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

outLook

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

INSIDE: ***The Children's Society*** | Arthur Johnson | **The Hellfire Caves**

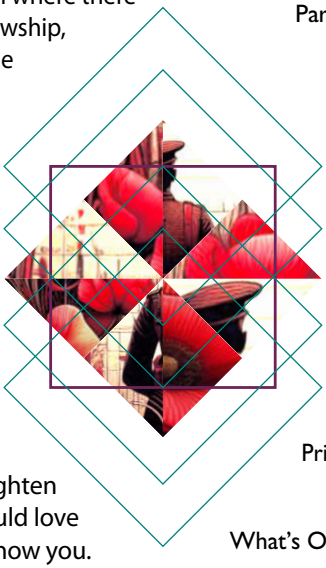
Welcome to **Your Church**

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

As I write, the autumn colours are stunning in the beautiful sunshine, something we don't seem to have had much of lately. Today saw the first real frost of the season with white lawns sparkling and crisp and windscreens being scraped.

November - the month of Remembrance. We recently visited the Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge in Kent, an extremely interesting and fascinating collection of memorabilia including tanks, aircraft, uniforms, flight logs, etc, from World War II. I was transported down the years by the sight of a Morrison shelter, identical to the one in which I spent many nights of the war, together with my two younger brothers and my mother, sheltering from air raids. My father, who was in the Army, was away for most of the time.

We also visited the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel le Ferne, on the beautifully presented site on the cliffs just above Folkestone. What a moving and evocative memorial that is. The sculpture of a young airman sits with his arms around his knees, looking out to sea, as he awaits the return of his comrades from sorties across the Channel. On a nearby wall are inscribed the names of 'The Few', all those aircrew known to have flown at least one sortie with an accredited squadron or unit of the Royal Air Force during the Battle of Britain in 1940, including those who survived the war and some who lived to old age. If you haven't been there, I highly recommend it.

Back to the present, the Act of Remembrance will, as usual, be held at St Michael & All Angels at 10.45 am on 10th November, when the names of The Fallen from this parish will be read out and the two-minute silence observed. It is a very moving occasion.

Sylvia Clark
Editor

from the Vicarage

Keith Johnson

Vicar

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

In this edition of Outlook magazine, we are paying tribute to someone who has been part of our Church family since 1978, and who recently retired from his position as Hughenden Church Parish Clerk & Verger – Arthur Johnson. We share a surname, but are not related, so far as we know!

I have really appreciated the dedication and reliability of Arthur in the eight years I have been at Hughenden and it has taken a significant period of adjustment since he stepped down from his role.

We will be celebrating the past 46 years of Arthur's time amongst us at a special service of Evensong, at which Arthur will be present, on Sunday 10th November at 6.00 pm, followed by a retirement party. If you would like to join us in person, please email me to let me know: keiththevicar@gmail.com

In recent months I have been reflecting upon many different people who have had an impact upon my life over the years – often at key moments. The wise words and listening hearts of those who gave me time, those who encouraged me, especially during the more difficult times – they all played a part in the paths in life which I have taken.

We should always be wise in our choice of close friends. You don't share your life story with the stranger at the bus stop, but equally, if you are never able to be vulnerable and honest with anyone, then the hard times can seem even harder to endure.

I thank God for all those who make up the church family at Hughenden, some of whom

we see most Sundays and those we might only see occasionally. We have a wide range of ages, personalities and gifts amongst us and I have often found myself warmed by the sense of community which is present.

There was much emphasis put on being a good neighbour during lockdown. We should never lose this. Many in our community live alone, or struggle to do their daily chores like shopping and visiting the doctor.

As the nights draw in, the autumn colours fill our surroundings and we start thinking about Advent and Christmas, let us always have time to be a good friend to someone. Our conversation might be brief and appear insignificant to them, but you never know it might make their day.

The Children's Society

The Children's Society is a charity that works to support young people through serious challenges like poverty, abuse, exploitation and mental health problems. By providing therapy, advice and information it keeps children safe and makes sure they always have somewhere to turn to for help. The Society also campaigns for big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most.

A Brief History

The Children's Society has dedicated more than 100 years to protecting the hopes of children threatened by abuse, exploitation, and neglect. In 1899 Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday School teacher and a civil servant in London, saw the effects of poverty on children and decided to dedicate his life to improving the lives of such children. Believing workhouses were not a good environment for children to grow up in, he wanted to ensure they had a loving and secure family environment. Backed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, he set up small Church of England children's homes.

Over the years the Society's work has changed to react to changes in society. For instance, from the 1920s to 1950s, residential nurseries were established around the country to cater for the increasing numbers of young children in care. Also, during World War II Jewish children escaping from Germany and Czechoslovakia were housed. Then, in 1969 the first day care centre was opened for single parent families and those affected by illness, stress or serious poverty.

As times changed children's homes were closed and the focus moved to helping young people solve their own problems. So, in 1981, the Society's centenary, 12 new family centres were opened, along with toy libraries and soft play centres.

In 1992 the society began working for social justice campaigning to change laws on health care, social security, education and social work. As part of the Make Runaways Safe Campaign in 2000, to protect the 100,000 young people who ran away each year, more than 40 local authorities committed to making changes to protect young people. In 2012 the Fair and Square Campaign helped to establish free school meals to all children living in poverty. Then, in 2015 the Behind Cold Doors report encouraged government to standardise eligibility criteria for the Warm Home Discount.

Kirsty's Story

To protect her identity, the name has been changed and the photo is posed by an actor.

Kirsty was sexually abused at a young age. Unable to talk about what happened, she would self-harm as a way of coping, even surviving an overdose. As a teenager Kirsty loved chatting with her friends on social media. Sometimes boys would message her and ask for pictures – but she did not know that many of the 'boys' chatting to her were adults who were sex offenders. They were trying to groom children and persuade them to meet up. Thankfully one of Kirsty's teachers found out and referred Kirsty to a support service at The Children's Society.

The project worker was there to help Kirsty process what she had been through, and they worked together to ensure her horrific experiences could no longer harm her or her future goals. Kirsty felt she had no hope, but she was helped to understand her worth. Kirsty is now a positive and happy young person who feels in control of her life and is looking forward to going to university. She wants to study law so that she can keep other people safe.

The Children's Society has helped transform the lives of many young people across the country, children like Kirsty.

Today

The Children's Society wants a civil society built for all children. In the years to come, it is determined to make sure that a generation of children have a better childhood. Today it supports young people through serious life challenges. It works with young people who have suffered years of abuse, or who have run away from home, or who are struggling with mental health issues. It looks out for "young carers", as well as for those at risk of being groomed by criminal groups, and it helps refugee children who have no one else to turn to in this country.

Support

The change the Children's Society envisages is only possible thanks to the kindness of supporters. Our church has supported the Society for many years, with donations, and many church members have also had the charity's collection boxes at home. If you would like to have a collection box in your home or workplace, these are available (please speak to Louise Stallwood - 01494 712705). You can, of course, support the Children's Society directly with one-off or regular donations: please see the website for this and for more information **childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate**

Mission Support Group

The war office with Churchill

From a true story, an American soldier escaping in a hay cart. It was stopped by German Soldiers but he wasn't found.

The Longest Yarn

– a thread through history

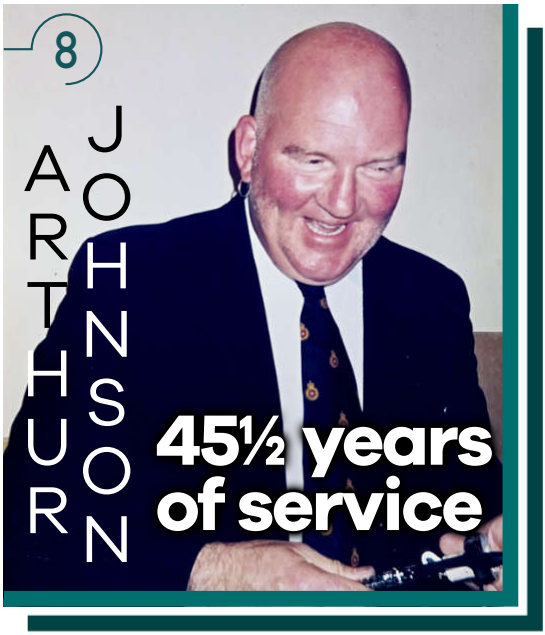
Looking forward to a lovely long weekend in France with Darryl and Annika, we set off early to catch the ferry from Poole to Cherbourg, France. Arriving at lunchtime we began our journey south. En route we visited Carentan-les-Marais; Annika had seen an advert for an unusual D-day display in the Cathedral there. Intrigued, we thought it worth a visit and found something exceptionally unique!

The Longest Yarn is a 3D depiction of that historic day, 6th June 1944, in wool art. Created to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the landings and the 80 days it took allied forces to reach Paris, the art is presented in eighty identical, one-metre-long, glass cabinets. Each scene (cabinet) is based on a real event and with the aid of military historians, is accurate in its detail. The whole display was knitted and crocheted by 180 women from around the world and depicts events, including the build up to D-day in England, the horrors on the landing beaches, and the hard-fought inland battle for Normandy and beyond.

Taken from photographs, some scenes depict actual WW2 veterans that were in the war theatre and, it is reported, one local French lady visiting the Cathedral, recognised herself as a young girl welcoming her liberators. In another cabinet, Piper Millin is portrayed on Sword beach, piping his fellow soldiers off their landing craft. Remarkably, the wool used to knit his figure was donated by his son, unravelled from one of his father's favourite jumpers.

The artwork was on display in September at Southwell Cathedral in Nottingham and then on tour at different venues throughout the UK until April. If you are lucky enough it is certainly worth a visit. Details can be found on the website **thelongestyarn.com**, where you can also see photographs of many of the fascinating scenes. Extraordinary!

Julia Grant



The year was 1978 and Arthur arrived at Church Cottage as he began his new position as Bursar of Challoners Grammar School in Amersham. In the beginning the verger job was very part time but, as often happens when you are happy in your work, Arthur gradually made his role larger and larger, singing in the choir, being sacristan, leading Evensong, being responsible for the official registering of births, deaths and marriages, and after retirement from Challoners, playing an important role in weekday funerals.

And then of course there was the catering. Arthur was particularly fond of the festivals of the C of E: Ascension, Lady Day, Candlemas, Corpus Christi and others. As well as ensuring that there would be evening services to properly celebrate, there would then be supper served afterwards. This fascinated me as there would be a simple open invitation to eat in the Church house after the service and Arthur never really knew how many people would be there. Somehow there was always enough. Real loaves and fishes stuff.

On other occasions the set up would be more formal, often dinners or lunches for 40, seated in Church House. Usually these were to raise money for the Church Furnishing Fund, about which he was passionate. This seems like a daunting undertaking now but even more so years ago when the Church Cottage kitchen was minuscule and the kitchen in Church House would also be utilised. One sat in Church House and watched through the windows as boys from Arthur's Good Food Society followed his (sometimes shouted) instructions and brought saucepans and dishes from one kitchen to the other, on the path outside!

There were breakfasts too, following early communion. I remember devilled kidneys. And then Arthur became vegan and the devilled kidneys were no more. Not so radical now, but a few decades ago veganism had to be explained again and again to bemused diners who had hoped that at least eggs might be available for breakfast.

Over the years there were some spectacular birthday parties (sometimes celebrating the birthday of the current cat. I certainly remember Oriana being feted) where we sang elaborate services of Evensong and were invited to eat and drink, sometimes to excess. I also remember extravagant fancy dress parties with pieces of poetry being read,

various musical items performed, particularly a rendering of 'The Silver Swan' of which Arthur was extremely fond.

A moment of fame came during the time of Simon being vicar. He and Arthur were recruited to don their robes and be a part of the film Johnny English, starring Rowan Atkinson. There was Arthur's bald head leading a procession up the path, forever captured on film. A few days activity resulting, as usual, in a few seconds of film. Arthur enjoyed himself and had fun meeting the film crew.

One part of the job that Arthur liked was cleaning the church brass and silverware. I will always have a memory of him sitting in the North Room, surrounded by candlesticks and chalices, listening to Radio 3, particularly Choral Evensong on a Wednesday afternoon, and happy to chat to anyone who may be around.

However, Arthur was not always happy and smiley. He sometimes was brusque and acerbic. This could be particularly useful when at weddings a photographer behaved as if he owned the church.

Arthur would firmly and strongly tell him what was OK and what was not. I don't remember any photographer or video person ever challenging him!

Music was a passion of Arthur's but the parameters were quite narrow. He didn't enjoy singing some of the 'modern' hymns and songs from Mission Praise and would fight hard to keep to the exact metre and rhythm, it didn't matter how many times Neil advised him to relax and go with the flow. It became a joke to talk to him about the hymn 'Majesty' and sometimes he would sigh when we sang Elton John at a wedding … And as for Andrew Lloyd Webber … !

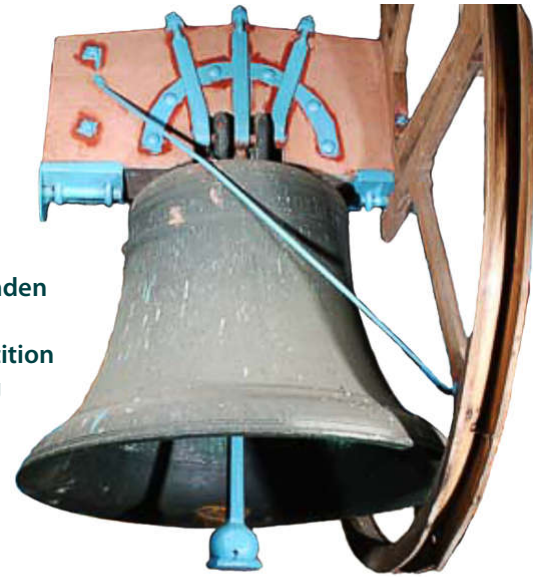
Over the years Arthur has served St Michael & All Angels Church with love and dedication and it is sad that retirement was forced upon him after a bad fall in April of this year. He should know that he will remain part of the church family and will continue to have many friends who have memories of his years here and will not forget him.

Susan Brice

Arthur (centre) leading his team of caterers.

Arthur's moment of fame. From 4m 30s in the film 'Johnny English' (2003)

Tower Talk



On Saturday 12 October, some of the Hughenden ringers rang in the final of the Lorna Newton Striking Contest, an annual knockout competition between branch towers. We had already rung through two knockout stages to secure our place in the final and the event took place in St James's Church, Fulmer, on Saturday afternoon, where we rang a method known as Grandsire Doubles.

There are six bells in that tower, with the oldest (the treble), from the medieval church that previously stood on the site before it was destroyed during the reformation and is dated 1540. The fourth and fifth bells date from 1617, only a few years after the current church was built. The second was cast in 1741 and the tenor and the third bells were both added in 1884.

At Hughenden, we're blessed to have one of the finest rings of bells in the area, both for quality of sound and for ease of ringing, therefore some of us (namely me) found it a little tricky to get to grips with bells that were a little odd-struck, but we all pressed on and earnt a well-respected third place result. Congratulations to our wonderful band shown here.

From left to right: Verity, Annie, David, Cliff, Jan and Tom.

Verity Nicholls
Tower Captain

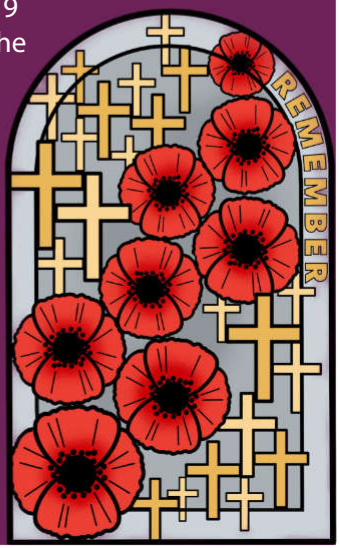
Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names and seemed to fascinate the seven-year-old. 'All those names,' he said to the minister. 'Who are they?'

'Well, they were people who used to go to this church,' explained the minister. 'This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services.'

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally asked, 'Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?'

From the Parish Pump



Autumn came whilst I was away

Autumn came whilst I was away

And I walk wide eyed and full of noticing.

The path that was freckled with soft rain

Now sparkles with dappled shafts of low, faltering light.

The October sunshine; a belated gift to savour.

The lazy smile of summer is fading

And the wistful scent of autumn lingers on the over ripe earth.

Decay lies at the browning edges of the day.

The year has turned.

Susan Brice

Parish Weekend Away

at High Leigh Conference Centre

What a weekend we have all had. This was the second time I had attended this event and it was just as enjoyable as the first time.

We arrived in the sunshine, welcomed by Frank with name tags and offer of sweets. The weekend was off to a good start! The rooms had been refurbished and I was very pleased with my room, although I had heard some people even had a balcony!

I ventured down to where the refreshments were, tea and cake, in the sunshine chatting happily until we all met for a brief meeting and then off to supper it was. How I enjoyed not cooking all weekend. Friday evening was a very social 'getting to know you'. Frank came up with lots of different games and much laughter was had. We won prizes for our tables with more sweets. After all the fun, we retired to the Oak Room to have a quiet, reflective service led by Keith. I found this very moving and a sense of calm followed.

Saturday morning was an optional prayer walk in the beautiful grounds led by Frank. Again, I found this peaceful and rewarding, being in God's presence.

A wonderful, cooked breakfast was my choice and this was followed by songs and prayers before Reverend Chris Bull spent the day with us. His talk was in two parts entitled 'Being an outward looking church'. The sessions were interesting, inspiring and motivational. I thought Chris was a great speaker and felt fortunate to have heard him share his wisdom. It was centred around when we encountered God for the first time, the feeling. This is the treasure we have that we can all share, we shouldn't just keep it to ourselves. There was much food for thought.

After a huge lunch, most people (in shared cars) descended on the "Fish and Eels Country Pub". Some of us went for a walk, but all enjoyed a drink by the river watching the barges passing by. Lots of conversations were had in the sunshine. What a lovely way to spend an afternoon.

Saturday evening arrived and we had more fun in our allocated room, Barclay Hall. I think the highlight of the evening was the limericks that Frank suddenly dropped on us at supper: 'Please make up a limerick and be ready to share with everyone'. I couldn't say who spread the word (!) but everyone wrote about Frank, very much to his surprise. I was very

impressed with the imagination that went into them. I didn't know there were so many poets at St Michael & All Angels. It was another great evening, with lots of prizes of… sweets! We had evening prayers led by Helen, and reflection.

Sunday morning we met early, this time led by Mike Hill. Unfortunately, the weather had changed so we couldn't enjoy God's beautiful world. We sat in the stillness of the Oak room and for me, I could feel God's presence with us, surrounding us.

I personally would like to say a huge thank you for all the hard work you did Frank, also everyone who played a part to ensure we all had a great weekend and of course, the music. For me, the feeling I had when I first encountered God was 'I matter'. I can honestly say, being a fairly new member of the church, I really felt I mattered to the people I came away with and still matter to God. I have been able to get to know so many more people, enjoyed their company and God's. We did miss the people who were due to come though, you were in our thoughts during the weekend.

I would thoroughly recommend the weekend if you haven't been before.

Lucy Leonard

Mothers' Union

The speakers at our monthly meeting were Ken and June Brazier from Princes Risborough Rotary Club. They gave us a very lively and interesting presentation about their volunteer work with the Mercy Ships Charity. The charity's vision is to use hospital ships to transform lives and work in partnership with African nations, and their mission is to bring hope and healing to people without access to safe surgery. Fifty per cent of the world's population lives within fifty miles of the coast so a ship is an excellent way to deliver a state-of-the-art hospital to places where medical facilities are non-existent.

Mercy Ships was founded in 1978 by Don Stephens. As a Christian teenager he had imagined a fleet of hospital ships and was later inspired by Mother Teresa and the birth of his son with special needs, to carry out his dream. The first ship was bought for one million dollars (scrap metal value), was twenty-five years old and had sailed between Trieste and Hong Kong. Don then had to find funding for a major renovation and the Union Bank of Scotland came forward. For ten years he and his family lived on board this ship under very difficult conditions in the darkness and cold. His huge step of faith was beginning to take shape as he was joined by unpaid volunteers from around the world.

Ken and June came to hear about Mercy Ships at the Princes Risborough Rotary Club when, as International Chairman, Ken attended a weekend conference highlighting the Rotary Club's involvement with international charities.

The aim of giving hope and healing resonated with both him and June. In 2003 and 2004 they started to volunteer by going to Newcastle and then Liverpool Docks where two ships from the fleet were having maintenance and renovation work undertaken. At the same time, staff training was available. All volunteers pay for their own food and accommodation. They were really enjoying their work on the ships and had made new friends from around the world.

It was suggested that Ken and June might like to volunteer as staff on trips to African countries, and they did this for several years. Since then, they have continued to do voluntary work and fundraising for the charity. Ken has taken part in many sponsored fundraising events too. Ninety pence in every pound raised goes to give medical aid on the ships. Volunteers come from all over the world and medical staff are given advanced training not available in their own countries. At present, there are two ships in the fleet, the African Mercy and the Global Mercy and they usually stay at an African port for around ten months so that follow-up treatment and checks can be carried out. The staff on the ships are expected to lend a hand where it is needed in the general day to day running of the ships; there is no pecking order! African Mercy has five operating theatres, an X-ray unit, a recovery suite, an intensive care unit and 86 ward beds. Global Mercy is a brand new ship and is the world's first purpose built charity hospital ship. It has six operating theatres, a laboratory, an outpatients' department, eye and dental clinics and 200 ward beds. It also contains the latest training facilities for the medical staff. Gurkhas volunteer as security guards.

The Braziers have experienced how the improved maternity services and training of midwives has improved the health of women and children. Countless cleft palate and cataract operations have been carried out by the charity in African countries, and now that training has been given to Sierra Leone medical staff, they are able to start to look after their own people. When both ships are in full service 5,000 surgeries and 28,000 dental treatments are performed annually. The organisation of the charity is really inspiring and the Christian foundation of the charity shone through the presentation. There are numerous ways that sponsored events can raise money for Mercy Ships and Ken and June can be contacted through the Rotary Club. Young People looking for ideas for voluntary work in a gap year are warmly welcomed! The talk certainly created a lot of interest in such a worthwhile charity and demonstrated Faith in Action and Outreach, something that Mothers' Union promotes.

Barbara Willson

At MU's 5th November meeting the speaker will be Carol Willat whose subject is 'Researching an Artist'. As usual we will meet in Church House at 2.00 pm and a warm invitation is extended to anyone who wishes to join us.

Bristol Cathedral

So, at long last, I have visited this Cathedral which meant so much in my days as an undergraduate at the city's University. Nearly sixty years have passed since I was last there and I found it quite emotional as I entered through the main entrance.

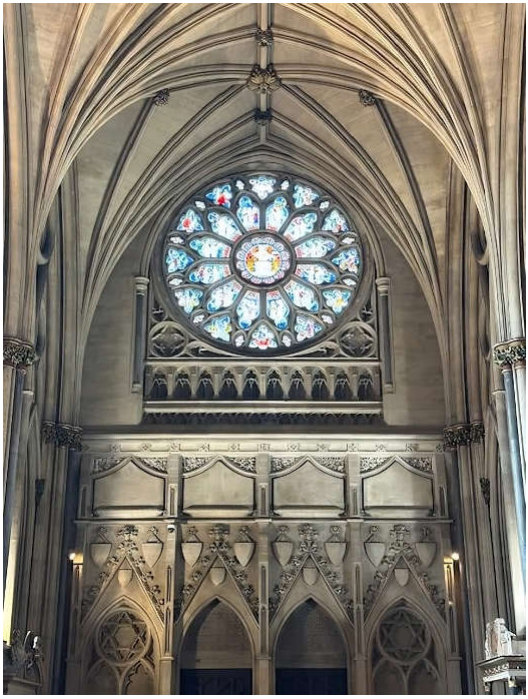
The emotion soon passed. The place was covered with inside scaffolding which embraced and hid both the Choir, including the place where I used to sit and the Lady Chapel in which we changed before processing. No doubt the ghosts of Clifford Harker, organist and choirmaster between 1949 and 1983 and of Professor Willis Grant, Professor of Music throughout the 1960s and who organised and conducted the famous Bristol XXXII Choir, of which I was fortunate to be a member and who supported me through my three-year tenure as choirmaster of the Monica Wills Memorial Chapel, would be smiling at my disappointment. I expect that many of us have similar memories of places and times which still resonate with histories long submerged but instantly recalled.

The Cathedral Church of The Holy and Undivided Trinity, Bristol, has a long history stretching back over a thousand years. Originally a mystery, until certainty emerges in the building of a monastery, dating from 1140. Public worship can be established back to 1158, when a church sufficient for the purpose can be proved to have been built. Dedicated to St Augustine, the Cathedral Chapter House and the Abbott's Gatehouse date to this period and are among the finest 12th Century pieces of architecture anywhere in the country. By the middle of the 17th Century, the Cathedral as we see it today was clearly established.

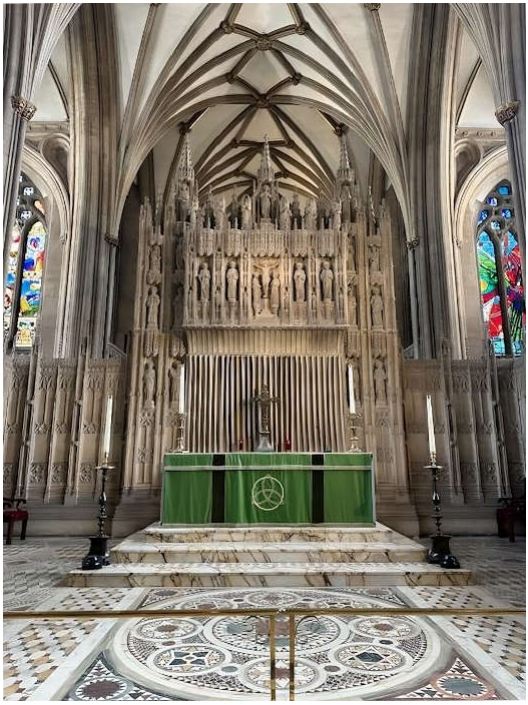
Contrary to his usual practice and, probably, because of Bristol's major importance as a mercantile centre, Henry VIII actually established the Cathedral from the Abbey. It continued until the 19th century when it was no longer fit for purpose, being too small. A considerable renovation was undertaken from 1868, a process that seems to have continued until the end of the century. The huge reredos dates from 1899 and was built above the 12th century choir vault dating from1298.

Apart from seeing 'my' place in the Choir and the Lady Chapel, I had hoped to see the organ, even if it was unlikely that anyone would be playing it. It had been incrementally installed from the 17th century but substantially modernised in the early 1900s. In 1989/1990, £250,000 was spent on further modernisation. By 2023, it was clear that a fundamental reappraisal was required.

What I discovered was that it had been systematically dismantled by Harrison and Harrison and shipped to Durham where they are located. Every aspect of its construction is being scrutinised and renovated, although parts (the tubular-pneumatic action) were found to be beyond recall. (No, I don't know either: ask Neil, our organist…) A new state-of-the-art electropneumatic transmission system will be installed. Every pipe is being washed, straightened, polished and brought back to life, including some that have laid dormant for the last quarter century. No date is yet offered for its return and reinstallation.

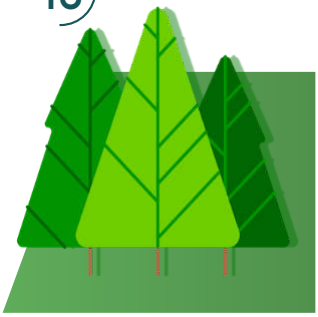


Two photographs I managed to take: the High Altar, through scaffolding to take it, but not in the picture and the beautiful western rose window. So much of the rest in under scaffolding, although a view of the Choir is on the website.



Sixty years ago, the Port of Bristol was a thriving place of trade, tankers coming down the Avon and polluting the atmosphere. All that has gone; tourism, food outlets, museums and the SS Great Britain fill the harbour, with tourist boats replacing tankers. The Cathedral has changed; in the 1960s it was black with soot and grime. Now the stonework gleams; perhaps it is because both the Bishop and the Dean are women…

Christopher Tyrer



Nature Quest

I love this picture of a basilisk lizard running at full speed on a wet pavement splashing through a puddle. Not so. This is a deep pond. She skitters across so fast she doesn't sink and drown! But how?!

The picture is off the front of my Physics World magazine, and inside is a detailed technical explanation. Not only is she running forwards (to escape some predator), with every step she is pushing down into the water and thereby pushing herself upwards. If she slows down, then down she will go. But even then, all is not lost: she can swim or even hide under water for up to 10 minutes. An amazing creature. And these are not tiny: with a two foot long tail and a six inch body and weighing several ounces, common sense would say this is not possible.

When Jesus' disciples were in a boat on Lake Galilee, Jesus came to them walking on the water. They knew instinctively that this was not possible, yet they saw it with their own eyes. Ever since then, people have tried to rationalise this event: perhaps he was on a sandbank or on ice. Not very convincing. It's such a well-known event, that the basilisk is called the Jesus Christ lizard.

The Physics World article went on to test just how fast a human would have to run, in order to run on water. As you would guess, a human's power to weight ratio is far too small, whether Olympic athlete or young child.

You've all tried skimming pebbles. With a bit of practice most of us get the hang of it. You need flattish pebbles, ideally a couple of inches diameter, a nice calm water surface, and throw it quite hard and low, with a flick that spins the pebble. The spin keeps it parallel to the water, so its flattest widest area hits the water and only at a very shallow angle. It can bounce before it has time to sink. It loses a little energy and speed at each bounce and eventually sinks before it can bounce. Of course, if you placed it even ever so gently on the surface of the water it would immediately sink.

The famous WWII Dambusters bouncing bombs had to be spun at 500rpm before release, to control the bounces and prevent the bomb flipping over and sinking prematurely. No doubt some said "It'll never work", but it did.

Pond skaters are much lighter! No difficulty. Not running, not spinning. Can stand there all day, or until a fish plops up and eats them. They use a different technique. Firstly they are very light, but they are still denser than water: If they somehow went under the water then they would sink. However, their feet are covered with tiny water-repellent hairs. Their feet press slightly into the water, but the surface tension presses round the water-repellent hairs and holds the skater up. On the photo you can see how the water surface round each foot is curved up. Another of God's amazing creatures!

Lastly the swan: probably the heaviest of our common flying birds. Usually swans swim serenely, with their feet and half of their body invisible under the water and half floating above, for us all to see and admire. But to take off, there is no serenity! Just really hard footwork, paddling furiously, to push the body up above the water and allow it to move forward faster without the drag of the water, which normally limits a swan's swimming speed to about 2mph. Now paddling (or running) faster and faster until sufficient for the wings to get enough lift for take-off. A huge effort and barely possible. Yet another of God's amazing creatures!

As for you and me, who are also amazing in different ways, we'll just stick to running and splashing through the puddles on the pavement.

Mike Hill
nature@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Nature Note

'For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands' Isaiah 55:12

I've been reading Isaiah recently and was struck by his superb imagery. A master of poetic imagination. Read chapters 52 and 53 - wow!

Last month we looked at the kermes worm that feeds on the kermes oak and how that creature was used in Psalm 22 to describe the Lord's sacrifice of Himself, as quoted by the Lord as He was executed. So let's look at our own oak quercus robur, the English Oak, to appreciate the variety of this fantastic tree family, of which we have at least three species in Hughenden.

In its open grown form q. robur has a large trunk and a low, rounded canopy with stout branches that seem to randomly change direction as they reach out. This gives it a contented, almost lazy feel as it puts on size and girth. It grows at around 0.5m (20 in.) annually as a youngster, slowing to reach around 20m (60 ft.) in 50 years, given fertile ground and full sun. One characteristic of oaks is that they have a tap root, a strong root that descends straight down from the trunk to anchor it firmly into position. Therefore, it's almost unheard of to find one blown over - rock solid you might say.

In close forest conditions an oak can obtain a clean branch free trunk for the first 30 ft. of height, but open grown specimens are often pollarded at around 10 ft. from the ground in order to produce a larger, rounded crown above the height of potential browsing by deer and domesticated animals that can stand on tiptoe to reach tasty leaves and twigs.

In our area and throughout England in particular, our oaks tend to be open grown in parks or along hedge lines so are low, large limbed individuals. This is due to the ship builders of the Napoleonic period (early part of the 19th century) combing the country for the very best oaks (over 5,000 oak trees plus other timbers were used to build HMS Victory). This means that well grown forest oaks are virtually non-existent in our part of the world, and we have to visit French and German forests to see q. robur grown to its full, utterly magnificent potential. Which means that most furniture or top quality oak products are from imported timber, except for products that require figure in the grain such as the 'cat's paws' that are typical of oak timber.

As we've discussed, many creatures are massive oak fans. You can't miss the flocks of noisy young starlings crowding an oak's outer branches as they scoff the larvae of oak-leaf roller moths that hatch as the tree breaks bud in the spring. And watch

for jays staying out of sight, they think, gorge on acorns before they fly off to stash them secretly, only to forget where they buried them and so turn out to be the most prolific team of oak planters. The trees must chuckle as the birds turn up every autumn.

Quercus cerris or Turkey Oak to you and me, is so called because the shape of its leaves resembles a turkey's foot (use your imagination!). There are several well-grown examples in our park, particularly in the Council run segment backing to Coates Lane. They are tall, straight limbed trees with a cathedralesque feel. Introduced to the UK in the 19th century as park specimens, they were native to our islands until 120,000 years ago as the last ice age took hold. They can reach 40m in height (130 ft.). One easy method of ID is to examine the base of the leaves and acorns which will both look 'hairy'; not the case with English Oak. Eventually though, you will pick them out by shape and growth habit. Turkey's timber is prone to splits and shakes (longitudinal faults that split the timber) so is not used for furniture or structural function, restricted therefore to low quality uses such as fencing.

Quercus ilex or Holm Oak, one of the evergreen oaks, has a few scattered examples in the park and around the house. It's easy to pick out from holly,

even though its alternative name is Holly-leaved Oak - how many hollies bear acorns? As we mentioned last month, this is a Mediterranean species also found in the Holy Land. Its timber is in the white oak category and so is used for tool handles (like ash and hickory), cabinet making, furniture, turning and so on. Very useful, very nice.

Please make a point of walking the park and acquaint yourselves with our oaks and watch for the jays which are normally still burying acorns in November. Get to know some of those trees that will be clapping their hands; you can almost see them getting ready.

Mike Bevan

Have you ever visited …

… The Hellfire Caves, West Wycombe?

The Knights of St Francis of Wycombe, or the Hellfire Club as it later became, was started by Sir Francis Dashwood and others in the 1740s but the caves themselves post dated the Knights, as they were not commenced until 1748. Most of the revels took place at Medmenham Abbey and the Club lasted until the 1770s.

The caves were excavated to provide chalk and hardcore for what is now the A40 between West Wycombe and the town centre. In his history of Buckinghamshire, published in 1910, Clement Shorter dismisses them as "not worth a visit," but gives the length of them as a quarter of a mile.

Shorter defends the Sir Francis Dashwood of the 18th century as "much maligned." A Chancellor of the Exchequer in Lord Bute's Government, Sir Francis died in 1781.

The scenes of debauchery for which the caves – or more accurately the Hellfire Club - was notorious probably took place at Medmenham Abbey where all the records originated. They consisted of "songs, ribaldry, practical jokes and amorous pursuits." So the caves themselves, together with the commentary and some imagery seem to have been a creation borrowed from the Abbey, long since in private hands.

In its active period, the Hellfire Club was the scene for religious ceremonies and some sexual improprieties, but the existing records of the guest lists include Benjamin Franklin between 1757 and 1762 and, again, between 1764 and 1775 and John Wesley who is said to have been a close friend of Sir Francis. More than one commentator suggests that the reputation might be gilded.

The caves themselves are a useful attraction for young people, particularly on a rainy day, although rainwater permeates through chalk and drips incessantly inside whether it is dry or wet outside.

For those who wish to take refreshments in West Wycombe, two stand out. The first, adjacent to the entrance to the caves, is in the 18th Century Walled Garden and bears that name. The second, the Apple Orchard, is further down into the centre of West Wycombe. It boasts rather more than a café and includes a gift shop. Both are well worth a visit.

Indeed, so is West Wycombe. Those who have recently been struggling to drive

through on the A40 and have been obliged to navigate scaffolding and traffic lights will be relieved to know that both are now gone. The restoration work is impressive and West Wycombe as a whole, is well worth time spent visiting its attractions.

Christopher Tyrer

***Postscript:** after my article on the West Wycombe Mausoleum, I was delighted to receive a message from one of our readers, Jane Boughton. She informed me that Coade Stone was an invention. It is not a natural stone, but artificial and created by two women, known as Mrs Coade. Living between 1733 and 1821, she invented what is, actually, a ceramic: a mixture of clay, terracotta, silicates and glass. It was then fired in extreme temperatures for four days. The exact recipe was a secret. After she died the secret was lost until the late 20th century, when the composition was rediscovered.*

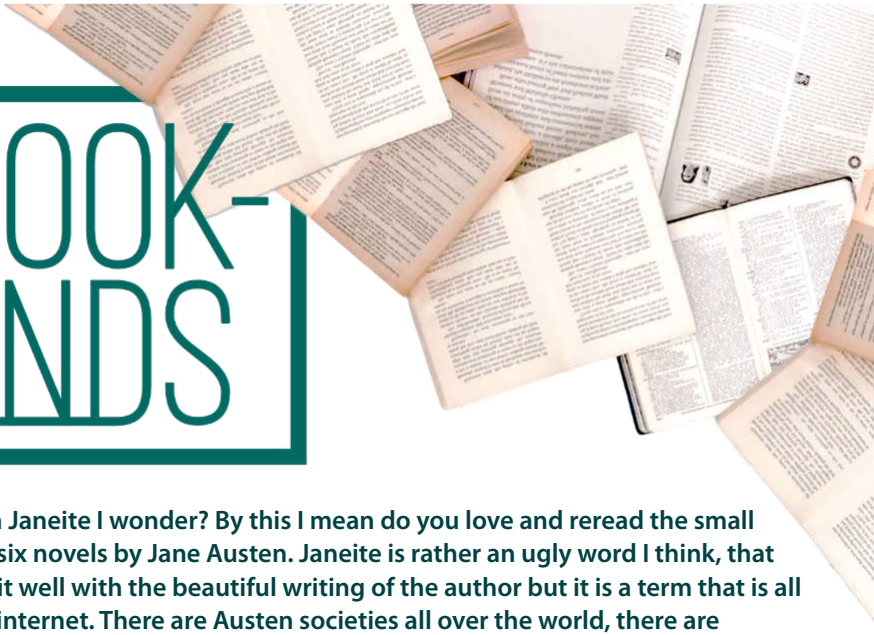
Much of the stonework, which includes parts of both Buckingham Palace and the Brighton Pavilion, survives, because the stone is so durable. The new Gothic Cross at Stowe is a recent example of Coade Stonework.

Thank you, Jane, so much for your message. The Editors and contributors welcome feedback, as we continue to strive to improve what we offer and to serve our community and beyond.

Christopher Tyrer

The new Gothic Cross at Stowe

BOOK-ENDS



Janeites

Are you a Janeite I wonder? By this I mean do you love and reread the small cache of six novels by Jane Austen. Janeite is rather an ugly word I think, that doesn't sit well with the beautiful writing of the author but it is a term that is all over the internet. There are Austen societies all over the world, there are conferences and conventions, teas, regency style dances, guided walks around Bath and Winchester as well, of course, as the much-visited cottage at Chawton in Hampshire. The books are always in print, some in gorgeously embossed leather (which Jane would not have afforded) and others as cheap paperbacks on which one can scrawl notes. Gracious!

Well, I am not a true Janeite and I don't belong to any society that almost worships her but I do truly love 'Pride and Prejudice,' have read it many times and consider it the most exquisite example of English prose that I have ever read. Thus, a novel called 'Miss Austen' by Gill Hornby was clearly going to attract me. The Miss Austen in question is actually Cassandra, Jane's sister, and the story is based on fact, looking at what happened to the family after Jane's death in 1817. The author is very adept at writing in an Austen fashion and all Cassandra's thoughts, problems and actions are firmly within her time: the late 18th century and early 19th. The story focuses on letters written by Jane, very many to her sister Cassandra. Eventually these letters are sadly burned and the author has invented those she needs, to move the narrative forward. Somewhere in the middle of the story, which held my interest and I enjoyed, I began to feel slightly uncomfortable and this was because I felt I was falling down a gap (mind the gap) between fact and fiction.

However, this did not stop me following through by reading Gill Hornby's next offering, in the same vein: 'Godmersham Park.' Here we are again 'based on truth,' starting with a real happening in 1804 where Anne Sharp, finding herself in straightened circumstances (there's a good Austenesque phrase) becomes a governess at Godmersham Park and is put in charge of Frances, known as Fanny.

She is the eldest child of Edward Austen and his wife Elizabeth and the favourite niece of Jane. In the process of the storyline Anne becomes friends with Henry Austen, another brother, and with Jane herself.

I think I probably enjoyed this book the more and that was due to the amount of social history involved which was fascinating. The situation of girls at that time was so very precarious, even if you would have been deemed to be middle class, as was the case with Anne Sharp. If you had not accepted a proposal of marriage, maybe there hadn't even been one, if your father had made poor financial decisions or a parent had died, a young woman could find herself homeless and poor unless there was a relative who was prepared to take her in. Being a governess was seen as the least worst resolution to an unfortunate situation. For many this was not a comfortable result. Anne had had an education, even a classical one which would have been unusual, but she needed to keep this fairly quiet. In most large houses that were employing governesses, the requirements would have been slight. Teach my daughter music and sewing, a little French would be delightful and some knowledge of writers and poetry. That would be quite sufficient. Daughters needed to be marriageable and certainly not more knowledgeable or in any way cleverer that the man they would marry, to whom of course they would defer in every instance. A balancing act for Anne.

And where does a governess sit within the society of the house? She would not have belonged below stairs with the other staff but it depended on the kindness of the mistress as to whether she would be invited to join the family at meal times. Frequently the answer would be a tray eaten solitarily in her room. It is then easy to understand Anne's pleasure and relief at meeting an educated and interesting companion such as Jane Austen. It made complete sense.

What began to bother me was what exactly was fiction in these two books and what was history. I felt the answer would be to read a biography of Jane Austen and so dear reader, that is exactly what I did next. 'Jane Austen. A brief life' by Fiona Stafford is an excellent read. I found it accessible, clear and concise with just the right amount of well researched and evidenced information; perfect for an interested reader, not necessarily one who is about to embark on a PhD.

One part of this book I found particularly useful was the historical context that she offered. I am always one for some background information as I find it greatly adds to my enjoyment of the text. The times of Jane Austen in most people's minds are those of a certain gentility but of course she lived through a violent, revolutionary period: the French Revolution in 1789 and the Napoleonic Wars from 1800 to 1815. Somehow all this sturm and drang seems to fit better with the windswept and passionate Brontë novels than the curbed and constrained writings of Jane, although of course there is passion here too but with without the flamboyance of the Haworth Vicarage family.

I have had fun reading around the life of Jane Austen and will now return, of course, to that small cache of six novels.

Susan Brice

November Recipe

The apples in our garden are the best I have ever seen this year, so I am constantly thinking what I can make next. This is a good one to use the apples and is really the sort of cake you would expect to find in a first-class coffee shop!

It's great for charity events and entertaining and ideal warmed with a dollop of cream. The recipe is an early Mary Berry one, easy to make and always comes up to expectations.

Julia Grant

Apple and Cinnamon Cake

INGREDIENTS

225g softened butter

225g light muscovado sugar

3 large eggs

110g chopped walnuts

110g sultanas

225g self-raising flour

2 tsp baking powder

400g cooking apples, peeled, cored and grated

1 tsp cinnamon

To finish:

Light muscovado sugar

Extra chopped sprinkled walnuts

Icing sugar to dust

METHOD

1. *Preheat the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C, gas mark 4. Grease and line a 23cm (9inch) deep cake tin with baking parchment.*
2. *Measure the butter, sugar, eggs, chopped walnuts, sultanas, flour and baking powder into a large bowl and beat for about 2 minutes until thoroughly blended.*
3. *Spoon half the mixture into the prepared tin then spread the grated apple and cinnamon in an even layer. Spoon the remaining mixture on top, level the surface then sprinkle generously with the sugar and walnuts.*
4. *Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 1¼ hours until the cake is well risen and golden brown. Leave to cool in the tin for a few minutes then turn out, peel off the parchment and cool on a rack. Dust with icing sugar for serving.*

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 organization 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 – publicizing 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

QUIZ NIGHT

Tease Your Brain!

Friday
15th November

St James' Church, Downley
Doors open at: 7:00pm

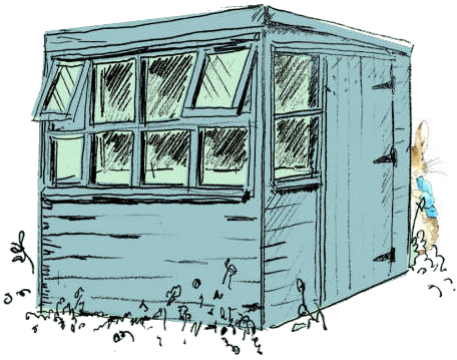
£15
per person / includes dinner!

Maximum 8 per team.
Licensed bar and raffle!

www.growinghope.org.uk/events

Growing HOPE
High Wycombe

From the **Potting Shed**



Dear friends,

Suddenly winter is right here ahead of us. There is much to look forward to of course. I hope you are planning Christmas festivities with your family and friends and maybe with your church. I shall be going to Ruby's school nativity play next month and there's a candlelit Carol Service which I will enjoy. Of course, for us gardeners, winter always means that spring comes next. Isn't that comforting? I have ordered some seed and plant catalogues and it will be a joy to sit with a mug of tea and a ginger biscuit and plan. I'm going to try putting some perennial geraniums in my hanging baskets next year and I shall tuck some nasturtium seeds in there as well. I like the way they grow and tumble down.

Anyway, that's me for 2024 I think. I will wish you all well and write again in the spring.

If I have one gardening wish for the next year it would be for fewer slugs but whatever, there will be flowers my dears, there will be flowers.

Yours

Cecily MacGregor

Jobs for November

1. Plant bulbs for inside: paper whites, amaryllis and hyacinths. They would all make lovely gifts at Christmas and are so cheering in the house in January.
2. Try to clear all the leaves from around rose bushes. This will help prevent diseases.
3. A large pot of pansies and polys by your front door or outside a kitchen window will help see you through the winter days.
4. Think about using some fleece, bubble wrap or hessian to protect all your precious perennials.
5. Lift dahlia tubers, clean and store somewhere clean.
6. Cut back ornamental grasses and bamboos.

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

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
10	10.45 am	**Act of Remembrance**: Church
	6.00 pm	Special Evensong with Arthur: Church
30	7.30 pm	Christmas Crackers & Classics with the Hughenden Singers: Church (No ticket required)

December

3	2.00 pm	Mothers Union Meeting: Church House
15	11.00 am	Christingle Service: Church
22	3.00 pm	Carols at Naphill Village Hall
	6.00 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols: Church
24	2.00 pm	Crib Service: Church
	& 3.30 pm 5.00 pm	Family Carol Service: Church
	11.15 pm	Midnight Communion: Church
25	9.00 am	Choral Communion: Church
	11.00 am	Family Communion: Church

1st & 3rd Sundays

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

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays

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

Tuesdays

11.00 am **Holy Communion (Said)**

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

Regular Groups

Hughenden Community Singers

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

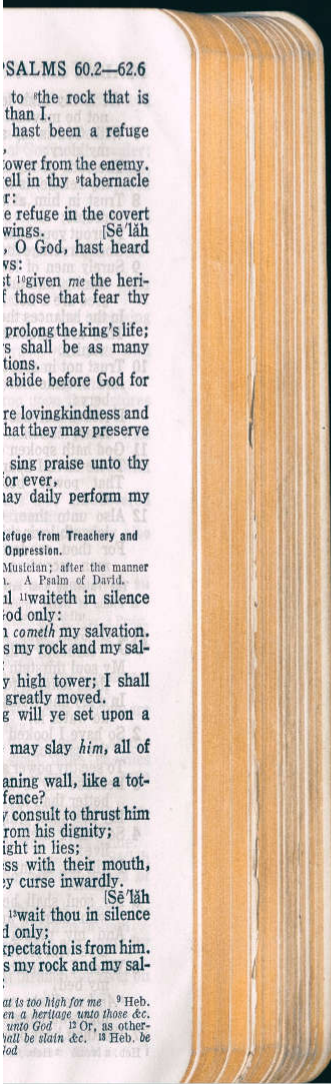
Friendship Morning

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

November Lectionary



3rd : All Saints' Day

Isaiah 25: 6-9
Revelation 21: 1-6a
John 11: 32-44
Evensong: Psalms 148 & 150
Isaiah 65: 17-end
Hebrews 11:32 – 12:2

10th: Third Sunday before Advent

Jonah 3: 1-5 & 10
Hebrews 9: 24-28
Mark 1: 14-20
Psalm at 9.00 am: 62
Evensong: Psalm 46
Isaiah 10:33 – 11:9
John 14: 23-29

17th: Second Sunday before

Daniel 12: 1-3
Hebrews 10: 11-25
Mark 13: 1-8
Evensong: Psalm 95
Daniel 3: 13-end
Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43

24th: Sunday next before Advent

Daniel 7: 9-10 & 13-14
Revelation 1: 4b-8
John 18: 33-37
Psalm at 9.00 am: 93
Evensong: Psalm 72
1 Samuel 8: 4-20
John 18: 33-37

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	Church Flowers	Sylvia Clark	07570 876530
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
Friendship Morning	Helen Peters	716772			

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