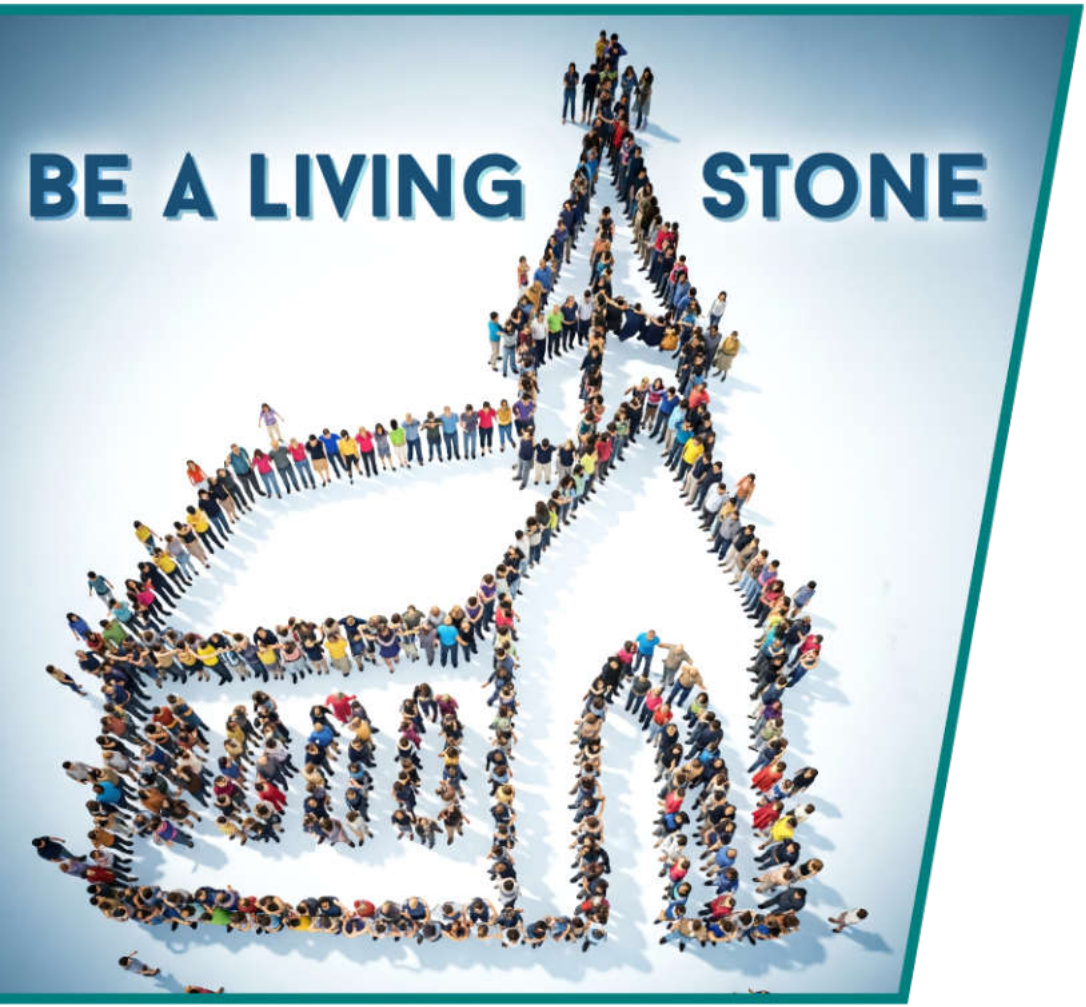
St. Michael & All Angels
CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING

outLook

The magazine for the people of Hughenden Parish | **JULY 2025** | FREE



INSIDE: ***We Are All One*** | Daily Prayer | **Nature Note**

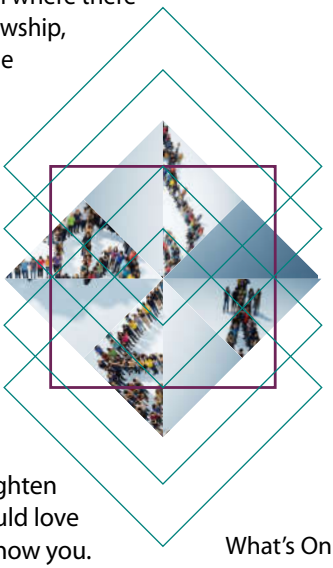
Welcome to **Your Church**

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

When putting each edition of Outlook together, the editor will look through all the contributions that have arrived by email and read them through thoroughly. I have just done that and I thank you all for a great magazine for the month of July.

Our contributors, regular or occasional, make Outlook as good as it is. We never really know what we are going to get but somehow it is always a great mix: interesting information, news of local happenings, mission articles about the world beyond our green and leafy Chilterns, food, books, history, nature and gardening. It is wonderful this time to welcome two new writers for Outlook. Anyone is welcome to post their writing. We don't promise to publish but we usually do.

The other group that is so important is the readers. There is little point in the magazine if nobody finds it interesting to read. It is wonderful when the copies disappear from the back of the church and more have to be printed and it is also wonderful when people want to talk about the articles. Thank you for the feedback.

In Bea's thoughtful and inspirational report on the Bank Holiday walk, (page 4) she writes about 'living stones.' I love that image. The stones are us. It is people that make the church, not the building. Everyone who takes part, in whatever way, large or small, is building this community in the name of Jesus. How amazing that we can all be a part of this.

The strap line for St Michael & All Angels is: 'Church in the Park', not 'The Church in the Park'. This is to try and ensure that our focus is on people.

Bea finishes her article by saying "there is a place for everyone on the path." This is a place to belong. Let us all walk together.

Susan Brice
Editor

Hazel Lowe wishes to thank everyone who came to David's funeral, and for helping to make it a celebration of his life.

from the Vicarage

Keith Johnson

Vicar

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

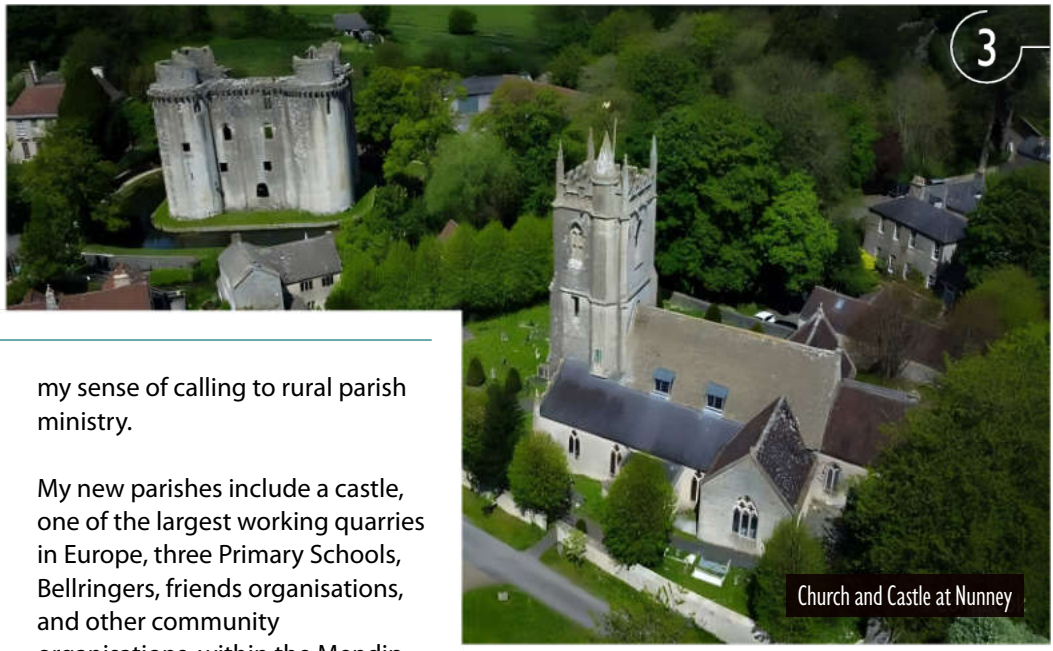
I cannot believe that it is nine years since my family and I moved to Hughenden Valley. This area holds a special place in my heart, as do the people. I have enjoyed that time immensely, but soon I will be moving to pastures anew.

I recently applied for the vacant post of Priest in Charge of Postlebury, Stoke St Michael & Leigh on Mendip with Downhead, in the diocese of Bath & Wells. Following a successful interview, I have accepted this post, and so I will be leaving St Michael & All Angels, most likely in September.

My new post, located to the South and West of Frome, in rural Somerset, is comprised of eight rural churches in small villages. The Postlebury group of churches, which number five, include Nunney, a picturesque village a few miles from Frome, where my wife and I will be living, as well as Cloford, Marston Bigot, Wanstrow and Witham Friary, with a combined population of 2,350.

To the North West you will find Stoke St Michael, and the parish of Leigh on Mendip with Downhead, whose population numbers 1,643.

During my time at Hughenden, I have had the privilege of serving as an Associate Area Dean, supporting the rural benefices of South Chilterns, West Wycombe and Hambleden Valley, and this experience has reinforced



Church and Castle at Nunney

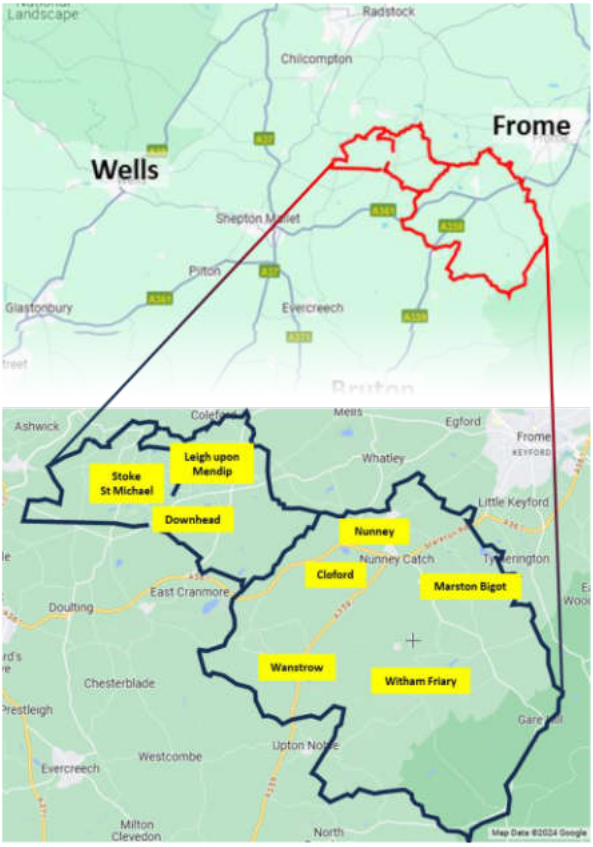
my sense of calling to rural parish ministry.

My new parishes include a castle, one of the largest working quarries in Europe, three Primary Schools, Bellringers, friends organisations, and other community organisations, within the Mendip hills.

But the principal reason I took the decision to accept this offer was twofold: Firstly, that I felt strongly that God was leading me to apply, and secondly, I found the entire parish visit and interview process reinforced that calling. I met people in all eight churches, and was deeply moved by their warm welcome. I was able to imagine myself living and worshipping amongst them.

It will not be easy to say my goodbyes to you all.

God bless



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We Are All One

On the Monday Bank Holiday, we set out on a gentle walk — the Boundary Walk from the church to Great Kingshill Common. It was more than just a stroll through the countryside; it was a sacred journey of fellowship and reflection.

We walked as one body, yet each of us carried our own story.

Though our paths in life are unique, we were reminded that we are all on a shared journey — moving together, guided by the Spirit, toward a deeper understanding of one another.

Along the way, each step held meaning.

Some of us learned something new. Others received gentle reminders of truths already known. And though we may not always understand the reasons for what we encounter, we trust that nothing is without purpose in God's plan.

As Mike beautifully shared, we are like living stones — chosen and placed by God, being built together into a spiritual house. In walking and in worship, in laughter and in stillness, we were part of something holy.

During the journey, God's presence was felt in simple, profound moments:

- In the joy of meeting new people
- In the laughter sparked by stories and near-falls on tricky flint
- In the care we offered one another as we played and walked
- In the invitation extended to others to join us — to belong
- In the friendships formed, and the honest sharing of struggles
- In the unspoken sense of unity that bound us together

- In opening up, even briefly, and forming unexpected connections

God was not distant. He walked among us.

As the day cooled, we returned to the church, hearts full. We gathered to build our stone tower — each of us placing a stone, brought from home or picked up along the way. It was a symbol of our shared journey. The walk was not just about the distance we covered, but the togetherness we created.

If you weren't able to join us this time, we hope you'll consider coming along next year. There's a place for everyone on the path.

Beatrix Glowacki

Teddy Bears' Picnic

A slight drizzle was not enough to put off the babies and toddlers, mums, grannies, a GREAT GRANDMA, the Tiny Tots team, and, of course, an array of teddies, who enjoyed the annual Mothers' Union Teddy Bears' picnic held as usual in the MU garden.

Balloons, bubbles (soapy, not alcoholic), toys, a sumptuous spread, a story from Helen and music from Chris and Nikki accompanied by enthusiastic singing from young and not so young ensured a good time was had by all.

The sun soon came out again, take-home treats were handed out, tinies were snuggled down for afternoon naps, and older ones scampered off with calls of 'see you next week', for the usual Tiny Tots meeting (hopefully also to be held in the garden).

Jane Tyrer

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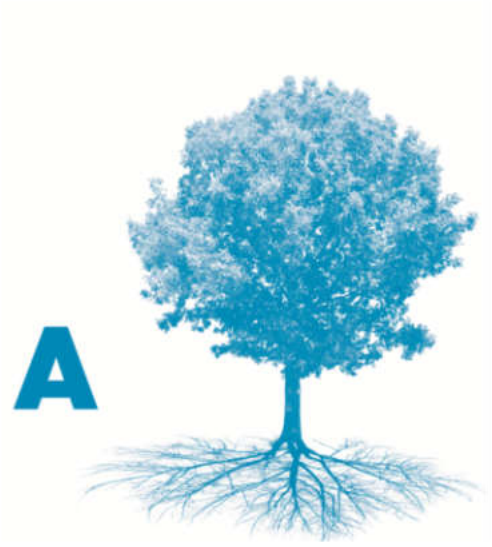
A Rocha

A Worldwide Family

Most of our regular congregation will have heard about our Ecochurch programme, as our contribution in caring for God's beautiful creation and to address climate change. However, few may be aware of the Charity 'A Rocha' which is behind the Ecochurch programme. A Rocha is a Christian charity that began in 1983 with the establishment of a field study in Portugal. It is part of the International inter-denominational 'A Rocha' family, a network of Christian organisations engaging communities in nature and conservation in more than 20 countries and six continents. The name is Portuguese and means 'The Rock'.



UK nature continues to be under pressure like never before. Climate change, farming intensification and the loss of critical habitats to development and urban spread are making a significant impact. The Church is gradually waking up to the challenges and could be an important part of the solution because of the huge area of land it owns and manages. There are almost 50,000 local churches in the UK, worshipping communities in almost every village, town and city neighbourhood. Most have buildings and many have land. If even a quarter of the UK's churchgoers adopted a lower carbon lifestyle and committed to speaking up for change it would have a very positive impact on the environment. As a Christian, managing land for nature reinforces the whole mission of the church. We are then not 'just' caring for creation but also serving the community by increasing access to nature for human wellbeing.

UK
ROCHA
Caring for God's Earth

Each year, hundreds more churches commit to action through the Ecochurch programme. It provides a framework and a toolkit of resources to support the Church to take practical action on caring for God's earth. It also provides an action programme to support the improvement of biodiversity, address climate change and make a real difference to nature restoration. The award scheme has three levels, bronze, silver and gold. There is also an award scheme that builds on the Eco Church programme by requiring dioceses to meet targets for the number of Ecochurches registered and awarded on their patch.

We as a church have our silver award, with thanks to our clergy and congregation who have worked hard to make changes to many areas of our church and management of our land in the last few years. However, my belief is that it is not about the awards that we work to make change but our goal to care for God's creation. Backed with prayer and service to God it could deliver change and hope beyond our earthly expectations.

Julia Grant

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!

Please can you help out at our lovely friendly **community owned village store and coffee shop?**

We have the following shifts, but other times would be welcome:

HUGHENDEN VILLAGE STORE Coffee Shop

WEDNESDAYS 1PM - 4.30PM
THURSDAYS 9AM - 1PM
THURSDAY 1PM - 4.30PM
FRIDAYS 9AM - 1PM
FRIDAYS 1PM - 4.30PM

PLEASE CALL ON 01494 568653 OR MESSAGE ON FACEBOOK TO DISCUSS, THANK YOU!

WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK AND ARE A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY ORGANISATION
LOCATED IN HUGHENDEN VALLEY, COOMBE LANE, HP14 4NX. WWW.VALLEYSHOP.ORG

WE OFFER A FREE DRINK ON SHIFT, PARKING IS FREE AND ALL VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE 10% OFF THER SHOPPING

Mothers' Union

At our June meeting we were delighted to welcome Susan Brice with a talk titled 'Quilts - And where is this one going?' This is because her husband inevitably asks this question as she holds up another finished quilt. She admits that she has a few quilts.

Susan had brought a fantastic selection of quilts with her and they were much admired by all of us. The quilts also served as a visual reference.

The history of quilt making goes back to the 1700s although in America there is evidence of patchwork happening in the mid 1600s.

When the United States entered the First World War the Government urged citizens to 'Make Quilts- Save the blankets for our boys over there.' Then in the Great Depression women had to rely on their own resources and skills to keep warm. They did not throw away any fabric and reused it in patchwork and quilting. In the 50s and 60s the idea of making do was rejected and synthetic fabrics became popular.

In Britain the most popular form of patchwork quilting is called English paper piecing usually done by hand. The sewing machine has meant that we can do a lot of the work on the machine now, if we wish.

Susan explained that patchwork and quilting has its own vocabulary and went on to tell us about jelly rolls, fat quarters and charm packs to name but a few.

We were encouraged to touch and examine the quilts as Susan feels that her quilts are for everyday use and are to be enjoyed.

Going back to her husband's question of where was this one going? Susan has heard of a charity that provides quilts for children in hospital. A very worthwhile cause.

We thanked Susan for an interesting talk.

On Tuesday 1st July we are holding a ploughman's lunch in the Church garden, everyone is welcome.

Dianne Walker

I would like to thank the MU for their very generous donation to the charity KAGIS - Keep A Girl In School - and for the money jars that were returned to me. Many thanks.

Susan Brice

Holy Day in July

16th July – St Helier, losing a loved one to violence

Take the book of Samuel in the Bible, add a bit of Luke Skywalker father/son conflict from Star Wars, stir in a dash of Pirates of the Caribbean, and you sort of have the story of St Helier – the first saint and martyr of Jersey.

According to the legend, it all began in 6th century Tongeren (now in Belgium). A pagan couple badly wanted a child, but the wife was barren. In desperation they sought the help of a local Christian, Cunibert. He advised them to pray to the Christian God, and to promise that any child born would be 'given back' to God. So they did, and then the wife fell pregnant and gave birth to a son, Helier.

The parents were delighted – at first. But as the baby grew into a boy, it became clear that Helier was different from other children – he was precociously intelligent and could perform miracles. Helier's father found this unsettling and grew jealous of Cunibert's influence over his son. Finally he plotted to have Cunibert murdered.

In horror at such treachery, Helier fled. He wandered far, eventually reaching a monastic community in Normandy, run by Saint Marculf. Here he settled, seeking a life of contemplation, but it was not to be. Marculf had received pleas for help from the very few residents of an island called Gersut, or Agna (now called Jersey). They, too, had had bitter experience of violent men who killed their loved ones without warning: the Vikings and Saxons and Vandals had each visited the island in turn. Now they sought some comfort from the Christians: would someone bring them the Gospel? They had no one to shepherd them.

Marculf could not ignore such a plea, and so he sent Helier and a companion, Romard, to Jersey. The two monks found a small community of fishermen on the sand dunes where the modern town of St Helier would later grow. Helier chose to settle on a tidal islet, nowadays known as the Hermitage Rock. Romard, it was agreed, would act as the 'go between' between Helier in his hermitage and the fishing village.

Helier had chosen a remote spot for the peace and quiet it would give him as he approached God. But one day he discovered that his tidal islet had another great advantage as well. While looking out to sea and praying, he suddenly saw the sails of attacking pirates, stealthily approaching the island in boats.

Frantically, Helier signalled the shore of danger coming, and the fishermen and their families scattered into the surrounding marshes, beyond the reach of the bloodthirsty, lustful pirates. This happened time and again, and became so well known in island history that even today, small dark clouds on the horizon are still known as les vailes dé St. Hélyi (the sails of St Helier). As if that were not enough, Helier's prayers and the sign of the cross on another occasion stirred up such a storm that a raiding party was driven clear off the island.

One day the pirates finally caught up with Helier on his tidal islet. They beheaded him. Helier was deeply mourned, and has always been revered in Jersey for having brought Christianity to the island.

When his head and body were sent back to France, a healing spring is reputed to have sprung up on the place where the boat came ashore, and so Helier is better known there as a healing saint. The traditional year of his martyrdom is 555AD. His feast day is still marked in Jersey by an annual municipal and ecumenical pilgrimage to the Hermitage, on 16th July.

From the Parish Pump

To Punctuate or

I grew up with "proper" punctuation drilled into me at school and I really didn't mind. I could see the point of it. It made sense of what you were writing and oh did I love writing! I've enjoyed it all my life and thought that my punctuation skills were adequate, if not perfect. (I have a weakness for exclamation marks and maybe sprinkle my prose with them a little too liberally!)

We are all probably familiar with the phrase "Eats shoots and leaves" (used as the title of the book by Lynne Truss) which pertains to the eating habits of pandas etc. It can be made to mean something completely different by the simple addition of a couple of commas to form "Eats, shoots, and leaves" telling us that a hunter has a good dinner, shoots at something, and then heads off elsewhere.

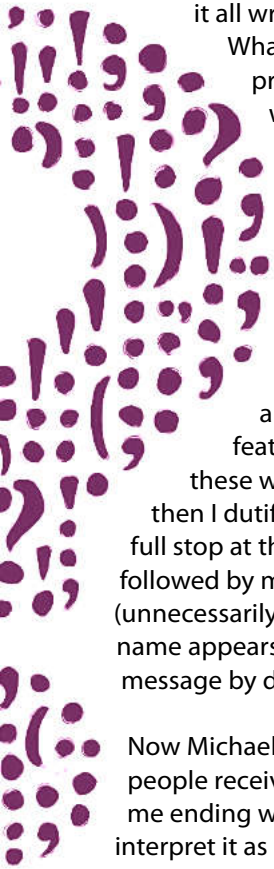
In one of Michael Rosen's recent Word of Mouth Programmes on BBC Sounds entitled "The End of the Full Stop?" he gave another example of the power of punctuation, citing "Charles I walked and talked half an hour after his head was cut off". Impossible you may say – well yes, but how about if we add some punctuation turning it into "Charles I walked and talked. Half an hour after, his head was cut off." Suddenly it makes sense.

But like everything else in the English language, punctuation evolves all the time and in a discussion with his guest Dr Christian Ilbury – shortly to be Senior Lecturer in Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh – they reflected on the days when a letter – handwritten or typed on a typewriter (remember those?) featured commas and full stops in abundance so might look like this: "James Ogilvie, Esq. 2, The Limes,Little Worriesome, Bucks." and would start with "Dear Mr. Ogilvie," and end with "Yours sincerely,". Now - the first time you would come across punctuation in even the most formal letter would be somewhere in the body of the letter. As a secretary all this was a great relief to me, as was the abolition of the indented paragraph.

Those of us who belong to an older generation which remembers the old ways, have gradually accepted new ways of communicating including emails and Whatsapps, not to mention social media generally. However, we have clung to our understanding of proper punctuation, remembering raps

Not to Punctuate?

across the knuckles from irate English teachers of times gone by. So, it came as quite a shock to me to hear from Michael Rosen that I've been getting it all wrong! I took to Whatsapp like the proverbial "duck to water" and have happily messaged backwards and forwards with friends and family, ending every message with some form of punctuation. Exclamation marks and question marks feature regularly, but if these were not appropriate then I dutifully popped in a polite full stop at the end of the message, followed by my name (unnecessarily, of course, since my name appears at the top of the message by default.)



Now Michael explained that young people receiving a message from me ending with a full stop might interpret it as abrupt, peremptory or just plain rude! What?! Apparently many Whatsapps and other social media messages are very short and are whizzed back and forth in a sort of real time conversation and a full stop at the end can be interpreted as me saying "Well that's it, I'm done with this conversation" . I could hardly believe my ears, but turned to my own Whatsapp messages from my granddaughters (aged 30 and 26) and even my son (aged 53).

Sure enough, if they had to write more than one sentence, they would use full stops at the end of each one until they came to the last one, when there would just be a gaping hole where I would have put a full stop. Who'd have thought it? I still couldn't see how it would be considered really rude until a working-age friend of mine, who had just started a new job, put a full stop at the end of a Whatsapp to a new colleague only to find that this person had taken real umbrage and complained to other people about her rudeness. So watch out if you should be on Whatsapp, Facebook or (perish the thought), TikTok, in case you find yourself "persona non grata"!

By the way, if you are wondering about the ?! earlier in this article, it's called an Interrobang – the "interro" indicating a question, and the "bang" being the old printers' word for an exclamation mark. It was introduced in 1960. Well I never!

Penny Gerrard

Wonder and Worship

Reflections in a Scottish Rainforest

It can be easier to notice things away from home, when we are relaxed and surrounded by unfamiliar sights in an exotic location. But sometimes the same wonders are there in our own back yard. GK Chesterton was a great advocate of intensive observation, and he invited his readers to take a fresh look at things that might be taken for granted. The rewards for this mental adjustment are great, and can feed into our worship in new ways.

I first learned to appreciate old growth forests on the West coast of Canada: the centuries-old tangle of logs and underbrush, and thick layers of moss and lichen, that provide rich resources for countless organisms. Several years later, in Scotland, I stumbled over a few acres of birch and hazel, lush with moss and ferns, and humming with insect and bird life. Fallen logs lay everywhere, vegetation grew up the trees, creepers hung down, and sunlight slanted through clearings.

I later discovered that this patch of woodland is one of the few remaining areas of old growth Atlantic rainforest, so I visited one sunny morning when I had more time to linger. The wood is home to 140 species of lichen and 100 of moss, so I found myself looking very closely at tree trunks and boulders. Each lichen is a unique relationship between a fungus and a particular collection of single-celled algae – an example of the collaboration that is so essential to every ecosystem.

Places like this are worth preserving, respecting, and appreciating as much as a work of art or a historic city. I'm so grateful to the community that chose to preserve it, and the Creator who used such intricate and patient processes to create it. As the animals and plants around me did what comes to them naturally, I did what I was made for – thanking God for everything I saw. I found myself praising God alongside all those species of lichen, moss and trees. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150).

There is a growing call to take both our personal devotions and our church services outside from time to time, and there are a growing number of resources to help us do this. As you go through your week, can you find one new way to appreciate your surroundings, and praise God alongside the rest of Creation?

Dr Ruth Bancewicz
From the Parish Pump

Daily Prayer

A new album of music, The Gift of This New Day, has been released in response to demand from listeners of the Church of England's Daily Prayer app and podcast.

Now available on CD and major streaming platforms, the album features all-new recordings of the most requested musical pieces from Morning Prayer, performed by St Martin's Voices.

Since its launch in 2021, the Daily Prayer audio service has become a spiritual companion for millions, with over 3.1 million unique users and nearly 12 million downloads. Music has been a central part of the experience from the beginning, offering beauty, comfort, and space for reflection, especially during the isolation of the UK's third lockdown.

As one Daily Prayer app user says: "I've been so moved by many of the pieces shared by St Martin's Voices … Thank you for your breathtaking and healing work. It's touched me so deeply."

The album includes a blend of chant, public domain sacred works, and five newly commissioned pieces by leading composers. An accompanying music book, published by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), provides sheet music for over 30 canticles, psalms, and responses from Common Worship: Daily Prayer. It is designed for use by individuals, small groups, choirs and congregations alike.

The project is a collaboration between the Church of England's publishing arm, Church House Publishing, and the RSCM, building on their shared commitment to resourcing worship in every context: digital and physical, personal and communal.

God in the Arts

He gave us eyes to see them: John Martin's 'Manfred on the Jungfrau'

In July we start looking with eager longing to holidays, a chance to get away from it all – to rest and recharge the batteries of life. Holidays are also a time to explore and visit new places. It might be the wild splendour of the Northumberland coast or the serenity of the Italian lakes, the vastness of the Grand Canyon or the magnificence of the Lake District.

This month's artist had a gift for creating paintings that expressed this epic quality of landscapes. John Martin was born in 1789, and as an artist was drawn to religious and historical scenes on the grand scale. He illustrated the Bible and Milton, and his final works were on the theme of the Last Judgement. These are in the Tate Gallery in London, but for this July we visit the Art Gallery in Birmingham with its amazing collection of over half a million items, including many Pre-Raphaelite treasures. The entrance to this Victorian building is beneath the clock tower known as Old Brum.

The Art Gallery is home to John Martin's watercolour of 1837, 'Manfred on the Jungfrau.' It is a large work, almost 5 feet by 3 feet, capturing the rugged, imposing glory of the Jungfrau. Now a railway takes tourists to the summit in the Bernese Alps in Switzerland. In the 19th century climbers had to navigate glaciers, high passes and steep precipices. John Martin captures the grandeur of all this in his painting of snow and sky, crags and torrents, mountains and pine trees. Against that immensity we see two characters: Manfred, tortured by guilt and about to throw himself off the edge, and the mysterious hunter who leads him to safety.

Byron's poem 'Manfred' inspired the music of Tchaikovsky and Schumann, as it inspired John Martin. They were each attracted by the romanticism of man and nature in the poem. Like Manfred and the hunter in

the watercolour, we look at this grace and nobility and feel humble and insignificant. Byron wrote:

> *'How beautiful is all this visible world!*
> *How glorious in its action and itself!'*

Manfred seeks redemption, but, sadly, finds only the solace of death. As we look at this painting, we see reflections of the landscapes we shall visit on our holidays. Such beauty, such glory, evoke for us those feelings of wonder and awe that inspired John Martin.

Manfred sees life in its true perspective as he gazes on the majestic scenery of the Bernese Alps. Holidays help us to put life into perspective. Away from the pressure of responsibility and duty, we often realise what is essential in our lives and with those around. We behold the majesty and glory of creation; we see this world as the handiwork of God; and we ask ourselves how we might make our way through it and be always alert to its mystery and its beauty.

From the Parish Pump

apologies

In last month's Outlook the photos below, that should have accompanied Roger Grant's article, were inadvertently omitted. The article was on O Barco,- a sculpture in Inhotim, Brazil, composed of wooden blocks representing a ship used to transport (and in which died) many enslaved Africans.

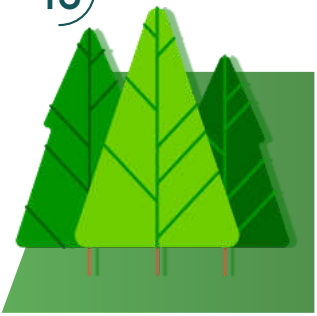
We apologise to our readers and indeed to Roger: the powerful installation and Roger's powerful article was not 'done justice to' by their omission.

Jane Tyrer

Inhotim grounds

'The Boat'

One affection, Humanity.



Nature Note

"So he [Zacchaeus] ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him since Jesus was coming that way"

Luke 19:4

An interesting verse of scripture that tells us a couple of things. Firstly Zacchaeus was not only short but capable of running and climbing trees, not you may think the normal picture of a shady business man for that's the type of guy he was. Whether born into a family of 'iffy' folk or not, Zacchaeus had chosen a life that he knew would bring notoriety and disgust from others. The lowest of the low, a roman collaborator and, even worse, a tax collector!

In those days tax collectors weren't salaried staff of the powers that be but freelance contractors licensed by the Romans. Their income was self-determined as a surcharge on top of what was actually owed.

Imagine that, a 10% or whatever extra on top of what you pay the HMIT, not even pre-determined or explained like a restaurant bill, just an ad hoc inflation of your tax. And no good arguing, state soldiers accompanied the collectors.

So Zacchaeus was extremely wealthy and totally despised. He obviously couldn't care less; determined, focussed and successful, yet curious and, maybe, dissatisfied. He wanted to see Jesus, the polar opposite of himself, but not totally.

Jesus was determined, focussed and successful at being who He was destined to be which meant of course He was not only wise and learned but full of compassion, gentleness, love and total empathy with the lowest and downtrodden, those with the worst problems, diseases and circumstances. And most importantly He had the answer to this: His message of salvation.

Zacchaeus had to see Him. Maybe He could show him how to stop his life going down the plughole of selfish, lonely dissatisfaction.

I had the thought that Zach had a spark of knowledge that life could be what he saw all around him, vibrant, lively, full of

laughter and love and Jesus could have the answer.

Folk will take incredible risks to find that answer. Our news bulletins are full of them running from war, extreme poverty and natural disasters.

Some have the determination and can focus on making the most of whatever good fortune comes their way.

I had a cracking meal the other day, cooked by my sister and brother-in-law. It turns out that it was a Syrian dish taken from a book written by a guy who had lived in Damascus. As things deteriorated around him following the Arab Spring he realised that he would have to leave and find a safe location for his family. He chose London as his destination and proceeded to hitch his way across Europe, finally arriving and being given help in rebuilding his life, would you believe it, in High Wycombe!

He now runs a restaurant in London and has been able to bring his wife and three girls to join him.

I guess you never know what life you have in front of you, he certainly didn't. My prayer is that he comes face to face with The Lord as soon as possible.

Back to Zach. He climbed a sycamore tree according to the song we used to sing in Sunday-school, more correctly a sycamore-fig.

This is not some pidgin english jamming together of two types of tree but a real species. As with a lot of tree families, that of figs is proliferate and can be confusing.

Ficus carica is the common fig with dozens of varieties, much like other cultivated fruit (our apple has over 7,000).

Ficus sycomorus is the scientific name of Zach's tree. Sycomorus derives from the Ancient Greek meaning fig-mulberry due to the leaf shape being similar to that of the mulberry. It turns out that the fig-mulberry was extensively cultivated by Egyptians since ancient times and was taken to Canaan by the Philistines, so pre-dating the arrival of the Hebrews.

It can grow to a fair size, up to 20m tall and its timber is widely used (one ancient tradition has it that Joseph, the father of Jesus, had a walking stick made from this tree that Jesus, when a boy, broke. Joseph pushed part of the remains into the ground which then sprouted and regrew) as well as being a prolific fruit bearer.

Did Zach have a munch as he waited for Jesus?

My prayer is that we at St Michael & All Angels will focus only on Jesus and be determined, like Zach eventually did, to rid our lives of the trash that holds us from being His effective ambassadors.

Get up that sycamore tree, Jesus is coming!

Mike Bevan

Have You Ever Visited … **Cork?**

Last year we visited Dublin and I wrote an article about the two cathedrals there. We thought that it was fitting that we also visited what is now the second city of Ireland and its former capital, Cork. It is a delightful place to go to, welcoming, vibrant and fun.

We went in the middle of April, during that unexpected heatwave and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Cork was, originally, a monastic settlement, probably founded by St Finbar in the 6th Century. In the 9th century, Vikings came and founded a trading port and ecclesiastical and commercial interests flourished side by side. Later, it became known as the "Rebel Port" through its support for the Yorkists in the Wars of the Roses. More recently, it became known as "the real capital" of Ireland through its opposition to the Anglo-Irish Treaty in the Irish Civil War.

This is all history now. Cork is the largest city in the province of Munster and the third largest on the island of Ireland. It has a resident population of about 250,000 and its harbour is one of the largest natural harbours in the world.

Apart from its mild climate, it has much about which to boast: music, through the Cork School of Music is especially strong. Food, in many local traditions, thrives: for the hearty there is tripe, crubeens (from pigs' trotters) and drisheen (a regional variety of black pudding)(no, we didn't taste either). For the discerning there is The English Market which sells delicious locally produced foods, especially fresh fish, cheeses and bread. The restaurants are plentiful from the top to the street side cafes, which we found entrancing.

Cork is predominately Catholic. Its principal place of worship is St Fin Barre's Cathedral. St Finbar (anglicised) the "Fair Headed", came to Ireland twelve centuries ago and founded his school in 606. He died in 623 and his festival day is the 25th September. His place of burial is said to be where the original font stood.

There has been a succession of cathedrals before the present one. It is 19th century in design and is the result of a competition organised by the Chapter in 1861. The Foundation Stone was laid on the 12th January 1865 by the Bishop and it was consecrated on St Andrew's Day, 30th November 1870.

The West Front has the stunning Rose window, whilst the Apse and ceiling are in beautiful colours. It has three spires, a magnificent Bishop's Throne and windows of the highest Victorian quality. Do "google" for the treasures, as they are well worth the effort.

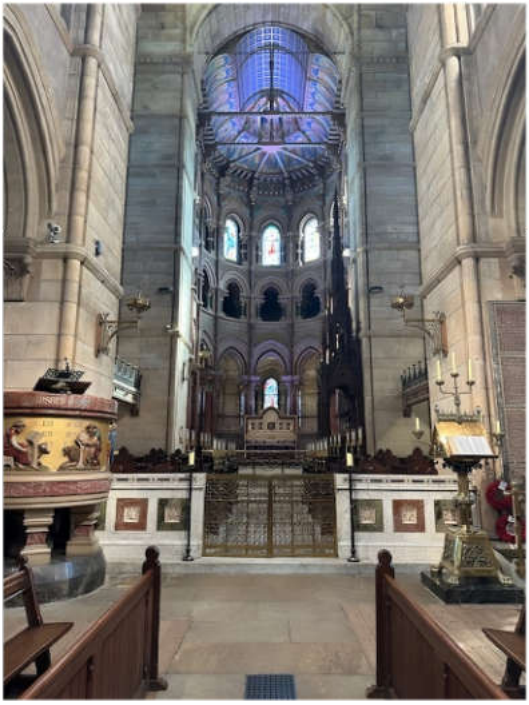
The organ (for the discerning) was built by

Hill and Son and was initially placed in the west gallery. In 1889, it was moved to the north transept but, in order that the pipes should not obliterate the windows, the floor was lowered by 4 metres and into the created space the entire action of the organ was placed. There it remains.

A walk to the fringes of Cork brings the visitor to Cork County Gaol. For those steeped in the legal sides of life, the Gaol is well worth a visit. It is walkable from the city centre, uphill going there but downhill coming back. Its purpose, so the guidebook suggests, is to show how dreadful life was for sentenced prisoners a century ago. It succeeds. An audio guide is available for those who wished for more detailed information on the suffering of prisoners and the brutality of the guards who managed them. Many of the prisoners were sentenced for thefts of food, which resulted in sentences of hard labour. Women were not exempt.

There are places outside the city to visit and the whole area is attractive and welcoming.

Christopher Tyrer



BOOK-ENDS

The Glassmaker - Tracy Chevalier

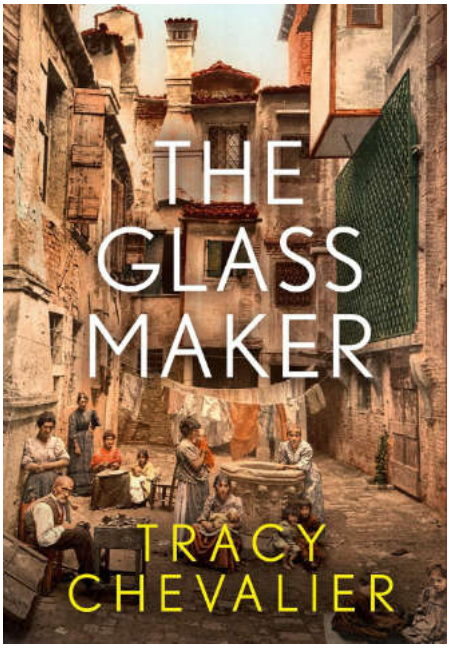
The advert on the wall of Marylebone tube station was indeed large and it pleased me immensely. It was advertising Tracy Chevalier's latest novel 'The Glassmaker' and I understood it immediately. I knew the book had come out last year but now they were telling me it was available in paperback. I had been restrained, not always the case, and now I could buy it.

We were on our way to an exhibition at the Royal Academy in Piccadilly. Right opposite is Hatchards, the oldest bookshop in the country, circa 1790, and that's where I headed after we had had some lunch.

I didn't have to ask for the book or look very hard as the counter was covered with neat piles of the novel. The girl serving was engaging and keen to chat about Tracy Chevalier who had recently been in to sign 200 books. She was apologetic that she didn't seem to have any signed copies left but I assured her that I really didn't mind. I didn't, it was the story I wanted.

This is the book that should accompany anyone on a visit to Venice. I went there in 2005 but I have no idea what reading I took with me. It should have been this. Like the city, this story is deep, rich, slightly exotic and completely satisfying. It is one of those books that you come across now and again that you can't stop reading but at the same time you can't bear to finish.

So, we begin in Venice in the year 1486, looking over the lagoon at the island of Murano. It is the island of the glassmakers and for a while it is omnipotent in Europe. The secrets and skills of making glass are closely guarded and it is many years before other cities, for instance Prague, are



able to build up their own glass industry. Orsola Rosso is our heroine and heroic indeed she is. We walk with her through war, family difficulties, lost love and plague. Working life is hard but more so for a woman who is allowed so few choices. She has the intelligence to know which battles to fight, when to keep quiet about her actions and how to, sometimes, get her own way.

This story travels from the late 1400s to 2020, covid times, only a few years ago. However, Orsola is still the same Orsola, the same woman. When I first realised what was going on I thought, OK we are in the realms of magic realism here, a literary trope that I associate more with Elif Shafak but not with Tracy Chevalier. However, this is accomplished in a seriously clever fashion. The story is surrounded by water and the author uses the device of a flat stone being skimmed across the surface. If you can do this well (I can't) then the stone appears to bounce on the water, possibly several times. At each bounce we move forward historically but Venice and it's neighbouring islands run on its own time. It is indeed a place that can feel frozen in time, it has its own pace. I have never had any difficulty in suspending disbelief, surely in a way that is what fiction is all about. Thus Orsola witnesses war and occupation with Austria, plague that decimates the whole lagoon and the expansion of trade as more areas of the world are discovered by Europe.

Chapter 3 opens thus: ' You have skimmed that flat stone well and true across the lagoon's surface. Another skip and it touches down in 1631. Time alle Veneziana in action once more.'

Many of Orsola's problems are not so different from those of many women all over the world today and because of this timeless universality she effortlessly slides in time without any awkwardness or difficulty. Orsola cannot marry the man she loves because her family won't allow it. She has to marry for business reasons but luckily he is a good man who loves her. She is ground down by the drudgery of laundry and cleaning and has to be inventive and creative when she wants to set up a small venture of her own making glass beads. Orsola is strong, resilient, stoic and determined but always puts the rest of her very extended family first. How many women could be described just so?

Tracy Chevalier is a meticulous historical researcher such that her fiction has a ring of truth about it. Apologies if that strikes you as an oxymoron! She has written another beautiful book which is a perfect joy to read. I offer it to you. Out in paperback now. Do indulge.

Susan Brice

July Recipe

Summer is well on its way now with the Summer Equinox past by the time the magazine is printed. According to all of the statistics on food waste, fruit is one of the worst and many people end up throwing away fruit that has rotted. With my Eco hat on there are many things you can do with fruit when it is past its best!

It clearly can be used in puddings and smoothies if you can liquidize it. Apples are lovely for the blackbirds and other birds even if they are wrinkly! Bananas can be frozen ready for cakes etc. and apparently even put in a tree to rot which attracts butterflies, but I haven't tested this! But I always seem to be left with grapes around after buying them for grandchildren or to go with cheese when we have visitors.

This recipe I have put in the magazine three years ago but is a lovely summer cake and an ideal way to use up grapes. The cake is delicious, keeps well and is very moist. It is also easy to make dairy free as it only has a couple of tablespoons of milk in it, which can be replaced with a non-dairy alternative. I apologise for the lack of imperial measurements for those still using them, as they are not available in many new recipes.

Julia Grant

Grape and Olive Oil Cake

INGREDIENTS

400g seedless grapes

100g plain flour

150g caster sugar and 1 tbsp for the top

100g ground almonds

120g olive oil

1 tsp baking powder

3 eggs

3 tbsp flaked almonds

2 tbsp milk (or dairy free alternative)

½ tsp fine salt

Few drops of almond extract (optional)

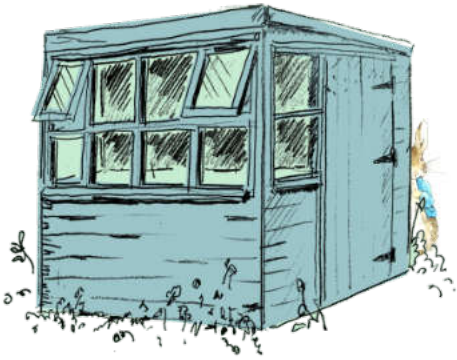
2 lemon thyme sprigs (optional)

You will need a 9 inch (23 cm) diameter deep loose-bottomed tin, lined with baking parchment

METHOD

1. *Preheat oven to 200°C, gas mark 6, and fan oven 180°C. Put the grapes on a baking tray and roast for 25 mins, stirring gently halfway. This concentrates the flavor and ensures the cake is not too wet. Set aside to cool, this can be done up to 24 hours in advance.*
2. *Combine the flour, ground almonds, baking powder and salt in a bowl. In another bowl combine the flaked almonds with 1tsp of sugar.*
3. *Put the 150g sugar and eggs in a large mixing bowl and beat until light and airy, about 2 mins if you are using a mixer. Beat in the oil, almond extract and then add the dry ingredients and thyme. Fold in until all combined.*
4. *Fold the grapes through the cake batter and spoon into the tin. Scatter with flaked almonds and sugar and bake for 45-50 mins until golden, risen and a skewer inserted comes out clean. The grapes may sink to the bottom of the cake but don't worry.*
5. *Cool completely in the tin before slicing (if you can wait that long as does not happen in this house!)*

From the **Potting Shed**



Dear friends,

To me July is raspberry time. When I was a youngster you could only get raspberries in July, that was it. Strawberries in June and raspberries a few weeks later. Now of course you can buy everything all year round from the supermarkets which is convenient but somehow a bit sad too. Nothing tastes better than fruit picked from your garden or allotment. Old MacGregor is not prepared to share the soft fruit he grows with the birds so all his fruit bushes and raspberry canes are netted. This used to be a rather Heath Robinson affair with bamboo canes and lots of string. More recently though he has invested in a proper fruit cage; very posh it is and all. There is even a gate into it so you don't have to bend down and get yourself mixed up with the netting.

Little Seth was here at the weekend and loved to be inside the cage and do some fruit picking. However, it's lucky his Grandad didn't see, as when we both arrived at the kitchen door there was a red trail behind Seth where the berries had fallen out of his bowl, and more red juice all over his face and tee shirt. Happy days!

I've just taken a batch of scones out of the oven. Beryl is coming round later on and we are going to enjoy the last pot of raspberry jam before it's time to set to and make the next lot.

Take care my dears, until next time,

Yours,

Cecily MacGregor

Jobs for July

1. Pick runner beans regularly to prevent them becoming stringy and to leave room for growing pods.
2. Pinch out tomato side shoots each week.
3. Summer weather can be unpredictable so ensure tall perennials and climbers are well supported in case there is a storm.
4. Keep terracotta pots damp so that plant roots won't dry out.
5. Prune wisteria now. Cut off whippy side shoots.
6. Deadhead daily to encourage more flowers.

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

July

1	12.00 pm	Mothers' Union Ploughman's Lunch: Church House
19	1.00 pm	Church Family BBQ: Home of Liz and Stuart Moseley

August

5	10.00 am - 12.00 pm	Coffee Morning in aid of Lighthouse: Church House
23	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Flower Festival: Church
24	10.00 am	Anniversary Celebration Combined Service: Church
	12.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Flower Festival: Church
25	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Flower Festival (Including Bell Tower Open Day): Church
30	2.30 pm	Wedding of Matthew Glayzer & Louise Hobbs: 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

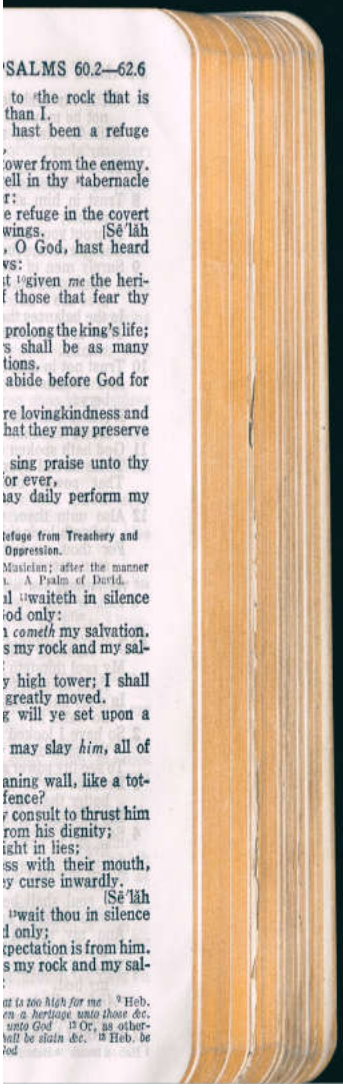
Friendship Morning

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**

July Lectionary



6th : Third Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 66: 10-14

Galatians 6: 1-16

Luke 10: 1-11 & 16-20

Evensong: Psalm 65

Genesis 29: 1-20

Mark 6: 7-29

13th: Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 30: 9-14

Colossians 1: 1-14

Luke 10: 25-37

Psalm at 9.00 am: 25: 1-11

Evensong: Psalm 77

Genesis 32: 9-30

Mark 7: 1-23

20th: Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 18: 1-10a

Colossians 1: 15-28

Luke 10: 38-42

Evensong: Psalm 81

Genesis 41: 1-16 & 25-37

1 Corinthians 4: 8-13

27th: Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 18: 20-32

Colossians 2: 6-19

Luke 11: 1-13

Psalm at 9.00 am: 138

Evensong: Psalm 88

Genesis 42: 1-25

1 Corinthians 10: 1-24

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

Chris Coyston

Children & Families Minister

Mobile: 07855 389998

chris@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

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