

***The Monthly Journal of
St. Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers***



***and
St. John the Baptist,
Chelveston—cum—Caldecott***

June 2020

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**The Monthly Journal of St. Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers and St. John the Baptist,
Chelveston—cum—Caldecott June 2020**

Contents.	Page
The Interim Vicar Writes	4
Message from the Treasurers	6
Easter Gardens — Inside—Out	7
St. Mary's Churchwardens	12
When Opportunity Knocks	14
The Friends of St. Mary's	16
Church Information	19
Higham Ferrers Tourism, Business & Community Partnership	20
VE day Celebrations in the Benefice	23
Visiting Team	25
Mayor's Diary	26
Pancakes and Plum Pudding—Book Review	27
Page of Joy	29
East Northamptonshire Council News	32
Ramblings	33
Don't Say 'Three'	35
In the Garden	37
Great Companions Group	39
From the Registers	41
Co-op Local Community Fund	41
Mayor's Diary - Farewell	42
The Lighter Side	43
Trust 130	45
Parish Giving Scheme Update	46
Benefice Contacts	47

The Interim Vicar Writes

Dear friends,

As I write this, we have just celebrated together Pentecost Sunday – a service which saw a huge number of people involved in making the liturgy happen as well as us all joining from different locations across the UK and the world. Time zones and geography, let alone lockdown, were no barrier! Just as the resurrected Jesus, and now the Holy Spirit, are not constrained or contained, limited or lessened in any way, so our worship is not any the less for not being in our buildings, in fact, in all kinds of ways it is all the more!



We miss our beautiful spaces, of course we do, and we most especially miss seeing each other, sharing the peace, receiving communion, singing together and chatting over coffee. We miss that awareness of the hundreds of years of worship that has gone on in our churches that we become a part of when we are there, adding to the glowing tapestry, our own threads, weaving our lives into all that has gone before and all that will come after.

Yet, all that we experiencing now is not a break with this continuity, but absolutely and completely a part of it. God's people long ago learnt that God is not to be found in one place more than any other, is not ever to be shut up in a box, whether that's the Ark of the Covenant, or the Temple, or the greatest Abbey or Cathedral or the smallest parish church or chapel. Neither restricted to the pages of a particular prayer book or even the Bible, and certainly not, limited by our appreciation or understanding, thank God!

We are finding, despite the difference from what we are familiar with, or more comfortable with, that the Spirit is moving freely – of course it always was, but maybe we have been more able to see and recognize that now. Many have described how, bizarrely, they feel almost more #connected up as we worship, with one another and with God; many have said that they have got to know each other more deeply in this time of being apart; all kinds of people, within and without the churches, have been saying how we must be careful not to just return to how things have been, in all areas of life. What this means and what it would look like, we don't yet know!

But on today of all days – we need to remember to let the Holy Spirit lead us, knowing that wherever that may be, it will always be into the place of life – it is after all – the Way of Jesus. Those first disciples, inspired and overflowing with the power of the Spirit, didn't remain with what was familiar, didn't go back to the Temple or even the upper room, but burst out of the prison of their fear, into all the world! I don't know quite what will happen next, as we cautiously navigate our way into re-opening our churches and re-entering what was 'normal' life, but we need, somehow, to allow all that has been discovered to continue to free us to listen to God's voice, to one another, as fully as we have been doing over these last two months.

We are rightly looking forward to being together again in person, to being able to go into our churches again, to worship in those remarkable places, even with necessary social distancing, and to know that, in all that will yet still feel strange, in that new way of being, God will lead us, just as surely as we have been led so far. We have been like those people of God in exile, and it may yet feel like we are wandering in the wilderness.

We have been down into the darkness of loss and confusion, and it may yet feel like there is more to let go of. But in all those places – we come to rely on God more and more, we begin to listen and look for the guiding of the Holy Spirit, and we come to see more and more how Jesus has walked this path before us and is right here walking with us today.



So on this Pentecost Sunday we pray: *‘Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be remade, and you will renew the face of the earth.’*

May God bless you all and protect and keep you.

With love

Michelle XXX



Message from the Treasurers

Due to the necessary closure of St. John's and the consequent cancellation of services from mid March, we are unable to bring you the normal income figures. We are however really grateful for your continued giving in these difficult times and would ask those who normally place funds on the collection plate to consider giving by standing order.

Please contact John on 07929 328827 or john@elldred.co.uk for details. Whilst some costs will be reduced, we still have the overheads in terms of financial commitments that we need to meet. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

The same is of course also true for St. Mary's – your ongoing support is much appreciated and we thank you. If you are able to give by standing order where you normally would have done via the plate please contact Brian on 01933 318856 or brianbehagg@yahoo.co.uk

Many thanks.

Easter Gardens - Inside Out!



Our Easter Gardens have grown and grown! What started as a way to share the celebration of Easter and keep it going throughout the Easter season with our communities, has become an expression of the lively faith and engagement of people of all ages.

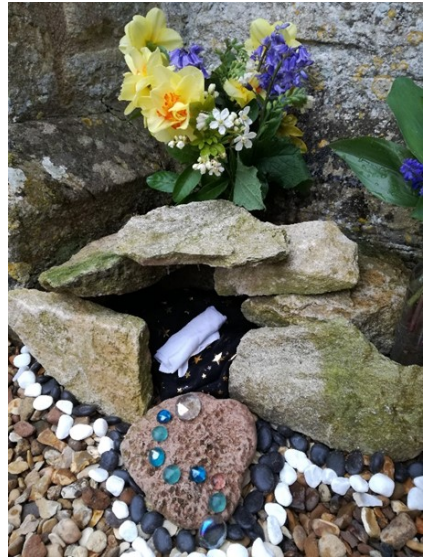
We wanted to show that our churches were still very much 'open' and God very much at work among us – and this was a way of connecting up the sense of comfort and joy that people were finding in creation with the new life of the Easter story.

Creativity has abounded beyond simply adding plants and stones etc, but with the more recently added Pentecost decorations! Here the photos chart the changes over the last few weeks – we will enjoy the Pentecost additions for a week or two more, before the plants from the gardens will be planted in the churchyards to add to the beauty of the gardens there year on year.

Thank you to all who were able to help these grow!

In the beginning.....





.....growing and growing.....



.....and re-modelled for Pentecost.





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JUNE	27th	DECEMBER	19th 



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From St. Mary's Churchwardens

Well here we are in Week 11 of Lockdown, with some restrictions lifted. There is growing concern though that some people are still not following the advice regarding Social Distancing. Let us hope and pray that the second wave of the pandemic crisis in the UK doesn't happen.

Easter has now finished and Pentecost Sunday has just passed and although Lockdown prevented us from celebrating these festivals in the usual way in our Church, nonetheless, we managed a very good alternative through daily podcasts and Sunday Online Services. Our grateful thanks to everyone who was involved in contributing and also to Fr. Paul and Richard Hall for the wizardry they employed in getting the podcasts and services onto the website. Our thanks also to everyone, especially Brenda for the weekly Celtic Service on Monday Evenings. We can not move on from this subject without also mentioning the wonderful Easter Garden begun by Revd Michelle in the Churchyard but contributed and added to by many others. And now as we move into Pentecost season, the garden continues to grow and take on a new look.

We are pleased to report that the Co-op Local Community Fund has so far raised over £700 for the Bede House as one of the four nominated local charities. The scheme began in October 2019 and runs until September this year, so please keep buying Co-op own brand goods and nominating the Bede House to receive the Divi.

At the end of May the term of office of Higham Mayor Cllr Chris O'Rourke came to an end. Our thanks to Chris for all his contributions to Church Life and especially his monthly item in this magazine. Chris hands over the Mayoral role to Cllr Tina Reavey and we send her our congratulations and look forward to reading her contributions each month in these pages.

In these uncertain and strange times those that are vulnerable in our society can be even harder hit and need our support all the more. Whilst we cannot collect donations for the Food Bank at Church we are continuing to give our support. If you would like to donate items they can be safely left at the house of Jane Smeathers at 4 Meadow Walk. Alternatively, speak to Revd Michelle who will arrange for someone to collect from you or suggest where you can take them to. If none of this works for you, please use the donation points in the local supermarkets.

Currently the main need is for Long Life Semi-skimmed Milk, 500g bags of sugar, 50g jars of coffee, so if you are able to pick up extra for the food bank on your weekly shop, we would be extremely grateful. The needy really need our support at this time.

In the wider world, or at least the UK, we are pleased to pass on the news that Bishop Stephen Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York at 11am on Thursday 9th July 2020 in a service broadcast entirely via video conference due to Covid-19 restrictions. Our congratulations to Bishop Stephen, who follows on from the retiring Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu.

We would like to thank Jane for producing the weekly newsheet which can be sent to anyone who would like a copy by email. To be added to the circulation list email jane@smethers.com

Caroline and Dave

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WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

A few Sundays ago our New Testament reading featured St Paul in Athens. The normal approach in the Acts of the Apostles was for the early leaders to find the Jewish synagogue or meet by a river which is where Jewish believers gathered when they had no building. In Athens things were different. Jewish believers were heavily outnumbered by the Greeks who were hearty characters who knew what they thought and argued passionately for their philosophy.

So, St Paul went into the lion's den and spoke at an open air event on the Areopagus – a high point in the city, used in much the same way as Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park, London, used to be. In a fine sermon Paul showed he understood the basics of Greek life and he used his knowledge to speak in a way the locals would understand. Athenians were religious people, always looking for something new to capture their attention but always willing to listen to someone with something positive to say.

With the spread of the Covid 19 outbreak our churches found ourselves in an Athens situation. The old meeting places were closed for a time and if we wanted to serve our congregations and the wider communities we serve new ways had to be found. Although I had retired from my BBC Producer job fifteen years ago the skills of recording, editing and mixing sound and music needed dusting down but, thanks to improvement in computer technology over the years, we could produce short "Thought for the Day" podcasts, Sunday worship and special services during the Easter, Ascension and Pentecost seasons.

We faced the same challenges as professional broadcasters with social distancing meaning we could not go into homes or get near people with a microphone. Instead we invited you to use a simple mobile phone app to record thoughts, readings, prayers or short addresses to create a finished product. In the process our members have discovered new skills and abilities for them to share more fully in ministry and mission. What a talented group you are!

Each Sunday service comes from up to a dozen different people and many sources. People are invited to read a lesson or to lead in prayers. Our ministry team are involved in different parts of the service. Music is resourced and edited and everything is sent by email (in various states of readiness – e.g. Can you edit out that stumble I made, please?) and then like a series of building blocks the sounds are put together – volumes levelled out – and we are ready to send the finished audio file to our church website and to the Chelveston village website.

St Paul in Athens found that some people listened and decided it was not for them, others stuck with it and gave it more thought and a few found God’s grace and strength through the communication. We have experienced a surge in people sharing our podcasts and services with more than we would expect in church on Sundays. Podcasts can never replace real church worship with real people inside a beautiful building designed for the purpose but they can hold us together until our buildings are ready for our return. As to the future of our podcasts then, what would St Paul have done had the Athens District Community Website been up and running?

Father Paul



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When you next
visit the
churchyard ...

When you next visit the churchyard, you may witness the arrival of a variety of species that we seek to attract through our Wildlife Conservation Project. The trees in the churchyard provide a rich source of food and shelter for wild birds. The yew, rowan, white beam, lime and cherries provide both a source of nesting and food for birds and small mammals.

To attract bird life still further, nesting boxes have been positioned in the trees to the front of the Bede House: open fronted for robins and dunnocks and enclosed for great and blue tits.



Robin, Dunnock, Great Tit and Blue Tit

To follow we shall install a three-box terrace for sparrows and an owl box is planned for one of the tall limes.



House Sparrow, Sparrow Terrace, Tawny Owl, Owl nest box

We have for many years been mindful of planting roses, lavender and other perennials in the memorial beds to encourage pollinating insects. This year the development of wildflower meadow areas in Church Walk should substantially increase biodiversity.



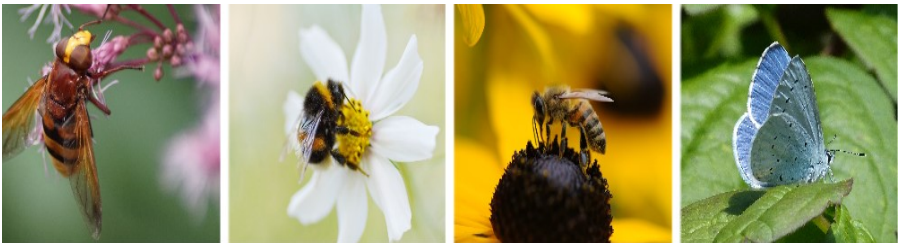
The wildflower meadow area

Nettles have been left to grow as certain butterflies such as small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma and Red Admiral lay their eggs on them. Ivy has been left to grow in various trees providing a rich source of nectar in early autumn when most other flowers have gone over.



Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma and Red Admiral butterflies

Lisa Rowley of The Wildlife Trust paid a visit to the churchyard last summer and offered much valuable advice noting with regard to ivy that *“a wide range of pollinators will visit including hoverflies, other flies, bees, wasps and many butterflies. It will also provide a good hibernation site for overwintering butterflies.”*



Hoverfly, Bee, Wasp and, if you are lucky, you may see a Holly Blue butterfly feeding on the ivy

Much joy can be gained from spotting butterflies dancing from flower to flower. Perhaps on your daily walk you might take some time to stand, or as now permitted sit, and watch for evidence of the wildlife surrounding you. Churchyards are an amazing sanctuary for nature — lichens are a whole other story for another time!

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For more information about the Church, Services, Events and the Parish look on our Website www.stmaryhighamferrers.org
To donate to the Church go to <https://my.give.net/HighamChurch>

To contribute to the Parish Magazine send your copy preferably in Microsoft Office Word using Times New Roman and Font size 12 by the 10th of the month to stmaryspm@virginmedia.com



Stalls are available in the Bede House on Farmer's Market Day
The last Saturday of each month.

Cost £10 per stall from 9am to 12noon.

Enquiries to: 01 933 741140 or Email: thebedehouse@gmail.org

St. Mary's Higham Ferrers Online Giving

We now have an online giving facility for those wishing to make donations to church funds. It can be found at

<https://my.give.net/HighamChurch>

There is also a link on the home page of the Church Website,
www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk

For those with Smart phones the QR code displayed here will take you to the website, 'A Church Near You' where you can find out about our Churches and any others you may want to visit.



THE CHURCH IN HIGHAM IS NOW OPEN EVERY THURSDAY FROM 10:00—15:00

If you would like to visit our Church at other times please contact Church Wardens:-

Dave 07 941 306391 dchs50@virginmedia.com

Caroline 07 596 137051 walker.snork@outlook.com

Clergy:-

Rev. Michelle Dalliston 07 961 003352 michelleacd@hotmail.co.uk

Special Group visits are very welcome by appointment.

Church currently closed due to Covid-19 restrictions

Higham Ferrers Tourism Business & Community Partnership

Virtual Secret Gardens of Higham Ferrers



The Secret Gardens of Higham Ferrers was scheduled for Sunday 21 June but regrettably the gardens cannot be opened to visitors this year due to the current pandemic. However, Higham Ferrers Tourism would like to give you all the opportunity to share in these wonderful gardens by creating an online Virtual Secret Gardens.

Each day from Sunday 21 June you be able to take a tour of one of the gardens which will be posted on our Facebook page and our website (www.highamferrerstourism.org.uk).

We are excited to be able to offer this experience to you and do hope you will enjoy seeing the Secret Gardens of Higham Ferrers.



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VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations in the Benefice

Chelveston.

On the VE Day Anniversary in Chelveston on 8th May 2020 a small group representing each of the settlements in the Village collected at our American War Memorial. On the stroke of 10:58, Michelle's voice rang out with the Tribute to the Millions. She was followed by Councillor Jenny Harwood with the traditional Exhortation of "They shall grow not old ..." leading into the last post and a two minute silence.

This was supposed to be a low key ceremony but many residents came out of their houses, in ones and twos, to watch from a distance. Eerily, we could hear the sound of the last post being played in the gardens of households throughout the Village as residents joined in at the appointed time with a recording we had provided for them.

Even in lock down, Chelveston-cum-Caldecott honoured the bond we have with the fallen from across the pond.



We will remember them!

Higham Ferrers

In Higham people gathered in the streets to celebrate this important anniversary whilst observing the rules of Social Distancing. Houses were decorated with bunting and toasts to the fallen were given.

The Town Council created a video that went out on You tube which can still be seen using the link www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rt7tp-pRojg

The video features local Bugler William Mantel playing the Last Post, Revd Michelle Dalliston praying a special VE Day Anniversary Prayer and Mayor Chris O'Rourke reading a memorial poem.



Visiting Team and Sick List

The team of pastoral visitors have been reviewing how we work, to try and improve the pastoral care we offer. One of the things we have looked at is the names included on the news sheet, which can sometimes become separated from the people for whom we are praying. We don't want to advertise someone is unwell without their permission, and we want to ensure we keep up to date with any changes – in other words, we would rather that they mean more to us all than just a list of names on a sheet.

We have a Pastoral Team who have been trained, so if you know anyone who wishes to go onto the Sick List, requires Home Communion, or just a Pastoral Visit please contact any of the Team listed below.

Higham:

Lynne Pocock	01933 311370	lynnempocock@netscape.net
Christine Newell	01933 353346	
Pat Rockley	01933 623530	
Sue Thompson	07984481133	

Chelveston:

Brenda Elldred	01933 357708	brenda@elldred.co.uk
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We regret that due to Covid-19 virus Home Visiting is not available at present.



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For further information, to make a donation or request an application form for a grant write to: **The Elizabeth Groome Music Charity, 48, Gloucester Crescent, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 8BG** alternatively email: egmc2011@virginmedia.com or download an application form in PDF from our website www.egmc.org.uk



Mayor's Diary



Cllr Christina Reavey started her Mayoral year in unique circumstances as the first Mayor to be inaugurated through a 'Zoom' video call! The global pandemic meant that the Town Council were unable to hold the traditional 'Mayor Making' ceremony in the Council Chamber so Councillors gathered together via the online portal to witness Cllr Reavey take her oath and be declared the Mayor of Higham Ferrers for 2020-21.

Cllr Reavey told her fellow Councillors that it was an honour to be elected as the Mayor of Higham Ferrers and that she is committed to supporting and promoting the town. She and her consort, Anthony are looking forward to representing Higham Ferrers at many events in the surrounding towns.

Cllr Reavey has been a resident of Northamptonshire for 35 years and approximately 25 of them have been in Higham Ferrers. She is retired but formerly taught for 23 years in a nearby Primary School and she considers the education and wellbeing of our young people to be very important.

Cllr Reavey's consort, Mr Anthony Reavey, is her husband of 49 years and they have three children, two of whom live and work locally and one in the city. They have four grandchildren, two of whom attend Ferrers School, with one more at Higham Infants and the youngest at pre-school.

Cllr Reavey has been a Town Councillor for the last five years. She is a member of several committees and working parties where she feels most fortunate to work alongside, and learn from, some very experienced Councillors. She enjoys meeting and talking with local residents and their families and looks forward to representing our lovely historic town during her Mayoral year.

To contact the Mayor for more information on any events or council business email info@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk

PANCAKES AND PLUM PUDDING.

A Pathway to the Past (Looking at Customs, Cooking, Saints' Days and Superstitions)

Some members of our congregations may be interested in this book, especially in this time of lockdown when we are using our unaccustomed spare time to read more and to do more home baking.

The book has been written by the Revd Elizabeth Wood, who is known to some of you. Elizabeth is the third of the five Pack sisters. After two or three years as a deacon, she was one of the first group of women to be ordained priest at Peterborough, after which she served as Priest in Charge of the parishes of Stanwick and Hargrave. On her retirement, with her husband (now deceased) she moved to her native place of Irthlingborough where she lived in a house with a beautiful view across the Nene valley to Higham. She is a keen photographer, and, while at Irthlingborough, she took many photographs of the flora and fauna in her garden and the adjacent meadows. A selection of these photographs has been used to illustrate the book.

Elizabeth feared many people would mistake it for a cookery book - hence the lengthy subtitle. The book follows, month by month, the Christian year, looking at the festivals and saints' days, and the customs, cookery and superstitions associated with them. As well as a recipe for Hock and Dough (which may be familiar to older readers of the magazine) there are many cake, biscuit and bread recipes, also a number of beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic like the delicious Elderflower Champagne which we used to make when we were young with the elderflowers from the field behind our house. One recipe I shall not be attempting is Singed Sheep's Head, which used to be eaten in Scotland on St Andrew's Day.

I suggest that any vegetarians and vegans should avoid reading page 199 where this appears. The description of its preparation and presentation is enough to turn one's stomach. The book also gives a number of instructions to young girls as to how to discover who they will marry. There are also a number of bizarre cures for various ailments. What about Cockroach Tea for kidney disease or nine lice on bread and butter to cure jaundice?

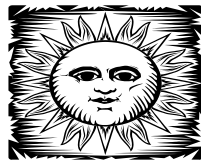
Elizabeth researched the book and wrote most of it about 40 years ago, but it is only in the last few months, while living in a clergy retirement flat near Market Harborough, that she has completed and published it.

The book is published by Matador and is available from bookshops or from several booksellers on line. The price is £24.99, but several online sellers are offering it at lower prices. It is possible to view portions of the book, including photographs, on line.

Ruth Pack



A PAGE OF JOY



OK folks, what exciting things have I been up to since I wrote the last P.O.J. for your delight? As Paul Daniels would have said “Not a lot”

The highpoint of my house cleaning fit was finding a bottle of Scrumpy that I’d forgotten about, lurking in the dust at the back of the cloakroom ---- very nice too! Another bonus of lockdown has been emails and phone calls from family and friends.

I give thanks for the love, thoughts and messages, and for the people who send them.

One dear friend I will never phone again is Angela Fulcher, who sadly died on April 26th. We’d known each other for over 40 years, 18 of them spent running St. Mary’s Tiny Tots group together. I am sad that I could not attend her funeral, nor that of Doreen Partridge, who - with Jean Simmonds - served the very welcome tea and biscuits after the stories and activities. But candles were lit and prayers were said.

I give thanks for the lovely, happy times we shared.

My laptop has come into its own, as it can do lots of things I’d never dreamed of. One of the members of a social group we belong to organised a Zoom “meeting” -- it was a hoot! Don’t worry if you are not into Zoom - I didn’t think I was! We spent a whole hour trying to see people who we couldn’t hear, or could hear but not see, on our computer screens. 16 of us, all talking at once - giving advice, and clicking the wrong buttons and generally falling about with fits of giggles, we are going to try again!

I give thanks for fun and laughter in troubled and distressing times.

Our foray into accessing Church services was much more successful, we joined Sunday Morning Service, and read the daily podcasts, and kept up to date with the Parish Magazine and weekly news sheet. I shed a tear at The Peace, when I could exchange the kiss of peace with my Beloved but not with my Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I sorely miss keeping tryst with Christ, Lover of my soul at Mass, but He comforts me as I pause in The Lords Prayer at “Give us this day our Daily Bread” and believe that He does.

I give thanks for our Ministry team, for Jane, Richard, Dave, Adrian who work this magic.

The highlight of our weekly calendar is standing in our drive clapping our thanks for the NHS with our neighbours. My Beloved was like a kid when he dug out a WW2 siren from the garage (don't ask) and gleefully wound it full pelt to set it wailing - it was deafening!

I give thanks for the NHS and Good Neighbours.

My Beloved also rose to the challenge of ordering an online delivery from Tesco's and I didn't object to the surprise of finding two BIG bars of chocolate in the order when it came! He has refused to play Scrabble ever again, so we stick to Crib, Whist and Rummikub. And we have managed an hour walking or in the garden on most days, and have a new fence. There must be a logical reason why he could order fence boards on Click and Collect but not fence panels which were in stock but not to be bought (?) He's a carpenter so that was OK.

I give thanks for health, pensions, sunshine, garden, fields, science, loved ones, my Beloved.

In the words of a prayer sung so many times with Angela, Mums and Tiny Tots:

*Thank you for the world so sweet - Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing - **Thank you, God, for everything.***

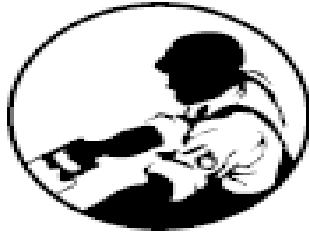
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East Northamptonshire Council News



I have just ended my term as Chair of ENC at a virtual AGM. Fortunately I was able to hold a very moving service at St John's Chelveston just before the lockdown. Bishop John preached and the church was full with the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, a local MP and most importantly with volunteers who help our young people which was the theme of the service. Emergency Services Cadets and Scouts formed the Guard of Honour and helped with serving refreshments which provided a great opportunity for guests to mingle and chat.

Going to other churches has been a fascinating part of being Chairman as has going to see volunteers helping in so many ways. Service Six, the charity I supported with funds from a ball at Stanwick Lakes and then at a dinner at a tapas restaurant in Rushden, does important work with individual young people and groups in our local schools. All the Mayors and Chairmen, known as the Chain Gang, raise money for worthy causes through events which are great ways to meet.

Some of us come from Raunds to join the congregations at St John's and St Mary's and at the virtual AGM councillors voted for Sylvia to be Mayor of Raunds next year. We look forward to being able to meet with folk again but meanwhile we hope you are able to stay safe although our thoughts have especially been with those who sadly are no longer with us and we pray for their relatives and friends.

Cllrs Sylvia and Dudley Hughes

Ramblings

PAWS FOR THOUGHT (May 2006)

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth, the moon and sun and stars, the land and the waters, the fish and the fowl and the animals—and man. And the man was called Adam. And he possessed as the good things that God had given him. But he soon became very lonely, and said to God, *“Please give me a companion.”*

And God said, *“I will create for you a companion to be with you forever. No matter how childish or selfish or cruel you are, your new companion will unquestionably accept you as you are, and will love you as I do, and will follow you all your days with loyalty and devotion.”*

And God created Dog, which is God backwards, to remind him of the love of God. And Adam named the dog Fido. And it was the morning and the evening of the 43rd day.

And when some eons had passed, Adam’s Guardian Angel was ushered into the Presence of God with a worried look on his face. *“It’s Adam, “ he said. “Since he has had that dog, he has become full of pride. No matter what he does—good or bad—the dog wags its tail and licks him, and gazes at him adoringly, and now Adam struts around like a peacock, believing that he alone is worthy of such adoration. What can we do?”*

“No problem,” said God, who after all, had the wisdom of all ages on His side. *“I will create for him another companion who will see him as he is, who will remind him of his limitations, and who will never be impressed by him, no matter what he does.”*

And God created Cat to be a companion for Adam, and Adam named the cat Tiddles. And Cat would not obey Adam, or come to him, even to be fed. And when Adam gazed into they eyes of Tiddles, he was reminded that he was not the Supreme Being. And Adam learnt humility. And Fido learnt to keep his nose out of reach.

And God was pleased. And Adam was greatly improved. And Dog was happy. And as for Cat, it didn’t give a tinker’s cuss.



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Tuesdays

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 Higham Ferrers

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ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

MONDAY	Day Centre Rem-Minoring Day & Activity Centre with Music 10am - 2.00pm £27.00 charge £3.00 Transport Charge	Movement to Music 50th Mahala Circle Church St, Walking Centre 11am - 11.45am *£4.00	Drop-In Computer Sessions Church St, Walking Centre 1pm - 2pm *£4.00	Circle Yoga Class 50th Kesteven Soudthale Church St, Walking Centre 3.10pm-4.10pm *£4.00		
TUESDAY	Day Centre Rem-Minoring Day & Activity Centre with Music 10am - 2.00pm £27.00 charge £3.00 Transport Charge	Isolated Taster Church (Sawlingdale) 10am-11am Make 10 th Dec 2019 *£4.00	Band Circle & 10th & 10th Church St, Walking Centre 10.30am - 12.00noon *£4.00	14 & 14 TUES MUSICAL MOMENTS St Peter's Church Hall Rooms: Midland Rd Rushden 1.00pm-2.00pm Donations appreciated	Isolated Yoga Rem-Minoring Day & Activity Centre Higham Ferrers 2.00pm - 3.00pm *£4.00	14 th TUES TEA DANCE St Peter's Church Hall Rooms: Midland Rd, Rushden 2.00pm - 4.00pm *£4.00
WEDNESDAY	Day Centre Rem-Minoring Day & Activity Centre with Music 10am - 2.00pm £27.00 charge £3.00 Transport Charge	Choir Group Church St, Walking Centre 10am - 12.00pm *£5.00	Shark M&A Circle Church St 10am-11am *£4.00 Make 27 th January 2019	Strength Seniors Seniors' Circle Dingles Hall Church St 10.00 - 11.00am *£3.00	Strength Seniors Seniors' Circle Ryelands Church Thrapston 11.00 - 1.00pm *£3.00	QUARTERS 50 th BIRTHDAY St Peter's Church Hall Rooms: Midland Rd, Rushden 2pm - 5pm Donations appreciated
THURSDAY	Day Centre Rem-Minoring Day & Activity Centre with Music 10am - 2.00pm £27.00 charge £3.00 Transport Charge	Choir Group Church St, Walking Centre 9.30am - 1pm *£5.00	Shark M&A Circle Church St 10am-11am Make 27 th January 2019 *£4.00	Strength Seniors Seniors' Circle Church St 10.00am-11.00am *£3.00	Memory Café Rem-Minoring Day & Activity Centre 1.00-3.00pm Donations appreciated	
FRIDAY	Day Centre Rem-Minoring Day & Activity Centre with Music 10am - 2.00pm £27.00 charge £3.00 Transport Charge	Strength Seniors Seniors' Circle Church St, Walking Centre 10.00am-11.00am *£3.00	Strength Seniors Seniors' Circle Church St, Walking Centre 11.00am-12.00pm *£4.00			For more info or to book please contact SERVE on 01933 315555

'Don't say three'.

This text is from the Qur'an: the scripture of Islam. It is in fact a sharp rejection of the doctrine of the Trinity, the Three in One. Christianity is the only faith with such a Doctrine. The three major world faiths all share a belief in one God: Allah for the Muslim, Yahweh for the Jew and 'Abba' God the Father for Christians.

The Trinity is central to the Christian faith. It's the best way of understanding what the New Testament says about Jesus and about the Christian experience of God. We are baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus doesn't only speak of the Father – he knows the love and guidance of the Father through a distinct personal presence whom he calls the Holy Spirit. At his baptism the love of God is poured out on Jesus through the Spirit. This is God the Trinity the Three-in-one.

Jesus' relationship with God is opened up to us. He takes us by the hand so we can share in the life of the God who is love. Trinity Sunday follows the feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. The other Festivals recall historical events. Trinity Sunday celebrates a doctrine: that God is known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three persons on one God – Trinity in unity. The God who touches our life at every point: He's the Father our maker, the Son our redeemer; and the Holy Spirit our helper.

When we were baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Spirit, we were given grace to know the God who is love.

Look at Rublev's Icon: the Holy Trinity. There is an atmosphere of love, freedom, timelessness, rest and intimate communion. This is achieved by the attentive engagement of the three with each other, the joining of eyes.



Within the structure is a circle, the symbol of perfection and eternity. There is also a triangle, the peak of which is at the head of the central figure. If one were to search for a single word to describe the icon it is 'love'.

The Father, Son and Spirit are one in love. In fact all creation is a manifestation of God's love. The Incarnation of Christ is an act of love. He invites us to participate in the love and mercy of God. St. John of the Cross said that: 'Love is the measure according to which we will be judged. Let us rejoice that we know God's love and live in that love at this difficult time.'

Revd Linda Bond



**Save the
Children**

Save the Children



**Save the
Children**

Under the current situation Save the Children have had to cancel all planned events. I have managed to produce a new quiz sheet. To acquire one please request by email and send to all your contacts. One thing we can do is quiz sheets. Please send to superduch5@gmail.com or failing that I can print one off 07773962347.

Thank you

Susan Perkins

In the Garden



Thanks NHS for the services you have given us over the decades! Personally, I have no complaints about my treatment at KGH and have much to be grateful for. As a volunteer I have been aware of some of the pressures that staff there (clerical and support as well as surgical and nursing) are under. I have also become aware of some of the jobsworths and regulations that make good-hearted intentions to help more difficult than they need to be.

However, I want to say thank you to some of the “forgotten services” that have helped me in the past two months. My refuse collectors have turned up reliably week by week and even took the trouble to supply me with a replacement for my broken bin lid. With garden centres closed I have been very grateful to Higgins Garden Centre for bringing a couple of orders for plants, seeds and compost to my front door. Sainsburys have been good too with their deliveries and Earls Barton (Whites) Vegetable shop has brought an excellent box of vegetables and a loaf for us. The village Chemists and the village general store have both kept open and provided us with essentials so our exposure to Covid has been absolutely minimal. So, thanks to all the Services that have made life both easy and pleasant for a couple of seniors in lockdown.

I was thinking recently that plants have diseases too and they can be/have been just as deadly dangerous to us as they cut through our natural world. Do you remember Dutch Elm disease? At the time we thought it was just a bit of talk by the experts but we soon found out it was much more than that. Those stalwarts of the hedgerows began to disappear at an astonishing rate until now they are really quite a rare sight. As with Covid19, the botanists, biochemists and other specialists are still searching for a “cure”.

Ash tree die-back is a more recent disease of trees and the most recent, a disease that devastates olive trees, is currently making its way through the European olive groves and killing trees that are hundreds of years old. In my



own garden, only yesterday I noticed that one of my Box balls was suffering from the Box Blight virus. As with Covid, one of the “cures” is to find trees that have for some reason an immunity to the disease and to use their genetics to propagate from them.

Another benefit of the lockdown that I want to record is the support and friendliness of neighbours. This week, and it will continue, has been “barter week” when, under the guise of clapping for the NHS, our neighbours have been offering each other plants and commodities. My wife did a “Rhubarb for Marmalade” exchange with a neighbour who has an allotment, and “Eggs for Icecream” with a neighbour who has a productive clutch of chickens. Tomato plants are available all around but it’s a good (and cheap!) way to grow a whole variety of tomatoes.

Keep smiling, keep safe and keep gardening - it’s one of the pathways to good health!

Happy Gardening.

Compostus

Great Companions Group

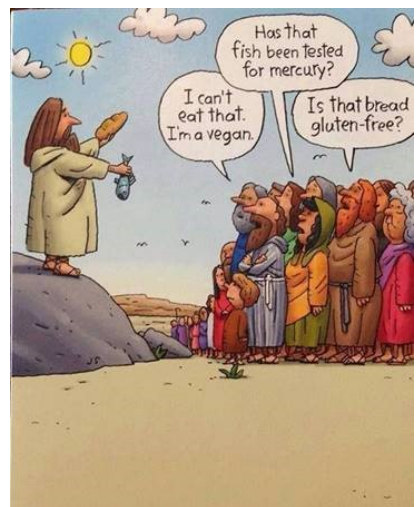
This Group was started about 8 years ago by Mrs Sally Moreton, following the death of her husband. Sally used to run the Busy Bees Nursery in Rushden and before that was postmistress of the Post Office on Bedford Road in Rushden so some readers may know her. The Group for Seniors aims to help to combat loneliness for those who have been bereaved or divorced in later life. It is open to both men and women.

Following Sally's ill health she stepped down and it is now run by a Committee formed from members.

The Group meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Rushden Town Bowls Club, Northampton Road NN10 6AN at 7pm. The Committee plans activities to cover each month, for example Sunday Lunches, 10 pin bowling, theatre trips, Coffee mornings at local garden centres, meals out, crazy golf, pub games nights etc. Something for everyone ! At the meetings members can put their name down for any of the month's activities, there is no pressure to join in.

If you know someone who is struggling alone then do please spread the word. They can phone Linda on 07816 366187 and will then be met when they arrive. Obviously meetings are suspended at the present time.

Pat Ellis



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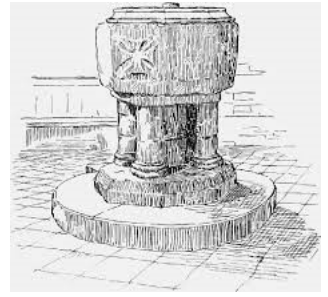
shanehill@talktalk.net

From the Registers

Funerals
12th May
Liz Goodliffe

13 May
Winnie Partridge

14th May
Angela Fulcher



Co-op Local Community Fund.

You may remember back in October 2019 The Bede House was chosen as one of four local charities to be a beneficiary of the **Co-op Local Community Fund**. Recently Brian Behagg received a cheque for £701 as the first payment from the fund. This is good news as we can put it towards the funds to repair and improve The Bede House.

The Local Community Fund still runs until October 2020 so you can still support us by encouraging family and friends to use their Co-op Member Card. Every time you buy a Co-op own brand product and services we will receive 1% of your spend. If you do not have a card there is still time to become a member. Becoming a member costs just £1 and for more details on how to go about it go to <https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration>

You can use your card at any Co-op store but you need to have nominated The Bede House.
Higham Ferrers.

If you need more information please contact Stewart Wiles on 07711441672 or email stewartjwiles@aol.com

Stewart Wiles

Mayor's Diary Farewell

Councillor Tina Reavey was sworn in as the new Mayor last Tues 26th , at our Town meeting via video link through Zoom. Although this was the first time this has happened, it wasn't the first time we have had a meeting via Zoom, because last months Town Council Meeting I chaired was the first to be conducted this way, and since then we have had others meetings via zoom.

But we are all having to adapt to new ways , due to the current situation, which we have seen nationwide a lot of people doing.

However, both Kathleen my Mayoress have both been honoured and

privileged in being able to represent this wonderful Town at so many events both here , and also promoting it at surrounding counties, at their events, where we have met and enjoyed ,so many peoples company.

Altogether either by myself or accompanied by the Mayoress we have in total attended over 80 events and travelled 1000 miles, and raised £7500 for our Charities and good Causes, which are the Higham Ferrers Community which will help support so many projects for groups in the Town such as Rainbows, Guides, Brownies, Rangers, Girls Brigade , St Mary's Bedehouse, HIFARS, Tourism , Gateway Club , Pavillion Youth Club, Over 60's club as well as the Foodbank and The Encephalitis Society

So many thanks for everyone who has helped us in making it such a memorable one for us, and helping us to make such a large sum of money.

It was such a shame, that we have had to cancel three of our fund raising events, and other engagements , due to this awful pandameic, but people's safety has to be the priority

My last engagement was to join the Carers at the Shrubberiers on 21st May to join them on the 8pm Clap for Carers

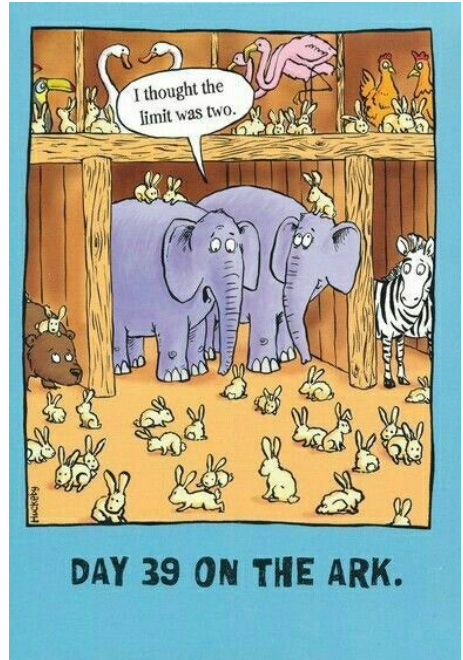
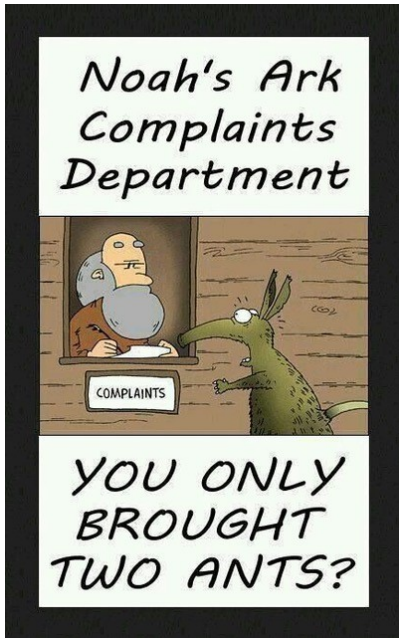
So all it remains to say we both wish, along with yourselves, the new Mayor and her husband, Tony , best wishes and good luck for their year of office, and we hope the Church doors will be open soon, and see you there.

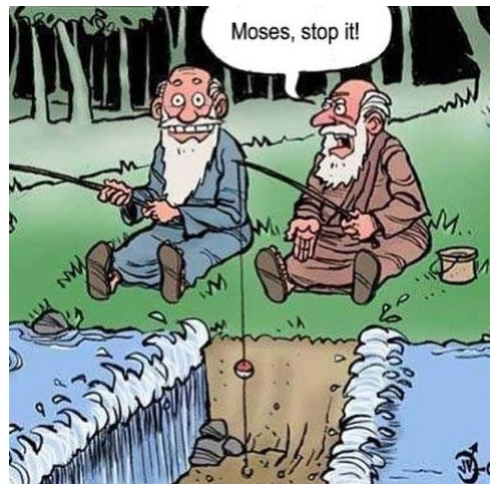
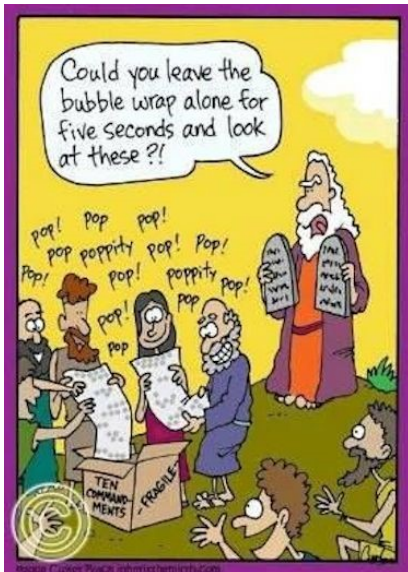
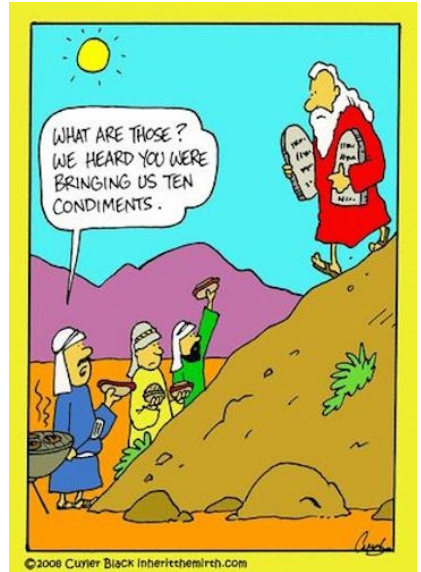
Best Wishes and Keep safe

Chris and Kathleen



The Lighter Side





Raise money for your Church with a Trust 130 donation—now extended until 31 December 2020



Trust 130 is very simple...For every new direct home insurance policy taken out with Ecclesiastical Insurance Company, we will offer to donate £130 to an Anglican Church of the policy holder's choice.

A donation of £130 may not sound much, but churches and congregations have used the donations to fund all sorts of things. From the restoration of church artworks to new sound systems, and from new noticeboards to kitchen equipment, the money really does make a big difference.

So far more than £325,000 has been donated to churches through this scheme.



There is no limitation to the number of donations a church can receive, so the more people from our congregations take up the offer the better.

To get a quote contact call 0800 783 0130 and quote AVNEWS20 or visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130.

Parish Giving Scheme update



As you may already know, the diocese is in the process of changing its planned giving arrangements to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). We have been proactive in getting this started and most of you will be aware of the new scheme.

However, if that is not the case, here is a short summary:

- ◆ Regular giving is essential and enables our churches to flourish and grow
- ◆ PGS was set up by Gloucester Diocese over ten years ago
- ◆ It now has 28 partner dioceses – including Peterborough
- ◆ This is a Direct Debit scheme
- ◆ It provides the option to increase donations on a yearly basis in line with inflation and is a remedy for the problem of static giving
- ◆ The scheme collects donations on the 1st of the month
- ◆ The money is returned to your church by the 10th of the month
- ◆ The Gift Aid is returned by the 13th of the month
- ◆ We have just over a year to get all those who give through the existing diocesan scheme moved over onto PGS.

We would like to move everyone of our regular givers onto this scheme. If you currently give by envelope, standing order or direct debit, please consider switching to the Parish Giving Scheme. For a form or more information please contact your Church Treasurer;

Brian Behagg for St. Mary's on 01933 318856 or email brianbehagg@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you to all those who have already signed up to this scheme. For our Churches it ensures that we receive the full benefit of donations much quicker than existing methods and this helps greatly with our financial control and management.

BENEFACTIVE CONTACTS

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Assistant Priest

Assistant Priest

Reader
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Bede House
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E: stmarys.higham@gmail.com

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T: 01933 350499

T: 01933 313752

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M: 07742 076594

Health and Safety
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Tiny Tots
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Morning Worship
T: 01933 357708

Bell Ringers
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Reader (and Safeguarding Officer)
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Church Wardens

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Brenda Ellred
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Arthur Wright
T: 01933 624530 E: aew1933@gmail.com

Peggy Deards
T: 01933 622610 E: peggy.deards@gmail.com

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