emitted?'
If you live near the Church, cars won't be needed and a burial in the churchyard would be better for the environment.

However, travelling to Amersham (or Aylesbury) is going to send a fair amount of carbon-dioxide into the air. Plus the cremation will typically result in 180kg of CO₂ being created. (Interestingly, a chip-board coffin will help reduce that to 140kg because less gas is needed due to the combustibility of the coffin). Even so the equivalent of 28 gallons of fuel is used in the process.

Costs

Typical funeral costs currently are: Church service and parish burial at £4168.00, Church service and cemetery burial at £5310.00 and Crematorium and scattering of ashes at £4009.00. We have excluded the cheaper options to have a direct cremation here (a 'David Bowie' cremation as they have become known) where there is no cremation service but the ashes are returned to the family for £995.00.

This is heavy stuff! It all needs to be personalised depending on where you live, your religious beliefs (Roman Catholics tend to prefer burial), whether a churchyard is available nearby, and whether cars are going to be travelling from all over to the funeral.

Personally, the land use is the issue for me with my children struggling to get on the housing ladder and land disappearing for affordable housing – cremation would help in a tiny but significant way...

Then there is the new method of cremation by water – Resomation (alkaline hydrolysis) which has zero carbon emissions...

**Charlie Jarrett, Funeral Director
Dignity Funerals – Berkhamsted & Tring**



Parish registers

Baptisms

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

**Evie Towens-Grubb
Mabel Smith**

Weddings

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

**Mark Harrison & Samantha Harrison
Dorrie Engel & Katie Joyce
Mark Pearman & Natalie Elton
Henry Elliott & Clare Sharman**

Funerals

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

**Jack Quartley 86
Dennis Brown 90
Edna (Janet) King 92
Brenda Walker 78
Freda Bianchi 98**

News from Tring Park School

Harvest Service

Tring Park School will be leading the Harvest Service in St Peter & St Paul on 13 October this year. Please come along and join us!

Visit to Sweden

In June our 6th Form Encore Dance Company went to perform at Marelid in Gothenburg. They were invited by Svenska Ballettskolan (The Swedish Ballet School) to perform at their 70th anniversary Gala. They took two pieces from Kab-er-esque, El Tango De Roxanne, choreographed by Lorraine Jones and L'Hymne a L'amour choreographed by Antony Dowson. The students had a unique opportunity to perform at Göteborgsoperan where they excelled and gave a flawless performance. Our students were magnificent ambassadors for the school and were able to show their skills as versatile dance artists.

BBC Young Dancer of the Year

Congratulations to Tring Park dancer Hollie Smith who performed in the Ballet Final of the BBC Young Dancer of the Year 2019. She was partnered by fellow pupil Charlie Mellor.

The Honeypot Children's Charity

This charity offers both respite breaks

and outreach support to young carers and vulnerable children, many of whom would otherwise have nowhere to turn. They are proud to be the only charity in the UK offering consistent support throughout childhood: from the age of 5 until a child's 13th birthday.

Third Form volunteers, with the help of Sixth Form Front of House Assistants, rattled the bucket after Seussical The Musical and raised £183.86. Many thanks to the Theatre Arts course for allowing us to do this collection and congratulations to the members of the course for such a wonderful show. Lower School pupils learnt more about the work of this charity in PSHE. Since we teamed up with this good cause we have raised over £500, enough to support several playbus visits that give children a break, as part of ongoing outreach support.

Dame Gillian Lynne Memorial Concert

Ballet teacher Jeremy Kerridge, along with Alumni Grace Swaby-Moore, Max Westwell, Charles Waddell and Rory Betts all performed at the Dame Gillian Lynne Memorial Concert in London.

Reducing plastic waste

In line with our school policy to reduce plastic waste and at the request of our pupil-run Eco-Committee and School

Council, we will no longer be providing bottled water for school trips. We are asking our pupils to bring their reusable water bottle which they fill and take on trips with them.

Bush Hall

The Commercial Music students presented an exciting evening of live music at this unique Edwardian independent music venue. Originally built by a publisher in 1904, one of a trio of London dancehalls he built for each of his daughters, Bush Hall is the only surviving of the three. The building has enjoyed past lives as a soup kitchen in WWII, a bingo hall, a rehearsal space for the likes of The Who, Adam Faith and Cliff Richard in the late '50s/'60s, and finally a snooker & social club in the '80s/'90s, before being restored to its former musical glory in 2001 by present owners Charlie Raworth and Emma Hutchinson. All our performers brought some of their hottest music picks, performing both original music and contemporary classics. The evening was also a chance for our current students to perform alongside invited alumni.

Sarah Bell, Tring Park School



Extinction Rebellion comes to Tring



Nora Grace Hall was packed on the evening of 3 July with people wanting to know more about Extinction Rebellion (XR) and how ordinary people can make a difference, however small, to the climate change situation.

There was an introductory talk by a young man, Tom Simpson, who has recently graduated from university, but who grew up in Tring and is keen to get this local community involved in the XR movement.

During a break in proceedings we were able to chat among ourselves and see that there was a good cross-section

of Tringians present.

Dr Helen Waterhouse is a founder member of XR Tring and with the aid of pictures and diagrams took us through the science of climate change and how it is currently inexorable, due to humankind's use of fossil fuels since the coming of the first Industrial Revolution.

From their information sheet: 'We're not seasoned eco-warriors, just ordinary people of all ages who refuse to accept that it's too late or too difficult to stop climate change. We believe that working together as part of our local community we can motivate others and inspire local voluntary groups, businesses and politicians to take a stand with us on climate change. If every town in the

country – and indeed world – does this, our politicians and corporations will have to listen and act to reduce the waste of our planet's precious resources.'

You can expect to hear more about Extinction Rebellion both nationally and locally!

Margaret Whiting, St Peter & St Paul



Paul's epistle to the Romans

For the past seven years, taking part in a regular house group has, for Anna and me, been an important part of our social and spiritual engagement with the Christian church in Tring. Rather strict rules have been set, I confess, mainly by me (my nickname at home is 'Bossy Booth'): we meet just once a month, and not during Lent and Advent so we can migrate to other groups for those periods; the location rotates between members' houses; we gather shortly before 8.00pm and finish – strictly – by 9.30pm, and we follow an unchanging pattern.

This is our format: after we have settled down with tea or coffee and exchanged news, our group starts with a short, quiet introduction, either a prayer, or some music, or perhaps a poem. And we always finish by saying Compline together, after which we disperse into the night.

What happens between the introduction and Compline, though, varies enormously. We spent quite a number of sessions discussing Rowan Williams' book 'Tokens of Trust'; we had some lovely sessions reading and discussing our favourite psalms; we sometimes invite people from outside the group to lead us in a topic – most recently, team vicar Michelle Grace helped us with aspects of praying in small groups; once a year, Didier Jaquet (our spiritual godfather) has given us House Communion (always with homemade bread and wine); and yes, sometimes we just have fun, with an annual bring-and-share meal followed by a play-reading (Shaw's 'Epilogue to St Joan', Bolt's 'A man for all seasons').

We don't, though, neglect the more conventional House Group activity of Bible study, and this brings me to Paul's epistle to the Romans. Martin Banister's article on Paul's great epistle in a recent edition of Comment inspired us to choose this as our July subject. Martin notes the difficulties of the epistle – 'not the one to start with' and one which 'takes a lifetime to appreciate and understand'.

So in July we confined ourselves to chapter 8. The first part is hard; there are really complex issues of what Paul meant in his contrast between the flesh, with its association with the Law and death, and the Spirit, which brings life and peace. The wonderful

thing about a well-established house group is that members can say exactly what they think without fear of judgement. We didn't reach a neat, common understanding and it was clear that opinions differed. What was clear was that we had all deepened our engagement with the epistle and that we had all learnt from each other, perhaps especially from those who took a somewhat different line from us.

The chapter ends with a 'glorious conclusion' – 'if God is on our side, who is against us?' – and then a wonderful 'purple passage' (these are

the descriptions of Father Nicholas King, my favourite Bible translator and commentator): 'Who shall separate us from God's love? ... I am persuaded, you see, that neither death nor life, nor angelic nor demonic rulers, nor present nor future events, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

We went our separate ways after Compline, encouraged and comforted. **Edmund Booth, St Peter & St Paul**

Charity Orchestral Concert by The Chandos Ensemble

On Saturday 28 September at 7.30pm, the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul are hosting a fundraising concert, given by The Chandos Ensemble, in aid of 'The Children's Society'.

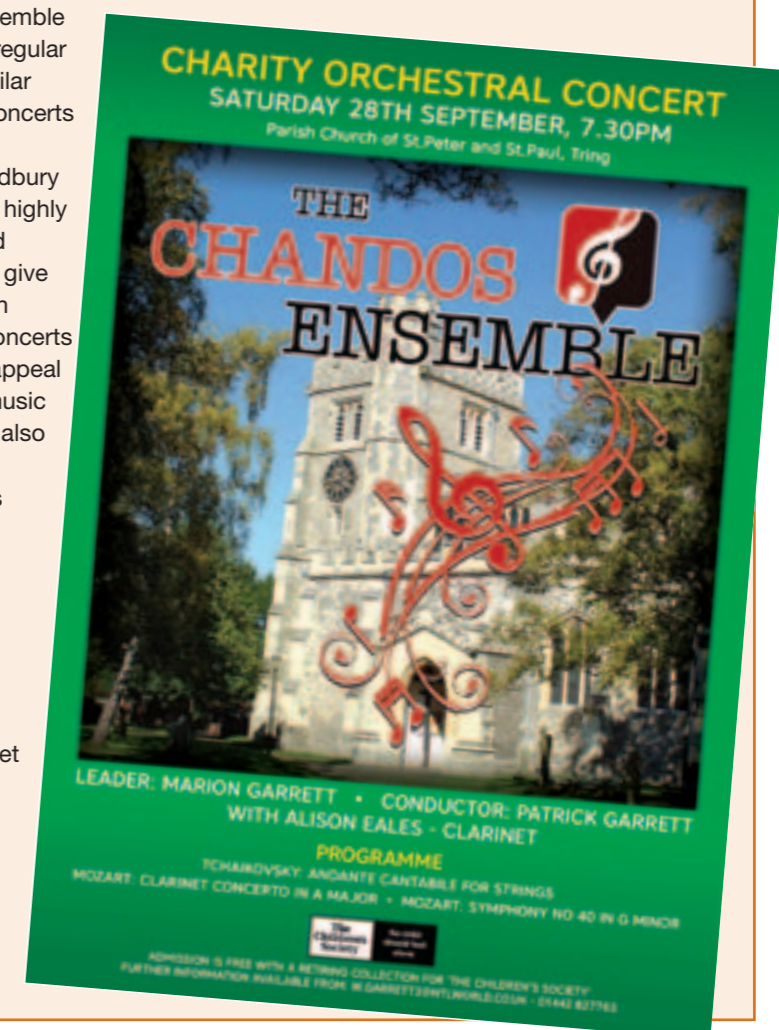
Over a number of years, The Chandos Ensemble have been a regular feature in similar fundraising concerts both in Tring Parish and Aldbury Churches. Its highly accomplished players freely give of their time in performing concerts designed to appeal to our local music lovers, whilst also raising much needed funds for charity.

Music by Tchaikovsky and Mozart are featured, including the ever popular Mozart Clarinet Concerto, with soloist Alison Eales. Admission is free, with a retiring collection for

'The Children's Society'.

Contact me for further information on email w.garrett3@ntlworld.com or 01442 827763.

Patrick Garrett
Ensemble Music Director




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Please note that the closing date is 15 November 2019 to lodge a completed application for grants payable from Autumn 2020.



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


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Let's turn plastic bottles into bricks!



Believe it or not, there is a process, described on the internet, that turns plastic bottles and plastic bags into bricks. The process has five stages:

- Collect together a quantity of empty plastic bottles (preferably 2 litre bottles), and as many redundant plastic bags as you can lay your hands on
- Ensure that all the bottles and bags are clean and dry
- Scrunch up or cut up the plastic bags and stuff as many as you can into each of the bottles. This stage is particularly useful in getting rid of plastic which is otherwise unrecyclable.
- After you've stuffed your bottles, weigh each one to ensure that they're packed sufficiently tightly
- You now have made a set of eco-bricks

environment. (There is also a video you can watch with pictures of happy people making eco-bricks!)

What are the downsides? Is this an internet scam? No, I don't think so. However, if we wanted to make eco-bricks locally, it would be quite time-consuming, and it would soon turn into a cottage industry. Stuffing plastic bottles to the required weight will be a learned skill. Of course, some people might like that. With sufficient time on your hands, there is something to enjoy about learning a new skill, especially one that contributes to a good cause.

Another problem is that, having made a collection of bricks, you will need to find a project to contribute them to – someone who is constructing outdoor furniture, playground equipment, sheds, or storage units, using eco-bricks in walls that have to be solidified with mortar to make the construction stable. The best way forward is to search the web for projects that need eco-bricks, and identify a number of outlets before you start any serious brickmaking.

An alternative to undertaking local production in Britain is to support eco-brick projects in the third world. Poor

or any proper way of sorting through rubbish.

To support Third World building projects based on recycled materials, visit the website of WasteAid.org. This charity collects cash donations from supporters in richer countries, enabling them to fund the employment of local people in poor countries to set up recycling centres, to collect and sort plastic, to make recycled building materials like eco-bricks, and use them to build much-needed infrastructure like housing, and even schools.

On the WasteAid website you will see local people in Cameroon and in Gambia showing off their latest ideas for making recycled building materials, such as recycling plastic into floor tiles. Resourceful people in Third World countries are often traditionally involved in cottage industries, and are happy to add another such industry, based on plastic, to their range of skills.

Having convinced myself that WasteAid's recycling plan is sound, and looked at their projects in Islamabad, Kenya and West Africa, I sent off my £30 donation. That means, according to WasteAid, that I have prevented 50,000



To make clearer the process I have summarized above, read it in more detail by googling www.ecotricity.co.uk/news/news-archive. This website also usefully lists what types of plastic you can use to stuff your eco-bricks: plastic bags, crisp packets, plastic straws, cling film, plastic fruit or veg packaging, polystyrene food containers. Most of this plastic cannot be recycled, so stuffing them into eco-bricks neatly neutralizes them from the

countries in Africa and Asia generally do not have any waste collection infrastructure to enable the recycling of plastic. Yet their population increasingly consumes food and materials packaged in plastic, just as we do in Britain. After consumption, the plastic gets dumped in the street, or more likely, directly into rivers, and hence into the ocean. These countries simply don't have the resources to provide recycling centres,



plastic bags from entering the ocean, or if gift aid is included, 62,500 redundant plastic bags will have been recycled into building materials. Let's hope that this idea expands onto a grander scale.

David Sands,
St Martha's Methodist Church

Never too old to learn something new



My life was completely transformed over the summer by the arrival in our home of a small infant. From 20 minutes old he has known no other carers and at eight weeks old we are getting the measure of each other.

Apart from becoming reacquainted with the hours between 1:00-3:00am, and how to change a nappy to minimise damage to everything in a three-foot radius (how can someone so small produce so much waste?) I have also come to realise that Ageism and Sexism are alive and well!

Anyone who knows Jon and me will realise we are not spring chickens;

but almost everyone who has seen us with our new (borrowed) baby assumes we are his grandparents. Even those who think taking care of him is a good thing ask 'Weren't you afraid of the responsibility at your age?' or 'Isn't it a lot to take on at your age and stage...?' or 'You do realise children require lots of energy...' I guess I shouldn't be surprised to be considered 'old' as after giving birth to our fourth son I was asked if I were his grandmother – and he is now a strapping 6ft 4in 22-year-old who has just graduated. And it's true that when we were 'in training' we were doing it alongside some amazing people who were aged from 25 to 50 (but one lady was 68 and still moving!). We knew we were older than the average Foster Carers.

Jon, on the other hand, has been asked by friends and professionals alike whether he is OK with changing a nappy! And those who have discovered I am fostering ask, 'But who takes care of him while you are at work? Your HUSBAND?!' (shocked face). In 2019 men, of course, have still not learned how to care for small children... or so we would be led to

believe. I might throw in here that our four sons (aged 22, 27, 30 and 31) are equally delighted with Baby and have been known to vie with each other for the right to hold him. One indeed hovers over Baby's sleeping form, willing him to wake so he can cuddle him; and when taking care of him in Church is assumed by most to be his dad because he seems (a) so competent and (b) so attached.

Attachment is one of the buzz words in our new life (along with more acronyms than you could shake a stick at). The care we give at this stage is apparently critical to Baby's future well-being, mental health and ability to form good relationships later. (If only my own parents had known this important fact, I might have been a well-balanced individual!) But wow betide us if we betray to one of the professionals we are



you anymore. No chance! Some words of my mother's come to mind: 'If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing well', 'There is no gain without pain' or more simply, 'Love hurts'.

Another eye-opener for me was how unfriendly most National Trust properties are to pram wheels. I guess wheelchair users must find the same problem. Either the ground is uneven and bumpy or there are steps to take you to essential locations... But apart from us there have been other beneficiaries in Tring of our new role as Foster Carers. There is no time to 'shop' so my summer clothes this year have come from 'Diffusion' and bought in my lunchtime: a zero carbon footprint. The Save the Children shop and Rennie Grove have filled our new nursery with the most beautiful new or nearly new baby clothes. This is the best kind of recycling – I have hundreds of small items of clothing purchased at very low prices and these worthwhile charities have benefitted from hundreds of my hard-earned £'s. And I can testify to the fact that Baby has worn most of them no more than twice as he has grown at an impressive rate! I am now a recognised figure in the shops as 'The lady who fosters'. Graces have provided me with the storage boxes necessary to store the clothes for further or older children we may have later.

A few people have thought us completely crazy taking this on (at our stage in life!) but most have been amazingly supportive and we have been surprised by how people have thought it a really worthwhile thing to do. Midwives at the hospital and Health Visitors since then have assumed (because of our apparently advanced

age) that we have been 'doing this forever'.

Another thing I have learned is a much greater respect for all those young families who come to our Churches. They may occasionally come in a little late to the service or sometimes half way through... but they come and we are lucky to have them. As I struggle to

working with that we are 'too' attached to Baby. We 'mustn't become "too" attached' because, of course, Baby is on loan, and others are destined to be the lucky parents of 'our' beautiful infant. Please share with us your knowledge of how to love someone just enough to meet their needs without becoming involved or hurt when they don't need



get Baby fed and changed and dressed and then do the same for myself – and often repeat the exercise for Baby before leaving at 9.15am for the 10.00am service... I realise it is no mean feat.

But it's a very sad reflection of life in the 21st century that there are far more children in need of care than there are people able to offer a place in their homes and lives. The good thing is that no one expects you to be perfect (otherwise we would have failed at first base) but only 'good enough'. Other carers come from all sorts of backgrounds, ethnicity, and in all shapes and sizes. A remarkable (but is it?) number of other foster carers we have met have been Christians or from other

faith backgrounds, teachers and health professionals. They are not all married or heterosexual.

Ask us in a year if we regret it – but for now it seems absolutely right and natural for us. And if you are even a little tempted to find out more yourself, do ask us about fostering. We can bore you for hours on the subject!

Finally, if you find me more forgetful than usual, see a few more lines appearing on my face, or notice my clothes have not been introduced to an iron (or perish the thought, my top is worn inside out!), perhaps you will understand why and think kindly of me.

Annette Reynolds
St Peter & St Paul

Wanted!

I need to borrow a Christening robe, shawl, satin bootees, headband – the whole shebang or part of it from anyone who can help. It's not for a Christening but for a display of Christening books at an exhibition. It is needed for one week in October and would be returned afterwards – the more traditional and ornate, the better.

If you can help with any part of it, please call 07968 312161.

Annette Reynolds
St Peter & St Paul



Dads 'n Lads 'n Daughters 'n Dogs



Dads 'n Lads 'n Daughters 'n Dogs was a great experience for me and my family. We arrived on Saturday afternoon and all put our tents up.

There were about ten tents in the field next to St Mary's Church, Puttenham. I think there were about twenty-five Dads and kids and two crazy dogs!

Chris and Andrew cooked some delicious burgers and sausages on a big barbecue. We then had jam doughnuts and ice cream for pudding. Josh, my brother, ate three doughnuts.

We had many great adventures along our trip such as playing games, zombies and explorers, family 'it', rounders and hide and seek. My favourite experience is definitely singing funny memes with

everybody, for example, 'err rowaannn!'.

Another thing that we did was roasting marshmallows on the large campfire that Ian built. They were sooo good and I had a few!

When it got dark we all sat around the camp fire, told stories, chatted and laughed. We stayed up until about midnight. It was very exciting!

In the morning my dad (Rob) and Chris cooked a yummy breakfast of sausages, eggs and bacon. We then went on a long walk to Wilstone church where we took part in the church service and had some tasty chocolate teacakes.

In the end we said our goodbyes and walked back across the fields, packed up the camp and left to go home.

I felt a bit tired and smelt of wood smoke – but it was great fun and I can't wait for next year!

Evie Lane, aged 10
St Peter & St Paul



Disagreeing well



Talk to me about Brexit

It's hard to believe that I was a clergyman for a day in June, joining fifty priests and rabbis for a conference in a Reform synagogue in Radlett. The session was about healing the fractures which Brexit is causing, or at least revealing. We listened to a range of perspectives from guest speakers.

Sara Kahn read quite a long speech saying what one might expect: extremism is bad and increasing, we must always stand up to it, even at personal cost; and engage with disagreements.

Victor Seidler said not all extremism

is the same, we must understand the causes of protest and not denigrate it. Beware the implicit extremism of the centre. Loyalty to a locale should not be seen as less ethical than universalism.

Keith Kahn Harris emphasised how the argument for Brexit had moved on from 2016 – when it was a complex mix of politics, economics, and alienation – to becoming an end in itself, worth incurring pain for. So trying to find root causes may no longer be helpful, and just presenting more facts feeds a conspiracy belief.

Lucy Winkett and Rene Pfertzel led short studies from their respective texts. The Hebrew one felt more directly applicable, about recognising the merit in the other side's case, and living with losing the argument.

We spent time in smaller workshops; mine was about healing fractures in the

community. We tried to think of ways of promoting acceptance and discussion – e.g. truth and reconciliation, 'disagreeing together'. One person was going to arrange a town meeting but mostly it was about promoting one-on-one and small group discussions where people feel safe to express their 'unspeakable' desires and fears. Clergy should promote dialogue but recognise the limits of their responsibilities.

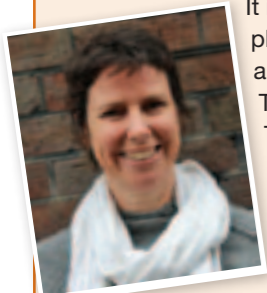
So what does that mean for us, the Christians in the Team Parish or in the Tring community? Barring an astonishing turn of events, we face an autumn of invective about Brexit, whether in the media, in and around parliament, or at national level. My resolve is to listen, to try to understand another point of view, and not to define the person by that viewpoint. But who will risk talking to me?
John Whiteman, Tring Team

Brexit: How Do Clergy Respond To A Fractured Society?

The speakers were:

- **Sara Khan**, Lead Commissioner, Commission for Countering Extremism (set up in 2016, due to issue a report on Extremism this summer)
- **Professor Victor Seidler**, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Sociology, at Goldsmiths University of London and author of *'Making Sense of Brexit'*
- **Dr Keith Kahn Harris**, Senior Lecturer, Leo Baeck College. Author of *'Denial. The unspeakable truth'*
- **The Revd Lucy Winkett**, Rector of St James's Church, Piccadilly
- **Rabbi Dr Rene Pfertzel**, born in Strasbourg, Rabbi at Kingston Liberal Synagogue and currently chairs the European Union for Progressive Judaism Rabbinic Conference

A Fairtrade Town - again!



It is with much pleasure we can announce that Tring's Fairtrade Town status has been renewed.

Justice and Peace Group in Tring who have been instrumental in this process.
Polly Eaton
High Street Baptist Church



Thank you for supporting this and please continue to make Fairtrade purchases in Tring and ask where your coffee comes from! Thanks, too, to The



What is the Old Testament?



If you have a copy of the King James Bible – the Authorised Version – you will find the contents go from Genesis to Malachi. But if you go for the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) you will find its contents also start with Genesis and end with Malachi, but there are in addition the books called The Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical Books, starting with Tobit and continuing on to 2 Maccabees. This article will try to sum up what is in the Old Testament; the next article will try to explain the differences between the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament.

As its name suggests, one of the distinctions is language – Hebrew – with a few verses in its sister language, Aramaic. The Christian Church, however, took over the longer Greek Old Testament and then, at the Reformation, some Christians went back to the Hebrew Bible.

First, the title: the Bible – a name which comes from the Greek word for book. In other words, 'the Bible' equals 'the Book'. For the Bible is a collection, like a library, of books, long and short, written at different times, on a variety of different subjects, but all connected in being about God and his creation and people and, crucially, accepted as authoritative.

How many books are in the Old Testament? A trick question when we ask this could be: 'When does 24 equal 39?!' For the Jewish reckoning says that as there are 24 letters in the Hebrew alphabet so there are 24 books in the Tanak (see next paragraph!); but in the English Bible we can count 39. In addition, the order of the books is different.

For the Jews the Bible has three sections: the Law, the Prophets, the Writings. In Hebrew the initial letters of these three titles spell T N K or Tanak.

The Law

The Law consists of the Torah, the five books of Moses which take us from Creation to the point where his people are ready to enter the Promised

Land. We use Greek names for these – Genesis (Creation), Exodus (Way out), Leviticus (about Levites and sacrifice), Numbers (the Greek is arithmoi, hence arithmetic) and Deuteronomy (the second Law).

In the Hebrew Bible each of these is called by its first word – in the beginning, way out, and he called, in the desert, and words. The Books of the Law tell of Creation, then the call of Abraham through to Moses reaching the edge of the Promised Land. Under Moses' leadership the Law, the Torah, is given to the people Israel. So Torah is both the history of a people and a collection of their laws incorporated into that history.

The Prophets

When we come to the Prophets we find there are Former Prophets and Latter prophets.

We would describe the Former Prophets as history books. They are: Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings (not divided into half as 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel etc) but their slant on history is religious, or prophetic, as we might say. Joshua is the same name as Jesus, and so Christians see Jesus as the second Joshua, leading the people through the Jordan (water of baptism) to the Promised Land (heaven).

The Latter Prophets are the 'big three' – Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

The Twelve or Minor (i.e. shorter) Prophets, which in the Hebrew Old Testament count as one book, are Hosea to Malachi.

The Writings

This third section is a mixed bag, including, as it does, the Book of Psalms (the longest and one of the most familiar books), the Book of Job (a classic poetic discussion on suffering and evil), and Proverbs, which contains much common-sense, practical advice.

Then come five short books, the Five Rolls, starting with Ruth, which follows Judges in the English Bibles as a 'historical book'.

Then come the love poems, attributed to Solomon, and called the Song of Songs, followed by Ecclesiastes, the Preacher (called by some 'weary musings on the variety of life').

The next book, the Lamentations over the Fall of Jerusalem, is attributed in our Bible to Jeremiah, for obvious reasons.

Then comes Esther, the story of a pogrom averted and notorious for not mentioning God in its Hebrew form.

Finally, back to what we might call more historical books: Ezra and Nehemiah, who tell of the Return from Exile and the rebuilding of the Temple. And lastly Chronicles, a retelling of history from Adam to the Return from Exile. Interestingly the Greek title of this book means 'the things left out' because it supplements, in a way, earlier books telling of history.

So much for a brief description of the Old Testament as found in the King James version: a variety of books of different kinds and ages, written over a period of up to a thousand years, of which it could be said 'All human life is there'.

In the nature of things we are selective in our reading of the Old Testament in our Churches. Some stories are familiar, as are many of the psalms. Similarly with the Prophets, some of the passages are very well known. Where would Handel's Messiah be without Isaiah? We all know about Jonah – but maybe not Obadiah!

Next time – we look at the differences between the Hebrew Old Testament and the Christian Bible.

Martin Banister, St Albans Abbey

For sale?

I love it when Comment readers suggest things we might include in the magazine.

Someone recently suggested that we might include a section on things we HAVE that someone else might want (we love recycling) or things we WANT that someone else might have. Maybe we could make a donation to the owner's nominated charity or good cause for the offered item?

I am happy to start the ball rolling as, for reasons that may now be obvious, I am in need of baby boy clothing for a 3-6 month old. Contact me if you can help on 07968 312161.

The Editor

Corpus Christi



The Latin phrase 'Corpus Christi' refers to the body of Christ and is an event celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church commemorating the Last Supper, the day before

Jesus' crucifixion. Some Anglican churches also include this feast in their calendar.

At the last supper (the first Mass), Catholics believe the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the actual

body and blood of Christ occurred for the first time. As the feast day occurs in late May /early in June, it is celebrated on the first Thursday after Trinity Sunday (or sixty days after Easter). However, this year the feast was moved to Sunday 23 June 2019.

At Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church this year, as in previous years, this religious festival also involved a street procession, which was led by our Parish Priest, Father David Burke, carrying the monstrance containing the consecrated bread i.e. 'the body of Christ', as a public proclamation or demonstration of our shared Christian

belief that Christ's sacrifice on the cross was for the salvation of the entire world. Hymns were sung by the processing parishioners whilst leaving the Church and processing down Langdon Street, then turning right onto Tring High Street, turning right again onto Akeman Street and returning to Corpus Christi Church grounds via the right of way through Harrow Yard.

While some of our less mobile parishioners stayed in the Church to pray, nearly forty parishioners joined in the procession. Worthy of mention is that the weather was kind, which meant we weren't juggling hymn sheets and umbrellas.

We were delighted to welcome our former Parish Priest, Canon Vincent Berry, now enjoying his second year of retirement, who concelebrated Mass with Father David prior to the procession and was able to join us for lunch. We also welcomed our parish administrator Nicole Brandwood, based at our joint parish office at Sacred Heart Church in Berkhamsted, and we look forward to welcoming more parishioners from Berkhamsted next year, especially the regular attendees at Masses during the week in Tring.

The Mass and procession with the Blessed Sacrament was followed by a 'Bring and Share' luncheon in the Church grounds, which was attended by more than sixty parishioners. Many parishioners signed up to bring a delicious array of home-cooked foods including Indian, Thai, Italian, Chinese and English dishes which speaks volumes for the rich diversity of our parish community. The desserts too were amazing, a testament to talented cooks and chefs, especially Margaret Donnelly's exquisite chocolate brownies!



The flowers, table decorations, gazebos, wine, food, minerals and bunting were all donated and organised by a willing team of tireless helpers to ensure the success of the day. These super helpers included Mary Todd, Tricia Apps, Ann de Cesco, Frances, Heather, Margaret Donnelly, Shena, Mary Miles, Joanne, Anna, Brenda and Christine, Caroline Burmaster, Paul Wright, Doon, James, Gerry and Eamon. Some of the younger members of our community helped with hanging the bunting around the hall and grounds.

It goes without saying that events such as these are about community. Organising and being involved in parish events gives parishioners a chance to get to know people they may only smile at in Church on a weekly basis and having the opportunity to chat in a convivial atmosphere opens up opportunities for friendship and fellowship. With many thanks to you all for making our Patronal feast such a success – and please all remember to sign up again next year. Thank you!

Natalie Browne, Corpus Christi



John Hawkes, (most of) a life in Tring



The first thing you notice when entering the sitting room of John and Ann Hawkes' lovely home is the picture-perfect garden through the patio windows. The next thing is the slim black volume that John shows you with great pride: his life in pictures – from when he was a small child to his 90th birthday celebrations earlier this year. Lovingly put together by the family, it also contains reminiscences by old friends and is a testament to his continuing popularity and zest for life.



For John, the book is a wonderful aide-memoire, taking him back to his early life at 18 Castle Street, Wallingford, the son of Edwin Augustus Butler Hawkes and Frances Emily Joan (née Minton). His father had opened the Wallingford branch of Barclays Bank in 1919 and his mother had trained at Barts in London and had been matron of the Cottage Hospital for the princely sum of £80 per year. His parents had married in December 1926, and within five years had Marjory (1928), John (1929) and Peter (1931). His father rented the Castle Street property (a six-bedroom Victorian semi) and early on asked the owner if he wanted to sell. The price asked was £1,000, which Edwin Hawkes thought too much, and he continued to rent it until his death.

John himself lived in Wallingford until he came to Tring in 1958. Early memories include going to Wallingford Grammar School Prep. Department

(aged 4) in September 1933, where he won his first sporting trophy, for the 80-yard race. He considers this the first sign of his competitive nature, which he later nurtured playing football, hockey and tennis. (John taught himself to play tennis, hitting a ball for hours on end against the garage wall and boasted he could place a ball on a sixpence, but his service was a windmill action and caused one lady to ask him to repeat his serve as she hadn't stopped laughing after seeing the first one.)

Another very early memory is walking from home to school and picking up an envelope containing a cheque, which he handed to the PC manning the crossroads. But he was not always so good, trying his first cigarette (aged 9), when he bought a packet from a slot machine on the way home from school. He was violently ill and never smoked again. And tragedy struck when his brother Peter died, aged 8, of diphtheria.

John's parents were religious inasmuch as the Mintons were 'high church' in the Brighton area and he had a regular church upbringing. He also remembers his maternal grandmother, Granny Minton, coming to live with them during the war years. She could be somewhat strict, and he remembers dropping the collection plate one Sunday and watching the coins rolling all over the floor.

Throughout this time he was developing a love of water. Having learnt to swim unaided in The Thames at the age of 4, he became interested in rowing and in 1947 was a founder member of Wallingford Rowing Club. His first rowing trophy was at Reading Regatta and he rowed at Henley Town Regatta, although somewhat wistfully admits he never had the opportunity to row at Henley Royal Regatta.

Life changed completely when John won a scholarship and became a cadet, aged 13, in January 1943 at The Royal Naval College. At that time it was located at Eaton Hall, Chester (the seat of the Duke of Westminster), and this led to him being confirmed in Chester Cathedral in 1944. Unfortunately his naval career was cut short due to illness. Having been examined by numerous experts around the country he eventually became only the twelfth person worldwide to be diagnosed with Kleine Levin Syndrome, symptomized by

irritability, hunger and sleep problems, and primarily occurring in teenagers!

Still wanting to pursue a naval career, he re-entered the Navy as a national serviceman and was posted to the training establishment, HMS Raleigh at



Devenport. Although John credits the Navy with instilling in him a sense of discipline, this career was short-lived, once his medical history caught up with him, and he found himself back in Wallingford, where his father arranged for him to go into a very old-established firm of auctioneers and estate agents.



Here he was assured of his future with the firm, but things changed dramatically in 1957. As a married man with his first child on the way, he enquired about his future and was told 'don't bother me, I'm too busy'. John was not impressed and promptly resigned.

It was then that John was very fortunate: in March 1958 he was invited to an interview at W. Brown & Co. in Tring with the late Richard Cole. On his



return from that interview he received a telephone call enquiring whether he could start in a month's time, which he did, and spent the next thirty-one years with the firm until his retirement at the end of 1989.

Initially the family rented Drayton Manor Lodge Cottage in the parish of Drayton Beauchamp where Sally was born and christened in 1958. Susan arrived in 1960, and in 1961 they moved to Icknield Way in Tring and started attending St Peter & St Paul's. John was a sidesman, but in retirement is well known for the welcoming duties he undertakes. They moved again, to Station Road, in 1963 and their third child, Michael, was born that year. Then on to Cholesbury in 1983 and back to Tring and the current house in 1998.

When Ann first saw this house being built, her initial reaction was 'who would want to live there' – it was behind the Wm. Cox Plastic Factory. As it turned out, when the factory closed and Tesco took over the site, the first owner was horrified: he sold up and John and Ann moved in!

John and Ann have been married for thirty-one years (John's first marriage

having broken down after twenty-seven years) and between them have five children and eleven grandchildren. With only one grandchild married, they are still waiting for the next generation. John is very proud of the fact that they are, as he puts it, a close-knit bunch.

So how does this man, who counts his blessings for the charmed life he says he has led and believes things are ordained in life, spend his time? His



sporting days being over – with both hips and knees replaced – he started playing bridge when he retired, and it is a big part of his social life. But so too is FOTCH (Friends of Tring Church Heritage). He enjoys the sociability and friendship of the members and firmly believes in the FOTCH ethos 'fundraising whilst having fun'. He has fond memories of his first visit to Howards

House, having won a lunch there, and never having heard of it, asking Grahame Senior where it was.

A Church welcomer for years and a regular and much treasured member of the congregation at St Peter & St Paul's, John will always answer the question 'How are you today, John?' with the same answer: 'I am still here!'

Chris Impey, St Peter & St Paul



A locumming we will go



In the 1980s I was Chairman of the UK Chaplains' Conference, the organisation for all those working as chaplains in schools at the time. One of the chaplains had moved to be Chaplain to the Anglican Church in Cannes, South of France. He invited me to do a summer holiday locum for him; I knew him to be evangelical and I said, much as we would love to come, was I really 'suitable'? He thought it would do the congregation good to have a change!

So we arrived in Cannes. The chaplain's flat was in the second road behind La Croisette, the most expensive road in the town! The Church was modern, with the Chaplain's office and flat attached as the ground floor of a block of luxury flats.

I asked the Churchwarden how they came to be in such an amazing location. The whole complex was put up on the site of the previous Church, which was a much too large, dilapidated Victorian building from the time when the wealthy English would winter in Cannes. Elsewhere was a large dilapidated vicarage. The congregation at the time did not know what to do. After much thought and prayer, they decided to knock down the two Victorian buildings and get a developer to build a Church and chaplain's flat on the site of the old Church.

Impossible in the UK, but the French were not worried by two English buildings being demolished and no planning permission was required. Two business men in the congregation took on the task and gave the site to a local entrepreneur to build flats on it, but the new Church on the ground floor, and chaplain's flat and extensive lending library, kitchen and Church room being built, equipped, and looked after in perpetuity, plus the rent from one other flat, were the deal. So the church had few money worries!

We spent three weeks there and had a great time, preaching on Sundays, visiting the groups who used the social facilities and sitting on the beach taking the sun! Hugh, our younger son, came with us and met up with another teenage boy at the church and had a great time, including the two of them rescuing a drowning man in the sea! The chaplain was away for five weeks and we were succeeded by two Evangelical clergy from the Church Pastoral Aid Society for the last two weeks.

An amusing aftermath was a telephone call from the resident chaplain about a month later. The Cannes PCC had discussed the ministry offered by the two different locums and while they voted unanimously that we should return, the evangelicals were not to be asked again! Maybe my unashamed liberal Christian approach was actually preaching a gospel that resonated! It was certainly an experience to be remembered.

Ian Ogilvie, Tring Team

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Stefanie Buse and Jarvis Osborne who were married in St Peter & St Paul's Church on 2 August. They were married by Huw Bellis with Cliff Brown as the organist and with the Tring Bells in good form. The beautiful flowers were arranged by Jo Green and Margaret Oram.



The reading from Colossians 3:12-17 was read in German by Stefan Doose and the Child family took part in various ways with Vivianne reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Barry as Verger and Peter on the sound

system. Steffi has been part of Tring Together for some years and is very much a part of all things Tring. Steffi's parents, from Erfurt in Germany, were delighted to visit Tring for the happy event.

Parish Vision Day Saturday 28th September

*Planning for the future
of the Tring Team*



"By lunchtime on 28th September we want to say that we've spent a very rewarding and enjoyable day together and that we have a plan for the next five years"

Everyone is very welcome to attend the Parish Vision Day

- ✓ There is a lot to celebrate – come and share your thoughts
- ✓ We want to plan for the next 5 years – come & share your ideas
- ✓ It would be wonderful to assemble a large, diverse, thoughtful and enthusiastic group for this task – please come and please bring a friend

The arrangements for the day

- ✓ 8.30am – the breakfast bar opens at St Cecilia Hall, Puttenham
- ✓ The day will include worshipping together, group discussions, debate and time to get to know each other better
- ✓ The day will finish with lunch at 1pm.

How you can get involved

- ✓ RSVP to: admin@tringteamparish.org.uk
- ✓ Invite a friend to come with you
- ✓ Think and pray about the day

Seven marks of a healthy church



These marks are from The Healthy Churches' Handbook, by Robert Warren; the subtitle of which is 'a process to re-invigorate your church'. That sounds like something I really should be interested in even if it makes me feel slightly nervous.

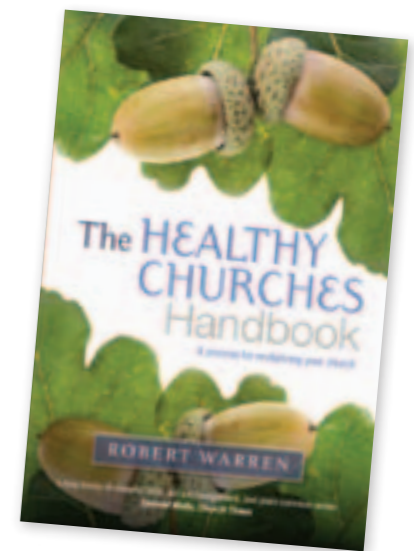
The Good News from this Handbook (pun intended) is that we shouldn't try to grow our church by focusing just on getting more people inside at 10.00am on a Sunday. And it's not just about the number of activities that the parish strives to sustain. It's more about the kind of church that we are: characteristics or marks in Warren's jargon.

The handbook was published in 2004 and used by Tring Team Parish some time ago. We plan to revisit the guidelines as part of evolving our vision in our parish workshop on 28 September. Here is a rather terse summary of the seven marks.

- 1. Energized by faith** rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive: engaging with the Bible, helping people to grow in their faith, and to share it.
- 2. Outward-looking focus:** rooted in the local community, working in partnership with other denominations, faiths, secular groups and networks. Passionate and prophetic about justice and peace, locally and globally.
- 3. Seeks to find out what God wants,** discerning the Spirit's leaning rather than trying to please everyone: develops and communicates a shared sense of where it is going, with both immediate and long-term goals.



- 4. Faces the cost of change and growth:** while embracing the past, it dares to take on new ways of doing things. It takes risks, admits when things are not working, and learns from experience.
- 5. Operates as a community,** rather than functioning as a club or religious organisation: relationships are nurtured, often in small groups, so people feel accepted and are helped to grow in faith and service. The different gifts, experiences and faith journeys of all are valued and given expression in and beyond the life of the church. Lay and ordained work as a team.
- 6. Makes room for all,** being inclusive and welcoming: different social and ethnic backgrounds, mental and physical abilities, and ages, are seen as a strength. Works to include newcomers in the life of the church. Enquirers are



encouraged to explore and experience faith in Christ. Children and young people are helped to belong, contribute and be nurtured in their faith.

7. Does a few things and does them well, focused rather than frenetic: does the basics well, especially public worship, pastoral care, stewardship and administration. Uses one-off events to make sense of life and communicate faith. It enjoys what it does and is relaxed about what is not being done. Robert Warren also distinguishes between two differing concepts of what we mean by 'church', what he calls our unconscious 'mental models'.

Warren stresses that these are not competing models: 'The goal is not to abandon buildings, priests and public acts of worship, but rather to harness these valuable resources to the higher and more fundamental goal of building churches that are engaging faith communities.'

At our Vision Workshop on 28 September we shall draw on some of the ideas in this book to help us work out how to improve further the health of our church, in the villages and in Tring. Don't panic, we won't inflict forms and questionnaires on you. But do come, and beforehand do think about where we do well as a healthy church, and where we should put our effort to do better.

By the way, the Parish Book Group will be discussing this Handbook at its meeting on 22 September at 6.45pm in St Peter & St Paul. Get in touch for more details.

John Whiteman, Tring Team

What is your mental model of 'church'?

Our inherited model: Church = Building + Priest + Sunday services
'So "keeping church going" is seen as keeping buildings open, finding the money to keep a priest (or at least part of one) and getting enough people into the building on a Sunday to keep the services going.'

An emerging model: Church = Community + Faith + Action
'Church is essentially a community of people drawn together by faith in and encounter with Jesus Christ as Lord, which leads them to take action in the whole of life, living by a different set of values from what would otherwise be the case. This living will involve a wide range of "actions" including both attitudes (such as listening and generosity) and actions (service, confrontation or care).'

From pages 84-85 of The Healthy Churches' Handbook

Around the world in 30 days



No, that isn't a typo – but it is almost 150 years since the fictional Phileas Fogg attempted to circumnavigate the globe and things have speeded up a bit since then. In fact, of course, it is now possible to do the nearly 25,000 miles in a couple of days if you travel purely by jet aircraft. However, as a climate change campaigner who has committed to only flying to visit family members – but who had half her offspring living on the other side of the world in May 2019 – I was never going to attempt that sort of speed record! Instead, this trip was to visit those children firstly in Hong Kong



Hong Kong

and then in Auckland, New Zealand but then to slightly reduce the total air miles by returning to the UK 'the other way', ie only flying over the oceans and travelling via the United States, where we were extremely un-American, completely eschewed internal flights



Karekare, New Zealand

and instead crossed the country as Michael Portillo might do it – by train. My husband knows parts of the United States fairly well, having visited frequently on business over the years and often taken a few days' holiday to see the country. So we decided to spend a few days in San Francisco before taking the Amtrak train to Chicago, and have a couple of days there before heading to the east coast



Amtrak observation car

and Boston. On the way we made a slight diversion from Buffalo up to Niagara – where we spent a couple of nights. Not only were we able to enjoy the spectacular falls but we even popped over the bridge into Canada. I was completely honest with the border official when asked to state the 'purpose of visit' and said that I had come for a cup of tea!

All together this was a fascinating journey – I had not spent so long on trains since 1974, when I did a month InterRailing around Europe. I had also not yet spent such an extended period away from the place where I have put down deep roots in the local community of Tring over the course of the last thirty-seven years. So, armed with a notebook and a tablet, and hoping for regular internet connection, I decided to write a travel blog (<http://nbullblog.wordpress.com>). We were away from mid-May until mid-June. I am not sure that there exists a phrase that sums

up the reverse of 'home thoughts from abroad', but that is what is attempted here, a few days after returning from circling the globe.

Yes, travel broadens the mind

In many ways it is only the sights, sounds and experiences of actually being somewhere else, immersed for however short a time in another culture, that can begin to give a better understanding of other countries and their people. However, with all we now know about the causes and effects of climate change, long-distance travel is an immense privilege, and should not be taken for granted or undertaken lightly.



Niagara Falls

Would I fly across the world in the interests of learning more and seeing new places, rather than primarily to visit close family members? Absolutely not. This trip has reinforced the importance of reducing air travel and taking all other possible steps open to individuals to reduce the emissions of climate-change-



Chicago

inducing greenhouse gases and also to eliminate as far as possible our use of unsustainable and polluting products.



Boston, the Old State House

Stereotypes are blinkered

What we think about other nations is often based upon a minority who are not representative of the real character of a country's people. There are wonderfully warm, friendly and welcoming people everywhere and the issues from abroad that are given prominence by our domestic media may well not be the primary concerns of the majority in the



San Francisco

country concerned. Having said that, the current political leadership in the United States and the ongoing confusion around the UK's exit from the European Union do seem to be universal topics of conversation and concern.

Home is where the heart is

It is a cliché but true. It is only where one is rooted and grounded in a local community, and with the opportunity to both draw on and contribute to all that community has to offer, that a real sense of home and of belonging can be felt. Being a 'citizen of the world' is fine for a while but eventually you realise that you cannot achieve anything while rootless.

If you want to write about a journey then there is no better way to travel than by train.

Nicky Bull, High Street Baptist Church

A feast of music!

Having a regular concert series which presents an hour of live music by local musicians once a month on a Sunday in St Peter & St Paul's Church seems to have struck a chord with many Tring residents – especially when followed by the chance after the concert for a chat over tea and cakes served by Pam Russell and her wonderful team.

The strong support that the church leadership has given to the Piano & More series makes the atmosphere particularly welcoming and brings many people into the beautiful mediaeval building, people who might otherwise not experience what this unique place at the centre of our community has to offer.



Advent concert 2018

Plans for the series are now well advanced for concerts up to next summer and beyond. For the details, consult the website, piano-and-more.org.uk, or Google 'Piano and more, Tring'. Here is a snapshot of what the rest of 2019 has in store.

In September, Robert Salter and Kathron Sturrock give the first of four concerts in which they will play all of Beethoven's ten sonatas for violin and piano. Robert, one of the UK's finest violinists, lives in Tring, and with Kathron and Ashok Klouda gave stunning performances last year of piano trios by Tchaikovsky and Schubert. Kathron is a wonderful pianist and it was her enthusiasm for our lovely 1906 Bechstein grand which persuaded us that spending £4,700 on refurbishing it was a sound investment to ensure it will still be in good playing shape at the end of the next decade.

Robert and Kathron's Beethoven cycle marks a new and exciting venture for the series; the chance

to hear their interpretation of all the sonatas within a period of six months is (for me) an enticing prospect. Many of you will know the lovely 'Spring sonata' (number 5 in the series) and the stormy, almost angry and certainly virtuosic 'Kreutzer sonata' (number 9). But perhaps you have never heard the sublime final sonata in G major, written when Beethoven was stone deaf, and coming, it seems, from undreamt-of worlds. And the extraordinary thing is that the other seven sonatas of the set are all equally distinct – and they're all masterpieces!

What a feast! But not the only one in store. In November, Leon Bosch, the distinguished bass player, conductor and long-time Tring resident, will be directing the Icknield Ensemble in two concertos – Beethoven's second piano concerto with Anna Le Hair and a Mozart violin concerto with James Dickenson. And in December, the pattern established last year with the very enjoyable Advent Concert will



Leon Bosch with the Icknield Ensemble last year

presented a varied programme of – yes! – very accessible music. Expect something similar this Advent.

Remember: second Sunday of the month, 3.00pm, Tring Parish Church: free, with a retiring collection; no tickets, just turn up. I hope to see many of you there!

**Edmund Booth
St Peter & St Paul**

Tweet of the month



I am frequently asked about how to tell apart Swallow, House Martin and Swift. They have many similarities but also differences in both habits and appearance. Superficially they are similar to each other – they all have forked tails and long, narrow, pointed wings. They also all eat flying insects and are summer visitors, spending the winter in Africa.

The Swallow is often seen as a harbinger of Spring and is one of the earlier summer visitors to arrive in Britain, typically arriving in mid to late March, but can be seen in February. British Swallows are known to spend the winter in South Africa and recovery of ringed birds has proved this. The Swallow's official name is Barn Swallow and this reflects their preference for agricultural land and habit of building nests in farm buildings. An adult Swallow has a forked tail with elongated outer tail feathers known as streamers. Juveniles have shorter streamers but they still extend beyond the rest of the tail. The upper-side of the bird is completely

blue-glossed black. Its underparts are white with a reddish throat and a blue-black breast band – so is never completely white underneath like a House Martin.

House Martins typically arrive in Britain later than Swallows in early April – although they can also arrive in March. They also winter in sub-Saharan Africa but exactly where is currently unknown. House Martins are so named because they like to build their cup-shaped nests under the eaves of buildings. They are certainly an urban bird but will nest in rural areas too. It is the smallest of the three species and is pretty much white underneath. The upper-sides are black with glossy-blue back and head and a white rump on top between the tail and back.

Swifts are the last of the three species to arrive in Britain – usually in late April. They also winter in sub-Saharan Africa but are nomadic and follow the rains around the continent to find the best concentrations of flying insects. They typically nest in buildings

and changes in building construction have reduced the number of suitable breeding locations and contributed to their decline in Britain – but Swift boxes can help halt this decline. Despite being the last of the three species to arrive in Britain, they are the first to leave and migration starts in late July or early August and it is unusual to see one in September. Swifts are almost completely black with a whitish throat, but this is often difficult to see. They are larger than Swallows and House Martins and have long sickle-shaped wings and a deeply-forked tail that doesn't have streamers like a Swallow.

Despite their differences, these birds are similar and this reminded me that there are different ways of finding and worshipping God. We may do it in slightly different ways – either in the same church or in different churches – but we worship the same God no matter how.

Roy Hargreaves, St Peter & St Paul

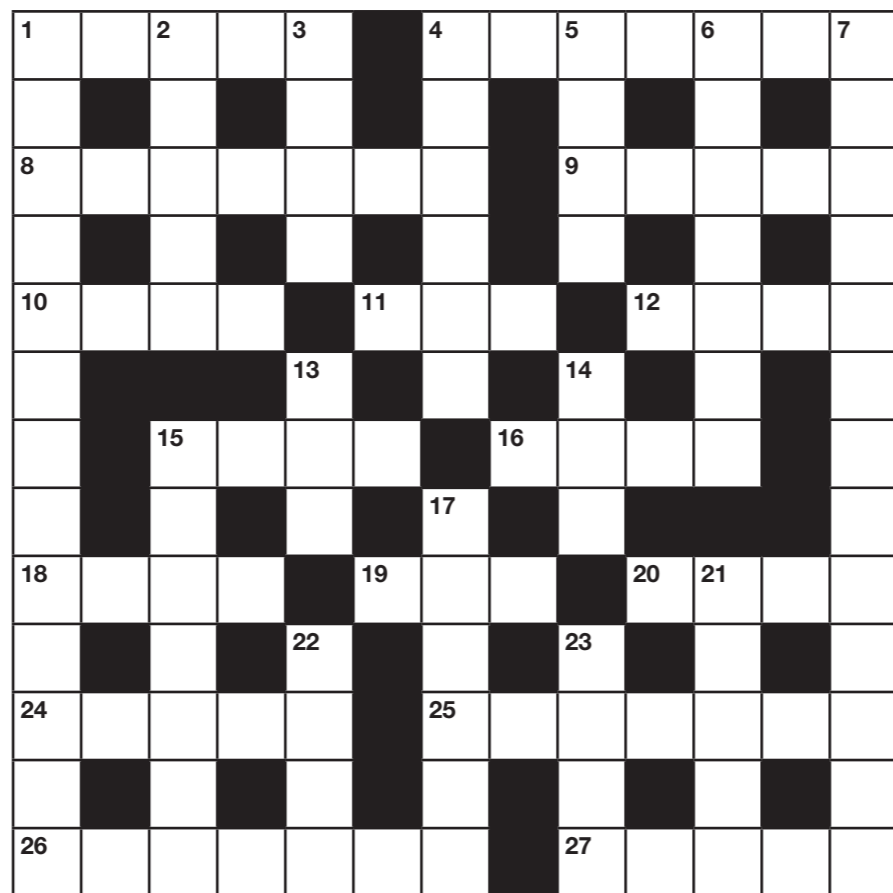
CLUES ACROSS

1. Places of burial (5)
4. Purpose of church services (7)
8. Forgive (7).
9. First letter (5)
10. '....' of the Jews (4)
- 11, Consumed (3)
12. Title of God (4)
15. King of Israel prior to David (4)
16. Authors of the O.T. (4)
18. Finished (4)
19. Short rest (3).
20. Meditate. (4)
24. Praise with enthusiasm (5)
25. 'On the road to
26. Reptile (7)
27. Give way (5)

CLUES DOWN

1. Expression of relief (5) (8)
2. Stonecutter (5)
3. '.... of the earth' (4)
4. Bouquet of remembrance (6)
5. True (4)
6. Unfortunate (7)
7. Hymn ' (6) (3) (4) O my soul'
13. Enjoyment (3)
14. Number of commandments (3)
15. Member of US. supreme court (7)
17. Mechanical tool (6)
21. Relative (5)
22. Colour (4)
23. Speak to God (4)

Answers on page 38



Pottering in a garden



If you savour watching the changing seasons in a garden, or enjoy planting flowers, fruit or veg, then you might be interested in paying a visit to Duckmore Lane Community Garden. The garden is part of the Duckmore Lane Allotments site and, along with the Millennium Wood, provides a pleasant public space to garden, take a stroll or just sit awhile in a peaceful place.

The garden was started three years ago by a group called Tring in Transition. The transition town movement, which started in 2006, is a worldwide organisation with 1000 or more groups involved in the urgent need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, greatly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and make wise use of precious resources; and to do this at a local level. Bottom-up community-led action.



In pursuit of these aims, the idea of our garden was born. We wanted to create a local source of food and plants for pollinators, as well as a meeting place.

The land was a forgotten weedy patch when work began, but the heavy work to create some structure on site has now been done and the garden is ready to receive more visitors or volunteers to develop it further and help it thrive. It's a sociable area as there are normally a few other allotment holders or walkers around to have a chat with, but the instigators of the garden are keen to develop this space even more as a community asset.

We already have Beavers, Cubs and Scouts visiting every year as a part

of their programme. If you are part of a group that would like to visit, why not come along and have a look at what we are doing? Instead of holding summer meetings or book clubs indoors, why not visit the garden and hold them there instead? If you don't have much garden, or get fed up being indoors at any time of the year, why not come down and meet up with the regular volunteers for a potter outside.

Mums with toddlers, why not take your children along to have a dig in the children's garden area? If you want some coriander for your evening meal, pop down and collect some. There's no charge. The food is there for you to use. Feel free to help yourself.

There is a gardening club on the second Sunday of every month from 10.00am - 12.00midday and there are more frequent sessions during the summer. For more information look at



the Tring in Transition website or e-mail transition@tringintransition.org.uk. We also have a Facebook page: Tring Community Garden at Duckmore Lane.

If you visit you might find me sitting on the seat at the far end of the garden on a sunny evening watching the many butterflies that are attracted: a very meditative place and certainly one to appreciate God's precious creation; a creation that it is increasingly important we protect and nurture.

Jan Rook, Tring in Transition

The Trustees of the Friends Of Tring Church Heritage announce a different kind of half yearly lunch

12.30PM 13TH OCTOBER 2019
ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHURCH HALL

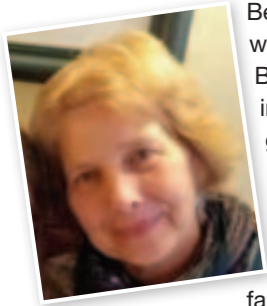
All members and friends are invited to join us for a social lunch where the aim is not planning and business but enjoyment and good company.

FOTCH INVITES YOUR BRILLIANT BRAINS FOR A QUIZ LUNCH

We are having a light-hearted fun quiz for all along with the usual excellent spread from Barry and some refreshing and revivifying wines. Please do come along and enjoy the occasion. There is no formal charge for the lunch (donations only) but you do need to book a place so we can make the catering arrangements work.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Trish at info@fotch.co.uk, or ringing on 0772 083 6930, or by filling in the access form in the newsletter.

My faith journey



Being brought up within the Exclusive Brethren group influenced my life greatly from the day I was born and laid the foundation of my life's journey of faith.

Throughout my growing years I was encouraged to read the Bible as my source of eternal destiny through the gospel of Jesus, my way of life and moral compass, together with the restricted company I mixed with and the various rules and regulations for living.

Both my parents were Christians and we attended meetings (church was an unknown term to me) often three times on a Sunday without fail. The women, including the girls, always wore hats – berets in winter, straw hats in summer. We never cut our hair and I could only play outside of school with children of the same religious group. Even on Saturdays, we sometimes gathered for special meetings in a hall and I used to enjoy helping with refreshment preparations together with others.

There were no Sunday Schools or extra provisions for children within the meetings – we just had to sit and listen! Consequently we grew up with an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of the Bible (which has faded with the years!). I learnt choruses from my mother playing the piano at a very early age and on Sundays we had to engage in very quiet pastimes like puzzles, reading or completing a Bible quiz called 'Gleaners'. I waited expectantly for the next issue to see if I had been 'commended', an accolade in lieu of prizes.

I wasn't allowed to attend the regular school assemblies at Primary School for reasons I still don't understand, or go to children's parties; and we didn't have family birthday or Christmas parties at home.

When my younger brother Peter was born, after a few months we had a baptismal service in our lounge at home. He was baptised by total immersion in a baby bath just as my two older brothers and I were. The room was packed with people and it was a time of rejoicing similar to the Jewish circumcision ceremony. We were

baptised into 'the household of faith' but it was never assumed we were from then on 'Christians'. My father was baptised when he was 12 along with his father (fully clothed in the bathroom) because he had entered the Brethren later in life.

When I was 13, in response to a spiritual awakening on hearing the gospel preached one Sunday evening, focusing on Isaiah chapter 53, I made a personal commitment to become a Christian. I was consequently visited and questioned by two elders and accepted into the fellowship. I could then take communion or 'the breaking of bread' as we knew it.

Women never took an audible role in the Brethren meetings. People married within the fellowships unless they chose to leave. Sadly the direction of the Exclusives went beyond the teachings of the Bible, taking a very literal and fundamental approach which often caused hardship, heartache and division within families. Folk at work often had to leave working partnerships and become self-employed, for example. My family left the Brethren in 1963.

Weddings were held in the local Registry Office followed by a meeting with refreshments; it wasn't the custom for a bride to wear white although I believe this has changed. I think the reasoning was that the Brethren sought to avoid placing extra attention on anyone. Funerals were quite difficult for me as a child as they had open coffins attended by the whole local fellowship, although the atmosphere was one of hope and an assurance of being taken into glory.

So when I was 13, we attended a small house meeting nearby where other families who had departed met together until we went to an Independent Chapel called Spicer Street in St Albans. This was a refreshing, uplifting and new experience and I enjoyed the music and singing very much because in the Brethren we didn't even have a piano accompaniment for services.

At Secondary School I was able to enjoy the morning assemblies led by the Headmistress or Deputy – they were always based on a Christian theme with hymns, Bible readings, prayers (including the Lord's Prayer which we knew by heart) and in the sixth form, we took turns to read. In Religious Education lessons we learnt some passages of

the Bible by heart, particularly Psalm 23. Generally these lessons were of Christian content but we were given brief introductions to other religious faiths. I continue to value my pocket Gideon Bible which we were all given in Year 7.

During my teens, my personal faith deepened and I made a more profound commitment. I experienced a variety of groups, went on a youth holiday in Yeovil, which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was like a new lease of life meeting Christians from different backgrounds and churches. It was exhilarating being away from home after being brought up within a somewhat restricted group of people.

Attending a Billy Graham Crusade in 1966 was a totally amazing experience. It was fun going up to Earls Court by coach with lots of young people. The choir and whole atmosphere of so many thousands gathered in one place to worship and listen to the charismatic talk by the American Christian preacher Billy Graham was unforgettable and, for many, life-changing.

When I was a teenager, together with about five others, I helped take a short service before Morning Church in the Children's Ward at St Albans hospital. We sang a few children's choruses, often with me playing a small portable harmonium; we took it in turns to tell a Bible story. These were lovely times. Being able to play the piano gave me all sorts of responsibilities in Christian gatherings – often quite large tent-like occasions following the Billy Graham crusades. I continue in this role at my present church.



The Independent Chapel, Spicer Street

My faith has been my rock of strength, sustaining me through troubled times at home when I was younger and throughout my life. Jesus has upheld me through thick and thin, raised me up from the dark and lonely places and given me peace in the midst of emotional and physical struggles. I seek to read a Bible passage daily and pray throughout the day – at the kitchen sink, while out walking, reflecting quietly in the garden or trying to cope with life's challenges.

I was married on 27 March 1971 at Spicer Street, St Albans and at the age of 22 I was baptised by full immersion in Derby Road Baptist Church, Watford (where we were then living) to witness my own decision to follow Christ and his teaching. My husband and I attended an evening course at London Bible College where we learnt about other faiths which I found valuable and informative.

From 1976-1980, we lived in Bavaria, south Germany as my husband took a job there and we attended a Baptist church in Ulm. Although everything was in German, I found it a very rich spiritual experience and the folk there made us very welcome. Very soon I was meeting up with other young Mums from the church, visiting each other's homes, and going on family picnics etc. We lived in a ground floor flat and our neighbours were astonished that we had made so many friends so quickly – a testimony to the warmth of Christian believers wherever we find ourselves.

My three children were brought up attending Akeman Street Baptist Church and of their own volition were baptised; thankfully they are blessed with spouses who share their Christian faith.

In 2000, I went through divorce proceedings and although emotionally at rock bottom, I am so thankful for



the prayerful support I had and faithful loving care from my friends. God truly sustained me as he has done through recent bereavements.

A highlight since this time has been the way God provided for me to be given a totally new experience. In 2001 I was able to go and live and work in an orphanage in Armenia which lies east of Turkey. Armenia is the oldest country in Europe, having adopted Christianity in the early 4th century. In short, I experienced being in services in the Armenian Apostolic Church – so very different from the format I was used to but despite the significant language



barrier, I was impressed by the reverence for God and the Scriptures and delighted in the choirs of those deep male voices. These folk had experienced extreme hardship and had many of their churches destroyed during the Soviet era – their survival was inner joy and faithful prayer.

Ashot, the orphanage Director, had the most profound effect on me as a

Christian. He gave up his work as a secular physicist in 1988 following a major earthquake, and with complete faith in God, similar to that of George Muller in Bristol, prayed that if God willed that he should look after the starving street children he saw, he would provide a building for them. He found a disused factory and it is still a place of love and holistic care giving many children a secure home, regular meals, basic medical and psychiatric help and good moral guidelines based on the Bible which is reverently believed in by the nation at large.



I am thankful for my husband John – we were married in April 2005 at Akeman Street Baptist Church – who encourages me and with whom I can share the same beliefs. It keeps us grounded in biblical teachings and we can encourage each other through life's joys and challenges. I am grateful for the Bible as a source of wisdom, for all the teachings about my deep spiritual needs and for illuminating the life of Christ and his provision for me eternally.

Phoebe Cox
Akeman Street Baptist Church



made with a friend in 1977 which is still used today! Thank you, Comment!
Rosamund Drakes, nee Hardy
Once of Friars Walk

Thank you, Comment!



On a May weekend in Tring, my husband and I met up with Carole and Martin Wells, Colin and Jane Stevens, Joy and Chris Hall and

Rosemary and David Berdinner – all thanks to the article printed in the April issue of Comment about me singing in the Church Choir many years ago!

You also printed a photo of the Easter Monday pilgrimage on the front cover which featured (probably inadvertently) the mob from Biggleswade displaying the banner I

'The English Patient' by Michael Ondaatje



Eleven of the Parish Church Book Group gathered in July to discuss 'The English Patient', but first signed a good wishes card to Didier who had led the Book Group since

it was started; and we welcomed Sarah Marshall, our new curate.

Most of the group had read the book or seen the film. The story is set in an old convent in northern Italy being used as a temporary hospital as the Second World War in Europe was drawing to a messy end. There is an air of mystery about the book, the principal one being about the nationality and history of the so-called English patient. He is badly burned and being looked after by a single Canadian nurse after others have moved out of the convent; she is determined to look after him despite his severe burns from which he is unlikely to recover. There is a feeling of quietness and calm in the almost deserted convent, a great contrast to

the war which is happening not far away.

Gradually other characters come to join Hana, one of them known to her as a disreputable friend of her father's in Canada; another who stays is Kip, an Indian sapper who is an expert at defusing mines and bombs left by the Germans as they moved on. Kip is young, like Hana, and they have a gentle affair.

All their stories are slowly revealed, partly in flashback. The patient turns out to be Count Almasy, who passed for an Englishman, based on a real person who had worked for all sides at different points of the war depending on his situation.

Towards the end of the book Almasy explains how he had been involved in archaeological investigations in Egypt, and had fallen in love with Katharine, the wife of one of the others on one of their adventures in the desert. It all ends badly with husband and wife both dying in dramatic circumstances, and Almasy being severely burned in a plane accident, only surviving because some Bedouins carried him to get medical help.

It took Michael Ondaatje six years to complete the book which was highly regarded and won the Booker Prize in 1992. A few of us felt that the film, also a winner of major awards, was actually a better experience than reading the book, as it gave a clearer narrative of what had happened in the story. Some of us had found the book confusing, though there were some great descriptions of expeditions in the desert in the 1930s; also the difficulties of defusing bombs was accurately portrayed by Kip. He had spent some time in Britain while being trained; he ruefully observed that the British were pleasant enough towards people like himself 'when they want to use you' – shades of empire maybe still lurking in our psyches?

So for some of us, it was engaging to start with, but seemed hard to finish, maybe like a conversation that has lasted just a little too long. It's likely that we missed some of the subtle themes that others have referred to in their accolades on the book jacket!

**Margaret Whiting
St Peter & St Paul**

More on Good Friday

In response to questions about what happened when on Good Fridays past... I have this photograph of Good Friday 1978 (or 1979?) – it must have been a cold early Easter and in 1978

Good Friday was 24 March.

The Scouts were asked to put up the wooden cross in the Churchyard of the Parish Church. You can see Jean and Brian Royal in the picture and I am

there with Alice and Hannah.

Can you recognize anyone else?
**Elizabeth Stephenson,
St Peter & St Paul**



Letter from Orkney



Hi from the wilds of Orcadia. I am writing this on 12 July. I think I must have blinked when summer visited. We are wet-n-warm, meaning the grass is growing like mad but the mower sinks into the lawn.

We are having some good days and it was on one of these we went for our first 'Viking Feast on the Beach': fires, cooking pots, beer from cow horns, storytelling and dancing (all for ten quid and the stunning views of Scapa Flow come for free).

No sooner had we recovered from that experience, we joined the RSPB boat trip around the Isle of Copinsay, (pronounced 'copinsee'). The boat usually takes six, but on this occasion just three, which made it all the more enjoyable. The weather plays a big part in regulating sea trips so after one cancellation due to high winds, we made it. Copinsay is an RSPB sanctuary for Puffins, Skuas or 'Bonxies' plus a whole gamut of Gulls and Terns and, of course, the requisite Grey Seals.



My art exhibitions are going well. I have six paintings in the Highland Park Distillery Exhibition and two more in the small 'Art for Art's Sake' gallery. Later, one of the Distillery pieces will go into their shop gallery in Kirkwall High Street. The cherry on the top was selling a portrait of Jennifer Wrigley to the lady herself. The Wrigley Sisters are Orcadian folk music celebrities appearing on Scottish TV and heading up the music school in Kirkwall.

We are full swing with cruise liners and tourist coaches plus all the holidaymakers in B&Bs and hotels. I'm not complaining really, because it makes Orkney the richest county in Scotland, enjoying a full range of council-based

services. Don't misunderstand me, there are still poor people living in Orkney and an active food bank is proof of that, but there are no rough sleepers or beggars. Everyone seems to have a roof over their head, provided either by the Island Council or the community 'Sofa-Surfing' where the young move around various houses if they leave home. This is financed in part by tourism, especially the enormous harbour fees paid by the cruise liners and the high employment enjoyed by many. I just wish that the incoming holidaymakers would slow down, maybe a tad...



A sign of the times is the appointment of our first 'Drugs Dog', now active on incoming ferries. The recent Folk Festival saw him in action on the campsite for the first time. Crime is not a big problem on the Islands perhaps because we are Islands. But there has been a small increase in the embryonic drug trafficking. Hopefully, the dog will keep it under control as will the community. Wrongdoers are not treated kindly in a tight-knit community. Whether that is a good or bad thing I leave to you to decide.

On a brighter note, we had the pleasure of a visit from comedian



Jack Dee to our lovely island theatre. We went with our Vicar, The Revd Canon Tom Miller, our American priest formally of NY Cathedral. I was slightly concerned having a 'man of the cloth' with us on such a possible bawdy occasion. My concerns were unfounded as Tom was originally an Actor and Front of House Restaurateur with a sharp sense of humour of his own. The show was a sell-out and deservedly so.

Great news! My cancer scans are negative (although still ongoing) and I am going to have a new knee. Hooray! If you add this to the magic-bullets, the hip, the teeth and the brain electronics, they are gradually rebuilding me. Six million dollar man 'watch out'. (If you do not know who that is, ask your mum.)



We will see many of you before you read this as we expect to bring the camper south in August. We are looking forward to visiting St Peter & St Paul's and making contact with all our old friends. Then a month or two on our old boat, The Griffin, before saying our farewells and returning to the Scottish hinterland: dark, black nights, wild and windy days, and a warm cosy fire with a dram of Highland Park single malt. Sláinte!

Mac Dodge, St Mary's Stromness

Sunnyside Up Café – New charity café

Sunnyside Rural Trust's farm shop has expanded to create a magical family-friendly space to enjoy homemade wholesome dishes using locally produced ingredients. The exciting new café based at Hemel Food Garden is now aptly named 'Sunnyside Up Café' in reflection of the charities rescued hens and all things positive.

Sunnyside has been working in partnership with the virtual school department of Hertfordshire County Council to develop a service that will support and employ young care leavers alongside their trainees. One of the key aims to develop a team of barista-trained coffee-makers who are then able to seek paid work in the wider community. The supportive and friendly teaching environment they provide will give people a strong platform to work from.



Sunnyside Rural Trust provides young people and adults with learning disabilities with training work experience. Trainees grow and harvest fruit and vegetables which are served in the café and sold in the farm shop. The café and farm shop will not only raise funds for Sunnyside Rural Trust, but crucially provides beneficial work experience opportunities. The trainees will have an opportunity to develop new skills by working in the café; make jams and chutneys, bake cakes and serve customers in the café and in the farm shop.

Richard Roberts, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, said: 'Working at Sunnyside Up Café in Hemel Hempstead will help care leavers to learn essential team-building skills

that will increase their independence. Young people will learn to deal with members of the public in a fast-paced working environment to prepare them for employment. We are welcoming donations or specific items from anyone in the community who wants to help.'

The yummy menu includes a range of local suppliers' produce and features: vegetable quiche slice with a Sunnyside salad and P.E Meads Honey & Mustard dressing; Moroccan beetroot hummus wrap with rainbow salad; organic ham & wobbly bottom mature cheese sandwich; tortillas and olives; plus homemade cakes and more. We also have a fresh, simple children's menu so there is something for everyone.

Kealy Henderson, Sunnyside Up Café manager, says 'Our customers love the fact they are able to combine buying their weekly veg shop with a barista coffee, homemade cake, lunch or afternoon tea. Our barista coffees are proving to be very popular.'

Customers can enjoy outdoor seating surrounded by herbs and colourful plants. You enter the café from the canal so the café is a great place to stop off during a walk or bike ride. Dogs are welcome, including a free healthy treat and water.

The café is also available to hire for private parties, meetings and workshops.

The project is supported and funded by the Hertfordshire County Council and other local businesses. Sunnyside Rural Trust are still looking for donations from businesses and individuals to help



complete the transformation, so please get in touch to find out how you can help. Volunteers are also needed to work in the café.

Contact: 01442 863364 or publicity@sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk

Sunnyside Up Café is open: Monday to Saturday 10.00am - 3.00pm.

The address is: Hemel Food Garden, Two Waters Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9BY (behind K2 Indian Restaurant). Parking is available on site.

Best of British Food & Music Festival

at Hemel Food Garden

Saturday 16th September 11.00am - 3.00pm

All profits made from this event will help the charity continue its vital work

Our hobbies



At their June meeting the Men's Society, with seven members present, discussed and shared hobbies.

The first question concerned the definition of 'hobby'. Hobbies are more than mere pastimes, and as we decided later, are often called interests. However, for someone with an interest in, say, gardening, it may be an active hobby, or a necessary chore. Or it may be a more passive interest such as visiting National Trust gardens.

Handicrafts, collecting and travelling can all be hobbies.

David G had brought a list of 'private interests' as he called them, one for each day of the week. His particular interests are choral music, crosswords which he compiles, including for Comment magazine, walking and chess. Belonging to the Choral Society is a hobby, but singing in the Church Choir is a commitment. Gardening also becomes a commitment when looking after the churchyard.

Some people are fortunate when their broad interest covers their hobbies and paid employment. My interests include designing buildings and visiting historic ones. Although at my interview for Grammar School I said I wanted to be an architect, as a boy I had other hobbies, supremely collecting Matchbox models, which I still have on a rack

made by my father. I also collected stamps, those overprinted 'England Winners', together with my Dad's collection, including stamps from 1930s Germany, may be quite valuable.

If Mike had been at the meeting he would undoubtedly have mentioned model railways, which he has exhibited at the FOTCH Family Fun Day in the past. He is very knowledgeable on railways through Tring.



Scalextric was not mentioned, perhaps because its popularity was with the Baby Boomers born in the 50s and 60s, whereas most members were born pre-war.

Several members enjoyed sports in their younger days. John played many sports, particularly tennis and now enjoys bridge; for David W it was football, cricket, and, until last year, windsurfing.

Other interests included hiking, music in general, reading, radio and electrics, woodwork, committee membership, U3A and photography. My interest in photography, which spanned

the golden era of colour slides, was to record the places I visited.

Other hobbies enjoyed by members included DIY, cycling, going out for meals, crosswords, and local history. Martin has recently retired from arranging talks for the Tring and District Local History and Museum Society.

We concluded by discussing future topics, and ideas for visits such as we had enjoyed in the past to the BMW Mini works, Ivinghoe Church and Totterhoe quarry. Popular suggestions were Edlesborough Church, Halton House and railway museums. We could go as a group with others during public opening hours or privately. Halton House will be open to the public on 22 September

but busy; however private tours can be arranged for an evening.

The meeting reflected a very wide range of interests, but also the age range of the members.

All men, whatever their age, are welcome to the meetings. These are usually on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm at the Half Moon in Wilstone. Meals are available. For details of meetings, including arranging lifts, see the pew sheets or contact Jeremy jeremybuckman814@gmail.com.

Leslie Barker
St Peter & St Paul



A very special baptism

Evan Brian Poland-Goodyer, born 15 January this year, was baptised on 11 August 2019 at St Peter & St Paul's Church during the Worship for All service.

As well as Godparents Alison Floyd and Chris Mobbs, and grandparents John and Janet Goodyer and Christine Poland, we were joined by close family for the service which was led by Revd Sarah Marshall taking her first Baptism. The service was lovely and we were able to include a hymn from our wedding day, which

was enthusiastically sung by the congregation.



Thank you to all who were there to welcome Evan, and celebrated with cake after the service.

Lucy and Adam Poland-Goodyer



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Saturday 9.00-9.30am

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In memory of Freda Bianchi

A life lived fully at the heart of a loving family
Freda Williams was born on 25 September 1920, the youngest of three children in a devout Baptist and thoroughly musical family in Brymbo, North Wales. She had deep Welsh roots and a part of her heart would always remain in Wales. With two brothers, Trevor and Ivor, and father Ezra who was famed for his magnificent tenor voice and was a frequent performer at concerts and in chapel, the family lived close to the steel works at Brymbo and Ezra worked there all his life.
Freda left the village school at 14 – as was then the normal age – and started work as a hairdresser. In 1938 she joined the British Red Cross and became a nurse. Throughout World War Two she served as a senior VAD in the Navy and then spent a considerable amount of time nursing injured soldiers in hospital. She met her future husband Raymond Ford through her work there.

back in West Hampstead. As the children grew older Freda worked as a dinner lady in the local school for a while. She then went to work at the celebrated St Mary's Hospital in Paddington before joining the Tavistock Clinic in Swiss Cottage where she remained until her retirement at the age of 62.
In 1983, having both retired, Freda and Ray moved to Tring. Quite unexpectedly Ray died just four days later leaving Freda suddenly alone. Freda did not return to her London roots but stayed in Tring. Like so many people who move here in later life, she soon fell in love with its charm and its friendly people. At the age of 70

she married her second husband (Eric Bianchi) whom she had met at St Peter & St Paul where he was a Church Warden for many years. Their circle of family and friends grew ever wider and Freda's Sunday Lunches were greatly celebrated and enjoyed.

Having lived for a time in a bungalow in Grove Park they moved together to a new house in Dunsley Place where quite a number of older church people had settled. They enjoyed several happy years in that flourishing and friendly community. Sadly Eric fell victim to Parkinson's disease and Freda's long career in nursing was a great boon to them during this difficult time. She was always a natural at caring for others. Eric died in 2010 and Freda remained in their house in Dunsley Place until, three years ago, she moved to a nursing home in Shrublands Road in Berkhamsted.

After the war they married and went to live in West Hampstead where their first child Melanie Jane was born. They then moved to a flat in Belsize Park in North London where Robert was born before they moved to their first house

Freda has always remained close to her Welsh roots and family life in all its fullness has always been at the centre of her world. Her extended family from



both marriages has been a huge joy to her and her role as the matriarch has allowed her to fulfil her destiny of care and kindness to all generations.

In recent years she struggled with the challenges of memory loss and hearing but throughout her love of smart fashion and good grooming meant that she was never less than perfectly turned out.

Above all else Freda was interested in people in all their variety and different persuasions. She had a strong sense of right and wrong (that chapel upbringing never leaves you) and she was fearless in her insistence on fair-play and correct and kind behaviour at all times. For me she was very much the embodiment of John Wesley's mantra for the best way to live life: 'do all the good that you can... in all the ways that you can... to all the people you can... in all the places you can... as long as ever you can'.

At 98 years old she was as deeply kind and fiercely Welsh as the day she was born and she remained engaged and thankful for every moment of her long rich life until her death on 29 July 2019. She was truly a joy to know.

**Grahame Senior
St Peter & St Paul**

Notices from the Tring Churches

ST MARTHA'S METHODIST CHURCH



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Meetings will tick over during September with a Knit and Natter session on Tuesday 3 September. Meetings with speakers/topics will continue on Tuesday 1 October, with the AGM and a visit by Revd Rachael Hawkins.

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.

BIKE AND HIKE

St Martha's will be opening its doors once again to bicycling and other visitors on Saturday 14 September between 10.00am and 6.00pm. If you can help by spending an hour in the Church to help visitors see inside as part of their tour, please sign the rota on the Church door.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The morning service on 29 September will be our celebration of the Harvest Festival, with Revd Rachael Hawkins leading the service. On the day before, Saturday 28 September, there will be a Harvest afternoon tea at the Church (time to be arranged).

1 September 10.00am
Covenant Service
Revd Rachael Hawkins

8 September 10.00am
John Watkins

15 September 10.00am
Jenny Harris

22 September 10.00am
To be arranged

29 September 10.00am
Harvest Festival
Revd Rachael Hawkins

NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH



BRIGHT HOUR

First Tuesday of every month
2.30pm

MILL CAFÉ

Thursdays 11.30am-1.30pm

1 September 10.30am
Bob Little

8 September 10.30am
Aubrey Dunford

15 September 10.30am
Kenneth Payne

22 September 10.30am
Praise & Prayer

29 September 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 September at 8.30am

FIRST SATURDAY LUNCH

Saturday 7 September
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

Fourth Sunday in the month 6.45pm
St P&P

CRAFT AND A CUPPA

Tuesdays 2.00pm, St P&P

HARVEST LUNCH

Sunday 1 September 1.00pm Wilstone

MEN'S SOCIETY

Wednesday 4 September 7.30pm
Half Moon, Wilstone

PIANO & MORE

Sunday 8 September 3.00pm St P&P

HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE & HIKE

Saturday 14 September

STICK SUNDAY

Sunday 15 September 3.00pm Wilstone

TRING TEAM VISION DAY

Saturday 28 September 9.00am
Puttenham



Useful contacts

TRING TEAM PARISH

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

School Chaplaincy and Team Vicar

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

School Chaplaincy and Team Vicar

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

Associate Priest

(Wilstone)
Rev Didier Jaquet
on sabbatical
contact Rev Jane Banister

Curate

Rev Sarah Marshall
St George's House
3 New Mill Place
Tringford Road
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)
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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 26

ACROSS

1. TOMBS
4. WORSHIP
8. ABSOLVE
9. ALPHA
10. KING
11. ATE
12. DEUS
15. SAUL
16. JEWS
18. DONE
19. NAP
20. MUSE
24. EXTOL
25. JERICHO
26. SERPENT
27. YIELD

DOWN

1. THANK GOODNESS
2. MASON
3. SALT
4. WREATH
5. REAL
6. HAPLESS
7. PRAISE THE LORD
13. FUN
14. TEN
15. SENATOR
17. GADGET
21. UNCLE
22. BLUE
23. PRAY

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