

Outlook

Hughenden Parish Magazine
St Michael and All Angels



March 2014

Welcome to Your Church

The fact that you are reading these words suggests that you are a new reader of this magazine. Either you are a newcomer to this area or you are a visitor.

If you are a visitor, we hope that you have enjoyed your visit to our church; that you have found it interesting, instructive and conducive to prayer. If you are going to be here at one of our regular service times, we hope that you will join us in the worship of God and we ask that you take our greetings back to your own church.

If you are new to this Parish, we bid you welcome and invite you to join us and share in the fellowship of God's family in Hughenden. This magazine gives details of the regular times of worship here. We hope that you will find something to meet your spiritual needs. The printed word is cold and remote and we would like to make personal contact with you, so please leave your name and address in the box at the back of the church.

Whoever you are who reads these words, may God bless you, sustain you and protect you, your family and friends, now and always.

Grant us Lord, faith to believe and strength to do thy will

Outlook

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Front cover picture

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March 2014

Dear Readers

You may remember the review I wrote in last month's magazine about PrayerMate, a new application that I use on my phone to support my daily prayers . One function of PrayerMate is that it is possible to get direct daily 'feeds' from various different organisations, MAF, Wycilffe etc. and one that I have set up is from Church of England Lectionary to give me the relevant Collect for each day. It has been really enlightening reading new Collects (almost) every day – some seem to apply to 2 or 3 days before being replaced. Some days I have discovered the names of saints or early Bishops of which I had never previously heard, providing me with a really great opportunity for some slightly different internet research.

This week has been one of mixed technological fortunes in that despite my phone working and guiding my prayers well, my laptop decided to fail. However prayers were answered when I did manage to boot it up temporarily and download documents that were not backed-up elsewhere. Suffice to say Bob and I are now putting plans in place for a more formal back-up function; it's not fair to rely on God for everything.

With the vulnerability of technology in mind I was delighted to read Sue Brice's article on page 11 about the group she brought to visit St. Michael's who sat and wrote (with pens and paper I am sure) about their thoughts, I am sure you will find their thoughts as delightful as I did.

We hope that everyone will find something of interest in this month's magazine and no mentions of rain or floodwater

Jane and Bob Tucker
Editors

From the Vicarage – March 2014

It is a theme I have looked at before and I make no apology that I return to it again, The situation regarding changes to benefits and how this is adversely affecting the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. I have written before about the bedroom tax and nothing has changed my opinion, I believe it to be wrong and unjust. There is much evidence that those who live with a disability and for whom an 'extra' bedroom is actually not a bedroom at all but a necessary store for much needed equipment. There is also much publicized evidence that there are simply not enough one or two bedroom properties to go round in the social housing pool, even if people wanted to move home they can not.

And it seems it is going to get worse as it appears that another round of spending cuts are to be at the heart of the Conservative election strategy. Of the £25 billion proposed cuts, half will come from reducing benefits once again. Pensioners are to be exempted (one cynical comment I came across suggested that this is because older people vote more than

the under 25s, whose housing benefit will be specifically targeted in the new welfare benefit cuts!)

Can I please offer my credentials here. Although it was many years ago, I did train as a social worker. I saw very real deprivation in the Rhondda valley, where I worked for a year before training at Cardiff University, and then I worked primarily on council estates in Barnstaple in North Devon. For those who think that North Devon is all about cream teas please think again. I was staggered at the level of poverty that exists in some places in North Devon. I came away from that job after four years with a mixed picture. There were some who had undeniably become very adept at milking the system, but there were also others who were being constantly knocked down by some really difficult circumstances. In Cinderford, where I was a vicar for nearly six years, again there were some very real issues of deprivation and poverty in the town.

It is very easy in a place like Hughenden to be buffered by all this bucolic beauty that

surrounds us. We all know though that a mile down the road though is a town that has a homeless project, and like many towns such as Wycombe, accepts as a fact of life that it has to have a food bank. It is wonderful that so many churches are getting behind this initiative, but we need to go further, we need to put pressure on our politicians to look closely at the causes that have led to the food bank phenomena. I find it a scandal that such resources are now such an accepted part of so many towns up and down the land. the truth is none of us can turn our back on this, there is real poverty on our doorstep.

And another detail has taken my notice, once again to do with benefits concerning those who have a disability. The Charity, Carers UK, has concluded, after researching for a year, that: 'The stark reality faced by people who look after sick or elderly loved ones at home is a life of poverty and debt as spiralling costs, coupled with cuts to care budgets, hit hard.'

Government cuts to support services provided by carers total £1 billion, however this has to be seen against an estimate of how much the nation's 6.5 million carers save the economy

because of what they are doing, rather than the state having to step in, £119 billion. Of course it is right that relatives should care when they can, but they surely need support. The main benefit, Carer's Allowance, is £59-75 a week for a minimum of 35 hours caring, an equivalent of £1.67 an hour. An estimated 2.3 million carers have had to give up their own jobs in order to look after sick or ailing relatives. The Department for work and Pensions have said in response: "The new Universal Credit will ensure that those carers on low incomes receive the support they need by allowing them to keep more of their own money as they move into work." I may have missed something here, but haven't 2.3 million had to move *out* of work in order to fulfil their role as carers?

There is something identified by the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams that I find really alarming who stated that there was "a quiet resurgence of the seductive language of deserving and undeserving poor." Opinions are fuelled by TV programs such as 'Shameless' and more recently 'Benefits Street' which has had the accusation levelled at it that it was very selective about who it portrayed. There is

a difficult balance to be struck between a duty of care of those in genuine need, and the requirement to create incentives for individuals to take responsibility for themselves and their families. We must be careful however, especially those of us living in a part of the country which has the most access to the most resources (and yet still has real cases of real deprivation and need in its midst). Having lived in the Welsh valleys I continue to take an interest in the fortunes of that extraordinarily beautiful, and yet troubled part of the world. The reality is whole communities were decimated when the economic tide went out with the decline of the coal and steel industries, and despite many attempts at regeneration, the tide has not returned. That is true of other parts of the Country. There are now people who live on benefits who in the words of Rowan Williams (who will know something about the plight of the valleys having been Bishop of Monmouth) are not "wicked or lazy but who need help because circumstances have been against them". The Office for Budget Responsibility and the Institute for Fiscal Studies have both said that the new round of cuts will disproportionately hit

the sick and disabled. This is wrong. There is something that must come into focus here for all who claim the identity of 'Christian' for themselves, and that is a priority for justice for the poor, it is a fundamental biblical principle. The money though has to come from somewhere, if not by cutting benefits to the poorest and most marginalised even further then where from? Both of the above bodies have stated an unpalatable truth, that tax increases will be difficult to avoid if the public deficit is to be reduced.

This is something which we will need to think about very seriously over the next year as we approach another election in 2015. Is it acceptable that the poorest and most marginalised in our society will be driven even more to the fringes? that we will see the need for even more food banks? that we see those, who through no fault of their own have to live within a benefits culture whilst struggling with decreasing resources? These are not marginal questions to our faith. Nor are they primarily party political questions. We will have the opportunity in the next year to quiz those who will seek represent, of whatever political persuasion. What is their view of the poorest and most

marginalised? Where will the resources come from to enable the debt deficit to be cut *and* resources to be protected for those who need them the most? These are difficult questions, but ones which I believe, as followers of Jesus

who came to preach 'good news to the poor' (which I understand to have both an economic and spiritual dimension) are fundamental.

Simon

Thank You Message

Our heartfelt thanks to all who sent loving messages and are praying for and supporting us following the sudden and sad passing of Ruth; our loving, lovely and much loved daughter, sister and auntie. We have been overwhelmed and comforted to know that so many care, and are thinking of us in our sadness. Thank you and God Bless,

Dory, Philip and family

Duty Rosters: reminder

As announced in the December magazine, Duty Rosters will no longer be produced in the magazine, but will be displayed in the Church porch under the appropriate heading.

The Annual Vestry meeting

followed by

the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

will be held in

St Michael & All Angels Church, Hughenden

on Sunday 27th April 2013 at 11.45am

following the combined service at 10.00am

Provision will be made for children up to the age of 6 years to enable parents to attend.

BRING AND SHARE LUNCH to follow



ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLET



It is that time of year again when I need to ask all those involved in **Church Activities** to write a brief report for the **Annual Report Booklet** in readiness for the **Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting** which is to be held on **Sunday 27th April 2014 starting at 11.45pm following the combined 10.00am Service**. I would be grateful if you would submit them to me as soon as possible, preferably by email and no later than **23rd March**, so that I can compile the booklet in time for everybody to see it before the meeting. My email address is penny.austin@tiscali.co.uk. I shall look forward to receiving your reports.

With many thanks

Penny Austin PCC Secretary

Mission Promotion Group

Open Doors

The World Watch List and Map for 2014 is now in circulation from Open Doors and for the 12th year running North Korea tops the list as the most dangerous to be a Christian; in this country alone Absolute Persecution takes place. Recent news that, at Kim Jong-Un's instruction, his uncle and all his direct relatives have been executed shows us that any improvement in the lives of the North Korean people is not imminent.

Open Doors have recently launched the **It's Time** campaign; which calls for a year of prayer and action for Christians in North Korea. This resource comes in the form of a 24 page booklet with a six week programme of prayer for North Korea. Each day there is a Bible

reading and prayer item. It coincides with Lent and challenges us to **Live, Pray, Worship, Read, Give** and **Share** like a North Korean and there are many suggestions of how we may do that by giving up something we really enjoy doing or something we very much take for granted. Of course, we are free to either pick that up or not; sadly they are not free but forced or forbidden. We may wonder how whatever we do or give up can possibly help them – it helps us identify with them and the days, weeks, months and years they endure the lives they are forced to lead. There are resources you may download from the Open Doors website and there will be a small supply of the **It's Time** booklets at the back of the Church, packed with information, should you feel challenged and they are also available free of charge from Open Doors.

Recently Open Doors have encouraged supporters to invite their MP to a meeting on North Korea to be held on 4th March, where they will have a unique opportunity to hear from a Christian refugee who survived a prison camp. So far 40 MPs have registered to attend. Pray that they will be impacted by what they hear. Another North Korean, Eun Hee, never expected her life to be made into a film. Watch her story on www.youtube.com.

Yvonne Cook

Valley Wives

Jill welcomed us all to the meeting but then had to give the worrying news that our treasurer, Josie Hutton, was very poorly in hospital. Josie works tirelessly for the group and our thoughts are with her and her family.

Our speaker for February was Pam Smith and her talk was entitled 'Bits and Pieces'. Pam has lived all her life in Naphill and started researching her family history many years ago. She has unearthed so much information about past relatives that the many books and photo albums she brought along covered two trestle tables. So many familiar local surnames names appeared in Pam's talk, perhaps one of the most famous was her great grandfather Walter William Newall, a well known marathon runner in the late 1800s. There is also a family connection with Eric Gill, well known for his sculptures,

engravings and type fonts, who lived at Pigotts, Piggott's Hill near Speen.

As well as being fascinated by Pam's family history, we also learned much about Naphill, Walter's Ash and the surrounding area. Naphill Village Hall was built in 1928 on land donated by Coningsby Disraeli. In 1841 300 people lived in Naphill. Naphill had two forges, a poorhouse and all the houses had wells until mains water was connected in the early 1930s. There was a large poorhouse in Saunderton, where The Clare Foundation is now sited.

The three main industries in Naphill and Walter's Ash were brick making, stone cutting and chalk mining. There were many chalk pits in the area between Forge Road (formerly known as Short Road) and the Bradenham Road. Once the men finished extracting the chalk a tree trunk was lowered into the hole, unfortunately, over time these have rotted away allowing voids to occur. In the past week one such chalk pit in Main Road, Walters Ash opened up and swallowed a car, luckily no one was hurt.

Our next **meeting is on 7th March** when our speaker will be Philip Littlejohn whose talk is entitled 'Titanic – A Survivor's Story'. This is an **open** meeting so all are most welcome.

Norma Hill

Parish Weekend 2014

The Leadership team are pleased to announce that following the successful weekends at Ashburnham we have decided to have another one but this time at a beautiful Christian Conference Centre Near Hoddesden in Hertfordshire that is called "High Leigh."

The weekend will start on Friday afternoon/evening 3rd October and will finish after lunch on Sunday 5th October. The House and Grounds are very family friendly with good facilities for Children and Teenagers who effectively have a suite of rooms for their specific use.

The theme of the conference will again be to look at some more major questions of Christianity. The details about this will follow later. There will also be a programme arranged for our young people. We will be able to have our usual social events and to help matters on there is a bar on the premises if required.

At this stage we need to identify those who would like to come as we have a restricted number of places available. Children and Teenagers are very welcome. Please speak with Frank Hawkins as soon as possible.

In conjunction with High Leigh we are able to offer some bursaries for those who would find the costs too high or for families where the costs might seem too much. Please speak with Frank Hawkins in confidence if you are interested in this.



The Cost per adult for full board from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon including a social evening is £145 and the majority of our Rooms are en-suite. Costs for Children are as follows:- Under 5years old - free, and 6 – 16 yrs old -£72.

Do please come along for a feast of learning and of fun.

The Leadership Team

The Inklings.

The Inklings are the members of my writing club and just before Christmas I took them on a visit to Hughenden Manor and then to the church. They are called Inklings for several reasons. The ink bit is obvious and the Anglo Saxon suffix -ling means something that is young as in duckling and yearling. Also though, the Inklings was a writing club attended by Tolkein and CS Lewis when they were

colleagues at Oxford. When one delves a little deeper it seems probable that it was as much an eating, drinking and talking club as one for writing. However, I like the idea!

The children, 15 of them aged between 8 and 11 plus a few parents, enjoyed seeing the Manor dressed for a Victorian Christmas. We noted that there would have been no electricity or running water at the time and that it would have taken a considerable staff to prepare the house ready for Benjamin Disraeli and his wife to enjoy the Christmas festivities.

A small display by the main door particularly resonated with the children. It showed the Christmas gifts that would have been given to members of staff by their employers. It said that the housemaid would have probably received a new apron! We joked that the poor girl would surely have preferred some fragrant bubble bath and the time to soak in a long, deep bath.

We all had lunch in a room just to the side of the Manor and then, restored by food and drink, it was time to write. We all have our own writing journals, which are private and we can choose whether to share what we write. The journals are never taken in to be marked because they are intimate records of self expression and personal experience. I usually offer a prompt to help anyone who might be struggling to begin, but really these children are confident writers and they know this is not a lesson; they write as they please. Most choose to write in the first person as it seems to produce a result which is more exciting and immediate. And the adults write too. Parents who offer to accompany us are warned of this condition!

Then we walked down to the Church. As the children sat in the pews in front of me, I gave them a quick potted history of St Michael's. We then wandered through the chancel and the north chapel, questioning, talking and sometimes jotting down words and phrases in our journals. Sitting quietly, we pondered on the prayers and hymns that must have soaked into the walls over the last thousand years. We trod on those stone steps, worn down in the middle by endless footsteps and then we went off anywhere in the church to be still and write.

Whenever I'm in the church during the week, I am always amazed by the number of people who come in and visit and this particular day

was no exception. One elderly couple was quite bemused to come across this disparate group of adults and children, scattered around the quiet church, all involved in their own words and thoughts.

This is the sort of work that emanated from that session:

=====

The door shuts firmly, a quiet thud closing the fresh, bright, busy world outside. Musty air breathed by countless generations previous. The quiet breath of a million prayers softly beat within the walls. The heart of a community, a faith, through years of life: birth, death and all in between. Our lives: joys, loves, romances, help, calm, peace...

An open place of prayer offering sanctuary to anyone who asks, from powerful minds to innocent babes.

I sit in the quiet, a peace which is born of the love poured out over centuries of meditative stillness. My breath slows, my shoulders drop, my mind stills.

The busy world outside.....God enters.

Written by a parent

This church has been around since time began.

The paved floor worn down, down, down by feet.

Joyful feet. Mournful feet.

The walls absorbing your thoughts: likes, dislikes,

Friends, enemies, prayers.

Pondering your deepest secrets, hearing your plaintive cries.

This church has been around since time began.

Written by Helena, age 10

Benches of oak,
Windows of glass.
Cushions and comfort,
I feel calm at last

Glass, wood and marble,
Purple and gold.
How many prayers have been said
And stories been told?

Candlesticks and paintings,
An altar and a chair.
Olden day statues,
Decorations everywhere.

Written by Suzanna, age 8

Here I have stood for one thousand years, yet I am not weary, nor jaded by the things I have seen. The footfall of centuries has gradually smoothed and softened my threshold, yet I have welcomed each of the countless souls who has crossed.

In times of war, I have comforted mothers, daughters, wives; brought together communities whose prayers are for peace and the end of conflict. I have celebrated the birth of many a tiny baby, in later years blessed the marriages of those same babies, grown in the blink of an eye, and then guided them on their way at the end of life.

I have heard the prayers of the lonely, the joyful, the persecuted; of men and women; of young and old; of rich and poor.

And each year, for almost as long as time itself, I have watched as people gather to rejoice at the birth of a King. I have seen so many changes, yet some things remain the same. I pray they always will.

Written by the school secretary.

Susan Brice

Spring Valley Centre

Spring Valley Centre nestles next to Hughenden Primary School at the end of Spring Valley Drive. Janet Cook pointed out that our first version of the Parish Prayer Rota, last year, omitted the centre from our prayers, and directed me to talk to Christine Powell to find out more.

Having added the centre to the rota I talked briefly, on the phone to Sally, who manages it, to gather our first prayer for the centre. However I thought I should try and find out a bit more so visited the centre recently and met Sally and another senior member of staff Jo.

Spring Valley Centre supports 16 regular clients, aged between 19 and 60+, who have an Autistic Spectrum Condition (or similar behavioural conditions) and it is run by a small dedicated team of staff who give clients an individualised service. Some clients need 1 to 1 support whilst others can be managed in groups of 2, or even three, per staff member for short periods. The centre is funded by Bucks County Council but manages its own budgeting function.

A typical day starts at about 9.30 when clients due that day (not all clients are supported 5 days a week) arrive and start by looking at their timetables and completing various tasks to help them settle into their day. After coffee they may start on activities within the centre or go out to various locations supported by 1 or 2 staff members. Going out may be walking to the Village shop or The Harrow for a drink and a chat with whoever they may meet; or perhaps shopping in Morrisons for experience in making choices and managing money transactions. Clients are also escorted and supported going to music or swimming activities or attending college. For the clients that stay in the centre all day (until they leave about 3.30) there are a variety of activities. Some do 'work', whether for a business, or just sorting or other repetitive activities as therapy; whilst others are involved in music, creative or home-making activities guided by staff members.



As well as staff members the Centre also gets occasional support via nursing or police students on placement as part of their training, but other than that the only help the staff members get is from Christine – their lone volunteer.

Sally explained to me that volunteers need to be open-minded, confident and resilient to work with clients, which may not be for everyone; but they also have a need for minimal client contact volunteers. It would help to have someone who could perhaps manage the kitchen at lunchtime, handing out clients packed lunches, making drinks and keeping the kitchen clean and tidy. Also they have a need for a handyman/gardener who could do odd maintenance jobs in and around the centre and keep the grounds tidy; perhaps assisted by a client if the work was suitable. Any volunteers who could bring musical, artistic or creative skills could come along and lead an activity involving clients and their support staff.

Commitment to volunteering could be one morning a week, fortnight or month, as long as it can be regular, so can be scheduled. Volunteers would need to be CRB (now called DBS!) checked as the clients are vulnerable adults.



If you would like to know more I am sure Christine would be happy to answer questions, but for more specific details please email Sally Slade at sslade@buckscc.gov.uk or call Sally or Jo on 01494 562021.

Jane Tucker

My Piper pilgrimage.

If our definition of a pilgrimage is a journey, a quest, in search of something, then that is definitely what I have been about of late.

If you are familiar with the name John Piper, it is probably in connection with the huge and amazing baptistery window that he

designed for the 'new' Coventry Cathedral. However, there is a very local connection for us.

When I leave Wycombe I am usually heading towards London for entertainment. However, on this particular day we wanted to see some serious countryside, so we turned the other way and drove through West Wycombe and up to Bledlow Ridge. We had never been into St Paul's church so we stopped for a look. Opening the heavy wooden door, I truly gasped as I walked in and saw this amazing west window. Deep liquid blue and abstract in design, it obviously didn't fit with the other more traditional windows, so I looked around for some information that would tell me more. There was indeed a well written and nicely illustrated booklet that told me that this was a John Piper window. And there began this pilgrimage, a journey through reading, googling and driving around the Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire countryside.

John Piper lived between 1903 and 1992 and for most of his adult life his home was in Fawley, high on a hill a few miles from Henley. He was an artist who became famous for his glass and his windows. However, he was dependent on craftsmen who could interpret his cartoons and turn his brilliant designs into windows. During the late 60s and 70s, Burleighfield House (on the A40 by the Tesco's roundabout at Loudwater) was owned by Patrick Reyntiens and run as an artistic community. Reyntiens himself was a craftsman who could do just what was required by John Piper. And there began a vibrant partnership.

After Bledlow Ridge we went to Turville, famed of course for its connection with The Vicar of Dibley and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. The window here is quite tiny, rather like a fanlight above a door but it was agreed that the church was worth visiting as it had an exquisite, tiny, one manual organ! But I digress. The window shows a woman's hand holding a lily and the writing is taken from the Magnificat, making an allusion to the Annunciation. It was commissioned to honour the deconsecration of the nearby St Saviours church.

On another day we set off to find the churches of Pishill, Nettlebed and Fawley. Pishill was first and was unusual in several ways. For one thing, the church is of unknown dedication, so is simply referred to as Pishill church. I couldn't find any explanation for this intriguing situation. The name Pishill comes from the Latin 'pisum' meaning peas, apparently historically a popular crop in the area. However, it

was a very welcoming place sitting at the top of a steep track. Welcoming, because in the porch was a kettle and all the necessary accoutrements to make a cup of tea or coffee....and indeed an invitation to do so! Also the organ invited 'bonafide' organists to sit and play; unusual indeed. The striking Piper window on the south wall depicts a sword, a symbol of St Paul's martyrdom in Rome and a book symbolising the Epistles. The pen is mightier than the sword.

St Bartholomew's church in Nettlebed is blessed with 2 of these vivid Piper windows, significantly more representational than the one at Bledlow Ridge, where I had begun. The tree of life is a delight before which to stand, full of symbolism and dedicated to Peter Fleming, a friend of Piper's, a travel writer and a Spectator columnist. The second window there is a triptych and I particularly liked the right hand panel which featured butterflies in their three stages of metamorphosis. Suddenly the caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly became clear symbols of life, death and resurrection.

And so onto Fawley to complete this part of the Piper pilgrimage. Living at Fawley Bottom Farmhouse, John Piper was part of the musical, literary and artistic glitterati of the 50s, 60s and 70s. John Betjeman was a friend, WH Auden was a visitor and John Piper's wife Myfanwy was the librettist of Benjamin Britten. This hotbed of culture was set on a chalky ridge of the Chilterns overlooking the Thames Valley.

At first I couldn't find find the window! However, after some searching, there it was behind a curtain in a vestry. The tree of life theme again but with a different interpretation, reminiscent of a Van Gogh still life. It has a depth of colour which I have come to expect from these windows.

John Piper and his wife are buried in Fawley's churchyard and we went to find the gravestone before turning and heading for home. The remaining 4 churches will wait for another day.

Why not go and look? It gives a delightful focus to a drive in our beautiful countryside...and we did pass several country pubs that looked with investigating!

Susan Brice

Floodlighting Dedications

Floodlighting dedications which erroneously missed previous magazines were for:

29 December

– 4 January Christopher Tyrer and family were celebrating his mother Margaret's 95th birthday on 30 December

19 – 25 January

Marion Richardson has been remembering with love her mother Eva, particularly on 20 January, her anniversary.

9 – 15 February

Jane and Christopher Tyrer were giving thanks for and celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary which fell on 9 February.

Dedications received too late for the February magazine were for:

2 - 8 February

Meg Freeman was remembering with much love her husband David, particularly on 4 February, his anniversary.

16 – 22 February

Avis Clinch was remembering with love her husband Roy, and Lois Comley's mother Monica Smith.

Lin Smit

Oz and Tassy

Australia! Land of Slap, Slop, Slip – Slap on a hat, Slop on some cream, Slip on a shirt! The Australians are very aware of the dangers of sunburn, after all, there is a hole in the ozone layer above them. We arrived on the day of Carols Afloat, the flotilla of small boats ranging from kayaks to ocean-going power vessels which cruise in and out of all the bays branching off the Port Hacking river, following a boat on which a choir broadcasts carols and Christmas songs. We had last been part of this annual charity fund raising event during our previous visit to Australia four years earlier. Donations are collected by three or four men in a rubber dinghy, known here as a 'rubber ducky', which whizzes around in and out of the various craft with a collecting box. As before, beverages were not exactly soft drinks, but everyone sang heartily and waved and called Christmas wishes to people on their verandas and balconies. It was certainly a good way to keep us awake after our long flight!

Into Sydney on Christmas Eve for the 8.30am concert of carols sung by the choir of staff members at David Jones departmental store. This was on the seventh floor which necessitated going up escalators through various departments and then returning the same way. What a brilliant marketing strategy! The new MD meant to give business a boost! The singing was wonderful and afterwards we enjoyed a 'full English' sitting in the sunshine in a nearby park café. Christmas Day saw us walking on the beach while waiting for the turkey to cook and before the rain fell. Even here it was a wet Christmas Day.

A New Year's Day walk (suitably protected from the sun) took us on a rocky and sandy track through the bush. The National Park covers vast areas with vivid green, reddish brown and dark coloured bush as far as the eye can see. At the coast we walked along the flat clifftop rocks until we came to a cove where we stopped for our packed lunch. The colours in the rocks were stunning; layers from cream, peach and gold to red, mauve, pink and soft grey, sculpted by wind and rain. It was as if a divine craftsman had been at work. We walked on, in places pushing through the bush and trying not to think of the snakes and spiders! Another day took us to the Southern Highlands about two hours' drive from Sydney, a beautiful area of rolling hills, mountains and green fields with lots of cattle, in fact

something like the Lake District. The mountains were around 2,000 metres high and we saw a magnificent waterfall dropping hundreds of feet into a cave, before falling away into the river below.

Some parts of Australia have had extremely high temperatures and Sydney was no exception. On a day when it reached 36C we watched a group complete a three kilometre swim in the sea around a group of rocks known as Shark Island. Apparently if a shark is spotted the message is passed to the Surf Lifesavers that 'a man in a grey suit has been sighted', at which point everyone is ordered out of the water. Jet skis and powered rubber dinghies zoom around to frighten off the shark before the all clear is given. Shark attack is very rare but of course, when it does happen it makes the headlines.

After some weeks in Oz, we visited Tasmania (Tassy to the locals), Van Dieman's Land as it used to be known and arrived in Launceston pronounced here as Laun-cess-ton. British names abound on this island as lots of early settlers came from the British Isles, many against their will! There is so much to see. The Liffey Falls (little rainfall so not much water) are in a beautiful rainforest where huge, tall, straight eucalypts stretch up through the graceful tree ferns. A sign with an arrow read 'Big Tree' and there indeed was a big tree, a eucalyptus 3.5m in diameter and 50m high, straight up. Driving slowly back along a track we saw a movement and stopped. An echidna, a sort of largish hedgehog but with longer spines and a very long, finger shaped nose, ambled across the track, probed in the vegetation for some tasty morsels and then pattered back and disappeared into the undergrowth. A wallaby also bounced across in front of us.

On the north west coast Stanley is a village on a long peninsula with a large, flat topped 500 ft high hill on the end, known as 'The Nut'. This is a volcanic plug formed in prehistoric times. We took a chair lift up and walked the 45 min circuit at the top, observing mutton bird burrows everywhere. These birds are apparently like a frigate bird and make good eating. The Nut, being so exposed, was in the teeth of a gale but the views of creamy surf all around were spectacular.

Next we drove to Cradle Mountain, so called in the 1800s because its shape was thought to resemble a baby's cradle (good imagination needed here!). There are many mountains and lakes in this area and with the advantage of excellent weather, the views of them were

magnificent. We enjoyed some wonderful, though at times quite taxing, walks in this area, one of which was up to and around Crater Lake, the flooded centre of an ancient volcano with 200 ft cliffs around and dark, peaty water below. Quite breathtaking! All the lakes and even the sea in this part of Tasmania, are the colour of black tea caused by tannins leaching from the buttongrass plants which abound. Out at night in a vehicle with spotlights, we saw wallabies, possums, pademelons (very small kangaroos – Aborigine name), spotted quolls (ferret-like) and wombats, many with their young. We also saw Tasmanian Devils at a breeding centre, although there are still a number in the wild. These are the size of a small dog and have the strongest jaws on the planet. They eat carcasses, mostly of small kangaroos, possums, etc, but nothing is left; fur, flesh and bones are all consumed. The snarling noise they make sounds quite fearsome. It was reassuring to learn that they do not attack humans!

From Strahan (pronounced Strawn) on the west coast we cruised across the vast Macquarie Harbour, eight times the size of Sydney Harbour and up the Gordon River with its glassy water reflecting the lush rainforest on each side. We saw many Huon Pines, an ancient tree which, when it falls, regenerates itself and sends out new shoots which then grow into trees. It is prized for making boats, furniture, kitchen tools and ornaments as not only is it hardwearing, but has beautiful markings in the wood. Many of the big trees were over a thousand years old and some trunks which had been under water for many years, had still not rotted. We visited the very small Sarah Island, home of a dreaded penal colony a couple of centuries ago. What a cruel and terrible life the convicts had. Later that night we went to tiny Bonnet Island at the harbour entrance, to watch Fairy Penguins return to their burrows from their fishing trips at sea. These hardy and endearing little birds are only about 12 inches high.

While in Australia we have been attending St Andrew's Church in Cronulla and have made a number of friends there but we have also missed our Hughenden Church family. As I write we have only two more weeks with our family in Sydney before returning home with dozens of photographs and lovely memories of our Antipodean holiday.

Sylvia and Brian Clark

Good Companions

Our February meeting saw a return visit from Alan Jaycock who gave a talk about his visits to Iceland. He exhibited slides from his own photographs which vividly illustrated many features of the country. Originally part of the same land mass as Britain and Ireland it separated with the movements of the tectonic plates but remains part of Europe. It has a volcano that has been active in recent times (remember the trouble with aircraft jet engines) and a population and settlements in coastal regions owing to the difficulty of access to the interior. It has glaciers and waterfalls, basalt rocks of unique shapes, a lagoon and the geysers producing near boiling waters. There is precious little natural vegetation - some lichens and flowers. There are buildings with their own features such as high roofs with very acute angles at the ridges and the hexagonal columns and structures of the recently built Opera House. The church called VIK is frequently found on postcards. Verbal description is really inadequate, you need to see Alan's photos at least to appreciate them all.

Our March meeting has a return visit from Fernie Fields Four with their unusual saxophone combinations.

Michael Harris.

Communicants - January

Sundays:

5th 19 + 40 = 59
12th 21 + 80 = 101
19th 18 + 41 = 59
26th 18 + 73 = 91

Weekdays:

1st Naming of Jesus 14
6th The Epiphany 30
25th Conversion of Paul 6

As always, it should be noted that the number of worshippers (as opposed to communicants) at this church usually total around 150, including children, per Sunday.

From the Parish Registers

The Departed: Ruth Marie Morgan, aged 34

EARLY DAFFODILS

With numbed hands we claw at crystal snow half thawed.
Beneath the weight of last night's spate of flakes
we find their crushed remains.

Yesterday, such rampant joy
of green spear and golden bell
breeze tossed and jostling;
I fancied they were telling me
that winter's almost gone.

But they were wrong.

Tenderly we raise bedraggled blooms and severed stalks.
Neither of us talks as we slowly turn away
bearing drooping heads.
We share the smart of pity in our eyes.
All earth's pain these petals symbolize.

9.3.1995

R.R.Cretchley

www.thinkingpoet.co.uk



one
can
+ r u s +

.....I am managing and overseeing One Can Trust and also working on the development and launch of our next project, One Can Hope – details to follow, needless to say there will be lots of volunteering opportunities to get involved too!

...THANK YOU ALL from One Can Trust as we leave 2013 stronger and bigger than we could ever imagined, yet we still have huge challenges ahead but together we will continue to “change lives for the better”.

Sara, One Can Trust

March Recipe – Arabian Cheese Fataya

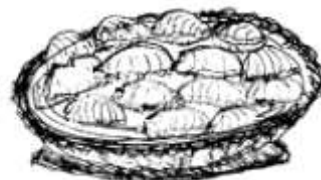
Ingredients for filling

8oz (225gm) cheese (any kind, Haloumi, Feta or Cheddar)
1 large egg
1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint or 1 dessertspoon dried
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley or 1 dessertspoon dried parsley
1 teaspoon thyme
1 grind of white pepper
(optional) some chopped cooked spinach

Ingredients for dough

1 kilo (1¼ lb) plain flour
25 gm (1 tablespoon) sugar
20 gm (1/2 dessertspoon) salt
200gm (7oz) Butter
75 gm (3 fl oz) corn oil
500ml water, may need a little more

Arabian Cheese Fataya.



Method

Mix the ingredients for the dough in a large mixing bowl, adding the water to make a pliable but not sticky dough. Leave for about ½ hour to rest.

Grate the cheese and mix with the herbs and the egg and spinach (if using).

When the dough is rested, rework it for a few minutes and then roll it out ¼ inch thickness and cut into small circles, using all the pastry up. Then pile spoonfuls of the filling into the centre of the circles and fold over to make half circles. Press down the edges with a fork tip so it is sealed.

These can be deep fried or shallow fried, turning them over until they are pale gold and puffed up. They can be eaten hot or cold. They also freeze well.

This recipe was given to me by my friend Joyce. She and her husband Ian spend a lot of their time working in Bahrain. She describes it as a tropical archipelago paradise set in the crystal clear waters of the Arabian Sea. It is home to a huge spreading tree known as the tree of life and believed by many in the past to be the Garden of Eden. She tells me Sheikh Issa (an Arab version of the name Jesus)

ruled this State for many years in the 20th century and he always employed personal chefs who travelled with him everywhere. One young man named Andre was his personal chef until the Sheikh died. Andre then became head chef at a big hotel in Abu Dhabi which Joyce and Ian stayed at when they were over there. This recipe for Arabian Cheese Fataya was one of Joyce's favourite snacks and she was able to persuade Andre to give it to her. I have enjoyed it at her home and she let me have it to share with you. I hope you enjoy it.

Ann Way

Mothers Union AGM. Chaired by Simon.

We all enjoyed a very good evening starting with Mulled Wine and Nibbles a little socialising after our break since December.

Then it was down to business, Simon opened our meeting and we began with a short service, we also enrolled another new member. After all the reports, Simon thanked us for our input into so many different areas of the church. We are still without a leader but working together as a team.

Our meetings are open to everyone in the porch is our programme for 2014, do come and join us we do have fun as well as the more serious side to our work which aims to support marriage and family life.

The next meeting is Tuesday march 4th at 7.30 speaker our own Edie Sadler talking about her time as Post Mistress.

Sara Badrick

Stop Press. Mothers' Union

Fair trade coffee morning raised £235.30

Thank you to all that helped in any way to produce this total.

24/7 Prayer for Wycombe

This month I am not going to write on any particular ministry. I thought I would just say something briefly about 24/7 Prayer as quite often people ask about it. 24/7 Prayer began in 1999 as a prayer movement in Chichester by a group of students who became inspired by a Moravian community in Germany who prayed for 100 years. Pete Greig was one of the founding members of this movement and I believe he speaks at New Wine; some of you may have heard and been inspired by him. 24/7 Prayer is international and interdenominational.

24/7 Prayer is connecting with God in prayer every hour of every day. Naturally, we cannot pray alone for 24 hours but we can pray for one hour in a 24 hour period and that is what we want to do during our promised day when we pray for Wycombe. There are many people involved with ministries in Wycombe. They are connecting with lost, damaged and lonely people and we need to ask for Our Lord's involvement in this work. Volunteers need to be equipped and empowered to spread the good news about Jesus. Jesus said "ask anything in my name and it will be done".

This month remember particularly Wycombe Homeless Connection as they come to the last month of their Night Shelter. Remember those involved in street ministry – Street Angels, Healing on the Streets, Chefs for Jesus and Town Chaplaincy. Think about signing up for one hour in prayer during March. Our day this month is Thursday, 13th March, from 8.00 am to 8.00 am on Friday. The Prayer Room will be set up in the North Room with all the usual facilities available. The sign-up sheet and the Prayer Points are on the table at the back of the church and any extra Prayer Points that come through will be found in the Prayer Room or emailed to you if you are praying at home. Remember the most powerful thing we can ever do is to Pray.

Yvonne Cook

The Lectionary – March 2014

Date	Lesson	Readers		
		8.00 am/6.00pm	9.00 am	10.45 am
2nd	Sunday next before Lent			
	Exodus 24, 12 – 18	J Holmes	C or J Tyrer	M Dean
	2 Peter 1, 16 – 21	P Hynard	A Jaycock	
	Matthew 17, 1 – 9	Priest	Priest	
	Evensong; Psalm 84			
	Ecclesiasticus 48, 1 – 10	L Smit		
	Matthew 17, 1 – 23	S Brice		
9th	First Sunday of Lent			
	Genesis 2, 15 -17 & 3, 1 – 7	J Wilson	A Moore	F Hawkins
	Romans 5, 12 – 19	J White	E Sadler (check	D Hawkins
	Matthew 4, 1 – 11	Priest	which lesson)	Priest
	Psalm at 9am: 32			
	No Evensong: Confirmation			
	Service instead.			
16th	Second Sunday of Lent			
	Genesis 12, 1 – 4a	C Carter	J Dauncey	Informal Service
	Romans 4, 1 – 5 & 13 -17	A Stacey	J Palmer	
	John 3, 1 – 17	Priest	Priest	
	Evensong: Psalm 135			
	Numbers 21, 4 – 9	M Morgan		
	Luke 14, 27 – 33	E Bailey		
23rd	Third Sunday of Lent			
	Exodus 17, 1 – 7	A Johnson	L Stallwood	J Tucker
	Romans 5, 1 – 11	A Jaycock	R or A Gee (check	K Williams
	John 4, 5 – 42	Priest	which lesson)	Priest
	Psalm at 9am: 46			
	Evensong: Psalm 40			
	Joshua 1, 1 – 9	L Smit		
	Ephesians 6, 10 - 20	B Doran		
30th	Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering)			
	1 Samuel 16, 1 – 13	S Badrick	D or H Lowe	J Steel
	Ephesians 5, 8 – 14	J Holmes	B Brice (Check	C Godfrey
	John 9, 1 – 41	Priest	which lesson)	Priest
	Psalm at 9am: 23			
	Evensong: Psalm 31			
	Micah 7 or Prayer of Manasseh	A Johnson		
	James 5	S Brice		

Church Yard Sheep

Just before Christmas we sadly said goodbye to our two remaining Jacob sheep Millie and Annie, both born in May 2000. Jacob sheep have been looked after by Dory and Philip Morgan since 1986 and so it marks the end of an era. Should anyone now wish to continue this tradition we of course are very open to that! however at the moment it looks as if we will have to plan to manage that part of the Churchyard in a different way.

Dory and Philip had a terrible Christmas. They had to say goodbye to Millie and Annie, and then, on boxing day morning their eldest daughter Ruth tragically died.

We will all miss the sheep, which many people mistook for goats because of their long horns! They were an integral part of 'the Hughenden experience' for visitors, and of course they were a natural way of managing the Churchyard. Our thanks to Dory and Philip who faithfully and lovingly looked after generations of Jacob Sheep at Hughenden, and our thoughts are still with them especially following the loss of their beloved daughter Ruth.

Simon

March's Prayer Topics

4 th Stewardship/ Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For Ian and all who support him as he works on the Church accounts as they need finalising for the end of the year- That all the necessary forms get completed by the congregation and thanks for all those that have completed their forms already
10 th Naphill Bon Ami Cafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thanks for the level of the business at present- For greater business in the future as they work on developing the menu to appeal to as great an audience as possible.
14 th Local Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- That the recent activity with mobile speed cameras will reduce the overall speed of cars around the parish- For PC Turnham as we works with local Neighbourhood Watch members to maintain a safe and secure parish
22 nd Flower Arrangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For more members of the congregation to put their name on the rota for weeks until Lent when flowers in Church cease.- For new people to come along for Easter flower arranging on 19th April
25 th Good Companions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For new people to join in and bring new life to the group so that it can continue to meet and flourish and hence provide companionship and enjoyment to all it's members.
31 st Spring Valley Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For the staff, but especially the clients who find changes difficult to cope with, as they mourn the loss of a client called Pam who died recently.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the staff (and their lone volunteer Christine) doing a job that at times is emotionally very difficult.

CALENDAR for March 2014

Morning prayer is said in Church at 7.45 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 7.30 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. **Bellringing practice** is Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm in the Belltower. Why not come and learn to ring? You'll be very welcome. Speak to David Cornwall. **Choir practice** is Wednesday evening at 7.45 pm. If you can read music you will be most welcome: speak to Neil Brice. **Art Group** meets in Church House at 1.45 pm on Tuesdays. Contact Bob Stone for more information.

MARCH 2014

Sun	2	Sunday next before Lent
		8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		9.00 am Sung Communion
		10.45 am All Age Family Service
		noon-
		3.30pm Winter Warmers: Church House: PSP
		6.00 pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) (no sermon)
Tue	4	8.00 pm Mothers' Union: Church House
Wed	5	Ash Wednesday
		8-00 pm Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes: Church
Sun	9	First Sunday of Lent
		8.00 am Said Communion
		9.00 am Mattins (Book of Common Prayer)
		10.45 am Family Communion with JC club
		6.00 pm Confirmation service
Thu	13	8.00 am 24 hours of prayer for High Wycombe: North Room
Fri	14	9.30 am Mothers' Union Committee meeting: Church House
Sun	16	Second Sunday of Lent
		8.00 am Holy Communion (said)
		9.00 am Sung Communion
		10.45 am Informal Family Service with JC Club
		6.00 pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) (no sermon)
Wed	19	Joseph of Nazareth
		10.00 am Holy Communion: Church (30 mins)
Thu	20	10.30 am Tiny Tots' Service: Church
		Friendship Morning: Church House
Sat	22	1.pm Holy Matrimony: Adam Goodchild to Louise North
Sun	23	Third Sunday of Lent
		8.00 am Said Communion
		9.00 am Mattins (Book of Common Prayer)
		10.45 am Family Communion with JC club
		6.00 pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) (no sermon)
		Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Lady Day)
Tue	25	8.00 pm Sung Eucharist: Church
Sun	30	Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)
		8.00 am Said Communion
		9.00 am Mattins (Book of Common Prayer)
		10.45 am Family Communion with JC club
		6.00 pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) (no sermon)

Regular Meetings and Organisations



Friendship Morning

This is a get together in Church House on the **3rd Thursday each month at 10.30 a.m.** It is primarily for those who are bereaved, who live on their own, and for those who are lonely. The emphasis is very much on companionship, and the atmosphere is light and cheerful. Please contact me if you think this is for you.

Judith Camplisson – 01494 565108

Toddlers @ St. Michael's

Hughenden Toddlers @ St. Michael's meets every Thursday from 9.30 - 11.30 am in Church House. Come for chat, play, craft and refreshments. Included, every third Thursday of the month, will be '**Tiny Tots**' a time of fun worship in Church.



For further details contact Helen Peters (01494 716772)

House groups	Weekdays	See weekly notice sheet for details
CYFA (School Years 10+)	alternate Sunday evenings in term time	Contact Mike Dean (463376) for details
D-CYFA (School Years 7 – 9)	alternate Sunday evenings in term time	Contact Anne Dean as above

April 2014 Issue of Outlook

Outlook is published on the 28th of each month, except July and December. The Editor for the April edition is Sylvia Clark. Items for inclusion should reach the Editors by email at:

mag@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk.

Hand-written articles should be delivered, or posted, to Helen Byrne at 67 Friars Gardens, Hughenden Valley.

ALL contributions to be received by 15th March, please

Who's Who at St Michael & All Angels

VICAR AND AREA DEAN OF WYCOMBE	The Rev'd Simon Cronk	563439
NON STIPENDIARY PRIEST	The Rev'd Fred Friend	563168
CURATE	The Rev'd Helen Peters	716772
CHURCHWARDENS	Brian Clark	562801
PARISH CLERK & VERGER	Arthur Johnson	521471
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Lin Smit	462094
CHURCH NOTICES/WEBSITE	Ben Brice	445899
PCC LAY VICE CHAIRMAN	Anne Dean	463376
PCC SECRETARY	Penny Austin	529596
PCC ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Anne Dean	463376
PCC TREASURER	Ian Faulkner	07795 823914
PCC ASSISTANT TREASURER	David Cornwall	714718
PLANNED GIVING SECRETARY	David Cornwall	714718
TASK GROUP LEADERS: WORSHIP	The Rev'd Simon Cronk	563439
PASTORAL SUPPORT	Anne Dean	463376
YOUTH	Mike Dean	463376
MISSION	Christopher Tyrer	01844 344650
OUTREACH & SOCIAL	Frank Hawkins	565050
ALPHA COURSE - ADMINISTRATOR	Diane Hawkins	565050
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	David Cornwall	714718
DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES	Arthur Johnson	521471
DIOCESAN SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES	The Rev'd Simon Cronk	563439
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER	Neil Brice	445899
WORSHIP LEADER	Tony Sackville	446035
AV AND SOUND SYSTEM	Frank Hawkins	565050
SERVERS	Andrew Cole	442191
MOTHERS' UNION PARISH LINK	Ann McCarthy	712004
CAPTAIN OF BELLRINGERS	David Cornwall	714718
VALLEY WIVES	Jill Graves	563813
CRECHE ROTA	Jane Lomas	563629
CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY	Norma Clarke	563116
FRIENDSHIP MORNING	Judith Camplisson	565108
CHURCH HOUSE TEAS BOOKINGS	Julia Grant	711939
CHURCH COFFEE ROTA	Sylvia Clark	562801
CHURCH FLOWERS	Jean Godfrey	522198
CHURCH BOOKSTALL	Elaine Morley	562714
CHURCH HOUSE BOOKINGS	Parish Administrator	462094
HUGHENDEN VILLAGE HALL	Christine Powell	565942
NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL	Norma Clark	563116
OUTLOOK MAGAZINE EDITORS	Sylvia Clark	562801
MAGAZINE PRINTING	Brian Clark & Team	562801
MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION	Hilary Farrar-Hockley	528236

Our Mission is

“To enable all to follow Jesus Christ”

**We shall live out this mission through Prayer, Presence,
Persuasion and Proclamation by:**

i) Leading lives centred on Jesus Christ –

- *That is steadfastly based on the Bible and prayer*
- *That is based on Jesus' example*
- *By being ambassadors of Christ to our friends, families, neighbours
and work and school colleagues.*

ii) Being seen and known in the wider Community by

- *Understanding the communities in which we live and seeking to be fully involved in those communities*
- *Building appropriate bridges between our Church and our community*
- *Taking every opportunity to share the Good news about Jesus Christ*

iii) Offering and receiving spiritual and practical support and development –

- *That is appropriate to wherever people are on their spiritual journey*
- *That is based on worship that is honouring to God and accessible
and relevant to all*
- *And that is led by prayer that engages with the will of God and his
purposes*

May the love and guidance of the Lord our God support and help all those who, by the gifts of their time and skills, seek to further the mission of this Church.