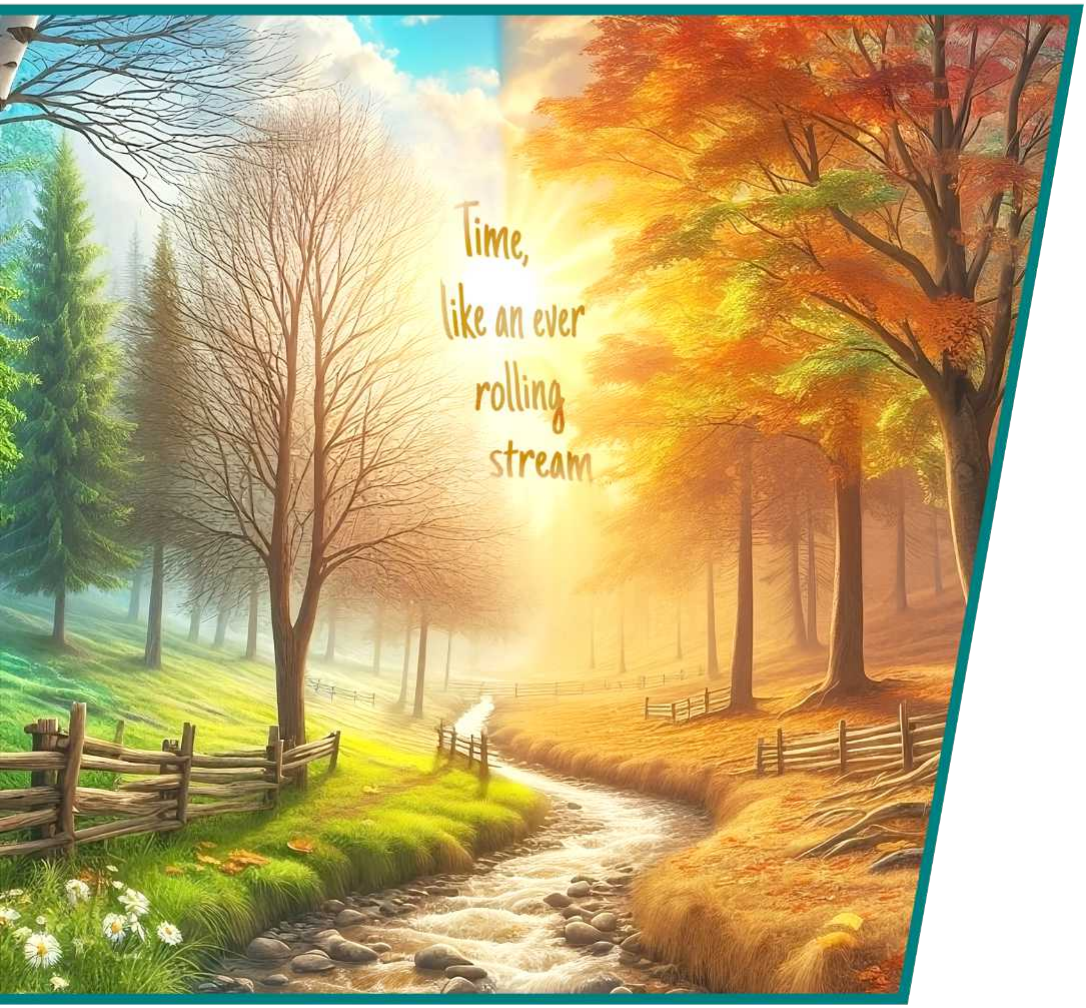
St. Michael & All Angels
CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING

outLook

The magazine for the people of Hughenden Parish | **SEPTEMBER 2024** | FREE



INSIDE: ***One Can Trust*** | Timothy Dudley-Smith | **From the Potting Shed**

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

Well, summer did eventually arrive didn't it? I will remember fun times on the beach with small excited grandchildren, some wonderful walks in West Somerset, as the signs say: Where Exmoor Meets the Sea, and warm evenings sitting in the garden with a glass of wine. I will be happy with that.

I know June and early July were wet and rainy beyond words but that is what makes our countryside so bright and verdant; a really growing green. I hope you will take some happy, summer memories into autumn and winter.

As a retired teacher, September always feels to be a time of new beginnings. We should keep in our thoughts those starting nursery or school, primary or secondary. My smallest grandson, Noah, will move into the Reception class. He is very excited and I hope it lives up to his expectations. Leaving home and going to university is a bigger step than most people probably think and sometimes the almost unlimited freedom is difficult to use well. Young people who have been through the educational disruption of the last few years will need much support.

Time never stands still does it? Summer arrives and very soon we can feel the seasons turning. September is often a lovely month. Children put on new school uniforms and settle into their classrooms … and the sun shines forth. 'Twas ever thus. Whatever your September looks like, do make the most of each day. And give a thought to those sitting at their desks, probably looking longingly out of the window.

Best wishes

Susan Brice
Editor

from the Vicarage

Keith Johnson

Vicar

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

Did you know that we are soon to enter the season of Creationtide in the Church calendar? It runs from 1st September, culminating in our Harvest Festival Sunday on 6th October. Creationtide is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life, and is at the heart of our responsibilities as Christians to live our lives responsibly, making wise and sustainable decisions which reflect our values of cherishing and protecting God's earth.

We have an enthusiastic and dedicated Eco-group at St Michael & All Angels Church, led by Julia Grant, which has helped to spearhead many green decisions which we have made as a Church, and there are also several local Eco-groups, of which several Church members are part, which seek to raise our social conscience, within our parish and beyond.

Our new quiet garden, a bee-hotel, swift boxes, and areas of the Churchyard designated for wildlife are amongst the initiatives for which our Eco-group have been responsible.

As Christians, when we make wise choices we are expressing our worship for our creator God.

I wonder, do you have any ideas how we might be more proactive in our stewardship at Hughenden Church? Our group was recently awarded

the Silver Eco-Church award by A Rocha UK, but we can always do more.

I have always found it refreshing how enthusiastic young people are when it comes to environmental issues. There is probably no one who has been more influential than Greta Thunberg, the Swedish activist, whose personal protests on Fridays outside the Swedish parliament have grown into a worldwide movement of young people, who have demanded that the world leaders of today stop making short term decisions at the expense of future generations.

I recently watched her fascinating documentary 'I Am Greta', which I recommend. If one voice can capture the attention, and consciences of world leaders, then there is hope for the future.

God bless

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ONE CAN
FOOD BANK + TRUST

Helen Foster, Food Supply Manager for the One Can Trust has kindly provided the following article which really puts into context the clients being supported by One Can, how they are supported and the difference receiving a parcel makes to individuals and families. Once again we will be collecting food for One Can at our Harvest Services on Sunday 6th October. Thank you.

Mission Support Group

How Hidden Food Poverty is Tackled in South Bucks

You might think food poverty does not exist because we live in an area regarded by many as being "wealthy." Sadly, it does. We are currently supporting, on average, over four hundred people a week in our region.

Food poverty is hidden. You can't see it and just because someone has a big house or drives a big car, does not necessarily mean they can put food on their table.

Let me explain. I once took a food parcel to a detached house in a local village, with two large, shiny vehicles in the driveway. Even before I rang the doorbell, I found myself judging the person I was delivering to with "why do they need food?". This was a mistake.

The woman who opened the door burst into tears as I handed over the food. Very briefly she told me she was in the middle of a divorce and all finances were controlled by her husband. Her access to money was limited and she was so grateful for our help; I was ashamed of my judgemental attitude.

No one wants to admit they cannot feed themselves or their family. People say they feel shame and embarrassment when they ask for help. This woman was no different.

One Can Trust collaborates closely with many referring partners, including schools, health visitors, GPs, probation officers, social workers, mental health charities, debt support charities and the local authority. The reason for this is two-fold.

Firstly, those partners already know who needs a little extra help – people we otherwise may not have known about.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ONE CAN TRUST FOODBANK!

Here's a list of the most urgently required items:

Tinned meat meals
Tinned ham & corned beef (low salt)
Tinned fish (especially oily fish)
Tinned potatoes and vegetables
Tinned fruit
Tea / instant coffee
Healthy cereals
(such as green 'traffic light' cereals which include: Weetabix, Shredded Wheat, oats and unsweetened wholegrain cereals)

UHT milk
Peanut butter and honey
Cooking oil (e.g. olive oil, 500ml)
Cooking & pasta sauces
Tinned soup
Toilet roll
Toothpaste / shower gel / deodorant
Tampons
Nappies (sizes 5, 6, 7, 8 only)

Secondly, to ensure it is those who are genuinely in need that receive our emergency food parcels. Sometimes referrers suggest to potential clients that they would benefit from a One Can food parcel. In other circumstances, as it was for the client I delivered to, they must pluck up the courage to ask for help.

Let's give the client a fictitious name. I'm going to call her Lyn. Lyn is a family of four – herself, a teenager, a younger child and a baby of four months old. She has told her referrer that one child is a good eater, but the other must avoid cow's dairy milk and the baby needs formula and nappies. This information is stored confidentially on a data base so that packers' and drivers' lists can be created.

Weekly food parcels are packed according to size of household and whether, like Lyn's, there are any dietary requirements.

We also provide fresh fruit and veg, eggs, bakery items, toiletries, baby food, nappies and pet food, if needed.

Once parcels like Lyn's are gathered, they are labelled ready for delivery. All our parcels are packed and delivered by our incredibly loyal and helpful team of volunteers.

Clients can receive up to four weeks' worth of food in a referral. If further support is needed, referrers may request more parcels. In fact, One Can will continue to provide food for as long as is needed providing clients engage with services to help them get back on their feet. Services include addiction support and financial advice.

The One Can Community Support Team Volunteers call all clients within their first referral cycle to seek feedback regarding

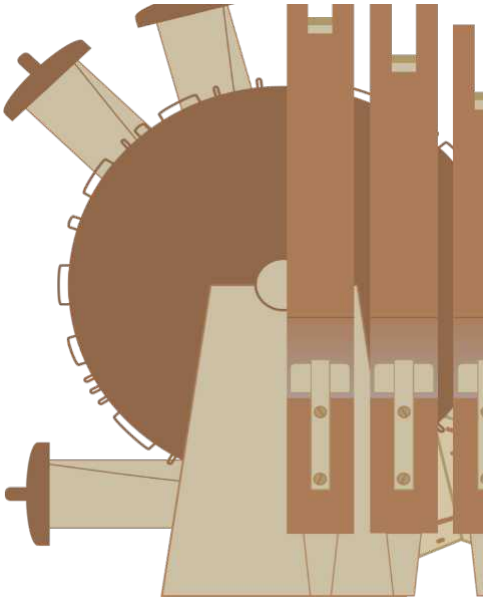
the service they have received from us. The team also use the opportunity to check that households, such as Lyn's, are receiving all the relevant support and information to which they are entitled.

For example, as a client of One Can, Lyn can access a toddler group where she can go with the baby to meet new friends, she can join the Family Supper Club and learn to cook a three-course meal with her children and she can also attend 'One Can Wednesdays' where we offer free food at Hill's Café in Micklefield. Further, she may be entitled to fuel vouchers which the Community Support Team can arrange as well as free school uniform from the monthly Children's Clothes Bank.

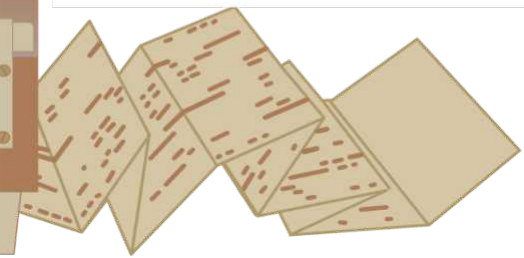
We are always looking for more volunteers in all areas of the charity to continue the vital services mentioned above. If you have time, please do have a look at our website for the range of opportunities - onecantrust.org.uk/volunteer and then email volunteer@onecantrust.org.uk. You might also like to follow us on social media. All your shares and comments are gratefully received!

Thank you for reading this article and for your ongoing support.

Helen Foster
Food Supply Manager
One Can Trust



Amersham Fair Organ Museum



High Wycombe Probus club had an enjoyable afternoon at the Amersham Fairground Organ Museum earlier this year when we were given a very informative talk about each of the organs and then a recital from each.

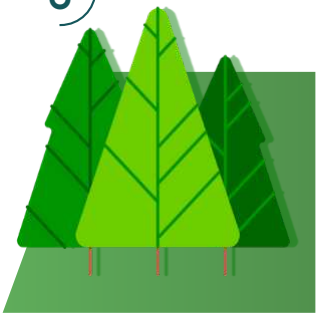
They were collected by a Mr. Albert Edward Reed who had an original interest in steam engines and mechanical organs. This collection was passed on in 2004 and a charity established in order to preserve them and to make them available to the public. They have all been carefully restored but involve costly insurance and constant maintenance. The examples we saw originally came from France, Germany and parts of the UK. One had been rescued from a Butlins holiday camp in Bognor, restored by John Beasley from Shipston on Stour and then sold on. The transport of these very heavy organs makes it even more remarkable that they have survived.

The music is derived from a series of pins matching punched card patterns which complete a box full which is fed into the machine, similar to the old barrel organs which were hand operated, later powered by pneumatic air pressure to bellows as in the way Church organs once performed. The music we heard was diverse, from Strauss, Verdi, Elgar and with the last one we were treated to Pomp and Circumstance and then the National Anthem. The more elaborate machines had notes of clarinets, violins, saxophone, piccolo and trombones, more of an orchestra than a military band.

We are looking forward to our next outing. If you are interested in joining Probus, we meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Hazlemere Golf Club from 12 till 3 when we have a light lunch and a speaker from our varied and interesting list. For more information, please contact our Membership Secretary, Liam, on 01494 528918 or e mail w.davoren@btinternet.com.

Anyone wishing to visit the Fairground Organ Museum should ring 01494 433948 or 01494 776311 for information about their open days.

Elizabeth Aylward
High Wycombe Probus Club



Nature Quest

No mention of tigers in Keith's sermon that day, but afterwards, Josie's tiger T-shirt led to a fascinating conversation. Josie is a great fan of tigers and knows more about them than I ever did! So that's what set me off on this month's NQ theme. Thank you, Josie.

Lions feature often in bible stories, but not tigers. Why not? Probably because tigers never lived in Israel, nor in Europe for that matter, nor America, nor Australia. Yet everybody recognises a tiger. An iconic creature, a symbol of strength and magnificence. Beautiful, exotic, yet dangerous. An inspiration for art and poetry and advert: Remember "I've got a tiger in my tank"? with its striped tail still hanging out from the petrol cap!

My favourite tiger is in Rousseau's painting "Surprised". I admire it every time we go to the National Gallery. But it's an odd title. No doubt a tiger's prey is often caught by surprise, but here the tiger seems surprised, shocked, frightened: not quite my idea of an apex predator! But I still like the picture.

Rousseau painted other pictures of tigers and jungle and foreign places, even though he never set foot outside of France! He had to rely on the tales of travellers, a few stuffed specimens in the museum, and visits to the botanical gardens. Even now, most of us have never seen a tiger in its natural habitat: in a zoo maybe, on tv certainly, perhaps in books or adverts or cartoons! Even in the few places where tigers live, few people see them. They mostly keep out of sight, usually solitary. Yet everyone would recognise a tiger if they did see one.

There are nine known kinds of tiger (nine subspecies). The most iconic is the Bengal tiger, the largest of the tigers, with

NQ Challenge

On a visit to a local Primary School, I was amazed to find dozens of copies of Rousseau's "Surprised", all painted by the children, and all very recognisable. Talent far greater than mine! But your challenge is to paint or draw an animal, maybe copy a famous one like Rousseau's tiger or Stubbs' horse "Whistlejacket" or the cartoon Tigger? Or some other animal. See what you can do!

beautiful black stripes on a golden background above, fading to white below. Others have stripes that are narrower or wider or less of them. Some are only half the weight.

Of the nine, three are already extinct, (none in captivity and no sightings in the wild for many decades). Of the others, perhaps 4,000 exist in the wild, and twice as many in captivity. The South China tiger is critically endangered and faces possible extinction. Only 30 to 40 are known to exist in the world, and all are living in captivity. A hundred years ago, perhaps 100,000 tigers lived in the wild across many parts of Asia. In the wild all are now endangered, and their existence in the wild will only continue with human interventions, which is ironic considering that humanity has been the principal cause of their decline, by encroaching on their habitats and killing for sport and for the safety of local people. Such killing is now illegal, though back in 1961 our Queen was present as an honoured guest at a (completely legal) tiger shoot in Nepal. More complicated is the illegal trade in tiger parts, in high demand for rituals, expensive meat, folk medicines, and the fur trade.

In 1794 William Blake wrote: -

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night.
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?
… contemplating the origin of this majestic yet dangerous creature.

Further in the poem he wrote:-

Did He who made the lamb make thee?

Blake perhaps preferred the sweet and cuddly and found it hard to accept that God has created every creature, whether pretty and lovely or vicious and life-threatening. And in our time, there is need to protect and preserve every creature, whether majestic and iconic like the tiger, or less inspiring like the purple pig-nosed frog!

Mike Hill
nature@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

10

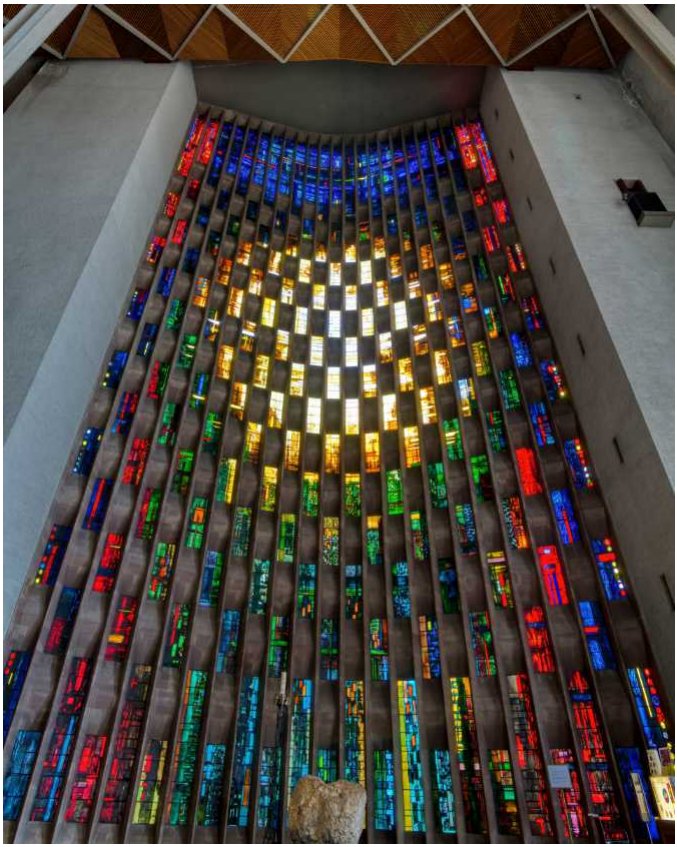
Coventry cathedral

My first visit to this cathedral was in 1964, just a couple of years after it had been completed and opened to the public. It was still very much a novel, tourist attraction and I remember crowds. So different to my return trip this summer on an ordinary Thursday in June when we had the place very much to ourselves. There was space and time to stand back and take in the awesome nature of the building; so much colour, so much Christian inspired art.

It could of course have been something quite other. The architects who submitted designs for the new cathedral, after the bombing of the previous building during World War 2, differed wildly. Some wanted to replicate the same gothic architecture, many wanted to totally flatten the remains of the bombed cathedral but Basil Spence proposed a new, radical idea. He wanted to keep the ruins just as they were, a symbol of what had happened and left completely intact next to the new building, in fact actually a part of the new cathedral and today most visitors enter the new through the open air remnants of the old. Most, I think, would see this as very appropriate. It feels fitting to me as you walk through history. The fact that both buildings share the same rosy, brown sandstone walls gives an immediate feeling of unity, the old and the new do not jar. Spiritually as well, this scheme must have ticked the boxes. The people who were doing the choosing and who had the power to say yes or no, very much wanted something that suggested forgiveness, redemption, hope and a sense of oneness. A oneness throughout the many countries of Europe, something for which many would feel we are still searching today.

The cathedral was erected with astonishing speed and completed in six years. Inevitably, when opened by the Queen at a service of consecration in May 1962, it attracted a torrent of criticism: too modern, not modern enough. The architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner was a supporter but others spat out derision: 'a super cinema,' 'a glorified dustbin,' 'an ugly factory.' Gracious! Time is as always a healer and Coventry Cathedral has now received international acclaim for many decades.

As you walk into the new building, the entrance is glass. The wall is a window where saints and angels appear to float before your eyes. Basil Spence wanted a visual connection between the old and the new and here it is, mystical, powerful, with a great sense of movement. The



figures were engraved onto the glass by a New Zealand artist John Hutton. From this commission he was also asked to do a similar project for the Shakespeare Centre in Stratford - upon- Avon. John Hutton's ashes are buried at the foot of the Coventry window, commemorated by a inscription on a paving slab.

I was particularly looking forward to seeing the 26 metre high Baptistery window, especially as I am very interested in the work of the artist John Piper. He and the glassmaker Patrick Reyntiens have many connections with our local area in South Bucks: Piggots and Burleighfield come to mind and then Fawley in South Oxfordshire as well. I love words but it is difficult to find the right ones to describe this window, or really, vast collection of small windows. Mesmerising it certainly is and a feast for your eyes definitely. The vivid, shining, jewel colours suggest the busyness of life, a noisy struggle, vying for attention. However, towards the middle of this huge window the colours begin to pale, the light can shine through and then it can be seen as a place of peace and tranquillity in the midst of a hectic world. John Piper wrote: 'this blaze of light, symbolising the Holy Spirit, remained the motive of the whole design.' The light and the colour from the window shine on the font and towards the Chapel of Unity. This was done very purposefully as it puts the spotlight on the Cathedral's two aims: to encourage spiritual growth through baptism and to bring about peace. This window is a wonder, just as much now as in 1962.

The other amazing piece of art that is an intrinsic part of Coventry Cathedral is Graham Sutherland's tapestry of Christ in Glory that hangs behind the altar. It does at first look like a painting, even if one knows it is woven. Finding the skills and a loom large enough to make the tapestry proved to be problematic but in the end it was made in one piece (as Sutherland was determined it would be) in a workshop in

Aubusson in France. It was woven by hand on a 500 year old loom made from two tree trunks. A team of twelve weavers worked for over two years with wool hand dyed using water from a local river. It is guaranteed not to fade!

There is much more I could write about but I would really recommend a day out.

Coventry is an easy and direct journey up the M40, maybe an hour and a half, with car parking very close to the Cathedral. We spent quite a long time absorbing all there was on offer and then of course I had to visit the shop to buy a couple of postcards (always). Chatting to the girl at the cash desk, I asked for a recommendation for a good cup of coffee and light lunch. 'The Bean and Leaf Coffee House' she said and pointed us in the right direction. She was right. It is just my sort of place: small and independent, quirky, serving homemade soup, toasties, excellent cakes (including gf) and most importantly very good coffee.

A great day out with lots to think about.

Susan Brice

Hearing Dogs Summer Cake & Plant Sale and Dog Show 7th September

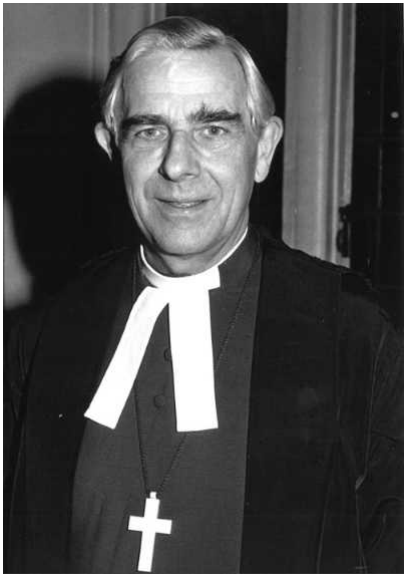
Dog agility and a fun dog show, not to mention delicious homemade cakes and plants, will be just some of the attractions at the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People's free Plant and Cake Sale on Saturday 7th September at its southern training centre in Saunderton.

The free-to-enter sale will be held between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm in the grounds of The Grange, Haw Lane, Saunderton, near Princes Risborough HP27 9NS. Visitors are welcome to bring their dogs along, but they should be kept on a lead and the charity would ask people to clear up after them.

The legendary sales, which are organised and run by long-standing Hearing Dogs volunteers, Fiona and Rob Daniels, have grown from very humble beginnings into one of the most popular fixtures in the Hearing Dogs calendar. In fact, since they began in 2020, the team has raised a staggering £80,000.

Fiona and Rob bake most of the cakes and grow the plants themselves. However, as the sales have grown in popularity, they have now joined forces with fellow baker Wendy Baldwin and Peter Sheppard, who makes chutneys, chilli sauces and his now famous Cornish pasties.

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People



Timothy Dudley-Smith

Born 1926 Died 2024

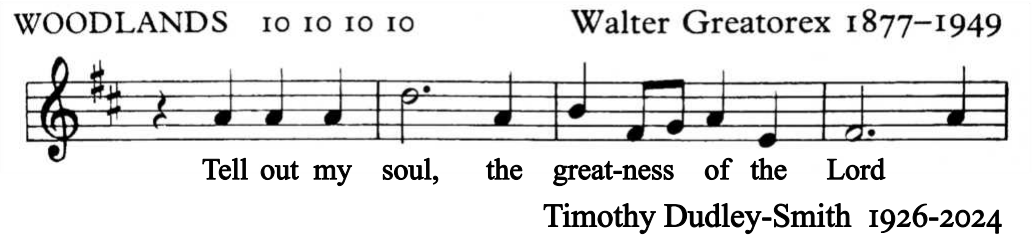
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice,
Tender to me the promise of his word-
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same-
His holy name: the Lord, the Mighty One.

This hymn, written in 1961, is well known and very popular but maybe most people don't know who wrote these words or upon what they are based. The writer of the words was Timothy Dudley-Smith and he used the Magnificat as the foundation for this hymn. He has very effectively paraphrased it. The Magnificat is in Luke's gospel chapter 1: verses 46-55. Mary has visited Elizabeth and explains that she has been told she will give birth to God's son. Mary is giving thanks to God for the great blessing and honour that she has received. The Magnificat is often called 'Mary's Song.' As such it is part of the service of Evensong and thus is sung at most churches every Sunday evening, including at Hughenden.

This has all come to my mind as Radio 3 recently reported that Timothy Dudley-Smith died early in August of this year, aged 97. He was a bishop of the Church of England and a prolific hymn writer, penning more than 400 hymns during his life time, many of which have become known, accepted and loved. His name appears frequently in popular and well used hymn books. Apparently (and charmingly) many of these hymns were written on holiday in Cornwall, sometimes on the beach! His daughter writes that he 'worked on a text on the beach between a pasty lunch and an afternoon surf.'

Dudley -Smith was not a musician, he was a wordsmith. He wrote metrical poetry that could be set to various singable melodies. The tune used for 'Tell out my soul' that would be familiar to most people is called Woodlands and was written by Walter Greatorex, a composer from the early part of the 20th century.



Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-2024

When hymn books were compiled, small committees of musicians and church men would put hymn words with suitable and fitting music, sometimes offering 2 tunes that they considered worked well.

Probably the second of Dudley -Smith's hymns that is best known is 'Lord for the years.'

'Lord for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us , cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

This is a wonderful hymn to sing as it grows and swells towards the end of each verse.

It was used at the service to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee in 2002. Fame indeed.

However, my favourite out of this rich bounty of beautiful words has to be:

Oh Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
Our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears.

The three verses take us from 'all our yesterdays,' to 'this present hour,' and finally:

Oh Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
We bring our thanks to you for all that is to be.

This is sung to the tune 'Londonderry Air' and I love it. I think I would like it sung at my funeral.

There have of course been many obituaries over the last few weeks and one journalist put it together neatly, saying that Timothy Dudley-Smith 'represented a very orthodox Anglican tradition of hymn writing and was unashamedly evangelical.' And John Betjeman (obviously many years ago) said of 'Tell out my soul' that it was 'one of the few modern hymns that will truly last.' He was correct.

St Augustine wrote that :'He who sings prays twice.' That is what it feels like to sing these hymns.

R.I.P. Timothy Dudley-Smith

Susan Brice

Nature Note

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Gen 1 v 31

From v3 God was pleased with His handiwork, a slightly different world than the one we live in now, all life was vegetarian for instance, read the vegetarian motto v29, 30 (more on that another time).

Since The Fall mankind has struggled in all aspects of life, one glance at the world now shows how far we have wandered, even if we are made in God's image, from what He wants from us. All creation was made for God's and our pleasure but too often we miss the point and treat it as a means to a life of selfish luxury and leisure. If we can each help God to smile with satisfaction as we live, love, laugh and work with nature not against it then He will be delighted that one of His great ideas was to make us.

As we agreed before He loves trees, the dominant vegetation over large areas of the world. One of them is cercis siliquastrum a small deciduous tree from southern europe and western asia. Its lovely heart-shaped leaves are preceded by small pink pea type flowers not only on twig ends but erupting from the length of branches and the trunk itself. A stunning sight in spring. Followed later by dark purple seed pods, shaped like beans.

I called it c. siliquastrum so that you were not distracted by the English vernacular name of Judas Tree. Legend has it that Judas hung himself from the branches of one such after betraying our Lord. Others say that the name derives from Judea Tree or Tree of Judea, they are very common in that part of the world. There are several more similar species collectively known as redbuds from North America and eastern Asia.

So there we are, the Judas Tree.

I guess the Lord knew, even as He created Adam, how serious, boffin-like and nerdish we were due to become once the scientific age dawned. He must have chuckled as He foresaw the knots that we would tie ourselves into trying to understand creation. Two examples spring to mind without delving into 'dark matter theory' or the musings of Einstein.

"Animal, vegetable or mineral?" was the usual first query on "20 Questions".

Straight forward enough, or is it?

Take coral for instance. Tiny young polyps as they are known drift on ocean currents, forming part of the zooplankton until somehow they sense their own kind and attach themselves to an existing reef where individuals merge into one collective, consuming passing algae much as their cousins sea anemones also do.

So are they animal or vegetable? - What about slime moulds? That's right, slime moulds.

You see them occasionally as a jelly like ooze on the floor of a damp woodland or as a yellowish web on decaying plant matter. Amazingly they turn out to be aggregations of many individuals that merge to form a single cellular organism with many nuclei! This cell has no organs, brain or nerves yet it ingests its food (if you think it's a fungus, they are stationary and digest externally). Food is found by a network of exploratory tentacles growing across its locality. This is where it becomes interesting because it won't explore the same area twice and it recoils from sunlight.

Does it have a memory? Does it feel pain? Without nerves and a brain?

Researchers took it one step further. They laid out piles of bran flakes, a favourite food, to replicate the cities around Tokyo (Japanese researchers you understand) placing a mould in position Tokyo.

Within hours tentacles had grown to all the 'cities' almost duplicating exactly the existing rail network that had taken engineers years to perfect.

Animal or vegetable?

Question, is this a picture of the Church to come?

Does the Lord plan to mould us into one amazing aggregation that can achieve undreamable marvels? No individuals, all for one and one for all, the slime mould.

So when you are overwhelmed by a stunning dawn, a view of the Milky Way, the breathtaking beauty of a Judas Tree in full flower or the amazing 'intelligence' of a slime mould you are for a second standing with your God - "It still is very good".

Michael Bevan

Golden Years Free Activities Information Day

Bucks Older People's Action Group (BOPAG), in collaboration with the Princes Centre and Age UK, are hosting the 2024 Golden Years event on Monday the 30th September 2024. It will be held this year in the High Wycombe library in the Eden Centre and will run from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm.

The aim is to reduce social isolation and loneliness for our elderly communities and will offer free information on social activities, volunteering opportunities and age-appropriate exercise classes.

Plans are to offer a fashion show, a singing group and lots of workshops for people to enjoy on the day, all free of charge. There will also be free refreshments for our attendees and free goodie bags to take away. Do come along and enjoy what is always a happy and useful event.

If you can offer age-appropriate activities or options and wish to attend as an exhibitor, please contact Paula Watts, BOPAG Administrator on 07753 987973.

BOOK-ENDS

Tom Lake - Ann Patchett

It is quite rare to read the first couple of pages of a novel and just know that you will love the book. It is a delicious feeling and it happened to me with this story.

I have only read one other novel by Ann Patchett: The Dutch House. I liked it but for me it is not in the same league. I kept reading reviews of Tom Lake and there it was, prominent, in every bookshop window. I was intrigued by the title. Was this someone's name or was it a place? Inevitably there was only one way to find out.

It is always a tricky authorial device to time slip a story; to move backwards and forwards between two periods of time, showing what is happening now and how this was affected by times past. Ann Patchett does this with effortless ease so that the narrative is not held back and the reader doesn't find the writing stilted.

Interestingly, this is the first novel I have read that is set within the time of pandemic lockdowns. I wonder how many more are about to be published. Families forced to be close together for long and unknown periods of time is quite a gift for a writer. Things are said that might in normal times not be, secrets are split in unusual situations, confessions, old stories and forgotten histories are shared.

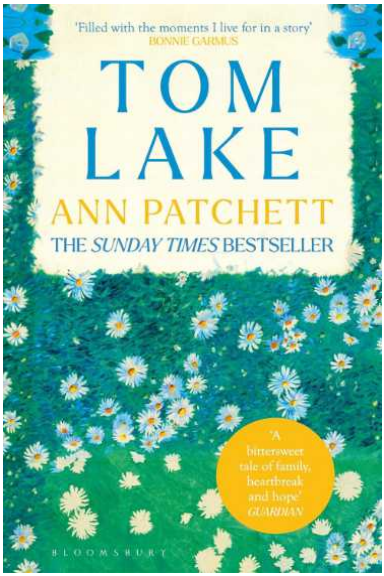
We are in north Michigan, near its lake for most of the story. The family live on a cherry farm and would normally pay regular pickers to bring the crop in. Now, of course there is no normal and even neighbouring families keep their distance. Lara, her husband Joe and their 3 grown up daughters must gather the harvest, working closely together. There is both time and opportunity for questions and for a long ago story to be told, discussed, dissected and pondered upon.

In a previous life, i.e. before the children, Lara had been an actress and had dated a boy destined to become a famous film star. And here we are shown the other part of the story. I was fascinated to find that the play around which 'the past' is entwined is 'Our Town' by Thornton Wilder. Many of you will know of both the play and the writer but until fairly recently I did not. My U3A literature group read the play a while ago and I realised I should have been familiar with it. In my defence, in all my various literature studies over the years, I had never touched upon American dramatists. So this play, which is iconic and seminal (I now know!) provides the firm base for the rest of the story.

It is whilst acting in 'Our Town' that Lara meets Duke and their naïve but passionate relationship begins. We live with them as they act out the play in a summer theatre at Tom Lake. Here are the intense sunshine filled days of growing up when everything seems possible, particularly if you have an agent who is talking about Hollywood. But then, Lara tears her Achilles' tendon and finds herself in hospital and away from her acting friends. There is enforced quiet time in which to think, time to consider who actually is her friend and also to sort out what she wants from life.

Here, set out before the reader, is the choice that many people feel they have to make. Do you decide on a hard working, home centred life where you pay your bills, focus on safety and security for you and your family and try to be sensible or do you go for risk and adventure? The latter of course could offer fame, excitement and riches, or conversely, disaster of one kind or another.

Maybe because it was written during the Covid crisis when everything felt uncertain, this story is rich and abundant in the joys of friendship, the immersive qualities of family and the youthful confidence in love and hope for the future. A story that makes you feel better in difficult times, I think that is what this is. The



pandemic is thankfully over but there are of course many events around us that can make life feel dark and bleak.

If you were to take this book on holiday with you, I don't think you would be disappointed. A shady chair in a corner of the garden would also work.

Happy reading

Susan Brice

P.S. Recently I've written about The Copper Beech by Maeve Binchy and Resistance by Anita Shreve. Just open the airing cupboard door to read. www.beyondtheairingcupboard.co.uk

September Recipe

It would not be summer without a cheesecake and this recipe is one I made recently. It was delicious and a great success.

The recipe is from a magazine and features a ginger-nut base, silky smooth mascarpone filling and sweet ginger macerated peaches. It is quite a big cheesecake and serves 10 to 12 but kept very well for a few days.

Julia Grant

Peach and Ginger Cheesecake

INGREDIENTS

300g ginger nut biscuits

120g lightly salted butter, melted

250g soft cream cheese

250g mascarpone

4 tbsp caster sugar

1 ball stem ginger, very finely chopped plus 6 tbsp syrup

150ml double cream

3 peaches, stoned and sliced

1 lemon

2 tbsp apricot jam

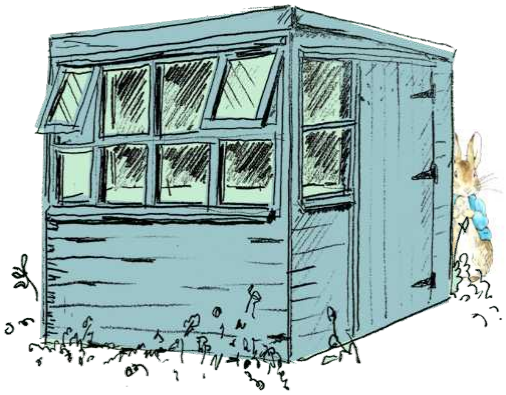
METHOD

1. *Preheat oven to 180c, gas mark 4. Grease and line the base and sides of a 20cm loose-bottomed tin at least 4cm deep with baking parchment. Whizz the biscuits in a food processor to fine crumbs. Stir in the melted butter and then press into the sides and bottom of the tin. Bake for 15 mins, carefully pushing into place and then cool.*

2. *With a mixer combine the soft cheese and mascarpone, 2 tbsp of sugar and the stem ginger syrup until smooth. Beat the cream in a separate bowl until just holding its shape and has soft peaks. Fold into the cheese mixture until smooth, and then pour into the cooled biscuit shell. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours or overnight.*

3. *In a mixing bowl combine the peach slices with the remaining 2 tbsp sugar, the stem ginger and lemon juice and set aside for 30 mins. Remove the cheesecake from the tin and transfer to a plate. Arrange the peaches on the top. In a small pan combine 1 tbsp peach juice from the bowl and the jam: simmer for 3 to 5 mins to thicken slightly then strain into a bowl and brush over the fruit.*

From the **Potting Shed**



Dear friends,

Here we are in the driest and sunniest month of the year so make the most of it and go out for a good walk. Lots of people say autumn is their favourite season and there is a lot going for it as long as you can do that 'staying in the moment' thing and not think about the darkness to come. Maybe that is an age thing. Ruby and I were blackberrying just before she went back to school and chatting as we picked. Her take on winter is being snug and cosy inside with the curtains closed and it being easier to get to sleep in the dark. All very different from my thoughts, which I didn't choose to share.

We ate gently stewed blackberries and apples that evening with some cream that Beryl had brought round. I tied a tea towel round little Seth's neck but he still managed to get blackberry juice on his white tee shirt. I used a little very dilute bleach and laid the shirt out in the sun. Hopefully my daughter won't notice … but come to think of it, little Seth (love him) will probably tell her!

Yours, with very best wishes

Cecily MacGregor

Jobs for September

1. Continue to dead head your roses to keep them going into October. Leave hips as winter treats for the birds.
2. Net ponds to stop them getting clogged with leaves, particularly if the water is underneath trees.
3. Keep picking all your garden and allotment produce. Don't let good food rot or become tough and overgrown. If you can't store anymore then give it away.
4. Now is the perfect time to divide clumps of perennials. You will get free plants!
5. I am always eager to begin to plant bulbs but I do have enough self-control to hold back on the tulips.
6. This is an excellent time to plant cabbage, broccoli and chicory. Have a go and try chicory if that one is new to you. Very tasty.

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

September

3	2.00 pm	Mothers Union Meeting: Church House
4	1.00 pm	Knit and Natter: Church House
7	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast: Church House
	1.00 pm	Wedding of Aaron Nolan & Lucy Smith: Church
22	**10.00 am**	**Combined Service: Church**
28	10.00 am	Churchyard Clear-up: Churchyard

October

1	2.00 pm	Mothers Union Meeting: Church House
2	1.00 pm	Knit and Natter: Church House
12	10.00 am	Baptism Preparation Day: Church House
19	12.00 pm	Wedding of Alexander Gravina & Helena: Church
22	10.00 am	Mothers Union Coffee Morning: Church House

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

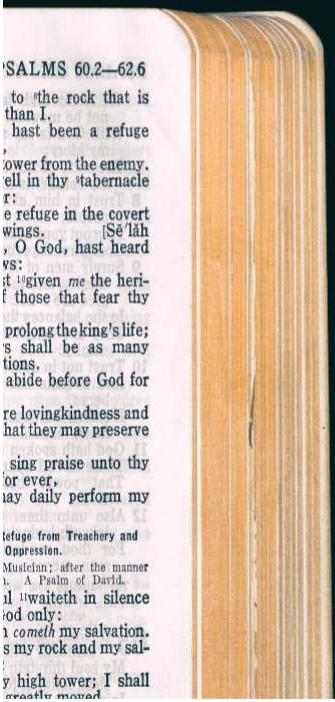
Friendship Morning

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**

September Lectionary



Floodlighting

Remembering our darling son, James, on his 19th Anniversary, September 20th.

Brenda and Derek Lynch

1st: Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Deuteronomy 4: 1-2 & 6-9
James 1: 17-27
Mark 7: 1-8: 14-15 & 21-23

Evensong: Psalm 119: 1-16
Exodus 12: 21-27
Matthew 4:23 – 5:20

8th: Fiteenth Sunday after Trinity
Isaiah 35: 4-7a
James 2: 1-17
Mark 7: 24-37
Psalm at 9.00 am: 146

Evensong: Psalm 119: 41-56
Exodus 14: 5-end
Matthew 6: 1-18

15th: Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
James 3: 1-12
Mark 8: 27-end

Evensong: Psalm 119: 73-88
Exodus 18: 13-26
Matthew 7: 1-14

22nd: Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Jeremiah 11: 18-20
James 3:13 – 4:3 & 7-8a
Mark 9: 30-37
Psalm at 9.00 am: 54

Evensong: Psalm 119: 137-152
Exodus 19: 10-end
Matthew 8: 23-end

29th: Michaelmas
Genesis 28: 10-17
Revelation 12: 7-12
John 1: 47-51
Psalm at 9.00 am: 103: 19-end

Evensong: Psalm 148
Daniel 10: 4-end
Revelation 5

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

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

07928 536543
office@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister	David Tester	563354	Safeguarding Officer	Roger Grant	07909 960938
Churchwardens	Frank Hawkins	565050	Captain of Bellringers	Verity Nicholls	07952 850760
	Andrew Cole	305020	Church Flowers	Sylvia Clark	562801
PCC Secretary	Susan Brice	445899	Crèche Rota	Agnes Dodwell	07958 568538
PCC Treasurer	Brian Morley	528633	Social & Outreach	Antony Rippon	07747 643270
Organist & Choirmaster	Neil Brice	445899	Mothers' Union Parish Link	Louise Stallwood	712705
Servers	Andrew Cole	305020	Hughenden Village Hall	–	07815 163269
Church Notices & Website	Ben Brice	445899	Friendship Morning	Penny Austin	529596

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.

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk