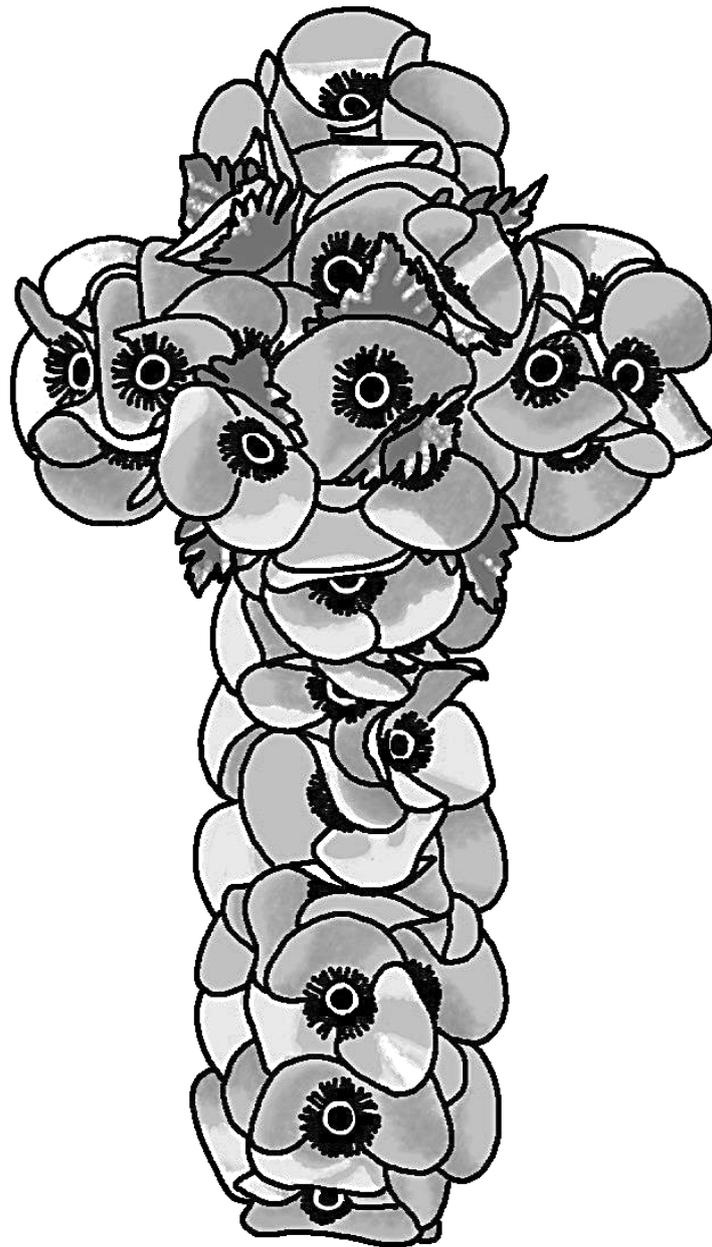


St. Michael & All Angels

CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING

Outlook



November
2019

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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November 2019

Dear Readers,

At the end of October the clocks will change and I find I am really dreading this. The older I get, the more I dislike the dark mornings and evenings. I remember my mother commenting in a similar fashion many years ago and me not understanding her at all. Then I was looking after four young children and teaching full time. I barely had the energy to notice whether it was dark or light outside. Now I understand! I am not suggesting that I suffer from S.A.D, seasonal affective disorder, just that I find the darkness rather lowering and it makes me long for summer.

It is of course no coincidence that festivals of light, in a variety of religions, all happen in winter, when life is at its darkest and coldest: Hannukah in Judaism, the Hindu festival of Diwali and of course Christmas suffused with candles and fairy lights to represent Jesus as the light of the world.

The Roman festival of Saturnalia, held at the winter solstice, preceded Christmas as the winter festival in Britain until the fourth century. Saturn was the god of agriculture and offerings were made to him to try and ensure a successful winter sowing of crops and to ask for the warmth and light of spring to return. At least now I am confident that spring WILL come, many centuries ago people were not always so sure.

So, what can you do, if like me you find the winter months a little difficult? The answer, as it so often is, is exercise and in general getting outside, taking advantage of whatever sunlight there is.

We are so fortunate to live in beautiful countryside with Hughenden Park and its surroundings available to us all, although it occurs to me that walking into town to meet a friend for coffee might have the same beneficial effect!

I will aim to smile through the winter. I hope you can too.

With best wishes.

Susan Brice
Editor

From the Vicarage



During October this year, I have given two talks in Church on Sundays about Spiritual Gifts, which will be leading us as a Church to introduce a programme known as Personal Discipleship Plans. This means spending time with an accompanying mentor to consider our own spiritual gifts and how they might best be used in our Church (see separate article by Anne Dean later in this issue of Outlook). This is a new initiative, launched by the Oxford Diocese, under the Common Vision programme, as we seek to become a more Christ-like.

In Church, as in most walks of life, when the right person is using their gifts in the right place, they are more likely to have a positive impact upon those around them. Similarly, it can be unhelpful for someone to be in the wrong place – it can cause more harm than good.

I am now into my 4th year as Vicar in Hughenden, and as I spend more and more time getting to know the people in our local community, both inside and outside the church family, I never cease to be amazed by the hidden depths of talent. For some individuals, their strengths are plain for all to see, but for others, you need to get to know them on a deeper level before those gifts and talents become more apparent.

You may be familiar with the Parable of the Talents, in which Jesus told the story of a man who entrusted his property to his servants, while he went away on a journey. (This can be found in Matthew 25:14-30). In the parable, two out of three servants put their master's talents to good use, and produce a favourable return. However, the third servant chooses instead to bury his talent, out of fear, and has nothing further to show, upon his master's return.

Do we ever bury our gifts? Perhaps we might hold back from fear of failure or a false-belief that we have nothing to offer.

For some it might be quite apparent to them where their strengths lie, but for

others, some wise words of guidance and encouragement from another is called for. God does not call you and I to be perfect. However, he is more likely to use us if we are willing to serve him whenever and wherever he might choose to put us.

It warms my heart to see the diversity of gifts within our church and local community. I wonder, how might you either take a step forward towards discovering where you can best use your gifts this week, or perhaps be an encourager to another?

Keith

Curate on the Camino...

Reflections on the Pilgrimage to Santiago



"Everyone must walk their own Camino", is a phrase heard many times on the 500-mile journey from St Jean Pied de Port in the south of France, OVER the Pyrenees and across the whole width of Northern Spain, to Santiago de Compostela. It means that for each of us, just as in life, there is a route marked out and a "Way" to be followed. We cannot walk somebody else's path and they cannot walk for us. Each of us has their own reason for being on the Camino and their own goals (and challenges!) along the way.

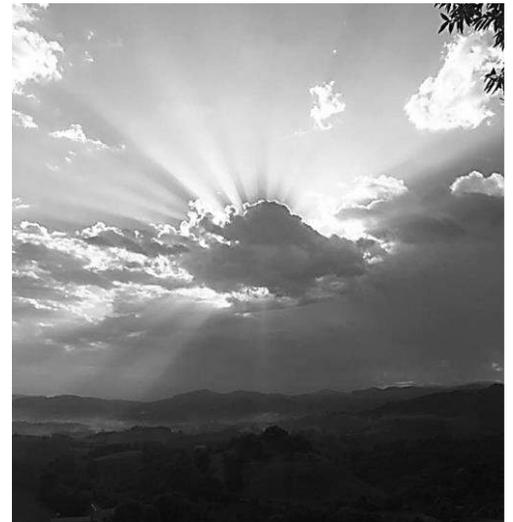
For me, this was to be very much a spiritual journey; a pilgrimage with a purpose. I wanted to spend time with God, in which to reflect on the journey thus far and also to explore how I might begin my role as a newly ordained Deacon in the Church of England. We had a 'pre-ordination retreat' during the week running up to ordination but for me it seemed like a time to prepare for the event itself, rather than for the enormity of what ordained ministry might look like.

There were other phrases and sayings that loosely-formed groups made up too. Things like, "No Vino - No Camino" (When choosing where to stop for a

'Pilgrim Meal') or "Jesus will know if you take a taxi!!!" (When teasing someone who is struggling but needs a laugh). ... But I'll save those stories for another time!

The "Way of St James" is marked by yellow arrows (often hand-painted by locals) to guide the thousands of peregrinos (pilgrims) who walk or cycle each year ... or shell symbols painted or carved into walls, pillars or anywhere extra help is needed. In some places bronze shells were set into the pavements to follow a less-obvious, winding route through a town or village.

Occasionally, there are choices to be made; this route which is steep but may have better views from the top... or that route which is gentler but perhaps a little longer as it winds round the mountain on a lower level. One such choice comes VERY early on the first day and many people had told me about it. Look out for a turning off to the right that winds down to a narrow wooden bridge over the river and follow the 'low route', rather than VERY STEEP climb, up and over the Pyrenees!!!"



Well, of course you're probably ahead of me here ... I never saw a turning, never saw the bridge and about 4 hours into that first day, realised that I was clearly NOT on the low route around the mountain!

I began to consider Jesus' words in Matthew 7:13-14 (about the wide path or the narrow way). In 'The Message' version of the bible it says, "Don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with sure-fire, easy-going formulas for a successful life that can be practised in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life — to God! — is vigorous and requires total attention." I was beginning to appreciate exactly what that meant!

Sadly, I was one of the crowds who followed the wide path and I had plenty of time to reflect on my mistake that day. The route I took goes UP >>> UP >>> UP through a thick fog in the forest before coming into the open,

just in time to see the sun break out. It occurred to me that even though I'd heard that there was a narrow bridge, I STILL missed it. I also wonder how many of us are so busy following the crowd that we don't pause to consider whether there is a better way. As I started on the Camino, on the opportunity of a lifetime, and as I now begin the real-life pilgrimage of being a curate, I think I need to pay attention to the route I'm taking, look carefully for where the path goes and listen to those around me. I need to beware of leaping off on what seems to be the 'obvious' route, in my enthusiasm to follow the crowd! Instead, I must wait and pray and be guided by God.

Finally, I climbed steeply DOWN hill in a torrential downpour to the Monastery at Roncesvalles, after a gruelling 8 hours. Arriving in a brief hail storm, I remembered that God doesn't abandon us when we go the wrong way. God provides sanctuary and a warm welcome!!

The welcome at the monastery was almost overwhelming! I arrived sopping wet and rather cold but the smell of a meal being prepared for the pilgrims was so welcoming. The volunteers who were hosting (from the Netherlands) were so helpful and guided us to sleeping places and explained where we could get warmed up and have something to eat before joining other pilgrims for a 'pilgrim mass'.



All were welcome and even though the service was in Spanish the familiarity of the actions and rhythm of the words meant I could keep up and even understand something of the sharing of fellowship with at least a dozen other nationalities as the bishop spoke to us in several languages, during and after the worship together. There was also a 'pilgrims' blessing' after the Eucharist where Love, Grace and Peace were the feelings most often expressed by many of the pilgrims over the following days.

Revd Tracey Jones (TJ)

Our Gifts and Talents - Personal Discipleship Plans

This article follows on from Keith's preaching on Gifts & Talents during October and his reference to a new initiative being recommended by the Diocese of Oxford; Personal Discipleship Plans (PDP's). After the services on Sunday 20th October you will have been handed a 'Gifts for everyday faith' questionnaire to complete; this will form the basis of a PDP. If you weren't in church on that day and don't have the questionnaire then please do let Keith or I know and we'll make sure you have one.

PDP's are one aspect of the Church of England's mission to resource and equip the church for life in the 21st Century. As the Diocese asks, "how can [we] better nurture our faith so that everyone in this diocese experiences a greater, fuller life in God from Sunday to Saturday?" In other words how do we set people free to be themselves, to be fruitful within the Body of Christ, to be confident about their faith, to be courageous, compassionate and contemplative people of God - ALL WEEK?

These all sound very grand aims but it is a topic prompted by a survey in 2009 indicating that 59% of Christians said their church did not equip them well for life in today's world. The question was asked - how might this be addressed? The perceived wisdom is that by focusing on individuals, huge potential can be unlocked and real change is then possible; in personal faith journeys but also in the life of the Church - we learn how to lead lives of true discipleship. The indication so far is that the use of Personal Discipleship Plans [PDP's] give individuals insight and impetus to discover their gifts and begin to learn how to use them for a fuller life in Christ. As it promises in Philippians 1:6 "... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus".

So what are PDP's? In very simple terms they are an accompanied faith journey, with a mentor assigned specifically to you; an ongoing conversation about your faith, your gifts, what matters to you, where are you being led, what does your future look like, what energises and challenges you, how do

you deepen your spiritual life and faith? They are very much about YOU.

At this point I think it is important to make something very clear and Keith has already alluded to this in his preaching; this is NOT about finding out what people are good at in order to give them a job! In fact there is no specific goal or aim to a PDP other than you having an opportunity to have a conversation about where you are, where you are going and how you can best live fruitful lives within the Body of Christ and in your 'going out' into the part of the world you inhabit; putting your gifts and talents to good use in a way that is both honouring to God and has the potential to make a difference in our world (and lets be real here - it has never needed it more!). The focus is very much on you, being sure of who you are in Christ; your faith, your hopes, your dreams and what will support and sustain you through it. As Jesus says in John 8:31-32, "...If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Our hope is that by embarking on a PDP you will feel affirmed, encouraged and supported and as you journey, your faith will grow and with it a sense of living a fuller life in Christ; that you will be set free.

We are presently setting up the programme as a parish, training our mentors, ensuring we are safeguarding compliant and compiling resources. We hope to be in a position to start in January 2020. Fuller details will therefore be available shortly but if you decide to go ahead you will be assigned a mentor and have an initial meeting of at least an hour and a half. At the end of that meeting you agree a 'plan' specific to you, your needs and desired development steps. This plan covers both what you want to develop and the steps necessary to do so but also your 'inner fuel'; what you need to sustain you and deepen your faith. This will be followed by up to three more meetings held approximately every 3-4 months.

It goes without saying that undertaking a PDP is not obligatory but we would ask you to prayerfully consider where you are on your spiritual journey and how a PDP may encourage and support it. It is NOT a spiritual health check - we will not be passing any judgements. It is not about whether you are a 'good Christian' (what is that anyway?) or less or more spiritual than anyone

else. This is a confidential one-to-one conversation that we pray will release your gifts and allow God to complete his work in you.

In the interests of brevity I have not gone into loads of detail here - if you would like more background information then please go to the Diocesan website at www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways/everyday-faith

Keith or I would be very pleased to discuss any aspect of this with you so if you have questions, concerns or just want more detail, please just ask.

Every Blessing.

Anne Dean
PDP Team Leader

Sharing the Fire

A Wycombe Deanery Celebration

6th October 2019

The first gathering of its kind: An invitation to every church in the Wycombe Deanery to gather at St. Andrew's Church, Hatters Lane with the purpose of promoting 'everyday faith'. An opportunity to showcase what is happening across the deanery. An evening with the focus on celebration, teaching, learning from each other and supporting each other.

The evening began at 5.30pm with a warm welcome and opportunity to view several deanery initiatives in the 'marketplace', whilst sipping wine and enjoying canapés. With representatives from One Can Trust, Wycombe Homeless Connection, Lighthouse, and Wycombe Youth for Christ and Church Initiatives including a St. Michael's display highlighting our Hughenden Community day; Footprints - a service of remembrance for the loss of the child; 'Jump for Joy'; the St Mary and St George Church Plant; , Oasis - a bereavement group in Flackwell Heath and the Marlow Burundi project. The aim being for church members to learn from each other and

inspire each other. It was openly acknowledged that the fourteen on display were a fraction of the initiatives happening.

At 6.30pm we gathered in the worship area of St. Andrew's for a service of celebration lead by Revd. Mark Meardon from Holy Trinity Hazelmere. During the opening worship, representatives from the 35 churches of the Deanery processed forward with candles which were lit.

Wycombe Wanderers footballer Alex Samuel gave an inspirational personal testimony describing the impact of God in his own life and how he sees God at work both personally and in the world of football, which I found was a great encouragement.

Following on from Alex's testimony, Bishop Steven of Oxford spoke about the need for us as the church to have courage in our faith sharing, including an honest illustration of a time when he himself had failed to have courage to act. Bishop Steven's vulnerability and openness was likely to have a positive impact on those present. The floor was then opened for a Q & A session, with the congregation given the opportunity to ask the Bishop questions. Intercessions and a time of sung worship followed, and the evening closed with Bishop Steven commissioning all present to go out and 'spread the fire'. A prayer ministry team was available throughout the evening offering to pray with any group or individual who required prayer.

The venue was packed from the start with an estimated 475 people attending the evening. The atmosphere was celebratory and the worship and teaching inspirational. A highlight for me was spotting friends from many different church congregations and having the opportunity to worship together as one. It was an evening that I believe encapsulated the three principles of our deanery mission:

- Serving our fellowship
- Shaping our future
- Spurring on our friends

Revd Helen Peters

News from Mothers' Union

The speaker for our October meeting was Mike Dean who was talking about his role as a mentor in Aylesbury Young Offenders prison. This charity who he works for is called TrailBlazers who have a team of men and women volunteering for them.

He gave us some statistics on the amount of people in prison and the reoffending rates in the UK – 50%! More worryingly the suicide rate is quite high. Sometimes the prisoners are in their cells for 23 hours each day.

He explained about the one to one mentoring, listening to their circumstances which in some cases were very sad. The prisoners are referred to him when they have six months left to serve and he helps prepare them for life outside the prison – working on accommodation and employment issues.

He was interesting and informative and we had ample time to ask questions. Mike gave us a glimpse of life behind bars.

Also at this meeting we discussed Christmas cards which were going to be handed out at Bullingdon Prison, the coffee morning to be held on Tuesday 29th October (from 10 am) and the need for items to be donated to the Wycombe Women's Aid. For these items a box will be put at the back of the church.

The next meeting of Mothers' Union will be Tuesday 5th November and our speaker will be Anne Dean.

Norma Clarke

Good Companions

At our meeting on 7th November, Adrian Broadway will be bringing his Musical Entertainment – 60s Selection. This should bring back some memories!

As usual we will be having tea, cakes and a raffle for which members are asked to bring an item. We are a very friendly group and we warmly welcome newcomers.

Pat Furness

Arabian Nights

Arriving in Dubai after midnight it was incredible and rather uncomfortable, to experience a temperature of 32C. What would the daytime figure be, we wondered? A trip to the hotel's rooftop pool next day gave us the answer - 39C which meant we did not venture out but stayed in the comfortably air conditioned lounges or viewed this comparatively new city from our room on the 13th floor. New buildings everywhere, a very busy dual carriageway road and the constant boat traffic up and down the Creek, Dubai's inlet from the sea. Below us was a beautiful mosque from which we faintly heard (through the double glazing) the mezzuin calling the faithful to prayer before daybreak on the Friday morning. This is such a haunting sound.

In the evening we enjoyed dinner on a beautiful boat as we slowly sailed along the Creek, passing dozens of other craft, all lit up with different coloured lights. The 'mezze' starter was lovely - tiny taster portions of Arabian food deliciously flavoured with various spices.

Next day we had a city tour which took us to the Dubai Museum where an air-conditioned underground display showed us how life was conducted before the modern city was built. It would have been a very hard life, especially in the heat, although a very rudimentary system of cooling had been rigged up in a chimney where pieces of sacking had been suspended so



that they caught the breeze from whichever direction it was coming. Next we visited the spice souk where lots of shops were selling every spice you could think of. What an assault on the olfactory senses this was; cumin, turmeric, pepper of various kinds, nutmeg,

cinnamon as well as various ointments made from spices and herbs which could be rubbed in or swallowed to cure just about any malady! A pot of Tiger Balm was purchased, a guaranteed remedy for most things, but in this case for a bad back! (Will it work, I ask myself!) Also, we bought some dates stuffed with almonds and covered in chocolate; absolutely delicious!



Next was the gold souk where every shop displayed diamond rings, gold chains and extremely expensive gold jewellery. The biggest, most diamond encrusted showpiece ring was on display in one shop window worth a phenomenal amount of money. The gold alone weighed 58.68kg and precious stones over 51kg. It was fascinating to sit on a bench in

the arcade just watching the world go by; tourists of every nationality in all manner of dress; African ladies in very colourful dresses with matching turbans, young Europeans in shorts and T-shirts, Japanese with pretty parasols to shade them from the sun, Arab men in white jellabas and traditional headdresses and their wives in black robes. We tasted a sample of ice cream made with camels' milk which was delicious and creamy.

After a short but very enjoyable ride across the Creek on a local water taxi, all passengers sitting back to back along a central 'bench' on the small boat, we climbed back onto the mini-bus and were driven along straight roads (no potholes here) through various areas of this new city. Mustafa, our guide, told us that everything in Dubai was man-made apart from the Creek. There were huge shopping malls and many mosques. Mustafa told us there were also Christian churches but we did not see any. Luxurious villas abounded in this area, some of them the homes of various members of the ruling Arab Royal Family. These were in their own beautifully manicured grounds with manned

electric gates. Some even had their own private zoos. It seems that the Royal Family members rarely actually live in Dubai but their mansions have to be maintained. We saw the current tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa, a soaring tower of apartments, offices and shops, at around 850 metres high but



which will soon be overtaken by another tower of well over 1,000 metres which, together with shopping malls and enormous and ever more futuristically designed hotels, is being built ready for Expo 2020 which takes place in Dubai next year. The wealth is breath-taking. Many new islands are being built to accommodate even more apartments and hotels. Free trade zones exist which overseas businesses find very attractive as there is no tax in these areas.

Back at our hotel we decided that although it was a fascinating experience, Dubai was not for us. We retired to bed ready for our long flight next day to Brisbane, Australia.

Sylvia and Brian Clark

South West Bucks Group of the MS Society

The South West Bucks Group of the MS Society will be holding their annual Ploughman's Lunch and Mini Bazaar on Saturday 2nd November at Hughenden Valley Village Hall.

Doors open at 12.00 pm and lunches served at 12.30 pm. Minimum donation of £7.00 on the door. There will be a raffle, tombola, books, crafts and bric-a-brac. All the proceeds from the event will be used to help people with MS.

If you have any queries please give Judy Biggs a call on 01494 562204.

Wycombe Youth for Christ

I hope you are all familiar with the above organisation whose work we, as a church, have supported over the years and who we partner with, in employing Bex. Our Mission Support Group have from time to time highlighted their work but you may know them best for 'Christmas Unwrapped' and 'Easter Eggsplained', programmes they have run in church for our local schools.

Their mission statement is "taking the Good News relevantly to children and young people in the Wycombe area", a mission they fulfil in a multitude of different ways and settings.

Just over a year ago they approached various churches in the Wycombe area to restart a Church representative scheme (there had been one in the past but this had fallen by the wayside) as a way of improving communication but more importantly to raise awareness within church congregations of the work they do. I was asked to be St. Michael's rep and have over the past year highlighted various things that are going on. However I have had a growing sense that I am not doing enough so hence this article!

So what do WYFC stand for and how is their mission lived out in their work in our town? They are passionate about making a real difference to the lives of children and young people and do this primarily through their school based work but also supporting Children's, Youth and Family Ministries in churches and town-wide events. More detailed information is on the notice board in the porch but briefly the work covers Assemblies and Lessons, Workshops (Christmas and Easter), School Clubs; the Zone Clubs in primary schools and Lunch Clubs in secondary schools, School transitions, Mentoring (either 1:1 or in small groups), Families work includes parenting courses, supporting Christian Unions, Vitalise (a video resource available on YouTube and via Social Media (it's not all bad!)) and finally work in churches which they see as an integral part of their ministry.

All of WYFC's work is important but I want to just highlight their mentoring programme which goes from strength to strength and is proving vital for the

health and welfare of children who struggle at school - it is not an exaggeration to say that it is changing lives for the better. As one Special Needs Co-ordinator said *"I cannot recommend this programme enough or explain how truly beneficial it has been...support of this nature being rare we are very grateful to be taking part...and we feel it is an invaluable resource...in our school"*

As you can see they are busy, the bulk of the work done by just four people. I cannot speak highly enough of their commitment, passion and utter dedication to enhancing the lives of children and young people in our town and surrounds, in particular those who may be struggling. It is a testament to them that parents and schools are increasingly open to the involvement of WYFC in a whole host of ways.

This autumn WYFC hosted a digital resource called GSUS Live at a number of different secondary schools around the area - it is a digital classroom that arrives on an Eddie Stobart truck and lives in the school car park for a week. It is visited primarily by school years 7, 8 & 9, but they have also worked with year 6 through 13 with good engagement across the board just adapting the application to suit the different age groups. The feedback was amazing; a few quotes say it all and bear in mind that the majority of the children attending GSUS Live do not attend church:-

- *Year 10: They may have been small in number but they were big on engagement .. praise God for a great discussion on forgiveness!*
- *"I learnt that you need to remember that Jesus can forgive"*
- *"God is light, trapped in the dark. Open the door so the light can shine."* (How brilliant is that?!)
- *"It's what's on the inside that really matters"*
- *"We have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and numbers of young people visiting us at break and lunchtimes; we had 40 young people coming onto the unit yesterday lunch!! "* (Note that attendance at lunchtime is voluntary)

- Reaction to the music video - "*this is actually alright, I'm going to add this to my playlist*". "*How amazing and praise God that young people are able to listen to and connect with God's truth in song!*"
- "*We had particularly interesting insights from a year 9 class as they considered how they might handle the feeling of being rejected.*"
- "*We've had some great conversations with staff.*"

So much to give God praise and gratitude for - it is a gruelling half term for the WYFC team - at the time of writing there is still two weeks to go but it has been a huge success and opened doors that were previously closed - as the saying goes 'success breeds success'. However it cannot be any coincidence that the main reason for that continuing success (apart from the hard work of the team) is that their work is firmly rooted in prayer and they constantly seek God's will and leading in all they do - as they said during GSUS Live, "our desire throughout this mission and beyond, is that we stay in tune with God's heartbeat, listening and following where He guides".

So where do we fit in? And what can we do? There are numerous ways which I have listed below but the overwhelming wish of WYFC is that we stand with them in prayer. I am very conscious that there is SO MUCH to pray for at present but that sadly makes prayer more crucial not less. WYFC are sowing so many seeds and our support is vital as they develop and move forward in God's amazing grace. So please give prayerful consideration to anything you can do in prayer or practically - please see below:-

- **Prayer** - this can be in a variety of different ways;-
 - Include them in your personal prayers.
 - Attend, if you are able, their regular prayer meetings; at their offices or in church venues at various different times. I will advertise these as and when they come up so do look out for them in the notice sheet and on the notice board.
 - In January each year they have four weeks of themed prayer with specific prayer points for each week and day - watch this space

for further details but your support for that month of prayer would be amazing. One of the meetings is likely to here in Church House.

- **Volunteering** - WYFC projects rely on a team of very committed volunteers to support the Children's and Youth Work. They are currently looking for people to help support Primary After-school Clubs (Monday or Tuesday afternoons, approx. 3.00-5.00pm). More information on the website - www.wycombeyfc.org.uk/get-involved/
- **Newsletters** - you can sign up to receive these bi-termly - they give a good insight into the work being done and give plenty of focus for prayer. You can sign up on the website at <http://www.wycombeyfc.org.uk/getconnected/>
- **Financial Support** - WYFC are very keen to stress that the reason for having church reps IS NOT to fund raise. That said, they receive no grant funding so are completely dependent on donations. They are frequently bowled over by God's provision through the generosity of their donors, but funding is an ever present issue. If you are able in any small way to donate either as a one off or regular payment they would be so grateful. See the financial support section on the get-involved page on the website - see above.

I hope I have managed to adequately portray the significance of the work WYFC are doing, in many cases at a very deep level. The result of their work is undoubtedly (to paraphrase the young person quoted above) *the door being opened and God's light shining*.

I will update every now and again and highlight any particular prayer needs or meetings but, in the meantime, thank you for taking the time to read.

Anne Dean
WYFC Church Rep

From Whiteleaf Cross

*The trees are already embryonic fossils,
Full of secrets, history in their very sap.
They hold the stories of the soil,
Roots anchoring them into the tales of time before.
The leaves are vivid and eager, brimming with summer.
They will sing their green song again in this favourite haunt.*

*The pattern of years, the seasonal round,
Woven together, stitched century upon century.
Autumn upon summer upon spring.
Birdsong, footsteps, laughter and sorrow,
Layered on the land.
The suggested sound of ancient feet marching.
Man wanting control,
Nature fighting back for freedom.
Our footsteps are light,
Even if this is not our intention.
We have only a timely length on this land.
It will continue to tell it's own story
And our part will be but an ellipsis;
A whisper hidden behind a word.*

Susan Brice

“All ... ?”

“To enable all to follow Jesus Christ”. So runs our church mission statement. That is a huge task! “All” literally encompasses the whole world, does it not? So, we thought we should share with you how the Mission Support Group (MSG) has been trying to make our mission a reality beyond our immediate parish.

You will all hopefully be aware that the church has been focussing on one particular cause in God’s work each quarter of the year, that cause being one decided by us in the MSG. Our aim is to inform, inspire and encourage the church family to support God’s work, that is mission, beyond our parish into the wider world.

We attempt to do this by introducing charitable organisations to you, the church, for personal as well as corporate church support, and even involvement where you feel called. Individuals may wish to support charities that strike a chord with them, as clearly our church cannot support every good cause.

So, each quarter, we publicise the work of a charity with an introductory Outlook article, a page on the website, publicity on the Mission notice board, and, most importantly, a visiting speaker at all 3 morning services one Sunday.

So far, since we started last year, we have featured: Ebenezer Children’s Centre, One Can Trust, Open Doors, Wycombe Refugee Partnership, Levi and Debora Santana (of Church Mission Society), and, this quarter, Wycombe Homeless Connection.

Also, we already have the following planned for next year: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), New Leaf, Embrace the Middle East (formerly Biblelands and based in Wycombe), and HART (Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust).

Then we have the following “on the radar” for the future: Christian Aid, Wycliffe Bible Translators (also based locally), Wycombe Women’s Aid, ROPE, and the Children’s Society.

We use the PCC's annual mission grant to make a donation to the charity for each visiting speaker, to encourage them in the work. The remainder of that grant is donated to charities as decided by the MSG. That means that this year alone the church has given money to: Open Doors, Wycombe Refugee Partnership, the Santanas, Wycombe Homeless Connection, MAF, and Wycliffe.

However, the church also arranges special collections at Harvest (for One Can Trust), at Christmas (this year to be divided between Wycombe Women's Aid, Seeability, and HART), and for special projects (such as the vehicle for the Santanas this year – a huge thank you to you all once again for a superb result, which we will update you on soon, once Levi has the vehicle in use). Then we must not forget your giving through the Christingle service and collection boxes to the Children's Society, collections of toiletries, etc before Christmas for Wycombe Women's Aid, as well as giving to Christian Aid in Christian Aid Week. All in all, this means that our church is supporting, as a body, a wide range of organisations involved in Christian work in the wider world.

This is all good, but we are sure it can be better! For instance, is there something extra we can do to highlight each cause? Also, there may be some obvious cause that we have missed that you think should be brought to people's attention. While we may not be able to support it as a church, individuals may want to ... then again, as a church, can we give more, or give in different ways?

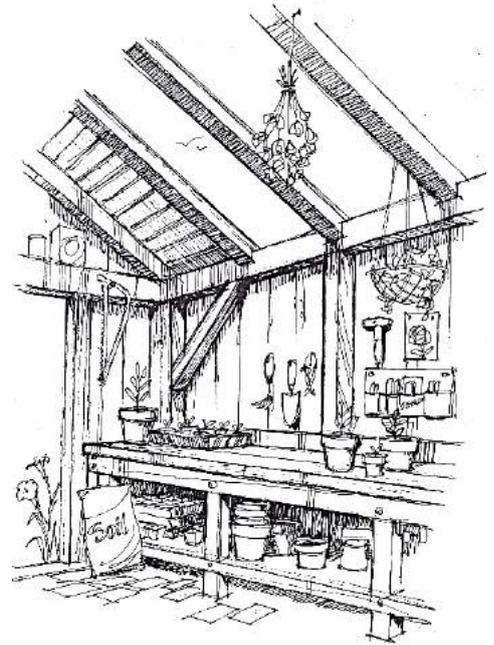
Over to you! Do let us know how we can improve what we are doing. Email David Tester at david.testers@talk21.com, or speak to one of the MSG: David, Keith our vicar, Charlotte Tester, Barbara Wilson, Rita Pulley, Sue Newton, and Christopher Mettem. We would love to hear from you.

Mission Support Group

From the Potting Shed

So, suddenly we seem to be firmly in autumn. However, your garden doesn't have to close down for the winter. Hellebores and cyclamen will provide colour and interest, and pansies and heathers will fill winter hanging baskets.

Also, don't put all your garden furniture away. Leave a couple of chairs and cushions within easy reach for there will be days when it is pleasant enough to sit outside in a cosy jumper and have a cup of coffee.



Tasks for November:

- Clear leaves from around roses to prevent diseases.
- Plant container grown, or bare root trees and hedging plants.
- Wash out seed trays and pots, and clean greenhouse windows.
- Prune established apple and pear trees.
- Plant bulbs for inside growing: amaryllis, hyacinths, paperwhites.
- Clean, oil and sharpen garden tools.



Hopefully you are enjoying all the autumn fruits and vegetables. Pieces of pumpkin and squash are really good roasted but also the outer shells make good vases, particularly for autumnal displays. If you have any blackberries still in the freezer, they make an excellent base for a late summer pudding. I personally prefer them used that way, rather than mixed up with bread and milk, but each to his own.

**Yours,
Cecily MacGregor**



Were All Coal Men Ex-Pirates?

"The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there." So runs the famous quote from L.P. Hartley's novel: *The Go-Between*. But, things were done differently in the 1950s weren't they? Do you remember the coal man? Every house having a coal shed or coal bunker? And our coalman was interesting.

Were all coal men ex-pirates? Mine certainly looked like one. He wore a handkerchief knotted around his head. It was very piratey, dirty and grey. His arms were pictured with tattoos of skulls and crossbones. His beefy arms were overstuffed with muscle and fat and a thick leather belt held his huge, round stomach in place. Would this wobbling mass slide down into his trousers if the belt were loosened? The picture in my head was interesting.

I always knew when the coal man was about to make his wintry, fortnightly visits as he could be heard whistling the tune 'tea for two.' I doubt if I knew the word 'incongruous' at the time but that is the word that comes to mind now. 'Tea for two' was a tune I associated with my Saturday morning tap dancing class and so my feet began to move in time with his whistling as he moved closer to the garden gate.



Then, over the catchy tune, I noticed a lot of banging and clattering coming from the kitchen. Peering round the door I saw our cat with his paws on the open fanlight, trying to come inside and jump down onto the draining board. Nothing very unusual there, but in his mouth was a grass snake and my mother was making it abundantly clear that she was not having that in her kitchen.

Not sure what the outcome of this was going to be, I stayed tentatively in the doorway, wide eyed as my mother rather ineffectually tried to hit the cat's feet with a small brush. Eventually he jumped down again into the garden, hissing and spitting his displeasure in much the same way as the snake.

The window banged shut and the kitchen door was locked. Quite why I wondered? And then the whistling coal man entered; ex- pirate for sure. Tea for two was forgotten as he quickly sized up the situation, mainly from the expression on my mother's face. He emptied the coal sacks into the shed with well-practised ease and then quickly moved the cat down the garden. He picked up a garden fork and allowed the snake to dance itself into a pattern on the prongs. Then, he tossed it deftly into one of the empty coal sacks, doffed an imaginary cap to the faces in the window and retreated, tea for two returning to his lips.

My mother put the kettle on for exactly that.

Susan Brice

Floodlighting Dedications

Remembering Eva Richardson on the anniversaries of my Mother's passing, in January 1999 and her Birthday on 5th October - Marion Richardson

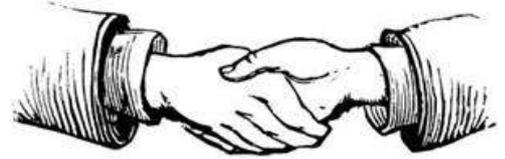
If you have special occasions to mark, why don't you dedicate the floodlighting? Your dedication can be for anything within reason, remembering loved ones, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, new babies – or just for the joy of being alive! Please send any dedications to Lynn Brooks at office@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Lynn Brooks

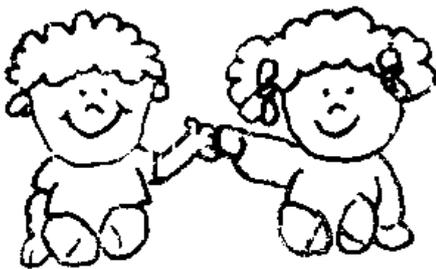
Regular Meetings and Organisations

Friendship Morning

This is a get together in Church House on the third Thursday each month at 10.30 am. 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 Penny Austin on 01494 529596 if you think this is for you.



Babies & Toddlers @ St. Michael's



Babies and Toddlers @ St. Michael's meets every Thursday in term time from 9.30 - 11.30 am in the North Room. Come for chat, play, craft and refreshments. Included, every second Thursday of the month, will be 'Tiny Tots', a time of fun worship in Church. For details contact Helen Peters – helen.peters@peters-research.com

House Groups

A variety of house groups meet throughout the week: for days and times, or for further information contact Revd. Keith Johnson, HW 257569.

Young People @ St Michael & All Angels

Throughout the year we have a number of activities, events and trips taking place. For current details on what's coming up please contact Bex Hawes on rebecca@wycombeyfc.org.uk

November Calendar

Sat	2	12.15 pm	All Saints Celebratory Lunch: Church House
Sun	3		All Saints Day
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Said) (BCP)
		9.00 am	Sung Communion (Common Worship)
		10.45 am	All Age Family Service
		3.00 pm	Annual Memorial Service
		6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP) (no sermon)
Mon	4	10.00 am	Come and meet the vicar!: Hughenden Village Shop
Tue	5	9.45 am	National Trust Victorian Christmas: Educational visits to church. Each week day until the 15 th November
		7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice
		7.30 pm	Mothers Union Meeting: Church House
Wed	6	10.00 am	Come and meet the vicar!: Bon Ami Café, Naphill
		1.00 pm	Knit and Natter: Church House
		7.00 pm	Alpha Course: Church House
		7.45 pm	Choir Practice
Thu	7	9.30 am	Toddler Group: North Room
Fri	8	10.15 am	Visiting Bell Ringers (3hrs)
Sun	10		3rd Sunday before Advent – Remembrance Sunday
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Said) (Common Worship)
		9.00 am	Matins (Sung)
		10.55 am	Act of Remembrance , followed by Family Communion
		6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP) (no sermon)
Tue	12	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice
Wed	13	10.00 am	Come and meet the vicar!: Bon Ami Café, Naphill
		7.00 pm	Alpha Course: Church House
		7.45 pm	Choir Practice
Thu	14	9.30 am	Toddler Group: North Room
		10.30 am	Tiny Tots Service: Church
Fri	15	5.00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal: Church

Sat	16	12.30 pm	Wedding of Liam Maidlow & Amy Willis
Sun	17		2nd Sunday before Advent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Said) (Common Worship)
		9.00 am	Sung Communion (Common Worship)
		10.45 am	Service of the Word with Baptism of Corey Thompson
		6pm	Evensong (BCP) (no sermon)
Mon	18	10.00 am	Come and meet the vicar!: Hughenden Village Shop
Tue	19	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice
Wed	20	10.00 am	Come and meet the vicar!: Bon Ami Café, Naphill
		7.00 pm	Alpha Course: Church House
		7.45 pm	Choir Practice
Thu	21	9.30 am	Toddler Group: North Room
		3.30 pm	Messy Church: Cryers Hill Methodist Church
		7.30 pm	PCC Meeting: Church House
Sat	23	8.00 pm	Papa Truck Bluegrass Concert: Church
Sun	24		Christ the King – Sunday before Advent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Said) (Common Worship)
		9.00 am	Matins (Sung)
		10.45 am	Family Communion
		6pm	Evensong (BCP) (no sermon)
Tue	26	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice
Wed	27	6.30 pm	Hughenden District Girl Guides Carol Service
		7.00 pm	Alpha Course: Church House
		7.45 pm	Choir Practice
Thu	28	9.30 am	Toddler Group: North Room
Sat	30	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast: Church House
		9.00 am	Holy Communion, Andrew the Apostle
		9.30 am	Visiting Bell Ringers (3hrs)

November Lectionary

Date	Lesson	8:00 am / 6:00 pm	9:00 am	10:45 am
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3rd All Saints' Day

Daniel 7: 1-3 & 15-18	John White	Alan Jaycock	
Ephesians 1: 11-end	Philip Hynard	Ann Gee	
Luke 6: 20-31	Priest	Priest	Priest
Evensong: Psalms 148 & 150			
Isaiah 65: 17-end	AJ/LS		
Hebrews 11:32 – 12:2	Beryl Doran		

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10th Third Sunday before Advent – Remembrance Sunday

Job 19: 23-27a	Judy Wilson	Ben Brice	Susan Devereux
2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5 & 13-end	Lin Smit	Roger Gee (check which)	
Luke 20: 27-38	Priest		Priest
Psalm at 9.00 am: 17			
Evensong: Psalm 40			
1 Kings 3: 1-15	Mike Morgan		
Romans 8: 31-end	Emily Bailey		

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17th Second Sunday before Advent

Malachi 4: 1-2a	Cathryn Carter	Hazel Lowe	Frank Hawkins
2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13	Alison Stacey	Sara Badrick	
Luke 21: 5-19	Priest	Priest	Priest
Evensong: Psalm 97			
Daniel 6	AJ/LS		
Matthew 13: 1-9 & 18-23	Susan Brice		

24th Last Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 23: 1-6 Alan Jaycock Edie Sadler Ben Sharp

Colossians 1: 11-20 Arthur Johnson Ann Moore

Luke 23: 33-43 Priest (check which) Priest

Psalm at 9.00 am: 46

Evensong: Psalm 72

1 Samuel 8: 4-20 AJ/LS

John 18: 33-37 Ben Brice

30th Andrew the Apostle

Isaiah 52: 7-10

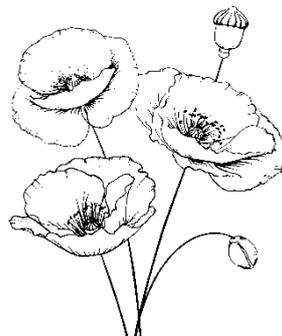
Romans 10: 12-18 Matthew 4: 18-22

9.00 am Holy Communion

TBD

TBD

Priest



December/January Issue of Outlook

Outlook is published on the 28th of each month, except July and December. The editor for the December/January edition is Sylvia Clark. Items for inclusion should reach the editors by email at mag@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk. Handwritten articles should be delivered or posted to Sylvia Clark, 'Failte', Boss Lane, Hughenden Valley, HP14 4LQ.

All contributions to be received by 15th November please.

Who's Who at St Michael & All Angels

VICAR	The Revd Keith Johnson	257569
ASSOCIATE MINISTER	The Revd Helen Peters	716772
CURATE	The Revd Tracey Jones (TJ)	07939 536879
LICENSED LAY MINISTER	David Tester	563354
CHURCHWARDENS	Julia Grant	565746
	Nicholas Devlin	712693
PARISH CLERK & VERGER	Arthur Johnson	521471
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Lynn Brooks	07928 536543
CHURCH NOTICES/WEBSITE	Ben Brice	445899
PCC VICE CHAIR	Clare Godfrey	563296
PCC SECRETARY	Louise Stallwood	712705
PCC ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Clare Godfrey	563296
PCC TREASURER	Ian Faulkner	451279
PCC ASSISTANT TREASURER	Arthur Johnson	521471
PLANNED GIVING SECRETARY	Arthur Johnson	521471
TASK GROUP LEADERS: COMMUNICATIONS	Jane Tyrer	01844 344650
	PRAYER	Ann Gamon
		564009
	YOUTH	The Revd Helen Peters
		716772
	MISSION	The Revd Keith Johnson
		257569
	OUTREACH & SOCIAL	Frank Hawkins
		565050
ALPHA COURSE - ADMINISTRATOR	Frank Hawkins	565050
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	Arthur Johnson	521471
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER	Neil Brice	445899
WORSHIP LEADER	Tony Sackville	446035
TINY TOTS FUN WORSHIP	The Revd Helen Peters	716772
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 FRIENDS	Heather Mayer	436044
CRECHE ROTA	Ester Comunello	07749 672548
HUGHENDEN BABY AND TODDLER GROUP	The Revd Helen Peters	716772
FRIENDSHIP MORNING	Penny Austin	529596
CHURCH HOUSE TEAS BOOKINGS	Julia Grant	565746
CHURCH COFFEE ROTA	Sylvia Clark	562801
CHURCH FLOWERS	Sylvia Clark	562801
CHURCH LIBRARY	Alison Gieler	562473
CHURCH HOUSE BOOKINGS	Parish Administrator	07928 536543
OUTLOOK MAGAZINE EDITORS	Sylvia Clark	562801
	Christopher & Jane Tyrer	01844 344650
	Susan Brice	445899
MAGAZINE PRINTING	Brian Clark & Team	562801
MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION	Andrew Cole	442191
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Tricia Devlin	712693

Our Mission is
To enable all to follow Jesus Christ

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

Leading lives centred on Jesus Christ

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

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.

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.
- That is led by prayer that engages with the will of God and his purposes.

Living God,

*deliver us from a world without justice and a future without mercy;
in your mercy, establish justice, and in your justice, remember the mercy
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*