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

outLook

The magazine for the people of Hughenden Parish | **FEBRUARY 2026** | FREE

INSIDE: **Wycombe Refugee Partnership** | *Minorities, Movement, and Me*

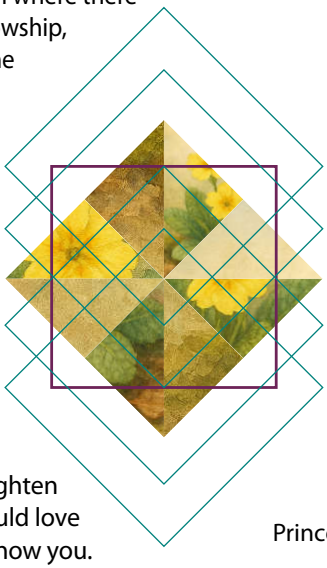
Welcome to **Your Church**

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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Editors *Sylvia Clark, Christopher and Jane Tyrer, Susan Brice*

Design *Ben Brice*

Printing *Andrew Cole, Brian Clark, Roger Grant*

Distribution *Andrew Cole and Team*

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

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Dear Readers

February; often the coldest month of the year. We have had some bitterly cold days and nights and yet, on walking up our lane in early January, snowdrops were already flowering among the trees on the bank on one side of the road. Since then, I have noticed the churchyard snowdrops coming into flower. Such brave and beautiful little flowers I always think and harbingers of spring just around the corner.

It seems to be a very troubled world in early 2026, with conflicts ongoing in various parts and worrying threats emanating from east and west. Oh, if only man could get on with man in this beautiful world. And yet we do have plenty to look forward to; spring with new shoots on the trees and hedges and bulbs poking their green tips through the soil. When driving along the Hughenden Road from Wycombe, I love the green haze that slowly appears on the trees, particularly the weeping willows. Then, a little later, there will be bluebells to pair with the fresh new colour of the beech trees.

In this month's edition, Bea's reflection on February invites us to 'listen more closely — especially to what is happening within us'. Do read and think about it as we go through a month which can sometimes feel very dark. There's also an account of TJ's Licensing at Cuddington, and a very interesting article on Minorities and Movement.

This year Lent begins on 18th February. But before that, St Valentine's Day falls on the 14th (chocolates, roses, pretty cards), closely followed by Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) on the 17th. This date changes every year as it always falls 47 days before Easter. It's a day for feasting before the Lenten fast, traditionally using up eggs, milk and sugar by making pancakes. My favourite topping is sugar and lemon juice. I well remember when my children were small, making pancakes as fast as I could as they were consumed very rapidly. I always ended up with a bright red face and I was lucky if I managed to save a pancake for myself!

There is much to look forward to. I wish you a happy and colourful spring and delicious pancakes to enjoy.

Sylvia Clark
Editor

Not from the Vicarage

Helen Peters

Associate Minister

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

Over time, I find myself appreciating more and more the changing rhythm of the church's year, with its seasons, colours, and patterns that quietly shape our worship and our lives.

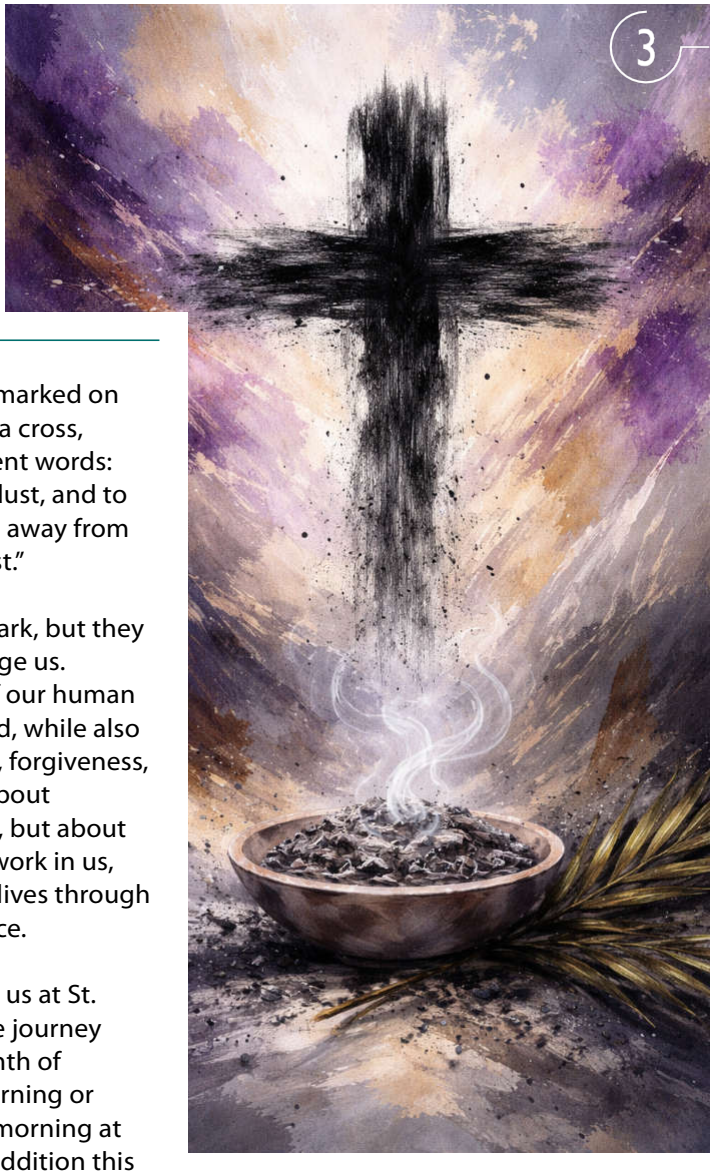
As I write, we are in the season of Epiphany, and the church is dressed in white. Epiphany begins at the start of January, as we remember the journey of the wise men, following the star in search of the child King Jesus in Bethlehem. It is a season of revelation and recognition, about seeing who Jesus truly is.

Epiphany takes us up to 'Candlemas', which this year falls on 1st February. This is the day we remember Mary and Joseph bringing their infant son to the Temple, in obedience to Jewish Law. We recall their encounter with the elderly Simeon and Anna, two faithful, prayerful people who recognise in the child Jesus the fulfilment of God's promise of a Messiah.

After this, we enter a period known as Ordinary Time. The colour turns to green, traditionally associated with growth and life, as we focus on the everyday living out of our faith.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on18th February. Everything changes again as purple replaces green and we begin the season of Lent, a 40-day journey towards Easter.

Ash Wednesday is a day that invites us to stop, to be honest about ourselves, and to turn again towards God.



During the service, ash is marked on foreheads in the shape of a cross, accompanied by the ancient words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."

These words can sound stark, but they are not meant to discourage us. Instead, they remind us of our human frailty and our need of God, while also pointing us towards hope, forgiveness, and renewal. Lent is not about punishment or perfection, but about making space for God to work in us, reshaping our hearts and lives through prayer, reflection, and grace.

We would love you to join us at St. Michael & All Angels as we journey together through the month of February, on a Sunday morning or evening, or on a Tuesday morning at our mid-week service. In addition this month, you'd be welcome to join us for our Service of Ashing with Holy Communion on Wednesday 18th February at 7.00 pm.

Floodlighting Dedication

From Charles Freeman

In memory of David & Meg Freeman

FEBRUARY REFLECTION
Listening Within:
The Wisdom of
the Heart

February is often a quiet month. The new year has settled, the initial energy of January has softened, and winter still holds the landscape in its gentle pause. It is a season that invites us not to rush ahead, but to listen more closely — especially to what is happening within us.

In January, we spoke about beginning gently and setting intentions rather than resolutions. February offers us the opportunity to deepen that practice by learning to listen. Not just to the noise around us, but to the quieter voice within — the one that often gets overlooked in the busyness of everyday life.

Listening within does not always come easily. Many of us are quick to respond to expectations, responsibilities, and the needs of others, while ignoring our own inner signals. Yet our hearts carry wisdom. They tell us when we are tired, when something feels out of balance, and when something truly matters.

Scripture reminds us, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Stillness creates space for awareness. When we slow down, we begin to notice our emotions, our thoughts, and our needs with greater clarity and compassion. This kind of listening is not about judgement or fixing, but about understanding.

You might like to ask yourself this month:

- What is my heart trying to tell me right now?
- Where do I feel peace, and where do I feel resistance?
- What do I need more of — and what might I need less of?

Listening within can take many forms. It might be a few quiet minutes in prayer, a walk without distractions, writing thoughts in a journal, or simply pausing before reacting. These small moments of awareness can gently guide our choices and help us respond rather than react.

February reminds us that growth does not always come from doing more. Sometimes it comes from noticing more - listening with patience, honesty, and kindness.

As we continue walking forward together, may we learn to trust the quiet wisdom within us, allowing it to shape our days with greater compassion, clarity, and peace.

Bea Glowacki

The Licensing of TJ

It was a cold winter's night in the charming village of Cuddington, but a warm welcome awaited the 86 congregants that gathered in the Church of St Nicholas to see TJ (Tracy Ann Jones, our erstwhile curate) be licensed by Bishop Dave Bull.

As well as members of the congregation, Hughenden Bellringers added to the home-grown ringers to ring in the new Vicar. The church has a peal of eight bells, and interestingly the ringing chamber is visible from inside the church through a large window.

There has been a church on the site (in the heart of the village, opposite the junior school, which serves Cuddington and Dinton) since at least the late 11th Century. Incumbents, of which TJ is the newest (though classed as an Associate Minister) are recorded from 1086.

There are a few stained-glass windows, a particularly fine one being the east window showing the crucifixion and dating from 1857.

What particularly intrigued me, however, was the carved marble and alabaster reredos behind the altar (see picture) which shows particularly fine carving. It was designed by George Street who undertook the renovation and restoration of the Church in 1857. (Incidentally he also worked on the Royal Courts of Justice as did Thomas Earp who sculpted our own pulpit.)

Modernisation of the church took place in the 1990s and in 2009, including removal (and repurposing) of some of the pews which were replaced with upholstered chairs and benches.

In this charming and welcoming setting, the service was equally friendly, with representation from the extensive benefice team, the Parish Council, and the local school. Indeed, we were told that part of the interview process was conducted by the school children.

A very personal service in a charming location.

Jane Tyrer

Wycombe Refugee Partnership

Rebuilding lives
Renewing hope

"Love your neighbour as yourself". Asked "Who is my neighbour?", Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan, effectively saying, "Your neighbour may well be a foreigner."

Luke 10: 25-37

Wycombe Refugee Partnership is our chosen charity for the first quarter of 2026. Liz Sheppard, Trustee for Education, will be talking to us at church on Sunday 8th March.

WRP is a small, local charity, run by volunteers, working with partner organisations, supporting refugees and asylum seekers of all backgrounds living in the High Wycombe area.

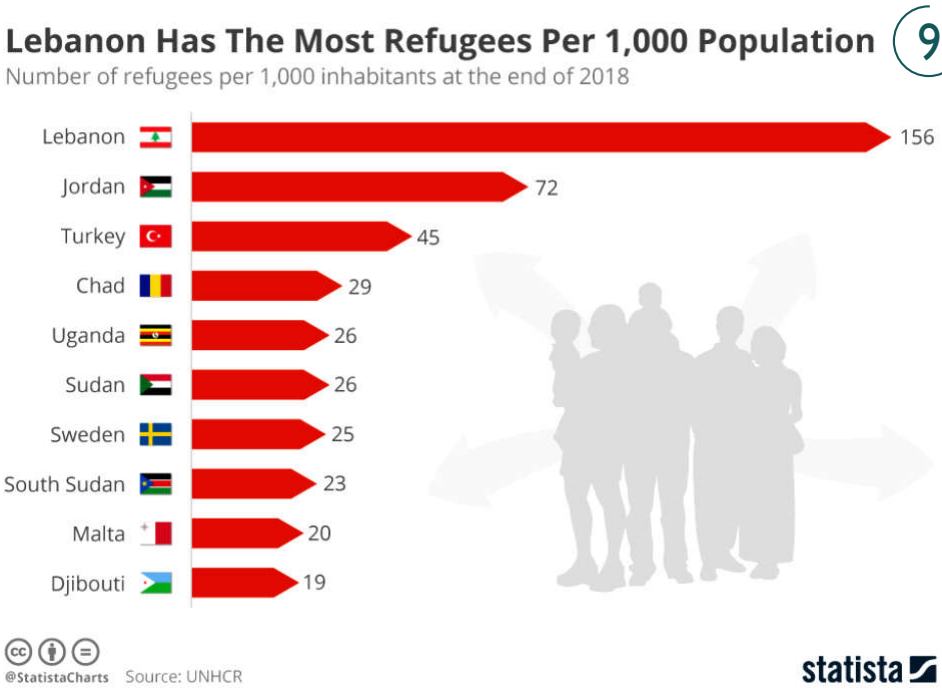
In response to the global refugee crisis, interfaith vigils were organised locally and the movement 'Acting Together with Loving Kindness' was born. Registered as a charity in July 2016, the name was changed to Wycombe Refugee Partnership.

Their mission is clear: Helping to rebuild lives. Over recent years it has supported hundreds of refugees and asylum seekers from countries as diverse as Algeria, Syria, Iran, Iraq, India, Egypt, Tunisia, Kenya, Cameroun, Palestine, Sudan, Albania, Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.

Coming to a new country is far from easy. Beyond the paperwork, understanding UK systems, school applications and bills, there is the long journey of integration into a new country. Support comes in many forms, including the provision of food, furniture, clothes, school uniforms, schoolbooks, bus fares and access to sports and work. More importantly, the work of the partnership demonstrates that there are people in their adopted country who care about them.

Given the constant media focus on refugees and asylum seekers, much of it negative, one might easily conclude that Britain gets more than its fair share of people desperately seeking safety here. In fact, 86% of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries.

The experience of the partnership is that the vast majority of the people they are helping are desperate to make a full and positive contribution to the society they now find themselves living in. An excellent example of this is Dana Alarnab.



WRP first met the young Dana after she arrived in the UK from Syria with her family nine years ago, with little English and an uncertain future. WRP provided wrap-around care for the family and supported their initial journey. She is currently pursuing her Masters Degree at the London School of Economics. Alongside her studies, Dana works as a Product Manager, developing innovative technology and design tools. Her journey gained national recognition and in 2022, she won the Young Achiever Award, presenting her story at the House of Commons. She was also invited to present in front of His Majesty King Charles, where she spoke about the effects of immigration on teenagers. Dana's incredible story tells of how she rebuilt her life through education and determination.

The work of Wycombe Refugee Partnership is increasingly important as it continues to advocate for the dignity of people who are refugees and asylum seekers, offering vital support and a welcoming community of volunteers.

For further information, please visit www.wycombe-refugees.org

Mission Support Group

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Minorities, Movement, and Me

"Lord, when did we see you a stranger and welcome you in?"

Matthew 25: 38

Roger Grant's recent articles, "What's in a Name?", led me to reflect on my own upbringing. There are similarities with Roger's account, but differences too. Bear with me as I explain how minorities and movement have helped make me what I am.

In my schooldays, as a Northamptonshire-born Englishman, I was part of an ethnic minority in my own English East Midlands town! How come? Well, at the beginning of the 20th century, Corby was a rather insignificant village in east Northants. However, it did have a small ironworks. Seeking work there brought both sets of grandparents to the area from other parts of southern England around World War I. However, huge change started in Corby a few years later, in the early 1930s, when the Stewarts and Lloyds company started major expansion on the Corby site while closing its site at Clydesdale in Scotland. Many workers and their families moved down from Scotland, encouraged by the company also building housing.

By the time I arrived on the scene in the 1950s, Corby had a population heading towards 50,000. It had the largest integrated steelworks in Europe (integrated means taking raw materials, ironstone, coal, and limestone, to produce a finished final product, i.e. steel tubing.) The town was now expanding further as part of the New Town initiative; much of the incoming population was from Scotland yet again, but there had also been a significant influx of other nationalities, Welsh and Irish, yes, but also Displaced Persons (DPs) from Eastern Europe. Over 50% of the town was Scottish, with English the next largest ethnic group. We also had the largest Latvian population outside the then Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, and a fair smattering of Poles, Czechs, and others, including some German families.

A Different Place

Yes, I'm being a little tongue in cheek, claiming to be an English ethnic minority in a town which was still largely British! But industrial Corby had a distinct character, attracting the label "Little Scotland", and it was a stark contrast with most of the rest of the surrounding, largely agricultural, East Midlands. It was an exciting and different place to be. The field where I watched my father play cricket often also hosted a huge annual Highland gathering, the largest outside Scotland. As children, we would watch Highland Bands marching. Hogmanay and Burns Nights were celebrated by most families more fervently than Christmas. Ceilidhs were common, Highland dancing was taught at school, and, yes, we had the largest Rangers Supporters Club outside Glasgow. Even today, Corby is the largest market for Irn Bru outside "God's Own Country"! While I have no figures, I suspect the per capita consumption of Scotch whisky is also far above the English average! There were regular Latvian rallies and events as well.

Differences

Then as kids, we would also jump on our bikes and follow the Northern Irish protestant Orange Order parades, with their twirling batons and pipe and drum band, from the town centre to their finish halfway down Occupation Road (That was outside the Catholic church: one minority group cocking a snoot at another? It was a reminder that whatever brought us together, some tensions could lie underneath the surface. They surfaced

barely 10 years later as the "Troubles" flared in Northern Ireland. However, in my youth it was peaceful and fun.)

Names

With Latvian classmates at school, I was almost as likely to rub shoulders with surnames like Bankiewicz, Lenmanis, and Silins (all Latvian), and Separovic (Yugoslav/Croat), as Baird and McPhail (Scots), Jones and Evans (Welsh) as much as by more obviously English names, like Davidson, Marchant and Hunter. One of my rugby-playing schoolmates was a fearsome and fearless No. 8 forward born of Polish parents, Janusz. Another of my grammar school classmates was a Mark Pepperman, whose parents had presumably decided that the Pfeffermann surname was just too Germanic in those postwar years. Another German family we knew, the Tabors, kept theirs just as it was.

What brought us together

What united us all was being brought together, yes, by employment opportunities and the availability of housing at first. However, in those immediate postwar years, there was a strong desire to forge ahead and make a better life. There was no time to lose, the country needed rebuilding, there was the promise of a bright new future: the New Towns were just a shining and very concrete symbol of that future. Anything was possible, but it needed shoulders putting to the wheel. It mattered not where you came from, there was job to be done! Then there was a new generation to raise (us "baby boomers"). Everyone had made sacrifices during the war, some huge, wherever they came from originally, and people generally respected that.

Welcoming the stranger

I also think that there was an element of welcoming the stranger. In Matthew 25, the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus welcomes the "sheep" into heaven, because they housed, fed and clothed the stranger in their midst. "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me," he said (Mt 25.40). In those post war years, perhaps we were more understanding of each other, what we had been through and so we welcomed people accordingly? Today, we would do well to look for the stranger, wherever they are from, and welcome them in. Understanding something of the movement of people and of minorities has helped give me a welcome perspective on the world, hopefully not a narrow and insular one. How might movement and minorities have shaped who you are? And who is the stranger we need to welcome in today?

David Tester

This year will be the 150th anniversary of the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell. His first words on the instrument were, 'Mr. Watson - come here - I want to see you' to his colleague in the next room who heard him clearly. How phones have changed since then. Nowadays they seem to do everything – banking, ordering goods, taking photos, making the tea (well, perhaps not that – yet!) but many more things, as well as being a means of talking to one another.

The following is a story (or should I say, a cautionary tale?) taken from A Bucket of Surprises,

J John and Mark Stibbe,
Monarch Books. Ed.

Phones

A group of men are sitting in a sauna discussing business and stocks when suddenly a cellular phone rings.

'Hi honey, are you at the club?'

'Yes, dear.'

'Honey, you won't believe this but I'm standing in front of Giovannis and there's a beautiful mink on sale in the window.'

'How much is it, dear?'

'They're giving it away. Only $5,000. Can you believe it?'

'But you already have fur coats.'

'Please dear, it's absolutely exquisite!'

'Fine, fine go ahead and buy it!'

'Thank you sweetheart. Oh, not to keep you much longer, I passed by the Mercedes dealership this morning and saw their new convertible. It was to die for! I talked to the salesman and the one in the showroom is brand new, leather seats, power everything, gold coloured. What do you think?'

'Honey, come on, we already have cars!'

'You promised me that I could get a convertible!'

'How much is it?'

'You won't believe it, but he said he'd let us have it for $85,000 fully loaded with all the options!'

'OK, OK, go ahead and purchase it!'

'I love you, you're the best husband a wife could ask for. I hope I'm not pushing it, but remember the trip we took to Paris? Remember the Brown's place with the swimming pool, tennis courts? It's on the market. I saw it this morning at the real estate agency. If we bought it, we would have a perfect place to stay during the cold winter months!'

'I had actually thought about it. You say it's on the market?'

'Really, you were actually thinking about it? Can I go make an offer on it? You know it's not listed very high, and it would be perfect for our type of lifestyle!'

'How much is it listed at?'

'Only $425.000 sweetheart. It's a steal!'

'I guess we've got money put away. Go ahead and make an offer but no more than $415,000.'

'This is turning out to be a great day! Can't wait to see you later tonight to celebrate!'

'See you tonight, dear.'

The man puts down the cellular phone and asks, 'So, whose phone is this?'

A reprint of the late Darrell Hamley's article from February 1996. For younger readers, Darrell was a faithful member of our church, a lover of nature, and a very popular contributor to Outlook, where his observations were recorded each month, whether it be happenings among the wildlife in his garden, sightings on his ramblings or any other musings about the natural world. Ed.

The Wilder Side

Two wonders in three days! On 7th January I went on a field meeting of the Bucks Bird Club to a reserve between Eversley and Camberley in Surrey. A warm, quiet day, with only the risk of a shower to worry about. On arrival, a friend came over to the car, his eyes a-sparkle. 'There's a Hoopoe over here in the field.' I shot out, grabbed my binoculars and joined the group by the fence, gazing enraptured at this bird which should have been sunning itself down by the Mediterranean. Apparently, it had been around since October, surviving the cold spell and looking very well on it.

Those of you who have been to Spain, Southern France, Greece, Cyprus and of course parish pilgrimages to Israel, should have seen this odd cinnamon-coloured bird, with bold black and white markings, curved beak and a flamboyant crest, usually foraging on the ground. Its name is onomatopoeic and sounds rather mournful. This was my third in the UK.

As if that wasn't enough, two days later, I was completing a circuit of Little Marlow Gravel Pit. Walking along the boundary road, I scanned the sandy bank across the water and saw a large brown bird. Switching to my telescope, I just had long enough to confirm my initial impression before the bird slipped away into the vegetation.

Hoopoe

I moved to the water's edge and scanned hopefully. There it was again! Standing stock still with its long dagger-like beak pointing upwards, but smaller, browner, streakier, shorter-legged than the familiar Grey Heron, it is very very, RARE! Two are seen in Bucks on average each year, so you can imagine my excitement. I had seen six before in Norfolk. Though a few come in from the Continent in winter, we may be down to about 20 pairs resident in the country as a whole. I know of no previous Marlow record, though Weston Turville has occasional sightings.

My wonder-bird stayed stock still, merely moving its head from side to side, and I watched for 40 enthralled minutes. Luckily a lady I know came by and confirmed my identification. The County Records Committee takes an awful lot of convincing that a rarity has actually been seen. Then as the light failed, I dragged myself away. Back home, I rang a few friends to alert them and next morning went down with Jo to try and find it again. No Bittern, but an Egyptian Goose was unusual. Well, all that was nothing to do with the Valley, I'm afraid, but isn't 'birding' exciting?

Darrell Hamley

God in the Arts

Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? This month the Revd Michael Burgess considers the font.

'He gave us eyes to see them' - The Church Font

Last month we stood at the doorway of a church in West Yorkshire. Open the door of that church or any church and the first thing to greet our eyes is the font. It marks the beginning of Christian life in the church. Many fonts have fine carvings of the seven sacraments that nourish the Christian. Others are octagonal in shape: a reminder of Noah and his seven family members saved in the ark from the Flood.

This month's font is a symbol of the ship sailing the seas of life. It is in St George's Church, Anstey, in Hertfordshire. Around the font are carved mermen - mythical, pagan creatures that belong to a pre-Christian age which the newly baptised is called on to renounce. When it was carved in the 11th-12th centuries, baptism occurred within eight days of birth. Babies would be immersed three times into the waters of the font: dying to the old life symbolised by the mermen, and rising to new life, to be clothed in a white robe and given a lighted candle as a guide through life. They would then grow up in the church, moving from that west end through the upturned boat of the nave to the altar at the east end.

The famous mermen font at St George's Church, Anstey.
By Michael Garlick, via Wikimedia Commons

That movement is a sign of the pilgrimage we are all called to make. Like a journey on the seas of this world, we may sail through tranquil waters and peaceful days. There may be times when the skies are cloudy and the waters stormy. Martin Luther, when he was faced by struggles like that in his life, would say the words 'I am baptised' to strengthen and reassure himself. 'I am baptised' we can say as we travel in faith, knowing that there is always a light to guide and a goal that is sure and eternal.

From The Parish Pump

Holy Day in February

27th February : George Herbert, priest and poet

If we were to name someone prominent from the 17th century, we might mention Rembrandt or Shakespeare. It is unlikely we would remember George Herbert. However, he was a prolific writer, a gifted speaker and musician. His hymns are still sung today.

Herbert was born into a wealthy family in Mid-Wales on 3rd April 1593. His father was a Member of Parliament who died when Herbert was three years old. His mother moved her large family to London where, aged 12, Herbert entered Westminster School. In 1609, his mother remarried, and Herbert left home to be a student at Trinity College, Cambridge.

By the age of 23, Herbert had graduated with two degrees. He was fluent in Latin and Greek and in 1620 was elected as the University's Public Orator. He held this position for seven years, and for a short time was MP in his hometown in Wales.

Although Herbert was securing an illustrious future and his speeches had gained the attention of King James 1, he was restless. He felt God was calling him to the priesthood and much of Herbert's poetry expressed his inner spiritual conflicts.

When the King died in 1625, and two influential patrons also died at about the same time, Herbert responded to God's call on his life and gave up his secular ambitions. He married in 1629 and became a priest in a small Anglican church in Bemerton in Wiltshire.

Here he found inner peace at last, serving God in the local community. His poetic talent continued to flourish along with his musicianship as a skilled lutenist. After only three years as a priest, he died of tuberculosis on 1st March 1633. He was 39.

Some ninety of Herbert's poems have been set to music by such composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. His most well-known hymns are: Teach me my God and King, Let all the world in every corner sing and King of glory, king of peace.

A number of artistic commemorations of Herbert exists in several churches and cathedrals including a stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey and a statue at the front of Salisbury Cathedral.

From The Parish Pump

BOOK-ENDS

The Poisoned King - Katherine Rundell

I have read the first of this series of books: Impossible Creatures, and have written about it on my blog: beyondtheairingcupboard.co.uk, and having read that, I was eager for the sequel. The narrative, the plot, the characterisation are all brilliant but there is so much more.

The author is fascinated by mythical creatures and has created a world for them, much as in the way in which Tolkien created his Middle Earth. This particular world is an archipelago of islands that is only available to humans through a few portals where the barriers are thin. Christopher, who entered from the 'Otherworld' in the first story is called again to help, this time because creatures are dying, apparently poisoned and the balance of power in the whole area is shifting.

He finds a Princess called Anya who knows that her uncle is responsible for all the evil that envelopes the palace, including the death of her grandfather and the arrest of her father. He wants the throne and is aiming to destroy anyone standing in his way, including most of his immediate family. If this is beginning to ring any sort of bells, well yes it did with me. The plot of Shakespeare's Hamlet is pretty clearly mirrored here. Maybe some of you studied it for English Lit. A level, as I did. This sort of device obviously adds another layer of meaning and interest to the narrative. I wonder if this is done purposely to entice adult readers to engage with what is essentially marketed as a children's book but quite possibly I am overthinking.

Whilst the story runs its course, you are made aware that Katherine Rundell has a serious agenda and she is introducing her young readers to very big questions. Having heard her speak I know she is passionately concerned with how we treat our world and how careless

we seem to be with the lives and habitats of creatures large and small. At one point a group of sea sprites gives Anya great armfuls of oysters. She says:

'Thank you! What can I give you in return?'

'Nothing.' The oldest spoke. 'Water. Land. Sky. Star. We trust only things that cannot be owned.'

Anya did not wish to be rude, but - 'People can own land,' she said.

'No. They only think they can.'

Anya did not say, 'I will own a whole island when I become Queen.' But perhaps they saw the thought, for one said, 'How could you own the world's earth: soil and green and sod?'

Heavy stuff I think. If I was still teaching, those few lines would happily provide the basis for a good discussion with year 6 children. And there is more, indeed so much to think about. This is a story essentially about good and evil, as the vast majority of stories are. Here, good overcomes evil, as we hope and expect it to, and Anya frees her father from imminent execution and rids the island of the greedy uncle. However, she then rescinds her position as Queen:

> *'It is neither an easy nor a simple thing to abolish one system of government and establish another; but that doesn't mean it isn't possible.*
>
> *Birth, Anya said, was a mad, a frivolous, a lunatically unhinged way to decide who should rule a kingdom. It left you vulnerable to uncles.'*

Mmmmm! I wonder how many people in this country have felt their position on the monarchy shifting after the various goings on of the last few years! I wonder if Katherine Rundell is an out and out republican. I suspect so.

Anna's altruistic thoughts go beyond providing a sanctuary, a refuge for animals. 'Maybe, we could extend this to young humans. We could take in those who are in need of care, or protection, or education?' Having decided to give her riches away, I can envisage some very savvy year 6 children, including possibly my granddaughter, commenting that you need money, gold or otherwise, to accomplish all these undoubtedly good things. The good and the bad of capitalism, always an excellent subject for discussion, particularly when you search for a good example of the opposite system: communism.

Just on a lighter note, I did enjoy the character of Ratwin, a mythical creature, integral to the story. To me he seemed to be a distant cousin of Gollum in The Hobbit.

'There is no dawdling-times,' said Ratwin. 'We have comes to warn you, we is leaving you here for some hour-straights, or perhaps even a number of dayses.'

I implore you to read this book. It won't take you very long from beginning to end but it will give you food for thought for quite a while.

Happy Reading

Susan Brice

February Recipe

This is technically a bread-and-butter pudding without the butter - an excellent way to use up leftovers. I know it will be February when the recipe comes out but we often have food around such as Stollen, Panettone or other Christmas foods.

I made this recipe using Stollen which was delicious, but you can also use up any other bread-based products, fruit etc. Come Easter, hot cross buns left over are delicious in a pudding. My daughter-in-law made it when we were staying with them at New Year and used Brioche, but also added what she had left of the cranberry sauce and blueberries, so don't be afraid to experiment. And if you are preparing for more people just double the custard in proportion to the bread.

Julia Grant

Panettone or other fruit bread puddings

INGREDIENTS

Serves 4 - 6

2 large eggs

75ml milk

250ml double cream

50g caster sugar

150g panettone/stollen or other fruit bread

30g sultanas

1 small orange zest

2 tbsp demerara sugar

METHOD

1. *Set the oven at 160c/gas mark 3. Grease a 1 litre dish.*
2. *Break 2 large eggs into a bowl and beat until well mixed then pour in 75ml of milk and 250ml of cream. Add 50g of sugar and beat everything lightly to mix.*
3. *Tear the panettone or fruit bread into large pieces and place in the baking dish.*
4. *Scatter the sultanas among the panettone and then pour the custard into the dish, soaking all the contents.*
5. *Grate the zest of a small orange over the surface and then scatter with 2 tbsp of demerara sugar.*
6. *Bake in the oven and if you like the custard soft, I would suggest baking for 35-40 mins but another 5 minutes if you prefer it puffed up.*

The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough

Our sincere thanks to everyone in the local community for their incredible generosity which made this year's Christmas Collections a great success. As a result, our Charity account has been significantly boosted, allowing us to support numerous requests for financial assistance.

Looking ahead to Spring, our focus remains on supporting both the youth and elderly of Princes Risborough and the surrounding areas. We are committed to continuing our partnerships with the Town's Youth Club, the Interact Clubs of Princes Risborough's secondary school and the Royal Grammar School, and the support of local Primary Schools, including those in Monks Risborough, Longwick, Hughenden, Walters Ash, and more. Additionally, we organise Chess and Art competitions for students from nine local primary schools, as well as providing support to the Bucks Young Carers. We're also deeply committed to our senior community members, working closely with two Day Care Centres in Princes Risborough and Bourne End (where we've played an instrumental role in their establishment and continue to provide Trustees). This includes us hosting annual Summer and Christmas Lunches for over 75s living alone. It's just one of the many ways we aim to make a positive impact on those who need it most.

But at the heart of everything we do is friendship. As a dynamic and welcoming group of men and women we pride ourselves on making a difference while also having a great time together. Over the past year we've welcomed 10 new members, with more potential members on the horizon. If you're looking for a way to give back and build lasting friendships, we'd love to have you join us. Visit our website and contact us if you'd like to come along to one of our Monday evening meetings at the Whiteleaf Golf Club to see what we're all about.

And, if you know of any causes that could benefit from our support, please don't hesitate to get in touch using the contact details below. Together, we can continue making a real difference!

You can contact us at: rcpr.org.uk or use the QR code

or contact David White on 07787 750889 - email: dwhite2025@hotmail

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

February

3	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union AGM: Church House
7	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast: Church House
15	3.00 pm	Lighthouse Live: Church
17	10.00 am	Mothers' Union Coffee Morning: Church House
18	7.00 pm	**Ash Wednesday** Holy Communion: Church
21	8.00 am	Parish Prayers: Church House
28	10.00 am	Marriage Preparation Morning: Church House

March

3	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Meeting: Church House
7	8.00 am	Parish Prayers: Church House
9	5.15 pm	Hughenden Beavers Visit: Church
22	3.00 pm	Lighthouse Live: Church

1st & 3rd Sundays

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

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays

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

Tuesdays

11.00 am **Holy Communion (Said)**

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

Regular Groups

Hughenden Community Singers

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

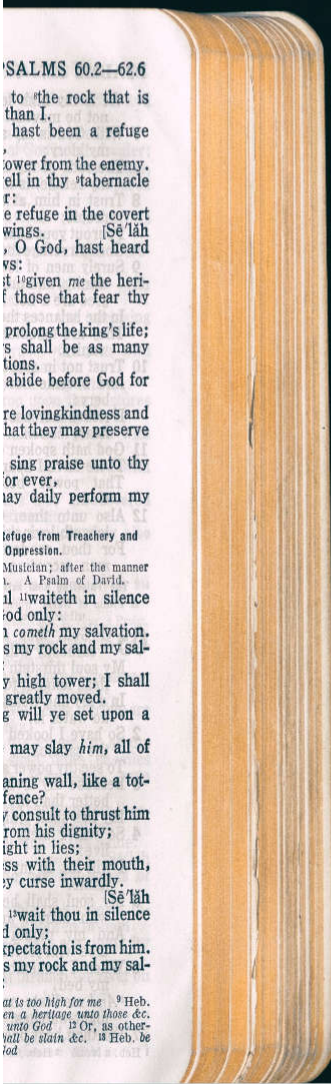
Friendship Morning

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

Tiny Tots @ St. Michael's

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

February Lectionary



1st: Candlemas

Malachi 3: 1-5

Hebrews 2: 14-18

Luke 2: 22-40

Evensong: Psalm 132

Haggai 2: 1-9

John 2: 18-22

8th: Second Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Romans 8: 18-25

Matthew 6: 25-34

Psalm at 9.00 am: 136

Evensong: Psalm 148

Proverbs 8: 1 & 22-31

Revelation 4

15th: Sunday next before Lent

Exodus 24: 12-18

2 Peter 1: 16-21

Matthew 17: 1-9

Evensong: Psalm 84

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Matthew 17: 1-23

22nd: First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2: 15-17 & 3: 1-7

Romans 5: 12-19

Matthew 4: 1-11

Psalm at 9.00 am: 32

Evensong: Psalm 50

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 & 16-25

Luke 15: 1-10

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