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

outLook

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

INSIDE: Disraeli Regalia | *Tower Talk* | **Mothers' Union**

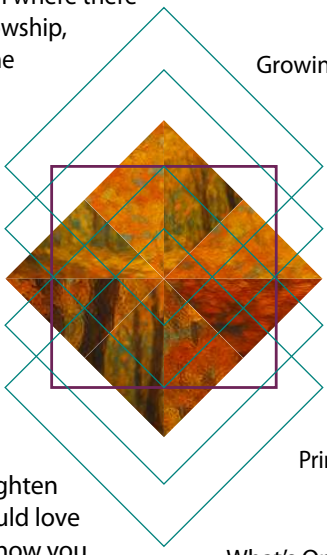
Welcome to **Your Church**

This magazine serves the parish in which our beautiful church of St Michael & All Angels is situated. Outlook aims to give you a flavour of what it is to live in Hughenden and to worship here.

There has been a place of worship and prayer on this site since the 12th century and today the church is open for anyone wishing to wander around or sit a while in its peace. We are an open, welcoming and inclusive church where there are many opportunities for fellowship, social activities and of course the possibility for spiritual growth.

Outlook is published monthly. Articles or comments can be submitted to mag@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk. The deadline is the 15th of the month. If you would like the magazine delivered then please contact Andrew Cole - 01494 305020.

We hope you find something here to interest, inform or enlighten you. We wish you well and would love to have the chance to get to know you.



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

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Dear Readers

Our Harvest Festival services were held at the beginning of October when lots of items of food, toiletries, etc were brought to the church. These were then collected by the One-Can Trust which does so much to help people who are struggling to afford enough food to put on the table. This made me think of Carlin Peas. 'What are they?' you may ask.

Over 25 years ago my late mother-in-law, Annie, a native of the northeast of England, lived with us and she used to sing or recite a rhyme about carlin peas and tell us stories about Carlin Sunday. Oh, how I wish I had recorded these stories but sadly I didn't. It has been suggested that the name 'Carlin' comes from Carling Sunday or Care Sunday, the Sunday before Palm Sunday. In 1644 (or 1327, according to which version of the story you read) when the population of Royalist Newcastle was under siege and their food supplies cut off by the Scots, it was saved from starvation when a ship arrived from Norway with a cargo of these peas on that day. Alternatively, there are tales of a ship getting stranded off the coast of South Shields and the life-saving peas washing up on shore. Either way, the population survived due to carlin peas which they cooked and ate. Annie and her family ate them every Carlin Sunday.

Carlin peas continue to be available today and are still eaten on Carlin Sunday in parts of the northeast of England. I wonder if the One-Can Trust had any donated. Apparently they are a good food source and are a bit like mushy peas.

On 9th November, Remembrance Sunday, we will once again be remembering those lost in the two Great Wars and various conflicts since. Services and commemorations will be held in many towns and villages throughout the British Isles and all over the world. See Helen's letter on the next page for the timing of the Act of Remembrance in our church, and also Verity's explanation of the muffled bells.

This month's edition has information about the charity Growing Hope and its quiz night, always well attended and challenging; a report on the brilliant success of our bellringing team; Lin's old bra collection – and much more. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Sylvia Clark
Editor

from the Vicarage

Not

Helen Peters

Associate Minister

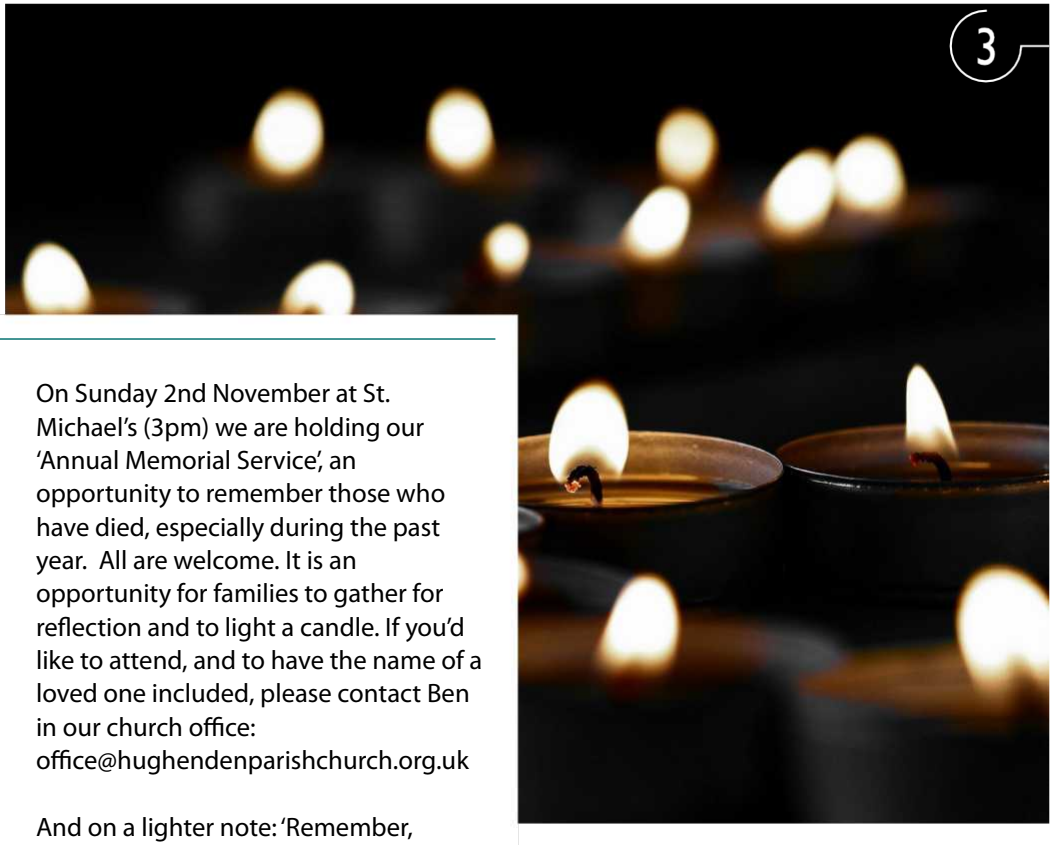
St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

On 11th November at 11am millions of people in the UK and around the world will pause for a moment of stillness, to remember those who lost their lives in the first and second world wars and in wars that have taken place since.

Young people from the villages of our Parish who waved goodbye to family and friends, never to return, will be remembered by war memorials in Naphill and Great Kingshill and at a Service of Remembrance at St. Michael's Hughenden (10.45am on 9th November).

As well as remembering the lost, the silence can help us reflect on our need for peace. As I write, there is a glimmer of hope in the Middle East with the tentative first phase of a peace deal in place, although Ukraine continues to resist the onslaught of Russian advances. We know our world needs peace and it is easy to feel helpless about the situation we find ourselves in. There is a well-documented growing openness to spirituality and faith especially amongst younger generations and I offer these following words which some might find helpful:

God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world. Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief. We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin. Help us to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.



On Sunday 2nd November at St. Michael's (3pm) we are holding our 'Annual Memorial Service', an opportunity to remember those who have died, especially during the past year. All are welcome. It is an opportunity for families to gather for reflection and to light a candle. If you'd like to attend, and to have the name of a loved one included, please contact Ben in our church office: office@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

And on a lighter note: 'Remember, remember the 5th of November'. I would like to say a huge thank those in our community who give their time and energy into creating amazing Bonfire and Firework displays for the community to enjoy. Thank you for the huge amount of work done behind the scenes to make these events run smoothly and safely:

Great Kingshill Residents Association Fireworks 31st October

Naphill Fireworks spectacular on 8th November.

Hear, Hear

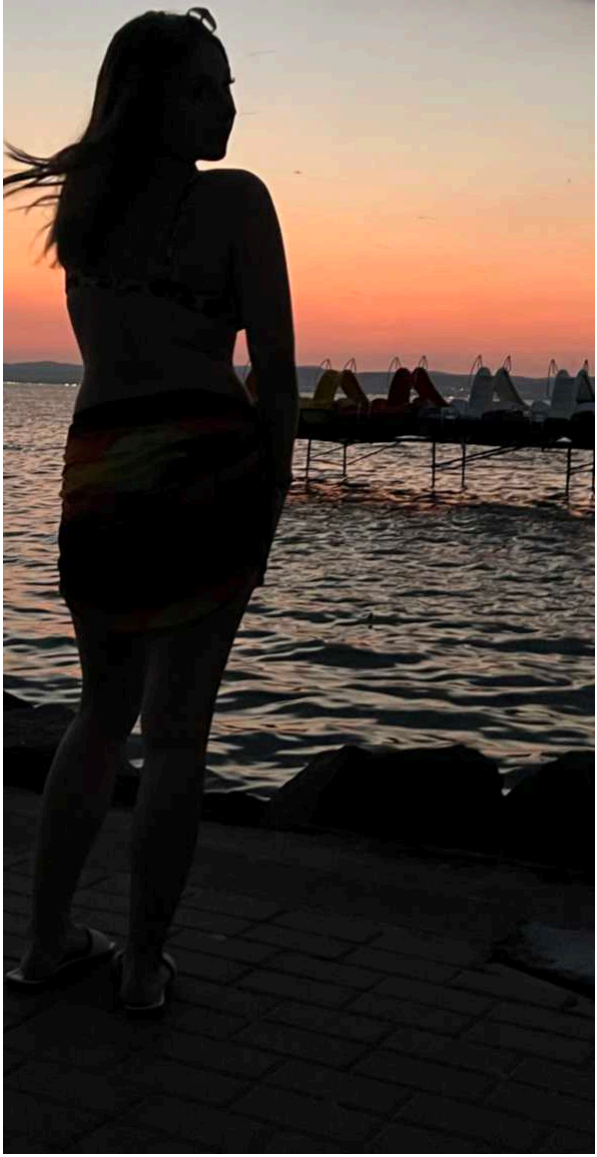
A very deaf elderly man was finally fitted out with a hearing aid that really worked. A month later his doctor called him in for a check-up. 'Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

From The Parish Pump

October Reflection

Gratitude and Grace: Nurturing the Heart



November often carries a quieter rhythm. The bright colours of autumn begin to fade, the days grow shorter, and there's a sense of slowing down. It's a season that invites us inward — to reflect, to remember, and to give thanks.

Gratitude is sometimes thought of as simply saying "thank you." Yet it is much more than a polite response. Gratitude is a posture of the heart, a way of seeing the world. It allows us to notice the blessings that are already present, even when life feels heavy or uncertain.

When we pause to give thanks, we shift our perspective. Small, ordinary moments — a warm drink on a cold morning, a kind word, the comfort of friendship — become reminders that we are cared for and not alone. Gratitude opens space for joy to enter, even in seasons of challenge.

But gratitude is not always easy. Some days, we may not feel thankful at all. That is why grace matters. Grace allows us to be honest about our struggles, while still holding on to hope. Grace whispers that it's okay to feel tired, that we are still loved, and that there is always something — however small — worth noticing.

This month, I invite you to try a

simple practice: each day, write down three things you are thankful for. They do not need to be grand or extraordinary. In fact, the smaller and simpler, the better. Over time, this practice can gently shift the way we see our lives — from focusing on what is missing, to recognising what has quietly been there all along.

Scripture reminds us: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Gratitude and grace together nurture the heart. They remind us that even in darker days, light remains.

As we move toward the season of Advent, may November be a time of softened hearts, deeper thankfulness, and the quiet joy that comes from knowing we are held in love.

Beatrix Glowacki

Holy Day in November

2nd November – All Souls' Day, a time of reckoning with the past

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

From the Parish Pump

Lighthouse Live *Shines Bright!*

What a fantastic start we've had to Lighthouse Live! From the moment the doors opened on 21st September, there was a real sense of excitement as families gathered together to enjoy an afternoon of fun, friendship, and faith. We were delighted to see such encouraging numbers of both children and parents joining us – and the buzz in the room showed just how much everyone was ready to dive in.

The afternoon began with a brilliant mix of games and crafts. Children (and a few grown-ups too) got stuck in, laughing, creating and enjoying the chance to spend time together. It was wonderful to see families connecting, friendships forming and the church filled with the sound of chatter and energy.

Then it was celebration time, when we explored the story of Moses. Through songs, storytelling and reflection, we discovered more about how God used Moses in amazing ways – and how those lessons still speak to us today. It was a joy to see both young and old learning together, sharing in moments of wonder and encouragement.

Afterwards, it was time to gather in Church House for one of the best parts of the evening – a shared hotdog tea! Plates were full, conversations flowed, and no one was left hungry. There was a real sense of community as families sat side by side, enjoying food and fellowship together.

Overall, it was a truly uplifting start to Lighthouse Live. But this is only the beginning! We'd love to see even more families come along next time. Whether you're new to church life or you've been part of the community for years, Lighthouse Live is a place for you. It's a chance to spend time as a family, meet others and discover more about the God who loves us.

So why not join us? Come, bring your friends and be part of something special. Lighthouse Live is shining bright – and we'd love for you to be there too!

The report of the October Lighthouse Live will appear in December's edition. Our next Lighthouse Live is Sunday the 16th November 2025, 3.00 - 4.30pm. Please follow this link to sign up stmichaels.churchsuite.com/events/i6frrmr1

Chris Coyston
Children's and Families' Pastor

Keith's Licensing

Half a league, half a league, half a league onward rode the 600.

Probably more like 20 of us in truth, as we went west to support Keith's installation. Nunney is a characterful village. If it has full-scale housing developments, it's keeping them well hidden. No roads wide enough to take two vehicles comfortably at speed and no street lighting - so unlike our own dear parish! It was time for torches to the fore, but fortunately nowhere was far from anywhere else.

The bells rang out, the church was flooded with light, and everyone received a warm and cheery welcome from Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells. The warmth of this rural community shone out, both in the service where the different churches in the Group individually welcomed Keith and gave lovely and thoughtful gifts, to the splendid refreshments provided afterwards in the village hall. We shared experiences of the trials and tribulations of getting a good parish profile, making sure the advertisements were attracting the type of clergy wanted and the interview process, to say nothing of the 'how's he been for your Parish?' I say nothing!

Keith will no doubt find the change from one large parish to eight numerically smaller ones a challenge in itself, but I have no doubts he knows what he is taking on and we wish him love, joy and success in the years to come. Oh and a nearby source of new picture hooks!

Lin Smit

Welcome Back

After an absence of several months, Disraeli's garter banner and helm have been returned to their rightful place – as commanded by Queen Victoria- above Disraeli's seat in the chancel.

Our avid reader will remember that after dismantling the banner and fabric sidepieces (the latter being referred to in the process as 'the dangly bits') were taken on a somewhat tortuous journey to the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) in Hampton Court Palace. (For those who missed the account, tortuous because we took a few minor diversions.)

On examination, the RSN found that the silk of the banner had become extremely dried out which has caused or contributed to its fragmentation. The dirt of the church, including soot from years of candle smoke, had darkened and stained the fabric.

Two rounds of humidifying were required to resuscitate the silk, and then the careful cleaning of the delicate and fractured material.

The netting that held the banner together was replaced, and the 'dangly bits' cleaned, and the tassels refurbished and netted to safeguard them. Regilding was considered but decided against on both cost and aesthetic grounds.

Once we were told the process was complete, Susan Brice and I set off to retrace our steps (apart from the wrong turns) to gather up the priceless artefacts.

Well, not quite retrace our steps, as we were directed to the main entrance - because the palace was open to the general public on the day of collection - rather than the quaintly named Flower

Pot Lane through which we squeezed our way last time.

I will gloss over the fact that we somehow managed to avoid all the security arrangements we were supposed to go through, but we arrived as directed at Tennis Court Lane. This of course is where the Palace Real (or Royal) Tennis Court is situated. We did see someone heading that way, complete with racquets, but did not think we could push our luck to follow them and explore.

After asking for directions, we got to the RSN, via a wonderful gift shop, where I had to purchase some gifts for my granddaughter who has just started GCSE textiles!

We were then met by our hosts who escorted us into the studio/workroom. We chatted a while, and then I asked where the banner was. Amid some laughter we were directed to the piece hanging from the ceiling, right in front of us. Neither of us has realised it was there, nor that the second item was also hanging there. We were quite overwhelmed, not only by the comparative brightness, but by the fact that the banner was much more robust looking: less fragmented.

Then the careful process of getting the items down, wrapping them and transporting them to my car took place. However, there was one more surprise for us: we were handed some small sachets of the dirt that was removed, carefully segregated into soot, dust and BIRD POO!

These too will be put on display in church as I found that the fact they could be separated out and were separated and given to us, was quite … amazing.

An uneventful journey home via a drop off at Frank's who arranged the rehanging, and then a quick bite at Bon Ami as we had not dare stop for lunch with our cargo.

A very interesting trip, marred only by a letter that arrived a few days later informing me that I had travelled at 27 mph in a 20 mph zone!

Ah well: could have been worse.

So: all back and on display for our visitors to see. Go and have a look behind the pulpit.

Jane Tyrer

Tower Talk

Hughenden Triumphs in the 2025 Lorna Newton Competition

We're thrilled to announce that Hughenden has won this year's Lorna Newton Striking Competition, a knockout-style contest between bell towers in our branch that's been running annually since 1973.

Spanning from February to October, the competition begins with a random draw that pairs 18 towers to ring against one another in successive rounds. Winners then go forward to the final showdown where the top teams battle it out for the coveted trophy. This year's final took place on 11 October at Chalfont St Giles, with five teams competing. Hughenden claimed first place and will proudly hold the Lorna Newton Trophy for the next year. High Wycombe secured second place and received the runners-up cup.

Congratulations to all who took part, and especially to our fantastic team for bringing the trophy home and for having fun in the process. Here's a photo of our winning Hughenden band — from left to right: Tom, TJ, Verity, Annie, Ros, and Cliff.

Verity Nicholls

Remembrance Sunday Bells

On Sunday 9th November we will be ringing the bells 'half muffled'. This means that each bell has a leather pad (a muffle) fitted to one side of the clapper. When the bell strikes on one side (at handstroke), the metallic side of the clapper strikes the bell and we get a loud, strong, bright note, but when the bell strikes on the other side (at backstroke), the muffle cushions the blow and we get a deep, mournful sound – a beautiful sorrowful echo. This alternating rhythm evokes a powerful emotional response - each muted note a gentle reminder of lives lost and memories cherished.

We invite you to pause and listen on Remembrance Sunday, as the half-muffled peal carries through the air, a solemn tribute to those who have gone before us.

Harvest Festival

What an array of beautiful flowers, a great selection of fresh vegetables and fruit and generous donations of tins and packets of groceries, were on show in the church for the celebration of Harvest. All the tins, boxes and fresh food were collected by willing helpers and delivered to the One-Can Trust to distribute to those in need.

It was certainly a display of 'All good gifts around us' and harvest hymns and songs gave thanks to the Lord for all his love.

Christine Gould

Growing Hope Across the Country

Do you know what High Wycombe has in common with Kings Cross, Brockley, Maidstone, Redbridge, Solent, York and Farnham? The answer is that all these areas have Growing Hope clinics. Growing Hope aims to grow hope for children, hope for families, and hope in Jesus, by providing free therapy for children with additional needs as well as courses to support parents and siblings. They welcome people of all faiths and none.

Our local clinic is hosted by St James' Church in Downley but is also supported by churches in and around the town, as its services are available to people across the area. St Michael & All Angels supports Growing Hope High Wycombe financially each year and many of us have enjoyed attending fundraising events over the last few years, as well as making individual donations to enable this vital work to continue.

When Naomi Fox set up Growing Hope in 2017, her vision was to have 20 clinics across the country by 2030. The first one was set up in Kings Cross, then came Brockley, and in early 2022, High Wycombe. Maidstone, Redbridge and Solent followed, and the latest clinics are York, which launched in June this year, and Farnham which opened even more recently, at the end of September. With eight clinics established so far and four more planned for 2026, in Ipswich, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Sheffield, Naomi's vision looks very likely to become reality.

Heather Graham, vicar of St James, will be speaking at our Women's Breakfast on 15th November, updating us on news of our local clinic as well as telling us more about the wider picture. Growing Hope High Wycombe's latest fundraising event will be on the previous evening, a quiz night at St James on 14th November. Do come if there are still any spaces available!

To find out how to make a referral, to learn more about the charity, or to book tickets for the quiz night, see Growing Hope's website growinghope.org.uk.

Charlotte Tester

Growing Hope High Wycombe's

QUIZ NIGHT

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

Or scan the QR code to book!

FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER | £15 PER PERSON

Includes dinner!

Book your tickets:
growinghope.org.uk/events

Growing HOPE High Wycombe

BRA COLLECTION

I'm just a girl who can't say 'NO'! I have been asked when the next bra collection for Against Breast Cancer would be. I hadn't intended doing any more as I thought I might have left you all bra-less, but it was asked for so far be it from me to refuse.

Therefore, please start collecting now. I haven't set a date yet, and I don't want you to bring bras to church or to my door(!) but it will happen in January 2026 so you've got time to ask for new undies for Christmas. Watch the December magazine and weekly notice sheet for the date of the collection.

Many thanks

Lin Smit

When there is no peace

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the concept of 'peace'.

> ***They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace.***
>
> Jeremiah 6:14

I wonder what peace felt like in 1945, after 9th May or 16th August? These, of course, were the days after Victory in Europe Day and then Victory in Japan Day. Once the parties and hangovers were cleared up, life would go on as before, for many months to come: with shortages, rationing, men overseas, houses bombed and people on the move. On the continent and in the Far East it was much worse.

What does it feel like now? Yes, we have had 'peace' of sorts in most of Europe between the major continental powers for decades, which is an achievement, but there is no peace in Ukraine, the Middle East or Sudan. If anything, the world is now looking to be a more dangerous place.

This verse from the prophet Jeremiah was the theme of a sermon recently. The preacher talked about peace making, peace keeping and a lasting peace, which are not the same and require different skills. In and after the Second World War peace making meant winning the war and defeating evil. Peace keeping was occupying the defeated lands until they could establish communities built on democracy and justice. (The preacher was born exactly nine months after either VE or VJ Day, so he was a 'child of peace'!)

What about a lasting peace? Many world leaders say, "Peace, Peace" but they mean only peace on their terms and do not care about anything else.

As Christians we should:

- Pray for the peace makers: the women and men in the forces
- Pray for peace keepers: the experts helping to build new societies
- Pray for lasting peace: the willingness of world leaders and politicians to act for the greater good.

From The Parish Pump

Preachers

A rich man went to his vicar and said, 'I want you and your wife to take a three-month trip to the Holy Land at my expense. When you come back, I'll have a surprise for you.' The vicar accepted the offer and he and his wife went off to the Middle East.

Three months later they returned home and were met by the wealthy parishioner, who told them that while they were gone, he had had a new church built. 'It's the finest building money can buy, Vicar,' said the man. 'No expense was spared.' And he was right. It was a magnificent building both outside and in.

But there was one striking difference. There was only one pew and it was at the very back. 'A church with only one pew?' asked the vicar.

'You just wait until Sunday,' said the rich man.

When the time came for the Sunday service, the early arrivals entered the church, filed onto the one pew and sat down. When the pew was full, a switch clicked silently, a circuit closed, the gears meshed, a belt moved and, automatically the rear pew began to move forward. When it reached the front of the church, it came to a stop. At the same time, another empty pew came up from below at the back and more people sat down. And so it continued, pews filling and moving forwards until finally the church was full, from front to back.

'Wonderful!' said the vicar, 'Marvellous!'

The service began, and the vicar started to preach his sermon. He launched into his text and, when 12 o'clock came, he was still going strong with no end in sight. Suddenly a bell rang and a trap door in the floor of the pulpit dropped open.

'Wonderful!' said the congregation. 'Marvellous!'

From A Bucket of Surprises,
J John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.

… and this is definitely tongue-in-cheek
and not aimed at our wonderful clergy! Ed.

Mothers' Union

On the 7th October we were pleased to welcome some guests to our meeting - everyone is always welcome to join us. The theme for the service was Creation and caring for our amazing planet. We had been enjoying some beautiful Autumn days and we sang 'For the Beauty of the Earth'.

We welcomed Sue and Duncan Louttit from the charity 'Remap'. Remap has been operating since 1964 and the South Buckinghamshire branch is one of 65 local branches across England, Scotland and Wales. They make aids and equipment for people with disabilities where there are no suitable alternatives. Each piece of equipment is tailor made to suit the specific needs of an individual and is for their personal use only. The service is provided free of charge and delivered entirely by volunteers who are experienced engineers or crafts men and women with a wide variety of skills and expertise. They usually work with health professionals and like to be involved with the client's occupational therapist from an early stage.

Volunteers visit the disabled people at home and discuss what is needed before designing suitable equipment; several visits are often needed to fine tune the equipment to the needs of the client and they are always on hand to make any adjustments. We were very impressed with the range of equipment that has been designed, from a simple 3D printed handle for a ruler for the person with congenital hand defects, thus enabling the client to complete a university course, to an attachment for a buggy to a wheelchair so that the mother could take her baby out. There are requests for custom ramps and platforms, drink holders and eating aids, modifications for shower chairs and the controls, also drone and X-box controllers.

Many questions were asked at the end of the talk as so much interest had been generated. It was emphasised that the service is free to all, but donations are welcome which go towards the cost of materials and engineers' travel costs. Volunteers are needed to make the equipment as well as promoting, fundraising and administration.

More information can be obtained from Nigel Matthias on 07413 455787 or by email SouthBucks: enquiries@remapgroups.org.uk

Coffee Morning

A large number of people walked up the drive to Church House on 21st October to enjoy tea, coffee and cakes. The coffee morning is a lovely opportunity to meet up with friends and acquaintances in warm and pleasant surroundings. The raffle was well supported and generous donations were gratefully received for the work of Away From It All holidays (AFIA) which are holidays funded by the Mothers' Union for families which desperately need a break.

Ann Gee

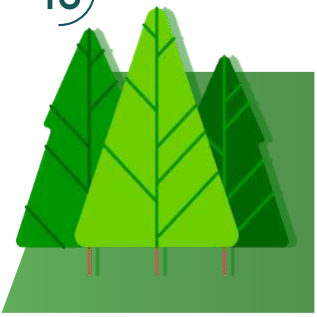
At our meeting on 4th November at 2pm in Church House, the talk is called 'Two Spoons – Tea Tales' and the speakers are 'Giles and Mark'. This sounds intriguing – you are most welcome to join us.

Barbara Willson

The Women's Refuge

As usual, the Mothers Union will be collecting for the children and mothers at the Refuge this Christmas. Suitable items are edible treats for the children and toiletries for the mothers, but no toys please. A box will be placed at the back of the church for any contributions. These will be collected on 2nd December. Many thanks

Ann Gee



Nature Note

A farmer went out to sow his seed … some fell along the path … some fell on rocky ground … other seed fell among thorns … other seed fell on good soil … the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8

Have you ever thought of yourself as a patch of soil? The Lord does, well not quite. Why would we be soil?

A couple of reasons; ideas grow and develop in us just as plants do and as you must have noticed, soil doesn't stay exposed for long. So it is with our minds and hearts; if our good side isn't nurtured then unwanted distractions and worse take over. I guess the unspoken lesson of this chapter is to nurture not only what grows in the soil of our souls, but to care for the soil itself by feeding it with the best nutrients.

Soil is not dirt, although dirt is a constituent. Dirt is very small rock particles to which, in order to make soil is added organic matter, water and air. Life forms of various kinds soon colonise soil.

Most of them are unknown or at least unspecified by science; there are huge numbers of species and individuals involved, so much so that over half of all species on earth live in the soil that covers most of it, both above and below water level, essentially a thin layer separating atmosphere from bedrock. And without that thin layer we'd be lost - 90% of all plants that support us grow in it.

But of course, we've only just realised that the condition of the soil is paramount to our agricultural efforts and due to modern farming practices we are losing topsoil more than ten times as quickly as it can be formed (it takes 500 years to produce one inch of topsoil). Loss of, or poisoning of, topsoil led directly to the demise of several ancient civilisations. The fact is we've treated soil like dirt!

Yet that very soil is our lifeline in so many ways other than food production; for instance it filters and cleans water as it seeps through its layers and it is the source of the bulk of our antibiotics.

So nowadays farmers are being taught to treat their soil with care and keep an eye on its condition.

Gardeners have known this for a long time. They feed the soil not with chemicals, but with composts, manures, organic dressings and mulches; they keep soil under plants for as long as possible (nature's way) thus reducing the potential for erosion. Did you know that a quarter of a tablespoonful of healthy garden soil contains more microscopic organisms than the total of humans on earth right now?

Just to illustrate the indifference of modern agriculture to the earth on which we depend, walk across an arable field footpath and feel the lifeless, chemical-soaked sludge under your feet. Follow that by walking through a woodland along a similar pathway; what a difference – bouncy, springy earth that exists without man's chemical 'help'.

Gardeners have also been at the forefront of the 'no dig' campaign that even has farmers seriously looking at minimal soil disturbance by top dressing only. That's based on the truth that the soil dwelling societies of worms, fungi, and countless miniature animals and bacteria have their own setups and tunnels which are destroyed when earth is turned. With up-to-date education and willing students the next generation of farmers and gardeners should be able to reverse the age old attitudes of indifferent disregard for the earth and its delicate balance between life and eventual disaster.

Autumn and its relaxed celebration of another season of bounty is fully here now. Birdwatchers are noting the first flocks of redwings and fieldfares returning from the north of Europe, while the last swallows and martins are wending their way to Africa. Much excitement as well on the east coast, first at Bempton Cliffs in Yorkshire, then in northern Scotland at the sight of only the second ever British record of white throated needletail - an Asian swift rated as the fastest bird in level wing powered flight at 105mph. (Our peregrine falcon - a successful breeder in High Wycombe again this year - is the fastest animal on earth at 250mph but that's in a stoop-to-kill situation.)

Here's to continuing to be the good soil that the Lord needs for top fruit in our lives.

Use that heavenly compost!

Mike Bevan

BOOK-ENDS

Cosy Crime

This immediately appears to be an oxymoron. How can crime be cosy? A contradiction in terms surely but actually this has long been a recognised moniker in the publishing world. As so often happens it is fairly easy to identify but rather tricky to actually explain. Sometimes this is written with a z as Cozy Crime. An Americanism? I'm not sure but I find it annoying so I will continue to use an s! Possibly this new genre is a version of the 'Golden Age' of crime that is associated with the 1920s and 30s; the between the wars writing of authors like Margery Allingham, Dorothy L Sayers, Ngaio Marsh and the redoubtable Agatha Christie, who gave us the memorable amateur detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. There are many similarities: imposing manor houses, pleasant country village locations and many totally unqualified sleuths, sometimes working with the police detective and sometimes working distinctly without their approval. Also, quite importantly, there is a distinct lack of graphic violence and gore.

There are a growing number of writers who today are jumping on the cosy crime bandwagon, probably the best known is Richard Osman, already famous for several television programmes and now amazingly popular with 'The Thursday Murder Club.' This book was published in 2020, as it so happened, just ready for lockdown reading! There are now four more books with 'The Impossible Fortune' coming out very recently. I have read the first story and watched the film. For those who are unfamiliar with the setting (does that apply to anyone I wonder?!) all the stories take place in a peaceful, very posh, retirement village. Among the various activities available, Elizabeth runs a Thursday Murder Club, where

with Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron they aim to solve cold case murders. When a brutal killing actually takes place on their doorstep, they are obviously well placed to get involved and find the culprit. I have to say the police detective is written as a rather slow character, played well in the inevitable film by Daniel Mays. I quite enjoyed the book and the film but do not feel inclined to explore further.

Another Richard, Richard Coles, has found writing cosy crime a good fit after his time working as a Church of England priest. I won't comment directly on that statement! As I opened 'Murder Before Evensong' I found myself laughing out loud on the first page. Should a toilet be put into the Vicar's church with some pews being removed to make room? Should a contactless card machine be put in, etc etc. Richard Coles has lived and worked within the Church of England for most of his life so that he is well acquainted with all its foibles. I wonder how many PCC meetings he presided over in his time, coping with different views and opinions and particularly with the painful business of change. Thus, I was quite liking this before any murder plot entered the scene.

This is really a whodunnit with added humour. The book explores village secrets and the concept of community, where divisions and factions can quickly happen and need a spirit of generosity in order to heal. A TV series is on its way.

The third book is Robert Thorogood's 'The Marlow Murder Club.' This is the first in a quite extensive series by the writer of the television programmes 'Death in Paradise.' It is very strange to read in the first chapter that somebody was being taken to the Minor Injuries Unit in High Wycombe. This rather prolific writer obviously lives by the Thames in Marlow and confidently makes use of his immediate locality. The mood of the story is light and the reader is definitely expected to smile. However, I did find some of the characters to be rather stereotypical and the humour a little contrived. We all have different tastes and these books are extremely popular, so I suspect it is me who is out of step. It is often the case.

So, I have enjoyed my foray into cosy crime. I have been interested and I have laughed. If, though, in the future I want to read crime and quite frequently I do, I find I would head towards Susan Hill, Elly Griffiths or if I feel up for something a little darker, then Ian Rankin, (I know, I know, the last is certainly not cosy.)

It has been fun and if I had to read more of one of the three writers then it would be Richard Coles but this would be nothing to do with the murder plot, far more to do with his wry, observant commentary on the Church of England. Make your choice. Take your pick.

Happy reading

Susan Brice

… Have just noticed that all the names in the first list are female and in today's list that all are male. Not quite sure what to make of that.

November Recipe

Apples are everywhere at the moment as it has been an amazing year for all fruit. So I spend my time trying to find uses for all the fruits available, but there are so many apples that I may end up taking a box to somewhere they produce apple juice! This is the sort of cake that you would expect to find in a coffee shop or tearoom and is delicious served with a dollop of cream!

Julia Grant

Apple and Cinnamon Cake

INGREDIENTS

225g softened butter

225g light muscovado sugar

3 large eggs

100g chopped walnuts

100g sultanas

225g self-raising flour

2 tsp baking powder

440g cooking apples, peeled, cored and grated

1 tsp ground cinnamon

Topping

light muscovado sugar

extra chopped walnuts

METHOD

1. *Preheat oven to 180°C/Fan 160°C/Gas 4. Grease a 23cm (9inch) deep round cake tin and line the base with baking parchment.*
2. *Measure the butter, sugar, eggs, flour, chopped walnuts, sultanas and baking powder into a large bowl and beat for about 2 minutes until thoroughly blended. If the mixture looks quite thick a tablespoon of milk could be stirred in at this point.*
3. *Spoon half the mixture into the prepared tin and then spread the grated apple and ground cinnamon in an even layer on the top. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top of this and level the surface. If you prefer the apples could be mixed in with the cake mixture, making a moister cake. Spread the topping of chopped walnuts and sugar over the cake.*
4. *Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 1¼ to 1½ hours or until well risen and golden. Leave in the tin to cool for a few minutes before turning out to cool on a wire rack. Dust with icing sugar.*

Wonder and Worship

"I was travelling, and out early in the morning: at first there was a vast fog; but, by the time that I was seven or eight miles from home towards the coast, the sun broke out into a delicate warm day. We were then on a large heath or common, and I could discern, as the mist began to break away, great numbers of swallows (hirundines rusticae) clustering on the stinted shrubs and bushes, as if they had roosted there all night. As soon as the air became clear and pleasant they all were on the wing at once; and, by a placid and easy flight, proceeded on southward towards the sea".

How many church leaders today have time to enjoy their surroundings? Gilbert White was a vicar who became famous for his observations about the flora and fauna of his parish. His letters about the local wildlife through the seasons were so beautifully written that they are still in print today, more than 200 years after they were first published as The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne.

White is a great example of someone who saw science and faith in harmony. He writes that he hopes his readers will be inspired to "pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation". His stories are often so vivid that he gets away with packing in quite a bit of scientific detail, painting a more accurate picture of the wonderful events he observed as he travelled around the countryside. White's book is one of the classics of nature writing, and there's even an apocryphal story online that this is one of the most printed books in the country, after the Bible and Shakespeare.

White may have been one of those people with a capacity for endless activity, or perhaps he took rather more care over natural history than his vocation. Either way, I do think that anyone - from the parish priest to the youngest member of the congregation - could learn from his appreciation of creation. It is well worth spending ten minutes every now and again staring into a bush, pond or tree - especially in winter when it's easy to hurry indoors and put the kettle on. Experiencing wildlife first-hand is wonderful fuel for our worship of God and care for His creation. As Psalm 111 says, "Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them" (NIV).

Dr Ruth Bancewicz
From The Parish Pump

**(White's book can be downloaded for free at www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1408)*

The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough

In September, at our stand at the Farmers' Market, we were supported by "Anthony", the Amersham Museum van, helping us raise funds for local charities thanks to the generosity of the people of the Town. This was followed by a large number of us supporting the Kop Hill Climb which again was a fabulous weekend, and has now raised more than £1 million for charity over the past 16 years. One of our members, who is the lead organiser of the event, would like to say: "A huge thankyou to everyone who made Kop Hill Climb 2025 such an incredible success!".

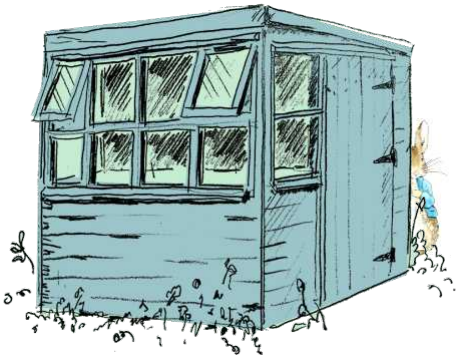
On October 24 Rotary World Polio Day 2025 was observed. Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years, and so far has contributed over $10 billion to the effort and has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide. In June this year Rotary and the Gates Foundation renewed their partnership to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) with a commitment of up to $450 million over three years.

This month we will be supporting the Town Council with road closures on Remembrance Sunday on the morning of the 9th, and again for the switch-on of the Town's Christmas Lights on the 29th, when we will also have a Rotary Stand in the High Street. As Christmas approaches we are well into the plans for our annual Christmas Lunch for those who live alone in the Town, and for our Christmas Collections over two weekends just before Christmas Day.

These are just snippets of what is keeping us busy currently. If you feel that you might wish to be involved in such activities, and perhaps "give back", we are 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. 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: dwhite2025@hotmail.com.

From the **Potting Shed**



Dear friends,

Well, here we go again my dears: a couple of weeks until the clocks change and the longer, darker evenings. Autumn half term will soon be here… and Ruby has plans! It seems to me that when you're young, you only have to do something two or three times for it to become a long-held, important tradition. This is Ruby's: she and I choose a day in half term week when small brother Seth already has a play date in place, we take the bus into town and go to our favourite cafe for lunch. We are both very happy if macaroni cheese is available. We walk through the market and hopefully pick up several bunches of wallflowers, wrapped in newspaper as they should be and then head for the wool shop. Ruby will already have in mind what colour she is after (apparently purple this year) and then that's my evenings sorted for a few weeks as I knit the new winter jumper. I'm going to teach Ruby to knit this time round so there's all the fun of hopefully creating a scarf for her teddy.

So, what with knitting some new socks for my hubby and making bits and pieces for our church Christmas Fair, I will be busy that's for certain.

Keep safe dear friends. Enjoy the winter treats and keep warm. Spring will come again … and I'll see you then.

Yours as always,

Cecily MacGregor

Jobs for November

1. Clear annual climbers like sweet peas and thunbergia from their trellises.
2. Cut down perennial plants and then mulch around the base.
3. Now is the time to enjoy planting tulip bulbs. Maybe choose a new colour combination.
4. Lift parsnips after the first frost when they will be sweeter.
5. Clear leaves off your lawn and aerate it if you want some extra exercise.
6. Order some plant catalogues and put the kettle on for a nice pot of tea … and treat yourself to a chocolate digestive.

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

November

1	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast: Church House
2	3.00 pm	Annual Memorial Service: Church
9	10.45 am	Act of Remembrance: Church
15	8.15 am	Women's Breakfast: Church House
16	3.00 pm	Lighthouse Live: Church
29	7.30 pm	Hughenden Singers Christmas Concert: Church

December

A full list of the Christmas services will be published in the December issue.

2	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Advent Service: Church
4	6.00 pm	Scouts' Carol Service: Church
8	9.00 am	Hughenden School Christmas Unwrapped: Church
	1.00 pm	Great Kingshill School Christmas Unwrapped: Church
12	9.00 am	Great Kingshill School Carol Service: Church
14	3.00 pm	Christingle Service: Church
28	10.00 am	Combined Communion: Church (only service this Sunday)

1st & 3rd Sundays

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

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays

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

Tuesdays

11.00 am **Holy Communion (Said)**

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

Regular Groups

Hughenden Community Singers

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

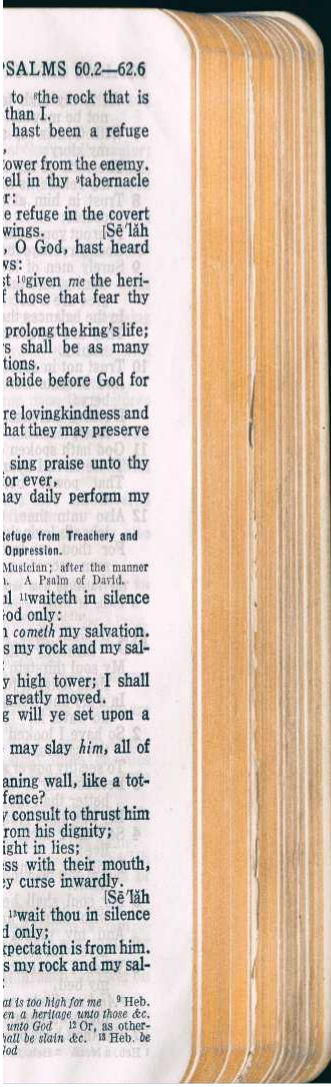
Friendship Morning

This is a get together in Church House on the third Thursday each month at 10.30 am. Primarily for those who are bereaved, who live on their own or who are lonely. The emphasis is on companionship and the atmosphere is light and cheerful. Contact Helen Peters on **01494 716772.**

Tiny Tots @ St. Michael's

Tiny Tots @ St. Michael's meets every Thursday in term time from 9.30 - 11.30 am in the North Room. Come for chat, play, craft and refreshments. Included, every second Thursday of the month, will be the Tiny Tots service, a time of fun worship in church. For details contact Helen Peters - **helen.peters@peters-research.com**

November Lectionary


SALMS 60.2—62.6

to the rock that is
than I.
hast been a refuge

ower from the enemy.
ell in thy tabernacle
r:
e refuge in the covert
wings. [Sē'lāh
, O God, hast heard
vs:
t given *me* the heri-
those that fear thy

prolong the king's life;
s shall be as many
tions.
abide before God for

re lovingkindness and
hat they may preserve

sing praise unto thy
or ever,
ay daily perform my

efuge from Treachery and Oppression.

Musician; after the manner
. A Psalm of David.
l waiteth in silence
od only:
cometh my salvation.
s my rock and my sal-

y high tower; I shall
greatly moved.
will ye set upon a

may slay *him*, all of

aning wall, like a tot-
fence?
consult to thrust him
rom his dignity;
ight in lies;
ss with their mouth,
y curse inwardly.
[Sē'lāh
wait thou in silence
l only;
pectation is from him.
s my rock and my sal-

at is too high for me 9 Heb. *en a heritage unto those &c. unto God* 12 Or, as other- *hall be slain &c.* 13 Heb. *be iod*

2nd: All Saints' Day
Daniel 7: 1-3 & 15-18
Ephesians 1: 11-23
Luke 6: 20-31
Evensong: Psalms 148 & 150
Isaiah 65: 17-end
Hebrews 11:32 – 12:2

9th: Third Sunday before Advent - Remembrance Sunday
Job 19: 23-27a
2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5 & 13-17
Luke 20: 27-38
Psalm at 9.00 am: 17
Evensong: Psalm 40
1 Kings 3: 1-15
Romans 8: 31-39

16th: Second Sunday before Advent
Malachi 4: 1-2a
2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13
Luke 21: 5-19
Evensong: Psalm 97
Daniel 6
Matthew 13: 1-9 & 18-23

23rd: Sunday next before Advent - Christ the King
Jeremiah 23: 1-6
Colossians 1: 11-20
Luke 23: 33-43
Psalm at 9.00 am: 46
Evensong: Psalm 72
1 Samuel 8: 4-20
John 18: 33-37

30th: First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2: 1-5
Romans 13: 11-14
Matthew 24: 36-44
Psalm at 9.00 am: 122
Evensong: Psalm 9
Isaiah 52: 1-12
Matthew 24: 15-28

Who's Who at St Michael & All Angels

The post of vicar at Hughenden is currently vacant.

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	Friendship Morning	Helen Peters	716772
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

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