

# Saints ALIVE

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

October 2022

70p



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a village church at the centre of the life of the community
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- Old journey; new beginning – Welcome Tom Button, Pioneer Missioner
  - Choral Evensong Plus – a new venture
- Exploring the churchyard – we come across an astonishing story

# All Saints Leighton Buzzard

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

**Advertising:** Please contact [magazine-advertising@allsaintslb.org.uk](mailto:magazine-advertising@allsaintslb.org.uk)

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## ***Religion depends on where we start ...***

***By Rev'd Dr. Bernard Minton***



So much in religion depends on what we imagine without even knowing that we imagine it. For example, God is not an 'Outside-Authority'; rather He is an 'Inside-Beloved'. For God, everything has already happened: He is outside time. He has created the world we inhabit, but we are not rats in a maze being observed by Him from outside. He is 'in here' with us, not distanced 'out there'. We are called to see what God is doing and further His purpose to be fully evident in everything, turning the clay of this world into porcelain.

Likewise, God does not make contracts with us, though we behave as though He does. God is covenantal. We have a relationship with Him that grows and deepens, not one based on the performance of contractual obligations. Sacraments are covenants not contracts, governed by Spirit and Grace not by Law.

Spirit is power redeemed so that it becomes love and looks like weakness. Law is this world's palliative to power: necessary, but not sufficient to give us meaning or purpose. We are like bubbles, needing to burst. When we do, we see the true reality: we see that we are the Spirit's vessels, a way to let The Truly Real back into this world. God's gifts are ways the Real permeates this world through us. From birth we inhabit this material world of 'the flesh'. The Spiritual world is that deeper truth we experience when we are loved and creative. The Spirit grows us as we move further into the Real, from sign into sacrament; from Outside to Participation: 'further up and deeper in'.

What makes a lie false is the context in which it is understood. Truth is not just 'the fact' of what we know, but also how it is understood. Understanding in a context of hatred and suspicion is misunderstanding, because love and truth are inextricable. Truth is what God sees, and love is how He sees it. To see the truth means to see with love an increasing complexity and variety: truth by addition not subtraction: truth as consummation and not merely as origin.

Many religious words that we think are nouns are actually verbs, or adverbs. They describe a living relationship, not stationary objects. Grace is a quality of relating; so is faith; and so, above all, is love. *"Faith is acting in trust to discover truth"*: Russell Stannard. We do them, we do not possess them. We can fit ourselves to this world, consciously or not; or we can make an act of faith. Living in faith means recognising that we must be consummated from outside ourselves, by He who Loves us and is Spirit in us.

Discipline is not blindly obeying a rule. It is rigorous honest self-examination, uncovering who you are in the light of who you are called to be, and comparing them, while knowing you have already been forgiven. We are called to let ourselves be formed into Him, which means letting ourselves go: letting go of sin, of coverings, of ownership, of possessions, of securities. We are called to be open, loved, wounded, vulnerable; as He was, is, and will be.

***Fr. Bernard***

## *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> Sundays: All Age Service

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Baptism

6pm Evening Prayer

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Choral Evensong Plus

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: followed by Benediction

#### **Weekdays:**

#### **Holy Communion**

7.30pm Tuesday

(Service of Healing on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)

10.00am Thursday

9.00am Saturday

**Morning Prayer:** St. Hugh's Chapel

9.00am Tuesday – Friday

### **St. Barnabas, Linslade**

#### **Sundays:**

8am Said Eucharist

10am Parish Eucharist

6pm Evensong [www.linslade-parish.org.uk](http://www.linslade-parish.org.uk)

### **St. Leonard's, Heath & Reach**

#### **Sundays:**

8am: Holy Communion

11am Holy Communion (in church & via Zoom)

1<sup>st</sup> Sundays: Family Service

**Tuesdays:** 7pm Holy Communion

#### **Morning Prayer via Zoom:**

9.00am Monday - Saturday

[www.saintleonardschurch.com](http://www.saintleonardschurch.com)

### **St. Michael's, Eggington**

9.30am 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: Holy Communion

### **St. Nicholas', Hockliffe**

9.30am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays: Family Communion

4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Holy Communion

### **St. Michael's and All Angels, Billington**

11.15am Holy Communion

### **Good Shepherd, Astral Park Sports & Community Centre, Johnson Drive, Sandhills, LU7 4AY:**

**Sundays** at 9.45am:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Holy Communion & CGS Juniors

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: 'In the Community', at Astral Park

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Family Service

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Bring and share breakfast and Holy Communion

Free pop-up café every Sunday from 9.45am

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

**All Saints Toddler Time:** All Saints every Wednesday during term time, at 9.30am & at 1.30pm. £1.50 per parent / carer & child; 50p extra per child; refreshments included.

**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.**

**Leighton Young Singers Club:** for children in Years 2-6, meets on Fridays at 6.30 - 7.30pm.

**Bereavement Café:** a support group offering friendship and understanding.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, 2.30-4pm The Spire Coffee Shop, All Saints

**Choir Practice:** Friday evenings, 6.45 trebles; 7.30 adults.

**Bellringers:** Practice on Monday, 7.30pm-9.30pm.

**Spire Coffee Shop:** Tuesday & Saturday 10am-2pm; Friday 10am-12noon (drinks & cakes only)

*Contact Details on Page 2.*

## ***Introducing Choral Evensong Plus & a new monthly pattern for Evensong:***



At All Saints, we celebrate Evensong every Sunday at 6pm.  
However, not all are celebrated in the same way.

So do join us as we gather on the 1st Sunday of each month to celebrate "***Choral Evensong Plus***". This sung traditional language service is truly the Anglican gift to the world. Other than 2 or 3 hymns, Choral Evensong is largely offered through music of the choir. It offers a place for all participants to make their worship be whatever they wish it to be without being called upon to be constantly active. We welcome all to come and experience this traditional time of prayer and contemplation in the presence of Christ.

The new venture here is the "PLUS": generally following the service, there will be a variety of social events, such as a shared meal in October; soup & fireworks for All Saints in November; and Carols in the Pub in December.

So from 2<sup>nd</sup> October, we will adopt a new monthly pattern:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: "Choral Evensong Plus";
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: will include hymns and be followed by Benediction.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays will be said.



### ***Worth a smile***

#### ***Miscellaneous observations on life:***

- ❖ A lot of people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.
- ❖ It is easy to do any amount of work – provided it isn't the work you are supposed to be doing.
- ❖ Anyone who thinks talk is cheap never argued with a traffic warden.
- ❖ Anything that is good and useful is usually made of chocolate.
- ❖ One reason why a dog is such a lovable creature is that his tail wags instead of his tongue.

#### ***The following are genuine notes left for milkmen:***

- ❖ Dear Milkman: I've just had a baby, please leave another one.
- ❖ Cancel one pint after the day after today.
- ❖ Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.
- ❖ Please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops of the milk.
- ❖ Please cancel the milk. I have nothing coming into the house except two sons on the dole.
- ❖ Please bring me a form about cheap milk, as my boyfriend has made me stagnant.
- ❖ Please do not leave milk at no. 14 as he is dead until further notice.

# Parish Registers

## Holy Matrimony, August:

5: Angus Miller & Rebecca Lunn at St. Barnabas; 7: Terence Downing & Caroline George at St. Barnabas; 11: Brian Luff & Nicola Lane at St. Leonard's; 25: Phillip Crofts & Cora McMorrow at All Saints; 26: Bryan Williams & Layla Fletcher at St. Michael's

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

## Holy Baptism, August:

13: Mary Eva Atang; 28: Jessica Rose Burnett, Lennie Michael Stone

*'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'*

## R.I.P. August:

3: David Ellis at Berton; 4: Richard Gibbins at St. Mary's; 8: Philip Wood at St. Michael's; 9: Freda Hill at St. Leonard's; 15: Donald Ransom at St. Leonard's; 23: Frances Tucker at All Saints; 24: Eileen Faulkner at Berton; 26: Gary Plater at All Saints

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

## Years Mind, October:

1: Vera Delafield, Arthur Waldock, Henry (Topper) Baines, Diana Reynolds, Janet Stanley; 2: Walter Sandifer, Paul Kaye; 3: Patricia Osbourne, Kim Lay; 4: Sybil Lawson; 5: Jim Aris, Rita Styles, John Sandifer; 6: Winifred Hart; 7: Laurence Nash, Anne Gittins, Edna Forward; 9: Francis Williams, Hilda Plenderleath, William Delafield, Joan Richards; 10: Sheila Twivy, Jason McGovern; 13: William Sutton, Rosemary Wells; 14: Gilbert Inglefield, Harry Tingey, Emma Smith, Andrew Yorston; 17: Doris Wells, George Simmonds; 19: Hugh Harmer, Marjorie Duff, Adelaide Lack, Joan Lawrie; 20: Pat Harris, Andrew Craddock, Donald Butler, Eric Underwood, Clifford Baines; 21: John Skinner; 22: Harold Rolls, Wally Fountaine; 23: William Spencer; 26: Grace Nash, Frank Pateman; 30: Helen Lau



## LEIGHTON BUZZARD MUSIC

### LIVE PROFESSIONAL CONCERTS

Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre, Lake St, LB. LU 7 1RX

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30pm  
**Roy Howat & Emily Kilpatrick**  
Piano Duo

Please note: Book via TicketSource or at the door.  
Please see links on the website, [www.lbmusic.co.uk](http://www.lbmusic.co.uk)  
Leighton Buzzard Music is a registered charity no: 1183681



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

A church school for  
a whole community



Towards the end of last term, the school celebrated Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee which seems very poignant, as at the time of writing we are contemplating her funeral.

On a very joyous afternoon the whole school assembled outside and were entertained by each class highlighting a decade of her reign. Some important facts from that decade were read out, followed by the appropriate musical hits which involved dancing with much gusto. What was most evident was the amount of hard work done by both pupils and staff, combined with friendly rivalry. Above all it was a very happy occasion, in which the whole school ethos shone through. The afternoon was finished off with ice cream.

I also had the privilege of attending the school's production of Joseph and the Technicolour Dream Coat, which allowed the children and staff to create wonderful props that transported the audience back to ancient Egypt. The children enjoyed dressing up in their finery and they sang and danced with great enthusiasm.

One of the features of Pulford's is how the school makes great efforts to make every child feel welcome, especially the anxious and afraid. The ethos of the school is one of love in the Christian tradition towards them as an individual but also as a member of the school family.

However not all occasions are happy and joyful, and how to tackle these events can be problematical especially for the very young. The beginning of the school year saw the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The school had a special assembly to tell the children about this important event. To help with their understanding at an appropriate level, Joshua Bear was used as a prop. Joshua Bear is a teddy named after the benefactor of the school who wears appropriate liturgical colours corresponding to the seasons of the year. For this assembly, he wore a stole used at times of mourning and reflection. In this gentle way the assembly could reflect and pray along with the nation.

During this term the children will be using the Katie Morag books. Katie Morag is the title character of children's picture books written and illustrated by Mairi Hedderwick. The gentle stories have been praised for their good humour, strong sense of place, and the feisty and independent character of Katie herself. The books are set on the fictional island of Struay off the west coast of Scotland. They are based on the author's experiences on the Isle of Coll and illustrate island life so well that they have been recommended for Key Stage 1 Geography.

The Autumn term is very important as the start of the school year, and I wish staff and pupils all the best for this term.

***Geoff Huskisson***





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[www.selections-web.co.uk/petandgarden](http://www.selections-web.co.uk/petandgarden)*



## On a musical note.....



Many congratulations to Francesca Price and to Olivia Olleson, our new Head Chorister and Deputy Head Chorister respectively. Both have been in the choir for a long time and already given years of dedicated service. Francesca was with us for our residential cathedral visit to Hereford in 2014 and Olivia was our youngest chorister for the Lincoln cathedral residency in 2016.

Both have achieved well recently. Francesca has passed all her GCSE exams and been accepted on to her chosen courses for sixth form. One of her subjects is law, so we shall look forward to new, carefully-drafted treble behaviour rules as she picks up the relevant skills.



Olivia seems to be quite good at golf, as you will see from the photograph holding the trophy for the Bedfordshire Schools high handicap girls championship, which she won by a four shot margin.

The choir has been invited join with the Stewkley Singers to sing the semi-chorus part in a performance of Elgar's Dream of Gerontius here at All Saints on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Having just checked the date in the church diary, I see that the Thursday before this performance is Ascension Day so that's certainly going to be a busy week!

*Paul Dickens*

# Calendar of Events

**1<sup>st</sup> October**

**Harvest Supper** All Saints from 5pm

*See opposite for details.*

*Tickets from the Parish Office*

**2<sup>nd</sup> October**

**Harvest Festival**

**Services as usual including**

**Messy Mass** All Saints 11.30am

**Bereavement Support Café** Coffee

Shop, All Saints 2.30pm – 4pm

**5<sup>th</sup> October**

**Lunch Club** All Saints 1.00pm

**21<sup>st</sup> October**

**Crafty Natter** All Saints 1.30pm

**16<sup>th</sup> October**

**Services as usual including All Age Communion**

All Saints 11.30am



# Harvest Festival



## LEIGHTON BUZZARD MUSIC

### LIVE PROFESSIONAL CONCERTS

Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre, Lake St, LB. LU7 1RX

**Saturday 22nd October 2022 at 7.30pm**

### Art Deco Trio

The brilliant pianist Iain Farrington with Peter Sparks (clarinet) and Kyle Horch (sax). Programme from their critically acclaimed "Gershwinicity" Album and arrangements of popular classics with a jazz twist.



**Please note: Book via TicketSource or at the door.**

Please see links on the website, [www.lbmusic.co.uk](http://www.lbmusic.co.uk)

Leighton Buzzard Music is a registered charity no: 1183681



**All Saints Preservation Trust**  
Registered Charity No. 1077207



At a recent meeting of Trustees, it was decided that after 22 years, the Preservation Trust no longer requires an office base. Working practices have changed considerably over the last couple of years and many of us have got into the habit of 'working from home'! A local business, who supports the Trust, has very kindly offered us a postal address, so please send any future correspondence to:

**All Saints Preservation Trust, 30 High Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1EA**

Our website: [www.allsaintspreservationtrust.org](http://www.allsaintspreservationtrust.org)  
and email address: [enquiry@allsaintspreservationtrust.org](mailto:enquiry@allsaintspreservationtrust.org)

remain unchanged and you can always contact me on the number below.

This does not mean that the Trust is taking a step back. The Church does and always will continue to need repairs, requiring the Trust's financial support. So please remember to continue to help the Trust in any way you can, by supporting our fundraising endeavours or by setting up a regular donation. You may also consider making provision for us in your will. However you feel able to support us, we will use your donation wisely.

Let us together, help to keep All Saints church looking as wonderful as it does today. Thank you.

*Janet Wenborn 01525 370987*

ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH  
Come and join us for a  
**HARVEST SUPPER**  
SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER

5pm - 6pm Family Games  
Bingo, Beetle Drive etc

7pm Quiz - including children's round

**6pm - 7pm**  
Supper - Lasagna with Green Salad and French Bread (Veggie option available)  
Apple Pie with Ice Cream

Tables of eight (but could be more with young children included)  
Bring your own drink, glasses, plates and cutlery

ADULTS £10 - CHILDREN £5  
£25 for a family of 2 adults and up to three children  
Come for games and food - come for food and quiz  
or come all evening



## *Around the Ouzel Valley Team*

*Eight churches, each special in their own way, but all being Christian witness to the whole community of Leighton Linslade & the villages of the Ouzel Valley*



St. Michael and All Angels has seen generations of Billington-ians worshipping together, and marking life events – their own, and those of national figures including this year both the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and her death.

*Above left:* The beautiful interior still retains its oak panelling and traditional pews.

*Above right:* St. Michael & All Angels is a church at the centre of village life, and the focus for many village activities, such as a springtime ‘Clean up’ day when volunteers tidy the churchyard and polish up the brass and the oak inside the church. It makes such a difference when the paths are clear of weeds and dead leaves and the interior is neat and tidy. It always seems like hard work but the camaraderie ensures that it is both enjoyable and rewarding.



Another very happy occasion shared by many villagers and friends beyond, was the Platinum Jubilee ‘Beacon of Light’. Organised by the church, the celebration took the form of a ‘Sausage Sizzle’ with the ‘Light’ coming from a number of floodlights illuminating a crown atop a 4m pole. A good turnout ensured due thanks and respect for Her Majesty’s 70 years of faithful service and the good humour and excellent locally made sausages kept everyone happy throughout the evening.

# *This month, St Michael & All Angels, Billington A church at the heart of the community*

Our most recent event when villagers and friends from further afield came to share a cream tea on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September to raise funds for the church. The atmosphere was subdued so soon after the passing of Queen Elizabeth on 8<sup>th</sup> September but many spoke of the love and respect they felt and recalled favourite moments.

With our ageing congregation so many could recall the Coronation in 1953 and the visits the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh made around the nation when as school children we lined the route and cheered and waved. What times there were ahead of us all! We were extremely pleased that our single church bell, long out of action while repairs are awaited, was able to be pressed into action one more time and managed the requested one hour of tolling.



*A basket of posies made by the congregation & distributed by the children on Mothering Sunday.*

*Washing up: an activity for all!*



## ***Good Shepherd, Sandhills***

***Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh***

***Tel: 01525 838450***

***Churchwarden: Steve Nixon***



**CHURCH of the  
GOOD SHEPHERD**



### ***New beginning on an old journey!***

I first saw the interview for a Pioneer Missioner as I was at a crossroads in life, coming out of the pandemic wondering which direction I should go in. It struck me that this was a good opening and one which had clearly been prepared for very well.

Having previously been a Youth Pastor and seen good results, I was drawn, despite a pandemic hiatus, to continue in this line of ministry and also return to my childhood base in the Church of England.

I arrived finally after a bit of a wait and started at the All Saints holiday club in mid-August and was instantly bowled over by the enthusiasm, creativity and amazingly good decorations and sets. It's no insult to the Church's organisational skills to say I really did think I was in a jungle!

Following this I was welcomed at the Church of the Good Shepherd at Astral Park for the first time and was impressed by the warm welcome, the nice coffee and the wide-open outlook, soon to be filled with football players!

The Church of the Good Shepherd is a great example already of pioneering mission work, on a new(ish) housing estate that is sadly a bit under-resourced for community facilities and somewhere to socialise. We are a diverse bunch but worshipping in a more informal, but also I found really accessible, style. I have already spoken to several people for whom this was a key reason they had become and indeed stayed involved.

Having met and hung out with some of the very bright young people (playing basketball, and card games) I can tell I am going to have to up my game (and get fitter!). It will be exciting to hopefully get to know more of the young people and build successful youth work and see more of them engage and grow in Christian faith and experience. Prayers appreciated and indeed vital to this work!

I have also made appearances at St Leonard's and St Michael and All Angels Billington, both of which have beautiful churches and friendly congregations! I look forward to continued involvement with both of them and the rest of the churches in the Ouzel Valley Team area.

All told, it's been an encouraging start and I have already met and found some interesting opportunities and friendly folk. I have been struck by the verse in Proverbs about leaning not on your own understanding but trusting in the Lord with all your heart. I find that my, or perhaps our, biggest problem today is distraction (internet!) and that being able to focus on the Lord with busy lives is a key skill to learn! (Prov. 3:5-6).

***Tom Button. Ouzel Valley Team Pioneer***

## ***St. Nicholas, Hockliffe***

***Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney***

***Tel: 01525 237633***

***Churchwardens:***

***Brian Speller: 210565; Roger Spalding: 07451 877501***



I expect most of you have noticed that autumn this year appeared to arrive early. During this summer many trees have already been shedding their leaves due to the record-breaking high temperatures. It has been seriously challenging for farmers, and indeed, those closer to home, those whose livelihoods fall within our parish boundaries.

Autumn seasonally brings us Harvest time and our churches will once again celebrate the bountiful nature of God's creation. There will no doubt be a challenge across our nation this year to obtain the expected quantities of produce both for our own celebrations but also, more crucially, what we gather to donate to local charities. We see too clearly the effects of global warming and warfare on the availability and distribution of the earth's harvest; as Christians, it cannot have made us more acutely aware in this past year.

So, as stewards of God's creation, it is with great thanks to Him, our creator God, that we celebrate the scale of how generous He has been again this year, marking the occasion with our various festivals. St. Nicholas will be holding their Harvest Festival on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022 from 12pm. If you haven't already decided which one of the festivals you plan to attend at any of our Team's churches, you would be most welcome to join us too for our ploughman's lunch.

Clergy and financial resources are vital to the mission of God's kingdom in the Church of England and no more so than here in the Ouzel Valley Team Ministry. Whether it's the dwindling congregations or the crumbling fabric of our buildings, the Team faces many changes. Here at St. Nicholas the first phase of our Quinquennial repair programme is underway. This comprises a package of masonry, glazing, above and below ground drainage. Importantly this puts in place the infrastructure for the next phase to install toilet and kitchenette facilities. We are facing estimated costs of circa £79,000 (excluding reclaimed VAT). On a positive note we have received a grant of £10,000 from the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. With limited monies in our Fabric Fund we face a shortfall of £60,000 for this first phase. Bob Walters from our PCC is doing sterling work in conjunction with support from the Diocese to seek further funding.

Our worship and fellowship is vital to sustain us spiritually and numerically in the months that lie ahead, so here are some future dates for your diaries:

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022 11am: Remembrance Service at The War Graves

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7.30pm: St. Nick's Supper at Hockliffe Grange

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022 7pm: Carol Service

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023: Fr. Noel's Sabbatical

**Geoff Marchant**



## ***St. Michael & All Angels, Billington***

***Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh***

***Tel: 01525 838450***

***Churchwardens:***

***Sandra Brewin 373644;***

***Julia Haviland 850380***



At time of writing our minds are filled with the momentous happenings of the last few days when our Queen of 70 years is finally attaining her rest. I imagine that her influence from heaven will be everlasting. How fortunate we have been to have such a monarch.

On the night of the 5th of February 1952 I had a dream. It was a happy dream. In it I dreamed that our headmistress, a woman to be dreaded and feared, whose name was Miss King, died. I woke joyfully and cycled to school, Colchester County High School for Girls. At lunchtime we were all sitting at tables, pushing grey mince covered with a skin of yellow fat round our plates when a senior teacher entered the dining room. She looked sombre and threatening.



*"The King is dead."* she proclaimed. *"Long live the Queen"*.

I immediately felt shocked and ashamed. Had I in some way, by rejoicing at the demise of our headmistress brought tragedy on the Royal Family and our country. And had I now, along with all the citizens of the Commonwealth got to get used to singing "God Save the Queen". She was a young lady. How could she take on such a task? On every count I have been proved to be wrong.



**Feeding the  
Community**

On 11th September, we decided to go ahead with the Cream Tea which had been planned for several weeks. We thought that people would like to come together. More about that in the centre pages.

Harvest Festival at St. Michael and All Angels will be at 11.15 am on Sunday 2nd October. We will gratefully receive any gifts of non-perishable food stuffs and toiletries which will be taken to the Leighton Buzzard Food Bank in thankfulness to God for his provision for our needs.

***Sandra Brewin***

## ***St. Michael's, Eggington***

***Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney***

***Tel: 01525 237633***

***Church Officers:***

***Carol Hart 384634***

***Paul Brown 751861***



Well hello! 'What news from Eggington' I hear you ask. As it happens there is a fair bit. I am writing this on September 12th. Oh my. What a difference a week can make: We have a King and a new Prime Minister all in less than 3 days.

The church bell was rung by a small team for an hour on 9th September to mark the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. This bell is not rung often and hopefully next time it will be to mark a more joyous occasion.

On September 3rd over 200 people attended the Hog Roast at Eggington House. A delightful setting for this lovely event after an absence of 2 years. There was, of course, hog, and a veg alternative; and there was tea and cake and a very popular bar. There were garden games and archery in the woods and stalls selling a variety of lovely things. Local young band, STATYC, provided the background music and St Michael's will benefit from a share of the profits. Thanks go to the hosts, Olivier and Suzie Garrigue, the organising committee and the band of volunteers that make this event possible.

Just in case you hadn't noticed there has been significant tree work done on the road side of the church garden recently. A working party then spent back breaking hours moving the resulting wood chip to graves that needed a top dressing - they, the working party, were rewarded with tea and doughnuts - and then the work continued. These same keen volunteers are eagerly waiting for the ground to soften a little before planting bulbs next month. I believe the aim is for areas to be awash with colour come next spring. Do go along on 15<sup>th</sup> October and join in if you wish.

It has probably not gone unnoticed that Eggington is a new venue for WI meetings in the area. The group has over 25 members who are enjoying a varied programme at the monthly meetings. If you would like more information contact [eggingtonWI@gmail.com](mailto:eggingtonWI@gmail.com)

A number of people are planning to move from the village, and I am sure you will join me in wishing them well. We will, of course, miss them but, as is our nature, we will be eager to welcome our new neighbours. Meanwhile, the ebb and flow of our young adults keeps us on our toes and adds variety to the daily rhythm of life in our small village.

***Michelle Plummer***

Dates for the diary

1<sup>st</sup> October 22: Quiz evening, Village Hall, 7.00pm with Ploughman's supper

15<sup>th</sup> October 22: Working Party at St Michaels Church and garden from 10am

30<sup>th</sup> October 22: Joint Villages Service, St Michaels Church, 10am



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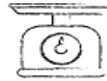


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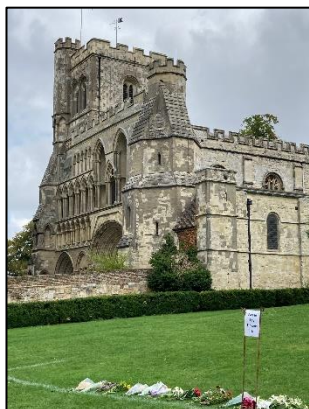
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The All Saints Bike 'n Hike team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored them this year. Katrina Grant, and Emma and Steve Birtles enjoyed a lovely day going on foot to visit as many churches as possible on a route which took them from Stanbridge, along the old railway track to Dunstable where they clocked up another 9 churches, and then up woodland paths to Kensworth. The church nestles in a shady dell, and the walkers, who had now enjoyed some energising refreshments at some churches, pounded along to Whippsnade's church and took in the tree cathedral en route. From there, thanks again to Emma and Steve's online OS maps, more hill paths were discovered for glorious views coming over the downs to finish at St Mary's Eaton Bray and a fantastic afternoon tea at their Heritage Day. It all added up to 14 churches, almost 15 miles and, thanks to people's generosity, a good sum raised which will be split between All Saints and the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust to help pay for repairs to local churches. Sponsor money is still coming in and the total will be announced.



If you would like to make a contribution to this, contact the team. Donations are split 50/50 between All Saints and BHHCT.

*Photos: Floral tributes at Dunstable Priory; Pulpit and niche at Whippsnade; View from the Downs; and Team All Saints.*







## ... Creation by Brian Irvine

*A series exploring some of the ways  
we encounter God in the world and in our lives.*

When I sat to write this I so desperately wanted to turn to a contemplation of the bright and beautiful creation with special consideration for all creatures great and small. I still might, but I would be remiss if I were to gloss over encountering God's lamentation.

Following a long hot summer, with a turbulent human-created winter of discontent stretched out in front of us, to turn to finding God in the beauty of creation seems both mean and shallow. To talk about flowers that still open, or each little bird that sings without regard for the years of squander we have each participated in seems to tuck God away in a small box labelled '*naïve optimism*'.

Neither is it in anyone's interest to duck such thoughts. Both the rich in the castles and the poor at the gate will both be suffering. Which perhaps is just as well. Wealth will not protect from climate changes. Civil unrest as displaced populations cannot be mitigated by a fortress mentality. Global economic prosperity - whether we want it to be or not - is an interlinked system that trades the creativity and work of all. If all are threatened there is no escape.

So, what do we do? The bible does a good line in communal lament. There is a whole Book of Lamentations; a collection of poetry of sorrow, desertion, destruction and return to God. There is precedence to join with the divine groan of grief and sorrow for the world. A third of all the psalms that resound in our buildings every Sunday are psalms of lament. These lamentations are not simply ways for us to vent our anger and grief at a world that has been messed up beyond our comprehension. They are lamentations in which we cry along with our God and our history of faith.

A hungry Israel cries out to God that they have no water in the desert, that their environment is a scorched waste unfit for life. This is not a complaint that God led them out to hardship; it is lament, an appeal to God that is known as a just God. But the Lamentations are stark. This is no promise of rescue by some miracle. We will endure, but it will be struggle, for as the climate changes life will get harder. And our response as a church may be tears.

We will cry - alongside God - for the world. These are not the quiet tears of the bereft and lost, these are tears that we know will be seen by others. We have a duty to cry for a better world in the public space, because we are the ones with hope. We have hope in God's past goodness, hope in a world that is continually redeemed, hope in a community of faith, hope in a creative humanity, hope in a just Redeemer.

And, perhaps, the God-breathed created order can be redeemed. Each of us, each and every soul across the planet is made together in the image of God. We have God's creative flair and zest. That part of God that sees creation and calls it good is part of what we were made to be. When we see purple headed mountains and clear rivers running by that part of us that sings, is the part of us that reflects the divine outpouring of joy. And every time we tinker with a water-butt, build a wind farm, knit a jumper, plant seeds in soil, educate a child, paint our experience, pray for peace, or dance in the rain, we honour our creator by creating.

This is our hope. Not only did God create us to be resourceful, but he designed a world in which revelation, redemption and restitution mark out the arcs of history. There is a 1.5° global temperature rise on the horizon: but that's better than 2° or 3°. We have the time, to effect some political and economic will to bring around the change that is needed. It is slowly becoming apparent that – to ensure our children's and grandchildren's future – that half measures are not going to be enough. As God's people of care, we are the ones that need to step forward. To encounter our God through our creativity. To reveal that encounter to others through actions of dissent and compassion. To feed the hungry when resources are scarce; to extend hospitality to those in the cold; to lament alongside God for the brokenness of the world, to weep with Christ in the garden. We hope to be unbowed so we can stand and do what needs to be done... to encounter God in creation and find in it a rallying cry to steward that creation for the good of that creation. There is something wise and wonderful in creation. It is us.

But in the now, the today, with all this on our shoulders, there is still beauty in the world. We not only have eyes to see them; we have Christ's body of our church community to be the lips that tell. Creation, even a fallen and broken creation, still resounds with Christ's love. It is where we can encounter salvation, it is the world which sustains us, and the reflection of the heavenly glory, where God will make all things well.

*Brian Irvine*



## ***Exploring Our Churchyard – and discovering some amazing stories***

Those of us who work in the churchyard are used to greeting all kinds of visitors. Some people just like to stroll around listening to the birdsong and contemplating the change in the seasons. Others come with drawing equipment and easels to sketch the building. Photographers with their expensive looking cameras come to zoom in on the peregrine falcon at the top of the spire or the unusual insects under their feet. One grandma came with children and picnic blanket to play hide and seek among the trees. Many people stop to ask questions or to say some appreciative words about the welcoming tranquility of the place.

Now and again, somebody visits wishing to locate a particular grave of an ancestor or loved one. In the spring of this year a lady came to ask if we knew where William Barker was buried. After learning her reason for wishing to find him we were all equally keen to find him too, and many of us went home that day determined to trawl through the internet and discover more about him.

William Barker, who was buried in our churchyard in 1900 was a survivor of the charge of the Light Brigade. The Inverness Courier in an article entitled, "Death of a Crimean Veteran " on 17th September 1900 stated: "Mr. William Barker, one of the few survivors of the famous charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, died in his native town, Leighton Buzzard, on Tuesday, aged 81 years. During the Crimean war he was Sergeant-Major in the 17th Lancers, and on the occasion of the historic charge he saw every officer of his troop killed or wounded. The command of the troop then devolved on him, and whilst leading his men against the enemy, his horse was shot under him, and falling on its side crushed its rider's left knee and ankle. Still, he mounted another horse and resumed his command."



After the war he served as a coast guard in Lincolnshire but returned to his native Leighton Buzzard to buy The Greyhound Inn with his war pension. He was landlord of The Greyhound between 1871 and 1884.

William Barker married twice and had two sons and six daughters. He is buried at the west end of the churchyard.

***All Saints Gardening Team***



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