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

outlook

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

INSIDE: *Seasons of the Soul* | Experiencing Helsinki | **Nature Note**

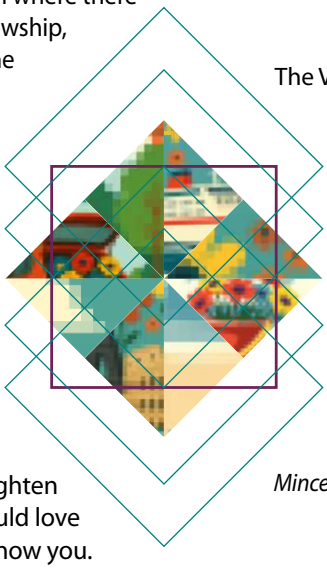
Welcome to **Your Church**

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.



From the Vicarage **2**

Crowd Pleasers Indeed! **4**
Hughenden Community Singers

Tower Talk **6**

Happy Bloomin' Holidays **8**

Seasons of the Soul: A Journey Towards Wholeness **10**

Experiencing Helsinki **12**

The Vicar Who Won Wimbledon **15**

Mothers' Union **16**

A Church Near You **18**

Holy Day in August **19**

Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust **20**

Nature Note **24**

Bookends **26**

August Recipe **28**
Mincemeat and Marzipan Tea Bread

From the Potting Shed **30**

What's On at St Michael & All Angels **31**

August Lectionary **32**

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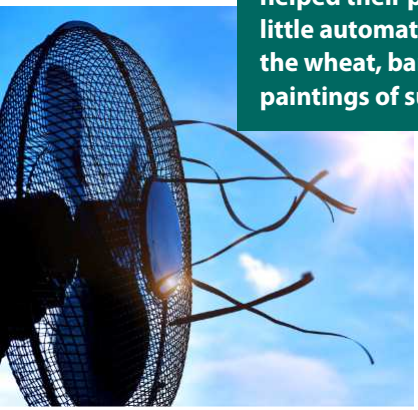
Grant us Lord, faith to believe and strength to do thy will

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Dear Readers

Holiday time is here! The children have broken up for their long summer holidays so I hope some of the beautiful, sunny days are left, although perhaps not so hot as in July. Traditionally the children were given the long holidays so that those from farming families could help with the harvest. The countryside around my school in Leicestershire was dotted with farms and I know many of my friends helped their parents through this very busy time. There was very little automation on farms at that time so cutting and gathering in the wheat, barley, oats, etc took many hands. You will have seen paintings of such scenes which look idyllic, but it was hard work.



Did you watch Wimbledon this year? How did those players manage to keep going in such intense heat? We had shut ourselves in, windows closed, curtains drawn and a fan working overtime to keep us reasonably cool, while those young men and women charged about the tennis courts! Do read the article in these pages about a vicar who won Wimbledon back in 1879 and 1880. No huge, winning cheques in those days!

As you will see from the poster in this edition, the Flower Festival takes place in our church on Bank Holiday weekend, 23rd, 24th, 25th August and I hope as many of you as possible will be able to come for at least one of the days. Happy Bloomin' Holidays is the theme so will you have a go at interpreting a holiday, past or recent? As I was lucky enough to be in the South Pacific recently, I have a few ideas. Also, the bell tower will be open on Monday 25th - see the poster later in this edition.

Enjoy any holidays you may have planned or just enjoy seeing family and friends at home. Wherever you are, keep cool.

Sylvia Clark
Editor

from the Vicarage

Keith Johnson

Vicar

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Psalm 42:1

As I write these words, we are in the midst of yet another summer heat wave. Paddling pools are in great demand, shorts show off white knobbly knees, and most of us spend as much time as possible in the shade, with a fan and an iced drink.

We are not accustomed to long spells of heat and drought as a nation. Air conditioning is in short supply, dog walkers only venture out at dawn or dusk, and we find ourselves changing our daily patterns of behaviour in order to keep going.

On such a day, imagine yourself going out for a long walk in the noon-day sun. There is not a cloud in the sky and you find yourself taking breaks in the shade. You embarked on your walk ill-equipped – you didn't remember to bring liquids with you to keep hydrated. The nearest café is another couple of miles away, as you struggle to make progress. Your mouth becomes so dry that you are desperate for a drink. Eventually you arrive

at your destination – a local café, which to your relief is still open.

The person on duty in the café takes one look at you and pours a large glass of tap water, which you down a few short gulps. For the last mile, the only thing keeping you going was the thought of a tall glass of something cold to drink to quench your thirst. The utter relief and delight as you recover makes you so appreciative of the water. We need water to survive. Water gives us life.

When the Psalmist wrote this Psalm, the language of intense thirst which he used to describe a relationship with the living God was equally life-giving.

As a Christian I believe that God is the source of all life on earth. In a similar way to the desperation you or I would feel before having an intense thirst quenched, so many have experienced a spiritual thirst, a deeper significance in their lives has been found in a living changing relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can truly satisfy our deepest longings, and he always has our best interests at heart because he created us in his image.

The next time you are really thirsty and drink a long, cool glass of water, be reminded the offer of eternal life which can be found in drinking of the waters which spring up from a living relationship with Christ.

Crowd Pleasers **Indeed!**

The event on 21st June at Church was called Crowd Pleasers, and it was full of them, and the crowd who attended Church to listen to the Hughenden Community Choir on the (then) hottest day of the year was very pleased indeed to do so.

The concert was full of familiar favourites: from Rock around the Clock , through two ABBA hits through Elvis, the Beatles and Ed Sheeran to Rockin' all over the World.

The audience sang along with gusto, led by the choir under the expert guidance of Richard Peters whose clear enjoyment of their task was infectious.

The concert was free, with donations to Wycombe Homeless Connection (WHC).

Heather Stanley (WHC Fundraising and Marketing Manager) gave a short address at the interval thanking all who made the event (and the earlier concert at Napfest, also raising money for the same cause) possible and explained a little about the work of WHC.

It is a sad reality that even in ostensibly affluent Buckinghamshire, there are street sleepers, those without a settled place to live, and others on the verge of homelessness.

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

Hughenden Community Singers

Applications to the Council for assistance have gone up more in Buckinghamshire than in other areas as housing costs have also gone up more than in other counties, so the pressure on housing - and indeed on charities - is immense.

The Community choir, as its name suggests, is about joining together. They welcome all ages and apparently all levels of expertise (though no weaknesses were at all evident to me!) All that is required to join their Monday evening sing song, is enthusiasm which was boundlessly displayed under the expert eye of conductor (and apparently movement choreographer) Richard Peters.

To contact/join:
www.hughendensingers.org

Jane Tyrer

LIGHTHOUSE LIVE

LIGHTHOUSE LIVE @ ST. MICHAEL'S

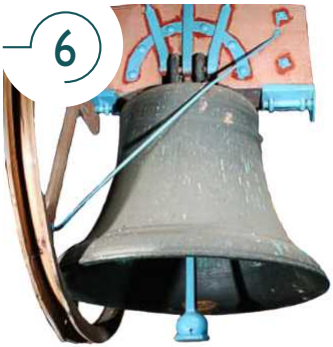
A monthly event for all children with loads of fun and games, craft and a celebration finishing with a shared tea together.

Time: 3.00 – 4.30 pm @ St. Michael's, Hughenden

Sunday 21st Sept
Sunday 19th Oct
Sunday 16th Nov
Sunday 14th Dec

PLEASE SIGN-UP USING THE QR CODE

The QR Code covers all four months. please confirm you are signing up to the correct event each month



Tower Talk

A Special Celebration

On Tuesday 15th July, Hughenden ringers and ringing friends from towers in High Wycombe, Amersham, Turville and Chesham gathered together as usual for ringing practice. Everyone except Verity, our Ringing Captain, knew this was not going to be a normal practice.

At 8.00 pm, under a contrived excuse to leave the ringing chamber, we made our way to the back of the church where Verity discovered what everyone else already knew! She saw a table laid with bottles of sparkling wine, soft drink and cake, and realised that this was to celebrate her birthday. Verity gasped with surprise and joy, and castigated everyone for being so secretive.

Her birthday this year was a "big one". All present wanted to use the occasion as an opportunity to show their appreciation for the exceptional time, energy and enthusiasm she has given to leading the ringing at Hughenden. She has made it a welcoming and fun place to be, not only for members of the band, but also for those from nearby towers.

After singing "Happy Birthday" we presented her with a gift of a bird box containing a solar powered camera, which we knew was something she had coveted. Everyone then enjoyed the rest of the evening socialising.

Happy Birthday, Verity, and thank you for being such an inspiring leader!

Cliff Davies

Photo by TJ (Tracy Jones)

Tower Open Day

Visit the tower and find out what **bell ringing** is like:

- why it can be the perfect social activity for all ages (10+) and great exercise
- the world's heaviest and loudest musical instruments – exhilarating!
- for all faiths and none with no need to be musical or strong

At **St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden**

On **25th August - Bank Holiday Monday**

Time **11.00 am - 3.00 pm**

More Info Find out about the bells in our tower and learn about the art of full-circle bellringing including a demonstration of ringing.

Please note access is via a spiral staircase and does not include climbing to the top of the tower.

For more info contact Verity Nicholls, Tower Captain on 07952 850760

Celebrate Joy and Community at the Hughenden Church Flower Festival

The biennial Hughneden Church Flower Festival is back – and this year, it promises to be more vibrant and heartwarming than ever. Happy Bloomin' Holidays is the theme for 2025, inviting visitors to step into a joyful celebration of holidays past and present, lovingly expressed through thought-provoking arrangements.

Held in the beautiful setting of our church, the Flower Festival has quickly become a much-loved event in the community since it began in 2021. That first year's theme, Recollections of Lockdown, offered a powerful and emotional tribute to shared resilience during a time of global uncertainty. In 2023, Hymns in Bloom brought to life the words and melodies of favourite hymns, with flowers echoing the faith and comfort found in music.

This year, Happy Bloomin' Holidays will take visitors on a vibrant journey through much-loved vacations, seaside memories, family adventures, and peaceful getaways – all expressed through colour, flowers and probably mich else - I'm expecting to see more than a couple of buckets!

But the festival is more than just a visual delight. It's a time to come together – to reconnect, reflect, and enjoy each other's company. Visitors can relax with a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy a slice of homemade cake while soaking in the colourful displays and chatting with friends old and new.

Whether you're a gardening enthusiast, someone who loves travel, or simply looking for a great afternoon out, the Flower Festival offers something special. It's a celebration of creativity, community, and the small joys that make life beautiful.

So come along, bring your friends and family, and join us for Happy Bloomin' Holidays – where flowers tell the stories of the holidays we hold dear.

Admission is free, and you are all warmly welcome. Refreshments will be available throughout the festival. We look forward to seeing you there!

HUGHENDEN CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

23-25 AUG

SAT, MON - 10AM-4PM
SUN - 12PM-4PM

Happy Bloomin' Holidays

HOLIDAY MEMORIES INTERPRETED IN FLOWERS

INCLUDING U3A EXHIBITION AND, ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY, BELL TOWER OPEN DAY

ENTRY IS FREE

TEA, COFFEE AND HOMEMADE CAKE WILL BE SERVED

Seasons of the Soul: A Journey

Series Introduction

Starting this August, I'll be sharing a short monthly reflection through the end of the year, exploring how we can journey through life's changing seasons with greater awareness, compassion, and peace. Each piece is inspired by the rhythm of nature, moments of faith, and lessons from everyday life.

Though shaped by my work in personal development and well-being, these reflections are for everyone — no matter where you find yourself on life's path. My hope is that they offer space for quiet thought, encouragement, and connection.The monthly reflections are:

August
"Still Waters: The Power of Rest and Reset"

September
"New Beginnings: Aligning with Purpose"

October
"Facing the Shadows: Embracing Change and Challenge"

November
"Gratitude and Grace: Nurturing the Heart"

December
"The Light Within: Hope, Reflection, and Renewal"

August Reflection

Still Waters: The Power of Rest and Reset

August often feels like a pause in the year — a moment of stillness before the energy of September returns. The days are long, the pace is slower, and there's space to breathe. Yet in a world that often values busyness, many of us struggle with the idea of slowing down. We might even feel guilty for resting, as if rest has to be earned.

But stillness is not laziness, and rest is not weakness. Stillness is where renewal begins.

In Psalm 23, we read: "He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul." This quiet invitation to restoration speaks deeply to our need for pause. It reminds us that our worth isn't defined by what we accomplish, but by who we are — and that our souls need rest just as our bodies do.

Rest allows our minds to regain clarity. It gives our bodies space to recover. And perhaps most importantly, it creates room for our hearts to listen — not to the noise and demands of the outside world, but to what truly matters within us.

Sometimes we hear that inner voice in prayer. Other times, it finds us in nature, in

Towards Wholeness

journaling, in music, or in the gentle presence of someone who really listens. Stillness helps us reconnect with what we may have forgotten in the rush — peace, direction, even joy.

This month, I invite you to seek your own "still waters." It doesn't have to be grand or dramatic. Maybe it's a walk without headphones, a quiet moment with a cup of tea, or sitting in a shady spot with nothing to do.

Whatever it looks like, let it be yours. Let it be enough.

Not every answer comes through doing. Sometimes, the most meaningful guidance arrives when we stop, breathe, and finally allow ourselves to simply be.

Beatrix Glowacki (Bea)

Experiencing Helsinki

… with some advice for travellers

A formal "Have you visited Helsinki?" this is not. That will come separately. This is a resume of a recent trip, with only slight embellishments.

A flight on an airplane usually involves a drink: ours was blueberry juice. Usually it remains in the cup, but on the way out to Finland the fluid all escaped. One moment it was in a cup and in the hand; the next, not so. This was unfortunate as it spread far and wide. It is surprising how far spilt liquid travels. There were some unforeseen consequences: one set of clothing each had to be sent to the laundry as soon as we reached the hotel.

Moral - take plenty of clothes.

Secondly, blueberry is not compatible with printed material. The print on Jane's book, which she happened to be reading, lost much of its visual acuity.

Moral - take spare copies of your reading material.

Mopping up liquid in flight presents challenges. Wet wipes do not absorb. If you fly Finnair - and you should as they are excellent - we advise you to avoid seats 19A and B, as there may be residual tackiness on the fixtures and fittings.

Fortunately, we were assigned 17D and E on the return flight, which were fine.

On arrival at Helsinki airport, there was a small matter of Border Control to overcome. As Finland's entire border to the east is with Russia, they take passport controls very seriously. No smiling, no humorous asides and no jokes about the Russians.

First, now we are out of the EU, thanks to Brexit, we had to join a long queue to get to an official. Be ready for heavy cross examination. Any connections with Russia, Milton Keynes or humour are frowned upon. Where are you from and going to, why are you here and where are you staying? Our passports had just been renewed which excited interest. There were no previous stamps to cross check, just blank pages. This spoiled the fun. Still, it passed the time and our luggage was gathering dust on the carousel by the time we made it.

The first full day of our stay was wet. One of us went in her raincoat; the "wise virgin"

took an umbrella from the hotel stock. The one sans umbrella took refuge under the one with the correct equipment. The result was that, when we returned from our guided walk round Helsinki, we were both soaked. Another pair of clothes went out of service to be dried.

Moral - take plenty of clothes.

In the evening of our first day, we decided to go out for dinner. We determined upon "The Holy Crab", since we liked the tone. If you "google" it, you will see how the tables have hot plates down their length, on top of which is placed a plastic sheet. The seafood, crab, lobster, squid, prawns, mussels etc., is poured from a bag onto the table. No vegetarian or vegan options here. The diners are given a bib each, appropriate utensils to cut open molluscs and plastic gloves, as eating is by hand. Despite these preventative measures, there were two consequences: clothes were splattered and a penetrating smell of fish and garlic permeated the fibres. The third sets of outfits joined the first two.

Moral - take plenty of clothes.

For the next day, our second full day, we took ourselves off to the three cathedrals, one Eastern Orthodox, two Lutheran and an imposing German church. Everyone is welcome in church and no questions. By now, obviously, our company was not necessarily attractive; additionally, eating in the hotel was now the safest option.

For our third full day, which we spent cruising around the many beautiful islands, the issue of appropriate attire for a restaurant for the evening came up for decision. We thought our luck was in when we found "Natura." Could this mean that, perhaps, our last clothing resort - pyjamas and the hotel dressing gowns and slippers - might serve our needs? We could arrive, divest ourselves of our unusual attire and dine in our credentials. Is this "al fresco" or do we look for another?

Not so: "Natura" related to the food ingredients and not to the dining arrangements. The purchase of Helsinki sweaters came to our aid. There were many to choose from - some more tasteful than others. We avoided the "kiss me quick" variety, as Jane needs Notice.

Moral - take plenty of clothes.

The next day was travel home day. First all our clothes had to be collected; have you often come back, after a holiday, with all clean clothes? We were tastefully attired for the return flight in dining out formality and managed not to empty drinks or food over them by taking the prudent option of declining. It was just as well; there were several periods of significant turbulence as we travelled and we decided to be kindly and supportive towards those whose comestibles became airborne and

decanted upon the unprepared. We knew how to offer sympathy and wet wipes. I regret that we did not take note of relevant seat numbers…

For once our luck held - nothing came nigh us.

Of course, it took longer to get out of Heathrow than the flight lasted. First, another plane had been parked in the bay reserved for ours and we sat on the runway for twenty minutes. The pathway through to passport control and luggage was lengthy only in terms of distance. It seemed like we had disembarked at Gatwick and then had to walk.

Still, our cases awaited and we collected our car. As it was now Friday late afternoon, it took another age to drive home.

We need a holiday to recover and will remind ourselves: take plenty of clothes, do not throw juice all over your clothes and books, use umbrellas, dine wisely and remember: we're British. We can take it and smile …

Christopher Tyrer
(Real name and address withheld)

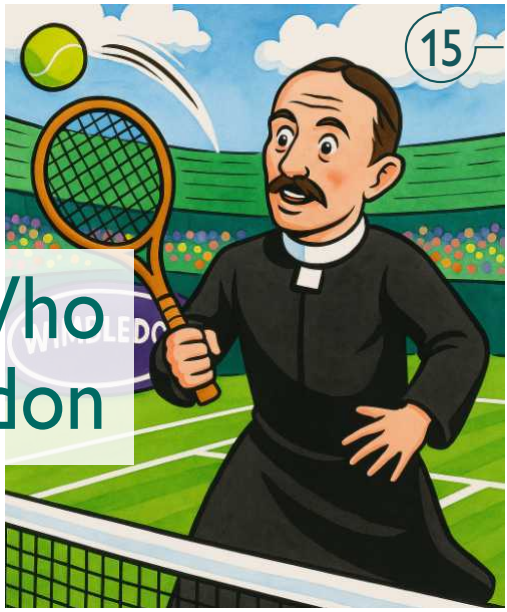
Eat your heart out Eco-group

While in Helsinki, I came across an art installation in a park. It was there comprised of a number of exhibits all linked in some way with nature. The one that particularly caught my eye - by Kalle Hamm and Dzamil Kamanger - was a group of four (sustainably sourced!) wooden sculptures entitled Bug Rugs. They were in fact enormous 'Bug Hotels', on patterns borrowed from a traditional Finnish rya rug wool tapestry and a Kurdish kilim rug.

My photo unfortunately doesn't have a measure for you to assess the scale, save by the background trees. Suffice to say: a great many bugs could check into this hotel!

Jane Tyrer

The Vicar Who Won Wimbledon



Ninety years ago, on 21st August 1935, John Hartley, the British tennis player, died. He was the only clergyman ever to win Wimbledon and was World Number One in both 1879 and 1880 – winning Wimbledon both years.

The Revd John Thorneycroft Hartley was born in 1849 in Wolverhampton and was well connected: his parents were both from Staffordshire industrial business families, and he married Alice Lascelles Murray, daughter of the 4th Earl of Mansfield and a granddaughter of Henry Lascelles, 3rd Earl of Harewood. They had no children.

He won the 1879 Gentlemen's Singles title against Irish champion Vere St Leger Goold in three sets on 15th July, retaining his title the following year. But in attempting the hat-trick in 1881 he lost the shortest ever men's final, 0-6, 1-6, 1-6, in 37 minutes. He was said to have been ill at the time.

Hartley had become a priest in 1873. He was firstly curate of Christ Church, Southwark, and then became vicar of Burneston, a village in North Yorkshire, from 1874 to 1919. In 1891 he became Rural Dean of East Catterick, and later he was Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.

As an amateur, he received no cash for his Wimbledon wins, and in the course of his first finals win he caught a train to Yorkshire so that he could do his duty and take his services at Burneston on the Sunday. Not only that, but he stayed with a dying parishioner until he passed away on the Monday – the day of the semi-finals. A rain delay helped him to get back to London in time.

At the Golden Jubilee Championships in 1926 he received a silver medal from Queen Mary as one of 34 surviving champions.

From the Parish Pump

Mothers' Union

We held our annual Ploughman's Lunch on Tuesday, 1st July which turned out to be the hottest day of the year! As there was plenty of warning, we were able to provide shady places to sit. Many people opted to stay in Church House but there were seats available under the gazebos in the garden. Numbers were only slightly down on last year. We were very grateful to those of you who came.

It was lovely to see many familiar faces and to be able to welcome newcomers to this annual event. Our menu of salad, homemade cakes and drinks still seems to be very popular. The proceeds of the morning will go to MU supported charities, both in the diocese and locally.

There is no Mothers' Union meeting in August, so our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 2nd September at 2.00 pm in Church House when Ann and Roger Gee will be telling us about Assam and the Brahmaputra. Visitors are very welcome to join us.

Ann Gee

Mary Sumner
founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became

Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

From The Parish Pump

A Church Near You

St John's Lacey Green has been celebrating the 200th Anniversary of its consecration in July with a festal evensong, a school pageant, history tours, an organ recital and of course a garden party.

It was built between 1823 and 1825 as a chapel of ease to St Mary's Princes Risborough. A Chapel of Ease is a church building other than the parish church built within the parish to assist those who cannot get to the parish church owing to the distance. Of course, in the 1800s there was little more than a cart track from Lacey Green to the nearest market town of Princes Risborough.

At that time Buckinghamshire was in the Diocese of Lincoln and so the new building was consecrated by the then Bishop Lincoln. (The County was transferred to the Diocese of Oxford in 1845, and the current parish of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen formed in 1851.)

The church was designed by John Norris of Hughenden Manor. There seemed to have been many links with Hughenden as Sir William Laurence Young of Northdean House was one of the major benefactors. Both the Young and Norris families are commemorated in our church.

Originally built as a simple cruciform shape, the polygonal chapel (shown) was added in 1871.

There is little stained glass beyond the armorial shield of benefactors, but very unusual lozenge shaped clear panes. The chapel and hammer beamed roof providing interesting architectural features.

In 1994 the west gallery was glazed to form the 'Upper Room'.

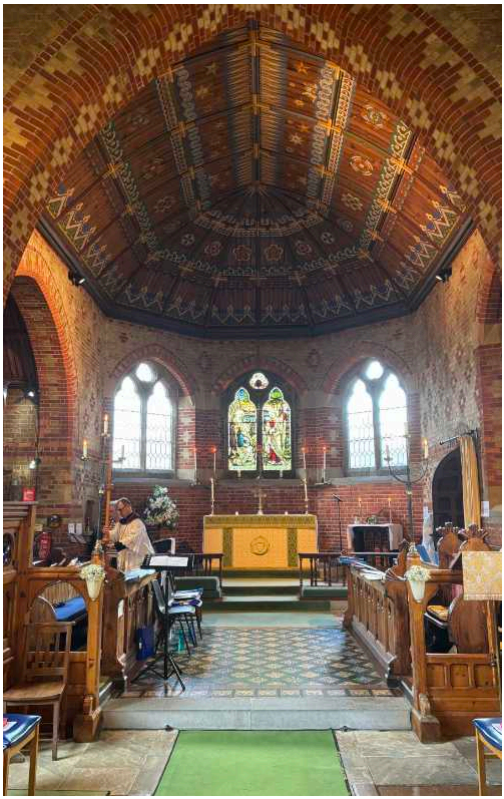
The pride and joy of the Church is the Samuel Green Organ, (pictured) which is older than the church itself having been built in 1792 originally as a 'drawing room organ'. There are few still in existence; one similar organ by Samuel Green was damaged in the Windsor Castle fire.

The Lacey Green example has suffered from dilapidation and occasionally from inappropriate refurbishment. The latest work carried out in 2022 sought a balance between restoration to its 1792 condition and making it useful and usable for public worship.

One of the particular features of the organ is a 19th Century 'tell-tale' showing the amount of wind passing through the organ.

The Church sits opposite its school in Lacey Green in the heart of the village and is well worth a visit.
stjohnschurchlaceygreen.com

Jane Tyrer



Holy Day in August

4th August - Sithney: the saint who preferred mad dogs to women

You know how some men find women's interest in romance and clothes hard to cope with? Well, Sithney (or Sezni) should be the patron saint of all such men.

According to a Breton folk legend, Sithney was a hermit of long ago, minding his own business, when one day God told him that he was going to make him the patron saint of girls. Sithney was horrified. He foresaw a future where thousands of young women were forever plaguing him to find them good husbands and fine clothes … the thought of it appalled him. So Sithney begged God for some other job, something more peaceful, than dealing with young women. "Very well," said God. "You can look after mad dogs, instead."

Sithney replied cheerfully: "I'd rather have mad dogs than women, any day." And so it was. Since that time, young women have pestered other saints to bring them husbands and fine clothes, while sick and mad dogs have been taken to drink water from the well of St Sezni, patron of Sithney, near Helston in Cornwall.

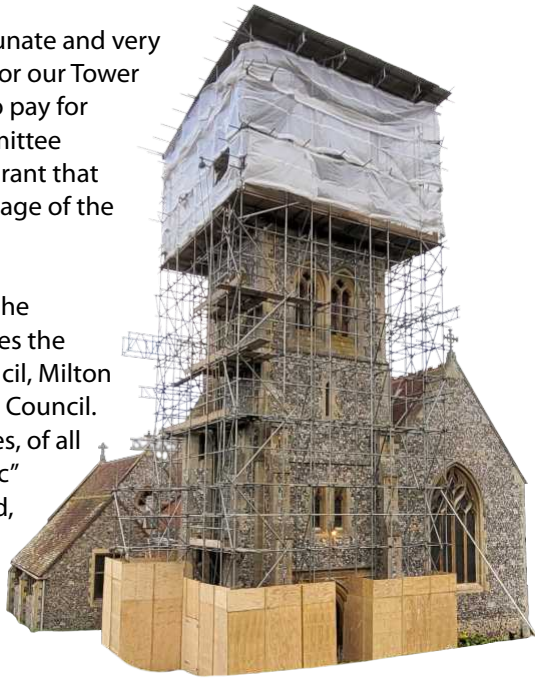
From the Parish Pump

Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust

What Does It Do?

The Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust is a registered charity set up by a Trust Deed in 1957, by the then Lord Lieutenant, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher (the 6th Baronet: his grandson, also Sir Henry, the 8th Baronet, was Lord Lieutenant between 2006 and 2020) and the then Bishop of Buckingham, The Rt Revd Robert Milton Hay. They had collected £100 to be held and applied by them for the repair of churches in the Archdeaconry of Buckingham. Since then, over £1m worth of grants have been distributed for the repair and restoration of more than 300 churches and, currently, at a rate of about £60k per annum.

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden, was fortunate and very grateful to receive a maximum grant of £10k for our Tower Project. It had two effects: it gave us money to pay for immediate needs and it gave the Tower Committee enormous encouragement as it was the first grant that they received and it was granted at an early stage of the works. Theirs was a typical reaction.



The area covered by the Trust is the whole of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham, which comprises the areas administered by Buckinghamshire Council, Milton Keynes Borough Council and Slough Borough Council. Although predominately Anglican, all churches, of all denominations, are eligible for grants: "historic" churches are those (usually) over 100 years old, and the purpose of the grant is for the "preservation, repair, maintenance and upkeep of the fabric."

Churches in Buckinghamshire comprise buildings which are ancient – 1000 years old – to modern churches built to serve new communities. Across the ten Deaneries (subdivisions of the Archdeaconry), there are about 300 parishes and benefices (one church is a Parish, more than one, combined together in a group, is a Benefice). Applications are made by a PCC or similar body representing the church in question, in the first instance to the Trust Secretary, who will provide an application form and the subsequent process is described carefully on the BHCT website.

There are exceptions to availability, based on the necessity to prioritise areas of need and preserve such funds as are available for the greatest calls for support. So, repairs of bells or their frames, organs, fixtures and furnishings, work associated with the installation or repair of heating, electrical and lighting systems, redecoration work, churchyard structures and work connected with the provision of kitchens and lavatories are excluded.

There is a scheme - "the Micro Grant Scheme" - whereby funds can be provided for urgent repairs. Not infrequently, Quinquennial Inspection Reports, which are required for all Anglican churches, bring to light issues that have escaped the notice and attention of the congregation and have been spotted by the professional architect. Frequently, this discovery is the first inkling that a congregation may get of a need for repairs. Damage caused by fire, weather, theft (often of lead from roofs) and vandalism, additionally, can attract support from this scheme. The limit is £1k and BHCT aims to process claims within 28 days.

State support and funding is entirely absent. There are a number of charitable bodies that will provide funds if the need is covered by their criteria. There has been a scheme whereby the VAT element on works has been recoverable from the Treasury but, sadly, the present Government has lowered the qualifying amount repayable and the scheme may not be continued at all beyond 2026. This is a serious threat to works being required of churches serving small communities and, whilst it is hoped that Government will relent, the real fear is that it will cease the scheme and cause real difficulties and challenges.

The process of applying for a grant, being inspected and a decision made is set out on the website under "Grants." The maximum grant made by BHCT is £10k but, of course, smaller sums for smaller projects are eligible and will be considered.

Every year an Annual Report is published, setting out what has been done and achieved by parishes and churches with BHCT support. It can be viewed and downloaded from BHCT website: www.bucks-historic-churches.org

Christopher Tyrer

How Can We Help

Of course, BHCT does much to raise funds itself. Supporting local worshipping and neighbourhood communities needs funds that are constantly replenished.

Becoming a member of BHCT is a start and then to support the various activities on offer:

- Special events: in June 2024, Dame Norma Major gave a talk on Chequers at a special BHCT event, by courtesy of the then Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak;
- Ride and Stride: a cycling event, held annually, with participants cycling around participating churches. Roger Grant is our own organiser. In excess of £26,000 is raised;
- Evenings of music and song: see the website for the latest details;
- Gardens near the Church Day is another attractive event much enjoyed by those taking part. Again, the website will have the latest details;
- Friends of BCHT: complete with visits, talks and events, the Friends organise a plethora of interesting events to enjoy.

What Does BHCT Need

BCHT has particular immediate needs.

Trustees: all organisations, including and, perhaps, especially charities, need to future proof their governing body. BHCT is seeking those with skills such as finance, buildings expertise, fundraising and general administration. If you feel attracted, please contact the Secretary: secretary@bucks-historic-churches.org.uk

A Ride and Stride Organiser. The Ride and Stride event, which takes place in September, is a county wide event bringing funds both to BHCT and to the local participating churches. Please contact the Secretary if you would like to know more.

Financial support – whether through the events listed or through donations – personal and by churches – all donations, of course, are very welcome. As a charity – number 206471 – Gift Aid is greatly appreciated where applicable.

The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough

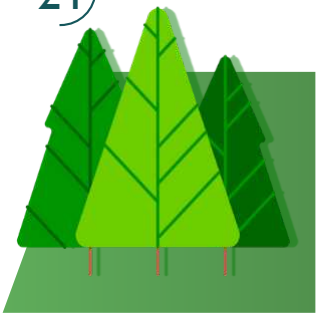
The weeks of July sunshine saw us supporting the Town Council's Summer Festival. Part of our Club's contribution was our annual Ramble which included a choice of different distance walks in the countryside around the town, a BBQ and a children's chocolate hunt, all of which were in aid of Scannappeal, Shelterbox and local charities, and we were generously sponsored by Beechdean Ice Cream and Wainwright Shoes. We also supported the Saturday Street Festival with a Rotary stall and with the road closures.

During our Club meetings, after our meal, we were entertained by talks on the Florence Nightingale Hospice, the experiences of a Police Crime Scene Investigator and the work of the Wildlife Trust. Talks in the coming months include the One Can Trust, Ashridge Home Care and a talk by one of our Members, a Consultant Gastroenterologist. The Club members' Wives' group met for lunch at the Harrow at Bishopstone and the Curry, Breakfast and Walking groups all also enjoyed their monthly outings. The Children's Chess Competition was a great success, with the youngsters displaying some amazing skills, as was our Children's Art Competition which involved eight schools and nearly 1,500 participants. In addition, we ran two Sailing Days for Bucks' Young Carers at Bury Lakes, Rickmansworth.

These are just a snapshot of the wide range of projects in which we are involved in the local community. If you feel that you might wish to be involved in such activities, and perhaps "give back", our Club comprises a group of lively, fun-loving men and women focussed on contributing to needs in the local area and wider afield whilst having a good time.

If you want to be part of this, visit our website and come to one of our Monday evening meetings at the Whiteleaf Golf Club 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, 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



Nature Note

"John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey"

Mark 1:6

I'm back to trees again and their fundamental place in nature and their environmental importance. Imagine a world without them. Think of living on a polar icecap, or deep in a desert, or above the tree line in a mountain range. No thanks, not for me.

We're extremely fortunate in the Chilterns with the company of so many extensively wooded areas, around 30% tree cover in the High Wycombe zone compared to 13% nationally.

Our native beech - fagus sylvatica - dominates and shows how we humans have managed woodlands for our own ends.

Since ancient times our trees have provided timber for building and firewood. Then the rise of the increasingly industrialised wool industry during the Middle Ages meant large scale clearances for sheep pasture, so Chiltern hilltops with relatively shallow, less fertile soils were fields at this time.

Once this demand fell, timber reclaimed the tops and beech was encouraged to flourish, being well suited to shallow soils over chalk. Clay pockets here and there gave oak a chance, although the Napoleonic era of 220 years ago resulted in massive demands particularly for ship building, and stripped out any oak of worth (straight trees of large girth and a long branchless bole).

For instance, HMS Victory was built in1759 and used 6,000 trees, 90% of which were oak! Is it any wonder that "Hearts of Oak" is a traditional naval song?

So you can see that our current woodlands are what was left after that demand combed out the best oak; add to that the demands of a growing local furniture industry for beech and you can understand why our individual trees in general don't compare to those oak and beech from France and Germany, both widely imported today.

And yet what a joy it is to walk woodland paths around us, even in 'inclement' weather.

My best example was walking in torrential rain on a windless day through woods around West Wycombe when the only sounds were from the sheeting rain, dripping, splashing, soaking and the trees murmuring with delight as they were hosed down. Superb.

The text above refers to John the Baptist, described by Mark as a man of solitude living in the wilderness, a rough and ready lifestyle with a rough and ready appearance. He lived on locusts and honey. This may, of course, mean locusts, the large insects but could be the fruit of the carob tree, locally known as the locust tree for some reason. Carobs are widespread in the eastern Mediterranean and Holy Lands, favouring semi-arid areas. It's a member of the pea family - ceratonia siliqua - and leguminous by nature, therefore producing large seed pods. The seeds themselves are edible and these days used to produce a chocolate alternative, but in ancient times were not thought of as food for the bulk of the population, more as animal feed, pigs in particular.

The Prodigal Son considered eating them alongside the pigs he was keeping!

Carob seeds are sufficiently uniform in weight to have been used by ancient traders as weight standards and are the root of our carat for use of weighing precious metals.

"Carat" comes from Italian "carato" derived from Greek "keras" for carob and literally meaning horn, the shape of a carob pod.

So John was eating pig food! Is this the resolution of the text "…neither throw your pearls before the pigs … ? In other words pig food will be used to measure things of incredible value.

And of course, pig food went into John's mouth, out of which came the beautiful life-giving announcement of the arrival of the world's Saviour, Jesus.

Mike Bevan

BOOK-ENDS

Vianne and Chocolat - Joanne Harris

Joanne Harris is an interesting writer. She is half French, lives near Barnsley in Yorkshire, has played in a rock band for decades and was a teacher before becoming a full-time writer. She is the chair of the SOA, the Society of Authors, and has had many quite public, strong disagreements with JK Rowling, mainly about gender issues, each being at the extreme ends of the discussion (opposite ends!) Joanne Harris also has a form of synesthesia where the senses crossover, so, seeing certain keys in music as colours or associating numbers with particular smells or, again, colours. When I read this about the author, I felt it explained her extravagant and delicious descriptions of food, where the visual and the olfactory mingle in a powerful fashion, even with an intangible waft of magic. And all that is before we talk about chocolate!

Do you remember the film Chocolat following the first successful book written by Joanne Harris? It starred Juliette Binoche, Johnny Depp and Judi Dench and was quite different from anything else around at the time. Building on that success, (why wouldn't you?) there were several sequels including: 'The Strawberry Thief' and 'Lollipop Shoes.' In my experience a sequel, however good it is, is never quite as strong as the first book but there is now quite a fashion for producing 'prequels' … is that a real word I wonder? These are stories that tell us what happened before the original writing; its own backstory in a way.

Thus, we have 'Vianne,' the book which comes before 'Chocolat' and weaves together the history of the time in Marseille when she has been blown across the Atlantic from New York and arrives alone. She is looking for her life really. She needs a job, friends, a home and more: that feeling of belonging somewhere, having a sense of purpose,

mattering to someone. Vianne is pregnant with no wedding ring and is constantly aware of the voice of her dead mother telling her to move on, not to settle, to go where the wind takes her. This literary trope of the wind changing is employed many times in these stories and actually reminds me of how it is used in Mary Poppins. It is a way of saying: don't take things for granted, always be ready to move on. Food and chocolate play a large part in the narrative of both books and sometimes the effect is intoxicating, quite dizzying.

I enjoyed reading 'Vianne' as I always like context, and then re-reading 'Chocolat,' the story felt weightier. The reader knows from where the characters emanate.

So, at the beginning of the second book, Vianne and her young daughter Anouk are blown into the remote village of Lansquenet-sous-Tannes. This is an imaginary village in south west France, situated on a tributary of the Garonne, (the real river!) In this rural French remoteness Vianne Rocher is othered. Do you understand that use of the word ? Suddenly it is a verb! It is modern parlance basically for prejudice, be it colour, race, religion or language. If a person or group of people are discriminated against, ostracised or victimised, then they are being 'othered.' This does not roll easily off my tongue but whatever, it definitely applies to the character Vianne in this book. She doesn't fit in…and doesn't wish to. She refuses to go to church, she wears bright and what are deemed to be unseemly clothes and worst of all, contrary to village culture, she opens a delectable, seductive chocolaterie at the worst possible time: the beginning of Lent. Is she a force for evil or good? It depends very much where you are standing.

Vianne knows about herbs and spices, she knows everybody's favourite chocolate, she reads 'the cards' and appears to have a sixth sense, a third eye, call it what you will. Understandably the conservative villagers are suspicious but maybe you only perceive evil if you feel threatened. There is witchery here, or magic or indeed quiet criminality but many find that Vianne's arrival raises their spirits and brings them happiness, in its many different forms.

If you haven't read 'Chocolat' before then you are in for a decadent treat but do read 'Vianne' first.

Joanne Harris writes with subtlety and sophistication as she uses chocolate as a metaphor for both the serpent's apple and the milk of human kindness. This is skilled and sensuous writing.

Susan Brice

August Recipe

I was going to put this recipe in the January magazine when we often have mincemeat and marzipan left, but I made it recently for a coffee morning and lots of people asked if they could have it now as they still have mincemeat and marzipan left.

This is very easy to make and goes with my philosophy of not wasting food and using up everything! Delicious for an afternoon treat and can also be very good spread with butter.

Julia Grant

Mincemeat and Marzipan Tea Bread

INGREDIENTS

200g Self-raising flour

100g Cold butter cut in pieces

85g Muscovado or soft light brown sugar

2 eggs

85g Marzipan cut into 1cm cubes

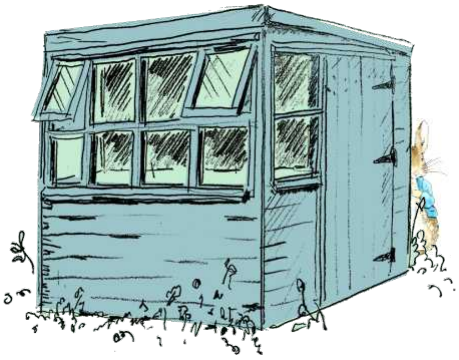
300g Mincemeat

2 tbsp Flaked almonds

METHOD

1. *Preheat oven to 180°C, gas mark 4, and fan oven 160°C. Line a 2lb loaf tin with non-stick paper. Tip the flour into a bowl, add the cold butter and rub until the mixture forms fine crumbs. Stir in the sugar and marzipan chunks.*
2. *In another bowl, lightly whisk the eggs and stir in the mincemeat. Stir this into the flour mixture until evenly combined. Tip this into the prepared tin and sprinkle over the flaked almonds.*
3. *Bake for 1 hour until the tea bread is risen and golden brown, or a skewer inserted comes out clean. Lightly dust with icing sugar while still hot.*
4. *Allow cooling for 10 minutes, and then turn onto a wire rack until completely cool. Keeps moist well wrapped for 4-5 days.*

From the **Potting Shed**



Dear friends,

I hope you are enjoying your gardens and that your plants are surviving our very hot weather. Beryl and her sister went on a coach tour in July around Holland and Belgium. Beryl said she was dying for a good cup of tea when she came home … and her bottom ached from too much sitting. I'm spending the summer at home. I have a deckchair in a shady spot where I can read my Woman's Own and I like pottering in the garden, there's always something to do. And of course I shall see more of Ruby and Seth in the school holidays.

Ruby said the other day that she knew it was August because the crocosmia was out. My old mum would have called it montbretia but yes August is its month. 'I can see autumn growing,' went on Ruby. She was pointing at the blackberries ripening as she walked up to my gate and the conkers in their bright green, prickly cases on the old horse chestnut tree. Time doesn't stand still does it? Enjoy each day my dears.

Yours,

Cecily MacGregor

Jobs for August

1. It's school holiday time so try and involve your children or grandchildren in some gardening. Harvesting some vegetables that they can then eat is always good.
2. Try to use grey water wherever possible as with very warm weather the water butts will be running low.
3. Prune lavender and other flowering shrubs after they have bloomed.
4. Deadhead flowering plants regularly, remembering to cut back to a leaf shoot.
5. Towards the end of August it will be a good time to sow hardy annuals. They will be ready to flower next summer.
6. Hanging baskets will begin to fade unless you continue to deadhead, water and feed.

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

August

5	10.00 am	Coffee Morning in aid of Lighthouse: Church House
23	10.00 am	Flower Festival: Church
24	10.00 am	Anniversary Celebration Service: Church
	12.00 pm	Flower Festival: Church
25	10.00 am	Flower Festival (Including Bell Tower Open Day): Church

September

2	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Meeting: Church House
6	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast: Church House
	1.00 pm	Wedding of Matthew Anderson and Fionnuala Halton: Church
13	2.00 pm	Wedding of Angus Dixon and Charlotte Darling: Church
20	2.00 pm	Wedding of Sharon Constancon & Martin Watkins: Church
21	3.00 pm	Lighthouse Live: Church (see page 5)

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

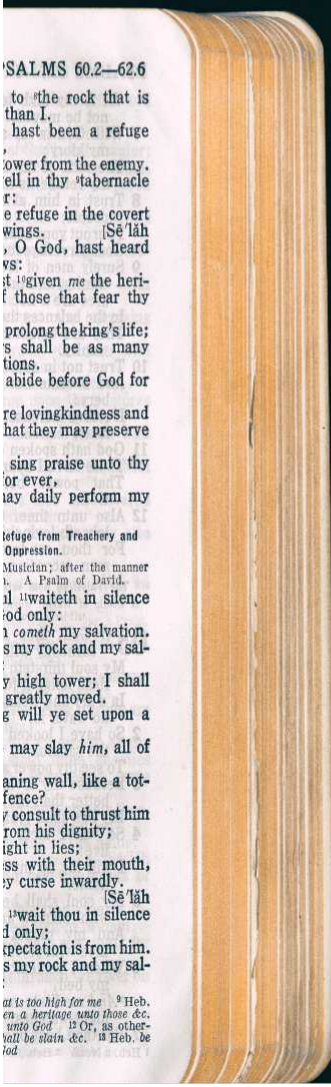
Friendship Morning

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**

August Lectionary



3rd : Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14 & 2:18-23
Colossians 3: 1-11
Luke 12: 13-21
Evensong: Psalm 107: 1-16
Genesis 50: 4-end
1 Corinthians 14: 1-19

10th: Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 15: 1-6
Hebrews 11: 1-3 & 8-16
Luke 12: 32-40
Psalm at 9.00 am: 33: 12-end
Evensong: Psalm 108
Isaiah 11:10 – 12:end
2 Corinthians 1: 1-22

17th: Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 23: 23-29
Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2
Luke 12: 49-56
Evensong: Psalm 119: 17-32
Isaiah 28: 9-22
2 Corinthians 8: 1-9

24th: Tenth Sunday after Trinity

TBC (150th Anniversary Service)
Evensong: Psalm 91 & 116
Ecclesiasticus 39: 1-10
Matthew 10: 1-22

31st: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Proverbs 25: 6-7
Hebrews 13: 1-8 & 15-16
Luke 14: 1 & 7-14
Psalm at 9.00 am: 112
Evensong: Psalm 119: 81-96
Isaiah 33: 13-22
John 3: 22-36

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