St. Michael & All Angels
CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING

outLook

The magazine for the people of Hughenden Parish | **NOVEMBER 2023** | FREE

Poppy in Friars Gardens, Hughenden

ALSO INSIDE: ***The Silent Cities*** | Step Forward | **The Artsakh Exodus**

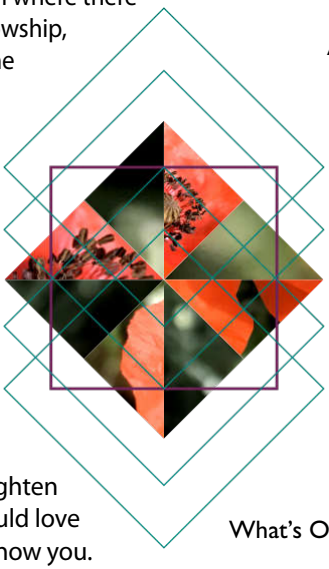
Welcome to **Your Church**

This magazine serves the parish in which our beautiful church of St Michael & All Angels is situated. Outlook aims to give you a flavour of what it is to live in Hughenden and to worship here.

There has been a place of worship and prayer on this site since the 12th century and today the church is open for anyone wishing to wander around or sit a while in its peace. We are an open, welcoming and inclusive church where there are many opportunities for fellowship, social activities and of course the possibility for spiritual growth.

Outlook is published monthly. Articles or comments can be submitted to mag@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk. The deadline is the 15th of the month. If you would like the magazine delivered then please contact Andrew Cole - 01494 305020.

We hope you find something here to interest, inform or enlighten you. We wish you well and would love to have the chance to get to know you.



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

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Dear Readers

November is often a sombre month: All Souls and Remembrance Day both fall now. This issue is more sombre than usual. We now not only have war in Europe but also in the Middle East: an area visited in 2020 by a large group of the congregation and where our Mission Partners, the Cables, are still based and, with the people they seek to help, are in great need.

Keith's message includes the quote 'everyone loses in war', and we see that daily in news bulletins.

This issue reflects many of these feelings: Sylvia's timely record of her visit to some of the War Cemeteries in Northern Europe starkly reminds us of the loss and horror of war. She asks: does man learn? She answers her own question in the negative. We also include a piece explaining the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, to which she refers, an organisation which can bring, at least, dignity to those lost in battle.

Two articles from the Mission Support Group remind us there are other areas of conflict and oppression which do not achieve such widespread press coverage, but where need is also great.

With such a sombre backdrop we need to reflect on the beautiful bountiful world we have. We were able to celebrate God's gifts in our harvest festival on a bright sunny morning, as the church reopened after the building work for the installation of step free access. Generous offerings were donated for the One Can Trust. Need at home still persists.

If you are troubled by the state of the world, or simply seek a place of calm, feel free to visit St Michael & All Angels which is usually open in daylight hours: you will be very welcome.

Christopher and Jane Tyrer
Editors

from the Vicarage

Keith Johnson

Vicar

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

One cannot help but be moved by the plight of the victims of the recent troubles in Jerusalem, Gaza and the surrounding region. At my time of writing, it is mid-October, tensions are high, the international community are seeking to provide humanitarian support and encouraging restraint on both sides, and events of the next few weeks appear uncertain.

Christians amount for 2% of the population in Israel, and yet their physical presence in the land where our Lord himself walked 2,000 years ago, and as peacemakers, cannot be understated.

The history of Jerusalem is bloody. From the Crusades to conflict in the last century, can there ever truly be peace on earth in a land considered holy by Jews, Muslims and Christians alike?

The first time I visited Jerusalem on pilgrimage in 2012, we heard a remarkable speaker at St George's Cathedral preach in English and Hebrew on the Sunday morning - Hosam Naoum, who at the time was the Canon Pastor/Dean of the Cathedral. I wasn't surprised in 2021 when his appointment as Archbishop of Jerusalem was announced. Our tour leader, the Bishop of Rochester invited him to come and speak with us at our hotel a couple of nights later, and we were able to hear more about his calling to become a Priest, coming from a Palestinian Anglican background, and his perspective as a Christian in Jerusalem. I was moved by his words that night and have endeavoured to keep in touch with the Cathedral since, thanks to Facebook.

Archbishop Hosam has written in response to the terrible events in the area, and I have copied below an extract from his letter:

"Once again, we find ourselves living through hard times in the Land of the Holy One, where we are surrounded by war, violence, hatred, and destruction. Many in our region now live with great fear and uncertainty.

Nevertheless, from Jerusalem, the City of the Resurrection, I send you all hope for the assurance of a better life: one with a brighter future, more blessed circumstances, and freedom from bloodshed, injustice, and death.

We condemn all acts of violence and killing, especially of civilians and the innocent. And we advocate for a just and comprehensive peace for all living here. In order to stop the vengeful cycle of violence, we exhort everyone to exercise self-control. Since everyone loses in war, we also call for all parties to pursue peaceful, diplomatic solutions towards a just and lasting agreement for both peoples in a two-state solution. Only in this way can we all enjoy freedom, justice, and peace."

Has there ever been a more critical time than now to respond to the words of Psalm 122: 6: *'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may those who love you be secure*'?

I finish with the words of Archbishop Justin: **"*Pray for the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Pray for the future of the Holy Land. Pray for those who will weep, and fear, and die tonight.***

Lord God, we pray, by your great mercy, defend your children from all perils and dangers of this night." Amen.

the Silent Cities

In October we went on a four-day tour of the cemeteries, memorials and battlefields of the First World War, mainly in Belgium. On the way from the ferry we stopped at Dunkirk and I actually stood on one of the beaches from which my father had been evacuated in 1940, when the British Expeditionary Forces retreated. The sand was golden, the sea calm and the sky blue, very different from those dark days of the second World War.

We were based in Ypres, a very attractive city with some striking buildings. Our hotel was directly opposite the imposing Cloth Hall, a large medieval building which had been almost completely destroyed during WW1, but which has been faithfully restored to its former glory. The Cloth Hall was originally the place where cloth, leather and various other items were sold, a sort of indoor marketplace, but is now the In Flanders Field Museum which presents the story of the First World War on the Western Front.

There are numerous cemeteries near to Ypres, or Ieper as it is now called, with names such as Essex Farm, Tyne Cot, Bethleem Farm, Lone Tree, etc and a cemetery for the German war dead called Langemark where the stones are dark grey and laid flat on the ground in orderly rows. Of the allied cemeteries, Tyne Cot is the largest, the resting place of 11,961 soldiers of the Commonwealth Forces. Of these 8,373 are unidentified; a very sobering thought. The cemeteries are looked after by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and without exception, are beautifully kept. Row upon row of white memorial stones, 32 inches high, often set amid peaceful fields where maize, cabbages, carrots and other vegetables are growing in neat rows. One was next to a farm and curious cattle looked over the wall whilst we stood in silent contemplation.

The names, ages, ranks, regiments and nationalities of those whose lives they recorded are carved on the stones. Many, many of these stones simply have the

inscription 'A soldier of the Great War – known unto God' which we found particularly moving. So many could not be identified. We saw the grave of the youngest soldier who was only 15 and had lied about his age so that he could join up. Such a terrible loss of life and potential. We felt a rollercoaster of emotions; deep, deep sorrow and depression at such loss of life, but then immense pride at the valour of so many of these men and women.

We explored Hill 62 and its trenches and shell holes. After the first World War, the farmer returned to reclaim his land in and around what was left of the wood which he had left in 1914. He realized that he could make a living by allowing the many visitors who wished to see where their relatives had fought and died, to tour the wood and walk in the trenches. Today, in addition to a café, there is an extensive museum showing (in a rather random layout) many, many items found in the woods and fields around the hill.

The Island of Ireland Peace Park is dedicated to the soldiers of Ireland of all

political and religious beliefs, who fought together, died, were wounded, or missing in the Great War of 1914-1918. A traditional Irish round tower has been built and designed so that the inside of the tower is lit up by the sun only on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This memorial park was opened in the presence of our late Queen Elizabeth II and King Albert II of Belgium. How sad it is that there is still today, strife between the two parts of Ireland.

We attended the daily ceremony at the Menin Gate on which the names of the missing are carved. Buglers of the Last Post Association stand across the eastern entrance, facing towards the city. It is a tradition that they should wear the

uniform of the local volunteer fire brigade, of which they are all required to become members. (There must be a reason for this but I could not find it.) At 8.00 pm they sound the Last Post. On this occasion, as wreaths were to be laid, the familiar words from the poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon, were spoken by a Canadian soldier: *They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.* After a minute's silence various groups, including three German soldiers, then laid wreaths. The buglers finally sounded the Reveille to bring the ceremony to a close. The many hundreds watching were silent and respectful throughout this very moving ceremony.

On our return to the ferry, we stopped at Mimoyecques near Calais to look at the huge tunnels (some 600 meters long and all 30 metres deep) constructed in 1943 to make a firing site for the V3 Multi-charge gun which, fortunately for England, was beset with design problems and was never actually fired. These tunnels are a tremendous feat of engineering and were built by German army engineers, miners from the Ruhr (to bore the galleries) volunteers from the neighbourhood, French forced labour and Italian workers, plus Polish prisoners of war brought over from Guernsey. Apart from the forced labour and the Polish prisoners, the labour force was paid. The temperature in the tunnels is a constant 10C so we wore warm clothes for our visit. Hundreds of bats hibernate there, but we only saw one as it was too early in the year for the little animals to go to sleep for the winter.

The whole trip was emotional and moving; it was almost impossible to imagine those now beautiful and fertile fields, covered in mud and fallen servicemen and women, amid the terrible noise of war. 'Does man learn?' was the question on our lips and sadly, the answer seems to be 'No'.

Our fellow travellers were very good company and we enjoyed the camaraderie, the sharing of meals and, dare I say, sampling the delights of one or two Belgian hostelries!

Sylvia Clark

Commonwealth War Graves

The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation is a charitable foundation, highlighting and promoting the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It engages with young people from communities around the United Kingdom who are interested and seek information about our common sacrifice as a nation. By supporting the CWGF, the charity funds education and activities, engages with the general public and highlights the work of the CWGC.

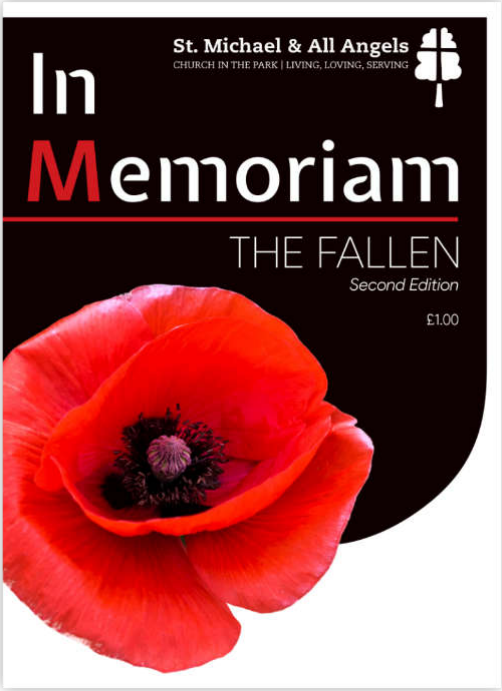
My own engagement with the organisation came about when I first started to research the Fallen from our parish in the two major wars of the 20th century. I wrote seeking both general and specific information: general in the sense that I wanted to ascertain what information was held about those in our parish or connected with it who had died in the two wars; specific in the sense that I wanted to try and find out more about the personalities and background of those listed on our Memorial tablets or buried in our churchyard.

I was amazed by their response. First, they gave me a list of everyone in the parish who had died in the two world wars and then more than sufficient details about their ages, dates of birth and death, families, military records and other pertinent information as to where further inquiries could be directed. In turn, that directed me to family members still living who could provide personal histories of their loved ones. The resulting information, of course, enabled me to complete the first edition of the In Memoriam booklet. That, in turn, opened avenues as the contents of the booklet became more available and known through the website, with other information coming to light – some from the other side of the world:

Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America, to name three of the many places whose inhabitants responded.

I was aware, of course, of the presence of graves in our churchyard which bear the CWGC standard type gravestones and I was also aware that the CWGF pays to our church for the upkeep of those graves situated at St Michael & All Angels. I was delighted that the Churchwardens, at the behest of the PCC, applied for and were granted permission by the CWGC to have a plaque at the entrance, formally acknowledging that St Michael & All Angels is a CWGC Church.

I have sent them copies of both editions of our In Memoriam booklet and continue to be in touch about matters of mutual interest. The Headquarters are situated in Maidenhead, albeit in a quite forbidding building. The work that they do, of course, is not just record keeping. Across the world, at scenes of former conflicts and battles, they maintain War Graves in beautiful settings. Those who have visited have been uniformly impressed and moved by the beauty and tranquillity of those sites – many famous, but many small sites with a handful of graves, but tended to by staff with equal devotion and gratitude for the sacrifices of those whose graves are interred there.



As we enter that time of year when we remember the dead of conflicts past and recent, in a world that still sees violence, warfare, death and injury as a means of settling disagreements and in a world where one or two individuals inflict untold misery upon millions, we must remember with gratitude and pray for the work of the CWGF and the CWGC.

Christopher Tyrer

Copies of 'In Memoriam', documenting all those of the parish who have perished in wars for WWI onward, are available in church; or you can read it online - ***hughendenparishchurch.org.uk/InMemoriam***

Appropriate Words in Terriers

Recently George and I were sitting at yet another set of red lights in Terriers High St. on our way into town. I was idly looking at the back of the box of one of the many motorcycle deliverers we see everywhere. The box was smothered with stickers for this that and everything, but I suddenly noticed one sticker saying: 'Psalm 92'.

I couldn't wait to finish our business and get home again. I found Psalm 92 and yes:

The experience has made me think far more about who are these people, how the they live, what they earn, where they live and most importantly what is going on inside their helmets. I wish I knew but I know at least someone praises the Lord.

Judy Wilson

[1] It is good to praise the Lord
and make music to your name, O Most High,
[2] proclaiming your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night,
[3] to the music of the ten-stringed lyre
and the melody of the harp.
[4] For you make me glad by your deeds, Lord;
I sing for joy at what your hands have done.
[5] How great are your works, Lord,
how profound your thoughts!
[6] Senseless people do not know,
fools do not understand,
[7] that though the wicked spring up like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they will be destroyed forever.
[8] But you, Lord, are forever exalted.
[9] For surely your enemies, Lord,
surely your enemies will perish;
all evildoers will be scattered.
[10] You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox;
fine oils have been poured on me.
[11] My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries;
my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes.
[12] The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
[13] planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
[14] They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
[15] proclaiming, "The Lord is upright;
he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

After much thought and discussion, it was decided that the entrance to the church should be modified. There was a small step that made access for wheel-chairs, and indeed anyone with mobility difficulties, quite problematic. The aim was to provide a smooth, flat access point.

Step Forward

I wonder how many feet walked the old step at the entrance to St Michael & All Angels. Certainly so many that the step had become worn and dipped in the middle. It makes me think of all those over the last thousand years who walked on that piece of stone, to celebrate, to grieve, to pray, to worship.

When we knew it was to be replaced, many (including me!) wanted the stone kept, placed somewhere as a mark of those many years but for several practical reasons this was not possible and anyway it was cracked down the middle!

St Michael & All Angels is called 'Church in the Park' not '*The* Church in the park.' This shows that we believe the church is the people, not the building. It is really good that the church building is modified to make it more useful, suitable and accessible.

In the Bible (1 Peter 2: 4-12) it is written: 'Come as living stones, and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple.' That says it clearly I think. People are important and our new entrance is an asset. Maybe in the next week or so my muscle memory will stop making me try to walk down a step that is no longer there!

Susan Brice

Whose feet?

Whose feet have trod that ancient stone?
Whose steps have shaped its form?
What years have passed since it was laid?
What changes has it seen?

Perhaps the soldier came to pray
Before he went to war.
And knelt and begged for safe return
Or returning, came to mourn.

How often lace has brushed this step
As brides have paused and smiled
As music swells and friends all rise
To witness joining lives.

So many children skipping in
Or lagging, late for church
Did they recall what they were taught?
Or enjoy the time within?

And many ripe in years have stopped
To catch a breath or sigh
And wish the path were gentler here:
It's getting hard to climb!

How many bearers pacing soft
Have born their burden in?
For friends to mark a loss, and hug
And share some comfort here.

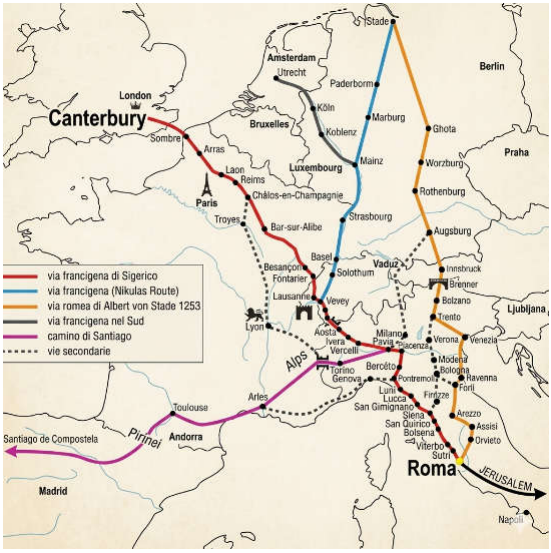
And now … new stones
Do welcome you,
to visit, seek or pray,
No trip or stumble mars the path:
so come, join us today!

Jane Tyrer

Walking the **Via Francigena**

Mike Hill shared with us details of the pilgrimage he made with his wife Gwen.

The Via Francigena is an ancient road and pilgrim route running from Canterbury to Rome. Mike and Gwen spent 2 holidays in consecutive years covering the final Italian stages from Siena to Rome. They averaged about 10 miles each day in rain and shine. Accommodation was pre-booked and their luggage was transported ahead. As the pace was reasonably relaxed, it gave them time and space for reflection. They were able to admire the wildlife which consisted mainly of butterflies, birds and a variety of exotic creepy-crawlies.



They met very few other pilgrims as the route is not as popular as the Spanish one. Each small village or town had its own particular point of interest ranging from exotic monuments to signposts warning of the prevalence of vipers.

When they reached Rome, they were able to present their stamped itinerary and get their certificates to prove they had done the 100km walk. They were also able to 'jump the queue' for the Basilica and could admire its size and beauty in peace.

We all thoroughly enjoyed Mike's talk and slides but decided that perhaps a 100km pilgrimage was not something most of us would manage!

Ann Gee

and … the **Camino** *(by car)*

The roads to Santiago de Compostela are many and various: Via Turonensis, Via Lemovicensis and Via Tolosana, included. In this magazine including this issue, we have seen pilgrim routes in various guises but, mostly, on foot.

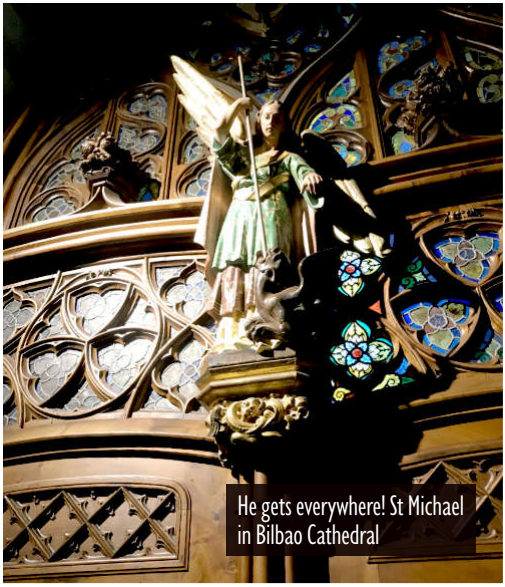
Last month, we were treated to what lawyers call a "Part heard" account: The Welsh Costal Path Adventure, as it was called. Helen and Richard Peters have set themselves the task of walking the coastal path of Wales: 870 miles on foot, from Chester to Chepstow.

All this effort is very impressive but spare a thought for the indigent and idle. Waddling around, giving passable imitations of aldermanic penguins, is not for everyone. Or, more accurately, not for me. I am more than content to leave it to the professionals.

So, we set off – Jane and I – from Portsmouth to Bilbao – by sea ferry and with car. It had its own challenges: Jane's bank had refused to honour three debits on the same stretch of toll motorway out of Bilbao. One of the problems with the car is the need for a decent map reader: otherwise, you find yourself going the same way round the same series of exits from that city, none of them leading to the direction to where you want to go.

(And thus confusing the Bank: which clearly thought: this cannot be real!)

For the Holy, of course, there are the cathedrals. They really are spectacular: Burgos and Leon are just breathtaking. But there are small cathedrals, apparently with a sitting bishop, in the most unexpected places. They have their own quirky beauty: Bilbao, hidden in the depths – and I mean hidden - in the old quarter. Then there was Astorga, the Catedral de Santa Maria de Astorga: but it was the Gaudi Museum next door that sparkled. Mondonedo: never heard of it? Neither had we but it was beautiful, if faded grandeur, complete with town



He gets everywhere! St Michael in Bilbao Cathedral

square and cloisters and, apparently a cathedral town.

Santiago de Compostela itself disappointed. It reminded me of the story of Jesus clearing out the tables of the moneychangers, except that He was still awaited. We went to the cathedral on a second visit, having been there before in 2019. This time the world was waiting for Ursula von der Leyen to see the swinging incense burner. She did: we did not but had been and seen it before.

At our hotel there was a new security device apparently because she was a fellow guest. This apparatus consisted of a menacing metallic archway, replete with Will Smith lookalikes: bulging guns under poorly tailored black suits; plus, of course, the obligatory dark glasses out of which no one could possibly see. For some reason it (the arched machinery, aped by some burley and swarthy local thug) objected to me. A sharp judicial word, translated by the door man who I had been speaking to the previous day, cleared the way. We have Brexited, after all.

It does help to follow (and trust) the satnav. Putting in the coordinates for one hotel on our Progression, we were dismayed that it simply took us in the wrong direction to the printed map. The solution was obvious: ignore the satnav and follow the map. We ended up in a small hamlet of about three hovels, devoid of an hotel, let alone of the quality, one in our party expected. We tried the satnav again: two hours later we arrived at a former monastery of huge dimensions and in breathtaking countryside, which looked like (and was) the real deal.

Northern Spain is beautiful. Even the roadside cafes are of restaurant quality and, fortunately, the locals are well educated: everyone speaks excellent English. We are unsure of the Spanish equivalent of the Entente Cordiale – perhaps the Entente Rioja – but it is – or was – alive and, we trust, withstood the ravages of the vagabonds and Visigoths from the North.

Christopher Tyrer

SING-ALONG for Christmas

2nd December at 7.30 pm in Hughenden Church

An evening of festive, upbeat music and refreshments with the Hughenden Community Singers.

No tickets required.

Hughenden Community Singers

Nature Quest

The Milky Way

On a warm summer evening Father James Kurzynski settled into a comfy seat on his veranda, gazing out at the Milky Way, of which he had just taken a magnificent photograph. In the peace of that moment, he was filled with wonder at the beauty of the scene and began his prayers of praise to the Creator of it all. Father James is an astronomer for the Vatican Observatory, a priest and a scientist. His telescope is no toy, it is a world-class optical and infrared telescope with a 6-foot diameter primary mirror. In the dark sky of Arizona it is not limited by light pollution as were its fore-runners back in Italy. The instrument is a wonder in its own right, but the vast stars and galaxies that it allows Father James to observe in detail, are truly majestic. He feels the same wonder, whether by telescope or by naked eye, and praises the Creator.

At the end of Charles Wesley's famous hymn "Love divine" come the words "Lost in wonder, love and praise": a description of us in Heaven in front of God. Perhaps the nearest we shall get to that, in this mortal life, is to be lost in wonder at some of the works of God's hand in Creation.

At the Wycombe end of our parish, you have no chance of seeing the Milky Way (except in a sweet shop!), but up in Naphill and Bryants Bottom, where streetlights have fallen to economy, there the skies are much darker and a thousand stars become visible. In November it's a bit chilly to gaze in wonder for very long but take the opportunity whenever you can. You might admire the pretty patterns of stars and wonder why in the saucepan outline some see a great bear. Or you might recollect that each of those stars is a sun, as big or bigger than our sun, or it might be a whole galaxy even further away. You could feel

very small. You might also ponder the thousands or even millions of years it's taken for their light to reach us. I hope you find that sense of wonder that Father James experiences, and I hope your sense of wonder translates into praise of the Lord.

At the back of our shed, I found a black butterfly clinging motionless to a piece of old carpet (see photo). Strange, I thought. I don't know any black butterflies. Obviously dead. Perhaps it's been there so long it's gone black. I wonder what it was. I took the carpet outside into the sunshine to have a good look. The wing edges were a bit ragged, but the body was in good condition. Then as I looked, it flashed its wings wide open: a peacock butterfly! Clearly not at all dead. Bright and beautiful in the sunshine. I was so surprised! Surprised that it wasn't dead. Surprised that I'd not recognised this iconic creature. Surprised I'd never noticed the undersides of peacock butterfly wings. If you look online for peacock butterfly pictures, there are hundreds of wonderful topsides and very few of underneath. Anyhow, my black dead butterfly stretched a bit more and flapped away to the flower bed. Thank you, Lord for that brief encounter.

Speaking of flower beds, November will bring our lovely dahlias to a frosty end. They have been especially good this year and we've taken many photos. In the wintertime when flowers are scarcer, we can look back at these summer beauties, and praise God for growth and frost and dormancy and regrowth.

Whether flowers or butterflies or stars, there is plenty to amaze and cheer us. Each of us has our favourites. Father James also writes about Word of Fire's "Wonder" conference last January: a thousand people sharing the wonder of distant planets, stem cells for medical research, ecological systems, artificial intelligence, etc, and relating all this to their faith in the great God of Wonders. What's your particular Wonder?

Mike Hill
nature@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

The Artsakh Exodus

Artsakh, also known as Nagorno Karabakh, has endured years of political turmoil and economic neglect dating right back to the Soviet Union era. Subsequently two major wars erupted, the first from 1988 to 1994 resulting in considerable loss of life, and the second in September and October 2020, when the capital, Stepanakert, was bombarded and further territory conceded. The Lady Cox Disability Rehabilitation Centre, which we have featured in these pages before, was opened in 1998 to provide for many of the victims of these wars, as well as other citizens of all ages and with a wide range of medical conditions.

Sadly, repeated crises for Artsakh reached a point of no return very recently, resulting in a major exodus from Stepanakert and its surroundings to safety in the Republic of Armenia. The emergency began in December 2022 when Azerbaijan began a nine-month blockade of the Lachin Corridor, which prevented the Armenian residents from accessing the Armenian Republic as well as being unable to receive fuel, food and life-saving medication. Electricity, gas and internet connections were cut and serious starvation and other ill effects such as anaemia and miscarriages gradually ensued.

Azerbaijan's final rapid and intense military offensive began very suddenly on 19 September 2023 with an attack on the enclave by artillery, cluster bombs and rockets. This lasted only three days, but it was followed with a demand for complete surrender by the relatively small Artsakh defence force. This threat pointed at the heads of the populace culminated in the exodus of around 100 600 ethnic Armenians, who have been given sanctuary in the Republic of Armenia. They have left their homelands in the mountains of ancient Armenia, probably forever. Their churches, graves of loved ones and a Christian monastic site dating to the fourth century have all had to be abandoned.

Under these circumstances the Lady Cox Disability Rehabilitation Centre in Stepanakert was forced to close. All the staff and patients have reached shelter in the Republic of Armenia, travelling arduously in freezing conditions, alongside huge queues and traffic jams, with minimal personal possessions. At the height of the exodus, the journey, normally achievable in two or three hours, was taking up to 40 hours.

"It was simply too dangerous for us to stay …" said Vardan Tadevosyan, the Centre's

The Lady Cox Disability Rehabilitation Centre in happier days.

An elderly lady waits with her family's possessions before travelling to the Republic of Armenia.

Founder and Director. "We are heartbroken. After 25 years of hope and healing, we had no choice but to evacuate. We will re-establish the Centre inside Armenia as soon as we are able, but my first priority is the immediate safety and wellbeing of my patients and staff."

Based on achievements in 2022, the closure of the Centre means the loss of an annual 7,678 physical therapy treatments, 18,122 out-patient treatments plus numerous speech therapy and psychotherapy sessions. A state-of-the-art hydrotherapy pool and an Autism Day Care Centre for children aged 2-16 has also been closed. Medical supplies and hospital equipment have been lost. Housebound patients with chronic illness or disability have particularly been affected. Some of the disabled have probably not survived the evacuation.

The Azerbaijan military permitted UN observers to enter the enclave only on 1 October, by which time almost the entire population had fled. When International Red Cross teams searched Stepanakert they discovered tragic cases of elderly cancer sufferers living alone and bedridden. Some of these people were rescued by helicopter evacuation arranged by the IRC.

Aid has started reaching the Republic of Armenia during the past week or so. At the time of writing, Christian Solidarity International (CSI) had reported on 26 September that they were beginning to meet the situation. Agencies such as UNHCR and volunteer organisations including Save the Children have also started to work. Around 26 000 children are estimated to have been included in the escape. Individual countries including France, Romania and Italy have sent volunteers and supplies.

The road to resettlement will be arduous. Vardan and his team have continued to strive for the disabled and their families. They are determined to meet this challenge. Unfortunately, however, it seems likely that threats to the Christians of Armenia will not have ended with this sad episode. CSI have pointed out that the Armenian Genocide has been proceeding in stages since 1894 and Turkey and Azerbaijan continue to claim "most or all" of the territory of the Republic of Armenia to be "Western Azerbaijan."

Mission Support Group

Big Give
Christmas Challenge 2023

HART partnering with Shan Women's Action Network in Burma

The Big Give Christmas Challenge, the UK's largest match funding campaign, resulted last year in £28.5 million being raised for 1021 very worthy charities, one of which was the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) which collected over £40 000 for victims of conflict in Nigeria. There, the Roads to Hope scheme is now operating well in remote parts of the mountainous and arid region of Plateau State, Nigeria, where atrocities against families and whole villages have been prevalent through attacks by outlawed gangs and terrorist jihadist militants.

On behalf of HART, Big Give Christmas 2023 funding is being applied to women's welfare and peri-natal care in Burma/ Myanmar. This beautiful country has been under the heel of a brutal military dictatorship since 2021, although persecution of ethnic minorities has been prevalent for much longer.

This year we focus on the Shan States which are in the north-east of Burma, close to the border with Thailand. HART's in-country partner is the SHAN Women's Action Network (SWAN). They work to relieve the situation in which many women give birth alone, in unsafe conditions or as refugees. Infants remain unvaccinated during their first critical years and there is general suffering amongst the Shan from injury, sickness and malnutrition. Healthcare facilities are ill equipped and lack sufficient doctors and medical care workers.

This year additional support will enable SWAN to provide further ante-natal, delivery and post-natal services as well as first aid training and triage for emergency cases. Examples of these are CPR, airway management and use of ventilators, treatment of diabetic shock, seizures and strokes, and management of burns, wounds and snakebites.

SWAN's target is to provide further paramedic training to 70 community members in seven target areas. The impact from the 2022 Women's Wellbeing programme has been meticulously recorded and reported in the recent Annual Impact Report 2022, showing that this new target is achievable with everybody's generous support this Christmas.

Mission Support Group

Children in Loi Tai Leng School, along the Thai-Burma border. Some are accommodated at the school, since there is inadequate support for families in the displacement camps.

All donations received via Big Give will be doubled - BUT this depends on donors meeting a strict deadline through the short window of opportunity:

The Big Give Christmas appeal opens at noon on 28th November and is open until noon on 5th December 2023 ONLY!

www.biggive.org/christmas-challenge *– provides explanations about how it is funded etc. When the general campaign opens, it will be possible to search on it for ours – use "Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust" in full.*

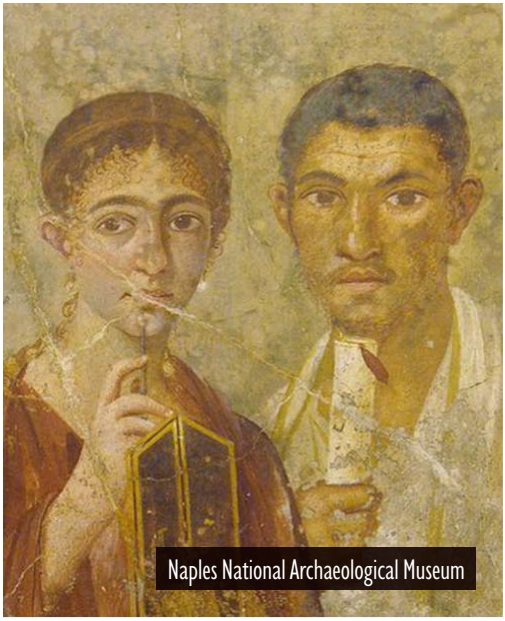
HART will also publish a link - ***www.hart-uk.org***

SWAN Community Health Workers are to receive further paramedic training.

God in the Arts

'He gave us eyes to see them': Wall painting of Pompeii

Each month we have explored how art celebrates the wonder of our world – the seasons, the elements, animals and fish, flowers and fruit. They manifest the glory of God the creator. Irenaeus, the 2nd century theologian, went further and wrote that 'the glory of God is a living person.' He was echoing Psalm 8: 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them … you have crowned them and put all things under their feet.' Yes, the universe teaches of God the creator, but in becoming one of us, the Son of God has put human beings above all Creation.



Naples National Archaeological Museum

The nobility of that vision is captured in this 1st century wall painting from Pompeii showing Neo and his wife. They lived at a time when St Paul was preaching and the gospels were being written. We don't know if those events made an impact on their lives. But we do know that St Paul was executed around AD67, and just twelve years later this couple were victims of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Their almond-shaped eyes are like windows into their souls. We sense the beauty, but also the fragility. They tell us that life is a gift to be cherished precisely because it is so easily taken from us. Neo's intense eyes look at us, while his wife looks beyond into the distance. She has the eyes of hopes and dreams that were cruelly shattered by the volcano.

Living men and women, like this couple, are tokens of the wonder of creation, but they also tell us of the transience of that very gift of life. 'Where can we place our hope?' we ask ourselves. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls tell us that the end of life here is a door opening into a greater glory and a brighter light. There is wonder and beauty in life here, and with the eyes of faith we can look beyond to glimpse the wonder of eternity.

From the Parish Pump

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

HEARING DOGS CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Grange, Saunderton, HP27 9NS

25 & 26 NOVEMBER
11AM-4PM

Santa's Grotto
Mulled Wine & Beer
Live Music
Mince Pies
Gift, Craft & Food Stalls
& Much More...

hearingdogs.org.uk/market

Family Ticket £15.00 / Adult £5.00
Concession £3.00 / Child £3.00
Under 5s free

Registered charity in England and Wales no. 293358 and in Scotland no. SC040486

BOOK-ENDS

The Whalebone Theatre by Joanna Quinn

Recently I was in Normandy, Northern France where we were based in the small town of Lisieux. I had heard of the saint: Therese of Lisieux but apart from that I was quite ignorant about the area. I learnt that in the Second World War the Allies bombed Lisieux as it was a vital point in the Nazi lines of communications. The town was flattened apart from the huge basilica, the cathedral and, strangely, my hotel. There were discussions about the Allied bombing of Normandy and Brittany in the bar after dinner. The history felt uncomfortable despite a clear understanding of why the bombing was deemed necessary. The civilian deaths were considerable.

And thus to the book. I had bought 'The Whalebone Theatre' in Waterstones at the behest of the girl at the cash desk. I am easily persuaded! It is over 500 pages long and so not the most sensible of books to take on holiday. However, I was immersed in the story and not prepared to leave it at home. I had no idea where the narrative would take me but in one of those strange coincidences a lot of it happens in Normandy during the war.

Over a cup of coffee, I had an interesting talk with a fellow traveller about why stories set in wartime, particularly the Second World War, continue to be so popular and sell so well. Do we feel that this is history that is just about within reach? Certainly, there are many still with first hand memories of that time. Maybe we are sobered by the thought of what might have been if the war had ended differently. Whatever, it definitely gives authors a very rich seam to mine, even if their story stays firmly in Britain.

So, The Whalebone Theatre is a multi-generational family novel which moves us from 1919 to the end of the 1940s and the years immediately after that war. We are introduced to a gently decaying country house in Dorset

with a staff which is loyal but too small. The main characters are shackled by social mores and pushed into life roles that they find stultifying and unsatisfactory, whether it is a loveless second marriage in an attempt to produce an heir or becoming a wife because the alternative is to be an 'old maid.' The chances of this are of course increased immediately after the First World War. As happens after every war, there is a realignment of society and boundaries are blurred, particularly between classes. Maids train as car mechanics and post war they throw off their white aprons, learn to drive and find a freedom previously unthought of. Whatever experiences the characters have had during the war powerfully affect their expectations of what comes next.

I enjoyed the exploration of women's place in society as this story unfolds. It reminded me of the Cazalet books by Elizabeth Jane Howard which I love and have read several times. (The books being far better than the TV adaptation.) If a story covers several generations, you begin to know the dynamics of the family really well. This happens in The Whalebone Theatre and is probably why the reader feels swallowed up by the book. Hence, I couldn't leave it at home!

The title of the book refers to a beached whale that dies on the secluded beach that belongs to the house. Christabel (one of the 3 children in the family) is surprised to learn that dead whales belong to the king. However, as the whale decomposes and the monarch shows no interest, the sea washes the bones clean and the large rib bones are carried up to the estate where they are planted in the ground to become the framework for an outdoor theatre overlooking the sea that the children use for their productions. They have had no schooling apart from a variety of French governesses, but they have had free run of the library and grow up fed by stories which they dramatise in eccentric fashion.

You will enjoy this book if you like family sagas. There is sadness and comedy, great characterisation and careful research all set within the framework of the two world wars.

Joanna Quinn wrote this book over a period of 10 years and I would imagine her agent is hoping the next one doesn't take quite so long.

If you would like to see the sweetest, tiny library in a Normandy garden then do open the airing cupboard door and have a look. You will also be able to read about the last Elly Griffiths story about Dr. Ruth Galloway (very sad) … and about the surreal book: Life of Pi. (**www.beyondtheairingcupboard.co.uk**)

Also, I can't leave this until the December Outlook as it will then be too late. I need to tell you about 'The Christmas Mystery' by Jostein Gaarder. A gorgeous pre-Christmas read that is like an advent calendar in text; 24 parts. I like to read one a day but it can of course be read anyway you choose. Great for anyone over about 10.

Happy Reading

Susan Brice

Holy Day in November

22nd November: St Cecilia - patron saint of musicians

If you are going to any concerts before Christmas, spare a thought for St Cecilia - the patron saint of musicians.

Cecilia is one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs of the 2nd century. As far as is known, she was born a noble lady of Rome who, despite her vow of virginity, was forced to marry an older pagan nobleman named Valerian. During the wedding, as the musicians played, Cecilia sat apart singing to God in her heart, and for that she was later declared the saint of musicians.

When the time came for her marriage to be consummated, Cecilia told Valerian that watching over her was an angel of the Lord, who would punish him if he sexually violated her but would love him if he respected her virginity.

Understandably startled by this, Valerian then asked to see the angel for himself. Cecilia replied that to do so, he must go to the third milestone on the Via Appia and be baptised by the Bishop of Rome. Valerian seems to have been a good-natured husband, because the story goes that he followed her suggestion, was baptised a Christian, and sure enough, saw the angel protecting his wife.

Being a Christian in those days was dangerous, and when the next wave of Roman persecutions began, Valerian and Cecilia were among those arrested. It is said that they died at the hands of the Roman prefect Turcius Almachius, perhaps in Sicily sometime between 176 and 180 AD.

One story goes that Cecilia was struck on the neck with a sword, and as she lay dying, asked that her house be converted into a church. Certainly, an early Roman Christian church, Santa Cecilia, was founded in the fourth century in the Trastevere section of Rome, reputedly on the site of the house in which she lived.

In the centuries since then, a number of musical compositions have been dedicated to her, and her feast day has become the occasion for many concerts and musical festivals.

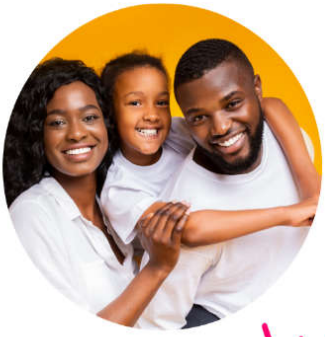
St Cecilia is frequently depicted playing a viola, a small organ, or other musical instrument.

From the Parish Pump

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE SICKLE CELL?

Cianna's Smile is a Thames Valley Based Charity Raising Awareness and Supporting Families Affected by Sickle Cell

CIANNA'S Smile



What Services Do We Provide?

- Free Days Out
- Respite Breaks
- Hospital Care Pacakges
- Contribution Towards Travel Costs for Hospital Appointments
- Youth Advoccay
- Art Workshops
- Virtual Coffee Mornings
- In Person Coffee Mornings
- Family Hubs
- Youth Workshops and More
- Resources

Register Now !

www.ciannassmile.co.uk

taryn@ciannassmile.co.uk

October Recipe

I love cookery books and have a whole bookshelf full but still get tempted with new books! I also enjoy watching Saturday Morning Kitchen and a few months ago Alison Roman, who wrote the book 'Sweet Enough', was a guest and I was inspired by her idea of baking and enthusiasm.

It is an American book so does have the recipe in cups, which I find irritating but also has the weight in grams. Alison, the author, says her intention is for the recipes to be simple and flexible. This cake certainly is a truly genuinely easy cake to make that can be adapted in a number of ways with different icing. It is very chocolatey and can be served with butter cream or as below Salty Vanilla Frosting, which would make a great birthday or celebration cake.

Julia Grant

All-purpose Chocolate Cake

INGREDIENTS

360g plain flour

115g cocoa powder

2 tsp baking powder

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

275g caster sugar

200g light brown sugar

1½ tsp vanilla essence

3 large eggs

330g yoghurt (or buttermilk)

155g vegetable oil

220g sour cream

2 tsp salt (optional)

Salty Vanilla Frosting

225g unsalted butter

450g cream cheese

300g icing sugar

½ tsp salt

1 tsp vanilla essence

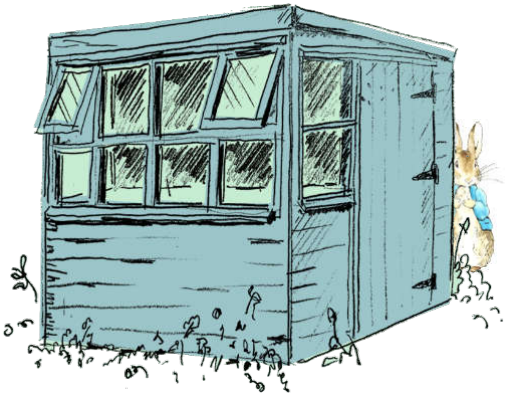
METHOD

1. *Line a 33cm x 45cm baking tray with baking parchment, letting it come 1cm up the side of the tin. It can be made in 3 x 9 inch cake tins if preferred. Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas mark 6.*
2. *In a medium bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients – flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and bicarb.*
3. *In a large bowl whisk together the caster and brown sugar, vanilla, eggs, yoghurt or buttermilk, vegetable oil, and sour cream until combined. Slowly whisk in the flour mixture. The batter may look a bit loose but it will turn out great.*
4. *Put the batter into the baking tray or 3 cake tins and bake for 20 to 25 mins, until the cake is puffed up and springing away from the sides of the tin.*
5. *Let cool completely before frosting.*

Salty Vanilla Frosting

1. *With a mixer beat the butter until light and very spreadable, 5–7 minutes.*
2. *Add the cream cheese a small amount at a time and beat until well blended 2-3 minutes.*
3. *Add the icing sugar and beat until combined, add the salt and vanilla and mix until completely smooth. Taste and add more salt if needed.*

From the **Potting Shed**



Dear friends,

Here we are heading for the end of the gardening season. Remember that hot June we had and then the rain and more rain in July and August? We were fortunate up here to avoid any flooding but it was certainly challenging to find a day when you could feel confident in going for a long walk without the possibility of getting soaked. I think Ruby and I only had two picnic days in the whole of the school summer holiday and it is one of our favourite things to do together. We make some little cakes in the morning and while they are cooling we make egg and cress sandwiches which Ruby then cuts out with pastry cutters into fun shapes. We have a special place beside a shallow stream where she can paddle while I look at my magazine. Happy times.

Anyway, much to look forward to of course. I'm off to town next week to buy some wool to knit Ruby and Seth new jumpers … and maybe there will be some new socks for MacGregor. He says mine are more comfortable than ones from the shops. He knows all about flattery does my hubby.

So, I'll be writing again in the spring my dears. Take care of yourselves until then,

Yours

Cecily MacGregor

Jobs for November

1. Plant winter bedding: Wallflowers, forget me nots , winter pansies, primulas. So cheering.
2. Cut back ornamental grasses and bamboos.
3. Divide overgrown clumps of herbaceous perennials.
4. Plant tulip bulbs for next spring. I'm going to try a little apricot tulip called 'Little Girl' together with the lovely blue of forget-me-nots.
5. Clear annual climbers such as thunbergia and sweet peas from their trellis supports.
6. Send for seed and plant catalogues to plan what to plant next year. A piece of cake and a nice pot of tea seem to make those decisions easier!

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

November

4	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast: Church House
5	3.00 pm	Annual Memorial Service: Church
7	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Meeting: Church House
12	10.45 am	Act of Remembrance: Church
20	2.00 pm	Wedding of Christopher Colman & Rebecca Carter: Church

December

2	7.30 pm	Sing-along for Christmas: Church (see page 15)
7	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Advent Service: Church
10	3.00 pm	Christingle Service: Church
17	3.00 pm	Carols at Naphill Village Hall
	6.00 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols: Church
24	3.00 pm	Crib Service: Church
	4.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight: Church
	11.15 pm	Midnight Communion: Church
25	9.00 am	Choral Communion: Church
	11.00 am	Family Communion: Church
31	**10.00 am**	**Combined Communion: Church**

1st & 3rd Sundays

9.00 am **Choral Communion**
11.00 am **Service of the Word**
6.00 pm **Evensong (Sung)**

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays

9.00 am **Matins (Sung)**
11.00 am **Family Communion**
6.00 pm **Evensong (Sung)**

Tuesdays

11.00 am **Holy Communion (Said)**

One morning service is usually live-streamed on Sunday. Find it on our website, or on the church YouTube channel: youtube.com/hughendenchurch

Regular Groups

Hughenden Community Singers

Mondays from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. No need to be able to read music or to have sung before, and no auditions. Under-18s welcome with parents. Contact Liz on 07768 790029 or evmoseley@btinternet.com

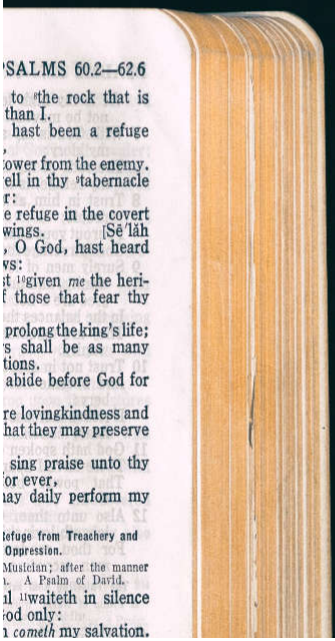
Friendship Morning

This is a get together in Church House on the third Thursday each month at 10.30 am. Primarily for those who are bereaved, who live on their own or who are lonely. The emphasis is on companionship and the atmosphere is light and cheerful. Contact Penny Austin on **01494 529596.**

Tiny Tots @ St. Michael's

Tiny Tots @ 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 the Tiny Tots Service, a time of fun worship in church. For details contact Helen Peters - **helen.peters@peters-research.com**

November Lectionary



5th : Fourth Sunday before Advent

Micah 3: 5-12
1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13
Matthew 24: 1-14
Evensong: Psalms 111 & 117
Daniel 7: 1-18
Luke 6: 17-31

12th: Third Sunday before Advent

Amos 5: 18-24
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end
Matthew 25: 1-13
Psalm at 9.00 am: 70
Evensong: Psalm 82
Judges 7: 2-22
John 15: 9-17

19th: Second Sunday before Advent

Zephaniah 1: 7 & 12-18
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Matthew 25: 14-30
Evensong: Psalm 89: 20-30
1 Kings 1: 15-40
Revelation 1: 4-18

26th: Sunday next before Advent

Ezekiel 34: 11-16 & 20-24
Ephesians 1: 15-end
Matthew 25: 31-end
Psalm at 9.00 am: 29 & 110
Evensong: Psalm 93
2 Samuel 23: 1-7
Matthew 28: 16-end

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 15th October: Parker William, son of Daniel and Kelly Heritage

The Departed

Anthony John Hill, aged 90

Gillian Ruth Kent, aged 86

Who's Who at St-Michael & All Angels

Keith Johnson
Vicar

Home: 01494 257569
Mobile: 07772 642393

keiththevicar@gmail.com

Day off: Friday

Helen Peters
Associate Minister

Home: 01494 716772
Mobile: 07792 118357

helen.peters@peters-research.com

Day off: Monday

Parish Office
Administrator: **Lynn Brooks**

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 07928 536543
9.30 am - 12.30 pm office@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister	David Tester	563354	Captain of Bellringers	Andrew Ottaway	07899 986644
Churchwardens	Julia Grant	565746	Safeguarding Officer	Roger Grant	07909 960938
	Frank Hawkins	565050	Church Library	Alison Gieler	562473
Parish Clark & Verger	Arthur Johnson	521471	Crèche Rota	Agnes Dodwell	07958 568538
Church Notices & Website	Ben Brice	445899	Social & Outreach	Antony Rippon	07747 643270
PCC Secretary	Susan Brice	445899	Mothers' Union Parish Link	Louise Stallwood	712705
PCC Treasurer	Brian Morley	528633	Hughenden Village Hall	–	07815 163269
Organist & Choirmaster	Neil Brice	445899	Naphill Village Hall	Norma Clarke	563116
Servers	Andrew Cole	305020	Friendship Morning	Penny Austin	529596
Church Flowers	Sylvia Clark	562801			

All numbers are High Wycombe area code (01494) unless otherwise stated.

OUR VISION IS

to know God's love, and to share that love with everyone.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

Our aim is that all may know Jesus Christ, become his lifelong followers, and grow into mature members of the Church.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Our Church family will actively contribute to the life of our local community. Our Church activities & facilities will be accessible and we will welcome all with warm and generous hospitality.