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

outLook

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

INSIDE: New Vicar | *April Reflection* | **Open Doors**

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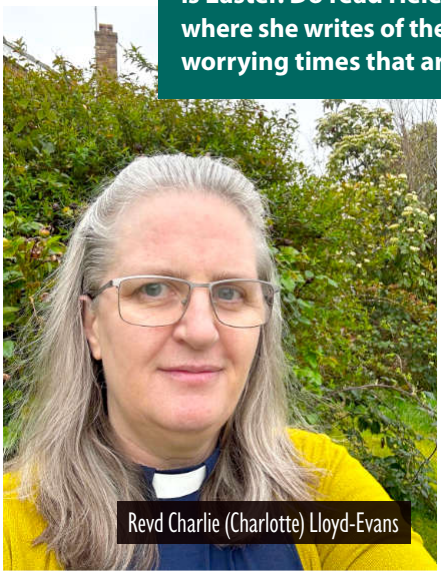
Grant us Lord, faith to believe and strength to do thy will

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Dear Readers

I hope you enjoy this edition of Outlook. As always it is only as good as it is because of the lovely people who write for it and send us their contributions. As I look through the articles there is a definite theme of new beginnings, not surprising as hopefully spring has arrived, the park is full of swathes of daffodils and narcissi and I've seen the first clutch of ducklings on the river. The most important new beginning of course is Easter. Do read Helen's thoughts on this most significant festival where she writes of the hope Easter can bring us even in such desperately worrying times that are full of war, aggression and polarisation.


Revd Charlie (Charlotte) Lloyd-Evans

The full announcement can be found on the church website: hughendenparishchurch.org.uk/NewVicar

And there is more good news to share. We have appointed a new vicar. Her name is Charlie (Charlotte) Lloyd-Evans and she will come to minister to us in Hughenden later in the summer, probably in August. At present she is Priest-in - Charge of St Mary Greenhithe and St Peter & St Paul in Swanscombe and Area Dean. The date of Charlie's licensing at St Michael & All Angels will be published in due course. Our new vicar has been very carefully chosen with a lot of input from our two churchwardens and we can move forward in confidence and with some excitement about what comes next for us as a church. A big new beginning!

There are still several months of interregnum to go but it has been a positive time with everyone stepping up and taking on new responsibilities just as our previous Vicar Keith would have wanted, and would have expected of us.

A very Happy Easter to you all from the whole Outlook team, with best wishes.

Susan Brice
Editor

from the Not Vicarage

Helen Peters

Associate Minister

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

Easter in a World That Hurts

It's impossible to look at the world today without feeling the weight of it. Wars continue, communities fracture, and many people carry private worries that never make the headlines. Whether global or personal, suffering can leave us wondering where hope is meant to come from.

That's why the Easter story still has something to say.

It tells of the God who didn't stay distant from the world's mess but stepped right into it. Jesus lived among real people, in real turmoil, and faced the worst of human experience—pain, betrayal, injustice, fear, and a sense of abandonment. Good Friday reminds us that he didn't turn away from suffering; he walked straight into it, showing us a love willing to share in the very struggles that weigh on us now.

And then came the first Easter morning.

Not with fanfare, but with the soft surprise of dawn. An empty tomb. A message whispered in confusion and hope: that darkness hadn't won after all. Easter begins in that moment when love breaks through the cracks — when new life rises from a place that had seemed utterly lost.

Perhaps that is what we need most this year.

Not tidy solutions or quick fixes, but the assurance that despair isn't the end of the story — globally or personally. Even in chaos, new beginnings are possible. Kindness can take root again. Peace can be rebuilt. Healing can start in small, fragile ways.

And woven gently through all of this is God's grace — a quiet strength that meets us in our deepest need and helps us take the next small step towards hope. It's a grace that doesn't demand perfection, that doesn't wait for us to get everything sorted, but simply offers steady, patient love in the midst of real life.

This Easter, may we hold onto that kind of hope—the kind that looks at the world honestly, yet still trusts in the possibility of new life. And may we become bearers of grace and hope for one another, in our conversations, our actions, and our communities.

Wishing you a peaceful, courageous, and hope-filled Easter.

PRAYER POINTS FOR IRAN

Pray for peace, protection, and wisdom for the people of Iran amid violence and uncertainty.

Pray for comfort for families who have lost loved ones, and divine healing for those injured and traumatized, due to the recent protests and in the recent escalations.

Pray for Iranian Christians, for courage, protection, and perseverance in this season of unrest.

Pray for leaders and decision-makers worldwide to act justly and speak boldly for freedom of religion and belief.

Pray for those injured, both physically and psychologically, asking for healing and emotional restoration.

Pray for the Christian convert in detention, and for all believers held in custody, that they would be protected from any harm and released swiftly.

Pray for courage and hope among Iranian Christians, that even in loss and fear, they would know that they're not forgotten and not alone.

APRIL REFLECTION

Renewed Life: Hope That Rises Again

By the time April arrives, spring is no longer just a promise — it is beginning to unfold around us. Trees carry fresh leaves, flowers appear in gardens and along pathways, and the world slowly fills with colour again. After the stillness of winter, the signs of new life feel especially meaningful.

Over the past months, we have reflected on beginning gently, listening within, and trusting the quiet process of growth. April invites us to recognise something beautiful: renewal often follows seasons of waiting.

The Easter story reminds us that hope can rise even after moments that seem heavy or uncertain. It speaks of transformation — of darkness giving way to light, of endings opening the door to new beginnings. This message of renewal is not only something we observe in nature or remember during a particular season; it is something we can experience in our own lives.

Renewal does not always arrive in dramatic ways. Sometimes it appears quietly — in a fresh perspective, a restored relationship, a new sense of peace, or the courage to try again after disappointment. These small moments remind us that change is always possible.

Isaiah 43:19 offers a beautiful promise:

> *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"*

Often, the new things in our lives begin gently, just like the first flowers of spring. They require openness, patience, and trust.

You might take a moment this month to reflect:

- Where have I noticed signs of renewal in my life?
- Is there something I am being invited to begin again?
- What small step could bring new energy or hope into my days?

April reminds us that life has a remarkable way of beginning again. Even after difficult seasons, something new can grow.

As we continue walking forward together, may we welcome the renewal that this season offers. May we notice the quiet signs of hope around us — and within us — trusting that new life often begins in the most gentle and unexpected ways.

Bea Glowacki

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Redemption

It is a strange Christmas decoration: Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus sheltering inside a rosy apple. I bought it several years ago in the gift shop of St Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square. I remember thinking it was unusual, appealing and the deep red of the apple went well with the kitchen wall I had recently painted that very colour. All very superficial I know. As I looked at my purchase on the train home I then realised there was a powerful, religious meaning in this little nativity scene: here was the apple symbolising the fall from grace in the Garden of Eden and here was God's gift to us, Jesus, his only son, offering redemption to mankind, born to die on a cross.

Once I had this sorted in my head, the said apple sat on my kitchen windowsill and somehow avoided being packed away with all the shiny, glittery baubles of Christmas. It has been there for years and my eyes are often drawn to it.

So, moving on to a few weeks ago and I was sitting in my usual place in the choir stalls. Christopher was in the pulpit talking to the congregation. My ears were listening carefully to him whilst my eyes were looking at the table in the North Chapel. What was I going to do for the Easter Garden this year? And then, very pleasingly, connections were made:

I quote Christopher with his permission:

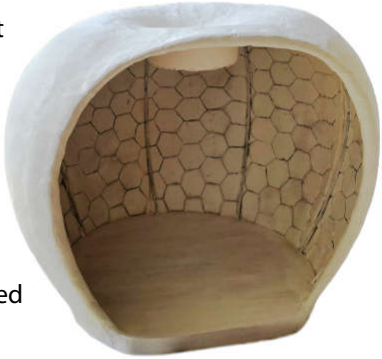
> *'I have remarked before that Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified, is believed to be the place where Adam was buried. Jesus' death completes the cycle. Adam and humanity's fall is redeemed by Jesus' sacrifice.'*

And there it all was, inside that apple. There was the focus for my Easter Garden design. However, I quickly realised I would need a much larger apple and I would need to dig out the church nativity figures that had only recently been carefully packed away in bubble wrap. So, how would your partner react if you said to them, 'Please could you make me a large apple big enough for these figures to sit inside?' Well, I am very fortunate as my husband didn't blink an eyelid and I could immediately see plans forming in his head … wood, wire, chicken wire etc.

As he was working out sizes, measurements, ratios and such like, I was thinking more about how the Easter Garden should look. It is often said that the apple in the Garden of Eden was actually a pomegranate and it has long been lost in translation. I stopped at a market stall in the middle of of Eden (Eden the shopping centre of course! I remember the previous vicar Simon making some wry jokes about this name when it opened,) and talked to the smallholder about this fruit. Were they

very seasonal? Would he have some in a few weeks time? Once he realised I was not about to buy them at that moment he rather lost interest in our conversation but he did show me a box of beautiful, large, round and rosy pomegranates, one of which was cut open to reveal the jewel like seeds. I have to say that might have been extremely exotic and tempting in the Genesis garden but however, we will stick with the more quotidian apple.

Some years ago I remember a discussion with a year 6 class where, before coming to the slightly tricky topic of redemption we were using the term 'rescue plan.' The apple representing humanity's disobedience and the gift of Jesus being God's rescue plan. One child offered the thought that God had tried to rescue the world before Jesus. Wasn't the story of Noah just such a plan? I miss those discussions.



So the apple was formed and then the decision had to be made as to how to cover the wire framework. Papier-mâché was quickly rejected and we then tried 'mod roc,' which is like the plaster bandage used for casts for broken arms etc. It was too flimsy. We eventually settled on air dried clay which was employed very successfully. The apple was then given to me to paint. I know my place!

Each year somebody asks me why the Easter Garden is rather hidden away in the North Chapel, rather than being more visually accessible on the table in the north aisle. There are two very practical reasons for this. The first is that the table is actually moved and used for the dramatic service on the evening of Maundy Thursday and the second is that it is positioned right beside the heating grid. No plants or flowers would survive the blasts of hot air coming up from the boiler.

I hope you come and see the Easter Garden, and when you do I hope you are reminded of God's gift to us.

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3:16

Susan Brice

Open Doors

Houses and burial grounds

There is so much going on in the world at the moment - The Middle East, Africa … In fact almost everywhere we look. The reality is that where there is trouble, the Believers suffer more than most. They are the most vulnerable. They find it hardest to get aid. They are targeted in crackdowns by the authorities. They suffer as extremists take advantage of uncertainty and chaos.

Volunteering for Open doors we hear many stories but I want to share two simple situations from Open Doors social media where believers' ordinary lives are targetted.

What would you feel if a crowd came and knocked your house down?

So often we take our homes for granted and our freedom. Below left is the shocking moment in January when a family's home in Laos (28th on the World Watch List) is destroyed and their possessions scattered – all because the father, 'Mr Houang', refused to stop attending church.

They have been driven from the community and are currently staying in temporary shelter outside the village.

What would you feel if you had to battle to find somewhere to bury your son?

A Christian family in Kapena village, India (12th on WWL) has been barred from burying their teenage son, who died recently of a long battle against an illness. The clash took place last Saturday 14 February when the family attempted to conduct the ceremony before they were

stopped by villagers at the village's common burial ground. Christians do not have their own burial ground in the village. Tensions escalated, so the family attempted to bury their son on their own land, only to be opposed by their own relatives who aren't Christians.

They refused to renounce their faith when pressured and after nearly 20 hours of turmoil, the family eventually were able to lay him to rest on their own land.

This family is one of around 30 believing families in the village who have faced violence and are unable to enter their own church, which has been locked by extremists.

Two situations that are unthinkable for us but not for the persecuted church. So with all that we have, let's remember to pray for them.

John Barringer
Open Doors

John Barringer will speaking at both morning services on Sunday 10th May.

Open Doors

Open Doors UK is a Christian charity dedicated to supporting and strengthening persecuted Christians around the world. Their primary mission is to provide both spiritual and practical aid to believers in over 70 countries where practising faith in Jesus can lead to severe restriction, violence, or social exclusion. By working through local networks, the organisation distributes Bibles and Christian literature, provides leadership and discipleship training, and offers emergency relief such as food, medicine, and trauma care to victims of religious violence.

Beyond direct field support, Open Doors UK plays a vital role in raising global awareness through its annual World Watch List, a comprehensive ranking of countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. In the UK and Ireland, the charity focuses on mobilising the local church to pray, donate, and advocate for those who "share our faith but not our freedom." This includes campaigning for human rights and ensuring the voices of the persecuted are heard by government officials and international bodies.

More info:
www.opendoorsuk.org

The New Vicars' Board

An Update

I was delighted to receive a message from Pauline Wilkinson after I wrote the article about Charlotte Fairbairn's wonderful new Board, setting out the names and dates of the Vicars (and Rectors) of Hughenden. She has provided a lot of information about the people involved in appointing that we need to share.

1. Rectors and Vicars: Pauline suggests (and I agree) that the reason for the change from Rector to Vicar in the past was because of the difference between the two kinds of tithe. Pauline suggests that Rectors received the whole tithe, whereas Vicars only received the small tithe (livestock, wool and non-cereal crops). The great tithe, (corn and hay) went to Lay Rectors after the Reformation. It may be recalled that there was a 20th century case that went on appeal all the way for the House of Lords (as the Supreme Court was then constituted) when a family who purchased a house that brought with it the Lay Rectorship of that parish, suddenly found themselves liable for huge sums in rebuilding the Chancel of the local church. As a result of that case, Lay Rectorships were abolished. Surprisingly, Lay Rectors' responsibilities, particularly their responsibility to repairs to the parish church chancels built before the Reformation, were not abolished until the Chancel Repairs Act 2013! Benjamin Disraeli was lay rector at the time that the Blagden and Searight families were rebuilding St Michael & All Angels between 1873-5 and, accordingly, he paid for the refurbishment of the Chancel.

2. I mentioned some of the names of those who appointed Vicars of Hughenden, including George III, Sir Robert Dormer, the Earl of Carnarvon and Philip, Lord Stanhope. Pauline has found the links. The link is through the Dormer family. The Dormer family were wealthy wool merchants who lived in the Manor House in Wing. A junior branch of the family lived in West Wycombe. The Lords of the Manor of Hughenden from Tudor times to the mid-18th century were part of the Dormer family. So, the Earl of Carnarvon and Philip, Lord Stanhope, were members of the extended Dormer family. When they ran out of male heirs, the rights descended through the female line. Philip, Lord Stanhope sold Hughenden Manor to the Savage family who, in turn through their relatives in the Norris family, sold to Benjamin Disraeli.

3. Pauline suggests that the reason why George III appointed was because Ellen, Lady Conyngham, who lived in Hughenden Manor because of John Norris the elder, being female, could not present to a Living. Sybil Calverley was Coningsby Disraeli's sister and inherited when he died. By then, female appointments were permitted.

I am sure that Pauline, a fellow history enthusiast, will write some articles on her research, which include Church House: so, watch this space.

Pauline Wilkinson
and Christopher Tyrer

The Hassocks
in St Michael & All Angels

What is a hassock? In Old English hassuc referred to a clump of grass or sedge and evolved by the 1500s to mean a firm cushion for kneeling, especially in church, because it resembled a tuft of grass. In North America a hassock is a footstool.

In St Michael & All Angels we are fortunate to have over 200 hand-made hassocks of over 50 designs, lovingly stitched by members of our congregation during the time of Canon John Eastgate (1983 – 1995). Parishioners were asked to donate and /or stitch a hassock. Several people made more than one.

The kits came from Jacksons of Hebden Bridge which started around 60 years ago. In 2019 they were about to close when Hayes and Finch, established in Liverpool in 1882, took them over. The kits of 5 holes per inch canvas for cross stitch with wool yarn are still available with over 316 designs from seasons, symbols, crosses, saints, weddings, remembrance, organisations, the church year and country life. They can also be personalised requesting lettering, dates and dedications incorporated into the design. To buy a kit now is £70 with some costing up to £150. We were so fortunate to have such a generous congregation to donate and spend time making them.

Most of the kneelers were stitched in memory of a loved one as seen on the label at the bottom. The label has who donated it, stitched it and to whom it is dedicated. They remind us of so many of our congregation who have died or moved away. Although with age many of the labels are hard to decipher. All the hassocks were dedicated by Canon Eastgate at a service before they were used.

Next time you are sitting in the pew take time to look at the kneelers and make sure they are facing the right way with the picture showing and are not upside down before you leave the pew so that this wonderful collection, so painstakingly produced by our congregation, can be admired by all who come into the church.

Louise Stallwood

This is the one I did in the 1980s. ***Ed.***

Rotary Club of Princes Risborough

Spring must be here, the clocks have gone forward and the evenings are longer, and that brings an increase in our activity. The speaker at our first April meeting is talking about the Local Scout group. At our next meeting on the 20th we have organised a St George's day dinner, and at our last meeting of the month, the 27th, our speaker will be talking about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the headquarters of which is in Maidenhead. In the meantime, on the 2nd April, our walking group are getting their boots on for their first ramble of the year. On the 17th we are running a Race Night at the Wades Centre in the Town and on the following day we will have a stall at the first of this year's Town Council Farmers' Markets, at the King George V park. Come and visit us and have a go at winning an incredible Hamper - the next Market is on the 20th June. On the 12th and 13th June many of us will be volunteering at Napfest, at which we will have a stall and a second glorious Hamper to win for charity. The Council's Town Festival is between the 5th and the 12th July, and, as part of this, on the 5th, we are organising a Fun Day in Wades Park. The plans for this include a Chocolate Hunt and "Tea in the Tent". These will be supported by a display of old and not so old farm vehicles, a tug of war, a dog show, football, a fire engine, a face painter, a brass band, flower arranging and storytelling. With many more items to be added, it should be a great afternoon out.

All of this is achieved through the enthusiastic support of our growing number of members. At the heart of everything we do is friendship. If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, meet new people and make new friends, we'd love to meet you. Visit our website or get in touch to join us at one of our Monday evening meetings at the Whiteleaf Golf Club and see what we're about. And, if you know of any causes that could benefit from our support, please get in touch using the contact details below. Together, we can continue making a difference. You can contact us at: rcpr.org.uk or use the QR code:

or contact David White: 07787 750889 / dwhite2025@hotmail.com

Poet's Corner

I noticed this poem on the wall in The Cabin, the Hughenden Shop cafe and thought they were very wise words. Louise, who runs the shop, gave me permission to reprint it here. She told me that it was a favourite poem of her Dad's which was found after he had passed away. There was no information as to its author and although many 'Smile' poems have been written including one by William Blake, it remains 'anon'. If anyone has information on who wrote it, the editors would be pleased to know.

Sylvia Clark

Smile

A smile costs nothing, but gives much;
It enriches those who receive it,
without making poorer those who give it.

It takes but a moment,
But the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it;
None is poor, but he can be rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in
business and is the countersign of friendship.

It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged,
sunshine to the sad
and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged or stolen,
for it is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile;
give them one of yours,
as none needs a smile so much than he who has none to give.

Imprints

It's the little things we do that leave an imprint of ourselves.
Tiny gestures: a lock of hair lightly brushed aside;
a stroked chin;
arched and twinkling eyes.

We know them by their gait:
the penguin-shuffle, the ambling ape,
the urgent pace of a trotting fox,
the slow deliberation of a stork;
by words well learnt through much repeating;
warm hand-grasps, the hearty greeting;
windmill arms that flail the air;
a hesitant cough, the solemn stare;

Granddad seated, hands on knees;
jovial uncle, out to tease;
aunt, so elegant, sipping tea
- her little finger for all to see.

By simple things we are known.
And in a garden long ago
she knew Him as He spoke her name: "Mary".
In a village called Emmaus
at the breaking of the bread, He was known.
And wonderfully alive, though short-time slain,
they knew Him by the imprints of His pain.

Ron Cretchley
12/04/2000

In Praise of Easter

Oh heavenly lord, you make me laugh
you make me sigh, you showed your love through a baby's cry.
This holy boy grew into man and showed the world your wonderful plan.
Before all this you lived with God a place Divine with me in mind.
You never forgot your love for me.

It started with a fruit filled tree.
Through all of time you watched me grow, but did I even know you though?
Then Jesus died still in my sin, to save my soul from Satan's grin.
Nailed to wood upon a tree, who would ever do this for me?

Victory came you rose again, you bore the wrath that was not yours.
Never again to hide my shame, all this done in Jesus name!
Never again the need to prove how much my life was really worth, not my will but yours you cried, these few words before you died.
Curtain in two, stone rolled away, because of you I'm free today.

Mike Dale

General Synod Roundup

In February, General Synod met in London for its usual five-day group of sessions. Here are some of the highlights:

Synod on Monday 9th February

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, welcomed the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, paying tribute to her long ministry in nursing and public service. Synod greeted Archbishop Sarah with a standing ovation.

Synod on Tuesday 10th February

Sarah Mullally gave her first Presidential Address. She spoke of approaching her ministry with calm, consistency and compassion; of nurturing confidence and hope rooted in the Gospel; and of recommitting the Church to transparency, safeguarding, and the flourishing of the local parish and communities.

Prayers were said for the Bishop of Guildford, Andrew Watson, following his announcement of an untreatable cancer diagnosis.

There was an extended Q&A on Living in Love and Faith. The House of Bishops' January 2026 statement had concluded the LLF programme in its current form, agreed the continued monitoring of Prayers of Love and Faith within regular services under Canon B5, and the establishment of new governance structures.

Synod supported the Archbishop's Commission on Reimagining Care, and also emphasised the importance of listening to disabled and older people in shaping the future of adult social care.

Synod on Wednesday 11th February

Persecution of Christians around the world, the impact of the mental health crisis in UK and the Church's own progress on establishing an independent safeguarding body were among subjects discussed at the General Synod on Wednesday.

There was then a major debate on mental health and the Church. A motion was passed that called for those training for ordination to have specific courses on how to support people facing mental health challenges, and also for counselling and therapy to be available to clergy.

General Synod overwhelmingly approved a motion to establish a new independent oversight body for church safeguarding, brought by Dame Christine Ryan, the independent Executive Chair of the Church's Safeguarding Structures Programme Board.

Synod on Thursday 12th February

Synod debated the Sustainable Flowers initiative, which encourages churches to source local flowers and foliage. It also debated the problem of poverty in the UK, in the light of the 40th anniversary of the Faith in the City report.

Finally, it approved a motion on Living in Love and Faith, affirming that the programme will conclude by July and commending the House of Bishops in establishing the Relationships, Sexuality and Gender Working Group and Relationships, Sexuality and Gender Pastoral Consultative Group for continuing work.

From the Parish Pump

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

GENERAL SYNOD

The General Synod of the Church of England is the national legislative and deliberative body of the Church of England, often described as the church's equivalent of a parliament. Established in 1970 under the Synodical Government Measure, it replaced the earlier Church Assembly and brought together authority that had previously been exercised by the historic Convocations of Canterbury and York.

The Synod meets several times a year — typically in London or York — to debate and decide matters affecting the life and governance of the Church at a national level. Its responsibilities include approving legislation and liturgical changes, debating social and theological issues, and setting the Church's national budget. Measures passed by the Synod must ultimately be approved by the UK Parliament before becoming part of the law of the land, reflecting the Church of England's status as the established church.

God in the Arts

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – the Screen at the East End

“I am the light of the world,” our Lord says in St John’s Gospel. He is the One who can bring sight and insight to those born blind, and vision to those who feel they live in a world of darkness. In Him is the glory of God and life for all people. That radiant glory greets those who visit Wymondham Abbey in Norfolk and look down the main aisle to see the wondrous screen at the east end depicting Christ in majesty surrounded by our Lady and the saints.

Ironically, the history of the Abbey in the Middle Ages was one of darkness and conflict, where disagreement severed the harmony of monks and townspeople. The Abbey was dissolved in the 16th century, but then restored to its former glory in the early 20th century. Ninian Comper began working on the screen in 1922, and it was completed in 1934.

In front of the screen is a large altar with a crucifix and six tall, stately candlesticks. Their lights are signs of Jesus the Light proclaimed by the dazzling central figure on the screen behind. Originally candlesticks would have stood on the ground before the altar, or lamps were hung above. In the 14th century candles were placed on the altar.

Aesthetic judgement will vary from person to person, and some may find tall candlesticks like these obtrusive, detracting from the sacrament of the altar. Whatever their size, when lit they announce that Jesus is the true light, who welcomes everyone to find nourishment and guidance for life’s pilgrimage in communion at that table. Here at Wymondham Abbey I think the pilgrim visitor will find that the beauty and grace of these altar furnishings complement the great mystery of divine light celebrated in Ninian Comper’s masterpiece.

From the Parish Pump

God in the Sciences

The Beauty of Good Friday

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely moment when mum and dad greet each other over the gaping beak of their fuzz-ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air, we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.

But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales, in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

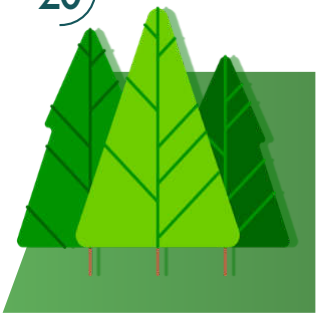
The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and just waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of Creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when human sinfulness resulted in the Son of God being executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day over 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough. When people come to understand what Creation is for and who it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story – the future beckons.

From the Parish Pump

This article is extracted (with permission) from New Life: Reflections for Lent, edited by Amy Robinson and Wendy H Jones (£7.99).



Nature Note

…I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

John 15

Pruning is done by gardeners for several reasons, all of them to improve the plant from the gardener's perspective. Everything from dead heading flowers to promote further flowering to pruning trees to remove deadwood or limit height growth, improve shape. Jesus uses the gardener's technique of improving fruit production of vines.

I've recently finished setting up my soft fruit, loganberries and blackberries by pruning and training. It's been known for a long time that by holding branches in an artificially lower position than it wants to, a plant produces hormones called auxins and cytokinins in a ratio that stimulates flower and therefore fruit production much more than it would have done in its original position.

Therefore with the berries the idea is to remove old wood that flowered and fruited last year and train the stems that grew last season to replace them. All done along wires installed horizontally for that purpose.

Woody plants such as vines are pruned to a different regime. Vines produce their best fruit on the current year's growth formed from buds that developed last season.

This has resulted in two main systems of management, both of which rely on a strong, short central stem known as a leg.

One is the cordon system commonly used for fruit tree training as well, where a framework of permanent side branches are trained horizontally away from the leg, normally two on either side. The buds that form on these branches are then used to

develop fruiting spurs that are pruned tight to their parent branch. You see this often in commercial vineyards.

The other is the 'Guyot' technique where side branches, again two each side of the leg, are chosen annually to fruit the following year similar to the cordon system. When pruning occurs the whole of the previous year's branches are removed.

Now you can see what Jesus referred to in His illustration about the removal of the whole branch which is then burnt, an annual occurence in a well run vineyard

A vine will naturally grow into a mess of long branches that produce large quantities of small weak tasting grapes. Pruning and training concentrates the plant's energies into making larger high quality fruit. That is what God wants for us.

Fruit trees such as apples vary in the way that they bear fruit, some such as Bramley and Granny Smith are tip bearing, flowers and fruit are produced from the buds that terminated last year's growth. Others such as Cox's and Golden Delicious are spur bearing, leaving the tips of branches to continue outward growth. The nature of the variety determines how best to prune it for best results.

Considerations other than this year's fruit also come into play; control the height of the tree, what is the point of fruit way out of reach? The most basic is to remove deadwood and crisscrossed branches, followed by keeping the centre of the tree open to allow air and light to reach every branch, finally to prune the remaining growth to maximise fruit production at a pickable height. So the art of pruning is straight forward as long as the gardener has a clear idea of what he/she is trying to achieve with every cut. The pruned plant will respond to every one of the gardener's cuts.

Deadwood removal back to living tissue will result in occlusion of the wound, easily seen on trees that were pruned when young. Removal of living material will stimulate regrowth, as close as possible to the site of the prune cut in a tree, so expect a response from your plant. Therefore particularly with trees, minimise the number of cuts or you can expect a 'hedge' effect (very useful if that's what you want!).

It's the pruning season, expect the Lord to visit us knife in hand, He wants top quality fruit!

Michael Bevan

News from the bird and animal world keeps surprising us.

A dead wild pine marten has been found in south London, has there been a release in the Kent area?

A white tailed eagle is a frequent visitor to an estate north of Chichester.

All Saints' peregrines are cleaning their nest area for this season and a pair have started inspecting a church in Henley.

BOOK-ENDS

The Tin Nose Shop - Don J Snyder

I don't like being told what to read. Now that I am old I want to make my own choices and even friends suggesting books that they wish to lend me has a certain responsibility attached. To be polite I really ought to read the kind offering! Anyway, sometimes of course I am seriously pleased that I accepted and read the proffered story and this is a case in point.

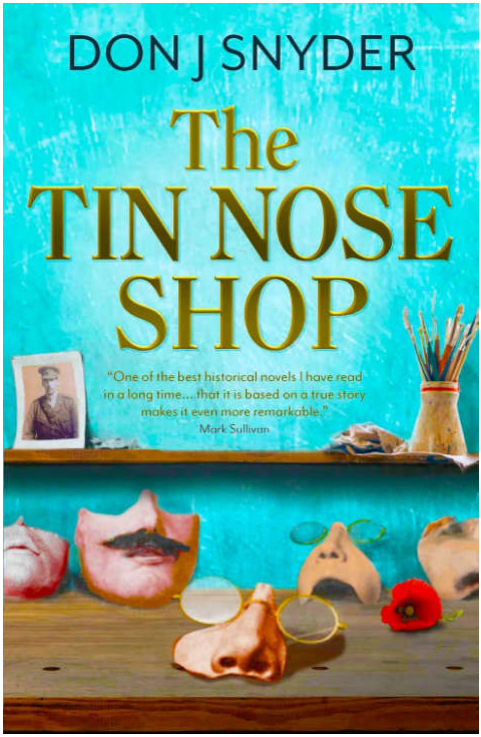
Here we are in the ghastly years of the First World War with young men rushing to join up, experience the 'glory of war' and of course be home by Christmas. As the brutal, agonising reality of trench warfare is gradually exposed, men returning home; injured, broken and traumatised, are left with a very personal battle: rehabilitation into civilian life. As a result of the bombs and explosives used, there were very many cases of extreme facial disfigurement. This is now well over a century ago and there was a limit as to what surgeons were able to do. Many men felt unable to be seen in public or, distressingly, to allow their families to see what had happened to them.

In a London hospital and one in Paris, artists and sculptors were brought in to make masks to cover severe facial damage. They were given a photo of the patient pre-war and using strips of plaster, thin sheets of copper and very specialised paints they created a picture of the face. Sometimes hair was added to give a moustache, eyebrows and sideburns. The mask could be attached using the arms of spectacles or if the patient had no ears, then fastenings to go round the head. Some wondered if the government was as keen to shield the public from the horrors of the trenches as much as giving a little dignity back to those crushed and damaged young men. Maybe that is a rather cynical.

'The Tin Nose Shop' (that is what these hospital departments became called) begins with two close friends, Ned and Sam, going off to war, the former enthusiastically, the latter markedly less so. They have for years been part of a friendship triangle with Katie, who Ned marries and has a child with just before leaving for the front. (I was reminded by this love triangle of Mary Wesley's 'A Camomile Lawn' where she has characters in a similar position, just one war later.) 'Promise me you'll bring my husband back,' Katie says to Sam, and of course he says 'yes.' A promise he is unable to keep. These are the years when perceived cowardice was punished by the firing squad and it seems this might be Sam's fate. However, the situation is not quite as the reader is led to believe and it is only gradually that we are told the true series of events.

As a talented artist who had been at art school before the war, Sam is recruited for work making masks. He has his own demons to quell and is sometimes almost as disturbed as the poor soldiers who are sent to him. He has not made contact with Katie to tell her anything of what had happened in France, he cannot share his mental torment with those who are prepared to listen and he has lost any sense of self worth. But, he is still under the auspices of army command, so he continues to use his artistic skills and make masks.

This is both an historically interesting story and a very affecting one. The characters are well drawn and the blissful ignorance of those in England about the reality of war taking place in France and Belgium, comes across powerfully. I don't know the number of men shot for cowardice when actually



they were suffering from shock and trauma but it was egregious, even if one needs to add that contextual phrase about it 'being of its time.'

The author comments that whilst doing research for this story he found that some people injured in the Omagh IRA bombing in Ireland in 1998 chose to wear masks rather than undergo a lengthy tranche of plastic surgery.

This is an excellent novel. I'm glad my friend offered it to me.

Happy Reading,

Susan Brice

April Recipe

Easter coming up and at this time of year in the UK, we often see lamb as the celebratory dish for Easter Sunday. This recipe is a traditional dish from the Abruzzo Apennines mountain region in Italy. Cuisine in Italy is extremely regional, where coastal dishes are often fish based and inland a lot of food is based on pork or lamb. Then Pizza is from the South of Italy and Tuscany, where Roger and I have often visited, we joke the food is 'Boar and Beans'!

Traditionally mutton would have been used instead of lamb and cooked over an open fire. In this recipe the lamb will be so tender it comes off the bone, but can be cooked for less time if you prefer. Also I am aware how expensive leg of lamb is now and this would work equally with shoulder of lamb. Cut down the recipe to half if you are using a smaller piece of meat. I have just realised that the January recipe was a pannetone pudding, February a cappuccino cake and now this Italian lamb dish; definitely an Italian theme. This could even be all prepared and in the oven before you go to church in the morning!

Julia Grant

Leg of Lamb all'Abruzzese

INGREDIENTS

700g onions

3 large red peppers about 700g

3 large red chillies (according to taste)

6 garlic cloves

2¼ kg leg of lamb

50 ml olive oil

3 tsp dried oregano

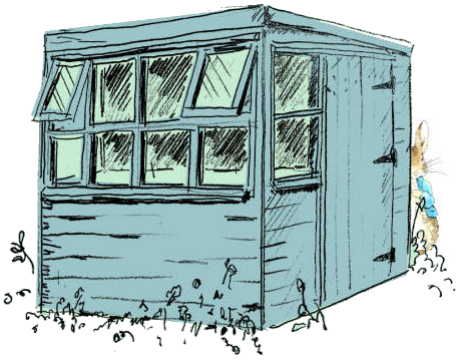
750 ml of white wine (or stock if you don't want to use wine)

3x 400g cans of whole plum tomatoes

METHOD

1. *Roughly chop the onions. Cut the peppers into finger length strips and finely chop the chillies. Peel the garlic but leave whole.*
2. *Season the lamb well. Heat 1 tbsp oil in a deep casserole dish or tin that will fit the lamb in. Brown the lamb well and set aside.*
3. *Heat the remaining oil and fry the onions, peppers, chillies, garlic and oregano, stirring over a medium heat until beginning to brown.*
4. *Add the wine and tomatoes and let it bubble for 10 mins. Then place the lamb on top of the vegetable mixture and season well. Baste the lamb and cover with foil.*
5. *Cook at 170°C (325°F); mark 3 gas, for 4 hours basting occasionally. Uncover and cook for one more hour. As mentioned above if you don't want the lamb so tender or the joint is smaller reduce the time.*
6. *To serve remove the lamb and carve roughly in chunks. If you prefer a thicker sauce, process half the tomato mixture before serving.*

From the **Potting Shed**

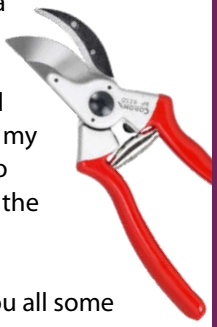


Dear friends,

Here we are again. A new year, a new season and my goodness don't we need our gardens for pleasure and solace when the world is so broken and full of darkness. How do you feel about the colour yellow I wonder? I find it is really important to me while I am willing winter to be gone, and counting the days until the clocks change. I put pots of little tete a tete daffodils and buttery yellow primroses and polyanthus outside my front door. They are just optimistic and welcoming.

When Ruby was here at the weekend she told me that her Sunday School teacher had said that some people call snowdrops Candlemas Bells. Candlemas is the 2nd February and that's when these flowers bravely bloom. You learn something every day.

MacGregor did a very good job over the winter of cleaning, oiling and sharpening all the garden tools. My pruning shears will be a pleasure to use.



My hubby loves his potting shed … and so do I. It gets him out of my way when the weather is just too awful for him to be outside over the winter.

Happy Easter my dears. I wish you all some sunshine.

Yours

Cecily MacGregor

Jobs for April

1. Cut back scruffy fern fronds and make space for the new growth.
2. Repair bare patches of lawn. My small patch of grass had one rather bare patch which is now quite green again. When I went out to look I saw the green was moss! Ah well!
3. Carry on deadheading spring bulbs and early bedding. You might be lucky and get extra blooms.
4. It's a good time to clean pond filters before you start the fountain working again.
5. It can be very windy in March, April and May so do tie in the stems of any climbing or rambling roses.
6. Any winter shrubs that have finished flowering can now be pruned.

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

April

1	7.00 pm	Holy Week Holy Communion: Church
2	7.00 pm	**Maundy Thursday** Holy Communion: Church
3	9.00 am	**Good Friday** Morning Prayer: Church
	11.00 am	All Age Service: Church
	2.00 pm	Last Hour at the Cross: Church
4	10.00 am	The Great Easter Eggventure: Church (see page 11)
	7.00 pm	**Easter Eve** Easter Vigil: Church
7	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Meeting: Church House
19	10.00 am	**Combined Communion** followed by **AVM & APCM**: Church
26	3.00 pm	Lighthouse Live: Church

May

2	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast: Church House
23	1.30 pm	Wedding of Gillian Collins & Alexander Hunt: 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

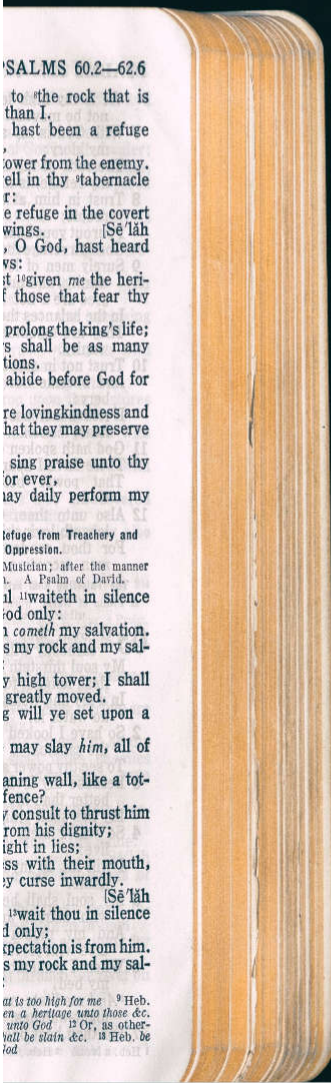
Friendship Morning

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**

April Lectionary



5th: Easter Day

Jeremiah 31: 1-6
Acts 10: 34-43
John 20: 1-18
Psalm at 9.00 am: 118: 14-24

Evensong: Psalm 66
Song of Sol. 3: 2-5 & 8: 6-7
Revelation 1: 12-18

12th: Second Sunday of Easter

Exodus 14: 10-31 & 15: 20-21
Acts 2: 14a & 22-32
John 20: 19-31
Psalm at 9.00 am: 16

Evensong: Psalm 30
Daniel 6: 6-23
Mark 15:46 – 16:8

19th: Third Sunday of Easter

Zephaniah 3: 14-20
Acts 2: 14a & 36-41
Luke 24: 13-35

Evensong: Psalm 48
Haggai 1:13 – 2:9
1 Corinthians 3: 10-17

26th: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Genesis 7
Acts 2: 42-47
John 10: 1-10
Psalm at 9.00 am: 23

Evensong: Psalm 29
Ezra 3: 1-13
Ephesians 2: 11-end

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