

Issue 5:
June 2022



The Virgin of Kyiv

A candle in...

THE

WINDOW

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

Abingdon and the Jubilee



This issue was shaped
by:

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These photos were taken by Laurie King
who had the privilege of being a bun thrower!
'An amazing experience for me - invited through my being Master of Christ's
Hospital of Abingdon which gives me the Freedom of the Town for my time as
Master.'

There were five thousand buns provided by Millets.
See inside for other jubilee pictures:

Sermon for the Platinum Jubilee service at St Helen's

Charles Masheded

We all have two wonderful gifts...memory and imagination. You will all have your own memories, some possibly stretching back through the last seventy years but perhaps you can all use your imagination for the next few moments.

The date is February 6th 1952, and a little boy is enjoying his third birthday, the first time he is really able to appreciate what having a birthday is all about. His mum goes into the village butcher's shop, where she was told "the king has died" and soon returns home to share that tragic news with her husband the local Vicar. Unbeknown to the little lad, this is a very sad day for the nation and a momentous occasion as the young Princess Elizabeth becomes Queen, though she may not yet know it herself as she is in a remote spot in Kenya.



I tell you this to show that this boy, who is now an older-age man has never known our country other than with Her Majesty as our Head of State. I do have a few memories of her Coronation in the following year but rather that I was bored watching this new machine, the television. Our beloved Queen as our Head of State has provided a wonderful stability through these years. This time has been one of considerable change and often of uncertainty, yet her presence has at all times been reassuring. At all times of crisis we have been refreshed by listening to her words. I believe we are so fortunate in the UK to have a Head of State who is non-political and removed from the making of political decisions, though the Government we may describe as 'ours' is in fact her Government. Another blessing for us is the ways in which Queen Elizabeth understands her role completely.

So what is it that we can learn from her? Our service tonight highlights two aspects of her reign which I believe need renewing in our nation's life. They require our reappraisal of where our moral compass lies. Through these years there has been a shift from our being 'corporate beings' to 'individual beings'. This has resulted in our possibly losing our natural sense of duty towards others in preference for us demanding and expecting our own priorities. Some of that may be due that her reign began in post-War times when people had naturally been looking out for the needs of others more readily. But it was surely heart-warming in the pandemic times to see some of this real community spirit making a resurrection, so perhaps - and hopefully - it lurks just beneath the surface. Now as Catherine Butcher explains "By accepting her role, the Queen sacrificed her personal preferences and private life to adopt a life of duty and service."

Working together is the only way forward in the critical times in which we live and I for one deplore the possible break-up of our United Kingdom, where four different nationalities have a long history of collaboration.

This sense of bringing together peoples of other cultures and diverse races is the central message of the Commonwealth of which the Queen is not only the head but has also been its inspiration and one of its greatest fans. Its roots were earlier in the twentieth century but was formalised in 1949, just three years before she ascended the throne. It is made up of 54 nations of which she is also head of state of 15. At its core is the understanding that 'all are free and equal'. She herself said "It must be my constant prayer that true partnership may be achieved throughout the Commonwealth". It is a family of nations numbering nearly 2.5 billion people, out of a world population of about 7 billion. I have sometimes wondered if the Queen has derived more pleasure and satisfaction from her role as head of the Commonwealth than as Queen of the UK. To whatever she commits, she gives 100% of herself, directed by a great sense of loyalty and duty, two virtues which no longer seem to be as apparent in our people as perhaps they once were. So let's learn this from her - to regain a sense of duty and desire to make our unique contribution to the Society in which we live.

The other aspect that we celebrate tonight is her faith in the Living God, not just because she serves as Supreme Governor of the Church of England (note not its Head!) but because she has an inner awareness of God's presence in her life. Though we might well be saddened that apparently numbers of regular worshippers in our churches may in *some* places have decreased, what I find more concerning still is what I would call the increasing absence of 'natural faith' within the nation. By this I mean that 70 years ago, the vast majority of people would believe in the existence of a Supreme Being as the Creator of our beautiful world, and indeed of the Universe, and they would also hold a belief in an afterlife which we would inherit when our earthly life was done. Funerals were almost always conducted by Christian ministers with an understanding of the life of Heaven, just as Weddings were usually celebrated in the local church.

I rejoice that we are now part of an inter-faith society, welcoming those of other cultures as well as of other faiths and we share many beliefs particularly with Judaism, Islam and Sikhism with our common belief in one God. I am horrified when sometimes our different understandings cause division when we should rejoice in what we share - and seek other ways to co-operate. Now we cannot know or speak of a Divine Being without using earthly language and perception, and thus we fall far short of the wonderful belief in his existence. But to know that there is someone mightier than humans I find extremely reassuring, and this I believe I share with the Queen, and my faith is frequently enhanced by my seeing his work as Creator of this beautiful planet. We have lost something so valuable during these decades and whereas it would delight me to see ever more people coming to our churches to worship, it would be even better if we could replant that natural faith which was part of our history and of our culture. It is to that that Her Majesty often refers, from a Christian understanding, in her Christmas messages, on occasion mentioning the Parable of the Good Samaritan. She teaches us too how to accept people of all faiths – or none – motivated by our common humanity stating, "I am a follower of Jesus Christ because his example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe." Following the way of Jesus Christ whose life was also very busy, I have no doubt that she has made time to be quiet with God in prayer.

She will no doubt be the first to say that much of her reign would have been different without the man she loved and who loved her, Prince Philip, and whose death must have had a real impact on her and yet she will believe that through the power of love, she will one day be reunited with him.

It is my prayer for our nation today that we seek not only to rejoice and to celebrate but to learn from Queen Elizabeth, from her example. We could make a resolution this evening as we celebrate this incredibly long reign to learn from Her Majesty and pray, as we do in our National Anthem, that "she may ever give us cause to sing with heart and voice "God save the Queen!"



The St Helen's Choir augmented for the Jubilee Service. Photo thanks to Norman Dawson

Host Abingdon – an update

Gwen Bevington

I was driven from my home and you reached out to me... (*variation on Matthew 25.35*)

News from Host Abingdon

A member of St Helen's congregation tells of hosting her stepson, his Ukrainian wife and her parents - who are visiting from Croatia, where they are staying in holiday accommodation. They really want to go home to Odessa.

Charles our Rector has already shared something of the impact on his family of the war in Ukraine.

A friend on the Isle of Wight writes excitedly that she is hosting two older ladies from Ukraine, and how the three of them are negotiating a significant language barrier. In her next email she asks prayer for their son/son-in-law, who is experiencing heavy shelling and doesn't know if in 2 days he will be alive, dead or captured.

It's all a long way away; but it's nearer than other wars, touching more of us more immediately, and coming ever closer to home. Writing on 24 May, Host Abingdon leaders state that 600 Ukrainians have arrived in Oxfordshire to date: 1,700 in total have been matched with about 600 hosts.

Remember Host Abingdon? They are the local group, based at St Ethelwold's House (in East St Helen Street), who provide emergency accommodation for asylum-seekers through the Sanctuary Fund, and who gave huge support to Syrian families settled in the Vale via the VPRS scheme. You may have seen their stall on the Rye Meadow field during the Jubilee celebrations.

Host Abingdon are now in conversation with people from Christ Church, North Abingdon, about a response to Ukrainian need. Here are the suggestions so far:

- Community Café with Conversation: Revd Kath Cooke from Long Furlong is keen to set up an initiative on these lines, with help from those who used to run the Cake and Conversation group at St Edmund's. It's likely to be based at Northcourt Road and sometimes St Ethelwold's
- A support hub: Host Abingdon hope to have some sessions for hosts to share and support each other. There should be support from Vale Community Liaison Officers to develop peer support and learning
- Qualified ESOL teachers have been coming out of the woodwork; Host Abingdon hope to be able to matchmake between them and local Ukrainian guests

We are uncomfortably aware that many **Afghan** refugees are still stuck in temporary accommodation, unable to cook a meal, uncertain where in the UK they will be sent.

- Host Abingdon is hoping to offer occasional hospitality to a group of Afghan women and toddlers on a Wednesday morning

This all means there are ways some of us could think of helping:

- Join the Café and Conversation team
- Help support local hosts
- Meet and support Afghan women on a Wednesday morning (one need here is for people to make green tea and goodies for them)
- Teach English (if qualified to do so)
- Be part of an expanded Host Abingdon steering group to help the move into these new projects
- Think of something as good or better that could be done in Abingdon
- If nothing else, or with, under, over and before anything else, pray for local efforts and for displaced people across the world. Being driven from home could happen to anyone. It will happen here when the Thames floods irrevocably.

If you would like to know more about the work of Host Abingdon, do ask Mary Anderson (mary.fulani@gmail.com) or Gwen Bevington (gwenbev31@tiscali.co.uk; Tel 521133).

More Jubilee Photos:

With thanks to Margaret Horton, Rob and Rosalind Rutherford





Louise Heffernan

On May 28th Waitrose in Abingdon supported the Foodbank in a promotion of its invaluable work. Volunteers from both north and south foodbanks (Christchurch and Preston Road) chatted to customers about the work of the Foodbank and its importance in the current economic times of hardship for many. Many customers stopped to talk to the teams and were extremely generous in making donations of both cash and goods. Just under 200kg of food and £173 in cash/gift cards was collected. These donations will go to families and single people struggling to make ends meet and to feed their children and themselves.

The charity wishes to thank all those who so generously gave on the day and who continue to do so each week. And a huge thank you to our local Waitrose and staff members (especially Nicole) who allowed this event to take place and supported it wholeheartedly.



To remind you of what you might donate, a typical food parcel includes:

Cereal
 Soup
 Pasta
 Rice
 Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce
 Lentils, beans and pulses
 Tinned meat
 Tinned vegetables
 Tea/coffee
 Tinned fruit
 Biscuits
 UHT milk
 Fruit juice

And non-food items:

Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes

Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid

Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons

Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food

Toddler Jubilee

Rosalind Rutherford

By Monday July 6 most people were returning to work and putting the bunting away after 4 days of Jubilee celebrations. However, St Helen's Baby and Toddler group, which meets in the parish centre, was preparing for a morning of Jubilee themed activities. Beside the usual toys, including the princesses, knights and unicorns play people, the children could make a jewelled crown, a cardboard model of a queen with more jewelled stickers, and ice celebratory biscuits. We ended the morning with some royalty linked songs. The celebratory family atmosphere was added to because on this occasion, we invited older brothers and sisters whose schools had inset days to join the toddlers. It was lovely to see some of the toddlers who we had last seen at the group in March 2020 before lockdown, but who now are at school.

Numbers at the group are gradually increasing after the last two years, but if you or anyone you know might like to come to the group, do get in touch. We have a few committed volunteers but if there is anyone who could help either on a rota or occasionally when someone else is away, we'd love to hear from you. The toddler group welcomes families from across Abingdon and helpers come from across the Parish.



Email: bandt.sainthelen@gmail.com



Sweet treats from the CIA

Louise Heffernan

As part of the jubilee celebrations the Church in Abingdon welcomed local people to their tent in Rye Farm Meadow on 2nd June. A prayer space was created so that people could reflect and give thanks amidst the hurly burly of the royal festivities. Children of all ages from tinies to teenagers were made welcome in a culinary area where they could have fun decorating cakes and biscuits. This proved a huge hit and more than 175 children came along to try their hand at icing (and no doubt eating) the delicious cakes and biscuits. The children were helped by an enthusiastic band of helpers led by Jane



Cadogan (who made over 200 biscuits, some round and some crown shaped) in preparation for the event. Joyce Kelly, Victoria Margetts, Carol Bowman and Beryl Clements

assisted Jane in managing the children and they were all gratified by the enjoyment of the children and their appreciation of the gifts of cakes and biscuits. Children also enjoyed the craft table which was organised by Debbie McKnight and having their faces painted by Ellie Ball and her team from Abingdon Vineyard Church.



Ringling for the Jubilee

Eluned Hallas

The bells at St Helen's & St Nicolas' ring for Services Sunday by Sunday, but have been extra busy these past few weeks ringing for weddings, special Services (Ascension Day) and to celebrate the Jubilee:

On 2 June the bells of St Helen's rang for the rousing service for all to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. On Friday 3 June the ringers rang a Quarter Peal at St Nicolas' timed to coincide with national ringing marking the Service of Thanksgiving being held at St Paul's Cathedral. Abingdon ringers were also able to ring a Quarter Peal at Marcham to celebrate the Jubilee there.

A peal was rung at St Helen's on Saturday 4 June.

And last but not least, the bells of St Nic's rang out during the 'bun throwing'.

We thank the ringers for all their ringing which contributes so much to the church, and the town.

Trinity Learning Update

Nicola Williams



Almost half-way through the summer term and we're as busy as ever at TrinityLearning! Read on for an update about this year's online Experience Easter, what's coming up for us this term, and could you be our new TrinityLearning Chair of Trustees?

Experience Easter Update

Our 2022 online Experience Easter event proved to be popular, with 384 children's resource packs delivered to six schools across Abingdon. We also had some lovely feedback including,

"This is a lovely, well thought out workshop. Thank you for your generosity."

"As a teacher with a Christian faith, I find the way you present the gospel uplifting and the reflection activities are accessible and spiritually valuable to children of no faith, or a non-Christian faith or who do have a Christian faith."

We always welcome feedback (good or bad!) on our projects but it's really encouraging to know that despite being online for a second year, Experience Easter is still a meaningful project for schools to be involved with. Thank you once again to all our volunteers who worked so hard with us to make this year's event happen.



Making a Difference week

We're delighted to be involved in this year's 'Making a Difference' (MAD) week at Larkmead school. This event was planned pre-Covid but is just getting started this year and offers 6th form students a chance to work on a project with a local charity, group or not-for-profit organisation.

TrinityLearning's project is our Toolkit for Happiness Workshops which focus on improving children's feelings of well-being through nature, physical exercise, acts of kindness, creativity, relaxation and reflection. The 13 Larkmead 6th form students who will work with us during MAD week in July will receive training to enable them to deliver the workshops to the current year 7 pupils at Larkmead school - about 150 pupils in all.

Thinking Books and ongoing volunteer opportunities

Thinking Books is TrinityLearning's mentoring scheme for primary schools. Our volunteer mentors go into schools regularly to meet children one-to-one or in small groups. They share reading of carefully selected books which start conversations about feelings and relationships. Thinking Books volunteers commit to weekly one hour sessions in a local primary school. TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks.

We still have volunteering opportunities which are more socially distanced, such as helping to tidy up school gardens, or which can be done from home, such as knitting or crocheting tiny teddy bears to include in our child bereavement packs for adults working with bereaved children. If you are interested in volunteering for TrinityLearning, either in a socially distanced capacity, or in a school-based role, such as Thinking Books mentoring, please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

Could you be our new Chair? TrinityLearning is looking for a new Chair of Trustees for our small, church-funded charity which works to improve the wellbeing of students and staff in local schools. This is an interesting and varied role with the Chair providing inclusive, strategic leadership for the trustees (and staff) and ensuring all trustees fulfil their duties and responsibilities for the proper governance of Trinity.

As a charity working with volunteers and young people, TrinityLearning is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all those with whom it works. The Chair, alongside all the other trustees, is expected to hold DBS clearance and the relevant safeguarding training. A keen interest in children and enthusiasm for promoting their needs is essential. If you would like an informal chat about this voluntary role please email Nicola, our Education Development Officer on nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com



The power of touch

Mary Anderson

A Review of 'The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance'

by Edmund de Waal

Published by Vintage, 2010



The title of this book belies the sweeping panorama of history contained within its pages. Who would have thought that an apparently insignificant set of Japanese miniatures could so remarkably follow the fortunes of a secular Jewish family in Europe? Netsuke are carved toggles that help to fasten the opening of a container for personal belongings (money, seals, ...) hidden under a kimono. Over time, they became an art form, especially in the early- to mid-19th century.

Apart from the netsuke themselves, the protagonists in the book are members of the author's family, the Ephrussi, who initially moved across borders with ease. They started in Berdichev, west of Kiev in Ukraine, and then established a banking business in Odesa on the Black Sea, based on the wealth generated by grain exports. The diaspora led some of them to Paris, where Charles Ephrussi was swept up in the artistic movements of the time, as friend and patron of Degas, Renoir, Rilke and Proust. Like many wealthy people, he was fascinated by Japanese art and design, and this *Japonisme*, prompted him to buy his collection of netsuke.

When his cousin Viktor got married in Vienna, Charles sent his magnificent collection of netsuke as a wedding gift. The young couple were not sure what to make of them, but their children loved playing with them. The power of touch: these were not toy soldiers, they were beautifully carved objects – an ivory hare with amber eyes, a tiger carved from boxwood, rats tumbling around a hazelnut – with a smoothness of sheen, a distinctive patina. The family's Viennese maid recognised their value, and with the *Anschluss*, when Hitler annexed Austria in 1938, the family were banished from their home, their palace, indeed from Austria. They fled penniless to Czechoslovakia and eventually to England. But their maid Anna cunningly hid the tiny miniatures in her mattress, and when Vienna was liberated in 1945, she met with the author's grandmother Elisabeth and returned the netsuke to the family.

Elisabeth's brother Ignace, or Iggy, was a cosmopolitan man involved with fashion design in New York and Hollywood, and when the US entered WW2, he was at the Normandy landings. He ended up in General MacArthur's reconstruction of post-war Japan. For Iggy, this was a new, exciting world, the making of him, and he would spend the rest of his life in Tokyo. But not before 'bringing home' to Japan the family collection of netsuke and displaying them for all to see.

The netsuke had travelled full circle.

On Iggy's death, the author, who is a renowned ceramicist (and son of spiritual director and author Esther de Waal), brought the netsuke collection to London, where he and much of his family now live. What a journey.

The book is a gripping account of family diaspora, the accumulation and loss of wealth, the rise and fall of empire. But it is also a reflection on how beautiful objects impart a secret sense of continuity through touch and through story. I think of how I love the touch of a conker, how I can stroke and fidget it in my pocket for days. It seems that netsuke are even more powerful, as emblems of beauty, craftsmanship and history. In the words of the author:

Objects have always been carried, sold, bartered, stolen, retrieved and lost. People have always given gifts. It is how you tell their stories that matters.

And that is exactly what Edmund de Waal has achieved: the story of an immensely human family, rich and poor, victims and survivors, multilingual and accomplished. This book is a *tour de force*.

Abingdon-on-Thames PCC

A brief summary of the PCC Meeting on 24 May provided by Eluned Hallas:

Richard Kirby was confirmed as the **Parish Electoral Roll Officer**, and thanked for his work in the role. Note: each Church has an ERO, responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of that Church's section of the Parish roll:

St H – Kate Burland

St M – Keith Bowman

St N – Eluned Hallas

Safeguarding: Clergy and Church Safeguarding Officers will meet to discuss new Diocesan training guidelines and ensure that all Parish training is up to date and the Parish complying with best safeguarding practice.

Plans for a PCC Away Day to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the Parish post pandemic were agreed.

Fr Paul's Sabbatical (August-November) was noted, and arrangements discussed.

A Night at the Opera

Alex Titcombe

My first experience of the opera was a school trip to Covent Garden to see Mozart's Magic Flute. This was before the days of electronic translations projected above the stage. Needless to say, I had little idea what was going on or what was being sung about, but I was impressed by the sheer scale and complexity of the performance. Orchestra, chorus, soloists all being held together by the Conductor (Maestro, I later learned). I continued to listen to recordings of opera, always mindful of the 'musical chills' of a top C, or a Wagner prelude or overture!

My interest further developed later in life as I followed the progress of a close family friend on his journey to becoming a top Opera conductor (Alexander Soddy). In 2017 he was invited to conduct 'La Boheme' at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and we decided to travel there and join his family for the occasion.

The Met is the largest opera house in the world with 3,850 seats and employs 3,000 people. Once we had helped our taxi driver, who clearly was not an opera fan, find the Lincoln Centre (the clue was a donkey and cart on a parking meter alongside the Lincoln Centre, presumably waiting for Act 2 set in the Latin Quarter of Paris), we made our way to our seats to soak up the atmosphere and entrance of the Conductor, someone we had known for virtually all his life. The production designed by Franco Zeffirelli was magnificent (and there was the donkey and cart in Act 2)

The sense of occasion, the sheer scale of the opera house, the size of the chorus and the scenery and the ability of the soloists to project their voices is extraordinary. The conductor has to conduct not only the orchestra, but also the chorus and the soloists, sometimes off stage, ensuring that the correct balance between singers and orchestra is maintained, and still following the nuances and free flowing styles of the various soloists and putting his own stamp on the performance. No wonder the conductor is referred to as 'Maestro'.



Following the Opera, still on a high after the drama and emotion of what we had seen and heard, we were invited backstage. If you can imagine the size of the stage, there is as much space above it and behind it to house all the scenery, lighting, including all the scenery changes. In addition, after every performance, all the scenery has to be taken down, packed up and moved into a large truck to be taken away for storage, before the new scenery, costumes etc are moved in for the next

night's performance of a different opera. (During the season, there is a different opera every night). Those who have had the opportunity to watch some of the Met's Operas being performed live at Cineworld in Didcot or Oxford, will have seen how all the scenes are changed and set up in the interval. It is remarkable how the many personnel involved manage to complete the changes of scenery in the allocated time!



We were shown round all of the back stage area and saw first hand the logistical challenges of putting on a different opera every night. Truly an experience of a life time... and I almost forgot, the Opera was amazing as well!

Events June – July 2022

50th Anniversary of Revd Canon Charles Masheder's Ordination



Canon Charles at his ordination in 1972



The 50th Anniversary of the ordination of the Revd Canon Charles Masheder will be marked by a service at **St Helen's** at **3pm on Saturday 2nd July 2022**.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The service will be followed by a Parish Tea in the south aisle of the church. We have all appreciated Charles' contribution to our Parish life not least during the pandemic so this will be a lovely occasion to offer him congratulations and thanks.



Garden Tea Party

3-5pm Sunday 26th June 2022

St Ethelwolds House
30 East St Helen St, Abingdon,
OX14 5EB

Tickets £8 available:
Online: www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk
Or at the Bookstore Abingdon and on the Door

Proceeds go to Abingdon Passion Play









Amici della Voce present 'The Baltic Connection'

Directed by David Crown

**St Nicolas Church, Market Place
Sunday 3 July 3pm**

Featuring Gorecki: 'Totus tuus', Pärt 'Magnificat', Pärt 'Tridion',
Miškinis 'If the day is done', Dubra 'Ave Maria' – 1, 2 and 3, Esenwalds 'Evening'

Tickets £10 on the door or from

<https://abbeychamberconcerts.org/event/the-baltic-connection-with-vocal-octet-amici-della-voce/>

Quiz: The Mashedder Years!

Eluned Hallas, Louise Heffernan and Rob Rutherford with a bit of help from Mr Google

Identify the years between 1972 and 2022 in which the following events took place. Answers on p 15

- 1 Jonny Wilkinson's famous drop goal, scored with 26 seconds left to play, wins the rugby world cup final for England
- 2 Abba wins the 19th Eurovision Song Contest
- 3 An accident occurred at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant
- 4 Annus Horribilis according to the queen
- 5 Barack Obama became POTUS
- 6 Death of Nelson Mandela
- 7 Emma Raducanu wins the US Open Tennis
- 8 First UK coalition Govt since WWII
- 9 Grenfell Tower fire
- 10 Harold Wilson resigns as PM
- 11 Launch of the Hubble space telescope
- 12 London hosted the Olympic Games
- 13 Louise Brown was born in this year (after in-vitro fertilisation)
- 14 Margaret Thatcher becomes PM
- 15 Nelson Mandela elected president of RSA. The Channel Tunnel opens.
- 16 Prince Charles marries Camilla Parker Bowles
- 17 Publication of first Harry Potter novel
- 18 Queen Elizabeth II became the longest-reigning UK monarch ever
- 19 Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon
- 20 The Berlin Wall begins to come down
- 21 The International Astronomical Union creates the first formal definition of a planet, and excludes Pluto from the list.
- 22 The Watergate scandal started in this year
- 23 The year of the Falklands War
- 24 There was a major fire at Notre Dame
- 25 This year was regarded as one to avoid



The *Friends* of
St HELEN'S CHURCH
 ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

On Thursday 23rd June at 7.30pm: Professor Geoff Meen, one of our church wardens, will give an illustrated talk about Housing, Wealth and Deprivation in Abingdon. This will be in the South Aisle of the church, and we encourage you to spread the word by inviting all your friends to come and hear about this important topic.

Puzzle Answers:
 Don't peek yet

1984	25
2019	24
1982	23
1972	22
2006	21
1989	20
2001	19
2015	18
1997	17
2005	16
1994	15
1979	14
1978	13
2012	12
1990	11
1976	10
2017	9
2010	8
2021	7
2013	6
2009	5
1992	4
1986	3
1974	2
2003	1
Year	Question



TOM GAULD for NEW SCIENTIST

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.** See page 6 for more details.

You can also make donations by sending a cheque made out to *North Abingdon PCC Christ Church*, clearly marked 'for Food Bank' or 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, adapted
from Robert
Leighton of the
New Yorker via
Social Media



*“Show of hands—how many of you need to
~~hear all three movements?~~
.... sing all seven verses*

Thanks to all contributors and to you, the readers.

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

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