

OCTOBER 2024 £2.00

COMMENT

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCHES IN TRING



High Street Baptist Church - Tring

Growing in the message and challenge of God



For details about our services, prayer meetings and special events visit our website.

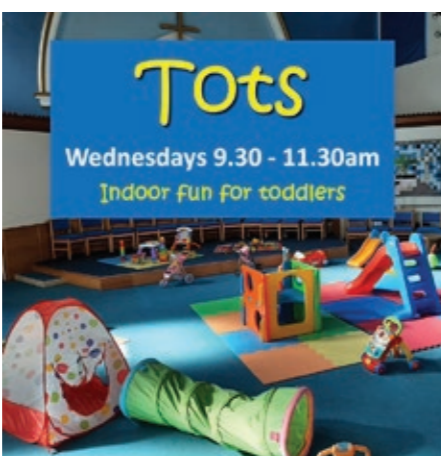


Morning worship

Sundays 10.30am

Join us in-person or online with Junior church

Growing in the message and challenge of God.



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High Street Baptist Church

The moon is always round and God is always good



The moon has always fascinated humanity. It lights up our night skies, influences the tides, and has been a symbol in countless cultures throughout history. But there's something about the moon that we often take for granted: even when we can't see it, it is still there!

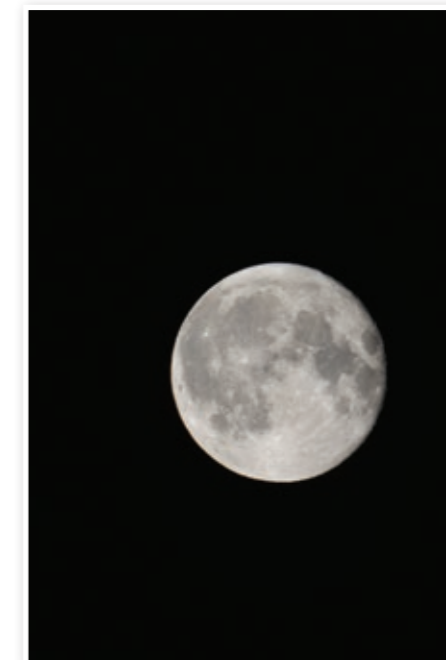
No matter what we see from Earth, the moon is always whole. Its shape doesn't change; only our perspective does. This simple yet profound truth mirrors a deeper spiritual reality – God's unchanging goodness, even when we cannot perceive it.

There are times in our lives when we feel distant from God or when circumstances cloud our vision, making it hard to see his hand at work. In these moments, it can be tempting to doubt, to question whether God is still there or whether God is still good. But just like the moon, God's nature does not

change. He is always present, always whole, always good. James 1:17 tells us, 'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.' This verse speaks to the constancy of God's goodness, contrasting it with the shifting, uncertain nature of the world around us.

Even when we cannot see it, God's goodness is like the full moon, always there, even if hidden from our view. In difficult times, we might struggle to see God's goodness in our lives. We may feel overwhelmed by darkness, much like a night without a visible moon. But faith reminds us that God's goodness is not dependent on our circumstances or our ability to perceive it. His goodness is an eternal truth, unchanging and ever-present. Faith in God's goodness doesn't mean we will always understand his ways. It doesn't mean we won't have questions or doubts. But it does mean that we hold onto the truth of who God is, even when we can't see the full picture.

In every phase of life, whether in joy or sorrow, clarity or confusion, we can



trust in the unchanging nature of God. His goodness is like the moon – constant, faithful, and always present, even when hidden from our view. Let this truth be a source of hope and comfort to your soul, for just as the moon is always round, so God is always good.

'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures for ever.' Psalm 136:1

Tom Copperwheat
Akeman Street Baptist Church



Living God's Love
In the Tring Team Parish
Harvest FESTIVAL
2024

Sunday 6th October 6pm at
All Saints' Church, Long Marston -
With Tring Brewery beer, wine and soft
drinks - Harvest food served as well!

Sing your favourite Harvest Hymns as we give thanks for the Harvest, and collecting for the Bishop's appeal: Thrive: Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in Sri Lanka in partnership with The Leprosy Mission.

Booking is needed for catering purposes.
www.tringteamparish.org.uk/news
01442 822170



Harvest Festival

Sunday 13th October

Service at 10am Tring Parish Church

Service for all ages collecting foodbank items for DENS from their high-needs list

Parish Harvest Lunch at 12.30pm

Come and enjoy a two-course Parish Harvest Lunch as we celebrate the harvest

Booking is needed to help us cater, byo drinks.

www.tringteamparish.org.uk/news

Collecting donations at the service and surplus money from the lunch to go to the Bishop's appeal,
Thrive: Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in Sri Lanka
in partnership with The Leprosy Mission

Sources for hope



Following their UK tour Hiba and Tiffi would like the following message to be clearly known in the UK. There are people from both sides who are committed to reconciliation.

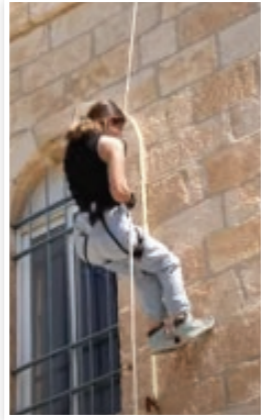
Musalaha's Newsletter from July 2024 contains a list of five ongoing activities carried on in the face of the increasing polarisation.

Somehow Musalaha found a way of running their Children's Summer camp for 120 children in Bethlehem. The pictures show various activities. Run by thirty leaders from the Young Adults Group in Bethlehem, the camp fostered understanding and friendships across the different communities. The Young Adults Group are a source of hope and inspiration for the future during the darkest times.

In the Muslim-Christian Women's Reconciliation Program, participants learn to acknowledge, respect, and study each other's beliefs, rooted in the fundamental right to freedom of religion and belief. The programme empowers women to become local leaders. Newly appointed Project Manager Aseel Rian writes, 'As a Palestinian woman, feminist, and activist, I deeply resonate with Musalaha's values and reconciliation process. I am committed to engaging in this process, challenging and being challenged, questioning gender-based assumptions, and working to see women as active agents of change for themselves and their communities.'



Aseel Rian



The Israeli and Palestinian Civil Society Leaders group began in June last year as part of the co-advocacy training programme, focusing on people's rights including freedom to change beliefs or religion. They navigated numerous challenges, including the events of 7 October and the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Despite these hardships, they successfully conducted two outreach initiatives. The first involved delivering feminine care packages to the residents of Masafer Yatta facing ethnic forcible transfer. The second was a video aimed at raising awareness of the environmental impact and of the day-to-day challenges people face living under military occupation.

The Musalaha team announced the release of Salim Munayer's newest book, 'Reconciling Justice': Concepts of Justice in the Multi-religious Context of Palestine/Israel'. In a time of so much injustice, this book delves into the profound and thoughtful concepts of justice already present within Jewish, Muslim, and Middle Eastern Christian traditions. Too often, these rich perspectives are overlooked. Salim fills this gap by exploring how each Abrahamic faith perceives and develops the idea of justice, particularly in the unique and complex context of Palestine/Israel. From a uniquely Palestinian Christian perspective, 'Reconciling Justice' offers a theological framework for engaging with both justice and reconciliation to foster better understanding and cooperation across multi-ethnic, political, and

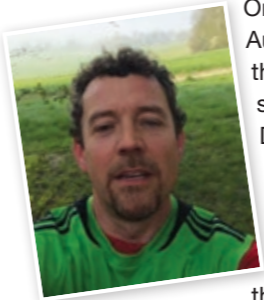


Children's Summer Camp Activities

religious divides. You can find the book using this link: <https://wipfandstock.com/9798385208005/reconciling-justice> and on Amazon, including Kindle.

Colin Briant
High Street Baptist Church
colin.briant@hotmail.com
<https://musalaha.org>
<https://www.musalaha.uk>

Welcoming and inspirational



On Saturday 17 August I attended the latest in the series of 'Quiet Days' at St Mary's Church and Cecilia Hall, Puttenham, billed as 'A quiet day following the daily rhythm of monastic prayer'.

If you've seen the advertisements and wondered whether it's for you, I'd like to promote the day on their behalf. It is a beautiful opportunity to dwell on God's word, in a welcoming place amongst brothers and sisters in Christ, whom, as we know when gathered together in Jesus' name will be joined by him. Finding the time in our busy lives is the perpetual barrier, but if you can carve out at least a little time to join part of the day it will be time well spent. And if you're worried it might be a bit full-on, a bit too 'devout' for you (or even pious) then don't worry! Nothing is compulsory; there's a relaxed, friendly, and informal vibe.

The worship pattern was based on the Benedictine monastic schedule of communal prayers comprising the offices of: Matins (at 8.00am), Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers and Compline (at 8:40pm), after which the Great Silence begins and the assembled company all left in silence to make their way home. At midday there was also a celebration of the Eucharist. Interspersed between the timetabled worship pattern were guided talks, as well as scheduled intervals of free time for self-directed reflection in the church environs.



Guests were free to join the day for all or any part. Three meals were on offer (which was the only requirement to pre-book on to). Around eight or nine of us observed the entire day, others attended a morning, an afternoon or evening, with peak attendance of almost thirty around midday.

Matins began at 8.00am in the church, followed by Lauds, after which we decamped to Cecilia Hall for

breakfast. There followed the offices of Prime and Terce, back at the church before the first talk. The 'Offices' are taken from the Psalms, read aloud; the Leader reciting verse 1, the congregation verse 2 and so on. Alternating verses aloud helped internalise the words and knowing you were coming in on the next verse held the concentration throughout. Each office would end with the Lord's Prayer and a piece of music, curated by Tim James, one of the day's leaders.

Breakfast was homemade bread, toast and jams and warm croissants, tea or coffee and juice. The atmosphere was very open and friendly, and we were free to sit where we liked. I recognised a few faces from previous Quiet Days but not all. Folks seemed to have come from a variety of churches within Tring Parish, although a few came from further afield, one lady hailing from Leighton Buzzard, another from Linslade. There was a lovely warmth to the meet-and-greet shared breakfast, served by the event organisers but tidied away by all. Lunch was homemade soup and bread; hot dinner was more substantial and delicious! Homemade snacks, teas and coffee were available throughout.



St Mary's (Saxon) Church is off the beaten track, hidden from the road, set in its own grounds and surrounded by fields. It offers the perfect location for a retreat, and we were blessed to be bathed in sunshine for most of the day. In the afternoon break there was an optional walk, four miles along local fields and canals which six of us went on, stopping for a refreshing glass of something cool at Long Marston's Queens Head towards the end. If walking isn't your thing, some folks used the break to read or there were colouring materials available in the hall. On our return from the walk there was even an occupied sun lounger in the shade of a tree which had been used for a snooze! The day was structured but not stuffy: don't be put off by the strictures of the offices. The day is indeed for you. You're free to take it as you find it, a chance to reflect peacefully on whatever



you need – with the Lord and his word close to mind.

The theme for the day was 'Speaking about God'. In the first group session we sat in a large circle in the hall, sharing and listening to one another's reflections prompted by a selection of thought-provoking postcards, whichever we were drawn to (speaking was optional but most were happy to share). Following this activity, we were invited to write words on post-it notes that we associated with God, producing an inspirational array!



In another session we focused on the words of John 1:1,14: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.' We were invited silently to turn the words over in our minds for a good twenty minutes, noticing whatever thoughts came to us, which we discussed afterwards.

After lunch we were joined by guest speaker Revd Margaret Saunders whose insights on the theme, prayer, silence and Lectio Divina were all very stimulating.

I came away feeling peaceful, having been fully immersed in the Word. There was plenty of food for thought; psalms which resonated in new ways to re-visit, books to add to my reading pile, even music to download.

I look forward very much to the next Quiet Days on Saturday 23 November 2024, led by Revd David Holloway and Saturday 8 February 2025 led by the Dean of St Albans, the Very Revd Jo Kelly Moore.

Eddie Hayden
High Street Baptist Church

TRING CHARITIES
 (Registered Charity No 207805)

ALMSHOUSES IN TRING

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

Applicants, one of whom must be aged 55 or over, must not own their own home or have significant savings.

Applicants will be asked to supply personal financial information to prove their beneficial status.

The average weekly maintenance contribution (equivalent to "rent" for housing benefit purposes) is £107 for a one bedroom property and £126 for a two bedroom property.

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

Tring's Own Apple Fayre



Tring's Own Apple Fayre is a month-long programme of activity in and around Tring, held annually each October since 2006. Given the climate

and nature crisis, re-establishing connections between people and their environment, food and the seasons is critical. Tring's Own Apple Fayre plays an important part in helping our community to do this.

Orchards are a crucial part of our heritage and landscape. Not only do they provide much-loved fruit, but they are also incredibly valuable habitats for wildlife. We need to conserve, support and celebrate the special orchards we have left – and plant lots more! With at least two Apple Fayre events taking place at Tring's historic WWI Jeacock's Orchard, this is a great opportunity to come along and enjoy a local orchard (and maybe pick some apples!).

As well as promoting local apples and orchards, the broader aims of the Apple Fayre are to enhance local awareness of local food growers and producers and

their outlets; to encourage people to both grow their own food and consume local food; to promote an understanding of the seasons and seasonal produce; and more generally to help people connect their own lifestyles to impacts on climate, biodiversity and landscapes. Crucially, this is done through fun, music and dancing!

Come along to the Apple Day on Sunday 6 October at Jeacock's Orchard. Support local produce stalls, get involved with apple pressing, see fantastic craft stalls, including spinning, weaving and wood turning. There will also be wildlife displays, music, storytelling and nature activities, local charity stalls and light refreshments.

On Saturday 12 October, line the streets for the Apple Fayre procession from the King's Arms to the Market Place, Brook Street. Follow the Apple Cart decorated by Magnolia, Tring's Own

Apple Fayre – Apple Day

Sunday 6 October
10.00am–4.00pm

Jeacock's Orchard, Cow Lane,
Tring, HP23 5NS

Apple Parade

Saturday 12 October
10.30am–11.00am
Tring High Street

Apple Man, Morris Dancers, musicians, then stay for the Farmers' Market and support local produce with a special fruity flavour.

Tring's Own Apple Fayre is a true Tring community event: don't miss it! Check out all the events: www.facebook.com/TringsOwnAppleFayre/events.

Polly Eaton
High Street Baptist Church



Poem of the month



Here's an October poem for October. In simple, vivid detail the poet describes the signs of the end of the growing season of summer – it is an almost melancholic prelude to the onset of autumn and winter but the poem ends with the assurance that just as leaf mould nurtures new growth so, from apparent decay, new ideas can emerge for the creative imagination.

Norman Cornthwaite Nicholson, poet, writer, critic and novelist, was born in 1914 in Millom, Cumbria, on the edge of the Lake District. He was the only child of a gentleman's outfitter; his mother died when he was 5. At schools in Millom he showed great promise but study at university was precluded by a diagnosis of tuberculosis at 16 and he spent two years being treated at a sanatorium in Hampshire. (It was before

the days of antibiotics.) Returning to Cumbria, he lived all his life in the same house, marrying in his 40s. He earned his living as a poet (championed by T.S. Eliot) and writing critical reviews. The Cumbrian people and the landscape which surrounded him were central to his work and his poems are full of direct, colloquial expressions. Overtly Christian he was much influenced by the Wesleyan Methodism of his step-mother and was confirmed into the Church of England. As well as his writing he lectured for the WEA and was a keen critic of the damage done to the environment by industry. He was awarded the Queen's Award for Poetry in 1977 as well as several Honorary degrees. He died at Whitehaven in 1987 and was buried alongside his wife in

St Luke's Summer

*The low sun leans across the slanting field,
And every blade of grass is striped with shine
And casts its shadow on the blade behind,
And dandelion clocks are held
Like small balloons of light above the ground.*

*Beside the trellis of the bowling green
The poppy shakes its pepper-box of seed;
Groundsel feathers flutter down;
Roses exhausted by the thrust of summer
Lose grip and fall; the wire is twined with weed.*

*The soul, too, has its brown October days –
The fancy run to seed and dry as stone,
Rags and wisps of words blown through the mind;
And yet, while dead leaves clog the eyes,
Never-predicted poetry is sown.*

Norman Nicholson, 1948

Millom churchyard.

St Luke's Summer is the name sometimes given to a period of unseasonably warm weather occurring around 18 October, St Luke's Day.

Kate Banister
St Julian's, St Albans

Grow your own – better by miles

Did you know that DEFRA estimate that transporting food is responsible for 25% of all miles covered by heavy goods traffic in the UK, and that doesn't take account of shipping or air freight, all of which adds up to a lot of carbon emissions?

In reality, we are never going to eliminate food miles completely, just as no one individual can save the planet on their own. But we can all take some action, and if we all do a little, then it adds up to a lot.

As one of my actions, I have chosen to grow my own produce where I can. It helps reduce carbon emissions, reduces food miles and plastic packaging, the food is fresher and food waste is reduced as you only pick what you need, or you can share any excess

with your neighbours. It is also fun, and something you could do with your children or grandchildren.

It doesn't matter if you don't have an allotment or a large space to grow your own. You can still grow herbs or vegetables in a small space, or a single pot in a window box. Whatever you choose to do, it can only be a positive step for the planet.

Brenda Pyke
Craft and a Cuppa,
St Peter & St Paul



Letter from Orkney



I am normally viewed as a grumpy, old 80-year-old: opinionated, and not afraid of speaking what is on my mind. Well, I have now had to review the situation entirely.

My proud self-opinion has had a severe knock. I had a very active, very bright, very, very chatty, 6-year-old visitor plus her staff of two personal attendants for a week. She has all the attributes of an ALIEN, the charm of an accomplished siren, the face of an angel, and a mind as sharp as the best Samurai sword. I was smitten. Soft as warm butter, her tiny little finger seemed to be quite big enough to wrap me around.



So, story-telling, fairies, Trows, (goblins) and Selkies (princesses in seal skins) backed up by evidence such as the Trows Stone and the Fairy Woods all had to be shown. The amazing thing to me was that we went to a Quaint (real) wood looking for the occupants and she found a small six-inch figurine of a fairy sitting on a seat someone had left there. That clinched it. I am now revered as having great knowledge of fairyland (mind you, not much else). I am now regarded by the men with contempt – not an ounce of adult grump left.

In other news, the famous 'Ness of Brodgar' archeological dig closes for good this year, so many more people have been visiting Orkney – especially archeologists.

Otherwise, apart from a string of (welcome) visitors it has been a pretty dreich summer: rain, wind to blow your socks off, rain, gloomy cloud, rain and the grass is growing like mad. Of course, being wet I can't mow (the mower won't cut wet grass). And to cap it all, the ducks have stopped laying now for months. So, I am having to put up with wee chicken eggs. The silver lining is I won't get so fat. Speaking of fat, I have been trying this new self-injecting weight loss regime, and it works! I have lost just under 2 stone in three months. With 2 more to go and I will even see my own shoes. Please don't misunderstand me, I am grateful for every day I am given in this 'my Canaan'.

I have been told Church of Scotland



meet in the kirk and Church of England meet in a church. So, Milestone Kirk is rumbling on with a hefty congregation of often around fifty. Café church each month with coffee and cake plus sermon-related games, all seated at tables during it – great for meeting folk and surprises visitors. We have formal Holy Communion once a month, and informal communion once a month after the main service. The usual coffee mornings during the week plus Knit and Natter mornings (I usually miss those on account of my non-existent knitting skills).

Not much more I can tell you about the northern reaches except now everything is growing like mad we have bucketloads of chard, tomatoes and garlic and of course – GRASS.

God bless you all from us and Milestone this 'summer's' day.

Mac Dodge
Milestone Kirk, Orkney

William Tyndale, 6 October



It's such a tiny moment that, amongst all the other ritual of a sung Eucharist, some may not even notice it happen. It's just after the Gospel reading, when the

reader takes hold of the Gospel book and elevates it slightly. Every time I see this happen I am conscious that for centuries this glimpse would be the closest that ordinary people ever came to the Bible.

In 1494, when William Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire, the only authorised version of the Bible was St Jerome's 4th century Latin translation, which could be read only by the highly educated. English versions of the Bible by John Wycliffe were circulating in manuscript form, but were illegal.

Following education at Oxford and Cambridge, Tyndale was ordained priest in about 1521. He returned to minister in Gloucestershire but became increasingly influenced by the writings of Erasmus, a Dutchman who argued for a personal relationship with God that was not mediated or controlled by the church hierarchy. Tyndale became convinced that he could facilitate this by translating the Bible into contemporary English. In 1524, Tyndale travelled to

Germany where he hoped to complete his secret translation in greater safety. In 1526 more than 3,000 copies of Tyndale's New Testament were printed by Peter Schoeffer (who served his apprenticeship with Gutenberg). Most were smuggled into England. Only three copies are known to survive. One, missing fifty-nine leaves, is held in the library of St Paul's Cathedral, the site where Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of London, presided over the burning of most copies. A copy missing only the title page was bought by the British Library in 1994 for more than £1 million from Bristol Baptist College, which had received it in a bequest in 1784. Then in 1996 a complete copy was discovered in the Württembergische Landesbibliothek in Stuttgart, Germany (the previous owner had all his books rebound in 1550 and that date had been recorded for the Bible).

About 80%, and much of the poetic quality, of the King James Version of the Bible comes directly from Tyndale's translation.

Tyndale was working on translating the Prophets when he was arrested in 1535 and tried for heresy. He was strangled and then burnt at the stake on 6 October 1536.

Today, courtesy of my phone, I carry twenty-five different English versions of the Bible (including three audio versions) in my pocket and I have access online to scores more. In 1999, Wycliffe Global Alliance, a



Portrait of William Tyndale © Trustees of the British Museum. Tyndale's New Testament can be seen in the Sir John Ritblat Gallery of the British Library.

Bible-translating mission organisation, aimed to translate the Bible into all world languages by 2025. By 2023 the whole Bible was available in only 10% of world languages (which are spoken by over 80% of the world's population). The moment of elevation of the Gospels reminds me how lucky I am.

Linzi James
St Peter & St Paul

*When walking through Whitehall Gardens (which used to be Henry VIII's private garden when he moved from Westminster to Whitehall), we saw the statue of William Tyndale shown here. Tyndale's last words were 'Lord! Open the King of England's eyes'. A year later, Henry VIII allowed the Bible to be translated into English, which was nearly all Tyndale's work. **The Editor***



Join the Pope's book club



No, the Pope doesn't actually have a book club, but on 4 August 2024 the Pope issued an open letter in eight languages 'On the role of Literature in

Formation' recommending the value of reading novels and poetry'. This, he maintains, should be part of one's path to personal maturity. Whilst the letter is specifically aimed at the education of seminarians, it is by extension applicable to 'all those involved in pastoral work and all Christians seeking to develop an understanding of themselves and the world about them'.

Reading is a popular occupation these days. This is a country with more than 5000 registered book clubs. The BBC promotes them, the Queen had one and quite a few can be found in our local congregations. Some people belong to two. I myself lead one. So, I was intrigued to find out why Pope Francis considered reading so important as a component of a Christian education. After all, it was only in 1966 that the Index Liborum Prohibitorum list of books dangerous to faith and morals was abandoned. (The novel 'Madame Bovary' was notoriously banned.) Was there something in the Pope's letter that was useful advice for those of us in a book club or indeed anybody interested in developing a critical understanding of the books that we read?

Not knowing a great deal about the life of Pope Francis, I was surprised to discover that his interest in novels and poetry goes back to when, as a young man, he taught literature in high school and was very much influenced by the response and ideas of his pupils. Revealing a somewhat rebellious nature, he abandoned the set book his pupils considered boring ('El Cid') and let them choose novels they liked. A literary work, he maintains, is a 'living and ever fruitful text' which is, of course, why book clubs flourish. Each person responds to the text in relation to their own experience and responses will vary, sometimes considerably, and discussion can become argument.

Pope Francis's letter is a long one and the whole should be read to appreciate the full thrust of his argument; but two points, I think, are useful for readers in clubs or not.

Proust: 'A la recherche du temps perdu'
C.S. Lewis: 'An Experiment in Criticism'
The whole of Pope Francis's Letter can be found on the web:
Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis on the role of Literature in Formation.

Firstly, reading novels and poetry extends our knowledge of the world. Readers should accept the responsibility of 'passing judgement' by acknowledging the impossibility of reducing the mystery of the world and humanity to a dualistic polarity of true versus false or right versus wrong. We ourselves grow through the experience of 'hearing a voice that speaks through many voices'. In reading, the Pope argues, we involve ourselves in the lives of others, their thoughts, concerns, loves, joys and tragedies. Novels 'unleash in us in the space of an hour, all the possible joys and misfortunes that, in life it would take us entire years to know even slightly, and of which the most intense would never be revealed to us because the slowness with which they occur prevents us from perceiving them' (Marcel Proust).

Pope Francis uses this quotation from Proust to reinforce his belief in the way novels can enable us to 'listen to another person's voice'. As Christians, he says, we must never forget how dangerous it is to stop listening to the voice of other people when they challenge us, we must avoid 'spiritual deafness' leading to a lack of personal growth.

Secondly, reading encourages the development of empathy: 'seeing through the eyes of others'. Identifying how others see and experience and respond to humanity gives a perspective that broadens our humanity.

We can develop 'an imaginative empathy that enables us to identify with how others see, experience and respond to reality. When we read a story, thanks to the descriptive powers of the author, each of us can see before our eyes the weeping of an abandoned girl... the struggles of a shopkeeper trying to eke out a living... the boy who takes refuge in dreams. As these stories awaken faint echoes of our own inner experience, we become more sensitive to the experience of other companions on their journey'. Expansion of experience and knowledge of the world, together with empathy, these are indeed good points for our club discussions. But what about Pope Francis's book choice? In fact, he is very sparing in giving examples of works he recommends. The novels of fellow Argentinian Jorge Luis Borge are perhaps an obvious choice. He mentions without detail 'the great tragedians' and quotes Proust. (I confess that I never got past Chapter 5 of 'Swan's Way'). But perhaps the most appropriate conclusion is to end with his reference to the works of C.S. Lewis, that great Christian storyteller: 'In reading great literature I become a thousand men and yet remain myself. Like the night sky in the Greek poem, I see with myriad eyes, but it is still I who see. Here, as in worship, in love, in moral action and in knowing, I transcend myself, and am never more myself than when I do'.

As Pope Francis says at the end of his letter... 'reading sheds light on every dimension of the human condition...' so keep on reading!

Caroline Ellwood
St John the Baptist, Aldbury

Jane Ducklin
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Altar and chalice cloths



Most churches place a cloth over the altar or table when communion is served. This dates back to the early church in the 2nd century AD, where the cloth on the altar or

communion table signified the cloth that Joseph of Arimathea wound around the body of the crucified Jesus. The cloth was specifically white linen, a Jewish tradition then and now. 'Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb.' Matthew 27:59-60

Pope Boniface III passed a decree in 607 saying that all altars had to be covered with a cloth, although almost all churches were already doing this. By the 9th century four cloths were used. Each had a purpose.

The white bottom cloth was exactly the same size as the altar top and was called a cere (or wax) cloth. This was linen impregnated with wax to form a waterproof layer which protected the surface of the altar from wine spills.

The middle two white cloths were also the exact size of the altar top and were made of heavy linen to act as a cushion for the heavy altar vessel and prevent denting of the altar.

The top cloth was made of fair white linen and could hang over the edges of the altar top. It might have five crosses embroidered on it to represent the five wounds of Jesus.

These cloths were always left on the altar but when not in use, they had a

protective coverlet on top to keep off dust.

The chalice was covered with a pall, a square of card covered in fine linen, which protected the wine in the chalice from flies and dust. This was covered with a decorative veil.

On Maundy Thursday, many churches 'stripped the altar' of everything for one day, just leaving a bare altar. This was to remember the humiliation of Jesus by the Roman soldiers.

After the Reformation, some churches had the altar removed and replaced by a low table for communion, but many churches kept their altars. Cloths were normally still used to cover the table or altar. There was still a chalice for the wine, and this was also usually covered with a cloth. In Scotland many churches had a very long communion table and the congregation sat at it for communion, and it was covered with a white cloth. In some Southern parts of the US a white cloth is placed over the entire table, over the bread and the wine. There are various reasons given for this, but the main consensus is that it is to keep the flies off!

Some churches and cathedrals have the altar, when not used for communion, covered with a frontal cloth which hangs to the floor and is coloured. In most cases it is green for ordinary days, purple for Advent or Lent, red for Pentecost and a saint's day, and gold and white for Easter and Christmas. Some churches and cathedrals add black on All Souls' Day. These colours are also the colour for the vestments of the clergy. Some



Catholic churches add blue and violet for special days. The Eastern Orthodox church uses different colour schemes, mainly gold, light blue, wine red, red, green and black. The Russian Orthodox church adds orange to these.

Personally, I have never been to a communion service or mass anywhere which did not have the table or altar covered with a white cloth during the service – but I am sure there will be churches somewhere who do this. Most Protestant churches see the white cloth as a sign of respect and reverence.

John Allan
High Street Baptist Church

*The church I attended in my teens and where I was married was a 'low' church, All Saints, Laleham. They did not have a cloth at all on the table. The word altar rather than table and the cloth itself were understood to have a different meaning connected with the differing views between Catholics and Protestants about what happens at a Holy Communion service. The 'table' was to reflect the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his death with the emphasis on 'remembering' rather than the emphasis on sacrifice. **The Editor***

News from the bell tower



By the dreaming spires and in the erudite conversation of Cambridge, I walk along the banks of the Cam, as the sun slowly sinks on the horizon and

touches the water with a golden light. My little grandson's sticky hand is clutched firmly in mine, as the mellifluous sound of the bells of St Clements sound out loud and clear on the evening breeze.

'That's a Quarter Peal they are ringing,' I say, and I tell him that church bells are big and heavy and are rung by pulling on the fluffy part of a rope called a sally that is often coloured red, white and blue.

'You must be very strong then, Grandma!' he answers.

'It's more about science than strength,' I reply. 'Work done equals force times distance, you know.'

'I want to ding-dong them too, like you do!' he says.

His 6-year-old enthusiasm is delightful and now all I have to do

is keep bringing up the subject of bell ringing for a few years and then encourage him to bring along his friends for company to practice nights in his Cambridgeshire village.

So a future generation of bellringers will be set on this delightful path. Bells will be rung in England's green and pleasant land until 2124, I trust. At least this is my enduring hope.

Johanna Morgan
Tring Bell Tower

The big breakfast



The Parishioners of Corpus Christi Church in Tring got together after the 10.30am Mass to say thank you to Father Joseph Okoro for looking after the parish for the last five months. Father Joseph is the Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church in Berkhamsted and stepped in to support the Parishioners of Corpus Christi

whilst Father Sean Thornton was on sabbatical.

Father Joseph organised other priests to say Mass as well as saying Mass regularly at Corpus Christi himself. This meant that parishioners had the sacraments regularly and support for the sick and dying of the parish.

Over seventy parishioners attended the event to show how grateful they were to Father Joseph who took on the extra responsibilities of Tring on top of his Berkhamsted duties. Paul Wright, Chair of the Parish's Finance

Committee, presented Father Joseph with a card and a thank you gift. Father Joseph commented that he has rarely seen a parish where the community is so supportive of each other, and it is clear how much the parishioners love Corpus Christi Church.

Father John Byrne took over the role of parish priest on Monday 9 September and there will be a Q & A with Father John in the next issue of *Comment*.

Margaret Donnelly
Corpus Christi Church



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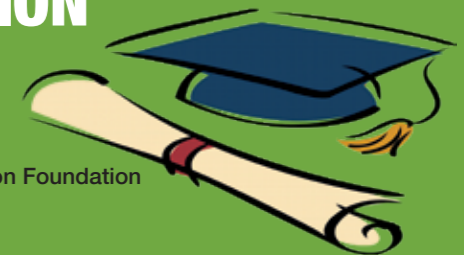
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Website details: www.tringcharities.co.uk/education

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Please note that the closing date is 15 November 2024 to lodge a completed application for grants payable from Autumn 2025.



A step into Tring's past, 60-odd years ago

Mrs Hearn was Head of The Arts Educational School, now Tring Park, and during term-time she lived in the White Suite with her husband, Sid, who was a retired Baptist Minister. The dance staff (of whom I was one) lived in and were all in their early 20s. Also living in were the Heads of Music and Drama and some members of academic staff, all situated on the Staff Corridor, plus one Matron. There were two weekend duties per term, in pairs, for all residential staff, plus the head of accompanists who had a flat opposite the end of the drive.

In the early 1960s, there were only girls at the school and there was no 6th Form. All pupils were expected to attend church unless they were Jewish or Muslim. The Roman Catholics were

taken either to the Convent or to Corpus Christi Church by Sister or by one of the Matrons who were Roman Catholics themselves. The remainder of the girls assembled in the hall. Mrs Hearn sat behind a table, with the heaps of money on it, in the 'Red Room'.

The girls trooped in and collected their money – I think it was 6d for church and 1d (old money) for one of the charity boxes of their choice (also placed on a table nearby). This was pre-decimal time.

All the girls had to wear hats and gloves. They went in a 'crocodile' down the drive, accompanied by Mrs Hearn and one matron. This matron stood perilously in the middle of the road, stopping the traffic while the crocodile

crossed. It was not so busy in those days as there was no Sunday opening of shops and there were no cafés in Tring. But there was no bypass either.

While the pupils were in church, the duty staff checked that everyone had written home. For my attendance at church, since Staff were supposed to set a good example, I had to go hastily to Berkhamsted to buy a hat! Canon Lowdell was then the vicar of St Peter & St Paul's and the service was Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. Choral Communion was once a month in those days, I think (but I can't really remember!).

Felicity Pemberton
St Peter & St Paul

Another Cartwright baptism!

Frankie and Robert Cartwright celebrated their 6th wedding anniversary by baptising baby Ellie Louise in St Peter & St Paul's Church on 14 July 2024. Ellie was born on 29 November 2023 and her godparents Philip Cartwright, Peter Child, Susan O'Brien and Chelsea O'Brien were there to support the family on her baptism. Three-year-old big brother Noah was there too, having been baptised in 2021.

Generations of Cartwrights have been baptised in St Peter & St Paul's.

Noah and Ellie's great grandparents, Don and Patience Cartwright, had their children baptised in the parish church of Tring – and were also key in many developments in Tring both town and church, including founding the Save the Children Shop on the High Street where their grandson Phil still volunteers. The

huge spotlight in St Peter & St Paul's was also one of Don's contributions.

Ben Cartwright used to run the Youth Club at St George's, New Mill, and is still a very active member of the church Fabric Committee (including climbing all over the church roof) while Sylvia is an active member of the worshipping community and on the cleaning team.

Ben and Sylvia had their three children, Robert, Philip and Liz, baptised in St Peter & St Paul's; and Liz had Christopher and Lucy baptised

there too.

It's great to welcome a new baby Cartwright to the church family here in Tring.

The Editor

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Tring Park News



Our prefects for 2024-2025 are Max, Liv, Stanley, Yoyo, Jehu, Mabel, Georgina, Jeremiah, Bex, Fiona, Elliot, Esmée, Amelie, Anika and Stella!

Huge

congratulations to our pupils for their incredible A Level results this year! We're delighted to announce that our 2024 destinations include University of Oxford; Imperial College, London; King's College, London; University of Bath; University of Birmingham; University of Liverpool; University of Surrey and University of York to study subjects including philosophy, biology, literature and politics, whilst vocational destinations include Royal School of Speech and Drama; Guildford School of Acting; Urdang; Leeds Conservatoire; Manchester Metropolitan University; Emil Dale, University of Essex, University of East London; University of Chichester; Bath Spa; University of Nottingham and Loughborough University.

Continuing our streak of fantastic academic results this year, 89% of our GCSE students secured grades 9-4, and

99% A*-C, surpassing the national average of 67% at grade 4/C and above. 41% of entries received grades 9-7, and 65% achieved grades A* to A, outperforming the national average of 21.7% grade 7/A and above!

As a school that doesn't select students based on academic ability, we're incredibly proud of them for their commitment to their studies. A special shout out goes to Amelia, Charlie, Sasha and Gilbert for being among our high achievers.

Photos are from the Commercial Music Course's Performance on Founders Day. 'Much Ado About Nothing' for Shakespeare in the Park 2024 by the Acting Course was very special as a little dedication appeared to my beloved late husband, Alex, who had been to every one of them. Giving it a cricket theme



added so much!

See also the highlights from the French GCSE and A Level trip to Paris where they visited the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame, Opéra Garnier, Galleries Lafayette, Sacré-Cœur and more! Huge thanks to all the staff who make the magic happen and our pupils who were great Ambassadors for the school.

Sarah Bell, Tring Park



Michael McGrath MBE – a hero of our time



A friend and parishioner of Corpus Christ Church, Gisela McGrath, told me recently about the wonderful day she had at Windsor Castle in June

2024 when her son Michael received his award as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in recognition for Charitable Services to People with Muscular Dystrophy (MD). The Honours system, of course, celebrates the people who go 'above and beyond' to change the world around them for the better and seeks to reward those doing vital and extraordinary work across the country. Michael's MBE award was first announced in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List, the first Honours List since the King's Coronation.

But to go back a little and to set the scene, Michael is one of three sons born to Gisela and Maurice McGrath. The couple married in 1959 and moved to Tring the same year when Maurice set up his dental practice, Bailey, on the corner of Western Road with Miswell Lane. Their first son, Christopher, was born in 1960, followed by Mark in 1963 and then Michael in 1965.

Michael attended the school run by the nuns of the St Francis de Sales convent in Aylesbury Road, and then Osmington School at the top of Christchurch Road. He enrolled at St John's Beaumont School in Old Windsor in September 1975 aged 10 years, before going on to Stonyhurst College in Lancashire in 1979 where he did his 'O' levels. Attending Aylesbury Grammar School in 1982, he completed his 'A' levels and then secured a place in 1984 at Oxford Brookes University where he took a degree in Hospitality Management. His aim was to pursue a career in the Savoy Hotel in London and despite being offered a place on their Management Training Scheme by the then Company Training Officer, it was sadly not to be.

Although at school Michael was physically active and a keen rugby and tennis player, at the age of 18 he was diagnosed with a rare type of Muscular Dystrophy called Emery Dreifuss Syndrome which affected his arms and legs.

To help his muscles and mobility, amongst various recommendations,

Michael took to horse riding, attending riding sessions at the Riding for the Disabled Centre in Wingrave, Bucks. While there, Michael learned that the RDA were looking for funding to build a safe outdoor riding arena so the children and young people (many with learning disabilities and autism) who were attending the MacIntyre School in Wingrave could experience the benefits and joy of horse riding in a supportive and inclusive setting. So, Michael took it upon himself to lead on a standalone project to raise funds to cover the costs of an outdoor riding arena, which involved various fundraising activities including a parachute jump and much letter writing to several Trusts in the area. Over £5000 was subsequently raised which meant that the riding arena at MacIntyre School could be constructed.

This was the start of Michael's venture into the world of charity and not-for-profit organisations. It was later, in 2001, and while working for Air Foyle (Luton Airport), that he became a trustee of the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign of Great Britain & Northern Ireland.

While at Air Foyle, Michael read an article about Christopher Cope who was planning a standalone expedition to the North Pole with the aim to raise awareness and money for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. Michael got in touch with Christopher. They met in London where it was suggested that Michael might like to join the expedition and, by default, provide further gravitas to the project's overarching objectives. The rest as they say is history.

Michael recruited his own expedition team and in April 2002, he was flown in an old red Russian Sikorsky helicopter to meet up with Christopher Cope and his expedition team. In sub-zero, freezing cold Arctic temperatures and with his stick to aid his balance, Michael slowly walked upright, one step at a time – arm in arm with Christopher Cope. They together completed a distance of 150 metres to the North Pole, each metre representing those with Muscular Dystrophy in this country. Amongst several flags including Oxford Brookes,



Walking to the North Pole 2002

Michael proudly planted the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign flag which I understand was duly photographed.

Before heading off from Heathrow Airport, Michael had said: 'This challenge is a bit of a personal challenge. It is a constant battle and frustration in not doing those things I used to be able to do and which people take for granted and think nothing about.'

Michael's experience, however, took a bad turn for a while when the Russian pilots who had flown him onto the Arctic ice cap decided they wanted more money and in the process, they left Michael and his team at their Arctic base camp. Via the intervention of a member of another expedition team at the base camp, whose father worked at the Reuters news agency, pressure was applied via the various communication channels which eventually saw the arrival of another plane chartered by the authorities. Michael recalls spending many hours in a small tent with others trying to keep warm.

Afterwards, he said: 'Every time the phone rang, we were up and in the mess tent to listen to the news. They kept telling us a plane was coming that afternoon, but it never came.' In the end, it took three days to arrange for the plane to pick the team up. The Christopher Cope North Pole Expedition raised over £100k for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign and specifically the charity's NorthStar Project which sought to optimise and standardise the management and care of children and young people with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) in paediatric centres throughout the UK. DMD is the most severe form of Muscular Dystrophy. It is life-limiting. There is currently no cure.

Not satisfied with having been to one pole to raise awareness and funds for Muscular Dystrophy, Michael

subsequently led an expedition to Antarctica and the South Pole, saying farewell to his family at Heathrow Airport on 1 January 2004. According to Michael, New Year's Day really isn't the best day to be leaving your loved ones!

Toward the end of that January, Michael, with assistance, once again slowly walked the final 310 metres to the South Pole, each metre representing those with the muscle-wasting condition Muscular Dystrophy, the same condition that today, some twenty years on, continues to rob him of his mobility and independence. He is a full-time electric wheelchair user.



At the South Pole 2004

2004 saw Michael make history by becoming the first disabled person in the world to have led expeditions to both the North and South Poles. At that time, the Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University, Jon Snow, best known as the longest-running presenter of Channel 4 News, said: 'This is an extraordinary endeavour. I'm very proud that our university is associated with an alumnus who is clearly demonstrating considerable strength of mind, determination and spirit



At Windsor Castle June 2024

in promoting global awareness around this devastating condition'.

These polar expeditions were the launchpad for The Muscle Help Foundation charity, which Michael founded in 2003. He is the CEO of the charity which today is celebrating twenty-one years of operation. Its patrons include British actor and filmmaker, Sir Kenneth Branagh who ironically starred in the 2002 film 'Shackleton' as explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton – I mention this because the only grand-daughter of the great Irish polar explorer is Alexandra Shackleton, who not only became Michael's South Pole Expedition patron but also subsequently a life-long friend.

The Muscle Help Foundation has a singular focus on delivering 'Muscle Dreams' – life-changing interventions and/or moments in time for children and young people (8-28) with Muscular Dystrophy. The charity encourages vulnerable children and young people to realise that life does not stop when one is a wheelchair-user. The charity also supports their families. The purposeful executed interventions arranged by the charity can be transformational in not just fulfilling a young person's dreams and aspirations, but they can also uplift, boost confidence and improve self-esteem, often giving desperately needed purpose and hope.

In 2004, Michael, the CEO of the Muscle Help Foundation charity, was recognised by the late Queen for his 'contribution to national life' at Buckingham Palace. Michael was also included in the 2004 Christmas Day broadcast to the nation by Her Majesty reinforcing diversity as a strength.

Since returning from the poles now some twenty years ago, Michael remains a sought-after speaker delivering inspiring keynote presentations to private and public sector organisations.

Michael speaks at conferences, events and away days in addition to delivering bespoke masterclasses. Keynote topics include – leadership,

resilience, change, overcoming adversity, risk and teamwork. He has also been invited to speak in both mainstream, special educational needs (SEN) schools and hospices, capturing hearts and minds, as well as broadening the horizons of children and young people.



Michael McGrath receiving MBE from Princess Anne June 2024

During his recent 12 June MBE investiture at Windsor Castle, Michael spoke with Princess Anne about his horse riding experiences all those years ago under the auspices of the Riding for the Disabled (RDA), even thanking her for her many years of service as patron and president of the RDA charity. They chatted for some five minutes, talking about his poor circulatory system because of his condition, the poles and that three generations of Michael's family were present witnessing this very special moment. He also spoke with her about his daughter's mental health, that he had met her mum, the late Queen, twice at Buckingham Palace, once with his wife Susie and once with Gemma. Their conversation was wide-ranging and in Michael's own words, it was 'a wonderful and truly delightful moment in time that I shall always remember. Having my mum, my wife and my daughter present, watching on and looking splendid in their finery, made it even more magical'.

All photographs are copyright Michael McGrath.

Michael Demidecki
Corpus Christi Church

For more information about Michael's charity:
The Muscle Help Foundation Registered Charity No. 1096716
Visit: <https://www.musclehelp.com>

For more information about Michael's speaking business:
Visit: <https://www.michaelmcgrath.co.uk>

How times have changed



I have on display at home two photographs which sum up the important changes which have taken place during my sixty years in holy orders.

One shows the celebration of my father's 50th anniversary of priesthood in 1982 and the other my 50th in 2015. In the former, my father and I are vested, including birettas (bobble-topped stiff caps worn by some clergy) and maniples over the wrist (descendant of the flag used as a sign of authority to start a race). With us, as servers, are my two brothers, two nephews and my son as a boat-boy. In the other photograph, I am vested (no biretta or maniple) with my daughter, Jane, vested, and my granddaughter, Eliza, as server: for the greatest change in our time has been the ordination of women. In addition, there is now a much greater involvement of lay people in the worship and ministry of the church. When I was made deacon, the bishop, using the Book of Common Prayer, told the candidates 'It appertaineth to the office of a deacon to assist the priest in Divine Service and especially when he ministereth the holy communion and to help him in the distribution thereof'. Nowadays, not only are women ordained deacons, priests and bishops, but there is also much more lay involvement in the distribution of the sacrament both in church and at home.

In fact, although we all believe that the faith was once for all delivered to the saints, yet there is always change and development. If we look back to the Last Supper and our Lord's commandment to 'do this in memory of me' we become aware that there is hardly any aspect that has not changed or been questioned. Who does what? When? How often?



Having mentioned the ordination of women, another great change has been the authorised forms of worship. In theory the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 gives the form used for centuries but, from at least the 19th century onwards, some felt the need for change. In my time I have seen the emergence of revision of the communion service and, indeed, all the services. The Church of England tried to produce a revised Prayer Book in 1928 but Parliament rejected it, though some of its services came into regular use. The marriage service and the funeral service I used were usually the revised ones, but soon into my ministry came the Alternative Service Book followed (in 2000) by Common Worship. With the new books have come great changes in patterns of worship and practice.

One significant change for me was the change of ideas about fasting before communion. While the Last Supper was an evening meal with special taking of bread and wine and blessing as part of it, it was very much a meal. But, as the church grew, instead of a relatively small family-like gathering, it moved to a special building and to a time in the morning. Ideas of reverence which developed from that meant it was felt right to make communion the first food of the day. Evening communions were a rarity in my young days. Also, because of the fasting rule, some churches had a main service which was a eucharist, but at which only the priest communicated, or perhaps one or two others. Thus, it would have been the norm for the first centuries of worship at the parish church in Tring. One attended the service but did not receive the sacrament. So, in the Middle Ages, St Peter & St Paul's Church would have had mass every day but most worshippers would only receive communion at Easter. After the Reformation the Prayer Book had a minimum of three times a year. Morning

Prayer became the main act of worship on most Sundays in many churches. Nowadays many people expect to communicate every time they attend. Furthermore, the Prayer Book rule about only receiving communion after confirmation (which excluded free church members) has gone



out of favour for ecumenical reasons. In addition, the admission of children to communion before confirmation has become the custom. Another change that has had a great effect in my time is the change in laws about Sunday Observance – the development of prosperity, the car, the television and so on, mean fewer go to church every Sunday and even fewer go more than once. Evensong was for quite a number the main service on Sunday and certainly twice or three times on Sunday has become very rare indeed.

Common Worship has greatly improved the order of the Holy Communion Service and added significantly to the amount of scripture heard. It has also given much more variety in many aspects. It allows more involvement of the people and, crucially, the priest now celebrates facing the people. The idea of the priest and his congregation facing East, with an altar against the wall, has largely (although far from entirely) gone – I much prefer to face the people rather than have my back to them. I also value the idea of up to three readings (and a psalm) at the Eucharist, and with a three-year cycle of readings, we hear far more of the Bible. This is particularly important now that fewer attend Morning or Evening Prayer.

Looking back, I am glad I had the training and practice I had, but have come to realize some changes were necessary, both in training for the ministry and its exercise in the parishes. With fewer full-time clergy and many part-time ministers, the church has had to adapt. My sixty years in Holy Orders have changed my ideas about some things in the life of the church but about many others, not so. It is the greatest possible privilege to stand at the altar and obey the command 'Do this in memory of me'. Along with that, taking services in many different churches in retirement instead of just my own has been, and still is, an interesting and enriching experience.

Martin Banister
St Albans Cathedral

Stephen Hearn
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More decluttering



Last month I mentioned the Spring cleaning we were doing in St Cross in July. Amongst the decluttering, many things, including a lot of Christmas decorations, have found new homes. The process started in 2022, following the Archdeacon's annual inspection, which reminded us for the second time that St Cross was holding registers and documents that should have been passed to the Diocesan Records Office years before. Sorting out the registers was the easy part: it was fifty years of DCC Minutes, faculties, Archdeacon's Letters of Authorisation, Quinquennials and the follow-up work, etc, etc, which took the time. There was also an envelope of very old documents, including a letter from the Church Commissioners, dated 1873, telling the Rev'd Masters that they did not have the money to support his wish to build a church in Wilstone.

The Church of England has an excellent website guide called Guide No 1 Care of Parish Records (aka Keep or Bin). In general, a church should keep the current document and the previous five years; anything older should be at the Diocesan Records Office, which

for St Albans is kept at the County Records Office in Hertford. The rector, Huw Bellis, kept me on the straight and narrow here.

The C of E also follows national guidelines for archiving, and request that paperwork does not have any metal fastenings, so no ring binders, paper clips etc, because the metal damages the documents with which it comes into contact. So once sorted, all the documentation went into cardboard files (preferably acid free but we failed on that one), was labelled with the contents, and taken to the Records Office.

The County Records Office is now known as Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies – HALS – and all the documents from Wilstone and the Marriage Registers from across the parish are now deposited in their safe keeping. The archivist who accepted them was very knowledgeable and helpful, explaining that each church is registered separately, not under the banner of a Team Parish or a United Benefice. This is because parish groupings change over time and initially most churches were individual entities, so records from 100 years ago will not list the Tring Team Parish because it did not exist. It is wonderful to know that the history of St Cross in Wilstone is now secure for all time.

For someone who loves history and decluttering, this has been a rewarding experience, but the benefit is much more. I have been able to learn of the immense amount of work that went into getting St Cross fit for purpose with mains water, gas, a new entrance, new windows and floor; the DCC discussions on the best way forward and the struggles to achieve their aims, especially when the Diocesan Advisory Committee did not agree with their proposals for the replacement windows! (St Cross won that dispute.)

The village of Wilstone has always been part of my family's life and the church for the last forty-plus years. St Cross is small and quite plain with no pillars or side chapels, nothing to distract the eye. It is very light and very peaceful, a place where solace and spiritual restoration are readily accessible. I enjoy being part of a small church, where I am able to make a contribution to church life. But I especially relish the occasions when I am on my own in the building, just me and the church, knowing the village community is just outside the door, but inside all is peace. Dealing with flies, moths and clutter does have its advantages!

Alison Cockerill
St Cross, Wilstone

Tweet of the month



No doubt, when I mentioned Papua in my previous Tweet, some people thought I meant Papua New Guinea. Actually, I went to Papua and West Papua, which are both provinces of Indonesia that make up the western section of the island of New Guinea in the Pacific Ocean. New Guinea is just north of Australia and the eastern section of the island is Papua New Guinea, a country in its own right, and probably a better-known place. Formerly Papua was known as Irian Jaya, but has had several other names in the past.

The journey to Papua involved two flights to Jakarta, Indonesia's capital on the island of Java, where the holiday started with a boat trip around Jakarta Bay. The main target was Christmas Frigatebird and I was very keen to see that. There are five species of Frigatebird and all share the same basic characteristics of being large, mainly black, pre-historic looking seabirds with long, deeply-forked tails and a long, hooked beak. They are named after Frigates which are fast warships and they are indeed fast, manoeuvrable fliers. They are possibly best-known for

being kleptoparasites, e.g. they steal food from other seabirds. However, their main source of food is not obtained by thievery, but by deftly plucking dead or alive fish and/or squid from the water's surface. Curiously for an oceanic seabird, Frigatebirds do not have waterproof feathers and so they can't settle on the sea for a rest or to feed. This makes the Frigatebird's ability to cross vast areas of ocean even more remarkable.

Curiously, three species of Frigatebird are linked to islands named after major Christian festivals. Easter Island, in the South Pacific, is famous for its large statues with comparatively large heads, but it does have a population of Great Frigatebirds breeding there. However, they are widespread and so not named after that island. The Ascension Frigatebird only nests on Ascension Island (and a nearby rock) in the South Atlantic, and Christmas Frigatebird only nests on Christmas Island which is south of the western tip of Java and relatively close to Jakarta Bay.

The day trip round Jakarta Bay was very successful. Before going on the trip, I had only seen one species of Frigatebird



– the Magnificent Frigatebird. By the end of the day, I had seen Great, Lesser and Christmas Frigatebirds. They were all sitting on large bamboo poles stuck vertically in the mud for use

by fishermen – excellent for seeing them well, but one wonders what would happen if those poles were all removed. Anyway, the one I have now still to see is the Ascension Frigatebird. Possibly the greatest challenge of the five – despite it having occurred in Scotland twice!

So Frigatebirds nest on three remote, widely-separated islands named after very important events in the Christian calendar. This got me thinking about just how widespread Christianity is throughout the world. Before I went to Papua and West Papua, I got the usual comments about cannibalism and headhunting – none of which did I see any evidence of at all. What I did see was Mosques. Islam is the majority religion in Indonesia, but about 11% of the population describe themselves as Christians. How fitting that there are people who believe in God in a place described as paradise here on earth.

Roy Hargreaves
St Peter & St Paul

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All donations received will go towards our Church Renovations

Crossword

ACROSS

- Book of the O.T. (6)
- 3rd of the Trinity (6)
- Cannot be changed (9)
- '....' of Cleaves (4)
- Way out (4)
- Long, wordy narration (5)
- Large shops (6)
- Speak up for (6)
- Action taken to pray (6)
- Outdated term for girl (6)
- 'Thou shalt not '....' (5)
- Old fashioned for 'do' (4)
- Man, given over to God (4)
- Parable 'The good
- Warrior and ruler of Assyria (6)
- Left to oneself (6)

DOWN

- Where Jesus appeared after the resurrection (6)
- Title of female peer (4)
- Trees, cut down (6)
- Treated with mercy (6)
- Surrounded by water (4)
- Sampled (6)
- Children killed by Herod (9)
- Made to create more room (9)
- Makes secure (5)
- According to the law (5)
- A biblical brook (6)
- Small piece of (6)
- O.T. Prophet (6)
- Possibly (6)
- Grown on the head (4)
- The most prominent (4)

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Answers see page 26

A bishop, a vicar, a curate and lay reader walked into a particle accelerator...



It sounds like a variation on the old 'A minister, a priest and a rabbi walked into a pub' joke, but it really happened. Earlier this year I (the lay reader)

was fortunate enough to visit CERN in Geneva. The bishop was Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford and Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Education (and thus my former boss). The vicar was the wonderful Nicola Lenthall from Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade. The curate was a charming young man from the far East of Hertfordshire whom I had never met and whose name quickly left my memory. We went via the 'Take your vicar to the lab' scheme, for which I apparently qualified as a vicar!



The name CERN is the acronym from the French 'Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire', or European Council for Nuclear Research. It was established in 1952 with the task of providing a world-class fundamental physics research organization in Europe. It is a collaboration between most of the nations in Europe plus a few other nations who collaborate from time to time on particular projects. It is reputed to be the biggest and best in the world. I once visited a smaller particle accelerator near Chicago and brought a smile to an American scientist's face when I said we had a better one in Geneva. Ironically, he was from Texas, where everything is supposedly bigger and better.

I was put on the spot by our tour guide in Geneva, the head scientist of one of the many experiments at CERN. He pointed at me and said:

'What do we do here?' You would have thought he would have known after fourteen years working there.

I replied, 'You wang particles together at high speed.'

'And what next?' he countered.

'And see what happens,' I said.

'Yep, that just about covers it.'

When the centre was established, at that time, pure physics research concentrated on understanding the inside of the atom, hence the word 'nuclear'.



Today, our understanding of matter goes much deeper than the nucleus, and CERN's main area of research is particle physics – the study of the fundamental constituents of matter and the forces acting between them. Because of this, the laboratory operated by CERN is often referred to as the European Laboratory for Particle Physics. It attempts to answer such questions as:

- What is the universe made of?
- How did it start?

Physicists at CERN are seeking answers, using some of the world's most powerful particle accelerators. It is the home of the famous Large Hadron Collider. They use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter – the fundamental particles. The particles are made to collide together at close to the speed of light. The process gives the physicists clues about how the particles interact, and provides insights into the fundamental laws of nature.

The accelerator is huge. It consists of a 27-kilometre (nearly 17 miles) ring of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way. It is actually situated in both France and Switzerland over the near city of Geneva, the ring crossing the border.

The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS), the detector we visited, is a general-purpose detector. A muon is one of the particles you might not have learned

about at school. It is an elementary particle similar to the electron, with an electric charge of -1 but with a much greater mass. It is classified as a lepton. As with other leptons, the muon is not thought to be composed of any simpler particles.

CERN has a wide research programme ranging from studying the Standard Model of particle physics (including the Higgs boson, whose existence was confirmed, as far as anything is certain in particle physics, at CERN) to searching for extra dimensions and particles that could make up dark matter.

The main accelerator ring has a number of detectors around the 27km long ring. The CMS detector is built around a huge solenoid magnet. This takes the form of a cylindrical coil of superconducting cable that generates a field of about 100,000 times the magnetic field of the Earth. The field is confined by a steel 'yoke' that forms the bulk of the detector's 14,000-tonne weight.

An unusual feature of the CMS detector is that instead of being built in-situ like the other giant detectors of the LHC experiments, it was constructed in fifteen sections at ground level before being lowered into an underground cavern near Cessy in France and reassembled. The complete detector is 21m long, 15m wide and 15m high. The CMS experiment is one of the largest international scientific collaborations in history, involving about 5,500 particle physicists, engineers, technicians, students and support staff from 241 institutes in 54 countries.

During his introduction in Switzerland before we were driven into France, our guide said that the universe started with a Big Bang about 13.8 billion years ago and before that there was nothing. I thought about saying 'What about God?' but God is not a 'thing' and before the creation there was no time, so there can't have been a 'before'. This idea is a point on which St Augustine, one of the great theologians of the early church, and modern physics are in complete agreement. Time started at that creation.

I did want to end with my joke about a priest, a minister and a rabbi walking into a pub, but the Editor censored it...

Jon Reynolds
Tring Team

Chalice



A chalice is a goblet with a foot that holds drink. For Christians it has a special meaning as the vessel that holds wine at communion or mass. A chalice for communion can

be made of any material: there are gold chalices in some cathedral museums and Turvey Abbey uses a chalice of pottery made in the monastery. At least two other religions use the word chalice – Rastafarians smoke a chalice which is a special water-cooled pipe for smoking cannabis at communal ceremonies called 'groundations' and in Islam a type of chalice cup is used to collect blood in hijamah or religious bloodletting.



The most famous chalice is the Holy Chalice, the chalice from which Jesus drank at the Last Supper. This is slightly different from the Holy Grail which was believed to be the Holy Chalice used again after the Last Supper to catch the blood of Jesus at the Crucifixion by Joseph of Arimathea. The Holy Grail was supposed to have been found by the Knights Templar in the 12th century at the foot of the Temple Mount. It is supposed to have been lost when the movement collapsed around 1315. There are many stories of searches for the Holy Grail, starting with the Knights of King Arthur and probably ending with Indiana Jones!

There are many churches and cathedrals around the world claiming to have the Holy Chalice, or the Holy Grail – over 200 in Europe alone – but the foremost is probably the Cathedral of Santo Cáliz in Valencia. The story of the Valencian Holy Chalice is that the Last Supper was held in Mark's house and St Mark presented it to the Pope in Rome when he fled there in AD70, as the Romans were invading Jerusalem. It was passed from Pope to Pope until St Lawrence sent it out of Rome to Spain to escape the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Valerian in AD258.

Eventually it ended up in Valencia in the 1400s.

The Valencian Holy Chalice has been used to celebrate mass by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Although mounted in precious metal now, the original

chalice was a simple alabaster bowl. Alabaster and stone bowls were known to be used in Passover celebrations by well-off Jews in the first century AD.



The most valuable chalice in Britain is probably the Lacock Cup, originally used at banquets and then used as a chalice at St Cyriac's church in the Wiltshire village of Lacock. It is believed to have been made in silver around 1429 and was bought by the British Museum for £1.3 million in 2013.

Today the use of chalices varies greatly from church to church. In some churches it is used by the whole congregation who drink in turn from it. In other churches it is only drunk from by the priest, whilst in some churches it is not filled with anything but is raised at the appropriate time in the telling of the Last Supper.

In many churches an ornate plate is used to hold the bread or communion wafers at communion or mass. This is called a paten and it is often made to match the chalice. The oldest known hallmarked chalice and paten set is in the Victoria and Albert Museum and dates from 1478.

Whether made of solid gold or simple pottery, the chalice holds great significance as the vessel from which Jesus drank, and which is used symbolically at communion or mass. It is central to most communion or mass services.

John Allan, High Street Baptist Church

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Cafe Serving:
Coffee, tea
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No set prices, just donations

Parish registers

Baptism

We welcome this child into our church community and pray for his family.

Levi Day

Funerals

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

Derek Dyett 82
Colin Crawford 85
John Eves 87
Ivor Paul Gregory 78
Sylvia Margaret Keen 87
John Hawkes 95
David Livingstone
Virginia Bly

(Long delayed) Postcard from Sydney



Tempus, as we know, fugit, and it's been a while since we wrote anything for *Comment* (as the editor has not failed to remind us). It was the early months of 2023 when we last reported back from the antipodes, and looking back, the last twelve months or so have been eventful. Travel-wise, one highlight – back in the northern hemisphere in the summer of 2023 – was our first visit back to the UK since moving to Australia, a whistle-stop tour of friends and family in England and Wales that lasted just over two weeks. Naturally, our trip began and ended in Tring, where our friends Steffi and Jarvis were generous hosts, and where it was also lovely to catch up with folks at St Peter & St Paul's one Sunday. We were touched by the warm welcome we received after such a long absence. The reason for the timing of this visit was that we had finally decided to sell our house in Tring, which we had been renting out since emigrating. As it held special memories for us, we were keen to say goodbye to the old place in person.

Other trips have included a wonderful tour of New Zealand's North Island, snorkelling off the Great Barrier Reef and jet skiing in the Whitsundays, as well as more local trips in New South Wales, to favourite spots such as the beaches of Merimbula further down the south coast of NSW and the wine region

of Mudgee, two and a half hours inland from our home. On the latter we went with Sylvie's oldest friend Dani, who visited us – and New Zealand – on a sabbatical from her legal job in Hamburg. Dani thoroughly enjoyed spending some time with us, going on hikes, and exploring the many quaint villages and towns in the Blue Mountains.

Work-wise, John's big news has been the award of a large research grant in collaboration with the University of Pardubice in the Czech Republic. While the account of how this came about is too long a story for here, the upshot is that in March of this year, John stood down as Director of the Institute for Ethics and Society at Notre Dame University after just over four years in the role. He is now employed half-time as a researcher in the Institute, and half-time by the Centre for Ethics at Pardubice. Currently returning to Europe twice a year, how this develops over the next few years remains to be seen, but as Sylvie travels with him when her own work allows, we are appreciating the opportunity to spend time back in the 'old world' as well as in Australia. A trip to Czechia for John to set up the new project allowed us to spend last Christmas in Prague and to visit Sylvie's parents in Germany. The downside of this new development is a sense of climate guilt arising from the need to take twice-yearly long-haul flights, though we are aiming partially to offset this by various green energy initiatives (our house roof is festooned with solar panels to take advantage of the Australian sun, while we also plan to invest in a solar



energy storage battery). John's new work arrangement means that future travel back to the UK can be combined with work trips to central Europe, made greener by the recent extension to Prague of the route of European Sleeper train from Brussels, allowing a connection with Eurostar. We plan to visit the UK again next year, and are currently hoping to spend Easter in Tring, which might allow for our first Good Friday Walk of Witness since moving to Oz. As we may have reported previously,



Sylvie has been Deputy Head of the School of Arts and Sciences at our university for nearly two-and-a-half years now, and while this has been rewarding in many ways, it has also been an incredibly challenging and stressful time. She is therefore now considering other opportunities or a return to part-time work at the end of the year.

We recently celebrated the second anniversary of buying our house in the Blue Mountains. At the weekends, Sylvie is taking the lead on trying to get on top of the vast jungle that the estate agent described – without any irony – as a 'low-maintenance garden'. Although this

at times feels like an impossible task, it is also wonderfully rewarding and de-stressing.

We're writing this from our deck, overlooking bushland, which continues to provide excellent opportunities for spotting plentiful sulphur-crested cockatoos, kookaburras and rainbow lorikeets – and on one special occasion even a group of rare Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. Some visitors were less welcome, such as the beautiful (and thankfully harmless) diamond python that took up residence underneath the deck (and on top of John's study) and had to be relocated to a more suitable

environment – for us and the snake – by a professional snake handler.

We also recently added a log burner to our home, to keep us cosy and warm through an unusually chilly Australian winter these past few months. Despite the various work stresses and some health issues for each of us (thankfully nothing disastrous), we overall feel very blessed at how life has been treating us. Blessings and best wishes to all in Tring and the villages.

**John Lippitt and Sylvie Magerstädt
Springwood Uniting Church, NSW
Formerly of St Peter & Paul, Tring**

Eulogies



In the movie 'Roxanne,' Steve Martin, as the local fire chief, successfully woos the astronomy student, Roxanne Kowalski, played by Daryl Hannah, despite his possessing a huge nose, an all too obvious impediment to amorous progress. In one memorable scene, when mocked, he recites twenty jokes about his nose, with one paraphrased as 'The Lord gave, and he just kept giving'.

Well, the Lord was said to allot three score years and ten of life, but nowadays, we find he does indeed keep on giving, which licence might be taken as a gift to octogenarians in need of useful deployment.

The reflection took this oldie back three score years to my first postgraduate year at university, when, without much warning, I was put in front of a big audience of scientists at the Zoological Society of London to

give a talk on my research. As a shy Cheshire country boy from a sheltered background, the amnesia of fear has its benefits; I don't remember a thing about the ordeal, apart from the double gin served up by my professor beforehand.

Around ten years later at the National Hospital, my pernicky (thank you!) boss insisted on my doing a live rehearsal of a talk, which to my mind went quite well, until he insisted that it was re-written and re-rehearsed – twice. By the time of the real event, I knew it inside out and backwards, so that despite performance nerves, it went without a hitch.

Since then, I have found that fully rehearsing lectures or talks, initially in private, and then with friends or colleagues to the point that they seem off-the-cuff, invariably pleases audiences and cuts down on nerves.

This is where I'd like to press my experiences on priests and celebrants at funeral services. Of a handful of eulogies that I can remember, only one truly went well, faults being mumbling and going on too long. Five minutes of well-constructed eulogy is possibly too

short, but twenty minutes is usually far too long to remain engaging. Nobody expects family members to have super oratorical powers; but even the most diffident speaker can write their piece, repeatedly speak it so as to learn it by heart and be shown how to speak to the furthest listener, addressing an audience of friends confidently, even if the knees are knocking. If family members are unable to master this daunting but essentially learnable task, it calls into question whether a deputy might be nominated to speak on their behalf.

Funerals are a collective celebration of a life (the word eulogy comes from the Greek word for praise) and can be considerably enhanced by succinct, well-delivered recollections that add spice to whatever form of service has been chosen. Religious services, whatever their shortcomings, have a well-understood structure that guides the last minutes of our temporal companionship with the dead. Secularisation has not yet caught up with this aspect of mourning.

**Michael Sherratt
Sacred Heart, Berkhamsted**

The life of Bill Yates



Bill Yates lived with his parents and brother and sister in an ordinary house just behind the church I attended, Cholmeley Hall, which was on the main road into

London at Highgate. Children who came to our youth groups were invited to come to the annual camp we ran each year before the war and continued in 1948.

I first met Bill at the camp in 1949 at Milford-on-Sea when I was the leader of the tent he was in. He was 11 years old and, when he came to the 1950 camp, he gave his life to Christ. These camps, to which I went for twenty-five years, were organised so that all the campers could have a great deal of fun and also be told the Bible message of salvation through faith in Christ. As he grew up he became an avid Bible reader and studied it a lot. I heard later that if you quoted any part of the Bible, Bill could tell you where it was. (I wonder how you or I would get on.)

He did well at the Grammar School he attended and won a free scholarship to go to Mill Hill Public School when he was 13. When he left school he joined the John Laing organisation and qualified as a Quantity Surveyor. He was then involved in building the M1 motorway and several others around the country. He was transferred to Iraq to help with building their huge motorway across the country. This meant having meetings with Saddam Hussein!

Bill moved on to the Far East and worked in Malaysia where he retired. He had been in touch with a Pastor in India and offered to go and help him. Pastor Samuel had built up about forty Christian churches in villages in Bangalore and certainly needed help. For many years, Bill went to teach the Bible to the pastors and students in that area and often preached to large numbers of people in the open air. Back in the 1990s Bill brought Pastor Samuel to Wigginton where he preached in our village chapel. We got to know him well and have been supporting his work in India ever since.

Sadly, Bill died during one of his trips to India. In the middle of his teaching, he just sat down and the Lord took him home.

Pastor Samuel continued to let us know how the work was progressing and we got to know Justin, one of his children. When he was 18, he went to study medicine in China and after qualifying, came to England to be licensed here. Meanwhile several of the Pastor's churches were attacked by terrorists, the church destroyed and some members badly injured. We prayed a lot for him then.

Justin spent his first year as a doctor in Portsmouth at the Queen Alexandra Hospital and has come to see me twice. I had been having trouble with growths in my forehead and had been given some ointment which seemed to have little effect. Two of these were very conspicuous. A few months ago, Justin was in the kitchen and, after looking at them said, 'I think I could remove those for you.' So there I was, my kitchen turned into a theatre, while Justin very carefully took them off using just a small kitchen knife and spoon. There was no after effect and I was very grateful. So I gave Justin a book I had had for a long while but never properly read, 'Wonderfully Made,' co-authored by Paul Brand and Paul Yancy. The latter has written a number of books which I can recommend and Paul Brand was an expert in the cure of leprosy. As it had many medical explanations which I



couldn't understand, I thought Justin would make better use of it. Justin let me know that he had started reading it on the train back to Portsmouth and realised that the name of the hospital in India where Paul Brand had done much of his research work was called the 'The Paul Brand Hospital'. Justin was married last year and told me that his wife was now working in that same hospital in the radiographer department.

It made me think how God works in strange ways, his wonders to perform, which started, for me, meeting up with a small boy seventy-five years ago and through whom he gave special gifts which brought many in India into the Kingdom of God.

John Young
Akeman Street Baptist Church

Godspeed to a true Christian gentleman, John Hawkes



Like so many reading this, I was shocked to get the news at the end of August of John's passing. I feel privileged to have been asked to put together some brief

thoughts to catch this edition of *Comment*.

Always there whenever help was needed

I first met John in the 70s when we moved to Tring and I have to say I met the laugh before I met the man. You always knew when JH was around because that infectious laugh filled every corner of the room and had everyone else smiling along.

Prue and I got to know John and Ann as fellow members of the congregation at St Peter & St Paul and they always used to sit a few rows in front of us; always elegantly dressed and always outgoing and involved with everyone around them. John was a friend to everyone, and in his professional life at Brown & Merry, he was instrumental in getting so many people into their first homes in his beloved Tring.

A massive help to so many in the community

When we started to form the Charity 'The Friends of Tring Church Heritage' in the 1980s, John was there from the start. A welcoming presence at every fundraising event, he was a tower of strength and support for the team and could always be relied upon to bring a good gang of guests who were happy to support the cause of 'Preserving the heart of Tring for all future generations'. He attracted plenty of funds and he always made it FUN!

In latter times John was at the very heart of the Men's Society and building strong bonds of fellowship; John's big smile and genuine warmth of welcome also was the first impression many newcomers received as he worked as one of the church welcomers. No one did that better.

At the heart of a very happy family

John always did everything 'large' and family was no exception. He – and they – all loved to party and they liked to do it in style. In those days we operated a lovely hotel in Wiltshire – 'Howard's House' and John and his family often made it 'Hawkes House' as they enjoyed weekends and celebrations together. His wonderful laugh became almost as famous in Wiltshire as it was in Tring. There are so many happy memories of times spent together and in his company... so many tales to tell.

I am sure there will come a time for that when Ann and the family make arrangements for a service of thanksgiving.

Ready for the next chapter

Over the past three or four years my relationship with John has changed. I used to share communion with him in their lovely home in London Road when he could no longer manage the walk to church. After his fall when he moved to Kilfillan House, we kept up the regular

rhythm of sharing communion. When we did so, he would always want to be holding his little olive-wood cross and at the end of the service he would always say 'Thy will be done'.

He always liked a good story after the homily and there was much laughter and many jokes. He was, for some time, ready to go whenever the Lord decided to call him and I am certain he went to meet his maker with a glad and joyful heart.

Towards the end of his life, John Wesley was asked how one should lead a righteous life. He said this: 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can'. John loved that quotation and I think it describes exactly what he did with his life.

We thank God for him and all the friendship and fun he brought into our lives.

Grahame Senior
Tring Team



Tring School
second-hand uniform sale
in the upstairs room of Tring Parish Hall
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Tues 10th September, 7-8pm
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Tues 15th October, 7-8pm
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or 01442 822170

COMMENT

The magazine of the Churches in Tring

Please submit your article to the Editor by the 1st of the month.

Aim for 500 or 1000 words and please send a head and shoulders colour photo or jpg and any other photos in high resolution.

Contact us at: comment.magazine@gmail.com



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Please contact Barbara Anscombe if you would like to take a subscription to *Comment*: £20.00 for 10 issues each year. The magazine can be posted to you with an additional cost for postage at current rates.

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

COMMENT DEADLINES

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

NB There is no magazine for January or August

TRING
TEAM PARISH
Living God's Love



What's on in October in Tring Church

Services at Tring Church

Sunday 6th October

8am Holy Communion traditional language

10am Communion with craft activity **

Sunday 13th October

8am Holy Communion traditional language**

10am Harvest Worship for all followed by

Harvest lunch at 12.30pm

3pm Piano and More concert

Sunday 20th October

8am Holy Communion traditional language

10am Communion with craft activity **

Sunday 27th October

8am Holy Communion traditional language

10am Communion with craft activity **

** Streamed service on our website and YouTube

Mid-week Services in Tring

9.15am Tuesdays

Holy Communion

10am Thursdays

Holy Communion in traditional language

Lots more going on



Mondays 3.30pm - 5pm

Youth Café in term time - toast, chat etc for secondary school kids

Food Bank

Monday to Friday

10am - 12noon.

Drop-off donations and collect food



Tuesdays 2pm - 4pm

Craft and a Cuppa



Drop in for chat, cuppa and bring a craft to do if you would like to

Social Coffee

Fridays, Saturdays

10am - 12 noon,

and after Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday services

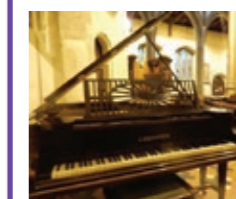


Piano & more series

Sunday October 13th

3pm for an hour's concert of music followed by refreshments.

Free but collection for church and piano expenses



Crossword puzzle answers

From page 19

ACROSS

1. EXODUS
4. SPIRIT
7. IMMUTABLE
9. ANNE
10. EXIT
11. SPIEL
13. STORES
14. DEFEND
15. KNEELS
17. DAMSEL
19. STEAL
20. DOTH
22. MONK
23. SAMARITAN
24. NIMROD
25. LONELY

DOWN

1. EMMAUS
2. DAME
3. STUMPS
4. SHAPED
5. ISLE
6. TASTED
7. INNOCENTS
8. EXTENSION
11. SEALS
12. LEGAL
15. KIDRON
16. STRAND
17. DANIEL
18. LIKELY
21. HAIR
22. MAI

Everyone is welcome to join us at any of our church services and activities.

The First English WW1 Memorial is the centre of our annual Remembrance Day service



Tring's Annual Family Fun Day happens here on the first Saturday every May



Community Comes Together in the Heritage Heart of Tring

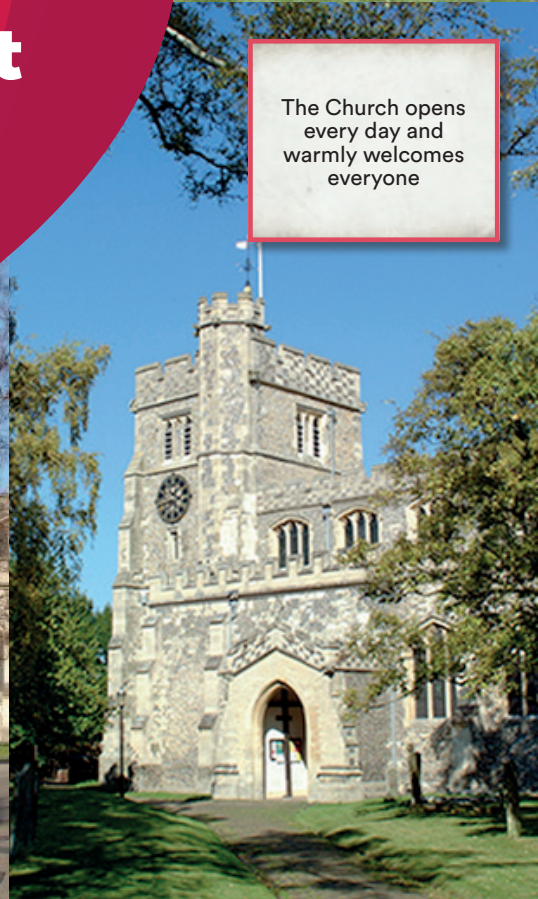
The Church opens every day and warmly welcomes everyone



Our ancient market has met here since **1315**



Coronations, Jubilees and National events are celebrated here



Preserving the Heart of Tring for Everyone's Future



For further information please contact the Secretary at info@fotch.co.uk