

The magazine of: All Saints, Leighton Buzzard St. Nicholas, Hockliffe St. Michael's, Eggington St. Michael and All Angels, Billington The Good Shepherd, Sandhills

May 2021



All Saints Churchyard is attracting many species of wildlife. There is a rich food source as Lindsay has been feeding them well over the winter, and there are plenty of trees.

This is a Great Spotted Woodpecker, the male of the first breeding pair in the churchyard.

See Page 12 for more, including a baby muntjac and peregrine falcons.



## Inside:

#### Featuring Eco Church and nature on our doorstep:

1000 visitors to chalk trail; wildlife photos; a species count in the churchyard; and looking forward to a **Plant Sale** on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** 

Plus

Personal memories of HRH Prince Philip; A modern approach to prayer with the help of St. Ignatius of Loyola; The choir takes on a challenge; Accounts of how Easter was celebrated around the Ouzel Valley Team.

# All Saints Leighton Buzzard

Ĺ			
All Saints:	All Saints Parish Office		
	All Saints Church, Church Square,		
	Leighton Buzzard LU7 1AE		
01525 373217	Open weekdays from 9am – 1pm		
	Tel: 01525 381418		
	Website	Website www.allsaintslb.org.uk	
	Email: parish@allsaintslb.org.uk		
	Facebook: All Saints Leighton Buzzard		
	Office Manager & Vicar's PA		
	Jo waller		
01525 838450	Director of Music & Choir Master		
	Paul Dickens	01525 210210	
04525 272620			
	, e		
	James Legg	01525 379427	
01525 373644	Free Will Offering Scheme		
		•	
525 376430	,		
	· ·		
	Alison Dobbie	01525 759259	
	Mothers' Union Branch Co-ordinator		
	Janet Wenborn		
		07402 233022	
525 370987	Margaret Birtle	s 07949 141211	
525 383356	ACTIVE Youth G	Group	
52218	Lindsay Bevis	01525 381418	
	Toddler Time		
y@allsaintslb.org.uk	Julie Dolton	07954 148128	
,0	All Saints Preservation Trust		
	30, Hockliffe St, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1HJ		
525 381418	E-mail: enquiry@allsaintspreservationtrust.org		
		Website: www.allsaintspreservationtrust.org	
	01525 373217 01525 237633 01525 372149 01525 372149 01525 373638 01525 373638 01525 372771 01525 373644 525 376430 01525 757013 01525 371797 525 371750 525 371750 525 371849 525 370987 525 370987 525 383356 52218 w@allsaintslb.org.uk	All Sair Lei Open V Website Email: Facebook: All Sair Facebook: All Sair Paul Since Sanday Saints O O1525 373638 O1525 372771 O1525 373638 O1525 373644 Free Will Offeri Jenny Huskisson Sunday Saints O Alison Dobbie Sunday Saints O Alison Dobbie S25 371750 Sunday Saints O Alison Dobbie S25 371750 Sainta Saints O Alison Dobbie S25 370987 S25 370987 S25 383356 S2218 Y@allsaintslb.org.uk S30, Hockliff E-mail: enquiry	

*Saints ALIVE:* Items for publication to the Editors: Jo Waller & Julia Dickens, preferably by e-mail magazine@allsaintslb.org.uk

Advertising: Nick Clarke, 01525 234130; njnclarke@aol.com

Distribution: Stephen Jury 01525 381936; stephenljury21@btinternet.com

This magazine may not be reproduced in any form without permission. We only use images which are in the public domain or for which we have permission. We are happy to discuss the matter where it is believed this may not be the case. Views and opinions expressed in Saints Alive do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, the parish, or the Church of England.



#### Return to normal or embrace the growth By Rev'd Steve Marsh (with his pre- and post-lock-down styles)

I am writing this article on 15<sup>th</sup> April, a few days after some of the COVID 19 restrictions were lifted. One of the things



we are now allowed to do is visit the hairdressers. During the last lockdown we have all had to deal with not being able to get to the hairdressers and letting our hair grow wild. Some have literally taken matters into their own hands, and have cut their hair themselves, or have trusted a loved one to do this for them. However, most of us have endured the challenges of having longer hair than we would ideally like, appearing to be part of some 1960's Summer of Love revival.

The desire to regain control of our hair is very strong, witnessed by the queues of people outside barbershops, on the morning restrictions were eased, and the rush for appointments in salons. The relief in regaining control of our hair is palpable, restoring some dignity and a sign of hope that maybe some of the COVID 19 restrictions we have had to adapt to over the last year might finally be behind us.

I went to have my first post-lockdown haircut yesterday, and whilst I am pleased to have my hair tamed. rather than going back to the short style I had before the lockdown, I have left my hair a little longer. In lockdown, I discovered I quite liked having longer hair. Maybe it reminds me of my student days.

As we move out of some of the COVID 19 restrictions and we consider what we want to do with our hair, return to how it was, or embrace some of the growth we experienced in lockdown, so it is with other areas of our life, including our faith.

In the various lockdowns we have experienced in the last year, the congregations of the Church of the Good Shepherd and St Michael and All Angels, Billington have worshipped together online, and both congregations have expressed how much they have enjoyed getting to know each other. The two congregations have now returned to worshipping separately in their own buildings, and we could let the positive memory of worshipping together fade in our desire to return to normal. But I hope that the two congregations will not cut away the growth experienced during lockdown and look to capitalise on the positive experience of worshipping together, making efforts to nurture and encourage each other in the future.

As you decide, with your hair stylist, about what to do with your hair, return to your pre-lockdown style or embrace some of the growth, I encourage you to think similarly about your faith. Is there something you have learnt in your faith, that God has been teaching you during lockdown, and which rather than packing it away as the COVID 19 restriction are eased, you should nurture and let grow?

## Our present pattern of services across the Ouzel Valley Team

All Saints Sundays: Please note new times which allow for cleaning between services 8am Holy Communion 9.30am Parish Eucharist 11.30am 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday (until Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 2021): All Age "Service with a difference" 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Baptism 6pm Said Evening Prayer 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday: followed by Benediction Weekdays: Holy Communion 7.30pm Tuesday	www.linslade-parish.org.uk During Lockdown, services in Heath & Reach, Eggington and Hockliffe are being shared by Zoom from each church in rotation at 10am. For details please contact Fr Noel McGeeney. St. Leonard's, Heath & Reach Sundays: Occasional services 8am Holy Communion For details please visit: www.saintleonardschurch.com St. Michael's, Eggington Sundays: Occasional services St. Nicholas', Hockliffe
(Service of Healing on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	Sundays: Occasional services
12.00pm Wednesday (Not presently	
happening.)	St. Michael's and All Angels, Billington
10.00am Thursday	Sundays: 11.15am Morning Prayer
9.00am Saturday	
Morning Prayer: St. Hugh's Chapel 9.00am Monday – Friday	Good Shepherd, Greenleas School, Sandhills:
Evening Prayer: St. Hugh's Chapel	Sundays at 9.45am:
4.30pm Monday – Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Messy Church
	4 <sup>th</sup> : All Age Worship
St. Barnabas, Linslade	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Sundays:	Service times may vary.
8am Said Eucharist	For details of services and all other events,
10am Parish Eucharist 6pm Evensong	please see the websites.
opin Evensoria	

Sunday Saints: for age 3+ year olds, meets during 9.30am Sunday service at All Saints.

**All Saints Toddler Time:** meets in All Saints on Wednesdays during term time. Morning session 9.30 – 11am every week; afternoon session 1.30pm-3pm, except 1<sup>st</sup> Weds of month. £1.50 per parent / carer & child; 50p extra per child; refreshments included: **will restart in October** 

ACTIVE: (Senior Youth Group for age 11+) not meeting at present because of a lack of leaders. If you could help, please contact the office.

Young Adults: meets fortnightly on Tuesdays at 8pm. See Facebook page "All Saints Young Adults".

Bereavement Café: a support group offering friendship and understanding.

 $1^{st}$  Sunday of the month, 2.30-4pm The Spire Coffee Shop, All Saints

**Choir Practice:** Friday evenings, 7pm for 30 minutes for all members. **Bellringers:** Practice on Monday, 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Spire Coffee Shop: Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 10am-2pm.

Contact Details on Page 2.

## News Roundup

As restrictions begin to ease and as soon as you feel able, we look forward to welcoming you back to All Saints. Sunday Services at 8am and 11.30am will start again from Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

\*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

All Saints Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.

All Saints Electoral Roll will be revised before next month's Parish AGM. If you have changed address, telephone no. or email since September 2020, please contact me with the details, or leave a note in the Parish Office. Not on the Roll? All members of the congregation who are actively sharing in the life and worship at All Saints may like to consider joining the Electoral Roll. Application forms are located at the entrance to the Coffee Shop, and can be returned to the Parish Office at any time, **BUT**, before May 15<sup>th</sup> please for inclusion prior to the 2021 AGM.

**22nd May:** Plant Sale 10am - 12.30 pm. Katrina Grant will be grateful for offers of plants and help



## Diary dates

2<sup>nd</sup> May: Services as usual including All Age Communion All Saints 11.30am Bereavement Support Café Coffee Shop, All Saints 2.30pm – 4pm 16<sup>th</sup> May: Confirmation Service with Bishop Richard All Saints 3pm 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Pentecost

Services as usual including a Special Service for Pentecost All Saints 6pm

## 🙂 Worth a smile

#### Miscellaneous observations on daily life:

ⓒ You know you're into middle age when you realise that caution is the only thing you care to exercise.

- $\ensuremath{\textcircled{}}$  Some people you're glad to see coming; some people you're glad to see going.
- ③ You do not need a parachute to skydive you need a parachute to skydive *twice*.
- ☺ The only thing to fear is fear itself... and spiders.
- How do you start a fairy tale in the modern age? "If elected, I promise..."

#### Coronavirus – warning about vaccine

This happened recently and is an important lesson for our friends and family in the older age group. A friend had his second dose of vaccine at the vaccination centre. Shortly afterwards he began to have blurred vision and struggled to get home.

He rang the vaccination centre and asked if he should go straight to the hospital for help. He was told NOT to go to the hospital, but instead to return at once to the vaccination centre and pick up his glasses....

## Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony, March: No weddings

'Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate'

Holy Baptism, March: No baptisms

'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'

#### R.I.P. March:

4: Stella King at St. Barnabas; 5: Valerie Sheath at Bierton; 8: Linda Goodyear at All Saints; 17: Alison Harris at Bierton; 18: Katherine Parker at Bierton; 24: (Raheem) Lally McVey at All Saints; 26: Tara Lee at All Saints; 29: Graeme Lowes at Crownhill; 31: Joan Russell at Bierton

#### 'Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die'

#### Years Mind, May:

1: Marjorie Parker; 2: Philip Meredith, William Cummins, Colin Sykes, Molly Goodliffe; 3: Charles Kiteley, Dennis Duff; 4: Vivien Lewis; 5: Frederick Groom, Frederick Foskett; ; 6: Ronald Higgs, Robert Molloy; 7: Gwendoline Parris, Eileen Showler; 8: Victor Norman; 9: Valerie King, Audrey Hill, Margot Freeman; 10: Vera Elliott; 11: Nicholas Jovic, Agnes Milne; 12: Percy Collor, Anthony Hawkins; 13: Francis Hyde, Kenneth Watts; 14: Alan Daniels, Aubrey Marchant; 15: Marion Butler; 16: David Mills; 17: Mollie Biggerstaff; 19: Patricia Munroe, Sarah Lewis; 20: Edith Sutton, Kevin Smith, June Audas; 22: Freda Allen, Elizabeth Dolton; 23: William Atkinson, Wingate Underwood, John Wellby; 24: Paul Reynolds, Gladys Clarke; 25: Patricia Olds; Karolyn Jones, John Watkiss; 26: Christine Roe, Peter Jones; 27: Cyril Stratton, Olive Aris, Ray Francis, John Lawrie; 28: Ethel Gilbert, Eleanor Edgoose; 29: Sarah Loke, Amy Willett; 30: Irene Sutton, Brian Hill; 31: Sydney Ranger



**Pulford VA Lower School** Head Teacher: Mr Dave Heather Office Manager: Mrs Alison Quick Tel: 01525 372188 Website: www.pulfordschool.org

As I worked on my hands and knees, applying white gloss paint to a piece of skirting board, music drifted in through the open window. It was coming from across the park, from Pulford school field. I realised that the children and staff must be preparing for the Easter service, to be held the following day. As a parent and a Governor, I have always tried to join the regular school services held in All Saints. For the last twelve months

(and counting) though, like many other things in life, this has not been possible.

Pulford has proven both resourceful and determined in finding ways to continue to hold Collective Worship, maintaining its central place in the school day. For the Easter service on 14<sup>th</sup> April, all the children from Key Stages 1 and 2 were able to be together

dren from Key Stages 1 and 2 were able to be together on the all-weather pitch in the spring sunshine to celebrate. I decided to go to the park so I could watch, if from a distance, and I met two other parents there who had had the same idea. This was an event filled with hope, as we see restrictions lift and more opportunities for people to be together once again. It was also filled with Hope: the Good News of Easter.

Year 4 children led prayers and read beautifully from John's account of the discovery of the empty tomb and the disciples' first encounters with the risen Jesus. Rev'd Cate gave a short talk about how Jesus' resurrection symbolises a new start for all who follow him. It was wonderful seeing all the staff and children taking part with prayers, singing and actions. They began the service with a song based on John 3:16, celebrating God's love; a love that is strong, forgiving and everlasting. God loved the world so much, in fact, that He gave His Son to die in our place and offer us everlasting life. In response to the story of Jesus standing with his disciples and saying, "Peace be with you," the children sang that they had peace, love and joy in their souls. The staff were certainly exuberant with their actions, showing they too were filled with joy! The final song was another energetic one, which contains the words, "Thank you Lord that I'm alive and I am free to praise the Creator who lives in me." This is another great way to summarise the message of Easter: the death and resurrection of Jesus mean we can be made alive (given life in all its fullness, forever) and made free (no longer slaves to sin). Our response should be thanksgiving and, as the children sang, to say, "Everything I have and all I'll ever be, I give to You." Thank you, Pulford, for this reminder of what it means to follow Jesus, and for filling the park with Easter Joy.

7

school for a whole community

A church





## The Gentleman Gardener

Let your local RHS qualified gardener make your garden beautiful, from simple garden maintenance to redesigning your garden.

Please call Barry 01525 222451 or 07541 196384 to pop round to have a chat.

# Nettie Forsyth

Challenging Behaviour Counselling and Wellbeing Services

## 07480 486 703

challenging-behaviour @hotmail.co.uk

www.help-with-challengingbehaviour.co.uk

## St Leonard's Church Hall Heath and Reach

Refurbished Hall available for hire. Regular or occasional bookings



Capacity approx 130 Easy access. Car parking Contact 07502 320 023 stleonardheath@gmail.com

For all your painting and decorating

needs ...



# Painter and Decorator

4 St Leonards Close, Leighton Buzzard Beds, LU7 3DF

Tel: (01525) 379520

Call for free quotations and advice

## Chiropractic *McTimoney – Corley*

Technique

A gentle, effective, whole body treatment

Backache. Headache. Migraine. Neck problem. Sports injuries. Sore muscles or just "out of sorts"?

## Eileen Naples BSc. DC(OCC), MBAAC

Telephone (01525) 377 384



36 High Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 1EA 01525 372 204

Selections

Pet, Gift and Garden. Kitchen & workshop DIY & repairs Games & models



selections\_pet\_garden www.selectionsweb.co.uk/petandgarden

# On a musical note.....

Well, by the time you read this, it will have happened. Or maybe it won't have happened. Or maybe it will nearly have happened and still might happen a little later. At the time of writing, who knows?

The "it" in question is a virtual performance by the choir of Benjamin Britten's Jubilate Deo, scheduled for Easter 4 at All Saints. This setting of the Jubilate was written by Britten for the choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor at the request of H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. It was sung (magnificently) by just four singers, one per part, at his Royal Highness's funeral on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. Whilst I knew that the piece was written at the request of his Royal Highness, the fact that it was sung at his funeral is pure coincidence.

But why the uncertainty? That's easy to answer – it's never easy to learn music alone; or to record by yourself in glorious isolation.

And this piece is very difficult to sing, even as a choir standing together in a relatively small space. Learning it and singing it into your microphone at home whilst listening to a backing track is really hard. I mean really, really hard! There's 12 pages of music, the pace is lively, and there are frequent rhythmic changes and changes in key. And if you get something wrong on page 11 (worse still page 12) it's a deleted recording and back to the beginning. Here's a copy of page 1 for your perusal.

I think the last time the choir sang this Jubilate was on the last day of a residential visit to Exeter cathedral in 2012. I remember the occasion because I was playing the organ, with John



Wearmouth conducting. Few of our current members will remember it from then. For most, it is brand new. Well done then, and thank you, choir, for even attempting this.

By the time you read this you will know whether we managed it or not. If we did, I hope you enjoyed it. If we didn't, then I hope we can try to learn it again when can get back to practising, live as a choir.

## All Saints Churchwardens were happy to celebrate Easter with a service outside, and look forward to more steps towards returning to normal...

This Easter was the first time since joining us that Mother Cate could celebrate Easter inside All Saints. Last year the CofE guidance was that churches should remain closed.

A year on, this Easter Sunday was magical in comparison – given how long we have been coping with the current restrictions. The weather may have been a bit cold, but the spring flowers were out in the churchyard. The bells (if only a few due to the space in the ringing tower) were rung to welcome us down the church path. The choir sang the first



hymn in the churchyard, out in the open. Inside, the church was bedecked with flowers and the service itself was (in relative terms) 'packed', the congregation spreading out in to the South Transept and choir pews. Banners were paraded down the Aisle. One almost felt as though life was returning to 'normal'. Of course, we were still abiding by the rules, with masks being worn, social distancing still being maintained and having our conversations outside church in the open.

We do still need to follow all government guidance, but the church is beginning to dare to think about returning to pre-lockdown days. The baptism visitors are gearing up for all the baptisms that have been put on hold, weddings that have been postponed (often more than once) are being rebooked. Weekends at All Saints during the summer months are looking to be very busy affairs!

The coffee shop is hoping to re-open from May under the same restrictions that were in place between lockdowns. Kirsty, our new curate will be ordained as deacon on Saturday 26th June, which means that her first service will be at 09:30 on Sunday 27th of June. It would be lovely to think we might possibly be able to give her an All Saints welcome!

It is hoped that we can hold a fete in July and possibly a BBQ in September. We are hosting the Leighton Buzzard Art Society exhibition in October and of course it is our year for a Tree Festival in November. So, put your feet up while you can because the Head Verger will be looking out for volunteers to step up to the mark!

All in all, we are very much looking forward to welcoming everybody back to church, so that we can once again enjoy the wonderful, vibrant church life that is All Saints.

#### All Saints Churchwardens

**NB** All Saints Services will continue to be live streamed for those who are unable to attend in person.

## **Thank the Good Lord for vergers** and welcoming especially Jenny Huskisson as she becomes a new member of the Guild of Vergers

What is a verger? A verger is someone with a special responsibility to care for the church building, in keeping it clean and tidy, in addressing the objects it uses {eg. candles etc.} and in general making the building welcoming to those who worship in it or visit it.

The vergers are also, very importantly, responsible for attending to the needs of those who come to the church. This is especially important at services such as funerals where the majority of the congregation may be people who are unused to coming into the building and who may find it a rather daunting experience.

Traditionally a verger is also there to protect the priest and to attend to his or her needs where appropriate. On some occasions, a verger may carry a Virge [old spelling] which is an ornate rod with a metal end to it, rather like a club, which in days gone by could be used to ward off people from on the priest's space. Today a Virge is only seen on special occasions or in larger places of worship such as cathedrals.

The vergers of All Saints belong to the St. Alban's Guild of Vergers. We meet occasionally at St. Saviour's Church in St. Albans either for worship or for business, and when possible, we meet informally for a meal often at All Saints. The attached photograph was taken at a recent Corporate Communion service at St. Saviour's at which Jenny Huskisson was admitted as a new member. She will be the new Treasurer for the region following the departure of Tony Kempson who has moved to North Wales. *Brian Willett* 

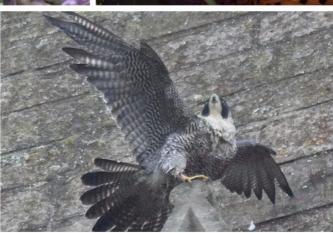


## So much going on in the churchyard ...









'O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.' Psalm 8 The churchyard is teeming with wildlife. Many thanks to Leia, Roy, Brian & others, for these photos, many of which are posted on the Forest Church Facebook page. This set includes a peregrine falcon on the spire, and a baby muntjac.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th - 16th MAY 2021



## **CLIMATE CRISIS**

Christian Aid is a global movement of people, churches and local organisations that helps to eradicate extreme poverty in some of the most vulnerable communities throughout the world. Everyone is equal in the sight of God, yet we live in a world where poverty still persists. Poverty robs people of their dignity and Christian Aid works with people of all faiths and none to stand up for dignity, equality and justice.

This year Christian Aid will be focusing on climate chaos which is one of the greatest injustices we face. Severe droughts are now more frequent and more intense and millions of people are struggling to get enough food and water.

Your gift could help communities to build earth dams to harvest the precious water to help irrigate drought tolerant crops, so that when the rains do come, every last drop can be saved.

This year due to the government restrictions, coffee mornings, tea parties and other forms of fund-raising events are not possible, but Christian Aid envelopes are being distributed with this magazine, and can also be found in church on the table under the notice board in the north aisle. Please take an envelope and when filled, return it to the Parish office or pop it into the letterbox outside the church. If you need more envelopes or if you would like your envelope to be collected, please contact either James Legg: 01525 379427; or Pauline Lyon: 01525 234139.

Please help Christian Aid to make a difference.

### <u>CHRISTIAN AID AIMS</u> <u>We Stand Together</u>: for dignity; for equality; for justice



This is Rose. She is caught in a cycle of climate chaos. From severe drought to flooding, extreme weather robs her of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water.

Read Rose's story on the enclosed flyer, or visit the Christian Aid website for more detail. Learn how you can stand with people like Rose for every last drop of water and help them fight the climate crisis.

Together we can STOP this climate crisis. Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge CAN CHANGE LIVES

## Lift your eyes ... or in this case – look down ... at some of All Saints' curiosities

with thanks to Terry Warburton for his help with this series

#### First – who is buried here? A Mystery Man ...



If you look down when you are inside All Saints you will find evidence of burials under your feet. There were a lot more visible at one time but they are now hidden by carpet, cupboards, slabs and tiles. The ones most prominent are in the chancel.

Near the entrance to the server's vestry and Verger's office, on the north side, are two grave markers. One is 18th century but next to it is a much older slab which at one time had a brass matrix, the studs of which are visible. The outline in the stone would indicate it is for a priest - clearly an important figure.

There is nothing in the records so far to identify definitively who it was. One guide book suggested it was the last resting place of John Prophet, a 15th century Prebend of the church and this information was included in the 1992 guide. In the latest guide books I added a question mark to this entry after Ian Macpherson drew my attention to an internet record that John Prophet was, in fact, buried in the parish church in Ringwood, Hampshire, and it is unlikely he has two graves!

In our parish papers there is a hint that the grave marks the last resting place of All Saints' "builder". This would have been Nicholas de Heigham, then Dean of Lincoln, who died in 1288, leaving enough money to pay for the church to be completed. A 19thC water colour painting of the chancel (opposite) in the county archive indicates that the burial was once nearer to the altar. (I suspect it was once even closer than shown). The slab, (and the one next to it), was moved westward in the 1890s, during the sanctuary enlargement, to a new position across the doorway. Who then is the mystery man represented? Readers may like to ponder.



#### Underground Thoughts

The old stone coffins which lie against the outside wall of the south aisle were apparently discovered under the floor of the south transept in 1840 during one of three reorderings that century. The lids of the coffins, one of which dates from 1595, are said to be those set in the west wall of the south transept.

I have often reflected that the coffins seem older than this and that the gravestone "lids" don't appear to fit. Interestingly, a recent local church archaeological dig uncovered a stone Saxon coffin which looked very similar to ours. Such coffins were used for people of high birth from Roman times through Anglo Saxon and into the medieval period.

Returning to the 19thC water colour painting, there are slabs in the floor which look like the coffin lids on the transept wall. The chancel might have been thought a more important place for the local \*Le(i)gh and Hodden families to be laid perhaps? It would seem that there were no bodies in the coffins when they were discovered. Another mystery to mull over?

#### Terry Warburton

\* The name "Leigh" is spelled both ways on the tablets.

## Our Singapore Prince by Audrey Ingledow

I am one of those lucky people (as were my children and husband, David) who have not just MET His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, but actually spent three days in his delightful company. The occasion was the first ASEAN\* Equestrian Games, held at Singapore Turf Club.



He was President of the FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale). This was in 1978, but I remember it well. I worshipped the ground he trod on. All of us at our Club and Stables had hard work but great fun! It was a "new thing" for us! David and I were in Prince Philip's company a great deal. David was the main Course Builder and I was Chef d'Equipe of the Singapore Team.

On the second morning a ride was arranged for him around the racecourse, grounds, steep hill and 'Valley', where there were three brush hurdle jumps. Our Captain, Desmond Brown, told me to choose one of his own horses for the Prince. "Don't bother to choose anything quiet", he said with a wicked grin. I chose a big, lively bay.

As HRH mounted, peaked cap on his head, I said carefully, "Sir, please wear this hard hat – rules – you know!" He leaned down and took it, with a grin saying "My word, you are a bully, aren't you!" I replied "I know you're OK, Sir – I'm just worried about the horse." He said "I'll be in the stand for jumping later – don't lose the bandages!" and off they rode. (As Chef d'Equipe, I was responsible for bandaging every show jumper before they entered the ring and put three stitches over the top to ensure they were secure. As there was a shortage of bandages, I had to re-roll and re-bandage each entrant from visiting teams from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand – and Singapore.)

The weather for the Event was cooler than expected. The VIPs were seated at the far end of our large, sanded Arena "Paradise". David, one professional builder, my son Bob, and several "hangers on" were responsible for the jumps. A Tannoy system played the appropriate National Anthem. For 3 days running, we didn't get home till midnight, and had to be at the Club by 6am each morning.

After all the events were over and final Awards (Singapore came 2<sup>nd</sup>) had been presented by HRH, he went round the Yard shaking hands, joking and thanking the local grooms and Club Staff. All Club Members, in their coolest "Sunday Best" turned out for the Final Dinner which was wonderful. A long table, HRH at the top, David and I at the bottom, opposite. The Prince was full of jokes and stories, but also VERY keen to know of our riding, instructing and Amateur racing, which took place over parts of Malaya and was the main avenue for "Betting"!

What a charming, knowledgeable and lovely man was Prince Philip – and what a precious memory I have to keep. God bless him.

Audrey Ingledow

## *If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. Brian Bainbridge wanted to see more of his wife. It lead to a life time of service to the DofE Awards ...*

The recent death of H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh has highlighted the importance of his DofE Award for young people throughout the world. My wife and I were heavily involved as leaders, trainers and assessors from 1982 until our retirement in June 2019.



We were invited on five occasions to St James's Palace to witness the presentation of Gold Awards to participants. Normally this was by the Duke of Edinburgh who joked his way round the rooms looking for a participant who had a parent with a Gold Award.



Lately the Earl of Wessex has taken over this role. In November 2019 we were delighted to receive an invitation to the Palace to receive the award of certificates for long service, Margaret for 37years and Brian for 35years. We were presented to the Earl who wanted to know how I got involved. Inevitably this was so that I could see a bit more of my wife. He thanked us for our help over so many decades.

Margaret started by helping with the Award at Beaconsfield High School and then as Centre Co-ordinator for 8 years. We worked with various bodies and charities until our retirement. My major role was in organising Expeditions at Gold level which required Wild Country First Aid, Hill and Moorland Leader, Safeguarding, Assessor/ Supervisor Accreditation and DBS (CRB) screening. The paper work required has increased considerably but I have really enjoyed supervising and assessing young people on some very exciting expeditions. These often required us to shadow groups for safety and I have wild camped in the Brecon Beacons, Cairngorms, Knoydart, the Isle of Sky and Snowdonia.

Not many activities can be said to develop the whole person: mind, body and soul. The Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections are done individually but the expedition requires team work. I have many happy recollections but some standout. Working with Special Needs has been especially rewarding as the feedback was so positive. It has also been great to follow the progress of one special person through all the levels of the Award finally joining us a leader. A major point of the Expedition is showing the ability to navigate with map and compass, without electronic aids. Wild Camping shows the importance of having everything for survival including shelter, food and the right equipment. It is a sobering thought that the participants probably have better equipment and resources than many refugees and asylum seekers.

We really enjoyed all the time we spent working with youngsters on their DofE Award and we are proud to have been part of the Duke's legacy.

## In twenty years' time... By Donna Ashworth (author of History Will Remember); Painting by Samantha Shirley

In twenty years' time ...

People will not ask the children of 2020 if they caught up with their studies. They will not ask them what grades they made, despite the year off school.

They will ask them with wonder "what was it like?" They will ask them "how did you cope?" "How did you feel?"

"What do you remember of those days?"

They will listen in awe to the tales of clapping on doorsteps for the medical workers. They will sit open-mouthed to hear of daily walks being the only life we saw and how much we missed human contact and gatherings.

They will be amazed to know about empty supermarkets, online concerts, birthdays spent on a screen and a life lived inside.

They will listen, then sit back with amazement and say, "Wow. You went through so much."

So think about what you would like your children to take away from this whole year. Tell them they are not behind.

Tell them they are not missing out.

Tell them they are extremely special indeed and they will be forever made stronger by this unique time.

Tell them catching up is not even a thing because they have grown so much in so many other ways.

Remind them too of the fun stuff: the family jigsaws, the window rainbows, the Zoom bingo. The feeling of safety and togetherness amidst the chaos.

Let them take that thought with them through life. Change the narrative now and it will travel far. Tell the children they are not behind. They are special.



St. Nicholas, Hockliffe Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney Tel: 01525 237633 Churchwardens: Brian Speller: 210 565; Roger Spalding: 07451 877 501



#### A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step.

This journey began at a PCC meeting in January. The topic under discussion was how we could make the Zoom service on Easter Sunday special.

The single step was a lone voice, which I realized belatedly was mine, saying "We could make a distanced recording of the Easter hymns to be played at the service. "Then I had to explain that for a distanced recording, musicians and singers from each of the 3 churches: St. Nicholas, St Michael's and St. Leonard's would record their individual sound tracks at home and send them to someone to be 'stitched' together.

The members of the committee thought this was a splendid idea and that as I suggested it perhaps, I could take on the 'stitching'?

So, the journey began: The first thing to be done was to choose the 3 hymns. Easy peasy: "At the Name of Jesus", "Thine Be the Glory", and "Amazing Grace" - the modern version. First pothole in the road: early Test recordings showed that "Amazing Grace" has very uneven vocal phrasing and would make vocal syncing very difficult. Luckily, "Be Still for The Presence of The Lord" made a worthy substitute.

Then I realized that I was going to have to write individual parts for a very eclectic mix of instruments. We had trumpets, clarinets, flutes, guitars, bass guitar, saxophones, drums, bass guitar, violins, violas, cello, piano and voices. In total, by the end of the journey, I had written 63 separate parts.

The next step was to send out music scores and guide recordings to each individual musician. Back came the emails: "How I am supposed to record these hymns?"

Reply: You need 2 devices: 1 to listen to the guide track; and the other to record your voice or instrument.

Then came the first of several chilling e-mails: "I've listened to the guide track but there are not enough bars in the music." (The next part is technical so you can skip it if you like.) A searching coffee-fueled investigation, showed that the score writing software had a bug which meant when it converted the scores into PDFs, it chopped off 2 bars at the right-hand margin. 2 transatlantic phone calls later, the matter was resolved and progress continued.

Then the thrilling moment when the first recordings arrived and were dropped into the 'mix'. Some adjusting here and there, some skilled electronic stitching and the songs sounded magnificent.

Our destination was reached when Bert Newman agreed to make 3 videos to accompany the songs, which you can watch by following these links:

At the Name of Jesus:	https://youtu.be/ZhRX6oC	<u>Ygbk</u>
Be Still for the Presence of The I	_ord: <u>https://youtu.be/M_</u>	RB3g65Snw
Thine Be The Glory:	https://youtu.be/b6xjygP	p2hE





Ovens, Hobs, Ranges & More. Oven Cleaning from £45 Call 07812 77 55 22 <u>tcovencleaning@gmail.com</u> Find us on Facebook Tom Cantle





Independent Funeral Directors Golden Charter Funeral Plans Monumental Services

16 Old Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 2RF Tel: 01525 372210 Email: info@dillamorefuneralservice.co.uk

www.dillamorefuneralservice.co.uk

# **Computer Support & Services**

- Hindows and Mac trouble-shooting
- Ardware & software sales
- Internet & email assistance
- Small networks installations
- Virus & Spyware removal
- On site visits

# Computamation Services Ltd.

email: john@computamation.co.uk

Telephone 01525 261381

Mobile 07968 536068

# Neil's Electrical & Property Services

- Re-wires
- · Sockets (indoor and outdoor)
- Fuse board
- Lighting
- Safety checks
- Fault finding
- Landlords' certification



Part P Approved

## Neil Siddle

24 Waterdell, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3PJ

07757 498919 neiless@aol.com

www.neils-electrical.co.uk

**St. Michael's, Eggington** Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney Tel: 01525 237633 Church Officers: Carol Hart 384634; Paul Brown 751861



We moved to Eggington a little over four years ago now. A year or so later there was talk of the church being at risk of closure through lack of funds and attendees. Monty (my eldest) had at the time started questioning the meaning of life so I wondered if attending church might help him with his thoughts.

It was with slight trepidation that we attended our first service. We shouldn't have worried. Everyone was so friendly and helpful and it was lovely to chat with everyone over a cup of tea and biscuits at the end of the service. Over the coming months we continued to enjoy our church visits. We weren't exactly dressed in our Sunday best as Oswald (my youngest) invariably had to rush off to his football match straight afterwards. Through our chats the lovely David Cox realized that the boys had some musical ability and started providing them with music to accompany the hymns. He was so enthusiastic and inspiring and it really helped them to feel they were part of the service.

I was surprised to find church such an uplifting experience. Father Noel and Linda Morris provided such engaging and thought provoking sermons. As a child I had found attending church a chore but I now looked forward to it. Monty decided he would like to be christened and confirmed and I chose to be confirmed at the same time. We attended our confirmation classes together at Father Noel's house and also started attending the afternoons of quiet reflection at Pochard Lake. My work as a veterinary surgeon can be quite intense and all-encompassing and I found these afternoons a welcome distraction to pause for a moment, be still with my thoughts and reflect with others. The christening and Confirmation were such wonderful experiences. Having friends and family travel from across the country to be part of them was fantastic. What really touched us greatly though was that our new found friends at the church had generously bought us confirmation gifts between them that we continue to treasure.

All was right with the world in 2019. I was constantly thanking God for the wonderful life I had and the wonderful environment I lived in.

Then 2020 came. We attended the Eggington curry night and David really didn't seem quite himself. Not long after that we found out he was seriously ill. During the services some chose not to shake hands because of the emerging pandemic and before we knew it we were in lockdown.

What amazed me is what happened next. Zoom services were organised, church WhatsApp groups were used for communication and support, even the afternoon of quiet reflection continued. Most importantly I have still been able to share the peace with my friends from church who made us feel so welcome. Thank you everyone. God bless. *Hannah Johnston* 

21

## **St. Michael & All Angels, Billington** Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwardens: Sandra Brewin 373644; Julia Haviland 850380



Easter Sunday this year was a time for great rejoicing, not least for the congregation at St Michael and All Angels, Billington. We had decided that we would celebrate the resurrection of Christ outside in the Churchyard. If ever there was a leap of faith (what if it was pouring with rain, a gale blowing or even snow?) this was one. We had no plans to stay inside the Church in case we could not space the congregation sufficiently.

Then, as you see from the photo there was wall to wall sunshine, not a cloud in the sky. We spaced out the folding chairs amongst the primroses, daffodils and verdant green grass of the churchyard; and for the first time in many months we were able to SING. We were accompanied by Carl Moulding who was able to plug in and play his electronic piano for the occasion. The congregation was delighted.

From now until further notice we will be holding Holy Communion Service at 11.15am each Sunday.

We will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting after the service on Sunday 18th April and hope that we can organise an event demonstrating our gratitude to God for bringing us through this long period of isolation.

A few weeks ago the Village Hall suffered a bit of an accident and is at present being repaired. We are hopeful that it will be available for hire again in the not too distant future.



Sandra Brewin.

Good Shepherd, Sandhills Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh Tel: 01525 838450 Churchwardens: Steve Nixon



#### Growing the dreamers that do

Three of our church members are finding out how to encourage new communities of disciples to emerge in new contexts.

Reframing Christian concepts for today's society and finding opportunities to develop spirituality from conversations about the latest Netflix series are some of the tools covered in the pioneer mission course.

Stuart Blofeld and Katharine and Frank Reedy are taking part in this Church Mission Society course to develop pioneers.

The Church of England defines pioneers as "people called by God, who are the first to see and creatively respond to the Holy Spirit's initiatives with those outside the church; gathering others around them as they seek to establish new contextual Christian community."

Katharine, who is also taking part in Reader training with Frank, said she wanted to access training that could help her better share her faith. Frank said he is hoping to use the training to support the ministry element of the Church of the Good (CoGS) and reach out to the community.

"Faith is often seen as doing stuff and being a good person and going to church. We can't go to church at the moment [during lockdown] but that does not invalidate what we do", Frank said.

The course has focussed on making the Bible more relevant to contemporary society by using different categories that are more helpful, such as reframing sin as 'shame' as this is more relatable in today's world. Another tool is looking at how pioneers can connect with the wider community by sparking up conversations about what is happening in the local area and what people are watching or spending their time doing.

When asked how they will be using their pioneer mission skills in the future, Katharine said: "I would hope we would use this in the community we are part of, not just CoGS but also wider in Leighton Buzzard. It could be the bus project or other things like setting up communities of practice and finding out where we can encourage each other".

Frank reflected that life does not often go the way it is planned and so rather than plotting a route ahead, he intends to "listen to God and the community better so that we can hear that call when it comes".

## Saints on Earth

Personal accounts of the wide-range of spiritually significant men and women who have inspired and influenced us. This month, Geoff Marchant describes the inspiration and influences modelling his own prayer life: **St Ignatius of Loyola: Soldiering on in prayer** 

I want to share with you how St Ignatius of Loyola has influenced my prayer life over the last 12 years. Prior to being selected for training for Reader Ministry in 2009 I had been using the former Bishop of St Albans, Christopher



Herbert's, book 'Pocket Prayers for Commuters, A Simple Pattern for Morning and Evening Prayer'. It was an extremely useful resource for a time of prayer as I commuted to and from London and also when I found myself lodging, when my sites were too far from home for the daily commute. Some readers of this magazine will recall my times in Glasgow, Sellafield and a stretch of the M1 in Nottingham.

Devoting time to meaningful prayer is one of the challenges that characterises the lives of committed Christians in this country and around the world, particularly those who are employed in the construction industry. This is a challenge that I have had to learn to deal with. From experience I would compare this with the nomadic lifestyle of Abraham which God reinforced in his commitment to future generations. Staff and operatives face demands to travel to construction sites, their places of work, which are a long way from home. Their God-given skills call them to work in places where they are far from the roots of their faith. And yet we know that our God is a universal God and traverses all those boundaries that the human predicament has established for each of our own particular lifestyles.

So in the Spring of 2009, my reading and shared conversations brought to light this online treasure of prayer known as 'Pray as you go'. It is produced by the Jesuits in Britain (Society for Jesus Trust for Roman Catholic Purposes), a registered charity.

St Ignatius of Loyola founded the Jesuits in the early part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. The Society of Jesus is a missionary order of priests and brothers who are present in every corner of the globe. They draw on the rich tradition of Ignatian spirituality and reflection, sharing this with others to help them discern God's will for their lives. Jesuits are contemplatives in action who live in community as companions in a mission of reconciliation and justice. The Ignatian influence on modern day prayer originates from the writings of his 'Spiritual Exercises'. For many this is recognised in the Examen.

So, since being selected for training for Reader Ministry in 2009 my pattern of prayer became more focussed on using Pray as you Go. With its on-line flexibility I have been able to link in and have time in prayer to complement and enrich a work life balance week by week. Unlike any other time in my earlier life this has provided a time of prayer (using earphones where necessary) to take me away from the scene of the station platform, the train carriage, the car or the room in the Premier Inn.



Pray as you Go has a wonderful blend of music, Scripture, reflection and prayer. It is founded upon that contemplative style that Ignatius found so precious, and that he applied so rigorously during the challenges of his own life. It is this prayerful welcome to contemplation with the wholeness of God that has reinforced my own

spiritual life effortlessly. Week by week the material follows the Liturgical Calendar. The readings from Scripture generally follow the weekday Lectionary and the reflections have provided inspiration for my preaching. The range of music that is featured has opened up for me a wonderful resource for other times of reflection. Music by Salt of the Sound and One Hope Project are two sources that I now use regularly via YouTube to create a contemplative atmosphere.

Before he became the founder of the Society of Jesus, even before he inspired his first companions, St. Ignatius of Loyola was first a pilgrim. He was always on the move—walking, journeying, but never running away from what is truly important. St. Ignatius, however, was not an ordinary pilgrim. After a cannon ball seriously injured his legs, they never healed fully. One leg was said to be cut shorter than the other. And so, Ignatius was a pilgrim who walked with a limp.

As I ponder upon how Ignatius must have struggled physically in his ministry as a soldier for Christ, his inspiration for a contemplative style of prayer now occupies my new found routine of daily walking over the past year.

I have been putting words down for this article at a time when our country has passed the next key milestone on the pathway out of this third lockdown. Like many of us lockdown, the first, second or this one, has created space and time in my daily life that I could never have dreamt of having at my disposal. It raised a nagging question in my mind: have I been spending enough time regularly in prayer; spending time in conversation with our creator God; keeping my life spiritually nurtured? Overnight I found myself instantly given no excuse to allocate some more time from my differing daytimes to be with God. And that has been so important – there has and continues to be so much to share with him for various reasons. This was brought more into focus for me as from March last year I was based at home, seven months of which was furloughed leave. It allowed me to pursue one of my hobbies usually reserved for holidays – that of walking. A regular daily walk for fifty minutes gave me the time to switch off from what would have occupied my mind at home, the worry of furlough and later risk of redundancy. I was able to take more notice of the natural world in my local surroundings, and yes, let my mind be open to God.

So, 'Pray as you Go', literally speaking, also occupies my time of prayerful contemplation in the rhythm and senses of walking.

Geoff Marchant

Useful Links: https://pray-as-you-go.org/ https://www.jesuit.org.uk/

# ECO Church News

#### Our chalk prayer trail: 1,000 online visits

Our Forest Church chalk prayer trail which ran for two weeks from Palm Sunday attracted a huge number of visitors – both in person, and by viewing the video of the trail on our Virtual Forest Church Facebook page. In fact, over 1,000 people followed the trail online which is far more than we imagined would get involved.

We know from the churchyard gardening team that more people have been strolling in the churchyard during Coronavirus restrictions, but even more people of all age groups were to be seen taking part in the chalk trail. Many made the little wooden crosses from the twigs and string which were available and the lack of rain meant that the chalk signs remained legible for two weeks.



AN A ROCHA UK PROJEC

ECO 🌽 CHURCH



#### Churchyard nature count: 5-13 June

If you love nature, could you help measure our churchyard's biodiversity? All Saints' is joining in a national event called Churches Count on Nature to assess the biodiversity of churchyards. The project is run by the Church of England and conservation charities Caring for God's Acre and A Rocha which runs Eco Church.

As a citizen-science event for churchyards across England and Wales people are invited to make a note of animals, birds, insects, or fungi seen in their local churchyard.

The data will then be collated on the National Biodiversity Network. We already know about some of the wildlife that is seen in our own churchyard – such as the beautiful woodpecker on the magazine cover, but there are many other creatures and wild plants that you could see.

You can take part in our nature count and submit what you see in the following ways:

- Write down what you have seen on the board which will be available in the churchyard, or
- E-mail your findings to wildlife@cfga.org.uk or
- Post them to Caring for God's Acre, 11 Drovers House, Craven Arms, SY7 9BZ Please remember to include your name, the name of the species you find (you can use the common name, eg ladybird, swift, daisy, or scientific names), the name of the churchyard - i.e. All Saints Leighton Buzzard, and the date.

Whatever way you submit your records they will be uploaded to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas and you will be able to see them at <a href="https://burialgrounds.nbnatlas.org/">https://burialgrounds.nbnatlas.org/</a> Kat

Katrina Grant

#### **CARPENTRY & JOINERY SPECIALIST**

## David Casey Carpenter

32 Ave Grimaldi Luton LU3 1TJ

0780 1234 629 Phone E-mail mail@davidcasey.co.uk

## BILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Available for hire Capacity approximately 100 Good car parking

Special rates for regular weekly bookings

> Please contact 078 3509 7932

# Leighton Foot Care Practice

New patient appointments now available with Leanne Salloum MCFHP MAFHP Dip



#### **Dunstable Decor / DIY Services (Kirkstone Drive-SW)** Home 01582 700944 or Mob. 07745 979276

- Decorating to include wallpaper, gloss and emulsion etc. \*
- \*\* All Property maintenance duties to your home carried out in a professional manner. For example:-
- \* Laminate wooden flooring – clean & precise fitting.
- \* \* \* Garden - grass, hedges, shed felt, decking, fences, gates.
- Drives, paths & patios Powerwashed (clean & non-slip).
- Shelving, flat pack assy, blinds/curtains, pictures/mirrors.
- \* Hire me for the day to complete your 'must do' tasks!
- \* Friendly, courteous and reliable service - free quotes/advice.
- \* Fully insured (1M Public liability) Thank you. John

#### www.georgebrowns.co.uk

For the very best in garden machinery, the ranges, the choice, the customer service and after-sales back up, you can rely on our experience and qualified advice to steer you in the right direction.

## The regions foremost LAWNMOWER AND GARDEN MACHINERY SPECIALISTS

Home demonstrations on all garden tractors.

Part exchanges welcome.



SERVING CUSTOMERS SINCE 1830

Grovebury Road Leighton Buzzard LU7 4UX Telephone 01525 372062

Open 6 full days a week Monday - Saturday 8.00am to 5.00pm Free customer parking

Other branches at: Buckingham, Chelmsford, Chesham, Daventry & Haddenham 0

HAYTER Kubolo Mountfield /TIGN STINL WESTWOOD

