

COMMENT

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCHES IN TRING



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You are known and loved



'I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

In a world which is seemingly increasingly divisive and differences are exacerbated, it has been wonderful to read the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report for Tring School. This is sort of an additional Ofsted for Church Schools. My favourite phrase in the report is: 'Students are surprised by questions about how they react if differences between them become apparent. They simply assume any differences are

either irrelevant or welcome. Students challenge unkindness to ensure that their community is inclusive.'

It is a real testament to the young people of our community and the role both our Primary and Secondary Church Schools have had in shaping their attitudes.

You will also be pleased to know that the report references the work of Chaplains Jane Banister and Michelle Grace in the school. It says 'Generous support from the local parish funds two chaplains who work part time in the school. The relationships they build take the spirit from collective worship out into the community: "You are known and loved". Students internalise this message from worship and identify "prayer, worship and the church" as sources of support.' And '(students)

describe coming to "see things in a new way" in worship led by the chaplains.'

As a parish one of our key aims is to enable all people to know that they are known and loved by God. It appears to be happening within our schools.

Huw Bellis, Tring Team



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

Swanning off on sabbatical



By the time you read this, I shall have begun my sabbatical or, put more plainly, my three months off from ministry. It started on 1 July 2019 and is due to end on 30 September. So what and why am I doing this?

I have been with the Tring Team Parish in some kind of role as a minister since June 2011, first as a deacon and then as a priest. Even before that, the Tring Team was the parish I was attached to for my training as an ordinand (ministry training). This means it has not been far off fifteen years since I joined this parish (I didn't have a single grey hair then!). In that time, I have learned a great deal and the opportunities I have been given are probably as varied and as fulfilling as any parish in the diocese, if not the country.

That said, over the last few months, I have been struggling to maintain a healthy balance between my full-time work, my ministry and having some time for my family and friends. It's my fault for saying 'yes' to too much but, because what I believe we, as ministers, do is important, it's hard to decline a request

where you feel you might be able to make a difference. So it's true that some of my three months off will be about having a bit of rest and, hopefully, not tearing around all the time.

I also want to think about what shape my future ministry will be and where it will be. I doubt very much I shall return to exactly the same form of ministry I have at the moment. There will be change. What that be and where it will be is up for grabs. I am quite excited to explore what options there are for a self-supporting priest either in or outside parish ministry. Over the next few weeks I shall be going to different Churches to see what they are doing and asking myself whether this is something of which I could be a part? At the same time I shall be asking whether I ought to return to the Tring Team and, if so, what lies ahead for me there?

What else will I do to help me decide? I am going off on retreat (or 'holiday' as my wife likes to call it); I am going to chat with lots of people and I am going to pray. When I put myself forward for training as a priest, the best thing I did was to take the approach of saying to the church, 'I think God might be calling me to this: what do you think?' I will do more or less the same when it comes to what I should do over the next three months and beyond.

Who knows what the result will be? Those who know me best know I am not very decisive and so it's entirely possible I won't be sure what I am going to do from 1 October 2019. What has been really pleasing is Huw Bellis, Jane Banister and Michelle Grace's open approach to my having some time to work it out. Needless to say they will be filling in the small gaps I shall leave and I am grateful to them for doing so – particularly to Jane who will be the main point of contact for St Cross.

I am conscious that this can all seem a bit navel-gazing. Indeed, it might be. Not sure there's much I can do about that because it's about the way I fulfil the ministry to which I believe God is calling me. Hopefully God will prevent me from being too self-obsessed and allow me to discover whom I might serve next as their priest and how.

Thanks for all the kind comments and best wishes from those who knew I was off for a bit. Whatever I decide I shall come back to let people know what I am going to do. Until then I hope you have a great summer and may be even some time to have a think about your own future and where you are headed. I really don't think it's bad idea for any of us to do this from time to time.

Didier Jaquet, Tring Team

The Good Friday Walk of Witness



In the June edition of Comment, the Editor encouraged us to recall when we first started commemorating Good Friday by carrying a cross from St Martha's

Methodist Church through the

High Street to its final resting place in the Churchyard of the Parish Church in Tring.

At the time of writing no one has come forward with their own memories (please don't give up – it can always go in the next edition!). The Parish Church magazines, however, do give a few pointers that may jog the memories of readers.

There is nothing mentioned in 1977 and 1978, except that there was a Family Service at 10.00am in St Peter & St Paul's and then three hours at the cross at 12 noon. No doubt all the other churches held similar services.

Then in 1979, a service called the Ecumenical Service at the Cross appeared at 3.15pm. Presumably this did what it says on the tin, and most or all of the churches joined together for worship on the afternoon of Good

Friday. This was repeated in 1980, 1981 and 1982.

Then in 1983 there was a note from Jeremy Newton entitled 'United Service Around The cross'. And then: 'This year we plan to hold the united service around the Cross in Dolphin Square at 11.00am. By moving to this new time and place we hope to make it more of a witness. Do please be there and bring



a friend. It will last about 15 minutes.' Interestingly when the Editor tried to find out more last month, three or four people mentioned Jeremy Newton as being the instigator of the Walk of Witness but when contacted, Jeremy told us that he would love to take the credit but had no memory of being responsible!

From 1984-1988 the service was called the 'United Act of Witness in

Dolphin Square at 11.15am'.

By 1989 there was an Act of Witness from Langdon Street (where Corpus Christi Catholic Church is) to Dolphin Square and then to the churchyard of St Peter & St Paul's. In May 1989 there were photos printed of the event in Dolphin Square and the churchyard and a young-looking Mike Watkin is recognisable among others. We tried

to reproduce these but to get a good result we really need the originals. Thank you to Mary Hayward who kindly supplied her old photos when prompted.

It was in 1990 that the walk started from St Martha's Methodist Church in Chapel Street.

This means that the walk evolved into its present form over a number of years and

that Good Friday 2020 will mark its 30th year. Of course, it has evolved further year on year, with small changes to its format. The introduction in 2019 of placing rosemary at the foot of the cross by the assembled crowd was very moving and symbolic and will no doubt continue next year. If you haven't yet joined us along the way, make a date to be part of the event in 2020.

Janet Goodyer, St Peter & St Paul



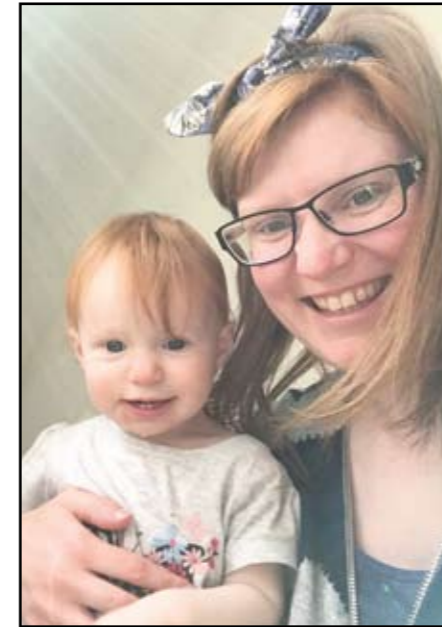
Baby Song – a welcome to all

Being part of the church is great: doing activities and meeting people, seeing friends at fairs and walks and other events on offer.

When I became a new mummy to a beautiful little girl called Evelyn, I felt a little overwhelmed. Now I have made this beautiful little girl, what's next? I went to post-natal groups which helped with information about being a mum and what to expect! I wanted to join baby groups to help build relationships with other new mums and bonding with my baby.

When I heard there was going to be a Baby Song time at St Peter & St Paul's Church, I was excited.

My friend Pippa was leading the baby songs and it was lovely to meet up with her and her little one, Gabriel! At first I was a little nervous meeting other people, but I pushed myself to get out of



the house and go. Everyone was really lovely and friendly. We soon got chatting

after the songs over tea and coffee!

We sang nursery rhymes and some church songs. Some had actions and others had actions made up by Pippa. We sang these twice because babies don't remember things yet and singing it twice is good to help their development. Evelyn liked watching other adults singing and started to smile and jump up and down when she was more mobile.

It was nice to see all the babies change, growing bigger every week. Some are different ages and some around the same age as Evelyn. Everyone who went to Baby Song chatted and gave advice when others needed it!

'I had a little turtle' was Evelyn's favourite: she would laugh and smile.

I would recommend this group to anyone (with a baby)!

Fran Prescott, St Peter & St Paul

Living with change



Perhaps the title of the May meeting of the Men's society should have been coping with change as we all

found living with change difficult.

When I was working in local government in the late 1980s, management courses included Management for Change. At the time I was living with change as computer drafting was being introduced, but I had little interest in it. However, during the 1990s while unemployed I decided to learn, but had no basic knowledge. So I went on an IT course covering Word, Excel and a database whose name I have forgotten. I expanded a student question on budgeting which I now use for my monthly/annual household budget.

I then went to evening classes on AutoCad at a local college, and later had a full-time place on what was the last free government AutoCad course for the unemployed at Westminster College. Later I attained a job – but that is another story.

A recent TV programme on OAPs depicted change being thrust upon people. Although I already had a digital

camera, I preferred slides, but digital photography was thrust upon me. Now I am happy with it, and as I grow older am grateful for a camera which slips into my pocket, rather than carrying a bagful of stuff.

Ted recalled earlier changes like decimalisation, metrication (resisted and still not complete) and North Sea gas.

David G recalled changes in his profession: computing with machines filling a whole room or suite, and programming with punch cards filled his work of producing solutions for particular clients. The most advanced aspect was back up in i-clouds. Now software design is very different and does not involve the hardware.

Changes which have improved our quality(?) – well, ease anyway – of life are emails (I only added this to my pc when I saw job applications were going on line), search engines and satnavs. Since the meeting I have thought of how food has changed enormously for good, remembering the meat and two veg of my childhood, to the improved quality and wider choice we have today; and the increasing number of cafés and ethnic restaurants we have even in Tring.

All of us now have problems using websites as they fill up with adds and apps, and are difficult to navigate. I

believe computers have passed their peak of user-friendliness, and the addition of more security measures is frustrating.

David G mentioned the problem of sending or receiving cheques, and refuses to pay by credit transfer.

Perhaps the pace of change has always been increasing, but it seems to me only yesterday that drones were 'pie in the sky'. This contrasts with the years of delay we experience in public projects like Cross Rail.

Finally, there is the change in your pocket which may disappear as we head to a cashless society!

I will finish with two lines from the hymn 'Abide with Me': 'Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.'

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

Leslie Barker, St Peter & St Paul



Tring School and single use plastic

If we all carry on as we have been, by 2050 there will be an island of plastic in the ocean that will be twice the size of Texas. Or put another way, there is more micro plastic on this planet than there are stars in the milky way. This is the result of the human race becoming lazy, greedy and thoughtless and now we face the consequences as we listen to scientists predict that there may be no future for our planet.

So, as a school community we decided to tackle this issue head on. As a group of over 1500 students we have made it our mission to reduce our plastic consumption and carbon footprint in order to do our bit to help save our planet.

So what have we done?

With an eager team of Eco Captains, teachers and our deputy head girl we have made an enormous amount of progress! On every school day at Tring School we were using (and throwing away) a huge amount of plastic

cutlery, salad containers, polystyrene plates, disposable bottles, straws and plastic cups with lids.

We now use none of these. Our student dining room is now single use plastic free!

Herts Catering Ltd (HCL) manage the dining room and kitchen and as soon as we asked them to change their approach

to plastic they got straight on board. Our 'plastic' cutlery, pots, cellophane, bottles, plates and lids are all now 100% biodegradable vegetable matter. This is obviously so much kinder to our environment. HCL are also rolling out the same programme to all of their other schools which is brilliant news.



On top of this we have been working to change the attitudes of the students as these are the future generation and the ones that will see the damage we are causing to our environment. Through multiple assemblies and form activities on some of the most recent moving documentaries such as David Attenborough's Blue Planet and

Drowning in Plastic, we've worked to make students aware of the alternatives to plastic that are available.

Something that really stood out is the huge increase in the number of students with reusable water bottles. The school brought in a water dispenser designed for use with reusable bottles and the 'meter' shows that in the last year we have avoided using nearly 60,000 plastic bottles. We are also now working on a new initiative with a local company whereby they would sponsor the provision of a reusable water bottle to every one of our Year 7 students when they join the school in September.

Tring School has made other changes over recent years with initiatives such as 99% of the waste being recycled, LED lighting, hot air dryers replacing paper towels and more efficient boilers.

Finally, we will just return to the fact that at the start of the year we were creating masses of wastage with our

consumption of single use plastics. It took a simple change of mindset and some conversations and a little effort to turn this on its head so that our single use plastic in the dining room is now nil. Just think of the impact if every single one of us adopted the same plastic-free approach when out shopping...

Liv and Katie, Tring School Sixth Form

Tring Child Contact Centre

Did you know that there has been a Child Contact Centre in Tring for eighteen years?

The Tring Child Contact Centre is open every second and fourth Saturday of the month allowing children to meet the parent they do not live with when relations are difficult.

Sessions are held at Old Church House in Western Road and run by a group of trained volunteers. Separated parents do not need to meet each other. It is the policy of Tring Child Contact Centre to put the children first, allowing them to meet their separated parent, relax and enjoy each other's company in

a safe place. There is both a need and a right for children to spend time with their estranged parent. Contact with estranged grandparents can also be arranged.

Tring Child Contact Centre is affiliated to the National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) and follows their Code of Practice, which includes confidentiality, impartiality and non-discrimination.

Child Contact Centres are needed to separate children from the conflict; to build, maintain and start relationships; as a first step towards collaborative parenting; because contact has not

happened for a long time; because parents don't want to see each other; and many other reasons.

Families are able to refer themselves and we also receive referrals from Court, Mediators, Solicitors, and Social Care. Tring Child Contact Centre charges £25 referral fee but does not charge for the contact sessions. We are a charity and rely on grants and donations.

Contact details are as follows: co-ordinator 07826 110875; www.tringchildcontactcentre.org.uk; and info@tringchildcontactcentre.org.uk.

Janet Langdon
Tring Child Contact Centre

Tring Park 16 do it again!

The prestigious Tring Park School for the Performing Arts have won the much-coveted BBC Songs of Praise Senior School Choir of the Year 2019 competition for the second time in four years.

The final, which was aired on Sunday 2 June on BBC1, saw the Tring Park School Chamber Choir, also known as the Tring Park 16, compete in the senior category against NChant, Kent and Francis Holland School Senior Chamber Choir, London.

The choir impressed the judging panel with their performance of 'Steal Away'. The judges included: vocal coach and TV presenter Carrie Grant; JB Gill from the acclaimed boyband JLS; and the tenor Russell Watson. The competition final was presented by Aled Jones at The Victoria Hall, Bolton.

The 2019 Tring Park 16 follow in the footsteps of the 2016 Tring Park 16, who also won the illustrious BBC Songs of Praise Senior School Choir of the Year competition, with their rendition of 'Daniel, Daniel Servant Of The Lord'.

The 2019 choir consists of sixteen fifth and sixth formers from Tring Park who are pupils from the acting, dance, musical theatre, commercial music and performance foundation courses, which makes the choir a unique feature of the school, being the only regular vehicle for cross-course performing.

Talking about the Tring Park 16's success, Songs of Praise series producer Matthew Napier said: 'Tring Park delivered the quality of sound, the vocal technique and the all-important wow factor. They are deserved winners – again!'

Reflecting on the choir's achievements, Tring Park director of music Liz Norriss said: 'Having won Songs of Praise Senior School Choir of the Year back in 2016, I was thrilled that the choir were able to represent the school again by winning a place in this year's semi-final. It was a brilliant experience for the choristers, but we all definitely felt the additional pressure of maintaining the school's record. The choristers are incredibly committed and passionate about their singing, and were determined to do their very best. I couldn't have asked more from them and I feel honoured and proud to work

with such amazing young people.'

The 2019 Tring Park 16 includes: Caitlyn Allen (Musical Theatre Course); Florrie Antoniou (Acting Course); Stephanie Costi (Musical Theatre Course); Ben Culleton (Musical Theatre Course); Antonia Dwyer (Commercial Music Course); Jacob Edwards (Musical Theatre Course); Tomi Fry (Performance Foundation Course); Gregory McCrorie-Shand (Performance Foundation Course); Robin Nixon (Musical Theatre Course); Jessica Pritchard (Musical Theatre Course); Joshua Shea (Musical Theatre Course); Lydia Singer



(Commercial Music Course); Edith Smith (Musical Theatre Course); Katrina Stenning (Musical Theatre Course); Jack Stewart (Commercial Music Course); and James Tatman (Commercial Music Course).

Tring Park School has a glittering alumni for the students to be inspired by. These include: Daisy Ridley (Star Wars: The Force Awakens); Lily James (Mamma Mia Here We Go Again,

Disney's Cinderella, Downton Abbey and War and Peace); Jessica Brown-Findlay (Downton Abbey); and Olivier Award-winning director and choreographer Drew McOnie.

Tring Park School is both a day and boarding school for students aged 8 to 19. Alongside a broad academic curriculum, the school offers courses in dance, acting and musical theatre to learners up to the age of 16. Sixth Form students are able to study Acting, Musical Theatre and Commercial Music up to age 18 while dancers can take a three-year course, graduating at age 19.

Tring Park is one of the UK's top performing arts schools with the majority of pupils forging successful careers in the performing arts. It provides a unique community for talented young people, regardless of means or background, who have both passion and talent for dance, drama, musical theatre or commercial music.

Tring Park also provides a balanced education and has an outstanding academic record: pupils regularly get into the top universities. It is housed in a former Rothschild mansion in beautiful grounds in Tring, Hertfordshire, and was used as a location (a Russian ballet school) in the 2015 Avengers movie, Age of Ultron and, most recently Judy, the biopic of Judy Garland.

Angie Cronin, Loudbird PR and Communications

Congratulations!

Congratulations to John Hawkes who celebrated his 90th birthday and to Gabriel Wright who celebrated his 1st birthday, both on 8 May. As always, a version of Happy Birthday was sung to them both in St Peter & St Paul on the nearest Sunday and cake was shared after the service!

Gwen Hewison celebrated her 98th birthday on 25 May but sadly broke her arm on the morning she would have celebrated in Church – and spent the day in A&E. Congratulations to Gwen, nonetheless! The photo of her with John Hawkes was taken on the FOTCH Garden Safari Day in 2017.

The Editor



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Truth, integrity, equality and sustainability



In the first of these articles about Quaker Testimonies, in the June edition of Comment, we looked at peace and simplicity; now we are moving on to truth and integrity, equality and sustainability.

The phrase 'to speak truth to power' occurred first in the eighteenth century in a charge to Quakers, knowing that this is a hard thing to do, and not to be undertaken lightly, then or now.

Integrity – the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles: the state of being whole and undivided. As Kenneth C Barnes stated in 1972: 'Integrity is a condition in which a person's response to a total situation can be trusted: this condition of trust is different from the recognition that he or she will always be kind or always speak the truth. The integrity of some Dutch Friends I have met showed itself during the war in their willingness to tell lies to save their Jewish friends from the Gestapo or from starvation.'

In our Quaker meeting we discussed how, in practice, we may become too blunt in our dealings (a 'quality' that Quakers have also been known to practise!) and we need to avoid hurtful criticism and provocative language. 'Do not allow the strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue. Think it possible that you may be mistaken.' This comes from 'Advices and Queries', a small book with much sensible guidance often read during Quaker meetings.

As with other testimonies, there are depths to this which take more than an hour's discussion to plumb, so food for reflection and for putting into practice.

'Equality then and now' was the next of the testimonies that we looked at. It seemed to emerge among Quakers (and probably other radical religious groups) early in the 17th century, when there was much 'bowing and scraping' in society. Quakers refused to indulge in these exaggerated practices, preferring plain dress and plain speaking!

At that time, and for many years after, they spoke of 'thee' and 'thou' to distinguish themselves from others who

by that time were saying 'you' in their everyday speech.

Equality is not always an easy attitude to carry out in practice, much as we applaud it in our minds. Even now, society has problems with treating men and women, those of different social standing, those of other races, different religious beliefs from our own and so on, with the same equalness.

Here is a general understanding (from the Internet) of equality in today's world: 'Equality is about ensuring everybody has an equal opportunity, and is not treated differently or discriminated against because of their characteristics. Diversity is about taking account of the differences between people and groups of people, and placing a positive value on those differences'.

As members of the Religious Society of Friends, we try to support each other in our local meetings where we sit quietly, opening ourselves to a spiritual dimension that may come to us in that time of sharing.

Within our Meetings, it is common for people to take on different roles in the running of the group, moving from higher profile roles to more background tasks without it being a problem to them. Quakers not only consider how they relate to their fellow human beings as individuals, they have also been in the forefront of recognising societal situations that underlie inequality. (Quakers have been among the large numbers of people demonstrating recently at the Extinction Rebellion because they believe that action is needed now to allow future generations to remain on this precious earth.)

Sustainability was the last of the testimonies that we looked at in our discussions, and the most recent to be added to the list. Sustainability has risen in importance recently as society looks in dismay at the future we may be offering to younger and unborn generations if we do not take some drastic actions in the face of climate change.

'We do not own the world... seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life.' This is from no. 42 (and the last) of the paragraphs from 'Advices and Queries', the small book often quoted during our meetings.

Every small action towards sustainability and respecting life on earth makes a difference. As Anita Roddick of The Body Shop said: 'Think of the effect of a mosquito in a tent!' Much of being sustainable involves changing your mind, priorities and approach. It can be helpful to divide up the different areas where we can be sustainable; for instance, waste, food and travel, but energy reduction is one of the biggest areas where we can avoid polluting the air, soil and water. Some old advice comes to mind, 'Put on another jumper if you are feeling cold!'

Sharing and helping each other is part of sustainability. How about sharing a lawn mower with your neighbour? Encourage community actions, find out what Transition Towns (locally Tring and Berkhamsted) are doing; just concentrating on one thing and telling friends what you are doing helps you to stick with it. One example might be to boil only enough water for your need, not a kettleful every time, as boiling a kettle uses a lot of electrical energy, relatively speaking.

While we were sharing ideas as a group, we were also aware that we are probably tinkering at the edges of the huge problem that confronts our generation: we need leadership from our governments of whatever stripe to start making uncomfortable decisions, followed by actions that we may not like, but know to be necessary. One of our members has compiled a list of practical suggestions and plastic-free items that can be bought. Comment readers who are interested can contact me for a copy at maggiejayhay@aol.com or on 01442 767403.

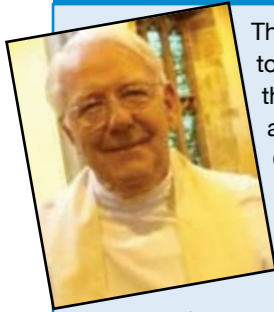
Margaret Whiting
Berkhamsted Quaker Meeting

Please help

Churches Together in Tring need a new Minute-Secretary following the recent retirement of Jenny Scholes.

We meet four times a year and duties are mainly taking the minutes, circulating them as soon as they are written, and circulating agendas for the next meeting. Please contact Janet Goodyer on 01442 824929 or jjgoody@ntlworld.com if you want to find out more.

A locum-ing we will go...



The summer of 1991 took us to do a three-week locum at the Embassy Church in Bucharest, Romania. It was two years after the assassination of Ceausescu. The

country was still Communist, but the regime was less oppressive than the previous one, though there was still much poverty and fear.

The Chaplain rang me from the Embassy office to brief me and the first thing he said was 'Always remember the Flat is bugged.'

'How did you find out?' I replied. He had been out visiting some church members and came back to find two half empty bottles of wine on the kitchen table. He had left them full in the fridge as he had people coming to dinner. He said some fruity words to the wall and an official letter of complaint went from the Embassy to the Ministry of the Interior. Of course, they knew nothing about it at all. But three weeks later he was returning from a meeting and outside the flat was a case of six bottles of wine! The Government was reminding him he was under surveillance but apologising for their underlings behaving so irresponsibly.

'But what is the point of bugging the



chaplain any way?' said innocent me.

'Well, to the Communist mind, Chaplain equals Welfare Officer and Embassy staff might not want their bosses to know their problems and the chaplain is not part of the hierarchy. They could discuss their money worries, troubles in their marriage, etc and know it would be in complete confidence...

The Communists could then bribe them or set up a honey trap to blackmail them to spy for them. A real James Bond situation!

Bucharest used to be called the Paris of the East. Sadly, when we were there, it was very dilapidated, with crumbling old buildings and dangerous pavements and bullet-damaged walls. Poverty was such that opposite our little flat in the main street, people were selling matches, cheap cigarettes and fizzy drinks to scrape a living. The Romanian verger at the Church told me food was so scarce in the Ceausescu regime that if news came that a consignment of oranges, butter or sugar had come into a local shop, everyone left their offices and joined the queue to buy them – from the Managing Director to the office boy.

The flat was in a block owned by different people and rooms were let out. Our landlord came round and asked us to go for supper one evening. His house was small and in a poor state of repair. They gave us a thin soup and small pieces of cheese on crackers. They said they would never have dared to invite us during the previous regime as they would have been arrested the next day for meeting with foreigners. How fortunate we are to be in a free society!

We had a good congregation on Sundays of some Embassy staff, and foreigners of many nationalities, plus a number of Romanians who spoke English. Many were still afraid to be

too outspoken. A lady in the adjoining flat to ours virtually barricaded herself in as she had been an aristocrat from the countryside and her large house was taken over by the Communists: six families were moved in while they were allowed to live in only two rooms. Eventually she was driven out and was constantly afraid the police might come and take her away. We had her round for coffee one day when she told us this story, but was terrified when I asked if I could take a photograph of her with Jenny. But she said, 'No, no, the police might come!'

Driving in Bucharest was always a nightmare because of the state of the roads then. At every red traffic light six or more children would appear begging for money, mainly Roma (gypsy) who were despised by the Romanians and had a terrible life. One of the young women in the church who worked in a local cafe did all she could to help feed some of them and show something of God's love in their lives.

The Embassy Church provided a haven for numerous people who felt they were welcomed and there was no fear of bugging or of the police. They worshipped with us, had simple meals together, and I hope felt something of the love of God mediated into their lives.

Bucharest 1991 was a sobering and fascinating experience of what life can be like in a very different society from our own. It was certainly different from any other locum we have done before or since. As far as I know, the flat was not searched while we were there(!). Maybe our conversations still remain deep in a vault somewhere! I am told things are much better now, but I can only relate our experience in a different era and something I will never forget.

Ian Ogilvie, Tring Team

The first Children's Bible in Roma

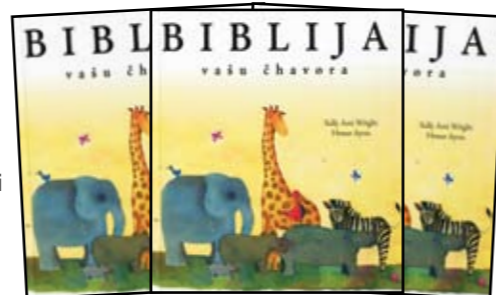
While a small part of the Roma community in Slovenia is completely integrated into society and have preserved their traditional way of life, most live in illegal settlements or slums. Very few of them have electricity or a water supply and they cannot access education, the right to work or health insurance.

The first ever Children's Bible in the

Roma language was produced by a Catholic publisher in Slovenia and gifted to the families as part of their work amongst the children.

That Children's Bible was written, designed and produced by Anno Domini based in Tring – the same people who produce Comment magazine!

The Editor



The joys of spending a penny

One of the most important things in our lives, and one of the things we take most for granted in this country, is the access we have to clean water and drainage. How many taps do you have in your house? And when you turn one on, you know clean water will come out of it. How many toilets do you have in your house? And every time you flush, you know the waste will be removed. But there are still many parts of the world where this is not the case. Without clean water, there is more likelihood of disease; women and children have to spend much of their day fetching water, and there are also dangers over security for women who have to search for safe spaces to urinate.



Life on the buses

Life on the buses is a normal way of life for some people, but for others it is a fate to be avoided for as long as possible, unto extreme old age, or even, death.

For those who are used to climbing on board those big noisy vehicles, it is something not only just to be endured, but on some occasions at least, to be enjoyed.

For instance, on a fine day what can be better than sitting on the top deck and viewing the countryside, or peering into people's gardens as you pass, and generally passing the time in a relaxed sort of way. You will not have to worry about where to park when you reach your destination, nor grapple with those new-fangled parking machines which require feats of memory regarding what is on your number plate.

And of course, if you are a pensioner, you can travel for free using a Bus Pass, for which I frequently thank Gordon Brown (remember him?) who introduced them some years ago. Let us hope that a future government, when they have stopped agonising over Brexit, do not decide that a Bus Pass is a luxury too far and take it away from us.

So this is where Toilet Twinning comes in to play. It is a charity started by Cord, a peace and reconciliation NGO, and then handed on to TearFund, which now funds sanitation projects in thirty-five countries around the world, from Afghanistan to Sierra Leone, from Myanmar to Pakistan. For £60.00, you can help fund a toilet and receive a picture of it! This is why when you go to the loo in many Church halls, you will find a picture of a toilet on the wall; and in our downstairs loo, there is a picture of a toilet in the Democratic Republic of Congo. There will be nine other donors around the world who will have the same photo, and between us, we will have helped ensure that others can have the same benefits of clean water and sanitation and safety that we do.

Long Marston School are supporting this charity and the children have thrown themselves into it. They have fundraised, and this has included collecting pennies that they made into a picture of the charity's logo (spend a penny – get it?).

I have to confess, there was some confusion over what we were doing and at least one child thought we were going to send one of the school toilets abroad!

There was also a certain amount of disagreement as to whether the picture should be in the girls' toilet or the boys'. The Headteacher had to adjudicate, and the picture now hangs on the door of the cleaning cupboard in the main corridor.

We are inviting you to join in with Toilet Twinning as a fundraiser. We could hold a Soggy Bottom cake sale [please don't! Ed], a Blue for the Loo day, and we can even become a Toilet-Twinned town! Do look at the website (toilettwinning.org), or get in touch with me jane@tringteamparish.org.uk

Help others receive life-giving and life-changing clean water!

Jane Banister, Tring Team



However, I must not get carried away with positives when I am only too well aware that bus journeys are often less than perfect, and even non-existent at the time when you had expected to be carried away from the bus stop. Alas, bus timetables are sometimes mere aspirations and not always to be relied on, though some routes are more reliable than others. Never rely on your desired bus running late (which they often do), because sometimes they do indeed run to time and so your grumbles must then turn inwards if you miss a bus through your own fault.

While at the moment many buses are old-fashioned and expelling too much carbon into the atmosphere, some new models are more efficient. I predict a bright future for buses when at last a government, soon let us hope, grasps the reality of climate change and decides we need to travel differently from our rather self-indulgent travel by car whenever and wherever we fancy, and then grumble at lack of parking spaces at our journey's end. Buses will be electric, comfortable, smart, efficient and reaching many more places than

they do now, including villages where buses at present have no service. Some of them may have trailers in which bicycles and luggage can be stored for the duration of a journey.

And trains will have decent-sized guards' vans and restore P.L.A. (Passenger Luggage in Advance) – but that's another story. Probably there will be Uber style services to aid people to get to their ultimate destinations where buses do not go; bus and train services will be subsidised properly to allow this to happen.

Journeys will become more sociable, if wanted, or a space in the day where you will be able to relax, or conversely do some work on your tablet or whatever its equivalent will be.

I shall not be here to witness these sensible, earth-friendly changes, but I can dream....

Margaret Whiting, St Peter & St Paul




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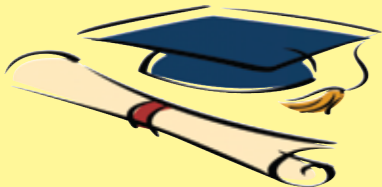
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Email: info@tringcharities.co.uk

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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Sunny music for a sunny afternoon

We enjoyed a sparkling cocktail of piano and clarinet music on a spring afternoon in May. Alison Eales is an accomplished clarinetist, but also played engaging piano duets with Anna Le Hair. The music ranged from a cheerful duet by Mozart, composed in 1786, to a new composition for piano and clarinet by James Marshall, an American who is working closely with Alison and Anna. We also enjoyed a concertino by Weber for clarinet and orchestra, composed, rehearsed and performed within a week in 1811; Alison provided the clarinet, Anna provided the orchestral accompaniment on the

piano. A duet by Poulenc was probably the most fun to watch, as it involved quite an amount of overlapping of hands and arms. I was intrigued to learn that the two Hungarian Dances by Brahms, played with great energy and skill, were originally composed as piano duets. Thanks to Anna's commitment and organisation, and the generosity of visiting (and local) performers, the Piano and More concerts are an established monthly event in St Peter & St Paul. Music and friendly company on a Sunday afternoon. The next concert is on Sunday 14 July at 3.00pm, with Philip

Aird (violin), Marie Lloyd (clarinet) and Anna Le Hair (piano); and on 11 August the recital will be given by Alice Bishop, soprano, and Simon Marlow, piano.

The concerts are followed by refreshments, and are free; there is a retiring collection. All are welcome.

John Whiteman, St Peter & St Paul



Tring Loneliness initiative



Tring Loneliness Initiative is funded by Tring Town Council. It has two arms – Tring Connections and a Befriending service run by High Street Baptist Church. You can find details of both at www.tringconnections.org.uk (the website is funded by Tring Lions).

The details on the website are replicated in printed directories situated in Rothschild House Surgery, The New Surgery, Rothschild House Pitstone Surgery, and also at Tring Library and

Tring Information Centre. The website and directory also contain details of volunteering opportunities.

Please pass on details to anyone that you think could benefit from 'Meeting People and Doing Things in Tring'. Both website and directories have contact details via email, letter or phone for those who need further information.

A problem that we have is that many organisations have not given us contact details – and we cannot give out contact details without a signed agreement giving permission. In addition, there are small organisations where we do not know who to contact to get details for the website and directory. If you know

of any such organisations please ask them to contact us on tringconnections@gmail.com or 36 Friars Walk, Tring HP23 4AP so we can arrange an entry for them.

Tring doctors have cards to hand to suitable patients giving details of the website and directory locations and healthcare workers will shortly also have cards. We hope that the joint initiative of information about organisations and a Befriending service will have an impact on loneliness in Tring over all age groups.

John Allan
High Street Baptist Church

In praise of Tring

I want to thank Comment magazine very much for the kind words printed about my father, Douglas Purse, both in the Letter from Orkney and in the obituary published in the June edition of Comment. My mother and I were very touched by it.

You will not be at all surprised to know that the community of Tring, and that of the St Peter & St Paul church in particular, has been truly magnificent in rallying round and supporting my mother after Dad's passing. I was not surprised at one level because I have always

known what a good place Tring was, but I couldn't have imagined just how supportive people would be. Huw

Bellis was outstanding at both the crematorium and in the Church for the thanksgiving service afterwards; I can't say enough good things about what he said and did.

Dad simply had no idea how much he was appreciated and he would be truly humbled, as I am, to see all the affection that there has been for him, Mum and our family in general. Thank you, Tring.

Nigel Purse



Feedback

I was delighted to read in the June edition of Comment Tom's piece about XR and the frightening lack of action to reduce mankind's impact on our world.

As individuals we can use less petrol in cars and planes, eat less, avoid using plastic and keep our homes a bit cooler. I wonder what we can do as a church community? Could we perhaps find the money to put solar panels on the south roof of St Peter & St Paul's? Not to reduce our costs, though that would happen I suppose (eventually) but to contribute energy to the system.

Elizabeth Sims
St Peter & St Paul

40 years of The Hospice of St Francis

At the end of a quiet, country lane set amongst seven acres of stunning, tranquil gardens overlooking the Ashridge Valley, lies the peaceful haven of The Hospice of St Francis. For 40 years, the Berkhamsted-based charity has provided free, specialist care for patients and families facing the uncertainty of life-limiting illness.

'Forty years is such a huge milestone,' said Hospice CEO Kate Phipps-Wiltshire as the Hospice celebrated its 40th birthday during June 2019. She thanked the community that founded it, and invite anyone touched by its care to share their stories and precious memories.



On 6 June 1979, a Vigil of Prayer at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, was the catalyst that founded the Hospice. A small group of determined, driven volunteers – the Originals – led the charge, steered by the formidable Pam Macpherson. Her aim was for a hospice to serve 350,000 people across West Herts and the Chiltern area of Buckinghamshire to provide 'skilled loving care for the relief of symptoms and anxiety'.

From the off, fundraising had a high profile in the local community. A massive three-month Snowball Coffee Campaign, which launched on New Year's Day 1980, raised an incredible £19k – not

bad for a minimum donation of 25p – £1.25 in today's money!

Popular local artist Harry Sheldon provided the illustrations for special notelets and cards to sell and the Hospice's first shop was a pop-up shop, selling 'whatever sells'. It raised £1,845 in six weeks – in today's money £9,000.

Thelma Childs ran that first pop-up shop with Mary Rattee, a dedicated Bazaar group volunteer. Mary, now 82, recalls, 'There were about twenty-four of us in the group and we made everything from toys, teddies and knitwear to jam, marmalade and patchwork quilts – it was lots of work with lots of coffee and chatter but such fun.'

The response from churches, schools and the compassionate community far exceeded anything the Originals could have hoped for. Within the first year, enough had been raised to pay for the first community nurse Barbara Burles, who looked after twenty patients in her first year.

Barbara recalls, 'I remember one patient. He came to the door in his pyjamas, dressing gown and slippers. I managed to convince him that he'd made a good recovery from his operation and needed to get dressed and have a daily routine. He took my advice, much to the delight of his wife and family. Consequently his focus was on living and staying positive. He regained his confidence, recovered enough to return to work for some months, and attended his son's wedding. His wife wrote to me afterwards to thank me for my support as it had "given their lives some normality and hope."'

In 1982, thanks to the Franciscan nuns led by Sister Christopher Lawlor who offered their convent, the Hospice found a permanent home in St Francis



House at 27 Shrublands Road. A year later the Day Hospice opened and the Three Bells Bereavement Club was launched, offering support to those who'd been bereaved, followed closely by a telephone support service. The Support Line still runs today, making nearly 2,500 calls a year.

In 1999, the Hospice opened its first permanent charity shop in Abbots Langley and held its first Garden Party at Ashridge House whilst fundraising events continued apace with many 'Friends of the Hospice' events taking place around Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

By the end of the 1990s, the Hospice had outgrown its original home and the search started for a new location for a modern hospice. Dr Ros Taylor, Hospice CEO and Medical Director from 1997-2015, says, 'There was one day room and no other private place to have a conversation – so I had lots of meaningful chats about life and death in the bathroom with patients and their families!'

In 2001 a new site was found for the Hospice at the Old Charles Harrowell Brickworks in Berkhamsted. A £6million



capital appeal was launched, which included a Buy-a-Brick Campaign with twenty-five 70-year-old bricks from the original Brickworks sold for £1,000 each. The local paper, the Herald Express (now the Gazette), was instrumental in generating the final £2.5million needed.

In June 2006, at the Topping Out Ceremony, a symbolic double rainbow appeared in the sky, a moving piece



of symbolism, which many believed signified hope and luck for the future.

The new purpose-built traditional 'Chiltern Farmhouse' building opened in January 2007 with eight beds and a Day Hospice. The first patient was Phil Maton-Clement. His wife Penny, herself now a Hospice Healthcare Assistant, recalls, 'The five days he spent in the new Hospice were incredible. He had his own private room, bright, airy and so spacious.'

In 2007, the Hospice held the first of many popular mass fundraising events. Walk with the Stars saw 800 women in pink tee shirts walk twelve miles raising £100,000! The end of the noughties saw the introduction of a Children's Support Team, funded by Children in Need, and offering support to children and young people facing loss.

In 2013, The Spring Centre opened to help people with cancer or a life-limiting illness to live well after diagnosis and continue to achieve their life goals. There are over forty different services, groups and events with a focus on rehabilitation services to help patients

maintain, regain and sustain their independence and mobility.

The current decade has seen the opening of Returned to Glory, a homeware and pre-loved furniture showroom in Berkhamsted, the receipt of an outstanding CQC (Care Quality Commission) rating and seven-day-a-week community nursing support.

Last summer, the seven-acre gardens, which were originally a brownfield site, welcomed the Myeloma UK Seeds of Hope Garden fresh from the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, transforming the approach to our building for everyone. The gardens themselves are stunning. Joan Gentry, involved with the Hospice for over 25 years, says, 'We realised that patients who were put in the garden rooms who were near the end of their days lasted much longer than expected. That's when we really began to appreciate the importance of the gardens in terms of their healing and therapeutic value.'

Today, the Hospice continues to be here for anyone with cancer or a life-limiting illness and is here to help people to live their lives well. A referral to the service is easy via the website – www.stfrancis.org.uk/care or GPs and all Hospice care is provided free of charge.

Kate Phipps-Wiltshire concludes, 'The Hospice of St Francis means skilled care and sanctuary in the midst of the chaos that serious illness and death can bring. It means doing our utmost to

make living final years, weeks, months or days the best they can be. We describe that as #YourPreciousLife: helping people to live their precious lives well.

'Today, we care for 2,000 people every year and need to raise over £5million a year to do so. For over 40 years we have relied on local people to fund us year in, year out and this need continues, as just 13% of our income comes from the NHS. As we celebrate being 40, we need people's support more than ever to help fortify us for the next 40 years. A donation of just 40p a day, £12 a month will sustain us.

'Finally, to our volunteers... We started with twenty-five volunteers and now have 1,200 who give us a total of 130,000 hours of their time every year. So many, many more have helped us



throughout the years and without them, and our dedicated staff team, we simply wouldn't be able to do what we do. As our founder, Pam, said, 'Everyone has a talent and we need all those talents', which is still as relevant today as it was 40 years ago. I urge you, get involved, help us, volunteer, donate, live your precious life well – The Hospice of St Francis is here for everyone! Find out more at www.stfrancis.org.uk.

Prunella Murray
The Hospice of St Francis



Confirmation and me



My Confirmation experience was a long journey, a journey about self-enlightenment and my own belief and relationship with God. Why did I choose to? Why now? What is involved?

One could suggest I have been guided in this direction since childhood, being baptised as a baby, receiving my first Holy Communion at eight, not to mention attending a Convent primary school. It only seemed logical that the next step was to be Confirmed. Despite all these reasons I didn't receive Confirmation at what is typically regarded the common age, largely due to our Church being rebuilt and the parish priest passing away, but also because by the time the church had a permanent priest again, I was an older teenager, self-conscious and focused on preparing for the rest of my life. Did I have time for church and God?

Several years later, post-university, I was still in a period of trying to find who I am, attempting to establish myself in the world and to start 'my dream' career in a competitive field to no avail. I felt stuck, forgotten, lost and incomplete.

One simple moment resonated; during my usual London commute home, I was once again jockeying for a space on the congested underground. Finally on board where everyone was pushing and cramming just to fit in, all sense of personal space gone, I was greeted in the face by someone's phone and another's newspaper. I realised that I became irritated by commuters who would rather satisfy their own needs than be considerate to others. Observing the faces in the carriage, a concoction of gloomy and indifferent expressions, people avoiding any eye-contact as well as some also suffering the obliviousness of books, newspapers and phones in their faces, consideration and friendliness was absent. I was worried – was I also morphing into a monotonous commuter? It may sound judgmental, but the point is, I did not want to add to the despondency.

Accompanying my grandmother to Mass that weekend, the new priest mentioned the commencing Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program,

welcoming all those interested in learning or becoming part of the faith to join. Knowing I was searching for something, I decided to attend.

In the first session I sat nervously, surrounded by a large number of people. All shy feelings quickly dissipated when we were invited to introduce ourselves. It became clear how diverse the group was: people of all ages, from various countries and backgrounds, attending for different reasons – to join the church, to complete their sacraments, people already fully part of the church wanting to know more about the faith.

Led by course leaders, every week a new topic was introduced; Advent, Lent, Holy Mary, the sacraments, to mention a few. The group quickly became a supportive structure; what was discussed and points of view shared were all confidential. For myself, it became a secure time to search and (extensively) question further. This weekly group gave me the freedom, confidence and encouragement to investigate my thoughts, feelings and more importantly my own personal relationship with God: no sense of judgment, and that became a catalyst.

Seeing how people's lives have now become intensely entwined with technology, people addicted to their devices, whether to social media, television or other, we forget to live in the present and to interact. I no longer wanted to live my life dependent on the consuming, clouding nature of technology.

I recall searching for moments to be with God, eager to understand more. I sought and found him in times of silence. Taking the time to be by myself, often with nature, understanding the powerfulness of just being in the moment alone to absorb and appreciate the beauty and peace around me, a world created by God.

Surprisingly, over time I noticed a shift in my attitude, especially to more trying situations, such as being less agitated with commuters. I found myself asking my family, (a mixture of Catholics, agnostics and CofE), their opinions on



topics and other people with different opinions and religions also wanting to chat. I was no longer inhibited to discover and discuss; instead of being secretive or insular about my journey of discovery I realised open communicative discussions helped me establish what I believe.

We were invited to attend Westminster Cathedral's service 'Rite of the Elect'; an occasion marking the official start to our commitment about to be undertaken. Candidates and catechumens supported by their sponsors, family and friends declared their intent to join the faith. Viewing the different communities come together for this main purpose, to be embraced by the church in faith, was profound. The opportunity to talk with the Bishops, explaining my decision to finally get Confirmed, affirmed this was right for me.

Soon after, the preparation for the RCIA members to be initiated began, which included selecting a saint. My mother inspired me to choose someone I wanted as a lifelong friend, to walk with me in the world and who I can ask for help in times of need, someone whose attributes and special gifts I admire.

After spending a lot of time, energy and focus on a purpose, working towards the climax at the Easter Vigil mass where a sea of people were holding lit candles, was special. Having the energy of the congregation kindle your faith is something hard to express. The moment the priest laid his hands upon my head and christened me with my chosen saint's name, blessing me with Chrism oil, I felt a sense of fulfilment, as if I were not lost. I am under no illusion that I will have no trials and tribulations in the future, nor did I expect an epiphany, to have the answers to life's abundant questions, or completely find myself; but to have divine support, an opportunity to be strengthened by God, is what helps.

Some would argue that I don't need to go to church and perform all these rituals; if God is truly what others say he is – love, forgiveness, understanding, mercy, to name but a few – then he will not judge me, or punish me for not going to Church. This is true: however, if you were given a precious gift, why would you not accept it?

Alexandra Hazeldine, Corpus Christi

Recycling poppies



It seems incredible that over six months has passed since we were in the midst of over 10,000 knitted and crocheted poppies as the Poppy Project paid tribute to all the

fallen in WW1, especially to those men from Tring. When we took down the installation at the end of November, the burning question that was asked so many times was 'What are you going to do with all the poppies?'

At that time we needed a welcome break from poppies as they had taken over our lives for some months and we needed time to reflect. We washed and dried the ones that had been outside, and they were all packed away into our lofts. We were certain that they were not going into landfill, and that it would be impossible to unpick them and re-knit them into jumpers for the homeless! We wanted, if possible, to use them to raise further funds for the Royal British Legion (we have already handed over more than £1000 raised by the poppy project installation), so conversations were had with Caroline Hind of the local branch of RBL. Ideas flowed and plans were made which can now be revealed!

Some of the poppies will be kept and used in future commemorations. But most will be recycled and offered to the public in return of a donation to the RBL. The many wreaths that we made can go as they are; the poppies on ropes will be removed and used in a variety of ways, put on wires and put into bunches, pins



sewn onto the backs and turned into brooches, and a few added to hats and scarves as a decoration. The ideas are still coming!

If you would like to help in this task, there are several ways you can. On Tuesday afternoons in Tring Parish Church, between 2.00-4.00pm, there is a weekly drop-in Craft and a Cuppa group who will start the process. Then we have two Saturday afternoon workshops planned, 17 August and 12 October, both 2.00-4.00pm, in the Parish Hall behind the Church. You are welcome to come to any of these. Please contact me on 01442 824929 or jiggoody@ntlworld.com for further information or if you want to make a home for any new-styled poppies.

Janet Goodyer, St Peter & St Paul



Famous for our Mega Stick Walk for Christian Aid



In 2014 when the Tring Team Parish updated our Mission Action Plan, one of the questions asked 'How do we want to be described in five years' time?'

We answered in the box in the form without trying to use elegant prose as follows: 'We aim to be a great group of churches that people want to be part of. Everyone who lives and works in our Parish can access the churches because of our open approach to God. We make new disciples via the vast and diverse list of activities we undertake. We are famous for our work in transforming communities; reaching out to those in need across the world as well as at

home. We love and believe in God and we help all people realise that they are known and loved by God.'

We have achieved many of the priorities and action points that we gave ourselves. There is a more up-to-date version but sometimes it is good to look back and see what we have done with a five-year-vision.

I get the impression that folk really do want to be part of our church communities. We arrive early for church and stay a long time afterwards. We appear to be making new disciples, and I am looking forward to this year's Confirmation. But what about being famous for our charity work? There was at the time much debate about the word 'famous'. We also thought about the words recognised or praised, and it is a struggle to get the right word. Maybe



we should have said we want to inspire other people by the charity work we are engaged in.

I can assure you I am inspired! I believe it is truly incredible that we can say we are going to have a sponsored walk and we are going to aim to raise £5,000 for the poorest people in the

world and then to absolutely smash that target with a sum over £10,600 at the last count. So when I read our vision for where we want to be in 2019 I am quietly chuffed. Of course, it begs the question where do we want to be in 2024? We began our discussions about

this at our PCC on 12 June. Our Vision Day (open to all) is on 28 September. If you have any thoughts on this, speak to one of the clergy or John Whiteman and Vivianne Child who are planning the Vision Day.

Huw Bellis, Tring Team



Old fashioned values: it's a Tring thing

When my husband and I moved to Tring seven years ago our family was already grown up and had left home, so the annual 'FOTCH Family Fun Day' was not a date I thought we needed to keep. This year I realised I was wrong! And happily so.

At the end of last year I became aware of The Friends of Tring Church Heritage. I read a leaflet that had been posted through our front door and realised there was this group of people working to ensure that the physical building of the Church of St Peter & St Paul is retained and improved. This local landmark, that we often take for granted, may not survive in its current condition or be improved and updated without the support of not only its congregation but also of a Friends organisation. FOTCH is made up of people who attend the Church, as well as those who don't but value the building itself and its place at the heart of our town. I decided to become a member myself and to explore if there was anything (not too demanding!) that I could do to help out.

I was introduced to Helen Dunford who runs events for FOTCH and was busy organising this year's 'Family Fun Day'. I don't know what preconceived ideas I had about what the people behind FOTCH were like – but Helen and her team made me revise them! She is a 'force of nature' with energy and enthusiasm as well as a friendly and welcoming personality that instantly put me at ease.

I had never been to a Family Fun Day before so was happy to put my hand up for anything! Luckily Helen



thought I would be useful on the Teddy Tombola stand. Helen did all the hard work sourcing enough teddy bears for the stand (and this meant having at least seventy-five furry friends to attract visitors to the stall). We spent an evening at the beginning of May labelling up the soft toys and folding tombola tickets. The evening was good fun and was made all the more enjoyable for a large glass of wine and a good natter along the way.

The morning of the event arrived and, despite a few nice days in the run up, Saturday's weather forecast was not good. So, I donned my comfy shoes and plastic mac and headed down to the Parish Church. I am not sure what time the other helpers got out of bed but by 10.30am the whole area was looking great: colourful and festive with lots of stands offering an array of things to attract custom! And foot-tapping music

to get us 'in the mood'. The plant tables, face painting, 'beat the goalie', the food and beer tents and the ever important 'Teddy Zip Wire' rubbed shoulders with several other stalls – including the Teddy Tombola!

I was introduced to Shena, another 'newbie' who was there to help on the Tombola stall too. We quickly got to grips with what we needed to prepare and then spent the next few hours enjoying talking to families, selling tickets, watching little faces light up when they won a teddy and generally thoroughly enjoying ourselves (as well as dodging the odd rain/hail storm!).

It was really nice to see local families attend and have fun all together – without spending a fortune! I was reminded of a quote I heard (but can't attribute): 'If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them and half as much money'. The Tring Family Fun Day is not about costing a family a fortune for a fleeting thrill ride. It is about supporting a good cause (with as little as 25p if you just want a tombola ticket!) whilst enjoying the company of your family and other families from the area.

There is something quite 'quaint' about the Family Fun Day because it plays to the values of a fast receding era, when time and good company were more important than things and 'buying power'. I loved it. I wished I had been before. I will definitely be there again next year. And I will definitely make sure my own grandchildren get along to experience this special event.

Emma Heaney, FOTCH member



Friendship is about connections

Connections can be made not only to people, but to places and events.

Making connections as a young person, or indeed at any age, is vital for good mental health. It has been included as one of the Take Five goals described in the five ways to well-being currently being promoted by local schools. Making connections certainly brings me happiness.

When I first became involved with FOTCH (the Friends of Tring Church Heritage) about ten years ago, I didn't really know anyone and certainly couldn't class any FOTCH member as a friend. However, over the past years, I have most certainly made many connections and now consider many of the activists with whom I work to be friends. We connect over a shared goal – creating events to enable other people to enjoy their friendships and connections to each other, our town and our Church, whilst raising funds for FOTCH. It all seems like a win-win.

The power of connections was truly evident at the FOTCH Family Fun Day in May. It was evident in the warm welcome my daughter, Hannah, received from members of FOTCH when she returned to help us now that she's away at uni. People were really interested in what she was doing now. Watching her hug John and Sandra Luddington, among others, made me realise how strong and important these connections are.

It was evident in the kindness of new activists, Emma and Shena and others giving up their day for us. These newly hatched connections that started with



the smallest thing – a short email, text or phone call. I know that as I, too, was nurtured ten years ago, these willing souls will also be cherished and the connections will become stronger.

It was evident in the continued support we receive from those in our organisation and those in our community: The Scouts, The Sixth formers at Tring School, The Youth Café at the Parish Church, The Primary Schools, local businesses and, of course, The RAF Halton team who run the Teddy Tower event.

It was evident from the presence of regular visitors to the event. Connecting



to the same event year after year is good for happiness. Hannah recalled to someone yesterday that she danced around the Maypole at the Family Fun Day as a Bishop Wood school girl. She recalled the excitement of bringing her teddy for the teddy tower year after year.

This year, for the second year running, the same young Tring girl called Georgia was the first to sign her teddy up for the zip wire. She then joined her school choir in performing in the Parish Church. She bought tombola tickets and went home with an armful of new soft toys. She was also the lucky winner of the RAF Bear and, after dropping it off to her last night, I received the following message from her Mum:

'Thank you so much for the bear. Georgia is over the moon. Even though she is a quiet girl, she came indoors and couldn't contain her happiness. Thanks again.'

Like Hannah, Georgia will remember this event; she will remember making that connection to us, to FOTCH, to Church and to Tring. Like Hannah, she is one of many who will pick up the baton and keep the connections going into the future.

Hannah and I were also very touched to have received the Heritage Award this year (given to those who have made a special contribution to the community): a very unexpected honour. Although we will both be away from Tring for the next few years, we will certainly maintain our connection to all our friends at FOTCH – something that we both see as one of our five ways to well-being.

Helen Dunford, FOTCH Trustee



The reasonably Reverend Larsdals

In May, my family and I had the privilege of attending the service at the Church of St Peter & St Paul in Tring. My wife Johanna and I are both ministers in the Lutheran Church of Sweden, so we naturally sought out an Anglican church where we would be acquainted with the order of the liturgy and be able to worship with our hearts.

We came over from Gothenburg for the weekend to visit my old friend Josef Svenningsson, with whom I have shared many interesting conversations about faith, life, and technology. Josef and his wife have recently moved to Britain for a high-level position at a London computer company, and they chose the peaceful town of Tring for relaxed residence at a reasonable distance from the bustle of the inner city. These two precious people are not only our friends but also the godparents of our little Lukas, an inquisitive toddler soon to turn two, so it was good for them to get to see him again too.

Coming to Church with a little one is quite a different experience compared to how it was before, when we had our hands, hearts and minds free to really immerse ourselves into the beauty of worshipping God in the liturgy. Fortunately, young Master Lukas is of a rather meditative sort, especially in the mornings, much like his parents, so he is often content to sit on my lap for much of the service. Therefore, we don't worry too much about causing a disturbance in the Church.

Upon entering the gloriously medieval Church building, my prejudices about British Christians were pleasantly confirmed – I could feel the warmth radiating from smiling faces being

genuinely happy to see some new and unfamiliar people stumbling into their Church. Or on second thought, my expectations of being warmly welcomed by British believers are actually 'postjudices' formed by positive experiences, and it was great to find that Tring was no different. Our Lord said that people will know we are his disciples if we have love for each other, so just keep up that good job.

This issue of welcoming newcomers is actually of paramount importance, and a thing that many of our parishes in Sweden may need to work on. A friend of mine moved with her family to Sweden from Canada and tried a few churches before she settled for the one where I was a student at that time. Her son said after one of those failed visits, 'Mama, we can't go here, the people aren't talking to us!' Why would an inquirer come back a second time if our demeanour belies our message?

The service opened with a hymn (I can't remember which one now) but I remember the feeling. Many of the entries in our Swedish hymnal bear names like Watts, Wesley and Kaan, and also the hymns that are locally written show a kinship in how the faith is expressed. A lot of positive impulse and inspiration has come our way across the North Sea.

Speaking of our Swedish hymnal from 1986, there is one interesting fact worth mentioning, a feat of Swedish ecumenism of which we are justly proud. The first 325 hymns were chosen jointly by a council of all Swedish-speaking Christian churches, and appear identically in the hymnals of each and every denomination, from the Catholics

and Lutherans to the Pentecostals and the Salvation Army. From 326 and onwards, each denomination supplies its own songs. By singing each other's songs, we learn to respect and draw inspiration from each other's traditions, and so one single service can feature hymns from a diversity of countries, centuries and styles. When chosen well, there is a beautiful unity in the diversity, echoing the multifaceted grace of the eternal God of history at work in our 21st century lives.

Proceeding into the liturgy, I was warmed by the wording of the prayers used. Not only is there a richness of nuance and directness of heart in the English language, the Anglican tradition also preserves the best of the Church's historical liturgy in a shape that is constructive and conducive to the heart's intimate dealings with the living God. The prayers of preparation and penitence reflect the greatness of God and the sobering responsibility of us human beings, while ending on a positive note that gives an impetus forward to raise one's gaze to meet the shining eyes of the glorified Christ saying, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go now, and sin no more.'

Much more could and should be said, but the format forces me to cut short here. In all, attending the service with fellow worshippers in Tring was a beautiful and memorable experience for me, and I look forward to coming back when Lukas shall be visiting his godparents again.

Tony Larsdal
visitor to St Peter & St Paul



To be a pilgrim



As a regular attendee of the Easter Monday Pilgrimage, and 'old' as I was reminded this year, I was surprised to find that, having started doing the pilgrimage fifty-four years ago, it was earlier than anyone else at the Abbey that day. I must hasten to add I have not done it fifty-four times as I did have a few years off when I had the children and when they were small.

But in latter years it has become something of a personal challenge for me. One year I will stop but while I don't hold anyone up and I can get there in one piece, I will continue. The Comment Editor asked what it was like all those years ago and how has it changed.

Back in the mid-sixties when I started doing it, I lived in Kings Langley and it was a leisurely seven-mile walk, although we did walk back as well. I joined the Church Youth Group when I was confirmed and so walked with them. It was started seventy-five years ago by the bishops for the young people, especially for those newly confirmed, so it was a part of the youth scene, and the average age was relatively young.

The years passed, and I moved to Tring in 1971. The young people who were now not so young kept coming as well, and numbers grew to such an extent that the Abbey was too small to hold everyone. The decision was made to hold it outside in the Abbey Orchard with a quick procession past the shrine of Alban. In those days it was a non-communion service, very joyful with lots of waving programmes and clapping in celebration. But this got too costly to run by the Diocesan Youth Service (for a service that clearly wasn't just for the young) so the decision was made to have the last one. This was probably about twenty years ago, but now I'm not sure. However, the Abbey staff decided it

was too good an opportunity to lose, so at the eleventh hour it was resurrected. It was back in the Abbey this time for a communion service and continues in that format to the present day.

So, what is the same and how has the pilgrimage changed? The variety of weather from torrential rain, hail, sunshine and blazing heat hasn't changed, nor has getting blisters! There is still the same mixture of tiredness and aching joints, along with a sense of achievement and utter joy in celebrating together the Risen Lord. And that can be hard with virtually no chairs anywhere. The organisers always give out badges: sadly some of mine didn't survive the washing machine! 'Guide me, O thy Great Redeemer' (my favourite hymn) is somewhere in the order of service, and we always raise the roof by singing 'Thine be the Glory' as the last hymn!

The changes are the route, which is now a little longer (now seventeen miles) as we take fewer roads and more canal and footpaths and that means an earlier start. The numbers walking from Tring have varied over the years but have got consistently higher in the last ten years or so and we have a good mixture of ages. And for the first time there was an electronic collecting plate for contactless payments!

But I think over the years my ideas of pilgrimage have developed from at first being a fun thing to join in with others of the same age, to a sense of space for myself and God but also community. Having recently watched and enjoyed programmes about pilgrimage, it has made me question what pilgrimage is all about and why I continue to do it, as well as the Churches Together Walk of Witness. This last Good Friday, Grahame Senior spoke of the Walk of Witness being the same walk as we did last year and the year before. This struck a chord with me as I realised it is the same Walk of Witness and the same pilgrimage I have been doing all my life as a pilgrim.



I found recently a definition of the Seven Stages of Pilgrimage. For me it fits well with life as a pilgrim.



1 Mindfulness

The first stage involves thinking about being a pilgrim rather than just travelling from A to B.

2 Journey / Voyage

The second is about recognising that journeys are entities in themselves and can, if you allow them, take on a life of their own. They are not just a means to an end.

3 Companionship / Friendship / Consideration / Awareness

The third is becoming aware of the people with whom you are travelling and why you are together, discovering what each of you brings as well as being honest about some of the tensions.

4 Illumination / Seek / Epiphany / Exploration / Understanding

The fourth is about understanding the story that has brought you there: your story.

5 Absorption / Zen / Immersion

In the fifth stage you lose your role as an observer and become part of the landscape and part of someone else's story.

6 Observation / Appreciation / Appraising / Praising

The sixth stage is to actually look at the landscape you are passing through.

7 Metamorphosis / Transformation / Transfiguration / Ascendance / Transcendence

The seventh and final stage is to recognise that at the end of the journey you should be a different person from the person who set out.

Janet Goodyer, St Peter & St Paul

Tweet of the month

Here is an excerpt from The Bible that I take exception to. It is from Leviticus, Chapter 11:13-16. 'These you shall regard as detestable among the birds. They shall not be eaten; they are an abomination: the eagle... the sea gull, the hawk of any kind.' It is not the fact that the list of birds mentioned are considered unclean and so are not to be eaten – I'm all in favour of them not being eaten. It is the use of the term 'sea gull'.

Anyone who knows me well will know that I can be a bit of a pedant at times. If The Bible had said 'gull' I would have no problem with that, but there is no gull called sea gull. Obviously for a lot of people all gulls are sea gulls and they are probably referring to Herring Gulls as these are a common seaside gull. However, to me a sea gull is one that is comfortable out on the sea and most gulls tend to stay close to the coast; even when migrating they are likely to minimise the time they spend far from the coast. Some gulls are definitely not sea gulls. The Andean Gull, for instance, is found breeding in the

Andes and Franklin's Gull breeds in the middle of Canada – far from the sea.

Mediterranean Gull is one of my favourite gulls and its status has changed significantly during the course of my lifetime. When I was a teenager it was still pretty rare in Britain and I saw



my first at Portland Bill in 1976; at this stage it was thought to be confined to the coast. A few years later my second encounter was one at a rubbish tip about forty miles inland. Since the 1970s its population has increased significantly in Britain and there are a number of breeding colonies mainly on the coast.

They also turn up every year at Tring Reservoirs. While they do breed on the coast they also breed inland and hundreds of miles from the sea. One of the main reasons I like it is that I think Mediterranean Gull is a beautiful bird. It is a small gull, a little larger than a Black-headed Gull, with an actual black head – ironically Black-headed Gull actually has a brown head. Unlike our commoner gulls it has no black on its wings when a fully grown adult and this gives it a striking appearance.

There are a number of phrases, pages or chapters in The Bible that I don't believe are literal truth. This term is not one of those, but it does strike a chord with me. While it does slightly jar with me 'sea gull' does not lessen the effect reading The Bible has on me and demonstrates God's great love for us all – personified in Jesus, our saviour. So, if there are bits of The Bible you struggle with, look past them to see the love of God.

Roy Hargreaves, St Peter & St Paul

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Uniquely outstanding (11)
 - First part of a service (7)
 - Approaches (5)
 - Bodily help (4)
 - A particular example (8)
 - Perfume of flowers (6)
 - Cause anger and pain (6)
 - 'Suffer the little to come unto me' (8)
 - Ancient god of Norway (4)
 - Makes plain: displays (7)
 - Songs of praise (5)
 - Relating to study of religion (11)

- CLUES DOWN**
- Warrior under King David (5)
 - Relating to the devil (7)
 - Type of church screen (4)
 - Filling in for a short time (6)
 - Make holy (8)
 - Water outlet (5)
 - Arise (6)
 - Member of a Jewish sect (8)
 - Ancient coin (6)
 - At the core of (7)
 - Sacramental glass (6)
 - Stupid person (5)
 - Relating to the nose (5)
 - Gangster (4)

Answers on page 38

Soil and soul



I've always thought there is something wonderfully healing about soil. In my first, shady, postage stamp garden in London I enjoyed creating a little oasis where I could

sit on my pallet bench and drink a cup of coffee. I was delighted when my children enjoyed playing in the dirt, and the game of 'Mudville' (a city built from wet earth, see picture) kept them entertained for many years. Today, I feel enormously blessed to have acquired a large garden which I look forward to developing and nurturing over the coming years.

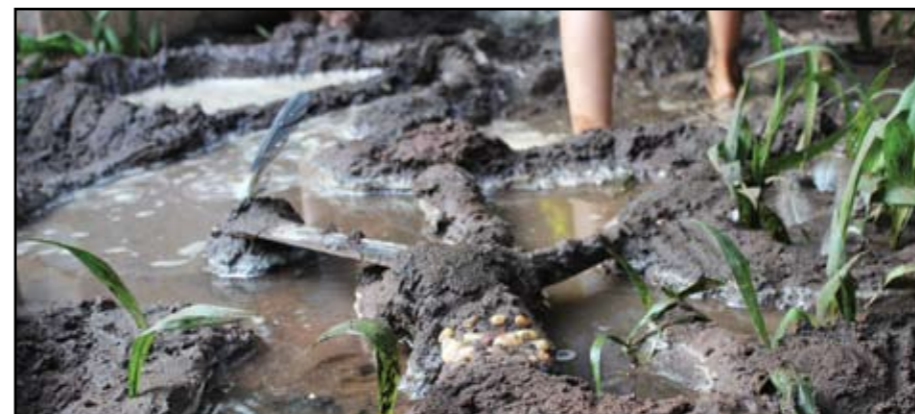
I also find nature incredibly restorative. Sitting in a garden with bees buzzing and birds flitting about, and ideally the sun on my face, is nothing short of bliss. This week I've been challenged to think about the wider benefits of gardens and my role as a Christian to help maximise the garden space at our Church.

This week I attended Green Health Live2, a conference at Lambeth Palace encouraging churches to utilise their green spaces for better mental health. There were many inspiring projects and

initiatives presented at the conference as well as a solid research base to support the benefits of green spaces for well-being. The effects are not only seen in those engaging in gardening, but also those 'being' in gardens.

The conference opened with the Rt Revd James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle, highlighting that the Bible begins and ends with garden scenes. Then there are numerous references to cultivation, seeds, growing and things organic throughout the Bible. Jesus himself sought solitude and time with God in a garden before his crucifixion. It was highlighted during the conference, that Church gardens can be places of healing, light and refreshment. What I love about these words is they are open to interpretation and have levels of meaning. They are also challenging to us as Christians to re-think about our green spaces and how we might make them such.

My head is brimming with ideas about how, in Tring, we might develop our green Church spaces – large or small – for wider community benefit. I wonder what God is calling us to do: perhaps create a peaceful space to eat a sandwich during a lunch break on the High Street, maybe a group for those who are isolated or lonely, a



Where to find out more
An article concisely outlining evidence for the benefits of green spaces
www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2018/4-may/features/features/the-healing-powers-of-gardens-and-green-space

Guild of Health and St Raphael
gohealth.org.uk

Conservation Foundation including several projects linking faith to the environment
www.conservationfoundation.co.uk

drop-in gardening time for people with learning difficulties or living in shared accommodation with no garden access, or a partnership with a care home or another community group.

Although we are fortunate to be surrounded by wonderful countryside, a garden can offer something different. A Church garden might not only flourish with flowers, plants and wildlife, but it could help people link well-being and spirituality in order to allow human flourishing.

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A very long journey

On 9 May I was licensed Lay Reader for the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness in St John the Baptist in Rothiemurchus.

As Lay Eucharistic Minister I was licensed to assist at St Columba in Grantown on Spey, and St John the Baptist, Rothiemurchus and in the administration of Holy Communion. As Lay Reader I am authorised to perform the office of Lay Reader in the Diocese, and to teach in schools, to visit the sick, to read and explain the Holy Scriptures, to exhort and to pray in private households, to hold such services as approved, and generally to render aid in all ministrations which do not require the services of a minister in Holy Orders.

This will be fitted in with being

Diocesan President of Mothers' Union in Moray Ross and Caithness (including the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles), soon to be the Mothers' Union in Northern Scotland and the Islands (when we join with the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney). We do not have a Provincial President so the four Diocesan Presidents are running the Province along with our Zonal Trustee, Paul. I am the Provincial Representative, which means I am on the British and Ireland Board of Trustees, and was at Mary



Sumner House later in May too. All being well I will be at the Worldwide Council in Rwanda in June this year.

I still work part time as Tour Guide at Dalwhinnie Distillery!

I started the journey to being a Reader when I was still in the Tring Team Parish. I was accepted for Reader training in 2005 but retired from the Police and moved to Dalwhinnie in 2010. Jon Reynolds was my Academic Supervisor and organised multi-faith visits for me to Watford Mosque, Radlett Synagogue and the Hindu Temple and Shrine in George Harrison's old manor in Aldenham. Huw Bellis was my Pastoral Supervisor. It has been a long journey!

Love and blessing to all in Tring.

Deborah Munday, formerly Tring Team

Letter from Orkney



Those people who managed to read to the end of the June edition of 'Letter from Orkney' may recall that Mac's final comment was 'I get fatter, the whisky tastes better and Carrie despairs'. This is true on all three counts.

It may also be recalled that Mac was contemplating getting his project boat from its winter mooring propped up on bits of wood on the front lawn and move it onto a trailer. This would be no trifling matter. I can now report the task was duly undertaken on a sunny day when the wind had dropped to a level that it wasn't likely to blow us or the boat away.

As I had anticipated, the job took quite a while and there wasn't a lot I could do to assist. Mac pulled bits of wood, concrete, a jack hammer and trolley jack into service and I stood by with my phone to call the emergency



services in case (a) the boat collapsed on top of him (although he would probably be past help if that happened), or (b) he had a heart attack. Both scenarios seemed likely at one point. However, he triumphed in the end and 'Peedie Smidge' is now perched happily on her trailer, if a little 'on the wonk'. All that needs doing now is a paint job and the hole under the waterline to be patched up; oh, and the engine to be fixed so it runs properly. Despair? Me? Why would I do that?

Spring is now firmly underway and we have had our first visitors of the year. The first set enjoyed glorious sunshine when Orkney looked its best, and as enthusiastic photographers, it could not have been better for them. The following week the second lot arrived. Unfortunately it then turned cold, wet and windy, and we could see them wondering why on earth we had moved to such a bleak and desolate place. However, as they were here primarily for the Orkney Folk Festival it wasn't a major issue, and on their last day the sun came out and they then knew why we have moved to such a beautiful land. The Festival itself was a huge success, and whilst obviously folk music dominated, there was also a band from Cuba, heavy metal music, and a band described as playing 'Viking metal'. That was different.

There seems to be something

about Orkney that stimulates people into becoming creative, even me, and I am someone who can't draw a straight line or do anything imaginative at all. However, here there is space to think, and everyone seems to be doing something, however well or badly. This is how I found myself composing a short story and entered a competition run by a global writers' website. Much to my surprise I received an email a few weeks later saying I had come first! Obviously I don't know how many other contenders were in the competition but even so...

The other creative activity we have recently attempted for the first time was pottery. While not being allowed access to the potting wheel on our first go, I did manage to make a bowl which although was 'rustic' to say the least, did manage to hold some fruit. Mac has also had success in his artistic endeavours but no doubt he will explain all in the next 'Letter from Orkney'. So there's something to look forward to!

Carrie Dodge, St Mary's Stromness



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You never know who will read Comment



Over the last three or four years, I have written a few articles to help fill the pages of our Comment magazine (which goes to show that Annette will consider anything if she is desperate!). I thought readers might be interested in the ramblings from time to time of someone who has lived nearly all their life in Tring. Articles ranged from education in the 1950s, my own struggles with faith, books I love to read and finally, the story of my great uncles killed in the First World War.

I was pleased to receive an email from the daughter of one of my school teachers, who enjoyed the article about the old Junior School in Tring. I have also learnt through the WW1 articles in Comment about my great grandparents, who were of lowly stock, and how they came to own a shop in Tring High Street. The death of a soldier with no relatives in the early part of WW1 meant they were able to buy the business and start up their own shop.

However, in January of this year I received an email from our Comment editor, entitled something along the lines of 'Could this be you? Have fun!'

This email opened up a part of my life that I had almost forgotten. Someone from Ireland had emailed Annette enquiring whether the Vicky Baldock who had written several articles for Comment could possibly be the Vicky

who went as a VSO to Nigeria forty-four years ago. The writer of this email was a man called Denis and I have to say that I barely recognised the person he was describing as myself in my early twenties!

What to do? Did I want to make contact with someone I stopped writing to in the mid-eighties? Or, would it be interesting to find how a friend from that time has lived most of his life? You can guess what I did. I was delighted, in fact, because Denis and I, along with several other friends, had shared a rather special time in our lives.

I arrived in Pankshin, Plateau State, Nigeria in January 1975 under the auspices of VSO to work as a mobile teacher trainer on a UNICEF Project. There were very few expatriates in this small town when I arrived; two Catholic fathers from Ireland, Father John and Father Paul, and three teachers waiting for a Federal Advanced Teacher's College to be built in the town. The three men (two Davids from England and Denis from Ireland) were living in the Rest House kicking their heels until temporary classrooms were built. Over the next few months more teachers arrived and engineers from Wimpey who had the contract to build the college.

Looking back on that time I suppose we were rather thrown together as a social group and shared our trials and tribulations when trying to work in a completely different culture from our own. We were all young and I spent quite a lot of my free time with David P, Denis and then some of the other

teachers who gradually drifted into Pankshin. Father John and Father Paul were very much involved with the people of the town, their faith and education. They spoke Hausa well and everyone else learnt much from them. We had very little in common, but spent time together, eating, drinking and discussing everything. We played cards, swapped books, listened to the world service, listened to David's vast collection of classical music and regaled each other about our work and the difficulties of working in a country where the answer to any question was 'Tomorrow'.

I remember Denis as being rather quiet and thoughtful. He was well read, proud of his own country and culture. I hope he will forgive me if I say I got the impression he was at times a little confused about his path in life. Like most teachers, he was a good communicator and we had many discussions about life in our respective countries. Denis amazingly remembered me as being good at sport and reading a lot. True, but I remember myself as having very narrow interests and knew I had much to learn about life. For example, I certainly knew nothing about Ireland in the 1970s beyond the troubles in Northern Ireland and the IRA who had, in 1974, bombed one of the pubs I used to frequent in Birmingham. I didn't even realise that in Ireland there was an Easter Uprising, Irish War of Independence and a Civil War between 1916 and 1923! That hadn't been covered in school – and I had studied World Affairs in the 20th Century at 'A' level!

Meeting Denis (and the other teachers and fathers) that came to Pankshin as the College grew was an education in itself. I realised that despite our cultural and religious differences, they didn't really matter as long as you could respect the other person's point of view. That also applied to our attitudes towards our Nigerian friends and colleagues too.

I doubt whether the UNICEF project left a lasting impression on the educational provision of Plateau State but my time in Nigeria had a lasting effect on my life. Denis wrote similar sentiments when he started emailing: a great learning experience.

On our return to our respective countries, we wrote to each other for more than eight years after we both left

Nigeria. I married my husband Mike (one of the civil engineers building the college in Pankshin) in 1978 about a month before Denis married his wife in Ireland. We both wrote about our growing families and careers until some time in the mid-1980s we lost touch. Over the years, I often wondered how Denis and some of the others were getting on. I kept in touch with my VSO friends and David P. until about the same time. Life undoubtedly became busy.

Now however I have a pen friend in Ireland again, and it is so much easier

to email than write a letter. We have caught up on spouses, children and grandchildren, careers and retirement activities (Denis returned from Nigeria to teaching and eventually became the principal of St Mel's College. He went into amateur dramatics and became a town councillor; I taught in the Midlands, went to the Lebanon and then returned to Tring where I have taught in several Primary Schools). We extended our emails and shared information about The Holiday Inn in Beirut, Kahlil Gilbran who wrote 'The Prophet', the war poets,

the U3A, the fire of St Mel's Cathedral in 2009, Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration and the Lough Derg pilgrimage – amongst other things, all relating to our life experiences. Currently Denis is walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

The first thing I asked Denis, when I replied to his email, was, 'How did you find me?' If you ever want to find a long-lost friend, then Google is a very useful tool. He googled Vicky Baldock Tring and up popped Comment.

Vicky Baldock, St Cross Wilstone

Diamonds and sapphires

Diamond wedding anniversary

Congratulations to Bill and Rosemary Carpenter on their diamond wedding anniversary! Bill and Rosemary celebrated 60 years of marriage in May 2019 with a service in St Peter & St Paul conducted by cousin Ian, a retired Chaplain from St George's Hospital, London. Their four children Penny, Philip, Teresa and Timothy were there to celebrate with them, along with members of the church community.

Bill and Rosemary were married



on 6 June 1959, both aged 25. They were the boy and girl next door whose relationship of love and support for each other has survived the test of time.

Bill was called to the ordained ministry in 1979 when they already had four children. Bill was part of the first year of the St Albans Ministerial Training course. This involved two evenings a week, five weekends a year and a summer school while he continued in his secular job as a sales representative. Rosemary returned to her job as a Social Worker to ease financial pressure. Bill was ordained in St Albans Abbey on 30 September 1979 and served his curacy in the church of which they were members, St Mary's, Hemel Hempstead. He went on to full-time curacy in Hatfield and then eleven very happy years as Vicar of Caversham, near Reading. When Bill retired in 1999, they moved to Tring where he was able to be useful in the Tring Parish following the departure of John Payne Cook.

Sapphire wedding anniversary

Congratulations also to Malcolm and Anne Nobbs on their sapphire wedding anniversary. Malcolm and Anne celebrated 45 years of marriage in May 2019.

Malcolm and Anne were married at St John's Greenhill Church in Harrow on 20 April 1974. Anne, who was 19, was from Harrow Weald and Malcolm, 18, was living in Greenford. They met at the Victoria Hall Youth Club attached to the Church and knew, within weeks, that they wanted to spend their lives together. They weren't church members to start with – there was just a particularly good disco for the last hour of the evening!

Presiding at their wedding was a



larger-than-life and lovely man called Peter Smith, who had a huge red beard and wore his finest gold embroidered regalia for the occasion. When they went out to sign the register, Anne's 3-year-old niece was heard to ask, 'Where's the king gone?'

Since that time, Malcolm and Anne have lived in Harrow Weald, Watford and Cheddington. They have a son and a daughter, Ben and Georgie. They came to Tring in 1984 and are both members of St Peter & Paul's Church.

The Editor



'Live each day...' why the Parish needs to plan



'Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.' A

stirring translation of a verse from Matthew's Gospel instructing us not to be anxious about the future (Chapter 6:34 AV). So, what are we doing with our time and energy, trying to develop a five-year plan for the parish?

Well, there is definitely more need for planning in the modern world than there was in the largely subsistence agricultural society in New Testament times. Even then, the sower had to sow in order to harvest later; now more

things take time and co-ordination.

Often, planning is driven by anxiety about the many uncertainties that the future holds, and is an attempt to create more certainty. It can also be an attempt to impose control on others, in an organisation or even a country. In those circumstances, planning can and should fail.

However, a good reason for planning, and a suggested approach to it, can be found in the previous verse in Matthew's Gospel: 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you'. Here, the point of planning is to try to work out what we ought to be doing. For a group of volunteers, which is what the church largely is, the process of developing a plan is the crucial element; enabling each of us to

contribute, to understand and to share an understanding of what our priorities should be.

That is what we hope to progress during the summer and especially on our Vision day on 28 September. See the advertisement for more details of that day.

Finally, my title is reference to the familiar quotation: 'Live each day as if it were your last'. It turns out that this epithet is not from the Bible, but is attributed to a Roman Emperor. The version that I like was given to me by a tea plantation manager: 'Live each day as if it were your last; farm as if you'll live for ever'. Perhaps we as Christians should be more like farmers.

John Whiteman, Tring Team

Parish Vision Day – Saturday 28th Sept 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

Epistle to the Hebrews



Having considered St Paul's letter to the Romans and the Letter of James, we come to Hebrews for something quite different. This book has been described as 'one

of the most impressive works of the New Testament'. But it is also a bit of a puzzle. 'It begins like a treatise, proceeds like a sermon and closes like an epistle' as one scholar has written. It is a treatise in that gives us a careful exposition of Christ's superiority over all that has gone before. It starts by telling us that God has spoken in many different ways through

the prophets but that now he has spoken to us through a Son. But it is also trying to prevent people from lapsing from Christianity to the idealised values of Israel's sacrificial worship. It is a sermon in calling itself a 'word of exhortation', as it puts it in the final verses. It is like a letter only in its instructions in the final chapter with its closing greetings.

Who wrote this Epistle and for whom? We do not even know what it was originally called. We call it 'To the Hebrews', but this title is not part of the original text. It was soon attributed to St Paul but there is no early evidence for this. This title is derived from the contents in that it is to an established community which would have appreciated the frequent Old Testament references; and would have had a good understanding of Israelite worship as well as a favourable attitude to it. However, this was not the current Jerusalem Temple worship but an earlier form. It was more interested in the Tabernacle and the time of the wanderings of Israel before settling in Jerusalem. For this epistle depicts Christians as a wandering people on the way to the heavenly rest.

This is a carefully constructed book, ably written in quality Greek and in a style that is consciously rhetorical. But its background is a mystery as is the identity of the author. About this there has been much speculation and many guesses – Barnabas, Luke, Clement, Apollos, Silas, Philip – but we do best to agree with the great biblical scholar of the early Church, Origen, who said 'Only God knows who wrote the Hebrews'!

What then are the author's concerns? Firstly, to demonstrate the superiority of Jesus over those who have gone before, namely the prophets, and over the angels. Such is the message of the first four chapters, starting with Christ's superiority over the angels and demonstrating this with seven Old Testament quotations. The author is addressing a community suffering hardships and so presents God's plan as exaltation through suffering. He teaches that those who believe in Jesus will be tested and goes on to show Christ's superiority over Moses. This section has the telling reminder that 'the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart'.

This leads on to the superiority of Christ's priesthood. This the author does in a way that would appeal to his readers but which modern Christians may not find easy. Jesus cannot be a priest in Old Testament terms in that he was not born of the priestly tribe of Levi. Priesthood in the Old Testament is a matter of birth. But Psalm 110 has a verse 'You are a priest for ever according to order of Melchizedek'. This refers back to when Melchizedek, a priest of God Most High, met Abraham (Genesis

14). Melchizedek has no family tree, and is a somewhat mysterious figure. Yet a priest of no genealogy gives gifts to Abraham from whom all the tribes of Israel are descended, including the priestly tribe of Levi, and this is taken to have meaning for Jesus' Priesthood. Perhaps here we note the words of Hebrews – 'we have much to say that is hard to explain'!

The writer goes on to say his readers ought to be teachers, yet, apparently, need to be taught 'the basic elements of the oracles of God'. He lists some things his readers ought not to need to be taught again (but clearly do) such as baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection and so on. This leads to some hard teaching that those who have been enlightened and fall away cannot be restored. The question of whether those who lapse or commit a serious sin after Baptism can be forgiven and restored receives opposing answers in the New Testament and in the life of the early Church. Nowadays we find the judgement of Hebrews rather severe.

This epistle goes on in chapter 7 to say more about Jesus's priesthood and Melchizedek and the superiority of Christ's Sacrificial Ministry. There is a comparison between Christ's Death and the Atonement ritual of the Old Law. In other words, we are to see Old Testament ritual and sacrifices as pointers to the meaning of the Cross. All this presupposes the reader's familiarity with the Law of Moses.

That law is a shadow of what is to come and now we have confidence to enter the Sanctuary by the blood of Jesus – the great High Priest over the house of God.

Finally we come to the meaning of faith, 'the assurance of things hoped for', and we are given examples of people of faith from Abel up to Rahab at the fall of Jericho. 'Yet what more should I say?' and more names and examples are given, ending with there is 'the great cloud of witnesses' around us and we are encouraged to look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

The last chapter gives us exhortations to ethical behaviour. Christians are to 'let mutual love continue', to be hospitable to strangers, remember those in prison, respect marriage, avoid love of money, remember their leaders and not be carried away by strange doctrines.

A few more instructions lead to a blessing which we often hear at Eastertide: 'May the God of peace who

brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ...'

Finally a bit of news about Timothy and some greeting including from 'Those from Italy'. How we would like to know more personal details about the author of this great Epistle and those to whom it was written!

Martin Banister, St Albans Abbey

Songs of Praise



I would be interested to know what other people remember about 'Songs of Praise' from Tring.

We rehearsed on a cold evening in March 1971 and recorded the following evening, which was even colder, because the West Doors of the Parish Church were wide open for the cables for all the BBC's equipment. The programme was eventually broadcast on Whit Sunday that year. (I remember these dates so clearly because they tie in with stages of my first pregnancy!)

The presenter was Peter West, more famous as a cricket commentator and host of 'Come Dancing'.

Was Colin Stevens the organist? Who else was in the choir? I remember that there were many people there who were not from our normal congregation so was it supported by all the other churches in Tring? Can anyone remember the hymns we sang?

Carole Wells, St Peter & St Paul

More on Notre Dame



I assume the iconic photo of the Resurrection Cross could not be shown for copyright reasons. TV pictures showed French Christians praying in front

of the burning building, and the dramatic picture when the west doors were opened the following morning of the Resurrection Cross, a powerful symbol of hope for secular France to turn back to the religion it once followed, where ironically the state now owns the Cathedrals.

I visited Notre Dame in Holy Week



1987 and photographed the historic Churches across the city from the West Gallery where the gargoyles are now cardboard replacements awaiting proper restoration.

After obvious questions about feeding the poor, the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu replied that we don't need buildings to worship in, and described his experience of worshipping

in the bush in Uganda; that we could afford both; and that a house for the church was necessary for inviting people to. The Bishop put it much more elegantly and in fewer words, on the Radio 4 news!

The article in the June edition of Comment raised other interesting questions. I have only once cried over the destruction of an historic building – the Glasgow School of Art the first time it was gutted. For Glasgow this was probably like Notre Dame for Paris. For me this is possibly the most important Scottish building, and the most important in Britain at the time of its construction.

Leslie Barker, St Peter & St Paul



'Jaw-jaw' is better (and cheaper) than 'War-war'



I have tried to resist the temptation to inflict my views of Brexit on the loyal readers of Comment. I feel that, as Christians, we have an obligation to be respectful of

different views, but also to be honest, and in particular to tell the whole truth.

I am compelled to respond to a piece in the June edition, which suggested that translation services

in the European Parliament are an embarrassing extravagance. May I offer some evidence (readily available on the EU's own website)? The total EU budget is equivalent to 1% of the continent's annual income (and agriculture is still the largest single item in the budget). Translation services are 1% of that EU budget. I would suggest that to spend one hundredth of one percent of our income on making sure that our elected MEPs can communicate freely is not really an extravagance. We have just commemorated the centenary of the ending of one war which

involved millions of casualties and the devastation of Europe; next year we shall remember the 75th anniversary of another calamitous war for Europe and beyond. To 'waste' a little on talking might not be a bad idea.

Just for the sake of accuracy (!), the title is my misquote of Macmillan's misquote of Churchill. My sources are as follows: https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/eu-budget/how-it-works/fact-check_en; <https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/quotes/quotes-falsely-attributed/>

John Whiteman, St Peter & St Paul

In memory of Brenda Tourle

On Palm Sunday 2019 New Mill lost one of its longest established residents.

Brenda Tourle went to be with her Lord and Saviour after an illness of several months, patiently borne. She was a popular and hard-working member of New Mill Baptist Church and she will be much missed.

I first met Brenda when I retired and started to attend the Women's Fellowship at Akeman Street Baptist Church. She, along with a few other ladies from New Mill Baptist, used to meet with us on a Tuesday afternoon and we much enjoyed their fellowship.

One of the earliest memories I have is when we presented Brenda with a beautiful gold chrysanthemum plant to mark her Golden Wedding Anniversary. Looking at her I thought there must have been some mistake. How could she have been married for that long? She looked so young! She told me that she had married Dan at the age of 17 and was very thankful for their long and happy years together. Friends have reported that her heart was at the centre of her family and friends. Dan was her childhood sweetheart

and Susan and Kevin their beloved children. Four grandchildren, and now great grandchildren, kept her thoughts and conversations going for hours. She was always so proud of her family. They will miss her enormously: as her granddaughter said, 'She has left a huge hole in our lives that can never be filled'.

Born Brenda Adams in Icknield Way in April 1940, just as the Second World War was getting under way, her father worked for the Council. Life was not easy. One of her many stories was that part of her household duties as she grew was to go to the local gas works with a pram and fetch the coke for their fire – in all weathers! Her early life, with its difficulties, made her the grateful, kind-

hearted and loving person she grew up to be.

She went to New Mill Baptist Sunday School at the age of 4 and the seed was set for her long devoted love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Her first teachers

the little ones very evident. She was also an officer in The Boys Brigade at the church.

Brenda had many friends, and she enjoyed holidays (she loved the sun) and outings with all of them. With lifelong friends Ron and Jennifer she and Dan enjoyed many happy days. After Dan passed away she was a great support to Ron and Jennifer, and they to her; and then when Jennifer passed, she and Ron helped and supported each other. In the course of this Brenda went with Ron as he took services and played at other Churches so she became known and loved at Wigginton, the Shaftesbury Home in Northchurch, Emma Rothschild Court and others.

I asked some of her friends for their memories and was so pleased with the responses: 'She was kind and gentle, not at all forceful'; 'She had a lovely sense of humour, was always laughing'; 'She loved to talk to me about the Lord'; 'Brenda set out to do certain things in her life and did her best to achieve them'.

She will be missed in many places and by many people, but we are glad we knew her and thankful

were Miss Young and Mrs John Green. Whilst a teenager and attending Church regularly, she understood that Jesus loved her and gave his life for her on the cross, rising on the third day for all those who believed in him, and she believed. She was baptised and became a very useful, lifelong member and witness at the Church.

She went to Watford College to study catering which led to employment – over thirty years as a School Cook – and also to give her invaluable help in many 'Food' events at the Church. She was not pushy, but always willing to have her say, give advice and join in with activities. With Dan she ran the Tot-spot for some time, her care and affection for

to God that she was part of so many of our lives.

**Joan Eeley
Akeman Street Baptist Church
With Ron Jeffries
New Mill Baptist Church**





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In memory of Paul Edward Rutter

Paul, otherwise known as 'Mr R' was born on 20 March 1938, only son to George and Doris Rutter. He and his sister Olga and her friend Christine all attended Kingsgate School, Wembley Park. To Christine, Paul was just her friend's elder brother.

Paul's sister Olga became engaged to Ken Martin and wanted some time away together but Paul's father would not allow this unless Paul went along as chaperone. Olga enlisted help from Christine to join the party to keep Paul 'out of the way'! After Olga's wedding, ever the romantic, Paul said, 'Now our job is over, shall we still continue to go out together, or what?' Christine and Paul went out together and eventually married on 5 June 1965.

Paul started work in the family business, out on the road opening and grading Government and Post Office safes, something he really enjoyed. After the untimely death of his father in 1964, Paul took over management of the business. He was never a natural behind a desk, and was far happier when he could escape into the workshop and get filthy working on safes, strongroom doors and locks. He invented a device (now used widely in safes) using a shaped unit of toughened glass with wires attached to the safe boltwork. If a safe was attacked, this would lock the boltwork into position. Typically, Paul never took official recognition for this invention.

Paul and Christine had two sons, Edward and Bruce, both of whom also followed him into the family business.

When the old firm closed down, both boys started their own businesses continuing the work they had previously done, Edward transporting heavy machinery and Bruce working with locks. Paul continued working to the end of his life having joined Bruce, and thoroughly



enjoyed himself building lock cylinders. He was always ready to give security advice on locks and safes, and several Churches within the Tring Team and beyond have benefited from upgraded security with Paul's help.

Paul's father introduced him to Freemasonry at the age of 21. This is something he really loved, and was very quietly proud of awarded a Grand Lodge honour. He was not a man to push himself forward, but was

able to help many lodges and lodge members because of the knowledge and experience he had gained over the years.

Paul was not a great conversationalist. He only really had two subjects: Freemasonry and work! He was also never a man for fashion. He had but three main modes of dress: Pinstripes for Masonic; suit, white shirt and tie for work (however dirty he might end up getting); and a pair of Dicky trousers covered in paint, a high viz motorway maintenance coat and welly boots for home.

In his teenage years he developed a love of horses. Later in life, he took up riding again and was introduced to a horse called Spartacus. 'Spart' was eventually purchased by Paul, who kept him until the end of his days. In fact, Paul always said that he bought his home, Astrope Folly, for Spartacus. Dogs had also followed him throughout his life: Toby, Bart and Bret, Sue, Bess and finally Ginny. He had always said that he couldn't be seen out walking a little dog, and then Ginny, a Jack Russell/fox terrier type, came into his life, and she was the favourite of all his dogs.

Although he was unaware of it, Paul developed cancer and died after a short period illness on 19 April. He was 81. His funeral was on 8 May in St Mary's Church, Puttenham, where he was on the electoral roll and Christine has been Church Warden for many years.

He will be sadly missed by all the family.

Christine Rutter, St Mary's Puttenham

Parish registers

Baptisms

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

Ottillie Bella Edwards
Millie Jones
Annabel Lemming
Joshua Matthew Oakley
Brody Philip Smith
Arlo Ramirez-Heward
William Duling
Lilia-Rose Mayers
Evan Poland-Goodyer
Frank Capp

Weddings

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

Martin Kelley & Jackie Bryant
William Wilks &
Rebecca Arthur-Almond
Michael Jenkins & Amy Naalchigar
Jarvis Osborne & Stephanie Buse
Samuel Mason & Joanne Potten

Funerals

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

John Hart 79
Martina Lucy Jones 40
Sarah Jane Henshaw 40
Arlene Ambrose 76
Steven Price 47
Andrew Horsburgh 92
Caroline Wilson

Notices from the Tring Churches

ST MARTHA'S METHODIST CHURCH



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

July is the month for Friendship Club's summer lunch, which will be at the Crow's Nest, Tring Hill, on Thursday 4 July.

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 the Church as part of their tour, please liaise with the Senior Steward.

7 July 10.00am
Revd Brian Tebbutt

14 July 4.00pm
John Benson
Circuit Service at High St Methodist Church, Harpenden.
Leaving Service for Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden, Revd. Mmasape Zihle and Deacon Angie Allport.

21 July 10.00am
Communion Service
Revd Rachael Hawkins

28 July 10.00am
Audrey Cox

4 August 10.00am
John Benson

11 August 10.00am
Communion Service
Revd Rachael Hawkins

18 August 10.00am
David Morgan

25 August 10.00am
Katie Breedyk

NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH



BRIGHT HOUR
First Tuesday of every month
2.30pm

MILL CAFÉ
Thursdays 11.30am-1.30pm

4 August 10.30am
Bob Little

11 August 10.30am
Peter Wortley

18 August 10.30am
David Chapman

25 August 10.30am
David Nash

TRING COMMUNITY CHURCH



SERVICES
Every Sunday 10.30am
Nora Grace Hall

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WEEKDAY MASS
Mondays 10.00am
Thursdays 10.00am
Rosary Prayer group after
Mass

THURSDAYS
Christian Meditation Group
8.00pm in Sacristy

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

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

SUNDAYS
2.00-3.00pm Power Hour
Group Years 7 - 9

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP
Michael Demidecki
michaeldemidecki@gmail.com

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP
Thursdays, after 10.00am
Mass

LADIES GROUP
Annabelle Halliday

CHILDREN'S LITURGY
Viv Bryan, Helen Bojarski

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

MEDITATION
Thursdays 8.00pm

HIGH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Service at 10.30am with
Junior Church and Crèche

SUNDAYS @ 7
First Sunday of the month at
7.00pm

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

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE
Tuesdays 10.30am - 12noon
Coffee in the foyer in aid of
BMS World Mission

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

GAMES AFTERNOON
Wednesdays 2.00-4.00pm
Traditional games, puzzles
and refreshments

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

FRIDAY CAFÉ
Fridays 12.00-1.30pm
Freshly cooked lunches

WHO LET THE DADS OUT
First Saturday of the month at
8.30am to 10.00am

Tring Team Anglican Churches

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

1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

5TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

DACORUM FOODBANK
Weekdays 10.00am St P&P

BABY SONG TIME
Mondays in term time 11.00am St P&P

WEEKDAY SERVICES

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

YOUTH CAFÉ

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

MEDITATION

Thursdays 8.00pm Corpus Christi

COFFEE MORNINGS

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

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP TAYA

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

CTT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday 1 June at 8.30am

FIRST SATURDAY LUNCH

Saturday 6 July
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

MEN'S SOCIETY

Wednesday 3 July 7.30pm
Half Moon, Wilstone

CHURCH WORKING PARTY

Monday 8 July 6.30pm Aldbury

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Tuesday 9 July 8.00pm
Tring Parish Hall upper room

PIANO & MORE

Sunday 14 July & 11 August 3.00pm
St P&P

STICK SUNDAY

Sunday 21 July 3.00pm St P&P
Sunday 18 August 3.00pm Aldbury

DADS, LADS, DAUGHTERS AND DOGS

Sunday 14 July 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
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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
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sarah@tringteamparish.org.uk

Diocesan Lay Minister
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Ian Matthews (Tring)
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Jane Brown (Aldbury)
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Ray Willmore (Aldbury)
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Christine Rutter (Puttenham)
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Ken Martin (Wilstone)
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Rev Jane Banister (Long
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Senior Steward
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01442 822305

**AKEMAN STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH**
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Rev David Williams
01442 827881

Administrator
Emma Nash
01442 827881

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

**HIGH STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Minister
Vacancy

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

**NEW MILL
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Minister
Vacancy

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OUR CHURCHES ONLINE
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www.tringchurchmusic.org.uk
www.stmarthas-tring.org.uk
www.tringbaptistchurch.co.uk
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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 25

ANSWERS ACROSS

- UNSURPASSED
- INTROIT
- NEARS
- HAND
- INSTANCE
- NECTAR
- OFFEND
- CHILDREN
- ODIN
- EVINCES
- HYMNS
- THEOLOGICAL

ANSWERS DOWN

- URIAH
- SATANIC
- ROOD
- ACTING
- SANCTIFY
- DRAIN
- ASCEND
- SADDUCEE
- NICKEL
- ENDEMIC
- VESSEL
- IDIOT
- NASAL
- THUG

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND THE QUEST FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



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

HOSTED BY JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP TRING

HIGH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH TRING
WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2019 AT 7PM FOR 7.30PM
ADMISSION FREE ALL ARE WELCOME





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Brown & Merry were not the only agents that came to value the property but right from the start I was impressed by Alan Dempsey's knowledge, experience and professionalism; I therefore chose to market the property with him and his team. It was a good choice. The level of contact whilst seeking a buyer has been excellent; regular updates from Alan and the team on interest in the house, plus constructive feedback after each viewing and after each offer made on it. I can recommend Brown & Merry to anyone seeking a professional, effective team.

Joe Smith, a review

Brown and Merry lettings in Tring, were great to deal with. Both Emily Walker and Jo always helped to make things work with ease. Their can do attitude and always approachable has made my move such a pleasant experience, even from staff fielding calls. Highly professional yet extremely friendly. Top Marks!