



WINKFIELD PARISH NEWS



JULY/AUGUST 2020

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A word from Huw!!

We are delighted to have this piece from Huw, to celebrate the re-starting of the Parish Mag. Welcome words!

“It’s a funny old world”

Is anyone else getting tired of the term ‘unprecedented’? It’s actually a very useful word, and one that is apt for the situation we currently live in. My only problem is that it has been over-used, which is enough to put me off anything. If I ate only my favourite food I would soon get tired of it. And hearing a much loved piece of music too many times can drive me mad (as a teenager that might have been whatever the current No 1 was; these days it’s more likely to be Vivaldi’s Four Seasons when I’m put on hold.)

Over familiarity is an issue facing most of us at the moment. No matter how much we may love our own homes it is great when we get the chance to see something else. (The same may well go for those we live with. By living alone I think I have avoided some of the strains of the last few months!)

Last week, on a sunny afternoon, I saw a friend. We sat in his garden, always at least 6 ft apart, and chatted – and it felt wonderful! Phone calls, and Zoom, are an enormous help, but having a proper chat (which involved the space to ramble around topics) was very refreshing. When lockdown is finally over we will all rejoice. In fact, I suspect so many people will be holding parties that we will have a new problem – which celebration to attend.

In the meantime we have to live with what is going on. We will all have developed different strategies to enable us to cope with this odd situation. One of mine is cut down on my news consumption. Having been a ‘news junkie’, listening or watching several broadcasts a day, I now get the headlines in the morning and that’s it. If there is an issue I can do something about I want to know about it. Otherwise, so many stories are about things I cannot change in any way. They often make me feel angry, scared, or powerless – maybe all three at the same time. That doesn’t help anyone, least of all me, so why put myself through all that?

More importantly, for me, is keeping my own pattern of prayer and Bible reading going every day. In prayer I can be honest with God about exactly what is going on inside me at the moment, my hopes and my fears, and in the Bible I can be reminded that God’s people have always faced challenges and that he has always been there in the middle of them. The Psalms I find

particularly helpful, because they cover such a range of emotions. Psalm 31. 15 is a verse I have come back to many times in my life: "My times are in thy hand". Things are not out of control (although they may look like it), God is not far away (although it may feel like it), God is still here and his love surrounds me.

May the Lord bless you and keep you all,
Huw

Lockdown in Winkfield

We started putting the April Parish mag together in early March, and as we write this, that is all of three months ago. The urge to start work again is upon us, particularly as we are beginning to see the first signs of Corona-Spring.

Quite a lot has been happening in these three months. First of all, there has been the direct and indirect impact of Covid-19. I am sure that many of us know about people who have gone down with the disease, and about some of those who, tragically, have succumbed to the horrible virus.

We have read the news about the pandemic, in this and other countries, and have understood that the disease can have little or no effect, particularly for young people, but also that it can be horrible and cruel, seemingly kneeling on the chest of sufferers, rendering them short of breath, and, in extreme cases unable to breathe at all without a respirator.

In too many cases, medical intervention has not been available, or has been unable to stem the progression of the disease, and the loss of life has been terrible, with well over 40,000 deaths in the UK. What has happened in some other countries has been truly shocking

Some Covid-19 victims have recovered quickly, but for many, restoration of health has taken months, as lung-damage slowly recovers.

For most of us, life has been brought to an abrupt halt, with lockdown and social distancing preventing many businesses from functioning, and keeping almost everybody in isolation and with restrictions.

We are all aware, though, the key activity to keep us alive and functioning, with food, power and essential services continuing to work. we need too thank those who continued to work at a time when the workplace was all too often a place at which infection could occur.

And, of course, the NHS has done its best to serve the hundreds of thousands of people whose health has been directly or indirectly affected by Covid-19 infection. They have been in the most dangerous profession for catching the virus, and a figure at some point suggested that some 20% of NHS front-line workers had actually had the disease, with all too many deaths.

In some areas, medical services have not been adequate; of particular worry has been support for elderly people in care homes or needed community support. In some care homes, the disease has been kept at bay by the effective use of preventive measures and by professionally qualified and dedicated staff, but in too many instances the availability of protective equipment has been too low, as has been the level of training of people in some care homes. In short, in a percentage of care homes, the level and quality of care has been quite inadequate.

Fortunately, most care homes have staff who have really put themselves out to protect their clients, and they have kept infection down and minimised death-rates.

All the same, combined with the susceptibility of old people to serious Covid-19 infection, the death rate among elderly people has been disproportionate, and there have been disaster areas.

Living with lockdown has not been hard for some, but much harder for others. For children and young people, the whole world of education has been turned on its end, although this has led for many to a mixture of on-line and home tuition that we are learning and coming slowly to come to grips with.

Loneliness, money worries, unstable relationships and feelings of not been able to cope have all led to heavy pressures on many people, and this may have all too frequent long-term effects.

Nevertheless, people have reported that many others that they encounter seem nicer and kinder. Technology like Zoom have enabled people to meet across the Internet – even old friends in different countries.

In Winkfield, the 11am Sunday services by Zoom have brought faces to names, as well as a sense of community cohesion.

Now we will be encountering a new phase of life, as lockdown eases step by step. For many people this will not be easy, and for many more, the

Covid-19 threat is still there, but hidden, and coming out from our holes into a new and still dangerous world will not be easy.

The editors.

In Memoriam

In memory of Ciss Chapman who passed away on 21st July 2012: thinking of you always – your family and friends.

Joyce Underwood 14/5/20

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of Joyce Underwood. Joyce was a resident at Popels Cottages for many years, and had only very recently moved to a nursing home.

She was a member of several choirs including St Mary's Church choir, which she attended regularly until very recently. Joyce supported the Organ Refurbishment Appeal, and is commemorated by two well-used Stopped Diapason pipes

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Her granddaughter writes: "Joyce Lillian Underwood passed away peacefully on Thursday 14th May, aged 90. A celebration of her life will take place at a later date for all who wish to attend.

"She will be sadly missed by her close friends and family."

Mary Haines 13/5/20

We were saddened to hear of the death of Mary Haines who passed away in hospital on Wednesday 13 May. She had looked after the church linen and cleaned the brasses at Mary's for many years and had also been a member of the St Mary's Women's Guild where she presided over the raffle table.

She always provided a wonderful Simnel cake on Mothering Sunday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Marian Hopkins 1/5/20

We join with many other members of the parish in sadness at the death of Marian Hopkins, and send deepest sympathy to her family.

Marian was much-loved as a person, and was a faithful member of the St Mary's Women's Guild, and of the Choir of St Mary's church. She had a

sweet voice. and was game for all the challenges that choir-masters threw at the choir over the years.

Marian supported the Organ Refurbishment Appeal, and is commemorated by her own pipe, the very top note of the Great Principle-4 stop.

Lesley Philpot, President of the St Mary's Women's Guild wrote:

Marian was a much loved and loyal member of St Mary's choir and St Mary's Women's Guild for many years. While living at No 1 Popels Cottages she rarely missed a church service or Guild meeting. She took a very active part in all fund-raising events organised by the Guild. Her move to Maidenhead, while unavoidable, left a huge gap. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Services within the Parish

Virtual services have successfully been held in the Parish since lockdown, and have proved very popular. These comprise:

- An 11am service on Sunday mornings, alternating between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
- A Compline (Evening Prayer) at 8:15pm in Thursday evenings

Both of these use Zoom, an 'app' that can be used with smart-phones, tablets or desktop computers equipped with mike and speaker.

The 11am Sunday Service been a very popular gathering, with many attendees from all three churches. The format of the service follows the normal forms of Sunday service at the three churches of the benefice in turn.

You can find joining instructions on Benefice Website

<https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/welcome.htm>

and links to the service information can be found at the top of each page of the website of the Friends of St Mary's Winkfield. www.fosmw.com

In addition, regular 'playlets' – are provided by the Family Matins children of St Mary's Winkfield, and these are based on scripture, usually as relevant to the particular Sunday,

We are deeply grateful to Revd Tracey Williams, Revd Roy Burgess, and John Kimbell for their great work officiating at the 11am service. Also to

Lesley Philpot for her work with the children on the playlets, to the children themselves, and also to Phil Norton who has provided invaluable technical backup.

Parish Notices

From the Parish Registers

We have received no notices from the Parish Registers

Standing notices

Please note that church and other local engagements and arrangements of all kinds may be affected by the current coronavirus situation.

Please look for announcements on the Benefice Website www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk or the Friends of St Mary's Winkfield website www.fosmw.com

Office opening hours: closed.

Contact info

Church Office: c/o St Martin's Church, Church Road, Chavey Down, SL5

8RR Phone: 01344 882933 or email

admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

Website: www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

Safeguarding

The welfare of the children, young persons and vulnerable adults within our Benefice is at all times paramount and takes precedence over all other considerations. Safe-guarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our parish and its churches. Should you have any safeguarding or welfare concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer; via the Church Office:

Mrs Camille Jeffs

Telephone 01344 882933 or email:

safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

St Mary's Church

We have no details of when St Mary's Church or associated activities will recommence. Please check with the Benefice Website

<https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/welcome.htm> for further information, which will also be accessible on www.fosmw.com .

St Martin's Church

We have no details of when St Martin's Church or associated activities will recommence. Please check with the Benefice Website <https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/welcome.htm> for further information, which will also be accessible on www.fosmw.com .

St Peter's Church

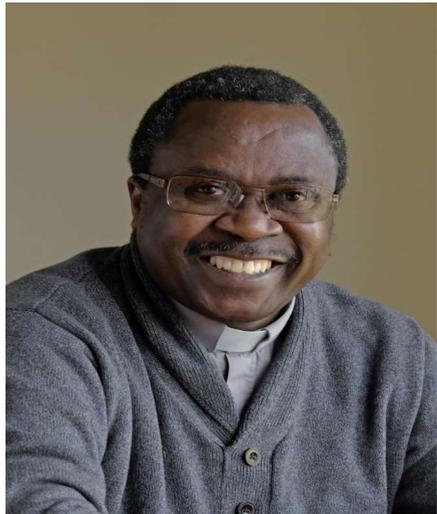
We have no details of when St Peter's Church or associated activities will recommence. Please check with the Benefice Website <https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/welcome.htm> for further information

Parish Office

We have no details of when the Parish Office will reopen. Please check with the Benefice Website <https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/welcome.htm> for further information.

Interim Minister

The Revd Patrick Mukholi has agreed to become the interim minister for eighteen months at Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down. At the invitation of +Olivia, Bishop of Oxford, and the parish OCCs, and with the full support of Revd Huw Mordecai, who is on sick-leave, Patrick will be licensed during July. Details of his licensing and the formal start date will follow in due course. There follow Revd Patrick's description of his life and work:



The Revd. Patrick Mukholi

has been a Transition Minister/ Associate Priest in the Benefice of Wokingham, St Paul facilitating the Anglican/Methodist LEP ('Local Ecumenical Partnerships') for the Woosehill Church, by an active and planned process of development through PMC ('Partnership for Missional Church') and spiritual leadership. He has done this together by offering

pastoral care, discipleship, worship and preaching as part of a team within the Parish.

Patrick is married to Helen and they have a 29 year old son who works at a local pub and loves making and experimenting with cocktails. Helen is still developing her speech after a brain operation at the John Radcliffe Hospital (Oxford) in June 2017.

Patrick was born and brought up in Kenya. He studied Agricultural Engineering at the University of Nairobi, and there he met and married Helen, who was studying Veterinary Medicine. Thereafter they both worked as civil servants for the government of Kenya. God's call to church-focused ministry became clear and they both went to the Nairobi's Africa International University to study for Ministry.

Patrick was ordained priest in 1999 and served as curate and Youth Adviser in the Diocese of Mombasa.

In 2003, at the invitation of the Church Mission Society, Patrick and Helen came to the UK as Mission Partners, working with 'Oxford Youth Works' and the Church of the Holy Family in Blackbird Leys, Oxford. While there he undertook a Masters course in 'Mission in an Urban World' at the International Christian College, University of Aberdeen.

At the end of their 7 year contract, Patrick went back to Kenya and taught at the Bishop Hannington institute of Theology and Development Studies until 2013, when he came back to the UK. He became the Pioneer Minister on the Penhill Council Estate in Swindon, serving there for three years. Thereafter God opened the opportunity to be Transitions Minister in the parish of St. Paul Wokingham. His contract ends on June 30th 2020.

Patrick enjoys fellowship with people and has led weekly parish Bible discussions. The focus on Pentecost has been well received in the parish. In his 'spare time' Patrick enjoys table tennis (particularly with church members), walking and cycling, and he is presently learning to play the guitar.

Patrick is looking forward to meeting the people of Winkfield, in these complex times, to continue building the one Kingdom of God here. His particular interests are in Pastoral care, visiting and praying with parishioners, especially those who are sick and infirm, with attention to Life Events, and also in safeguarding and equal opportunities.

Winkfield Parochial Charities - ALMSHOUSE VACANCY

One of the upstairs flats managed by Winkfield Parochial Charities in Church Road, Winkfield has become available.

The small community, with seven other residents, provides accommodation for single elderly women who have retired and face financial difficulties. There is no warden, so residents must be capable of independent living.

The flat with a fully fitted kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom with a walk-in shower will be available shortly.

Please ring Richard Wyatt on 07522 306988 or e-mail winkfieldparochialcharities@outlook.com for more information.

The Winkfield, Cranbourne & Chavey Down Parish RANELAGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 INTAKE

Four Ranelagh School Verification Surgeries for September 2021 intake are to be held at the Church Office, by appointment only, from 10.00am to 12 noon on the following dates:

1. Wednesday 30th September 2020, 10.00am – 12.00 noon
2. Wednesday 7th October 2020, 10.00am – 12.00 noon
3. Saturday 11th October 2020, 10.00am – 12.00 noon
4. Wednesday 14th October 2020, 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Please email the Church Office, from Monday 7th September 2020 (telephone and email requests received before this date will not be accepted) to book an appointment. If you have any queries or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Church Office. Email: <admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk>.

Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

This department will reopen when information becomes available.

Parish Mag preparation, compilation & collation

Look for information on the Friends' website www.fosmw.com

What's on

This department will reopen when possible.

Events, Notices and Dates for your Diaries

Visit of Berkshire Organists

A group from the Berkshire Organists Association will visit St Mary's on Saturday July 11 at 3.15pm. Several members of the Association will play the organ and for some it will be the first opportunity to hear the organ since its restoration last year. Jonathan Holl will host the visit.

St Mary's Guild Afternoon Tea 4 August 2020

The Women's Guild "At Home" is on Tuesday 4 August. There will be a wonderful "Afternoon Tea" and the opportunity to win a large hamper of interesting goodies. There is a charge of £10 which will be passed to the church to help with the Parish Share bill for this year. You can now purchase tickets on-line at www.fosmw.com. When you get to the website, you will find a green button at the top of each page marked [Women's Guild At Home tickets], and that will take you to the FOSWM Online page, where you can scroll down to pay by credit- or debit-card using the Add To Cart button. The address and all other details will be advised on purchase of tickets(s). Or you can contact a Guild member.

Lesley Philpot

Splendid September Fair – 5 September

All being well this will still take place. Now that lock down is slowly coming to an end all the external stallholders who had indicated interest are being contacted again. The Guild and Bell Ringers will provide their usual help and I hope Messy Church will again organise several activities. Family Praise members have indicated their help with outside sporting competitions. Who knows – Family Matins may also perform. Please make a note of the date. All money raised will help pay the Parish Share.

Lesley Philpot

Organ recital on Saturday 29 August 2020

On Saturday 29 August, Jonathan Holl will perform a recital on the recently renovated organ of St Mary's church, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the instrument. This performance is sponsored by the Berkshire Organists

Association, which supports the work of musicians who bring organ music year by year to churches and to the general public.

The performance will include an eclectic variety of works by English, French and German composers, and will explore the capabilities of the instrument in its present form,

Admission will be free, but there will be a retiring collection, and we hope that you will be generous to support the Berkshire Organists Association and St Mary's Church.

Friends of St Mary's (FOSMW) - Founder's Choir Concert

It was with great regret that this was cancelled. Luke Saint who had been one of the organists at St Mary's for several years was conductor of the Founders Choir of Royal Holloway College and had agreed to a concert at St Mary's. I was very fortunate and had attended a performance of the choir at Holloway and thought the sound quite magical and Luke an exceedingly polished performer.

We hope there may be an opportunity for the choir to perform at St Mary's later in the year.

Lesley Philpot

News and reports from around the Parish

Interested in cricket?

Royal Ascot Cricket Club is keen to see new players and colts for 2020

Royal Ascot Cricket Club is a family club playing matches at Locksride Recreation ground Winkfield Row, with our main recently renovated clubhouse and pitch inside Ascot Racecourse where all training takes place.

We run 4 adult teams in the Thames Valley Cricket League, 1 team in the Bracknell Midweek Cricket League, with friendlies on Sundays, although this year we still don't know when or if matches can commence.

We have an active boys and girls colts section from under 8s upwards normally playing competitive matches locally with a number representing the county.

We are now starting summer outdoor training at our Racecourse ground using our outdoor nets with appropriate social distancing measures and now also our mobile net on the main cricket square.

For further details please visit our website www.royalascotcc.co.uk or contact

Club Chairman Mark Wiggett on 07717 718506

Club Treasurer Richard Wyatt 07974 824583

4th Team and Midweek Captain Richard Baker 07894 983563

Ascot Horticultural Society

During much of last year, whilst the country was all but consumed by the matter of 'Brexit', another and potentially much more crucial issue, that of environmental destruction and global warming, was vainly clamouring for a share of national headlines. Ironically this cruel pandemic has probably done more to raise public awareness of the sheer beauty of our natural environment and the infinite value of this unique world on which we all depend than any number of placards and street protests could ever do. The months of enforced 'lock-down' have focused attention on and freed up time for enjoyment of the natural world both physically and virtually.

No doubt aided by the exceptionally fine spring weather gardens and allotments throughout the country have flourished and, encouragingly, many more people have come to discover or rediscover the joy of gardening. Moreover, a growing body of evidence and credible scientific rationale from highly reputable sources now clearly shows that time spent experiencing nature in green spaces and coastal areas can significantly enhance human health and wellbeing.

The National Garden Scheme (NGS) raises vital funds for a number of leading nursing and health charities by enabling access to certain private gardens, great and small, on specific days, in return for a modest donation. A visit can be a very pleasant way of meeting like-minded people and gathering gardening ideas and advice. After having had to remain closed throughout March, April and May the Government have confirmed that, as from 6th June, NGS gardens can again be opened to the public albeit under strict conditions e.g. controlled entry, social distancing, cash handling precautions etc. As an alternative, several garden owners have created virtual tours. Just go to <https://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/>. Either way, sadly, visitors will still be denied a cup of tea and those irresistible home-made cakes!

As for many local organisations, the programme of the Horticultural Society is currently suspended until further notice and information on the

website is of historical relevance only. Our big Summer Show is highly unlikely to be staged this year but we have not yet discounted the Autumn Show scheduled for September in Carnation Hall. For updates please call 01344 622086.

Peter Cleare,

Bellringers

Firstly I hope that you, your families and friends are all keeping well and virus free.

What a strange world we are all living in now.

Since the lockdown we have not been able to ring our lovely bells, and how we miss our ringing!!

Monday and Wednesday evenings are really strange without our practice sessions and Sunday mornings are very odd with no ringing before the church service.

The zoom service has been really lovely but not quite the same as going into the church. It is looking as though we may be allowed into the church later this month for private worship, which will be wonderful – hopefully this will be extended to a full service in the not too distant future.

As we could not hold our annual curry and bells night this year we decided to have a virtual curry night – we all made a curry and then joined together in a zoom meeting for a catch up. We enjoyed our chat so much that we decided to set up regular zoom meetings each Monday evening, which is when we would normally be ringing in the tower.

We also could not complete our annual tower clean this year – something to look forward to when we are permitted back in the tower.....

Since we are now allowed to meet up in groups of 6 in the open air we had a coffee morning this Sunday in the churchyard – all socially distanced, of course! It was lovely to catch up face to face so we will be repeating this, weather permitting each Sunday. We were fortunate to have bright, warm sunshine today, which was lucky after the miserable cold weather on Saturday.

We do need more people to join us ringing, both hand and tower, as and when we are permitted to start again so do have a think about joining us.

Bell ringing is a good workout for the mind and the body as well as being very satisfying. Also good fun!!

Call Tony for tower bells or Jill for hand bells if you would like more information.

Jill Glennerster 01344 884071

Stained Glass Windows

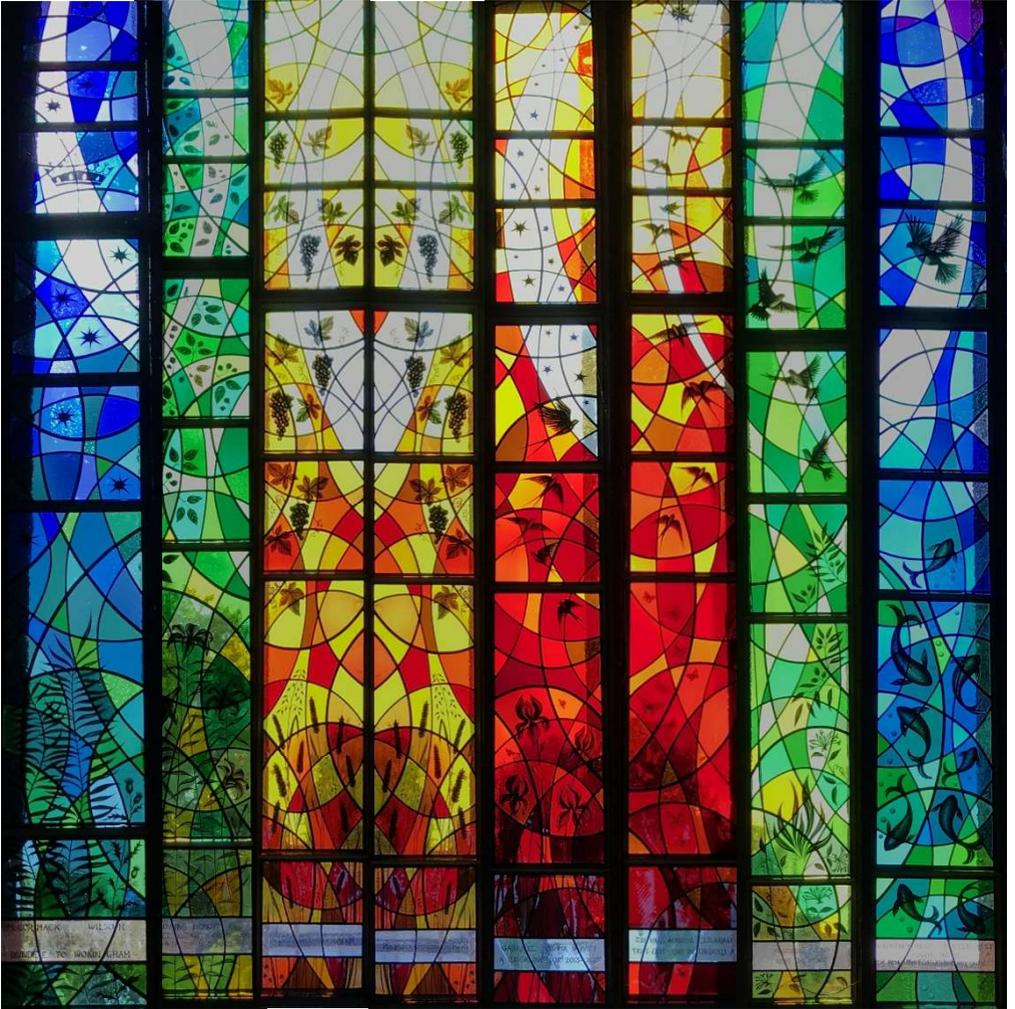
We are fortunate in having a professional stained glass window artist in our congregation – Caroline Loveys, and we are able to show some examples of her work.

The first example is the stained glass rose window, or oculus, commissioned by John Kimbell to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lambrook in 2010. John and Caroline worked together on the design and her fine creation was dedicated by Bishop John Bickersteth during a special service in the School Chapel which was also attended by Bishop John Perry.



A recent commission was for eight windows in the Corpus Christi Catholic church in Wokingham. A view of the windows as they is seen in the church are shown at the top of the next page, and the individual windows are shown below.

The windows represent (from right to left) Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost, Assumption and Coronation.



Each window is filled with imagery to illustrate each subject. As an example, the grapes and grain in the Eucharist window represent the consecration of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, and the dove of the Holy Spirit as the promise of Christ that he would send the Holy Spirit to dwell in his Church, in the Pentecost window.

The priest asked for a spectrum of colour, with red in the centre, and the colours also have symbolic meaning. For instance, yellow representing truth in the Eucharist window, but also the divine radiance of God in the Pentecost window.

Caroline graduated in 1994 with an HND in Architectural Stained Glass from Swansea Institute, and has been running her own business since 1995. She also runs the stained glass classes at South Hill Park Arts Centre.

Locally, in addition to the Lambrook oculus, Caroline has windows at Binfield C of E Primary School, Cranbourne Primary School, Papplewick School in Ascot, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church in Frimley, St Sebastians Memorial Hall in Wokingham and the Chapel of St Mary and St John in Ascot.

Caroline is an example of the wealth of professional talent that we have in our community!

Easthampstead Rotarians charity and community work

Foodbanks, the Cowshed and TVAA

The Eds felt that this community venture was well worth sharing!

With all Community fundraising events this Spring and Summer cancelled due to COVID-19, Easthampstead Rotarians continue to adapt and support local charities.

Zoom meetings not only for long-term planning, but also a first club 'get-together' with an invited outside speaker, Claire Mather from the Bracknell Foodbank. More than 20 members enjoyed Claire's presentation which covered the dramatic increase in demand they, like other Foodbanks, are experiencing with many in our communities unable to work and largely 'housebound' and with little or no social contact. Demand has more than doubled with up to 500 requests last month alone. Co-operation with Tesco for supplies and British Gas for transport helped provide 13 tonnes of essential food during May. For more information go to <https://bracknell.foodbank.org.uk/>

Since the UK lockdown measures were introduced in mid-March, Easthampstead Rotarians have donated more than £2,000 to both the Bracknell and Wokingham Foodbanks. Other financial and clothes donations to The Cowshed, a new Berkshire charity which provides good quality cleaned and ironed clothes and other essentials free to anyone in need. For more details go to <https://www.thecowshed.org/>

Among the community events postponed or cancelled by COVID-19, was the 3 Counties Cycle Ride, due to take place on Sunday 7 June. The event organisers, the Rotary Club of Bracknell, instead provided a Community Challenge. to exercise during COVID-19 shutdown for their charities - see <https://3ccr.org/>

3CCR organising committee member and Easthampstead Rotarian, Peter von Bergen is just one of the event's supporters who took up the Community Challenge. "My goal is to Cycle (exercise bike), Walk and Row (Pilates) the equivalent of 10 times the longest 3CCR route (54 miles) so 540 miles." Peter adds "No animals were harmed during my Community Challenge!"

So far, with a week to go, Peter has reached 250 miles in support of Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

See <https://www.tvairambulance.org.uk/>

"And people have given so generously to my JustGiving page, total to-date £335. To spur me on, people can still give to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pa-bergen> "

Easthampstead Rotarians - Working with the Community for the Community

Thoughts of all sorts

The NHS – bearing one another's burdens

The Ven John Barton writes in praise of our health service:

"Save the NHS" was the slogan chosen by the British government when the coronavirus began to spread. Meant to evoke public compassion, and compliance with emergency regulations, it sounded as though the NHS was an endangered species. In fact it was the public themselves whose lives were in jeopardy; the National Health Service existed solely for their benefit. The slogan did manage to stir gratitude for a service which had

been taken for granted, as well as appreciation of its 1.5+ million staff, many of whom were now putting their own lives at greater risk.

The idea for a countrywide medical service came from the Beveridge Report, instigated by the coalition government during World War II. “Medical treatment covering all requirements will be provided for all citizens by a national health service”, is how it was defined, though it had to wait until 1948 for its implementation to begin.

It was part of a programme for reconstruction, aiming to eliminate Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness. Sir William Beveridge, who gave his name to the report, was close friends with two other social reformers: R H Tawney, and William Temple, who was to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Today’s Archbishop, Justin Welby, wrote this about the trio: “Drawing on Christian understandings of justice, generosity and human dignity, they described the kind of country that they felt reflected God’s values better.”

St Paul couldn’t have thought he was providing a slogan for a welfare state when he wrote, “Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ”, but that is a neat summary of the way the National Health Service works. We all pay in when we can and we all benefit when we need.

One estimate of the cost of the NHS today is £158.4 billion, which in real terms is 10 times as much as in 1950. In the meantime, it’s no longer completely free for all. Prescription charges and dental fees have been introduced. The development of ever-more sophisticated life-saving drugs and medical procedures will inevitably mean higher costs - and a heightened moral dilemma. Must there be further limits to the provision of “medical treatment covering all requirements”?

The colossal task of rebuilding a shattered economy in the years to come may compel the British people to choose between what is essential and what is optional. The Christian principle now sounds particularly demanding: “Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ”.

Eds: The Ven John Barton writes in praise of our health service.

Beware the spell-checker on your special service sheets!

The Rectory St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

When producing material for your magazine or church services, beware the computer spell-checker. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and, on the night, found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manger”, mangers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers - that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus, on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won't be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

Never, ever, print on them ‘Do not take home’ as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction ‘Take this sheet home for reference’ would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice solve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Children's Corner

The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**



**THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).**



**JESUS EXPLAINED -
'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU
PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE.'**