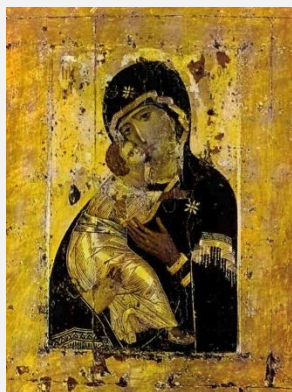


Issue 7:  
September 2022



The Virgin of Kyiv  
known by some as the  
Virgin of Vladimir

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A candle in...

THE

# WINDOW

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



The tolling of a solitary bell rang out from the towers of our churches at 12 noon on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September:

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty. Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

---

## The summer of 22

Inflation; war in Ukraine; drought in Britain; floods in Pakistan; worrying energy costs and now a new Prime Minister and a new King. This issue contains few comments on the challenges ahead of us - but nevertheless you will find some interesting reflections on the month just past....

## The Transfiguration

Elizabeth Birch

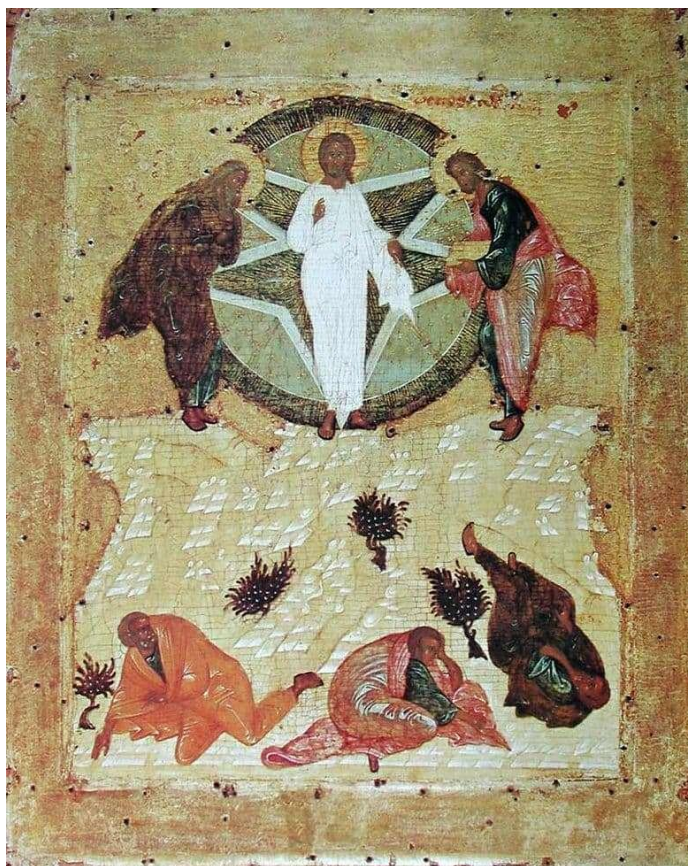
In the aftermath of the Feast of the Transfiguration at the beginning of August, I've been continuing to reflect over the last few weeks on the meaning and occasions of transfiguration both within Scripture and beyond it. We tend to think of the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mt Tabor as the only transfiguration but there are others too - occasions when human beings occasionally glimpse the holiness of God in a significant and very physiological way.

One of the crucial characteristics of transfiguring experiences is that they belong almost entirely within the eye of the beholder. The person or context which suddenly seems different, remains unaffected in itself, seemingly unaware of the cataclysmic effect on those whose seeing is suddenly so radically altered. That applies most notably perhaps when Moses comes down Mt Sinai after communing with God and his face shines with the reflected radiance of God, what Jewish people refer to as the '*shekinah*' – the divine light and glory of God. Moses is seemingly unaware of any change in the way he looks but the Israelites' perception is totally transfigured.

*'When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant and they were afraid to come near him'*  
(Exodus 34:29-30)

In the Gospels we see this, of course, at The Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain-top where Jesus himself seems completely unaffected by an experience which fills the disciples with profound fear, wonder and systemic stupefaction. Something that is graphically depicted in Eastern Orthodox icons where the disciples are always represented falling headlong down the rocky scree of Mt Tabor, literally bowled over, so pole-axed are they by what they have seen.

The same dynamic applies when the shepherds at Bethlehem look up at the Christmas sky and see, in the moonlight, not just the familiar stars that have kept them company on so many occasions of watching over their flocks by night, but the angel of the Lord and the angelic host singing and praising God. (Luke 2:9, 13-14) The angels' song, by implication, both predates and postdates the shepherds' experience of it. Nothing interrupts, or disrupts, it; but for the shepherds, who suddenly see differently, the experience is the opposite - life-changing to the extent that they abandon their flocks (and by implication their livelihood) to go down into Bethlehem *'and see this thing that has come to pass which the Lord has made known to us'* (Luke 2:15) as the familiar Christmas reading tells us. And, as on Mt Tabor, the watchers are filled with fear, so disturbing does the experience feel.



Rublev: Icon of the Transfiguration

We find the same thing again at the third transfiguration in the Gospels at the empty tomb when the women enter the stone cavern and see not the body wrapped in the shroud that they expect but an angel

whose *'appearance was like lightning and his clothes were white as snow'* (Matthew 28:3) Luke's version has two angels *'in clothes that gleamed like lightning'* but essentially Luke's narrative is the same. In all these transfigurations, the watchers seem unprepared for what they suddenly see and for all of them the impact is terrifying and destabilising. Their expectations are confounded; the way they have always encountered the world comes to an abrupt end and they are changed forever. I say they seem unprepared but that is not quite true – they may be surprised, shocked and terrified by what they see but they are also open to God, they are receptive to the holy, they are able to respond and grow as a result.

It's easy to think that transfigurative experiences like these belong only in the pages of Scripture, that we, here on earth, in the 21st C will never get the kind of visionary glimpses that Peter, James and John got on Mt Tabor, the shepherds encountered on Bethlehem Down and the women found in the garden just outside Jerusalem but we might do well to hold fire on that assumption. We may not encounter a transfiguration with a capital 'T' but there are all sorts of lesser transfigurations that human beings can and do encounter and these too, like the biblical ones, can take us straight into God's presence.

And they happen when we too find the way we see the world profoundly altered all of a sudden. There are a number of contexts that come to mind where that may occur – at the conception or birth of a child; at the death of someone close to us, whether or not that death is expected; when we fall in love; when we reach new maturity in our thinking or understanding; when we discover new capacities, creativity or depths in ourselves; when carefully laid plans suddenly collapse like a house of cards, for some reason; when external circumstances such as a pandemic, or the outbreak of a war throw everything we've regarded as fixed, or certain, up in the air; at the onset of illness or the occurrence of an accident; on receiving an unexpected diagnosis or finding ourselves in an emotional crisis; a realisation, gradual or abrupt that someone we thought we knew and took for granted has changed; etc etc Like the disciples, the shepherds and the women we may find ourselves bewildered and seriously frightened on these occasions.

We may or may not have reassurance tangibly mediated to us by Jesus or the angels but we would be foolish to think God is not as present to us as he was to Peter, James and John, the shepherds or the mourning women. In fact, it's in these kinds of contexts where the way we see ourselves, the world and other people shifts radically, that we may find God is a great deal closer to us than in more plainsailing contexts.

Few of us thrive on shock but for most of us life will contain a fair few shocks, both positive and negative ones, and part of our Christian calling is to recognise that despite that feeling of awful destabilisation and sometimes outright shipwreck that can accompany a shock, these are often the times when we may glimpse something of the radiance and all-powerful presence of the living God. It may only be a fleeting moment or it may stay with us for a while; it may come in a flash or be something that builds up more gradually but the longer I live, the more I think it's important to be open to it. The Holy is threaded through the fabric of the world and our lives. We can find it difficult to see that in the ordinary run of events but every now and again, our focus is jolted by something and we may get a brief reminder that *'The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out like shining from shook foil'*. (Gerard Manley Hopkins)

When that happens, we are gifted with a reminder not just of the sheer, radiant beauty of God but also his power which ultimately holds us and our entire existence and on which we rest our hope and our faith.

*'His radiance is like the sunlight; he has rays flashing from his hand, and there is the hiding of his power.'* (Habbakuk 3:4)

*The feast of the Transfiguration is celebrated on August 6th*

## Our Pilgrimage to Oberammergau

*Tom Bewley*

It was at about 6.00pm on Tuesday 12 July, just over 12 hours before we were due to leave from St Helen's for Heathrow, that the dreaded news arrived: our Lufthansa flight to Munich had been cancelled! Surely this special trip, over three years in the planning, with some of the original pilgrims no longer able to travel, five 'survivors' just safe to travel after recent bouts of Covid (two others, sadly, struck down that morning), was not destined to founder at the last moment!

Fortunately not! By mid-morning on the Wednesday we had been re-booked on an early evening flight and our holiday could begin. We eventually arrived in pretty good shape at Hotel Gutshof in Strobl by Lake Wolfgang near Salzburg at 3.00am the next morning, together with a larger group from a parish near Woking.

Our first four days were perfectly balanced between time to ourselves and two day-trips, first to Salzburg and then on Saturday a tour of local lakes and mountains, accompanied by our friendly and informative guide Brigitta. It was so interesting to discover that for centuries Salzburg was virtually a separate state under the jurisdiction of its archbishop; inside the cathedral, after an impressive organ recital McCabe (the tour administrators) had arranged a special visit to the Sacristy, where we were able to admire the fine marquetry of the panelling and enjoy a delicious liqueur. Following this, we went down to the crypt, where Charles Miller led a short service, before we dispersed individually for lunch, with some of our group taking the funicular up to the castle.

For me the highlight of the next day was morning worship at the modern monastery chapel at Gut Aich, followed once again by wine tasting! We continued on in our coach to enjoy the spectacular scenery in wonderful sunny weather (but avoiding England's heatwave) and visit other small towns and churches, including the rather special Fisherman's Pulpit at Traunkirchen.

Sunday began with a communion service taken by Charles for members of both congregations; afterwards most people bought a day ticket for the boats travelling around Lake Wolfgang. Two popular destinations were the mountain railway up the Schafberg for more spectacular views and the Mozart Museum in St Gilgen, home to Mozart's mother and his only surviving sister Anna Maria.

### The Passion Play



We arrived in Oberammergau just after 3.00pm on the Monday and were dropped off at our different hotels before being given a short tour of the town by our McCabe guide Daniel. Born in England, he has lived there for some time and two of his children are involved in the play for the whole season, so he had plenty of insider knowledge to pass on to us. He also provided each of us with a translation of the play; although there was barely time to do more than skim through the text, it was very helpful as the actors would, of course, be speaking German.

The whole experience is unique: a five-hour drama in two parts, split by a 3-hour interval for dinner, on a vast stage covering the last week of Jesus's human life, starting with his entry into Jerusalem on a donkey – not the only animal to appear, with horses, goats and even camels later on! Important scenes involving

his disciples, Pilate, Caiaphas, Herod and scores of additional characters were interspersed with inspiring music, sung by an enormous choir, punctuated with tableaux from important Old Testament stories such as the Golden Calf in *Exodus*. I could but marvel at the way in which several hundred performers seemed just to melt away seamlessly to be replaced by the choir and vice-versa. Very impressive!

One source of controversy was the design and colour of the costumes: all the disciples were clothed identically, which made them very difficult to distinguish, apart from Judas, portrayed very sympathetically: in this version, we are left in no doubt that he betrayed Jesus with the aim of inspiring him to reveal his divine powers.

However, that is a minor quibble. We became absorbed by all the political pressures in 1<sup>st</sup> Century Palestine, especially in the second half, alongside the tension within Jesus himself, fulfilling his divine role while at the same time suffering unbearable physical pain on the cross.

The resurrection scene constituted a small but hugely significant part of the whole. For the first time, women took centre stage, with Mary Magdalene and Mary of Clopas meeting the Angel in the garden and realising that Jesus has risen from the dead. It is left for us to reflect and interpret the spiritual significance of this momentous event.

Everyone will have experienced this performance of *The Passion* in their own individual way; but everyone attending will carry the memory of this evening for the rest of their life. Only eight years to go till the next opportunity!



*Some of the pilgrims!*

## Greenbelt 2022 - Wake Up

*The Kimber Family*

*If you were to call into our house right now, you would find most furniture had disappeared under camping equipment, newly purchased books, and thoroughly filthy socks. This is because we have been to Greenbelt.*

Greenbelt is an arts, faith and activism festival that has been running for 49 years. It brings together thousands of predominantly Christian families and young people each August bank holiday weekend. With 800 volunteers running the festival, 18 separate venues are constructed in the spacious grounds of Boughton House, Northamptonshire, making both an immersive experience and a diverse one. The sessions include comedy standup, discussion groups, Christian services, craft activities, book signings, music performances (from choral music to punk rock) and child-friendly venues.



*The Greenbelt Main Stage before the communion service*

The majority of attendees camp in their own tents, supported by pop-up shops for provisions, dozens of food concession vans, three cafes, and two pub tents serving alcohol (The Jesus Arms and The Blue Nun). It is possible to visit on a 'day ticket' basis or to commute in from local hotels, and there is also a 'glamping' field for those who can't easily set up their own tents. The spirit of the festival is modern inclusive Christianity that cares deeply about LGBTQ+ Christians, people with disabilities, the environment, and economic justice issues across the world.

The largest single event is the main Sunday communion service – this year's theme was averting the climate crisis – and the many speakers and performers invited are diverse and international. There were over 300 possible sessions to choose from, of which the Kimber family attended about 26: that gives an indication of the scale of what was on offer in the four days. Here are our brief reflections...

### **Martin:**

2022 was the ninth time we have attended the festival – our first was the terribly wet year in 2012 where Greenbelt suffered significant flooding at its then Cheltenham racecourse site. Attending a festival with small children is now a distant memory, and after two years missed because of the pandemic, we had a tremendous experience in glorious weather this year, with our teenagers sometimes choosing their own festival paths independently. Highlights for me included a come-and-sing Hallelujah Chorus led by singers from St Martin-in-the-Fields, and a talk by Helen Coffey of The Independent about flight-free travel: both events were utterly suffused by the infectious positivity of this festival; it is so joyful.

**Edmund:**

One enjoyable event that takes place every year in the festival is ‘Beer and Hymns’. This involves, as the name suggests, drinking a soft or alcoholic cold drink—traditionally beer—whilst singing choral hymns. Most notably, ‘How Great Thou Art’ is usually sung at the end, with ‘Lord of the Dance’ and a Christmas carol also being featured. However, we of course must not forget those who are under eighteen when it comes to drinking. In 2022, the festival opened a new non-alcoholic bar called ‘Hope and Anchor’, which serves not only regular soft drinks, but also alcohol-free equivalents of beer, cider and prosecco. Another new venue is the ‘Rebel Rouser’, which is a small section of a forest where many punk rock bands play music. While the brilliance of this venue has not yet convinced the ‘Sex Pistols’ to reunite, particular highlights were the bands ‘Mouses’, ‘Duck’, and a swearsy Faroe Islands group called ‘Joe and the S\*\*tboys’.

**Philip:**

Alongside the various indulgences of eating, drinking and fun events, a large part of the festival for many is listening to talks about vital issues facing the world. These range from the intriguing and upbeat to the important and fundamental. A notable example of the latter category this year was former Chief Crown Prosecutor Nazir Afzal recounting his experiences prosecuting serious cases of sexual abuse. In a passionate talk with sometimes harrowing detail, he made clear the importance of trusting and listening to victims, particularly those from traditionally ignored backgrounds. Most striking for me was the way that hundreds of festival-goers had packed themselves into the slightly cramped marquee to listen, and when the crowd rose from their camping chairs to give a standing ovation, I realised this showed how much we care about these issues: that’s what Greenbelt is about.

**Catherine:**

Every year I come back from Greenbelt with new songs to sing and stories to tell. This year is no exception. As a family we enjoyed singing workshops, including one from John Bell and the Iona community, comedy club nights and a late night poetry session from Harry Baker. We also loved having a go at The Lock-in escape room, run from the Hope and Anchor. Clues were a delightful mix of Bible- and pub-themed, and we escaped in the respectable time of 28 minutes (see our victory photo). Packing up the campsite at the end of the festival feels like another kind of escape room puzzle, racing against time to get everything packed away, but also, not wanting the fun to be over.



## Review of Mami Shikimori's Piano Recital St Michael's Church, 21 August 2022

*Glynne Butt*

Concert pianist, Mami Shikimori has attracted much acclaim world-wide for her playing. BBC Music Magazine described it as 'sheer delight' and 'dazzling' while her recordings and broadcasts have received much critical acclaim. She has, not surprisingly, performed at major concert venues both in this country and abroad, so it was an unmissable opportunity for us to hear her in Abingdon and little wonder that St. Michael's was full to overflowing for her recital on the 21st August.



Mami opened her programme with a delicate and sparkling performance of a Haydn sonata before Beethoven's monumental 'Appassionata'. This is one of the greats of the piano sonata repertoire and is challenging for any pianist - but Mami's commanding and compelling performance gave little hint of this. The second half of her programme provided a display of pianistic virtuosity in a range of romantic and modern works and the enthusiastic audience demanded encore after encore before they finally let her go\*.

The whole occasion was further enhanced by St. Michael's legendary hospitality in the interval and also by the knowledge that we were supporting worthwhile causes. The £1350 raised was shared between the church itself and our two charities for this year: TAB and TARIRO.

None of this would have been possible without much hard work behind the scenes and our special thanks are due to Nicola Ng, the prime mover, whose idea it was and whose enthusiasm drew in a willing team of helpers. I couldn't help reflecting on a similar team effort some years ago when we sought to purchase a really special piano for the church. We did not at the time imagine what opportunities and performances lay in store!



\* These included a transcription by Earl Wild of Gershwin's 'I got rhythm' and, for encores, the Boogie Woogie Etude by Morton Gould and Debussy's last prélude.

The Gershwin can be heard on Mami Shikimori's Youtube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yRYcTeTgwM>



## A visit to Albania!

*Margaret Horton*

This summer I went on an aeroplane! It felt incredibly exciting after being grounded for two and a half years thanks to covid. It was not a long hop - just three hours - but it took me to another world; I visited the “Accursed Mountains” of Albania. Nobody knows where the name came from and they are known more mundanely as the Albanian Alps but they often became a place of refuge for local people fleeing invaders. Today they still have a remoteness about them but are dotted with villages and small hotels for hikers.

I had been to Albania before, about 12 years ago, when I did a tour of all the main sights like the magnificent Roman remains of Butrint, the hill top Medieval town and castle of Gjirokastra and the capital, Tirana. Then, there were far more remains visible of dictator Enver Hoxha’s rule like the little circular bunkers, a bit like flying saucers, built all over the landscape in readiness for the invasions he expected from neighbouring countries. It is estimated that over 170,000 of them were built in the 1970s but now only a few survive as tourist attractions and reminders of a time of great poverty and isolation for the people of Albania.

Today, it was good to see how Tirana is transforming into a bustling, go getting city, full of bars and cafes and a young, lively population.



A three-hour drive away into the mountains, however, it is a very different way of life. On our walks we stopped off at the summer homes of families who still move with their flocks of animals up to higher pastures for the months of May to August. We were fed with homemade cheeses, wine, pickles and bread. Very little English is spoken (and Albanian is a hard language to learn) but our leader translated for us as we learned all about their way of life. Although many of the younger generation are disappearing to the towns, it also seems that enough of them are happy to stay in the mountains and to continue this way of life. Tourism is growing and bringing money into the valleys, although I suspect it won’t be massive until better roads are built to access the area.

The scenery is certainly dramatic with steep, craggy limestone mountains, full of narrow valleys and rivers of the palest blue. It is heavily wooded but here and there are open pastures for the sheep and cattle.

However, I have to admit that I have few pictures of sparkling, sunny landscapes as it rained nearly every day we were there! Having been greeted by our guide with the news that Albania enjoyed 300 days of sunshine a year we felt particularly unlucky, especially when the thunderstorms affected the electricity supply and we frequently lost power. Perhaps that’s why they are known as the Accursed Mountains?



## Souvenir

Souvenir, to remember.  
Souvenirs,  
they came by boat  
the way I did,  
across a navy-furrowed sea  
from the mainland  
to this verdant rocky isle.  
Souvenirs, -  
a tangle of scarves  
patterned in swirls of crimson  
and bronze,  
leather belts tooled and polished,  
buckles gleaming,  
and pottery in ocean shades,  
ancient styles for modern times.

Souvenir, to remember.  
The need to tie our memories to something  
we can hold,  
though later we will forget  
and discard the scarf whose  
colours jar,  
the belt no longer stylish,  
and the asymmetrical vase,  
all out of place in our  
northern light.

Souvenir, to remember.  
The sea, banded in turquoise and gold,  
crinkled by the wind,  
a handful of shells ridged in  
brown and cream,  
twisty and curled, full of  
sea song,  
picked up on that beach,  
on that day, at low tide,  
while an impossibly large sun  
was eclipsed by the wide sea,  
a scattering of sand  
which falls out at home  
into an ordinary day.



Susan Gee

## Strictly come circle dancing!

*Sue Pemberton*

I used to do Scottish country dancing and have always enjoyed a good barn dance, so when I retired one of my priorities was to join the Thursday morning circle dance session at St Michael's. I very soon learned that circle dancing is a specific dance form with its own ethos, organisations and qualification for teachers.

Dancing is usually in a closed circle, focussing on a centre piece of a cloth, flowers/other decorations and candles/tealights. Dancers usually hold hands so there is a physical connection. Circle dance has a strong spiritual element but is for people of all faiths and none. At the end of the session, we come close together at the centre of the circle and think of people and situations that need the energy of the dancing and the light of our candles. Lights are then extinguished, symbolising the sending out of light and energy.

No special shoes or clothes are needed and partners are not required. Although we do our best to 'get it right', taking part is more important and there is a saying: 'there are no mistakes, only local variations'! Adjustments are made for physical capabilities – not all joints are quite what they once were! Again, there is a saying: 'dance as you are able' All dances are demonstrated by our teacher and then learned gradually. Dances may have several parts but are repetitive so it is easy to pick them up.



Dances fall into two main categories. First, there are traditional dances from around the world – Russia, Greece, Israel, the Balkans and many other countries. These dances would be danced typically at weddings or village celebrations. Then there are choreographed dances that are often more reflective and expressive and often linked to the natural world, the seasons etc. We dance to many different types of music including folk tunes, classical music, popular songs and even Christmas carols!

When the first lockdown hit, our sessions of course came to a halt. However, we quickly decided this was not an end to our dancing. Thanks to dance steps and links to music provided weekly by our teacher, Mary, we danced in our homes on Thursday mornings, lit a candle and sent the light out to each other. Together with an email list, this was a very powerful way of keeping in touch through the difficult days. Once outdoor exercise groups were allowed, we danced in Albert Park through the summers of 2020 and 2021. It was wonderful to be together again even if we couldn't make physical contact. We also provided interest and joy to passers by, gained a couple of new members and even had a few dogs joining the circle! Thankfully this year we have been able to return to normal.

There are three opportunities to get involved in circle dancing in Abingdon:

1. Thursday mornings 11am - 12pm at St Michael's led by Mary Williams, cost £2.
2. First Thursday of each month, 9.45am - 10.45am at St Michael's, 'Dancing into Stillness', led by Elizabeth Mitchell, cost £2. We dance to Taizé music with two periods of silence for personal reflection. We then enjoy a coffee kindly provided by St Michael's before the regular session.
3. Second Monday of each month, 7.30pm – 9.15pm at St Helen's Church Centre, led by Elizabeth Mitchell, cost £7

I am really pleased that I decided to take up circle dancing. I have made some lovely friends and it is good for body, mind and soul. We are lucky to have so many opportunities for circle dance in Abingdon with two knowledgeable and dedicated teachers. Do come and join us at one or more of these groups, you'll receive a very warm welcome.

## PCC News

*Eluned Hallas, PCC Secretary*

At the PCC Meeting in 28 July we

- Considered Safeguarding requirements across the varied activities of the Parish, and approved a revised Safeguarding Policy;
- Agreed to request that the Diocese extend Canon Masheded's Licence in the Parish for a further year;
- Agreed to request that the Diocese grant Mrs Sue Holligan (St N) Permission to Officiate as a LLM in the Parish;
- Elected Dr Hazel Glennie (St H) as a parish Deanery Synod Representative.
- Noted the discussions of the PCC Away Day, and considered the next steps;
- Established a Working Group to look at increasing the distribution of 'The Candle in the Window'

Over the next couple of meetings we will be

- Looking at how we welcome visitors and new members to our churches
- Drawing up the budgets for 2023

Please remember PCC and DCC members and meetings in your prayers and feel free to raise items for consideration at Church or Parish level with your representatives.

The Abingdon-on-Thames PCC (Parochial Church Council) consists of Church Wardens, Clergy and elected representatives from all three churches in the Parish. PCC Members are also Trustees of charity of the Parish of Abingdon on Thames. The PCC is responsible for the general running of the Parish, and the three churches, and for financial oversight. Day to day governance is delegated to the three District Church Councils (DCCs) which look particularly at activities in 'their own' church.

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## Children Heard and Seen - We asked for your help!

*Elizabeth Dawson*

A huge thank you to you all for all the amazing cakes you kindly provided for "Children Heard and Seen" (see the July Issue of this magazine). My little car was full to capacity, so it was an interesting drive to Hill End Camp! I was greeted by welcoming helpers who were thrilled to see the huge variety of cakes. They have asked me to pass on their thanks for your generosity.



### Harvest Festivals

St Michael's: 18<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am

St Nicolas': 18<sup>th</sup> September 11.15am

St Helen's: 25<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am



**St Helen's  
Macmillan Coffee Morning  
30th September  
Parish Centre Hall at 10.30am**

Donations of cakes or raffle prizes welcome or just come along and enjoy. All welcome.

### Macmillan Cancer Support



**16<sup>th</sup> October:** At 6.30 pm pilgrims to the **2022 Oberammergau Passion Play** will share their experiences with all-comers. Bavarian treats will be available to spoil appetites before supper! (venue: tbd)

## Events:

### Treasure Hunt

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October @ 3pm

£ 10 Per Team

Start Point: Abingdon Baptist Church

35 Ock Street OX145AG

Proceeds go to Abingdon Passion Play

Tickets available from The Bookshop and

[www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk](http://www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk)



**Abbey Chamber Concert at St Nicolas'  
Church  
9<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 3pm**

[Diana Hinds and Coral Lancaster: Beethoven and Janacek](#)

Diana Hinds and Coral Lancaster present Beethoven Cello Sonata no 4 in C (op 102 no 1), followed by Janacek's wonderful piano sonata 1.

Tickets £10, accompanied children free.

Available from

[www.abbeychamberconcerts.org](http://www.abbeychamberconcerts.org), at door, from 07775 904626, from the performers.



### Puzzle Page: Sudoku

Each row, column and each of the nine 3x3 square contain the digits 1 to 9

<b>3</b>								<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>			<b>9</b>		<b>6</b>			<b>3</b>
	<b>6</b>						<b>8</b>	
		<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>		
	<b>4</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>	
		<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>		
	<b>1</b>						<b>7</b>	
<b>6</b>			<b>8</b>		<b>4</b>			<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>								<b>2</b>

NEXT UP WE WILL  
DISCUSS THE TOPIC WITH  
SOMEONE WHOSE JOB IS  
TO BE A WELL RESEARCHED  
AND RESPECTED EXPERT  
IN THE AREA



AND IN THE  
INTEREST OF  
BALANCE WE  
WILL ALSO TALK  
TO AN IDIOT



@twisteddoodles

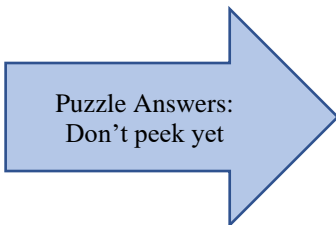
## There Is Nothing Like A Stick

*Eileen Duckett*

What is it with a boy and a stick,  
 It can be long or short and thin or thick.  
 It can be a sword, it can be a gun,  
 This simple thing affords lots of fun.

And where better to go than Albert Park  
 With its trees and dens it is such a lark.  
 My grandsons' pockets are full of fir cones,  
 A variety of leaves and even some stones.

But a stick is the thing they like best of all  
 And where do they end up but in my hall.  
 Cos although Grampy says leave them which makes them moan  
 Granny's a soft touch so they always bring them home.



7	8	4	3	1	9	6	5	2
6	2	5	8	7	4	1	3	9
9	1	3	6	2	5	8	7	4
8	3	7	1	5	2	4	9	6
2	4	6	7	9	3	5	1	8
1	5	9	4	6	8	3	2	7
4	6	2	5	3	7	9	8	1
5	7	1	9	8	6	2	4	3
3	9	8	2	4	1	7	6	5

## Useful Weblinks:

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

[abingdonparish.org.uk](http://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 the June issue 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, from  
Dave Walker of  
Cartoon Church

# SIDESPERSONS

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THEIR ROLE



PEOPLE WHO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS FROM THE SIDE AISLES



FRIENDS WHO ONLY ORDER CHIPS AT A RESTAURANT



PERSONS MADE UP ONLY OF SIDES



BACKING DANCERS FOR LITURGICAL ROUTINES

CartoonChurch.com

**Thanks** to all contributors and to you, the readers.

The next issue will be published in October: ideas and contributions to [Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk](mailto:Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk)

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