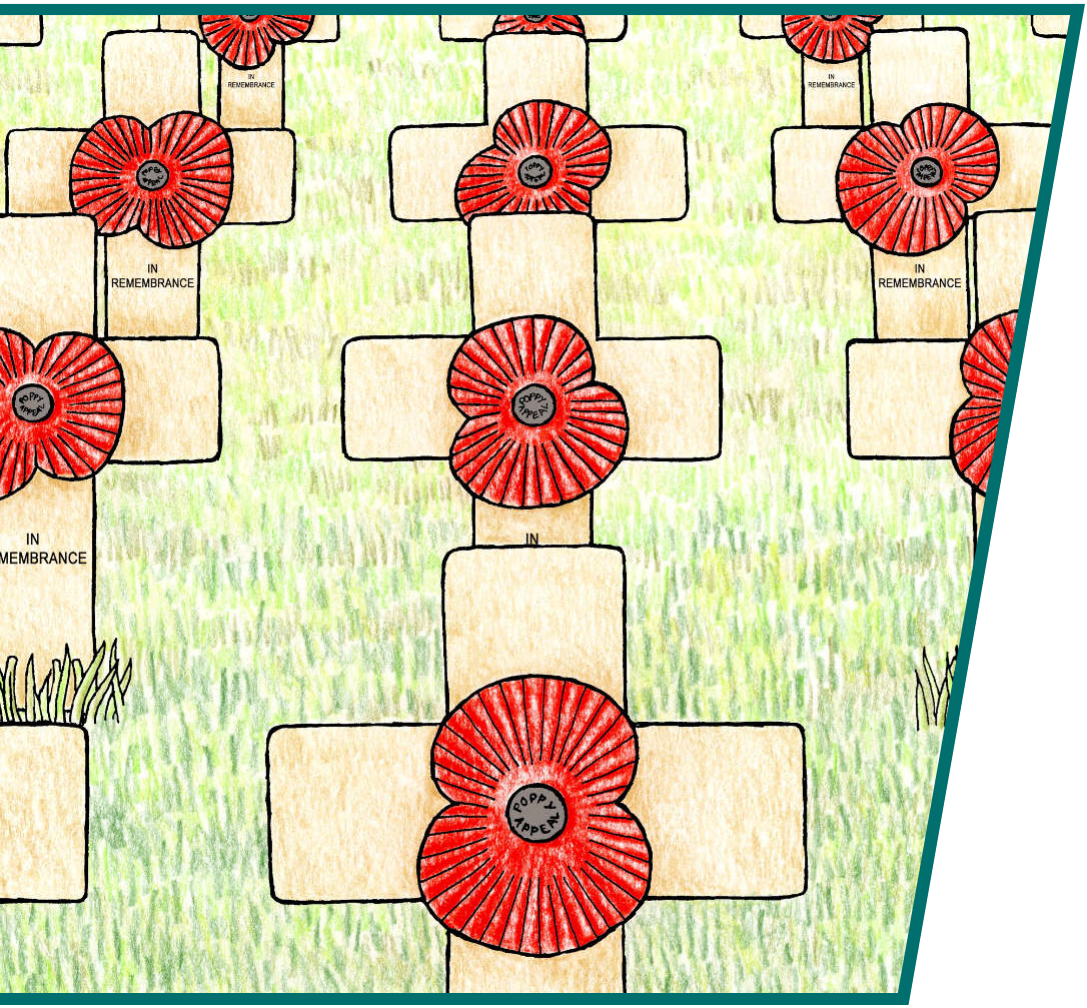
St. Michael & All Angels
CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING

outLook

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



INSIDE: November Reflection | *Tower Talk* | From the Potting Shed

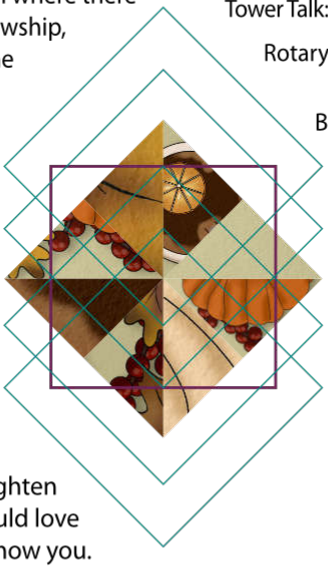
Welcome to **Your Church**

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

The leaves are starting to change colour into those beautiful golden/red/orange tints which look so breathtaking in the autumn sunshine. In this area the beeches and sycamores are always particularly colourful. We have just had our extremely successful Parish Weekend Away at Home when we shared meals, listened, learned, discussed, got to know one another better, praised, played games, danced and gave thanks – more about that in the next issue. Suffice it to say that the weather was kind, the organisation fantastic and there were smiles all round!

November is, of course, the month of Remembrance of those lost in the two Great Wars and various conflicts since. Christopher Tyrer has written a very interesting and poignant article on page 4 which helps us reflect on the enduring importance of this day. The Act of Remembrance will, as usual, take place in the church on Sunday 8th November. (See the Church Notices or information online for timings.)

In this edition you can read about the outstanding success of our Bellringing Team in the 2026 Lorna Newton Competition. Like so many things, we probably take the bells a bit for granted – we hear them from across the park or when we are walking to church. But a lot of work and dedication goes into the sounds that come from our church tower. Huge congratulations to Verity and The Team.

By the time this edition is printed, two members of our church, Richard and Ben, will have run the New York Marathon to raise funds for Lighthouse. Ben Sharp, has written about this amazing organisation in the following pages. Don't miss it. There is news from Uganda, a delicious-sounding recipe for a hot pudding, Bea's lovely reflection for November, Charlie's letter and much more so make yourself a hot drink and settle down for a good read.

Sylvia Clark
Editor

from the Vicarage

Charlie (Charlotte) Lloyd-Evans

Vicar

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

Over the past couple of months I have met so many new people and started to form new friendships. It is one of the greatest joys of moving to a new place and joining a new community.

During my licensing service here in July a good friend from my previous church was invited to speak to 'commend' me to this new church, which she did very generously and graciously. She included the lovely sentiment that in commending me to this new church and community, my previous church and community were not losing me, but sharing me. This beautifully summed up for me my own experience of moving over the years, especially discovering new church families in new places. As I think of the range of churches I have been part of over the years I still feel like I am part of each and every one, and every time I go back to visit any of them, as I walk through the door, it is like coming home.

In St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he talks about the church being the body of Christ, and how each part of the body is important and needed, and one part is not more important than another. As I have moved over the years I have been frequently reminded that this is the whole church throughout the world. We are all one body. Each part is needed and is at its best when it works together to be one united body. As I have moved here to Hughenden I am simply discovering more of this beautiful body that God has formed, and as I discover more of this body I also discover more about my own role in it. This is all a beautiful metaphor to help us understand what it is to be a community.

One of the challenges I have faced recently is that a couple of weeks after I arrived I fell down the stairs and sprained my knee. As you will all know, when any part of the body is injured or struggling in any way then the whole body suffers. For the first few days I had to use a cane to walk, making my arm and shoulder do more work to lighten the load, as well as making the other leg take more of the weight. This is also what happens when we are part of a body, a community together. When one part is struggling, other parts take up the strain and provide extra support and protection. This is a vital part of the process of recovery and healing. But for this to work we have to know we are part of the body. We have to know the other parts of the body and our relationship to them.

As I am settling into Hughenden it is a joy to discover and get to know more parts of this amazing body, and I want this to continue. I want to continue to get to know you and you to get to know me. One of the ways we can do this is to meet for a chat over a cuppa. I am going to be available every Monday morning for this, between 10.00 and 11.00 am, either at The Hughenden Village Coffee Shop (1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month) or at Bon Ami in Naphill (2nd and 4th Mondays of the month). Come along and say hello. I am looking forward to getting to know you better.

Bentley Priory Museum

Headquarters of Fighter Command
The Battle of Britain: May to October 1940

None of The Few are still alive now: The Few whom Churchill memorably described in heroic terms. The last survivor was Group Captain John Hemingway, who died in March 2025, at the age of 105. But the remembrance of The Few lives on – indeed it is an imperishable memory. History, family records, annual Remembrance Day ceremonies, school lessons – all and more avenues still, continue to honour and pass down the generations, memories and reminders of the fears, hopes, challenges and sacrifices of those summer months, increasing years ago.

Until David and Charlotte Tester advised us, Jane and I were unaware of the existence of this museum – it is a museum and more dedicated to Fighter Command and Air Chief Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding.

Firstly, the title: Bentley Priory Museum is situated in the Grade II* Mansion House near Stanmore, in Middlesex. It was the headquarters of Fighter Command during the Second World War and, of course, during the Battle of Britain and the Blitz which followed it. The memorable film, starring Sir Lawrence Olivier as Sir Hugh Dowding, was filmed there.

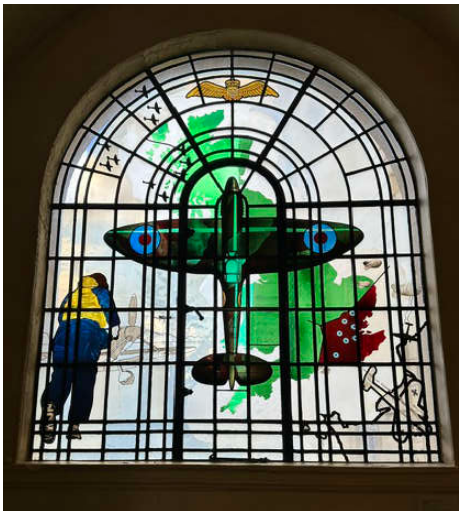
Dowding is quoted, in (to my mind) the best narrative history of The Battle of Britain, by James Holland, as saying that the Battle began at the outbreak of war in September 1939, but conceded later that the actual date was probably the initial onslaught on the 10th July 1940, when the first large formation of German bombers attacked Southern England. All the events of the ensuing months were directed from the Operations Room – now no longer in existence except through a reduced sized recreation. But all the information is carefully presented in a series of galleries, with former RAF personnel on hand to inform, advise and direct visitors to relevant information.

It was very moving and required a very full day which, sadly, we could not give it, to get to grips with all the information available in tableau, film, recordings and script. We will return to give it the proper attention that it deserves.

Air Chief Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding was born in Scotland in April 1882, so he was already 58 years old by the time his moment came. He had served in the First World War and was appointed the head of the newly formed Fighter Command in1936, remaining until he was forced out in November 1940. Devotees of RAF history will be familiar with the differences between "The Dowding System" of careful management of resources and

preparation of responses in defence to Luftwaffe attacks, and the proponents of "The Big Wing" tactic, which eventually won the day when Sholto Douglas replaced Dowding.

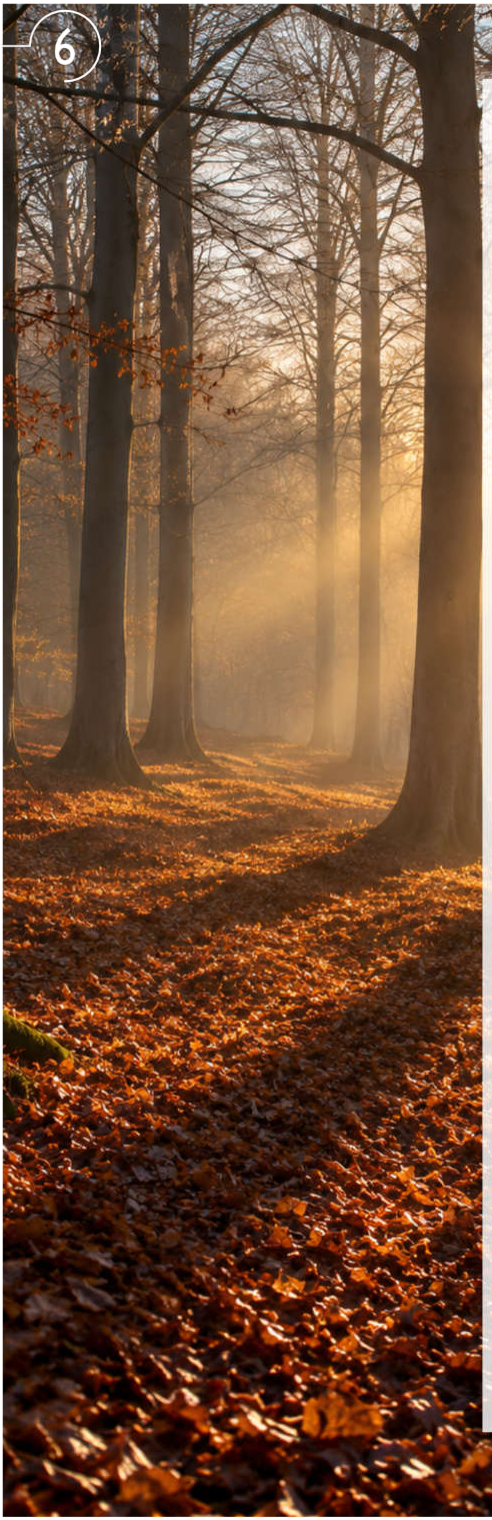
History and, indeed, Great Britain, were not generous to Dowding. He was despatched to the United States after leaving Fighter Command, only returning to Great Britain and retiring in July 1942. A peerage eventually followed in 1943 and he died at the age of 87, in 1970, in Tunbridge Wells.



It is widely thought that Dowding earned his nickname of "Stuffy" Dowding and that is how history seems to have remembered him. Those who know him and of his reputation, including those at Bentley Priory, insist that he was a jovial and clubbable man, who enjoyed the company of his staff and friends. There is an obvious difference between the serious task with which he was burdened and the, doubtless, only occasional opportunities afforded to him to relax.

At this time of Remembrance, let us honour the memories of those in all the various branches of the military and civilian services, those who served and those who gave their lives so that we may enjoy the way of life that we inherited thanks to them; and those who still, day by day, serve, save and sacrifice.

Christopher Tyrer



Here Lie The Golden Dead

The wood's breath is rank with death.
December's sun, north-wind scoured,
Silhouettes the trees,
And showers my sight with molten-metal lights,
Bright enough to burn my room-dulled eyes.

Shadows of the sinewy beech
Like tomb-stones, row on row,
Fall across their progeny
The fallen dead.

I tread a carpet, bronzed, deep piled,
To read their epitaph.
I know it well, this burial-place,
I know these words by heart;
"Here lie the golden dead
Dear to April's mind.
Bud, cuckoo, solstice, fall,
All but silence, fled."

And in this cemetery peace,
Memory weaves from mind-stuff all that was
and is to be;
As the trees' breath,
Touched by a shuttered sun,
Rises like a wraith from where the wood first
sprang, chanting;
"Requiescence,
Resurrection,
Endless song".

Ron Cretchley

Holy Day in **November**

10th November – Leo the Great, rescued doctrine of the Incarnation

How do you think of Jesus? As the Lord of lords in glory? Or as a human baby soon to be born in Bethlehem? November brings the glorious climax of the church year with the Sunday of Christ the King at the end of November – only to begin a new 'year' a week later, with Advent. So, the ways in which the Church speaks of Jesus this month could not be more dramatically different.

How can Jesus be both God and Man? Trying to get your head around the Incarnation is not easy, and so this is a good month to remember Leo the Great (d 461). In the 5th century, he 'rescued' the doctrine of the Incarnation at a time when the Church was really struggling with the onslaught of various attacks.

Leo, a deacon of Tuscan descent, became Pope at a time when Rome was reeling under repeated assault by the barbarians. As well as trying to patch up the material and spiritual damage they had done, Leo faced an even more deadly attack: the Church was being torn apart on the inside. There were various heresies raging, each trying to claim that their view of the person of Christ was the only right one.

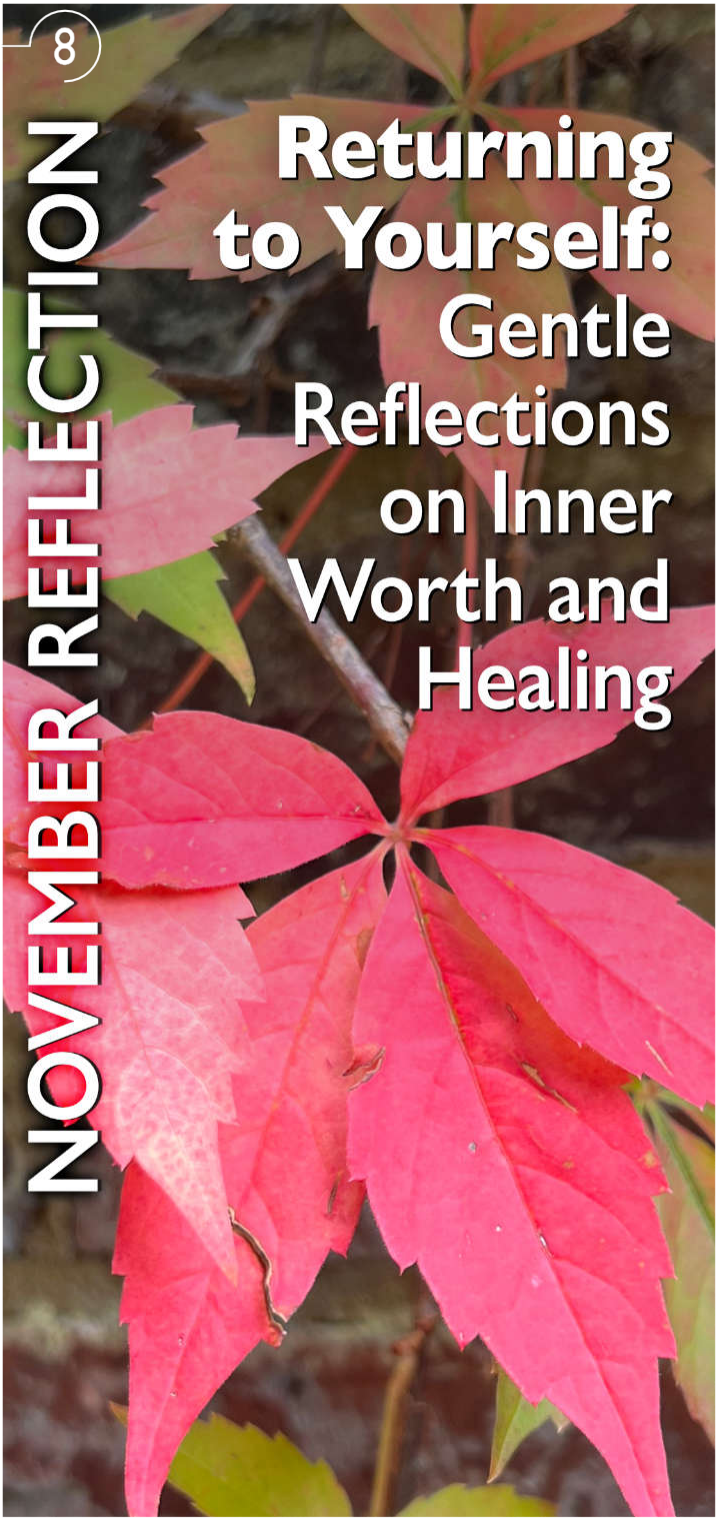
Between the barbarians on the outside and the distortions of Manichaeism, Priscillianism, and Pelagianism on the inside, Leo was not in for an easy time. Yet this man of indomitable energy and devotion to duty pressed on. Leo was pope for 20 tumultuous years, but undoubtedly the most important contribution that he made was at a famous church council.

It was the Council of Chalcedon, in 451 – often regarded as a critical moment in Christian history. Leo presented a dogmatic letter (or Tome) to the Council. He wrote with remarkable clarity of thought and understanding. Jesus Christ, said Leo, is one Person, the Divine Word. In Jesus the two natures, the divine and the human, are permanently united without confusion or mixture.

When the Council read this document, it was exclaimed: 'Peter has spoken by Leo.' Leo's understanding was seen to encompass all the Bible teaching on the subject of who Jesus was. It became thenceforth part of the official teaching of the Christian Church.

From the Parish Pump

NOVEMBER REFLECTION



Returning to Yourself: Gentle Reflections on Inner Worth and Healing

Allowing Yourself To Be As You Are

November often brings a quieter atmosphere. The colours of autumn begin to fade, the days shorten, and nature seems to settle into itself. There is less striving, less outward growth, and more stillness.

After reflecting in October on honouring our limits, November invites us to go a little deeper: to consider what it means to accept ourselves as we are, rather than constantly measuring ourselves against who we think we should be.

Self-acceptance can sound simple, but it is not always easy.

Many of us carry expectations about how we should cope, how strong we should be, how quickly we should recover, or how much we should be able to manage. When

we do not meet those expectations, we may become frustrated with ourselves or feel as though we are somehow falling short.

But acceptance does not mean giving up on growth.

It means beginning from a place of honesty.

It means saying, "This is where I am today," without immediately judging, fixing, or comparing.

Romans 15:7 reminds us, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you." We often think about this verse in relation to other people, but perhaps there is also an invitation here to consider the grace we extend towards ourselves.

Can we allow ourselves to have difficult days without believing we have failed?

Can we recognise that vulnerability is part of being human?

Can we accept that healing, growth, and change rarely happen in a straight line?

Sometimes self-acceptance is found in very ordinary moments: resting when we are tired, acknowledging an emotion instead of pushing it away, asking for help, or simply allowing ourselves not to have all the answers.

This month, you might gently reflect:

- What part of myself do I find hardest to accept?
- Am I expecting more from myself than I would expect from someone I love?
- What would change if I met myself with curiosity instead of criticism?
- Can I allow today to be enough, even if everything is not yet resolved?

November reminds us that not every season is about blooming. Some seasons are for resting, releasing, and simply being.

As we continue returning to ourselves, may we learn that acceptance is not the end of growth. Sometimes it is where true growth begins — when we stop fighting who we are and create space to become, gently and in our own time.

Beatrix Kiraly

From Uganda to Hughenden
A Message of Gratitude

This letter was sent via Rita Pulley who has been a loyal supporter of the Ebenezer Children's Centre for a very long time. Our thanks to Rita. Ed.

Dear Vicar, and dear brothers and sisters in Christ at Hughenden Church, greetings to you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is with a very grateful heart that I bring you greetings and a message of thanksgiving from Uganda, and especially from the children and staff of Ebenezer Children Centre Orphanage Home.

For many years, Hughenden Church has faithfully stood with us in this ministry. Through your prayers, your encouragement, and your financial support, you have become an important part of the Ebenezer family. We want you to know that your support has made a real difference.

There are children who have received food because you gave. There are children who have been able to continue their education because you cared. There are children who have experienced love, security, hope, and the knowledge that someone, somewhere, remembers them and is praying for them.

Your generosity has not simply provided material things. It has helped transform lives.

We are particularly grateful for the quarterly gifts we receive through the Scripture Knowledge Institute. These gifts help us continue providing for the children and meeting their ongoing needs. We thank God for this partnership and for everyone at Hughenden who has played a part in making it possible.

As the years have gone by, however, the children have grown, and so have their needs.

Their needs for food, education, clothing, medical care, accommodation, and other necessities continue. We therefore still need your prayers and support.

We do not say this simply to ask for more, but to share honestly with you where the ministry stands. We have seen God's faithfulness, and we continue to trust Him. So today, we ask you to continue walking with us in prayer.

Please pray for the children of Ebenezer—

that God will provide for their physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs.

Pray that He will protect them, guide them, give them hope for the future, and help each one discover the purpose He has for their lives.

Please also pray for those who care for them—that God will give them wisdom, strength, patience, compassion, and the resources necessary to serve these children faithfully.

And please pray for the Ebenezer Children Centre itself—that God will continue to provide everything that is needed to sustain and strengthen this ministry.

Dear friends at Hughenden, we want you to know that we remember you in Uganda.

Every time we see the children being cared for, every time a need is met, and every time we witness a child growing in hope and confidence, we are reminded that God uses His people across borders and across nations to demonstrate His love.

Your prayers may be offered here in Hughenden, but their impact is being felt by children thousands of miles away in Uganda.

We thank you for standing with us for all these years.
We thank you for believing in these children.
We thank you for your prayers.
We thank you for your generosity.
And above all, we thank God for you.

As Jesus said:

> *"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."*
>
> Matthew 18:5

May the Lord richly bless the Vicar, every member of Hughenden Church, and all those who have faithfully prayed for and supported the children of Ebenezer.

May He replenish everything you have given, strengthen your church, bless your families, and continue to use Hughenden Church for His glory.

From all of us in Uganda, and especially from the children of Ebenezer Children Centre:

Thank you.

May God bless you, may God keep you, and may His grace continue to unite us in this work of caring for His children.

With our deepest love and gratitude in Christ,

Charity Mwesigwa Loreen
Resident Director Ebenezer Children Centre Orphanage Home
Uganda

Tower Talk:
Hughenden Triumphs Again in the 2026 Lorna Newton Competition

We are delighted to announce that Hughenden has won the prestigious Lorna Newton Bellringers' Cup for the second year running. Awarded to the tower delivering the finest performance in the annual striking competition for East Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire, the trophy remains once again in Hughenden's hands.

Following a series of knockout rounds earlier in the year, the final took place at Cookham on Saturday 10th October. Ringing last in the competition, the Hughenden band delivered a fine performance to overcome strong opposition from the ringers of Amersham, Chesham, Cookham and High Wycombe.

First held in 1973, the competition challenges teams to ring near-perfect rounds followed by 120 different changes on six bells, demanding both precision and teamwork. Chesham finished in second place and received the runners-up cup.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, and especially to our Hughenden team for once again bringing the trophy home. Their success is a testament not only to their skill and dedication, but also to the enjoyment and camaraderie that makes bellringing such a rewarding pastime.

Well done, Hughenden!

Verity Nicholls
Captain of Bellringers

Rotary Club of Princes Risborough Tree of Light Dedication

The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough is once again raising funds to support the work of the Florence Nightingale Hospice and other Rotary charities through its annual Tree of Light Dedication.

This special event gives you the opportunity to honour, remember and celebrate the life of someone special by dedicating a light on the tree.

The Tree of Light will be located in the gardens at the corner of New Road and Duke Street, Princes Risborough. The names of loved ones being remembered will be displayed on boards in the garden close to the tree.

If you would like to dedicate a light to someone special, please use the QR code below to submit your dedication details and make your online donation. Alternatively, pick up a dedication form from Princes Risborough Library.

A short dedication ceremony will be held at 4.00 pm on Sunday 22nd November at the tree. This provides an opportunity to see the lights illuminated and spend time with others remembering loved ones who are no longer with us. Everyone is welcome, there is no need to book a place.

For further information, please contact:

David Griggs: 07896 101819
Alternatively, use the QR code below to make your dedication.

Florence Nightingale
HOSPICE CHARITY

Finding Purpose in **Small Beginnings** and **Big Horizons**

When people ask me what keeps me busy these days, I often laugh because my main passions couldn't seem more different on the surface. By day, my work revolves around helping to guide how His Majesty's Government makes use of space technology. Outside of work, my heart is rooted right here on Earth, fundraising for Lighthouse - an incredible charitable organisation that brings communities together through faith to host vibrant children's holiday camps, while aiming for nationwide growth.

Look a little closer and you'll find that both worlds share a surprisingly similar orbit, with both deeply rooted in Christian faith.

Paul reminds us in Colossians 3:23–24 to work at everything with all our heart, as working for the Lord. Whether we are considering the vast expanse of the heavens or the noisy joy of a kids' holiday camp, every endeavour is an opportunity to serve God and care for His people.

Both space technology and community charity work are niche fields that are rapidly expanding. While space might feel vast and distant, the everyday applications that support navigation, climate monitoring, and national security are grounded in practical service. Similarly, Lighthouse began as a focused local effort, but its impact is steadily growing: more localities are discovering the community-building support a local Lighthouse can offer to young families.

Interestingly, both endeavours also contend with major communication challenges. In space tech, breaking through technical jargon so both decision-makers and the general public understand why satellite capabilities matter, is an ongoing mission. One could say it takes real effort to ensure our message isn't lost in transmission! Likewise, grassroots charities must work hard to make their voices heard above the daily noise, ensuring their vision reaches the families and supporters who need it most.

At the heart of both fields, however, it is never really about the technology or the strategy documents; it is always about people. Jesus called us to be "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14–16), letting our light shine before others so that community, hope and love can flourish.

www.lighthousecentral.org

Lighthouse lives out that calling directly, nurturing children, supporting parents and building a stronger, more connected society - one holiday camp at a time.

This shared mission inspired me and my good friend Richard Peters to take on a challenge of our own: we ran the New York City Marathon on the 1st November in support of Lighthouse Central. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of so many, our fundraising (as I wrote this) had passed £3,000!

As Lighthouse continues to launch into its next chapter of nationwide growth, there is still plenty of space to get involved. If you would like to support this vital work, it is not too late to donate via the link below. After all, when we come together in faith to support our young people, the heavens are truly the limit!

Ben Sharp

Mothers' Union

For our October meeting members and visitors met in the church to hear Neil Brice, our very talented organist, treating us to a recital of various pieces of music.

The organ is a very versatile instrument, able to produce so many different sounds from very quiet, sometimes prayerful pieces to the extremely loud and powerful chords of a major composition. As no doubt many will have noticed, there are multiple stops on each side of the organ keyboards, as well as the large wooden keys known as the pedalboard, beneath the player's feet. I find it fascinating to watch Neil play, pulling or pushing the stops in or out with such dexterity to produce the different sounds, while at the same time, playing the pedals with his feet. Such a feat of coordination!

Neil ended his most enjoyable recital by playing Widor's Toccata which was very moving and reverberated around the church, filling our ears with the wonderful sound. This work, part of a symphony, has often been played at weddings, including royal weddings.

Neil was loudly applauded and we all felt so very lucky to have him as our church organist. Refreshments in Church House concluded a lovely afternoon.

At our next meeting on 3rd November at 2.00 pm in Church House, Christopher Tyrer, well known to many of us, will be speaking on 'The Life of a Judge'. As always, visitors are most welcome.

Sylvia Clark

Women's Refuge

As usual the Mothers' Union will be collecting gifts for the children and mothers at the Refuge for Christmas. Suitable items are edible treats for the children and toiletries for the mothers, but please, no toys. Throughout November a box for contributions will be placed at the back of the church. These will be delivered to the Women's Refuge in early December. Thank you in advance for your support.

God in the Sciences

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone … The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment… Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? Job 38:4–7, 14, 16 (NIV)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking "What have I done to you…? Why have you made me your target?"

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

From the Parish Pump

This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in New Daylight (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.

chosen.

Love ... Hope ... Freedom ...

This small, High Wycombe-based charity began as an offshoot of a similar charity in a nearby town, but such was the need and the difference in context that it was soon an organisation in its own right. You'll find its website at www.chosen highwycombe.org but here is its story:

In 2017 a group of people gathered to pray. They had become aware that there were women in High Wycombe who were caught up in sex trafficking, and its related woes such as exploitation, abuse, drug addiction, depression and hopelessness, and even the removal of their children by social services. The prayer group met weekly over several years, to cry out to God to somehow bring healing and restoration. As they learned more about the women, who lead incredibly difficult and dangerous lives, their prayers began to include protection, hope and ultimately, freedom for these women.

In 2019 King's Church, in High Wycombe town centre, decided to establish a practical ministry to help the ladies caught up in trafficking and exploitation. At first they partnered with a similar charity working in a nearby town, but soon enough, a separate High Wycombe organisation was launched, and it became CHOSEN High Wycombe in 2022. Its team of courageous volunteers, supported by a committed team of pray-ers, walk the streets in the evening to meet with the women and try to support, bless and befriend them, offering useful items, along with homemade cakes made by loving hands. In January 2026, the team set up a dedicated drop-in facility. A space was found, decorated and equipped, and the team offer this homely space with its refreshments, hot food, wardrobe and shower facility on a weekly basis.

Prayer and consistency are the bedrocks of this charity. Trust between the volunteers and the women is not easy to build, but once formed, it is very precious, and nurturing it is vital. Connection with other agencies is also vital – the ladies sometimes need the specialist services from foodbanks, housing agencies and charities, addiction support agencies, and counselling services. The team at CHOSEN provides bespoke support dependent upon the specific needs of each woman. This can be help with food, clothing and toiletries,

support in attending Court hearings, or assistance in getting to and from appointments with doctors or other practitioners.

I asked the CEO, Richard, whether any of the ladies had experienced changed lives as a result of CHOSEN's work, and he told me about one lady, who we shall call "Grace."

Grace had built a relationship of trust with the walking team over a period of two years and began to allow them to help and pray for her. She came to Drop-In occasionally for showers, food, clothes and prayer. One week she seemed to disappear – much searching, and contacting of other agencies eventually revealed that Grace was in prison. What a blow! However, the team refused to give up on her, and requested to visit her in prison. She was absolutely overwhelmed that they had cared enough to come – they were literally the only visitors she'd ever had. The team set to work, and on Grace's release, a couple of them agreed with her to wait for her outside the prison gates, to take her to accommodation in a different town in the county arranged by a housing charity, to encourage her, and to celebrate with her, to go shopping and to get her a travel pass and to help her think about job applications. Wonderfully, she found a job she loved. Over time, Grace successfully navigated life "on the outside," attending church enthusiastically, holding

down her job and enjoying her freedom … until immigration officials arrived and took her to a detention centre. Even this could not dent her new - found joy in life, and Grace became a blessing to others in the centre, helping them, encouraging them to turn to God, and even leading sung worship with them. When she was eventually deported, Grace went back to her home country, where she reconciled with her family: she told us that her family only ever expected to see her back home in a coffin, so concerned were they about her well-being and previous lifestyle. What a transformation!

I am reminded of the beautiful words of Jesus in Matthew 25, as he speaks to his disciples about their attitude towards others:

> *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*
>
> *"And they will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*
>
> *"The King (Jesus) will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

Should you be interested in volunteering with this wonderful charity, their next training round for volunteers is Saturday 16 January and Saturday 23 January 2027. You can register for this by visiting: **www.chosenhighwycombe.org/serve**. Volunteers include men and women.

God in the Arts

Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Revd Michael Burgess pauses to consider the significance of the church altar.

'He gave us eyes to see them' – the altar

In 'The Temple' the reader travels through the poems of George Herbert and makes a pilgrimage through the church to arrive finally at the altar where Love bids us welcome to make our communion.

For the poet and for us, the altar is a sign of Christ: His presence in the sacrament of His body and blood. At the Reformation stone altars gave way to wooden holy tables, but in 1972 a stone altar was created for a London church that was designed not only as a sign of Christ, but as a reminder of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem – the place where Abraham was ready to offer Isaac.

The altar is a focus of offering. Its sculptor was Henry Moore who began his work 300 years after Sir Christopher Wren designed the new church of St Stephen, Walbrook in 1672. Neither Wren nor Moore were afraid of innovation and experiment. As a result, Wren created one of the most beautiful of London churches, famous and admired throughout Europe, with its central dome carried on 12 columns. His concern was that in worship all should hear and see, just as Moore's concern was to show the altar at the heart of the church, and consequently a church that is at the heart of the city.

St Stephen's Walbrook
Photo: amandabhslater, via Wikimedia Commons

The placing of that altar led to a lengthy court case in 1987, and opinions may still vary over this marriage of stone and building. But it remains as a focus for offering and worship, just as the church of St Stephen stands nearly 350 years after it was rebuilt. Both take us in faith and prayer to an earlier age when Jesus shared a meal with His disciples in the Upper Room. We rejoice that the same Jesus welcomes us to the Eucharist now at this altar of St Stephen and at the altars of all our churches.

From The Parish Pump

Harvest Festival
Then And Now

Aren't we lucky that most of us have enough to feed ourselves and can take care of the needs of our families? It is a very sad fact that these days so many struggle to make ends meet and to have enough food to provide for themselves and their families.

Our Annual Harvest Festival service took place in early October and the church was beautifully decorated with colourful autumn flowers and foliage. Many years ago I lived in a small farming village in the Leicestershire countryside and Harvest Festival meant that fresh produce from parishioners' gardens - cabbages, carrots, beans, tomatoes, swedes, turnips, potatoes, as well as apples, pears, plums, greengages, etc plus a sheaf or two or wheat from a farmer, were brought to the church and laid at the altar to be blessed. Often a traditional loaf of bread, made in the shape of a wheatsheaf with a little harvest mouse on it, was included. Hymns of thanks were sung - 'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land' and 'Come ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home'. This bounty was later given to the needy of the parish.

Today, as we know, is very different as the cost of living continues to rise. Many people struggle to make ends meet and rely on the help of Food Banks like One-Can to enable them to feed themselves and their families. Although it is not possible to stock much fresh

produce in the Food Bank, we can and do give food in tins and packets.

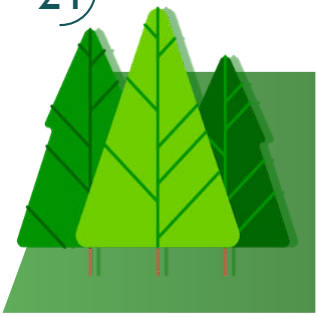
At our Harvest service bag after bag of tins and packets were placed at the back the church, to be carried up the aisle by children (with a little help from adults) and placed before the altar. Although not so attractive to the eye as the fresh produce of the past, these gifts are lifesavers for those to whom they are given. It was a heart-warming display and grateful thanks were offered to God for the provision of the food and for the love and generosity of the givers.

All the gifts were taken next day to the One-Can Trust in High Wycombe which we, as a church, support. Hopefully these Harvest donations will make life easier for those not so fortunate as ourselves.

'All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above.
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.'

Sylvia Clark

ONE CAN
FOOD BANK + TRUST
onecantrust.org.uk



Nature Note

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:1

That is mankind's commission, to take care of nature. But the current generation of decision makers plus their predecessors has been beguiled by the chemical industries into thinking that spreading powder here, pouring liquid of 'magic' concoctions there, will improve crop yields, reduce 'pests' and generally make the world a better place - and of course we now know better.

We should have been cautious once the effects of DDT were realised in the early sixties. Instead, this was thought to be a rogue product, to be avoided yes, but its companions were reliable - and of course, we now know better. The effects of modern agricultural practices using widespread broad spectrum chemical treatments, short term rapidly repeated crop rotations, hedge removal and use of every available scrap of land, have been devastating for our native nature at large. You can use whatever barometer of indicator species you like, but our islands are in the 10% most nature-depleted nations on earth at the moment.

Which brings me to today's topic, regeneration. I've heard it said that the wild isn't dead, it's waiting in the wings.

I have a hero of mine that I'd like to introduce to you, someone leading the way with what he has already done or is doing to bring nature back in all its abundance.

Roy Dennis, now in his mid-eighties, grew up in the New Forest where he developed a natural love of all things wild. He volunteered on Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel and Fair Isle, the southernmost Shetland Isle. Then working for the RSPB, he became their Chief Officer in Scotland during the 1960s. This is where he began working on Operation Osprey which had gathered momentum after a pair had started breeding near Loch Garten in the mid-fifties. Managing to get through various problems from egg collectors, local landowners who considered ospreys a pest by interfering with fish stocks that they then couldn't catch themselves, ospreys now breed throughout the UK,

with two or three nests at or near Arne, Dorset as far south as you can get on the UK mainland.

Whilst the osprey project was being promoted, multiple others were being considered by the RSPB, the Nature Conservancy (as it was called way back), other local conservationist groups and enthusiasts. These were Red Kites, White Tailed Sea Eagles, Eagle Owls, Hen Harriers, Cranes as well as Beavers and Lynx. Some of these failed due to politics, farming and landowner pressure groups, plus it was realised that public opinion could be the deciding factor and that could take some time to muster. As is known, some have come into being very successfully, but not without backward steps here and there; for instance, Roy lived on the Black Isle north of Inverness at one time, where early red kite releases in the '80s mysteriously failed. At the same time releases in the Chilterns were flourishing!

The Scottish releases were young birds brought from the Norway population, the Chiltern birds from Spain. This was done to create genetic diversity for a species becoming increasingly fragmented across its range and to be a geographic link between the southern group and those in the north. Yet another success for Roy and his colleagues.

The white tailed eagle scheme has had great success as well. One bird, G36 as it is tagged, is in our area, between Marlow, Wycombe and Wooburn - eyes to the skies! Again, young birds from Norway

Roy: then and now

were released in chosen locations, initially the west coast of Scotland and now young Scottish individuals on the east coast of Scotland and the Isle of Wight. Further sites are being considered in Wales and Cornwall and most excitingly, six young birds were released on Exmoor his year with 20 more planned over the next few years.

Roy was heavily involved in getting the beaver accepted as a species that we should have back in UK rivers. He left the RSPB in 1990 and formed his own organization, The Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation. He is a staunch advocate of widening the beaver range expansion to cover most of our river systems. He quotes The Netherlands as a densely populated country where beavers along with major carnivores (wolves on the German border) are accepted; why not us?

For me, Roy and his like are getting the thumbs up from The Lord for care of His creation. Nice one Roy

Mike Bevan

BOOK-ENDS

The Golden Hours - Louisa Young

I have been time travelling and now the journey is over and I have returned to 2026, I am quite bereft. I have been visiting the 1960s but it has been more than visiting because I clearly remember that decade, so really I have been living it. Let me tell you about it.

Have you read the Cazalet novels by Elizabeth Jane Howard? There are five books that take this large family through the 1930s, the Second World War and into the 1950s. The books are a family saga that is deeply satisfying to read but they also provide an accurate and well observed social history of a time of quite profound upheaval and change. The ability to observe and be 'in the know' was aided by the author being very well connected in London society. She was the second wife of Kingsley Amis, married to him between 1965 and 1983 and she pours much of her own life into these novels. The early books are very autobiographical in particular. The TV series is good but the books have far greater depth. The fifth book was published in 2013 and the writer died the following year.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Cazalet family, they would have been considered an upper middle-class family with a successful timber company, London houses and the homestead in Sussex. The war inevitably causes many changes and apart from individual trauma there is the challenge of managing large houses without servants. The business collapses and suddenly family members have to think about money rather than take it for granted.

The novels continued to sell well, particularly during the pandemic. Maybe, like me, people at that time committed to reading long sequences of

books. I must have read them all three times for sure.

And then, very recently, there was a long article in the Sunday papers about Louisa Young (of whom I knew nothing) and 'The Golden Hours', a story that would take the characters forward into the dizzy years of the 1960s. I was fascinated. There have been many examples of late of authors writing sequels to well-known stories but this is slightly different. Louisa Young is the niece of Elizabeth Jane Howard and has known these characters almost as part of her extended family. She is herself an established writer. Why not see what happens next? I was slightly sceptical but the reviews were convincing. I preordered and on publication day in early September the substantial paperback arrived. However many books I buy, something new is always exciting!

Sorry I'm 350 words in and just getting to 'The Golden Hours' but I feel context is always important. Louisa Young was born in 1960 so her personal awareness of that decade will be small. I think most of her readers will have lived through it as I did, although I was a few years too young to really make the most of that time. Over the first few pages I found the author's style a little clunky and she seemed to be aiming for a kind of 1960s vernacular which sounded a little forced. However, once I accepted that this was not going to be the exceptionally fluent and smooth style of Elizabeth Jane Howard, I relaxed into the story and thoroughly enjoyed it. It is the sort of book where I look forward to going to bed and settling in for good solid reading time.

There is a detailed family tree at the front of the book and you will, dear reader, probably be grateful for this. The children of the Cazalet volumes are now hitting forty, they have children of their own. There are second wives and very, very many cousins. I have read reviews where these books are called 'comfortable' and 'good holiday reads'. I don't think I agree. There is abuse and the edges of incest. There are wartime secrets that are shocking. Polly, Clary and Louise are the three cousins around whom most of the action revolves. Their characters are richly painted and the reader gets to know and care about them.

There were some funny touches in the narrative that made me smile. Juliet, who makes her own clothes, as we all did in the sixties, appliqués large daisies onto a dress, clearly alluding to Mary Quant. There are hemline references that made me remember endless negotiations with my mother: how many inches above my knee could the skirt be?! And, looking back from a great distance now, I feel some sympathy for parents who couldn't fathom why their daughters wanted to have smoky black eyes and pearly white lipstick. And the hair … and the music!

I totally recommend this book but the very best experience would be to read the five Cazalet novels first, beginning with 'The Light Years'. Louisa Young says that there will be two more volumes following on from 'The Golden Hours'. I can't wait.

Happy reading

Susan Brice

November Recipe

I did feature this recipe five years ago in 2021, if anyone keeps a record! However, it is a real favourite at this time of year. As the evenings are getting colder, we start to think of Sunday lunch, not barbeques and my husband wants nice hot traditional puddings.

Normally there are lots of apples around at this time of year but with the hot summer I had only a handful of them. But unusually, I had about 60 quinces which I have never had before; lots of quince jelly made but not sure about poached quinces.

This recipe with apples is very easy and a big favourite with the family. It is equally good warm or cold and keeps for a few days in the fridge. It also freezes well and I often make double the recipe here. It can be served with custard or cream instead of the mascarpone cream.

Julia Grant

Baked Apple and Almond Cake with Mascarpone Vanilla Cream

INGREDIENTS

450g (1lb) Cooking apples, cored and sliced

50g (2oz) soft brown sugar

110g (4oz) ground almonds

110g (4oz) butter at room temperature

110g (4oz) caster sugar

2 large eggs, beaten

METHOD

1. *Preheat oven to 180 C, gas mark 4. Butter an ovenproof dish approximately 1½ pint capacity.*

2. *Place the cooking apples in a saucepan with the soft brown sugar and 1 tablespoon water. Simmer gently until soft and then arrange in the bottom of the dish.*

3. *Meanwhile cream together the butter and caster sugar in a bowl (or processor) until pale and fluffy, then beat in the eggs one at a time.*

4. *Next carefully fold in the ground almonds and then spread the creamed mixture over the apple mixture in the ovenproof dish. Bake in the oven for exactly an hour.*

5. *For the mascarpone cream, mix together all the ingredients until smooth. Chill until needed.*

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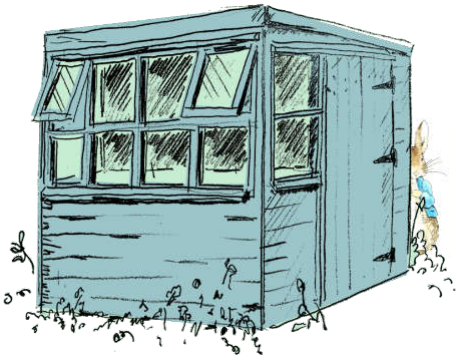
From the **Potting Shed**



Dear friends,

Here we are again, with the evenings drawing in and that definite chill in the air. It has been quite an amazing summer one way and another hasn't it? My coffee morning group were all talking about fans and AC units. Some of us had to admit we didn't know what an AC unit was, but we do now, even if we are unlikely to actually buy one.

So this is my last letter to you for this year but I do hope to be back in the spring, God willing.

Unlike of course dear Monty Don. Oh my goodness, the end of an era and all that. I was so fond of him and his dogs. Anyway, just like the seasons we move on, and I'm sure Gardeners World will still be a good companion to our Friday evenings.

I think I might be the very first to wish you all a Merry Christmas and good health and happiness in the new year. The snowdrops will soon be out my dears and until then enjoy the countryside or maybe your local park and there's always a cup of tea and a plant catalogue to have beside your favourite armchair.

Yours, as always

Cecily MacGregor

Jobs for November

1. Prune roses to half their height. This will protect them from the wind.
2. This is the time to plant tulip bulbs. Sometimes I just don't do this as it's depressing to see the squirrels dig up the lot. However, there are some gorgeous colours available these days.
3. Try and lift any pots that are still in use up off the ground. This will allow for good drainage and help prevent pots splitting in a frost.
4. Use any old potting compost as a good, thick winter mulch.
5. Lift dahlia tubers and store somewhere dry and cool. Alternatively, you could experiment and leave some where they are. Our climate is quite different now to 10 or 20 years ago.
6. If you have a lawn then now is a good time to aerate it before winter sets in.

What's On at St Michael & All Angels

November

1	3.00 pm	Annual Memorial Service: Church
3	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Meeting: Church House
7	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast: Church House
8	10.45 am	Act of Remembrance: Church
11	9.00 am	Chilterns National Landscape Conference: Church
12	11.00 am	U3A Visit: Church & Church House
13	11.00 am	Wedding of Kelly Marie Gibbs and Lee Wood: Church

December

Details of all our Christmas Services will be published in the next magazine

1	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Advent Service: Church
3	6.00 pm	Naphill & Hughenden Scout Group Christmas Carol Service: Church
5	7.30 pm	Hughenden Community Singers Christmas Concert: 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

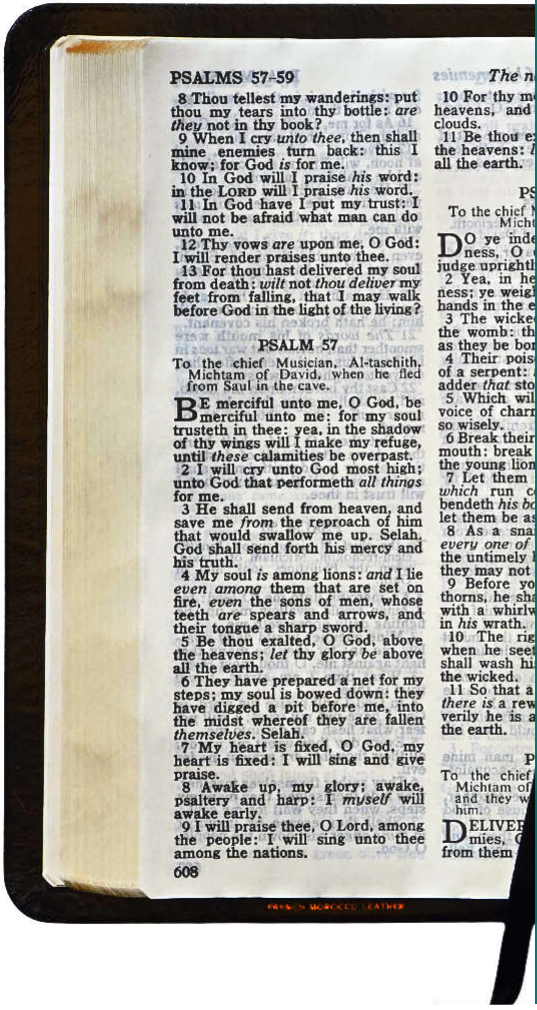
Friendship Morning

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**

Novmeber Lectionary


PSALMS 57-59

8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: *are they* not in thy book?
9 When I cry *unto thee*, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God *is* for me.
10 In God will I praise *his* word: in the LORD will I praise *his* word.
11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.
12 Thy vows *are* upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.
13 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: *wilt* not *thou deliver* my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

PSALM 57

To the chief Musician, Al-taschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.

BE merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until *these* calamities be overpast.
2 I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth *all things* for me.
3 He shall send from heaven, and save me *from* the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.
4 My soul *is* among lions: *and* I lie *even among* them that are set on fire, *even* the sons of men, whose teeth *are* spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.
5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let* thy glory *be* above all the earth.
6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen *themselves*. Selah.
7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.
8 Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I *myself* will awake early.
9 I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations.

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1st: All Saints' Day
Revelation 7: 9-17
1 John 3: 1-3
Matthew 5: 1-12
Evensong: Psalms 148 & 150
Isaiah 65: 17-end
Hebrews 11:32 – 12:2

8th: Third Sunday before Advent - Remembrance Sunday
Amos 5: 18-24
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end
Matthew 25: 1-13
Psalm at 9.00 am: 270
Evensong: Psalm 82
Judges 7: 2-22
John 15: 9-17

15th: Second Sunday before Advent
Zephaniah 1: 7 & 12-18
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Matthew 25: 14-30
Evensong: Psalm 89: 20-36
1 Kings 1: 15-40
Revelation 1: 4-18

22nd: Sunday next before Advent
Ezekiel 34: 11-16 & 20-24
Ephesians 1: 15-end
Matthew 25: 31-end
Psalms at 9.00 am: 129 & 110
Evensong: Psalm 93
2 Samuel 23: 1-7
Matthew 28: 16-end

29th: First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64: 1-9
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Mark 13: 24-37
Psalm at 9.00 am: 80
Evensong: Psalm 25
Isaiah 1: 1-20
Matthew 21: 1-13

Who's Who
at St Michael & All Angels

Charlie Lloyd-Evans

Vicar

07808 584122

vicar@hughendenparish church.org.uk

Rest day: Friday

Helen Peters

Associate Minister

01494 716772 / 07792 118357

helen.peters@peters-research.com

Rest day: Monday

Chris Coyston

Children & Families Pastor

07855 389998

chris.stmichaels@gmail.com

Parish Office

Administrator: Ben Brice

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

07928 536543
office@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Churchwardens	Frank Hawkins	01494 565050
	Andrew Cole	01494 305020
PCC Secretary	Susan Brice	secretary@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Roger Grant	safeguarding@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk
Organist	Neil Brice	organist@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk
Captain of Bellringers	Verity Nicholls	07952 850760
Church Flowers	Sylvia Clark	07570 876530
Social & Outreach	Antony Rippon	07747 643270
Mothers' Union Parish Link	Louise Stallwood	01494 712705
Hughenden Village Hall	-	07815 163269

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