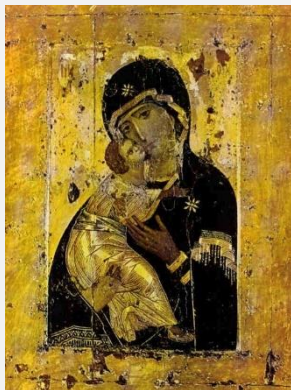


Issue 4:
May 2022



The Virgin of Kyiv

A candle in...

THE

WINDOW

News and Views from the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames

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I think we all need a
celebration. Luckily there are
some opportunities ahead! See
within.....

Long may she reign

A Tribute to the long reign of Her Majesty the Queen
on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee

Fr Paul Smith



Last Christmas I was given the book: *'A Queen for All Seasons'* by Joanna Lumley. The author is by no means a renowned royal biographer, but she has compiled this delightful book to celebrate our longest reigning monarch on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee. The book is quite different from many others in that it gives us a whole variety of interesting accounts from all kinds of people including: Cecil Beaton, Tony Blair, Carol Ann Duffy, Cliff Richard, Clare Balding and many more, including diarists and family members. We are taken behind the scenes to places where we may not typically go: inside the royal residences to the dinner table; posing for portraits; and not least interesting stories about Her Majesty's animals.

Joanna Lumley describes herself as the Queen's number one fan: 'Right from the start let me lay my cards on the table,' she says, 'I think the world of the Queen'.

Well, if it has escaped anyone's notice, so do I. Furthermore, I thought I was the Queen's number one fan! But that is a matter which I can perhaps take up directly with Joanna Lumley herself!

From as far back as Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee in 1977, as a schoolboy, I have taken a big interest in the Queen and in all things royal. On that occasion we had tables joined together running the length of our school drive for a lavish tea party. We each had to make our own hat to wear and produce a scrapbook to celebrate the occasion. This was a competition. My hat did not go down well with the judges or with me! I was, however, very proud to win the first prize for the scrapbook!

At Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee in 2002 I was two years into my title parish. We held a wonderful concert in the village church where I served. This was followed by a hog roast barbecue in the vicarage garden in glorious June sunshine. By the Diamond Jubilee, ten years later, I was here in Abingdon. I recall a beautiful civic service in St Helen's and a planned street party in West St Helen's Street, which, sadly, like the day of the Coronation itself in 1953, was visited by heavy rain. This did not remove the enthusiasm and celebratory spirit as we all de-camped to the Salvation Army for the afternoon. Ten more years have passed and we have come to yet another Jubilee: the unrivalled landmark of 70 years where the town and parish will celebrate with a civic service on Thursday 2 June, in St Helen's, together with other events to mark this auspicious occasion.

One of my favourite stories about the Queen is of a time when she was greeting a member of public on a walkabout, and their mobile phone went off. The Queen said, "you'd better answer that, it might be someone important!"

The story says something of the measure of this remarkable woman. Much has been said over the decades of just how privileged and wealthy she is, and that cannot be disputed. Neither can it be disputed that at the heart of her life lay a profound sense of humility and service which, even as a 96-year old, still epitomizes her role practically and in every other way. Her dealings with world leaders, to ordinary people, as the mobile phone story shows, demonstrates a delightful sense of humour.

We know Elizabeth was never expected to be Queen. That duty would fall to her Uncle David, who became King Edward VIII, but who, following the abdication crisis of 1936, was never crowned. In 1947, just four years before her father King George VI's death, the then Princess Elizabeth said these words in a broadcast for her 21st birthday:

'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service'.

At this Jubilee we see that she has kept true to this pledge. This is in no small part due to the reality and depth of her Christian faith. As the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, the Queen has always attended church weekly, even on holiday, and prays daily. It is that pattern spiritual life and devotion to Christ that has sustained her in her long reign and to which she referred twenty years ago when she said: *“I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.”*

Over the years of her reign she has worked with 14 prime ministers, (about whom she may well have had her own strongly held, well-considered opinions and found some more challenging than others!); she has witnessed turbulent times in the nation and commonwealth and in her own personal life, yet keeping her counsel and resilience has been second to none.

Her Christmas broadcasts have shown us how the person of Jesus Christ influences the Queen not only in her public pronouncements but in the priorities she sets for her life and in the way she goes about her ordinary daily tasks. When we compare her with the long list of despotic rulers that litter history, or the many over-demanding bosses that sour our workplaces we can see that, by contrast, Queen Elizabeth II shows us how power can be transformed into profound service with love of God and neighbour at its heart.

While the Queen never really stops work: she reads her red dispatch boxes daily, which contain the State papers – whether at work or on holiday - it has been said by leaders the world over that there is something about her which demonstrates a consistently calm authority, a kind of peace perhaps, that marks her out.

She has become no stranger to technology and its development as time has evolved. She has fearlessly and willingly taken to it not least during the pandemic and in times of recent frailty when she has continued with virtual meetings in place of personal audiences. I recall seeing on television a viewing of one of her early Zoom calls with the Princess Royal. The Princess Royal said, in her own wonderful sense of humour looking at the Queen on screen: ‘Good morning, is that Windsor, there?’ Before responding, the Queen smiled and chuckled to herself.

There is much more to the Queen than her faith in Christ, but it has been said that *‘you cannot understand her without understanding her devotion to him.’* The reality is that she has consistently, winsomely and publicly honoured the God she serves and has been an extraordinary example of joyful, persevering, life-affirming, generous-hearted, unstinting, wise service on behalf of others.

Six months before her Coronation, the Queen asked the people of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth to pray for her, saying this:

“Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.”

God has clearly answered those prayers. As we celebrate this Platinum Jubilee, may we indeed continue to pray for her, and acknowledge that we owe to God and to the Queen our enormous gratitude.



Acknowledgements:

“The Servant Queen and the King she serves” (2016), Bible Society, from which some of the material for this article is taken.

The Queen for All Seasons (2022), Joanna Lumley

Fifty Years and still counting!

Charles Masheder

Do you know where you were on July 2nd 1972? - Well, some of you may not have even been born! I know where I was - at a church in Essex, St Andrew's Hornchurch, where the local Bishop, William Chadwick of Barking, was ordaining me and seven other men as deacons in God's Church. This means that in a few weeks time I will have been ordained fifty years! The Church - specifically the Church of England - has gone through a time of considerable change in a variety of ways, and I would like to share *some* of those with you.

The first – and in my mind undoubtedly the best – has been the ordination of women, firstly as deacons and subsequently both as priests and then as bishops. The process took decades and for many it was unnecessarily long but as the saying goes ‘the mills of God grind slowly but they grind exceeding fine.’ There is no doubt that the gender mix in the priesthood has enriched the Church enormously. It is difficult now to imagine the time of only male priests.

I have friends who hold another opinion but we have to agree to disagree....

The way that clergy are deployed is also very different. One of those ordained with me was breaking more or less new ground in that he was still in full-time secular employment and would go on to be a ‘worker priest’. I remember first hearing the suggestion that priests might be employed in a Team, or part-time, or might even be self-supporting! There is now a great variety of ways of deploying clergy. Appointments to parishes did not involve interviews within the parish; they were simply at the discretion of the Bishop and the Patron.

In the hierarchy, changes too! Bishops had the very specific role as ‘pastor to the pastors’ and whereas we are still blessed with caring bishops, this role is now shared with others as bishops find themselves more involved in the secular world, among other things attending conferences affecting life within their dioceses. Archdeacons now carry so many legal responsibilities that often they have to have Associates working with them, as we now have in our Archdeaconry in the person of David Tyler. There are now so many ‘specialist ministries and advisors’ which has the result of reducing the number of full-time clergy in parishes and creating vast rural benefices. You can guess that to me this is a seriously bad outcome!!

It is a joy to see the way that forms of worship have changed. The first time I celebrated the Eucharist, following my priestly ordination the following year in 1973, it was with a version of the Book of Common Prayer(1662); ‘Series 3’ was just about to be used in our parish. Though I am always happy to use the old rite at our 8am services - and revel in the language – the forms of all ‘modern’ services we can now use has enriched our worship, so brilliantly provided in Common Worship. I particularly rejoice too in the newer forms of both weddings and funerals.

It is therefore a sadness that we are not called on to conduct so many so-called ‘occasional offices’- sometimes called ‘hatch, match and dispatch’. It was the year after my ordination that baptism of babies became a ‘minority activity’ with, I believe only 48% of babies born expected to be christened. One of the ways in which my ministry has been used by God to bring people to faith has been through the occasional offices, particularly through funerals, but now funerals led by a priest are becoming only for church members or those with some connection. Even a decade after my ordination, I would conduct at least three or four funerals each week (once ten!). I remember one Funeral Director asking me if I would ‘read the Burial service’. I suppose with fewer requests in theory we are able to provide a far more personal service. Weddings were also most commonly celebrated in churches and I still believe that we can provide the very best.

Indeed, sadly, the place of the Church in the community has diminished considerably. The Church of England still seems to have some significant role in the nation at that level and people listen, though may not always agree, when the Archbishop takes the Government to task. In the many villages in which I have served I have found there is still a warmth towards the local church by many. However there is no

denying that the Christian influence through the C of E has lessened substantially; it is not just about lower numbers attending services. Some may think that is no bad thing but the increasing secularising of our nation is surely not to its benefit. The Church could well become an institution turned in on itself and its various issues, rather than the vision perceived by Archbishop Temple, “the Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.” While it is difficult to imagine the Church being ‘disestablished’ in the near future, I believe our society needs the spiritual, moral and pastoral care of the Church ‘a Christian presence in every community’.

I was ordained as the burgeoning ecumenical movement was in full swing with Churches of various denominations trying increasingly to find ways of working together if not actually following the example in 1970 of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches of becoming the United Reform Church. However there existed traditional concerns in the hearts of many about such unity. We surely rejoice that groupings like Church in Abingdon are now quite natural.

The technological revolution has certainly affected the church as it has the life of the nation. I cannot imagine my ministry before 2001, when I got my first computer and caught up with many others. In these last twenty years emailing has been one of my main forms of communication and certainly in these last two years, pastoral ministry would have been much reduced without IT. Recently, having contracted Covid, it was such a joy to be able not only to watch the service on our screen but to feel part of the worshipping community of St Helen’s. Whereas in earlier years the pastoral role was carried out by visiting people in their homes, now much is either on the phone or by email. Where would have been without both during the pandemic?

These years have been a real blessing to me – challenges yes but mostly a wonderful joy! There are of course many other changes within the life of the Church but these will suffice. I would, though, like to invite any who want to do so, to join me in a service on Saturday July 2nd at 3pm in St Helen’s when I shall be celebrating the Eucharist and thanking God for all the experiences and the many wonderful people, who have been part of these last fifty years...including many here in Abingdon!



What's for dinner tonight?

Christian Aid Week, 15-22 May 2022

Mary Anderson



Christian Aid Week this year focuses on climate change in Zimbabwe in southern Africa. Vulnerable communities there are hungry. After months of drought, longed-for rains come with ferocity, and the catastrophic effect on crops is compounded by extreme heat.

What's that got to do with us?

When I worked in development circles, the phrase 'exporting poverty' was sometimes heard. We in the West, and local elites, have power and wealth, leaving swathes of people at the bottom of the pile in abject poverty. Whatever the truth of that phrase, the fact is that we are all connected through the global village. We in Europe, and people in Zimbabwe, are all suffering from the grain deficit because of the war in Ukraine, and we are all experiencing climate change. Whether the connection between us is more the domino effect or butterfly effect I leave our scientist friends to decide.

Hunger

The family of Jessica Mwedzi in rural Zimbabwe struggles for survival. The maize harvest fails; she and her family face the threat of hunger and starvation. Let us put her situation into the context of Biblical teaching, where 'bread' is almost synonymous with life. Jesus is the 'bread of life' (John 6:35), the 'living bread' (John 6:51). Bread holds an essential and central significance in our Communion services. It acts as a form of connective tissue between God and man. In the New Testament bread satiates hunger but it also makes a wider point, as in Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 5,000, a miracle so powerful that it concludes with over-abundance (Matthew 14:13-21). If the child asks for bread, they don't get stones, they get bread.



Justice

Bread is non-negotiable, and it is intimately connected with justice, one of the pillars of Christian Aid's work. The hunger for justice, that the powers and dominions that cause injustice are radically and subversively changed.

Amongst our readings for Christian Aid Sunday this year, 15th May, is Revelation 21: 1-6, with John's vision of 'a new heaven and a new earth'. We also have Jesus' revolutionary command in John 13: 34: 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' This is followed by the even more challenging verse 35: 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

So, *how* will everyone know that we are Jesus' disciples? That is where Christian Aid comes in.

Every tear wiped away

The anticipation of 'every tear wiped away' serves as our catalyst to ensure that the frustration and desperation of those hungry to provide are erased. We must stand with people like Jessica who are living at the sharp end of the climate crisis.

Presence

This year we can help women like Jessica to provide for their families. We can help her to:

- learn how to grow and store food in dry seasons
- eat more healthy and nutritious food
- learn new skills for alternative sources of income when agriculture fails.

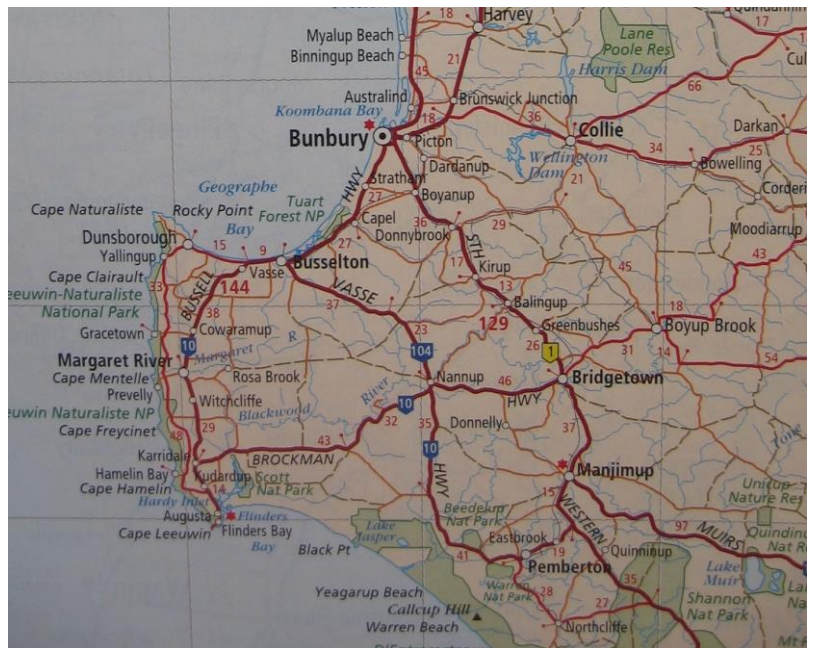
Your gift to Christian Aid will not only help fulfil the need to grow food but will also act as a demonstration of hope and justice. It is the work of the Kingdom of God that we cheerfully and enthusiastically embrace. Please visit our market stall on Saturday 21st May, 9am -1 pm, and look out for our Christian Aid envelopes. Thank you!

100 years in Western Australia

Claire Bolton

Our daughter and family live in the Margaret River region in the south-west of the state of Western Australia. We go to live there for up to 5 months each year - to see them and to get out of the English winter. As a loose link to the theme of *Anniversaries*, I am writing about this year's centennial of the Group Settlement Scheme in Western Australia, which began in 1922.

In the 1920s this south-west area was selected for a scheme to provide work for people from England after WWI and build a dairy industry to supply Perth in W.A. Until then all dairy had been shipped from the eastern states. Migrant families were given their passages, and between 100 and 160 acres of land. They were placed in Groups of up to 18 families throughout the south-west. The Groups each had a central store, and later sometimes a school, a meeting hall and a church. The families were seriously underprepared for the conditions; they were provided with a tin 'humpy' to live in, and an axe and a saw, and had to clear the native hardwood forest to provide pasture for any cows. They could take out loans until their farms made a profit. By December 1924, 127 different Groups had been established. The tough conditions, and the later Depression meant this Group Settlement Scheme was almost a complete failure. Many walked off the land. However some persevered, and 100,000 acres of land were cleared in total, and a dairy industry established which survives today. Over time the tin 'humpies' were replaced with 4-room, timber frame cottages with corrugated iron roofs, and other buildings were added to each Group.



Many of the early settler families are still living in the region, indeed our Australian granddaughter is a great-granddaughter of a first settler who arrived in 1923, with his wife and eldest son. His total of eight children all survived, had children and many live in the area today.

Along with surviving families some of the early timber houses, schools and churches have also survived. The little timber churches with their corrugated iron roofs could not be further in style or size from St Helen's in Abingdon. What they lacked in size they made up in their importance to the isolated communities. Four in our area are still in use and are now on Western Australia's list of historic buildings.

When in Margaret River I attend St Margaret's Anglican Church (*see photo on right*). Built in 1927, it was the first church in the south-west to have a rectory. It measures about 9m x 6m, with a



small porch at the front and a vestry at the back. It can seat about 30 people at a tight squash, although recently numbers have dropped to about 10 people. The minister for Margaret River also covers Cowaramup 8 miles north, Osmington 11 miles to the east and Augusta about 30 miles south. Currently there is a severe shortage of ministers, especially in rural areas - our minister had just resigned and at present the future is not known.

St Mary's Anglican Church in Cowaramup, at 8m x 5m, is slightly smaller than St Margaret's, and was completed in 1929. It was built for Groups 12 and 13. Our daughter was married here on a very hot February day in 2003.



St John's Anglican Church, Osmington (*see photo on left*) opened in 1935 and had been built for Groups 84 and 85, with a donation of one hundred pounds from a Mrs Margaret Rivington in England. It measures about 9m x 6m. Standing now isolated in the bush it is now the only evidence of the settlement at Osmington.

The Anglican Church of St John the Baptist at Metricup (*see photo below, exterior and interior*) was opened in 1935 and used by Group 60. It was built with funds sent from England to help Group Settler families.



The Poetry of Mary Oliver

Sue Sheppy

I am a great fan of Mary Oliver, the American poet, winner of the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize, who died in January 2019. I have always loved the way she marries her love and intimate observation of the natural world with challenges to our own way of living, and her own exploration of faith in the latter part of her life. In the epilogue to her poetry collection, *Thirst*, she wrote:

Another morning and I wake with thirst for the goodness I do not have. I walk out to the pond and all the way God has given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord, I was never a quick scholar but sulked and hunched over my books past the hour and the bell; grant me, in your mercy, a little more time. Love for the earth and love for you are having such a long conversation in my heart. Who knows what will finally happen or where I will be sent, yet already I have given a great many things away, expecting to be told to pack nothing, except the prayers which, with this thirst, I am slowly learning.

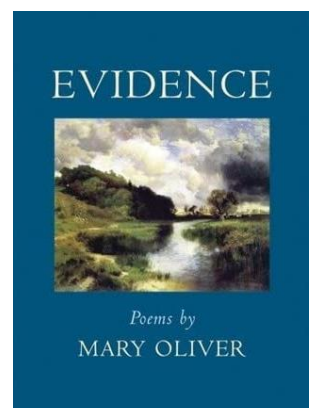
Today, I have selected her poem *Halleluiah* from her poetry collection, *Evidence*, to share with you. It seemed appropriate in this post Easter season, when we are once again allowed to sound out our alleluias after our Lenten abstinence.

*Everyone should be born into this world happy
and loving everything.
But in truth it rarely works that way.
For myself, I have spent my life clamouring toward it.
Halleluiah, anyway I'm not where I started!*

*And have you too been trudging like that, sometimes
almost forgetting how wondrous the world is
and how miraculously kind some people can be?
And have you too decided that probably nothing important
is ever easy?
Not, say, for the first sixty years.*

*Halleluiah, I'm sixty now, and even a little more,
and some days I feel I have wings.*

The wonder of the world is partnered, as she often does, with the wonder of human kindness, particularly brought home to us over the last two years. I enjoyed the 'sixty now, and even a little more' (for some of us a lot more!) and 'some days I feel I have wings. 'Amen' to that, and Alleluia!



Remembered Days

Susan Gee

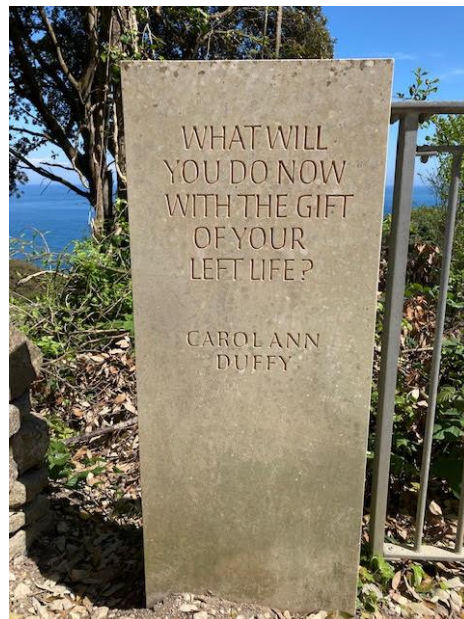
They shine like stars, those remembered days,
flying their flags of memories as the year
unfolds

.
Days of desolation and loss, of overwhelming
darkness and despair,
days of sublime joy, golden days infused
with unspoken happiness.
Birth days, death days and
all between, memories of baptisms, marriages,
anniversaries, celebrations, memorials.

Unfettered by date there are days shot
through with stabs of sadness and regret,
of missed opportunities, the path not
chosen

.
Yet, like threads of gold woven into
our lives, there are days overflowing with
unexpected joy, quiet sunlit days beside
sparkling streams, the calm of water
lily lakes, the exhilaration at the
mountain top.

.
All enrich our present and
carry us with hope into an
unknown future



This is one of a series of quotations that can be found at Durlston Head, Swanage

Abingdon-on-Thames APCM

Eluned Hallas

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on Thursday 28 April the following were elected Church Wardens of the Parish for the next year: Eluned Hallas (St N), Louise Heffernan (St M), Linda Hobbs (St H), Joyce Kelly (St M) & Geoff Meen (St H).

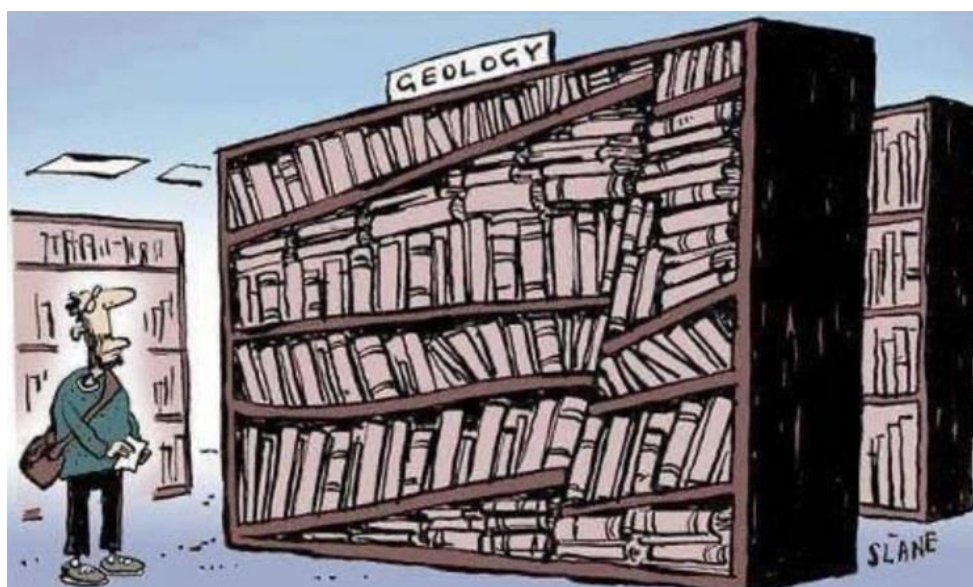
At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, immediately following, we elected and welcomed Jenny Fishpool (St N) & Hazel Glennie (St H) as new PCC members, thanked retiring PCC member Hilary Clare (St M) for her service, and recognised the contribution of Andrew Birks, who retired as Parish Treasurer during the year. The Parish Electoral Roll Officer reported a composite roll of 346, unchanged numerically on 2021 though there were some ‘comings and goings’.





It was good to hear from Parish Treasurer, Susan Read, that 2021 had been a stable year for Parish finances, thanks to some legacies (St H & St M) and grants towards essential repairs (St N). Donations from visitors and loose plate collections had been hit by Covid induced restrictions, but congregational giving had remained steady. The parish share remained the largest item of parish expenditure. Increases in energy costs were likely to be a significant feature in 2022.





The main news of the meeting however, was the establishment of **The St Nicolas School and Education Trust, Abingdon** – a Charitable Incorporated Organization (COI, number 1197757) based in the Parish, and with the Team Rector, Team Vicar and Wardens of St Nicolas as ex officio Trustees. There can be a total of seven trustees in all.

The broad aims of the trust are educational in service of the Church of England (as anchored in the Apostles Creed), and there is an investment portfolio which will generate an annual income. Over the coming year, additional trustees will be nominated by the Diocese and PCC, and the trustees will work together to develop the activities, and areas and methods of working of the new charity. In his announcement the Team Rector gave special thanks to retired Diocesan Board of Finance Secretary Caroline Dyer, and former warden Andrew Coker, for their key roles in the development of the new COI. He concluded by commending this exciting new development to the Parish.

Read more here: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html



Where's this . . . gargoyle?			
A		B	
C		D	

Where's this . . . Donations box?			
A		B	
C		D	

Events in the Parish of Abingdon mid-May to mid-June


A **FREE** OPEN STUDIOS
EVENT AT HUNDREDS OF
OXFORDSHIRE VENUES

OXFORDSHIRE
ART
WEEKS

www.artweeks.

**Abbey Group
St. Nicolas
Church**
Market Square
Abingdon
OX14 3HF

**Mon - Sat
16 - 21 May
10am - 5pm**



Art exhibition featuring work by: Claire Cross, Margaret Horton, Marion Owen & Dougie Simpson, with guest glass artist Chris Eccles.

Original paintings (including watercolours, mixed media, pastels, acrylics, pen and wash), glass art and gifts, prints, cards and housewares for sale. Covid secure.

MUSIC and MIND

A Fundraising Concert For





Saturday May 28th, 2022
7:30pm
St. Nicholas Church
Market Pl, Abingdon OX14 3JD

Join us for this exceptional event featuring works of Greig, Poulenc, Delibes, Rachmaninov, Rossini, and Constantines.

Anna Blonsky, Despina & Costas Nikolakis (Piano)
Margaret & Celeste Lingas (sopranos)
Georges Nikolaïdes (Flute)
Tatiana Soloviova & Jon Bennett (Voice-Guitar)

A live recording of the event will be posted on YouTube and Facebook

Civic Service for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd June - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

A Civic Service for the whole town community of Abingdon to celebrate HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at St Helen's Church on Thursday 2nd June at 7pm. We will be thanking God for her great sense of duty, her faith and her life of devotion and care for the Nation and the Commonwealth. All very welcome!

The Tenth Festival of Prayer 2022 Saturday 9 July 10.00-16.35, Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

The festival of prayer is organised jointly by BRF and the Diocese of Oxford. The day-long conference aims to enhance participants' spiritual life by offering different approaches to Christian spirituality. It's an opportunity to invest in your relationship with God, in the company of inspiring, thoughtful and experienced speakers. Early booking is advised. For further details and booking information click on: <https://www.brfonline.org.uk/products/the-festival-of-prayer-2022>. Places may also be booked through BRF in Abingdon, BRF Festival of Prayer Bookings, 15 The Chambers, Vineyard, Abingdon OX14 3FE, tel: 01865 319700

Through the summer months, **St Michael's Dog Café** will continue to offer refreshments for dog walkers and their pooches. Find us outside the North Door on Park Road every Sunday between 11am and 12. Coffee and cakes will be on sale for humans, water and home-made dog biscuits for our canine friends.



Last Friday in a teashop in Burford a young waitress was very kind to me which has inspired this poem:

A Simple Act of Kindness

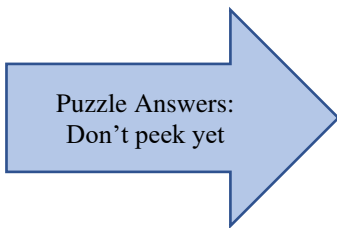
Eileen Duckett

A simple act of kindness
 From someone I didn't know
 Made my day seem even brighter
 And gave me an inner glow.

A simple act of kindness
 Which cheered me on my way
 Caused me to pause and wonder
 How could I be kind that day.

A simple act of kindness
 By all the human race
 Would make our burdens lighter
 And our world a better place.

A simple act of kindness
 Is something we all can do
 So let's start a chain reaction
 I am willing, how about you?



- Answers
- A- The Palace of Holyroodhouse
 - B- Windsor Castle
 - C- Clarence House
 - D- Buckingham Palace
 - E- Kensington Palace
 - F- Sandringham House
 - G- St James's Palace
 - H- Balmoral Castle

Donation box	St Helen's	St Nicolas'	Museum	St Michael's
Gargoyle	St Helen's (SE corner of spire, over main roof)	St Michael's (North side)	St Helen's (South side)	St Nicolas' (South side, east end)
	A	B	C	D

Useful Weblinks:

Services: for the latest news see the new Parish Website:

abingdonparish.org.uk

Page for Church of England links: services, daily readings etc

<https://www.churchofengland.org/>

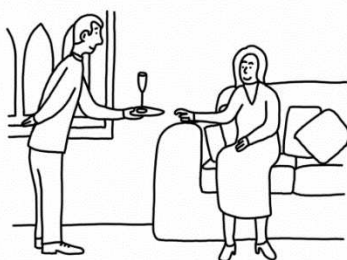
FOOD BANK. The Abingdon Foodbank is still very busy and anxious to keep up the support. **Northcourt Road (Christ Church) is open to receive donations on Tuesday and Friday mornings between 9.30 am and 1.00 pm.** Their main long-term needs are:

Long life milk (not soya), fruit squash, tinned meat and vegetables. They also give out a lot of washing up liquid and toilet rolls. You can also make donations by sending a cheque made out to *North Abingdon PCC Christ Church*, clearly marked 'for Food Bank'. You can also donate via the Foodbank website <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/> or the Parish office have details if you want to donate via online banking.

And finally, from
Dave Walker of
Cartoon Church

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

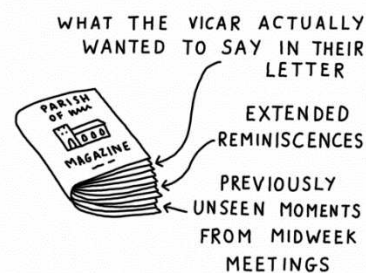
THE BENEFITS



USE OF THE SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY LOUNGE



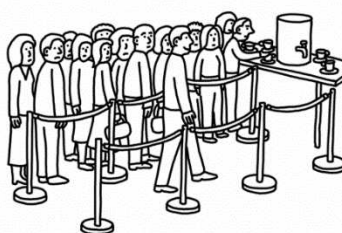
PREVIEWS OF SERMONS THE NIGHT BEFORE RELEASE



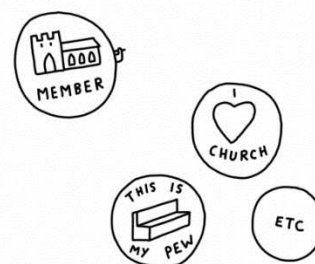
WHAT THE VICAR ACTUALLY WANTED TO SAY IN THEIR LETTER
EXTENDED REMINISCENCES
PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN MOMENTS FROM MIDWEEK MEETINGS
A SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE



A 'GET OUT OF A ROTA FREE' CARD



PRIORITY LANE AT AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE



A BADGE, AND SOME STICKERS

CartoonChurch.com

Thanks to all contributors and to you, the readers.

The next issue will be published in mid-June: ideas and contributions to Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk

- particularly pictures of celebrations.

We would also welcome responses to any articles published here or in previous issues.