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

outLook

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

INSIDE: *Two Tuscan Churches* | Bookends | **Dashwood Mausoleum**

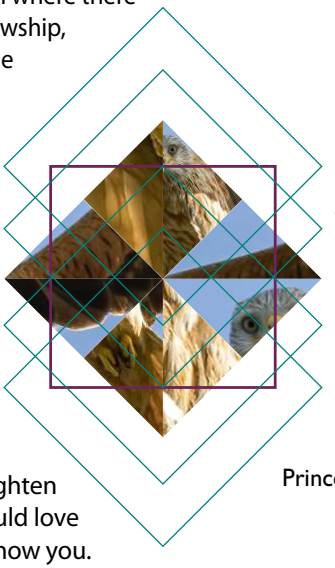
Welcome to **Your Church**

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

Our front cover often shows pictures of the natural world, frequently of local views, or depicting the changing seasons: this month we show a picture of one of the Chilterns' most iconic species: the red kite. They have proliferated both in number and their spread outside our area since their introduction from Wales some years ago and have become in many ways a symbol of our area,having been adopted as the name and logo of our local housing association. There is also a baby supplies manufacturer using the name, based in Bristol, but as their logo is the other sort of kite, perhaps they have missed the point!

However OUR point is to draw attention to the increased focus our Church is having on all things natural: not only the wilding of parts of the churchyard, the creation of a wormery and a quiet garden, but in this magazine, we have two regular natural world columnists, so there is no excuse for any of us to be unaware of the huge variety of living things with whom we share our world. Creationtide in Christian churches is a relatively new movement, covering September to the first Sunday in October (so it is justifiable to mention it here), linking to St Francis' Day: 4th October.

On another tack completely: you will see we have included a crossword this month. Let us know if you enjoyed it (or not), or indeed your views on any aspect of the magazine: we are always trying to think of new items to inform, enlighten or amuse.

Happy puzzling!

Jane and Christopher Tyrer
Editors

Our **Annual Memorial Service** takes place on 3rd November at 3.00 pm. Do join us to remember and light a candle for those we love but see no longer.

from the Vicarage

Keith Johnson

Vicar

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

By the time you read these words, a group from St Michael & All Angels Church will have returned from a weekend away at High Leigh Conference Centre, in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire

The theme of our teaching this year is "Being an outward looking Church", and we will have been stimulated by two Saturday morning teaching sessions by Chris Bull, formerly Vicar of Flackwell Heath, and now Associate Archdeacon in Oxford Diocese.

I have always found time away together with other Christians to be a real blessing – whether it be to attend a retreat, a conference, or other activity. There is something about a shared experience in a restful location that I have always found a special time for forging friendships, as well as being able to meet with God in many different ways.

For some, the highlight of our weekend might have been an autumnal walk in the grounds, the great food and fellowship, the variety of different fun games which Frank Hawkins, our Churchwarden has planned to draw us closer together … For others peace and refreshment might be found in the silence, the sung worship, the teaching, the prayer or the sense of warmth and friendship from spending time together aside from our usual daily lives.

There are some who will have attended, who have been to many previous weekends, and we have some first timers as well, which is especially encouraging.

These same principles of finding fulfilment and meaning in the company of others can apply across all forms of social interests, whether your passion is gardening, walking, the environment, charity fundraising or hang gliding.

Amongst the many lessons we learned as a society during lockdown was how much we need each other. We are truly blessed with a wide variety of societies and clubs within our local community which cater for a multitude of interests.

If you have a passion for something, but cannot find a local club, why not start one up yourself? Passion and enthusiasm can be contagious, whether it is sharing our faith, bird watching or caring for God's creation.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival at our services on 6th October. We will be supporting One Can Trust with our donations of food.

For an up-to-date list of their current needs visit onecantrust.org.uk/wants-and-needs

Family Barbecue Fun

What a glorious weather window we had for our St Michael & All Angels family BBQ! Thank you so much to those who came along and supported this fun family occasion. It provided a lovely opportunity for the generations to mix in a relaxed space, deepening and strengthening friendships that exist and encouraging new ones to develop. The warm and supportive words shared with our children and young people was a great way to kick start the new academic year. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who help make these events possible. The catering was spot on as reported by young people in our church…

Aggie, aged 5: *"It was really nice to have a BBQ with everyone! The sausages were delicious, and the ice cream was definitely delicious!"*

Olivia, aged 8: *"Last week was wonderful at the church BBQ. Everyone loved the food so much that some people didn't even notice sauce was dripping on them EVERYWHERE! We had some lovely volunteers to help out as well. Many thanks to all the helpers too."*

On the previous Sunday, (Ice cream Sunday) we held an equally well attended church service in which many of our fabulous young people were involved and the message shared was relevant to us all, although my origami boat may not have weathered a storm! The service concluded with ice cream, catering for all dietary requirements and was well received by all. A huge thank you to Helen Peters who puts so much thought into this all-age service.

We hope you will find a warm welcome at St Michael & All Angels. We aim to be many things including, a family friendly church so perhaps come along to one of our all-age services, the first Sunday in each month at 11.00. Our next social event is likely to be a trip to see the murmuration of starlings so look out for details about that.

Lucy Rippon

Ready for the rain: but the sun shone

Mothers' Union

The speaker at our meeting this month was William Reid. His speciality is the history of High Wycombe and he gave us a very informative and interesting account of the history of just three roads which form a triangle in the town. They were Crendon Street, Easton Street and Abbey Way. This is to be Francis Dove Street, after the founder of Wycombe Abbey School. His period spanned the early 14th century up to the present day in an area starting at the railway station and ending at Wycombe Abbey school.

The historical figures involved and the fortunes of the various commercial enterprises that rose and fell in that period were extremely interesting especially to those of us who did not grow up in the town. There were royal visits by Queen Victoria, George VI and our late Queen. The history of what is now Wycombe Abbey School produced some surprises. Did you know that there is an enormous bunker buried very deep beneath the grounds of the school? It was used by the United States during World War II to plan the day-time bombing raids. The ancient remains of a monastery and hospice are the oldest buildings in the town along Abbey Way but are sadly much in need of restoration.

Ann Gee

How much ketchup do you need?

France, *a farm, a fight and faith*

Looking out from a first-floor window of the guest house, the Ferme Manir Saint Barthélemy, located twenty minutes from the D-Day beaches, I took the national flags, fluttering on the expansive lawn, as a solemn gesture marking the 80th anniversary of the historic landings. Patricia, our French host standing behind me, informed me that their community commemorates the sacrifice of the Allied soldiers and civilians every year. Also, that a German Panzer Lehr-Division occupied the farm during the war, its surrounding high wall ably screening the tanks from observation. However, harassed by prolonged British heavy artillery (shell scars are still visible), the farm and the nearby abbey, where German troops were billeted, were liberated on June 9, 1944. Unable to visit the abbey at the time, we returned in late August.

The Abbaye Saint-Martin de Mondaye, a fine classical 18th century reconstruction, remains a place of work, worship, retreat and welcome today. Inaugurated as a Premonstratensian order under the Rule of St. Augustine, it was founded in 1202. Remarkably, the abbey has endured eight centuries of eventful history, including the Hundred Years' War, The Black Death, The French Wars of Religion and World War 2. Equally surprising, possibly miraculous, is the survival of a pervasive, almost palpable, sense of peace and tranquillity.

On arrival, we entered the church. The building presents a blind portal, leaving space for the abbey's most precious jewel, a Parisot organ (1741). Sadly, due to restoration work its magnificence was hidden from us. Eustache Restout, a monk from a renowned family of artists, played a major role in the rebuilding and painted several works, including the great altarpiece depicting the Assumption in the north arm of the transept. Unusually, you will find the altar in the centre of the transept, as is the Premonstratensian tradition.

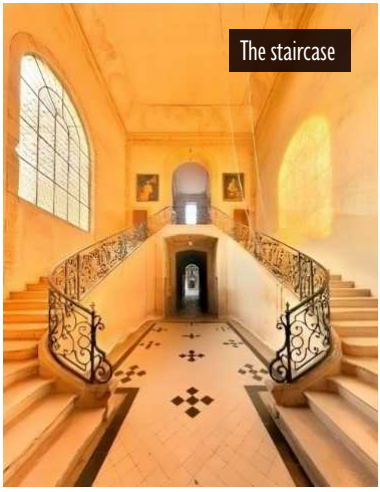
Leaving the church, we undertook a guided tour, delivered in French and led by a White Canon, a brother dressed in a traditional white robe. After the church and cloister, we entered a large room with wooden seating along three of the walls, where the monks assemble daily for prayer and meetings. Without decoration it is intentionally designed to avoid distraction and heighten concentration. From here we came to the Vestments room, this one framed with wooden cupboards and a set of exceedingly long drawers- in front of which, and short distance from, stood a metre-high post! We were unable to discern its function, but the brother

Refectory

suddenly pulled hard at one end of a drawer, and we watched as, semi-circular in shape and pivoting at the centre of its straight edge, the drawer opened noisily in a wide arc before the middle of the curved edge came to rest against the post. There, laid in the drawer, was a large, green and gold ceremonial robe which, if hung up, would certainly tear. Simply amazing!

The Abbaye

Coming then to the foot of a staircase (see picture), we ascended to the library. With over 50,000 books, the brother opened two large, leather-bound Bibles to display the craftmanship and brilliance of the engraved pictures and illuminated lettering inside. A medieval saying, he related, is that a monastery without a library is a fortress without armour. Lastly, we descended to the Refectory. Here, in a large colonnaded hall, bare and oft-scrubbed, wooden tables and benches are set out in two, long rows and where, to help maintain silence during mealtimes, brethren are seated off-set on either side of their table (Worth trying at home?).


The staircase

Finally, and most interesting, is the staircase, or rather a suspended rope tied to one of its banisters. Attached to an external bell, it calls all the monks to prayer early in the morning which, I am informed, is the source of the well-known French song: Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques / Dormez-vous? Dormez-vous? / Sonnez les matines! Sonnez les matines! / Ding, dang dong. Ding, dang, dong. Voila!

Roger and Julia Grant, Darryl and Annika Beckwith

Two Tuscan Churches

Members of our congregation may have noticed a procession (not quite) of members heading off to Tuscany (see Mike Hill's piece for two of them) this summer, perhaps to enjoy the heat and sunshine instead of the dull and rather wet fare we have been given closer to home. So (allora, as we fluent Italian speakers say) I thought that it would be useful if I described a couple of landmark churches from that region.

San Gimignano boasts a large collegiate church, known as the Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta, with a vast interior and dominated by the Chapel dedicated to St Fina. Situated at the top of the town, with beautiful views over the surrounding countryside. The church sits alongside the Town Hall, both of which are in the same style.

Inside there are two aspects of particular note: Old and New Testament frescoes and the St Fina Chapel. The frescoes adorn the whole of the two main walls, with Old Testament on the left facing the High Altar and the New Testament on the right. Each depicts biblical themes. The New Testament frescoes are magnificent, depicting the life of Christ from the Visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Crucifixion. (Wife, Jane, anxious to show off her extensive biblical knowledge to me, was roundly told off by a church steward, during our visit, for the noise of her explanations. No allowance for the hard of hearing…)

The Chapel dedicated to St Fina (Iosefina) is dedicated to a saint from the 13th century. St Iosefina was born into poverty and her childhood was modest and simple.

She is described as growing up to become a slender, elegant girl, with blonde hair and a perfect, oval shaped face. At the age of ten, she fell ill with a condition that left her bedridden and paralysed but proclaimed her faith to all who came to see her. Three months before her death, St Gregory the Great appeared to her to forewarn her of her coming demise. She died on the saint's Feast Day, the 12th March 1253, when the church bells of San Gimignano spontaneously rang out and gillyflowers, growing on the towers and walls of the town, spontaneously burst into bloom. They continue to bloom every year on her Feast Day. In her memory, a hospital was built in her memory and she was beatified after miracles occurred at her tomb.

The second town to be remembered is Volterra. We thought that Volterra was the better place to visit, even if less well known, and thus less full of tourists. The Basilica Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta is the mother church of the Diocese of Volterra, which is one of the oldest dioceses in Italy. Saint Linus, the immediate successor to St Paul and first pope, was born in the city and his disciples brought Christianity there. There

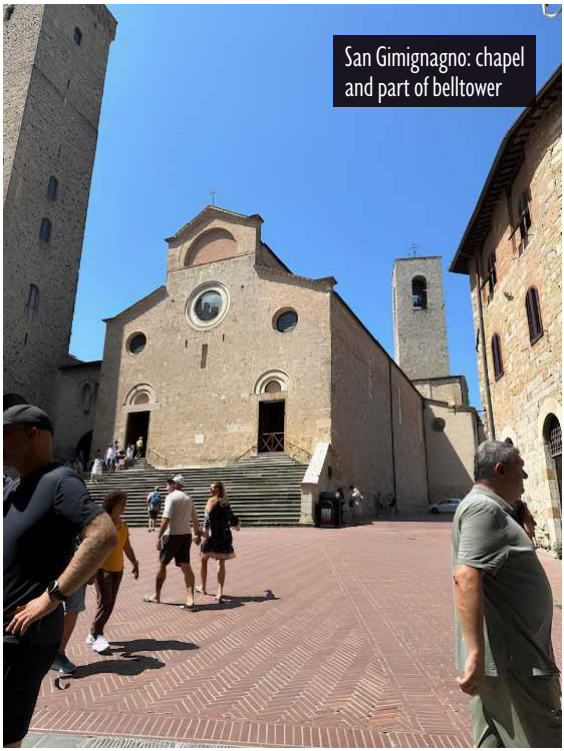
has been a Bishop of Volterra at least since the 5th century.

The Cathedral was consecrated in 1120, with a Latin cross design. The belltower is situated to one side and dates from 1493, replacing an earlier one. The Cathedral was built in a Pisan Romanesque design. The interior design is stunning, with purple faux marble pillars and a gold relief ceiling. The whole effect is unexpected and visually moving.

The town itself is situated on top of a hill, is walled and has commanding views of the countryside. The centre of the town is the Piazza San Giovanni which, with the Cathedral is the physical and sacred centre, with the Town Hall, Baptistry and former hospital collected together.

Italy in general and Tuscany in particular, has a plethora of churches which are exceptional in their beauty and surprising in their, sometimes, remote locations. Their histories are long and complicated, but it is possible just to stand back and admire the sheer beauty of the creations that previous generations have supplied. The faithful will find added experiences.

Christopher Tyrer



San Gimignagno: chapel and part of belltower

Volterra: cathedral showing spectacular ceiling

chosen.

Empowering women to walk free from sex trafficking

> ***Do not be overcome by evil,***
> ***but overcome evil with good.***
> *Romans 12:21*

In 2017 a group of people from various churches started to meet at Kings Church in High Wycombe to pray for women who were caught up in sex trafficking, especially those in the town. This led the church to establish a practical ministry to help these women, partnering with Azalea Luton, an established charity already supporting women affected by sex trafficking in their area.

In 2020 Azalea High Wycombe was launched, becoming an independent charity, under the guidance of Azalea Luton. A team of courageous volunteers began walking outreach, to meet with the women and try to get to know them. They took cake for the women and other gifts to keep them safe, warm, dry and hygienic.

In 2022, after much prayer, the team changed the name of the charity to Chosen. The women they serve are precious to God and the volunteers want to demonstrate His unwavering love to them.

Still based at King's Church, Chosen is a cross-church Christian charity. Volunteers continue their walking outreach every week, offering toiletries, socks, gloves, or other essentials, and lovingly baked, beautifully wrapped cakes. They offer to pray with the women they meet and also invite them back to Chosen's facility for a rest, a drink, a meal, a conversation, a shower if they would like. There is no pressure. Chosen also plans to open a mid-week Drop-In in early 2025.

They do not judge what the women do or how they live. They are willing to listen to them and offer emotional support. "You're the only people who treat us with dignity" was a comment from one of the women.

While Chosen wants to empower women to walk free from sex trafficking if they choose to, offering an alternative community within Chosen and the Church, there is no judgement if they choose not to.

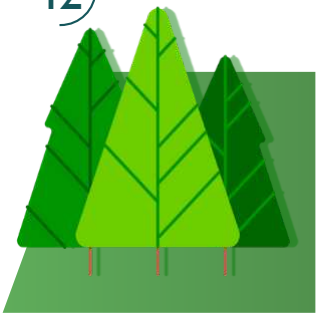
The charity works with other agencies and offers information to the women about where to find help with healthcare, homelessness or whatever problems they face.

Chosen is a young charity tackling a huge area of need and more volunteers are needed. While it is women who currently do the walking outreach, there are roles for men, too. One group of men meets very early in the morning once a month to prayer walk the Desborough area, for instance. Chosen will be running a training course in October for anyone who is interested in exploring the idea of becoming a volunteer.

Contact info@chosenhighwycombe.org. for more details.

Chosen's website chosenhighwycombe.org provides more information about the charity and on Sunday 27th October Richard Lodge, CEO of Chosen, will be speaking at both our morning services. Do come and learn more about this vital work.

Mission Support Group



Nature Quest

NQ Challenge

Admire the morning dew on the spiders' webs. Note the varied designs. Note what insects are caught for breakfast or wrapped up in silk for tomorrow. Can you find one where the spider is busy making or repairing its web? Or indeed wrapping its victim?

The editors will be amazed to receive this NQ page from me so early, but we're off to Italy in two days, and this needs to be completed before we leave! We're returning to the same place in Tuscany* where in past years we have seen many fireflies. Just after dusk for a couple of hours. A wonderful magical sight. Perhaps a hundred of them, visible only by soft flashes of light from their abdomen. And yet at other times there have been none. That all adds to the delight when we do see them.

There are some 2,500 species of firefly and not all of them glow in the dark! However, they do all glow as larvae, known as glow-worms. In UK none of our fireflies glow in flight. We have to make do with glow-worms that are wingless fireflies. But even those are very special and fairly uncommon. Friends in Jersey took us and our children out one night along the hedgerows to find glow-worms: an exciting and successful adventure! What about here in Bucks? Chalky grasslands like Chinnor Hill are said to harbour glow-worms. I've never seen any locally, but maybe you have?

Fireflies glow to attract mates and also to encourage predators to associate their light with a nasty-tasting meal. Fireflies produce a chemical called luciferin, which reacts with oxygen, giving out the greenish light. One cunning "femme fatale" variety of firefly photuris mimics the flash sequence of another smaller variety photinus, to lure those males to a fatal encounter!

This nocturnal frog and the mushroom it sits on are both naturally luminous. The frog's blue eyes are caused by biofluorescence: a chemical surface that absorbs light at one

* *Perhaps Mike and Gwen will visit the churches described earlier? (Eds)*

wavelength and re-emits it at another. By contrast, the mushroom's green glow is generated by a chemical reaction like the fireflies (bioluminescence).

Fluorescence is a widespread phenomenon, often using ultraviolet light (UV), which is invisible to human eye, to produce visible light. Certain washing powders incorporate fluorescent additives and use the UV in sunlight to make white clothing even whiter than white. Some dance halls would turn off the lights and use UV only, causing such white clothing to glow and maybe whitened teeth also! Many things fluoresce: ripe bananas, the quinine in tonic water, some currency notes, vitamins thiamine, niacin, and riboflavin , for example.

Some species of scorpion glow when exposed to ultraviolet light, like this emperor scorpion which is normally dark brown or black. Some jellyfish would fluoresce in UV, but deep in the dark sea they bioluminesce.

Completely different are the eyes of deer in car headlights. There's no UV and no chemical reaction. They merely reflect the headlight, but so efficiently! We see those bright eyes long before we see the rest of the animal. Yet the eyes of somebody foolishly walking along our country lanes at night are definitely not visible. Why?

Some animals' eyes have a tapetum lucidum (Latin for "shining layer"): essentially a mirror layer behind the fairly transparent retina at the back of the eyeball. When light comes into the eye it is supposed to hit photoreceptors in the retina, sending a signal to the brain. If it doesn't, the tapetum lucidum reflects the light back through the retina for another chance, making the animal twice as sensitive to the meagre night-time light. But much of the reflected light passing back through the retina goes out of the eye and back to the car driver.

Mostly nocturnal animals have a tapetum lucidum. We humans don't, and so we are unseen in headlights.

Some of these light and sight effects have obvious purpose and some we might guess at but others are mysterious and just wonderful. What a great Creation! What great creatures! What a great Creator!

Mike Hill
nature@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

‘The Lord is Good!’

‘As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease’ *Genesis 8:22*

Yet again the season of plenty is on us. I know it’s masked by these days by the constant availability of food from around the world but you only have to check fruit trees and bushes to see harvest in full swing with farmers reaping late cereals and allotment holders picking and unearthing their crops, The Lord’s provision being gathered in. Of course it hasn’t been plain sailing to reach this point, as usual success alongside failure, heavy crops here, total dearth there. Let’s face it, if we enjoy eating something you can bet there’s a queue of creatures longing to join in. From rabbits, deer and pigeons to mites, thrips, beetles and flies. We don’t have locusts with us - yet (who knows what global warming may bring) but have you ever seen broad beans covered in blackfly or asparagus stripped to a skeleton by beetles? Sometimes it seems every crop has its enthusiastic pests.

So, the Lord God uses irony to show us the incredible, unfathomable truth of His love for us, of His determination to save His people and creation from destruction by using a pest for illustration.

Psalm 22:6 prophesies that Jesus will say But I am a worm and no man. The word used here is tola’ath used for a specific pest of the kermes oak, not the general non-specific rimmich used by the Hebrews for most maggots, worms or non-flying insects.

Bear with me whilst I explain.

The oak family contains around 300 species worldwide, two of which are mediterranean in distribution and interest us. They are both evergreen, tough individuals - holm oak quercus ilex (holm is Old English for holly, so holly leaved oak) and kermes oak. How do you identify an oak from any other group of trees? They fruit with acorns! So, if you bear acorns you’re an oak!

Kermes oak - quercus coccifera - has very spiny leaves and is widespread in harsh semi-desert conditions where it is often browsed by herbivores into shrub-like shapes hugging the ground.

It grows alongside holm oak although it is less fussy about its growing conditions.

Our oak quercus robur is reckoned to support around 300 or more species of creatures, the kermes oak is a similar host to various life forms, one of which is, surprise surprise, the kermes worm,

cocina kermes. This is a sap sucking soft bodied scale insect that cannot move in most of its forms so produces a hard shell from self-produced liquid for protection. The stationary insects are female (the short-lived males are winged and die after mating), when ready to reproduce they lay eggs under their bodies against the tree. When the larvae hatch they feed on her body. This releases a stream of scarlet liquid which soaks the larvae and stains the tree. She dies and three to four days later her body turns white and falls to the ground.

So there we have it, a 'pest' that illustrates the kernel of the gospel to perfection. Self sacrifice to the point of being consumed, life poured out in a crimson stain that turns white in three days (Isaiah 1:18).The kermes worm has been used to form a dye since prehistoric times and was in universal use in biblical days, therefore the first readers of scripture would know all about kermes worms although a mystery to 21st century north Europeans like us.

By the way our modern words carmine and crimson are reckoned to have roots in the arabic qirmiz (kermes).

Environmentalists argue, arrogantly methinks, that creatures such as the kermes worm add nothing to the community of life around us. I would argue that this worm is a God given biological prophecy, a signpost pointing to Jesus and showing how He would bring salvation to His children.

You may argue or discuss what a writer or prophet means, puzzle over translations or ancient scrolls but there's no argument about how a lowly, insignificant 'pest' lives its life as generation after generation remind us of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus and how the repercussions of His life and death run through history like a crimson flood, there for anyone to wash themselves in and so become as white as snow!

We'd better keep an eye on our 'pests', who knows what the Lord wants to show us.

Mike Bevan

Footnote from the Editors

Israeli researchers have confirmed that a 3,800-year-old scarlet-red textile found in the Judean Desert in 2016 was dyed using a tiny insect referred to throughout ancient sources, according to an article published in the Journal of Archaeological Science. (reported July 2024)

Holy Day in October

6th October - William Tyndale, Bible translator and Reformation martyr

This month is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, and so a good time to pay tribute to an outstanding English scholar, translator and martyr of the Reformation.

William Tyndale (c. 1494 - 6th October 1536) was born near Gloucester, and studied at Oxford and Cambridge. He could speak seven languages, and was proficient in ancient Hebrew and Greek. As a priest, his abilities would have taken him a long way, but by 1523 Tyndale's only desire was to translate the Bible, so that English men and women could read it for themselves. It became his life's passion.

For Tyndale had rediscovered a vital doctrine that the Church had been ignoring: that of justification by faith. He had found it when reading Erasmus's Greek edition of the New Testament. In fact, his life's work was well summed up in some words of his mentor, Erasmus: "Christ desires His mysteries to be published abroad as widely as possible. I would that (the Gospels and the epistles of Paul) were translated into all languages, of all Christian people, and that they might be read and known."

Tyndale's translation was the first Bible to be published in English, the first to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press.

It was to cost him his life. For Tyndale's work was seen as a direct challenge to the power of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of England in maintaining the Church's position.

When the authorities had tried to stop his translation, Tyndale fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg, Cologne, and finally to the Lutheran city of Worms. It was there, in 1525, his New Testament emerged. It was quickly smuggled into England, and King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, were furious.

Tyndale moved on to Antwerp, where for nine more years he continued his work. Then in May 1535 he was betrayed, arrested, and jailed in a castle near Brussels. Tied to the stake for strangulation and burning, his dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened. Sure enough, two years later King Henry authorised the Great Bible for the Church of England, which relied largely on Tyndale's work.

Not only that, but in 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew very heavily from Tyndale. Even today we honour him: in 2002, Tyndale was placed at number 26 in the BBC's poll of 100 Greatest Britons.

From The Parish Pump

Floodlighting

If you would like to celebrate a birth or anniversary or remember a loved one by floodlighting the church, please contact the Parish Office - office@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

BOOK-ENDS

A Gentleman in Moscow - Amor Towles

Two people at church talked glowingly about this book, so obviously it was a 'must read.'

The first paragraph, to my surprise, transported me back over 50 years to when I was standing in Red Square in Moscow. This was Cold War, iron curtain time but although this was a school expedition I had been taught virtually nothing about communism. My strong memory, as I took in the colourful onion topped towers of St Basil's Cathedral and the soldiers marching in front of Lenin's tomb ready to change the guard, is of the Seagull cars, huge shiny black limousines, racing across Red Square towards the Kremlin, horns blowing, lights flashing, and of the drab, shabbily dressed people quickly scattering out of the way. I remember thinking: communism is supposed to be about equality, isn't it? I don't see much of that here. I'm not sure if by then I had read Animal Farm. (I also remember being annoyed that we were taken to the State Circus when the Bolshoi Ballet had originally been promised.)

So here we are looking out onto Red Square from the Hotel Metropole. Still a hotel to this day, it was built in Art Nouveau style at the beginning of the 20th century. There has long been a tradition for those rich enough, to live in luxurious hotel suites and there has also long been a tradition for several countries including Russia to use house arrest as a punishment. Our protagonist, the fictional (but very convincing) Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, is charged as a social parasite and a born aristocrat before a Bolshevik tribunal in the Kremlin. He is wrongly believed to be the writer of a pro-revolutionary poem, and this mistake saves his life. The high-ranking official decides on a whim that it would be amusing to sentence him to house arrest for life in the Hotel Metropole. Rostov knows he is fortunate to have avoided being summarily executed against a pock marked and bloodied wall.

Thus, the stage is set. Rostov is moved from his spacious and beautifully furnished suite to a chilly, sparse attic. Here the author begins to show us the character of

Alexander Ilyich, and it is most endearing. He demonstrates how much small things can be powerful and make a huge difference to one's life. A rug found in the basement, some wine glasses purloined from his own confiscated belongings, a friendly bird on his windowsill. All these offer a taste of civilisation and delight and are balm for his battered soul. As the hotel is now his whole world, he gradually becomes familiar with every set of backstairs, every service lift, the closets, attics, basements. And, he has companions in this exploration who also enrich his day-to-day life. He knows the kitchens intimately, each and every member of the working staff and the (still) rich and privileged diners who enjoy oysters, veal and champagne while the ordinary citizens starve.

While this writing is elegant, charming and gently comedic, it is, just like a mille-feuille taken with cucumber sandwiches and China tea, a many layered story. The top layer, like icing, is heavily loaded with sugar. Underneath, not so. Lenin ruled in Russia through the 1917 Revolution until his death in 1924 when Stalin took over, in place as head of state until 1953. This is very much the period covered in this fascinating novel. Agricultural collectivisation, and industrialisation that happened inefficiently and too quickly for the country's infrastructure to cope, resulted in famine through much of the vast country. The people dining in style night after night in the Hotel Metropole knew about this but they also knew that if they spoke out in any critical fashion, at best they would be sent to hard labour camps in the gulags, or worse, it would be them up against the bloodied Kremlin wall. It is rather depressing to see this situation repeat itself throughout history. Think of present day happenings in Russia: consider the fate of Alexei Navalny just earlier this year and indeed other opponents of the Russian government who have lost their lives even if living 'safely' in England. Brutal is not really a strong enough word for the callous actions of Stalin towards his own people during his reign of power. Some would say the same of Putin today.

Returning to Alexander Rostov in his own microcosm, one of the many parts that made me smile involved a Narnia like episode. He has a wardrobe that he finds has a hollow sounding back to it. Applying a little force, the back gives way and he finds himself in another connecting room. Space, hidden space, his very own. I can imagine the delight and then the fun in furnishing it, mainly with his own possessions again. It is his study; his library and only trusted friends are invited to push their way through the coats.

The whole business of the hotel being a world in itself brought to mind the film 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' written by Wes Anderson. It is a powerful device for any writer to create a complete world but also a salutary lesson to us all that we cannot stand totally alone. We will always be affected by the wider world. 'No man is an island,' said John Donne.

Pleasingly there is a television series of this book. It is on Apple TV and stars Ewan McGregor as Alexander Rostov. Unusually it is exactly as I imagine it to be and the script sticks very, very closely to the book. Do read … and maybe watch!

Susan Brice

October Recipe

This one-pan supper is full of warming flavours and autumn comfort food at its finest! I recently made this when we had some friends for dinner and they thought it was delicious. The cheesy scone topping on the base of creamy chicken makes a lovely autumn centrepiece.

It is a flexible recipe, in that you can use Cheddar as an alternative to Wensleydale and could even use it as a pie filling with pastry instead of the cobbler. Always make sure there is enough stock as the cobbler will absorb some of the liquid. Someone recently asked my husband if it was his wife that did the recipes, when he replied yes she told him that she had done quite a number of them and all worked so well that her friends now say she is a brilliant cook! Thank you who ever that was and keep cooking!

Julia Grant

Chicken and Mushroom Cobbler

INGREDIENTS

200g pack of brown mushrooms

150g pack of Shitake mushrooms

2 tbsp olive oil

30g unsalted butter

1 large onion

3 cloves of garlic

500g chicken thigh fillets (cut in strips)

30g plain flour

250ml chicken stock

75g crème fraiche

1tbsp whole grain mustard

10g pack of tarragon leaves (optional)

Cobbler topping

225g self-raising flour

1 tsp baking powder

115g cold unsalted butter, cubed

60g Wensleydale cheese grated (or cheddar)

3 tbsp milk

1 egg beaten

METHOD

1. *Halve any larger mushrooms and then heat 1 tbsp. olive oil in a large sauté pan and lightly brown half the mushrooms, then repeat with the other half. Set aside on a plate.*
2. *Melt the butter in the same pan and gently cook the onion with a pinch of salt until soft about 5-6 minutes, add the garlic in the final two minutes.*
3. *Increase the heat and add the seasoned chicken and fry until golden. Stir in the flour and cook for 2 minutes then gradually add the stock until combined. Simmer gently for 10 minutes uncovered until the chicken is cooked through.*
4. *Stir in the mushrooms, crème fraiche, mustard and tarragon. Season if needed and transfer to an ovenproof dish (about 1.4 litres). Set aside to cool for at least 30 mins.*
5. *Cobbler topping: mix the flour, baking powder and salt and some black pepper. Rub the butter in with your fingertips until it looks like fine breadcrumbs, and then stir in the cheese.*
6. *Add the milk and bring together with your hands to make a soft dough. Briefly knead then roll out on a floured surface to about 1.5 cm thick. Cut into 8 rounds with a 6cm biscuit cutter.*
7. *Top the chicken filling with the rounds of dough. Brush the dough with beaten egg and put the dish on a baking tray. Bake for 25-30 mins at 200c, gas mark 6 until the filling is bubbling and the top puffed and golden.*

Have you ever visited …

The Dashwood Mausoleum?

There will be few who have not visited West Wycombe, the Hell Fire caves, or the Dashwood Mausoleum, or St Lawrence, West Wycombe before it was closed to the public because necessary repairs could not be afforded, or the House itself or the many interesting shops, cafes and restaurants that abound. But what of the history and stories that surround: are they true, wholly or in part or has commercialism added to the texture?

So far as the House is concerned, there are the attractions of snowdrops, daffodils and crocus to entice the eager to see the harbingers of Spring in their abundance. Occasionally there is access to the House itself. But what about the Mausoleum?

It stands, clearly visible from the Pedestal Roundabout and the confluence of the A40 and the A4010, at the top of West Wycombe Hill, next to and slightly below the church dedicated to St Lawrence. The original 14th century church had the golden ball added in 1752 and was inspired by the Customs House in Venice after the then Sir Francis visited in 1730.

The Mausoleum is unique but was not a Dashwood creation. In 1762, one Lord Melcombe Regis, a close friend of the then Sir Francis died. He left the sum of £500 to build "an arch, temple, column or additional room" to whichever seat, out of a group, would be likely to last the longest. It was built at West Wycombe and cost £495, three shillings and sixpence.

The final design consisted of a hexagonal open structure, with massive flint encrusted walls which still stand today. On the roof are huge vases made of Coade stone, which is particularly durable. It is, in effect, a large burial chamber. It is dedicated to Lord Melcombe Regis. In the centre is a cenotaph dedicated to Lady Sarah Dashwood, the second baronet Sir Francis' wife, who died in 1769.

What is described as the finest monument is at the back and dates from the early 1700s and is dedicated to the second and third wives of the first baronet Sir Francis, being Mary Fane 1675-1710 and Mary King 1684-1719.

The present baronet, is the 13th, having succeeded his father in 2000. The baronetcy is said to the premier baronetcy of Great Britain.

More of the other attractions next month …

Christopher Tyrer

The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough

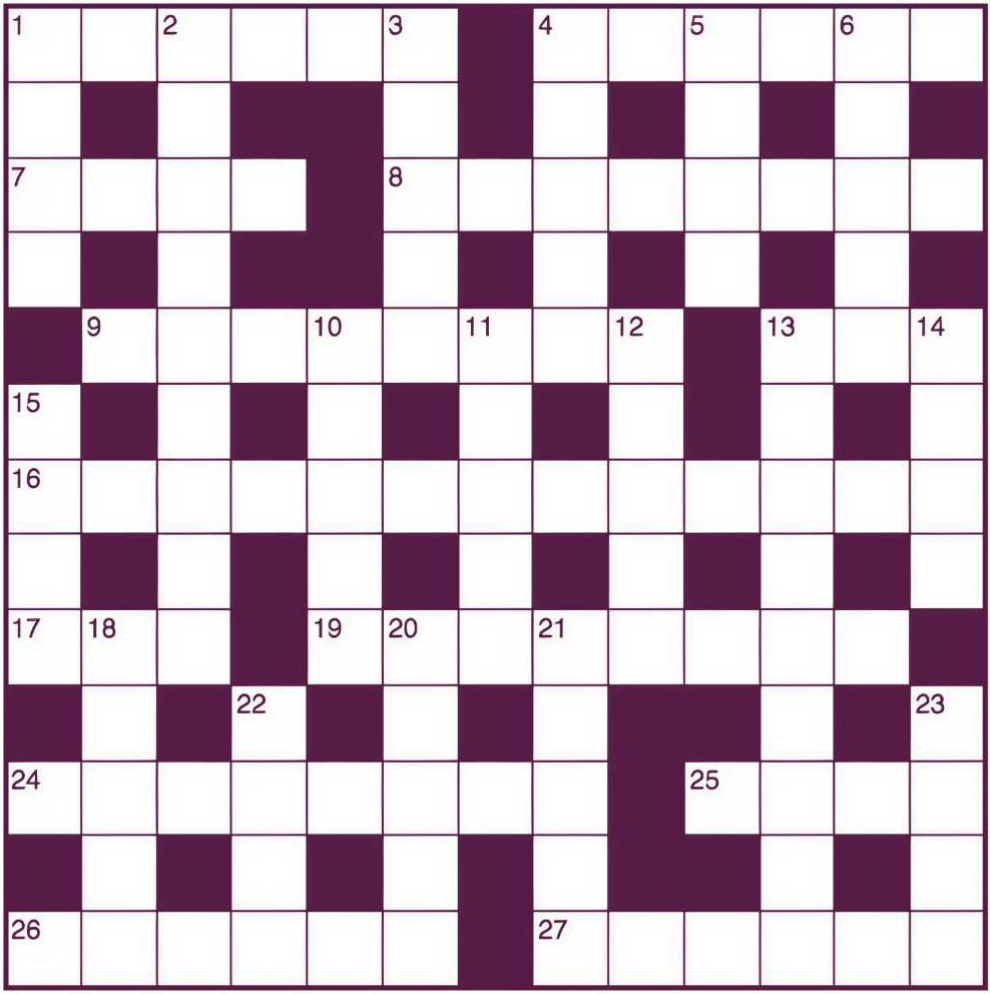
Our Club was formed in 1981 and currently has 59 members, male and female, ranging from 40 to 80 years old. Of these, 7 have joined in the past year. It is a vibrant organisation which meets on Mondays at the Whiteleaf Golf Club for enjoyable and lighthearted evenings, which include a meal and entertainment in a friendly and fun atmosphere which helps build strong relationships - a crucial part of our club's identity. For example we have been twinned with a club in the beautiful town of Wasserburg, Bavaria, for over 40 years and we meet every 18 months alternately here and in Germany. It was our turn to host in September, and we had a great weekend together with 15 German guests. The visit included a guided tour of Oxford and an outstanding dinner for 55.

An important objective of Rotary is to support local, national and international organisations. To this end we run various events to raise money. Over the past few years we have raised over £30,000 annually, the majority of which is donated to local charities and organisations. To raise such amounts requires considerable effort and we try to be both creative and engaging in all we do. During September we supported the Town's Farmers' Market – publicising a "Hearing Information Day" which was aimed at helping families struggling with the challenges of hearing loss (this included one of us dressed as a large "Hearing Dog"). Many of us were also heavily involved in supporting the Kop Hill Climb, which over the past 12 years has raised over £1,000,000 for charity.

If you would like to be part of this and might consider joining us, visit our website and perhaps come to one of our meetings to see if it might interest you. Also, if you know of causes that would benefit from our support, or you would like to donate to our Charity Account, please use the contact details below.

You can contact us at: rcpr.org.uk or call David White on 07787 750889, or email: david@dhwhite.plus.com

Crossword



Answers on page 17

Across

1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)

4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)

7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)

8 See 19 Across

9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)

13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)

16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)

19 and **8** ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)

24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)

25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)

26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)

27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)

2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)

4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)

5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)

6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)

10 Ruses (anag.) (5)

11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)

12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)

13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)

14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)

15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)

18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)

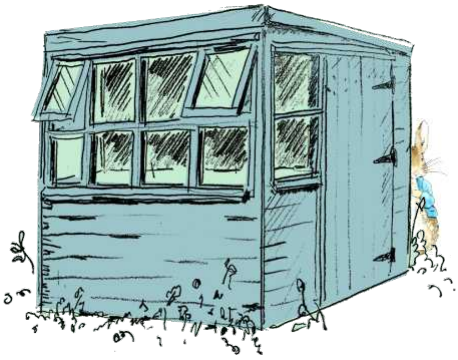
20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)

21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)

22 Bats (anag.) (4)

23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

From the **Potting Shed**



Dear friends,

'Pumpkin time' said Ruby, busy planning the end of the month right at the beginning. As autumn half term nearly always coincides with Halloween, I understand why she is already looking forward to her family trip to the pumpkin fields. Choose your own, go to a pumpkin carving workshop, have a ride in a tractor trailer, sip a pumpkin latte (whatever that maybe) and of course exit through the gift shop. Last year she proudly presented me with a pumpkin key ring, bought with her pocket money. Very sweet.

Trying to get involved, I have several times made pumpkin pie and offered it at family gatherings. Truth be told I don't really like it. It's bland however much nutmeg I add. Soup though is another matter. Pumpkin soup or butternut squash soup are both savoury and tasty, have that lovely orange, autumnal glow and can of course be made in bulk if you have a glut and will keep well in the freezer.

I read recently that pumpkins are a problem each autumn as people only want them for a week or so and then put them in landfill rubbish. Please don't. If you really don't want to cook with them then cut them open and leave them at the bottom of the garden for wildlife to feast upon.

Take care my dears, yours,

Cecily MacGregor

Jobs for October

1. I remember buying wallflower plants from the greengrocers. They were in rather messy bundles wrapped in newspaper. You never knew what colour they would be! Now it's all different; pots and labels etc etc. Still, however they come, now is the time to enjoy buying and planting some wallflowers.

2. Have fun potting up some hanging baskets to make you smile through the winter.

3. Heathers are useful but I prefer pansies and maybe a skimmia. Little daffodils work well, as long as you don't have snacking squirrels who plunder your containers.

4. Remember to raise pots off the ground so that they can drain and also to protect them from ground frosts.

5. Try not to be too tidy in the garden this winter. Old MacGregor still finds this difficult; 'everything in its place and a place for everything' was how he was brought up. I've got used to leaving seed heads, and Ruby likes making winter hedgehog homes with fallen leaves and bits and pieces from around the garden.

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

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

November

2	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast: Church House
3	3.00 pm	**Annual Memorial Service**: Church
5	2.00 pm	Mothers Union Meeting: Church House
6	1.00 pm	Knit and Natter: 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

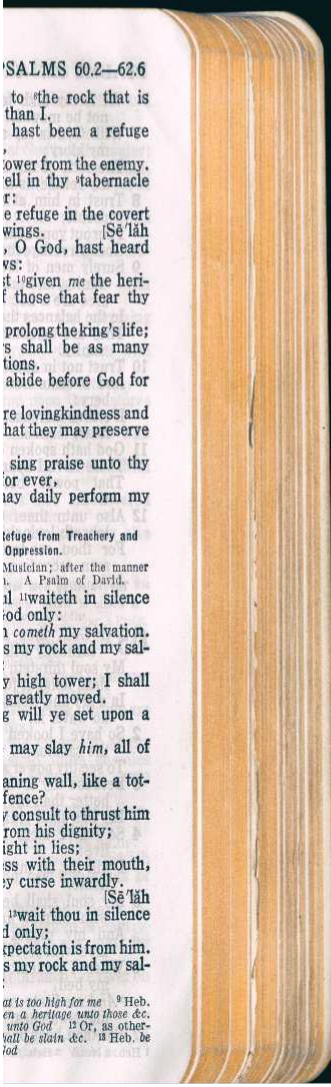
Friendship Morning

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 Helen Peters on **01494 716772.**

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**

October Lectionary



6th: Harvest Festival

Joel 2: 21-27

1 Timothy 6: 6-10

Matthew 6: 25-33

Evensong: Psalms 125 & 126

Joshua 3: 7-end

Matthew 10: 1-22

13th: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Amos 5: 6-7 & 10-15

Hebrews 4: 12-16

Mark 10: 17-31

Psalm at 9.00 am: 90

Evensong: Psalm 127

Joshua 5:13 – 6:20

Matthew 11: 20-end

20th: Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 53: 4-12

Hebrews 5: 1-10

Mark 10: 35-45

Evensong: Psalm 141

Joshua 14: 6-14

Matthew 12: 1-21

27th: Last Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 31: 7-9

Hebrews 7: 23-end

Mark 10: 46-end

Psalm at 9.00 am: 126

Evensong: Psalms 124 & 125

Deuteronomy 32: 1-4

John 14: 15-26

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: Ben Brice

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	Crèche Rota	Agnes Dodwell	07958 568538
PCC Secretary	Susan Brice	445899	Social & Outreach	Antony Rippon	07747 643270
PCC Treasurer	Brian Morley	528633	Mothers' Union Parish Link	Louise Stallwood	712705
Organist & Choirmaster	Neil Brice	445899	Hughenden Village Hall	–	07815 163269
Servers	Andrew Cole	305020	Friendship Morning	Helen Peters	716772
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.

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk