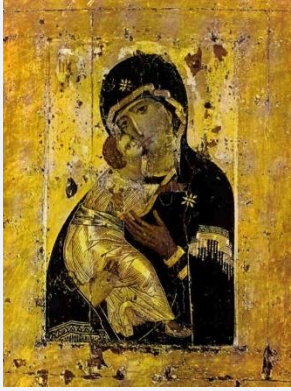


Issue 1:
February 2023



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

A candle in...

THE

WINDOW

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

This issue was shaped
by:

Rob Rutherford
Eluned Hallas
Louise Heffernan

Ideas for future
content to:
Candle@
abingdonparish.org.uk

Parish Office:
St Helen's
Court,
Abingdon.
OX14 5BS

Tel:
01235 520144
07395943957
E-mail:
administrator
@sthelens-
abingdon.org.uk



Swyncombe Churchyard February 2022 Photos by David Bevington
For details of Swyncombe Snowdrops in 2023, see <https://www.st-botolphs-swyncombe.info/events/>



Snowdrops, aconites and crocuses in the
Oxford Botanic Garden. January 31st 2023.
Photos by Rob Rutherford

Flowers like these are bringers of refreshment. A Sabbatical is a time of refreshment. In this issue, read about Fr Paul's sabbatical, read Gwen's thoughts on 'honest feedback', learn new things about G K Chesterton and about Africa, learn why Canadians like England, read seasonal poems and lots more!

‘Expect the Unexpected’: A Sabbatical Reflection

The Revd Paul Smith

After many years of wondering when, how, and what about a Sabbatical I ‘stepped into it’ feeling rather strange. After all, an application had been accepted for 2020 but the pandemic hit changed all that and it was postponed until August 2022. And it felt strange also because it didn’t feel quite right, not simply because my much hoped-for plan to travel to Australia had to be taken out of the whole scheme, but due to the expanse of space that lay ahead. I had all sorts of initial conflicting feelings about this ‘gift of time’: excitement; apprehension; ‘can’t be right’; and so on. It took a while, therefore, to settle into it, which is not uncommon.

It was suggested just before I began that I would likely receive unexpected blessings. On the second sermon, I heard said exactly that: ‘Expect the Unexpected’. And that seemed to be the underlying theme throughout the three months. That sense of not quite knowing how it would all work out; just how I would respond to all this time that I had been given; what would I learn; and what on earth would this learning to paint watercolour end up like?

There must be some kind of formal retreat as part of a sabbatical. I chose to go to Mucknell Abbey, just outside Worcester, home to the mixed Anglican Benedictine Community for around the last thirteen years. I had wanted to go for some time and it was wonderful. The community had sold their old residence, a Jacobean House at Burford now too expensive to upkeep, and purchased a large piece of land which was virtually an open space except for some small farm buildings. They had built a ‘sustainable’ monastery, which is beautiful in so many ways and with a stunning oratory. They grow as much of their own produce as possible and go only to the supermarkets for a small amount of meat and other products.

I was very comfortable, enjoying the peace and quiet of the surroundings and sharing the daily life of the community as well as their generous Benedictine hospitality. (Their homemade bread was simply scrumptious!) I was interested to learn that they have a full professed brother who is a Methodist minister. So, the community is both made up of men and women and has an ecumenical dimension in Brother Ian. Furthermore, I didn’t expect to find that the Guest Sister who greeted me, before entering the community, worshipped in the church where my father was baptized and that her vicar is a friend of over thirty years who was just one priest who nurtured my vocation.

I enjoyed meeting with Brother Michael, originally from France, a very gifted Icon writer. He currently has commissions to last him up to two or three years. He recently wrote an icon of the Annunciation for the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage. Brother Michael is a wheelchair user, following a serious accident a few years ago. It was a privilege to hear his story and to share experiences.

If you would like to learn more about the community their website is www.mucknellabbey.org.uk

My reference earlier to wondering how the watercolour painting was not something about which I should have been concerned. I had the great support and tuition from a member of the local group Abingdon Artists. She was fantastic: her first visit was memorable. We set up the table and to work! Moments into the session she said: ‘You’re a perfectionist, aren’t you?’ I asked her how she could be so perceptive and wondered if it was the way I was holding the brush! She told me that it was because she could see I was hesitating and didn’t want to make a mistake! (Of course I didn’t. My desire was to paint a good picture!!) She told me that watercolour was not the right medium for me if I was going to employ perfectionist tendencies in this new endeavour!

This unexpected insight from my tutor and challenge did not put me off. Far from it. As I went on over the weeks, I found to my great joy that this was to be the most life-giving part of the sabbatical. Knowing that sabbatical stems from the word ‘sabbath’, I had been strongly encouraged to use it as a time for refreshment and good rest, after many years of ministry. Painting certainly enabled me to do that. In the actual process of painting, of seeing things come to completion, I found myself praying in a way that I had

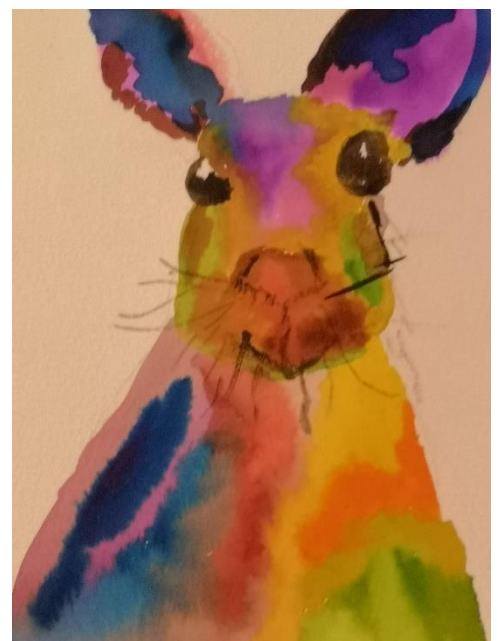
never done before, or certainly expected. Watercolour painting enabled me to consider why I was a perfectionist; to grapple with that sometimes insistent frustration that there are things we simply cannot control.

What else emerged from these weeks of painting is that after almost 23 years of ordained life I have now found my hobby! It is something which has that transforming ability and enables one to be completely absorbed. Like any interest one wishes to pursue, it requires discipline to make time for it. That I am committed to. It is a spiritual discipline for me.

But what did I paint? I found myself drawn particularly to landscape initially. That's how we began and the preliminary task was to trust the water to 'do the work', get the 'wash' right, learn how to create light, dark and shadow. I painted a series a paintings, using one or two colours only. These happened to coincide with the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth and as I was painting, the words of Psalm 121.1 came to mind: 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help' – words often used during the funeral rite, and sung as the Queen's coffin was processed into St George's Chapel, Windsor. So, the triptych below, which my tutor encouraged me to frame, is perhaps my best achievement during the sabbatical and dedicated to the memory of our late sovereign. Each picture, with its striking colour, imagines colours the Queen may have worn, given how she is remembered for her bright coats, dresses and hats!



In addition to landscapes I like painting animals, and in particular hares. They are beautiful creatures. My first hare was inspired by a greetings card and is known as 'The Proud Hare with a Firm Stare' because of his bright colours and the way he is looking out from the page. His stare is enough to challenge any kind of discrimination, prejudice or bullying.





More recently I have painted my second hare. She looks with longing it seems to me. A longing and desire for love and so the painting is entitled 'All I need is love....'

Every sabbatical involves some kind of study and my project involved exploring afresh some of the biblical texts of the gospel miracles. I was interested in considering some I have personally found challenging in common with other people in similar situations to myself. This was both rewarding and challenging in equal measure. I think perhaps the best book I read was 'My Body is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church' by Amy Kenny. The author sets out to rightly challenge the assumption on the part of the church that the way to fullness of life for those of us with disabilities can only be one thing: to be healed and 'normalised'. This attitude in the church was prevalent when I was growing up in the faith. I had some extraordinary experiences which would now be counted as serious abuse – not something to discuss here. The assumption that every disability is the same, everyone experiences not just malfunction of the body but also pain, is not true and challenged. As is the grave mistake that everyone with a disability, subscribes to this view and both *wants* to be healed and *should* be healed: hence the title of the book. I saw how much in common I had with Amy Kenny.

Finally, despite the change of my overseas plans, I certainly received unexpected blessings. I was blessed by a time of real sabbath; deep reflection on my vocation and ministry of over twenty years; and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. And the joy of the starting on the journey of learning to paint.

For all these things, for your support, and much more, I can only say – Thanks be to God!

Speaking the truth in love

Gwen Bevington

“You are all absolutely fantastic!” At my granddaughter’s Year 6 leavers’ assembly last year, that’s what all the speakers, including the local vicar, lined up to say to fifty 11-year-olds.

How did this sound to the children? Was it believable? Might it have helped if just someone had acknowledged the disappointments, the struggles, the less-than-fantastic moments of the previous seven years? Of course, each child is indeed fantastically, beautifully, wonderfully made; each one is precious. Nevertheless, I itched to hear anyone acknowledge that negative elements can exist.

On the same lines: a warden of Readers (LLMs) told the assembled Readers of a diocese (which shall be nameless), “You are all wonderful!” What, all of us? I obviously knew that one of us wasn’t wonderful. If he’d said, “The majority of Readers in this diocese reach an acceptable level of competence in ministry” – well, I might have believed him. In fact, I decided he was talking rubbish, and switched off from the rest of the sermon.

A few weeks after the above-mentioned leavers’ assembly, Angela Tilby, writing in the *Church Times*, picked up some of my questions from that day. She alleged that some youngsters, having been told throughout their school lives that they are fantastic, really believe that any employer is lucky to have them. They don’t need to go in every day, or turn up on time. They are too wonderful for that. Apparently, the guidance for teachers is: four affirmations to every criticism. Of course, in the past far too many children were needlessly rubbished, never recovered from a thoughtless put-down. We don’t want that. Do we, however, hold any concept that truth is important? Do we think that children (and others) can possibly pick up on insincerity? And if they/we do swallow it whole, does over-affirmation really help us? Don’t most of us need to know where we are weak, what we need God’s help to work on? Another memory: I wrote an article for our local community magazine on the Isle of Wight. The editor pointed out a couple of typos and one factual error, commenting, “I know I’m making myself unpopular with you.” I was astonished. Why would she not be ultra-popular, if she saves me from publishing something incorrect? I don’t want to be told something I do is faultless when it’s not. In terms of public ministry, I’m committed to doing it as well as I can – and nothing helps more than being told when I’m being irritating, where I could be more helpful.

But oh dear, this won’t do. In communities like those of our three congregations, generally speaking, we are very kind to each other - and we need to be. There are good reasons to be careful about making open criticisms. There is no way we can from now on always tell other people the unvarnished truth about their shortcomings. Not everyone does want to know, and we risk doing deep harm.

But, again. Could we could come at it from the other way on? Could we decide to send out a message, explicit or implicit, by our attitude, by the way we are, that we want to be told the truth? Please tell me gently, but do tell me. “A bruised reed he will not break”; God is gentle, but wants to lead us into truth. Love includes truth.

Any comments?

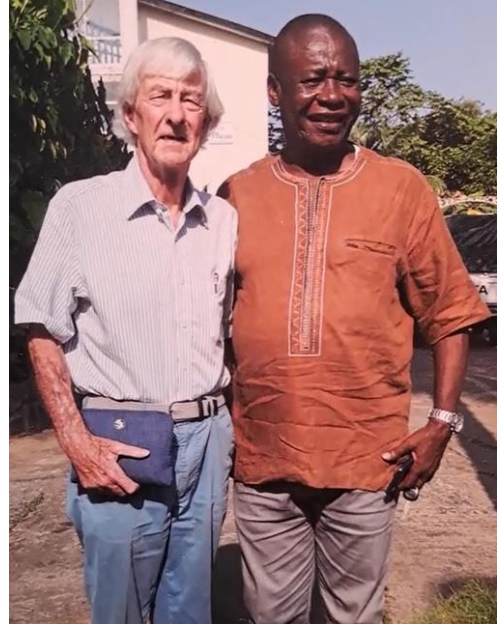
G K Chesterton

Peter Penfold

Towards the end of last year I was fortunate to be able to pay another visit to Sierra Leone. This time I was accompanied by my granddaughter Kate making her first visit to Africa; whilst there she helped mount an exhibition about Paramount Chiefs at the National Museum in Freetown.

Most of my time was spent meeting friends and colleagues and assessing the situation in the country as it prepares for important elections this coming June. I was, however, able to spend time with my Sierra Leone friend John Kanu and his family at their home in Waterloo outside Freetown. Our friendship goes back 20 years when John was studying at Oxford and he is now a World Bank agricultural consultant in Sierra Leone.

It was while he was at Oxford that John became familiar with G K Chesterton and it became a dream of his to establish a school for primary and secondary pupils dedicated to the memory and ideals of this British writer. Displaying dogged fortitude and rugged determination John made his dream come true and Kate and I had the immense pleasure of attending a ceremony at the Chesterton Academy in Waterloo commemorating its first year.



I must admit that initially I was somewhat puzzled why a school in Sierra Leone should be dedicated to a writer of a series of novels surrounding the antics of a fictional priest detective, Father Brown (the TV series continues to be shown today). Hitherto, to my great embarrassment, this was about all I knew about G K Chesterton. It clearly revealed a big gap in my knowledge and education. I was unaware of what a significant philosopher, theologian and moral thinker G K Chesterton was, and remains so to this day.

Born in London in 1874 Gilbert Keith Chesterton was a leading literary and social critic, illustrator, (he studied at the Slade School of Art), historian, playwright, novelist, theologian and apologist. He wrote around 80 books, several hundred poems, 200 short stories, and 4,000 essays, many for the Illustrated London News, for which he contributed a weekly column for 30 years.

He was the first President of the Detection Club. In 1935 he was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature. His writings greatly influenced a wide range of people from Michael Collins in Ireland to Mahatma Gandhi in India. In his day he was famous for his public debates with people such as George Bernard Shaw, H G Wells, Bertrand Russell and Hilaire Belloc.

He was an imposing character, standing 6 feet 4 inches and weighing around 20 stone, usually wearing a cape and crumpled hat with swordstick and cigar hanging from his mouth. He had a tendency to forget where he was supposed to be going, once famously sending a telegram to his wife saying “Am in Market Harborough. Where should I be?” to which she replied “Home”!

G K Chesterton advocated *distributism* - supporting a proposed third way between capitalism and communism – i.e. that there were sufficient resources in the world, e.g. sufficient food, wealth, etc, - they just needed to be distributed more evenly. He wrote:

“There are two ways to get enough. One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less.”

A devout Christian, he moved from High Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism and was noted for his many insightful quotations often related to his deep faith:

“Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried.”
 “The problem of disbelieving in God is not that a man ends up believing nothing. Alas, it is much worse. He ends up believing anything.”
 “We make our friends; we make our enemies, but God makes our next door neighbour.”
 “I don’t need a church to tell me I’m wrong where I already know I’m wrong; I need a church to tell me I’m wrong when I think I’m right.”

I also like these two quotations; -

“Do not be so open-minded that your brains fall out”; and
 “I believe in getting into hot water; it keeps you clean”.

G K Chesterton died in 1936 aged 62. He is buried in the Catholic cemetery near his home in Beaconsfield down the M40.

A number of branches of the Chesterton Society have now sprung up around the world – in the United States (the headquarters), UK, Italy, Spain, Russia, Croatia, Norway, Singapore, Australia, Brazil and Chile - to evangelise through education, inspiring people to live joyful, holy lives, with G K Chesterton as a model of lay spirituality. My friend John Kanu has now established a branch in Sierra Leone, the very first in the whole of Africa. I am very grateful to him for ‘introducing’ me to G K Chesterton.

If you wish to support the Chesterton Academy school in Waterloo in any way, please let me know.

Ice

a
 stream
 not even a gleam,
 lost beneath ice, opaque glass,
 sparkling sheet of milky depths, holding

 its
 breath,
 twigs in frozen death’s
 embrace, small black signposts of
 winter, dead leaves trapped in its surface,

 a
 still
 life, framed by frosted
 banks overhung with silent
 trees, depleted, tight buds waiting:

 a
 shift,
 the earth slowly lifts
 to longer days, warm breath turns
 the key of winter’s lock, water flows.

Susan Gee

Candlemas

Wait and See (Simeon and Anna)

Richard Bauckham

In the drab waiting room
the failed travellers, resigned, sleep
on the hard benches, inured
to postponement and foul coffee.
Hope has given up on them.

There are also the impatient,
Pacing platforms, and the driven
purple with frustration, abusing
their mobiles, for the hardest part
of waiting is the not doing.

Truly to wait is pure dependence.
But waiting too long the heart
grows sclerotic. Will it still
be fit to leap when the time comes?
Prayer is waiting with desire.

Two aged lives incarnate
century on century
of waiting for God, their waiting room
his temple, waiting on his presence,
marking time by practising.

the cycle of the sacrifices,
ferial and festival,
circling outward, spiralling
towards a centre out ahead,
seasons of revolving hope.

Holding out for God who cannot
be given up for dead, holding
him to his promises – not now,
not just yet, but soon, surely,
eyes will see what hearts await.

Richard Bauckham is an internationally distinguished biblical scholar and theologian, and the author of many acclaimed books for specialist and general audiences, including the award-winning “Jesus and the Eyewitnesses” (Eerdmans) and “Jesus: A Very Short Introduction” (OUP). His poetry has appeared in various publications and this poem comes from “Tumbling Into Light” (Canterbury Press), his first collection. Richard lives in Cambridge and is a personnel friend of Norman and Elizabeth Dawson to whom he gave permission to reprint this poem.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



After a Covid break, it was good to be able to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Abingdon this year.

The week (actually 8 days see below) began with a Inter-Church Quiz on 21 January – which raised £177 for Tearfund.

The Baptist Church hosted the United Service on 22 January, and St Nicolas' the Noonday Prayer series on 23-27 January.

As usual, the Noonday Prayers were led by a different member of the CiA Clergy each day – with a brief reflection on a chosen bible passage, and a time of prayer. This year this was followed by a presentation from one or two of the many task groups supported by the Church in Abingdon (either through CiA donations, individual church support, or members' volunteering). Presentations outlined the work of the group, perhaps some current highlights or challenges and asked for prayer for particular aspects of their work.

What struck me most on the days I was able to attend, was the underlying theme of 'Listening'. Whatever else the group (Street Pastors, TAB, Christian Aid, Cafe 35, the Barns Café) might offer, a key component was to offer a listening ear, often followed by practical support.

This year also saw the compilation of a Prayer Booklet, giving a reflection, information and prayer points for each day. This may still be found at https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StN/resources/WofP4CU_2023.pdf

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, proposed by a Franciscan Friar, Father Paul Wattson, in 1908 is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January (the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul) bracketed by the feasts commemorating the Confession of St. Peter and the Conversion of St. Paul. The week, framed by these two feasts, highlights the foundation of Christian unity, built firmly on the faith of St. Peter and strengthened by the writings and example of St. Paul.

Let us give thanks for the work of the Church, and Churches, in Abingdon and for the task groups, and pray for continued growth in unity as we witness our faith in the world, and Abingdon, standing together for human rights, the protection of the Earth, and against injustice



Trinity Learning & Experience Easter:

We are delighted to (finally!) be returning to live Experience Easter in Trinity Church this year! Will you join us as a volunteer for the event?

We need volunteers to support in-church sessions with the schools that take part in Experience Easter between 14th March and the 24th March. Volunteers work from a script to tell a piece of the Easter Story and explain a simple activity. Training will be provided on Monday 13th March at 1pm and we ask that all Experience Easter volunteers try to attend the Training Session. Training will last approximately 30 minutes. Volunteers must hold an enhanced DBS linked to the DBS update service. Trinity Learning can help you apply for this if you do not currently have one but would like to volunteer. We will also provide some basic safeguarding training if needed. **Experience Easter** is a series of reflective workshops, specially developed by Trinity Learning to allow Key Stage 2 children (7 to 11-year-olds) to access the Easter Story in a meaningful way. It also uses stilling exercises and simple activities to allow the children to consider their emotions.

Over the last two years many of you have helped us to provide Experience Easter online (available at: https://trinitylearning.org.uk/experience_easter/ if you'd like to take a look). This year for Experience Easter 2023 we hope to offer schools the options of joining our online Experience Easter or visiting Trinity Church for a live Experience Easter.

World Day of Prayer: Taiwan

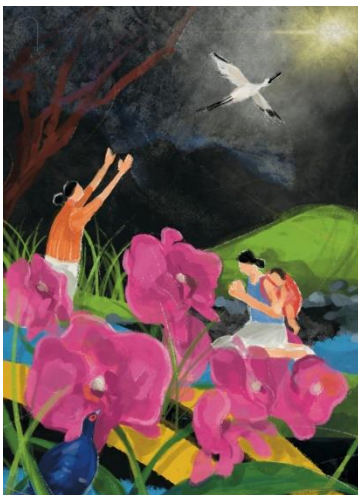
Rhianydd Hallas

We're fast approaching the World Day of Prayer, held every year on the first Friday of March: this year Friday 3 March. The focus of the 2023 service is 'I have heard about your faith' from Ephesians 1:15-19, and the service was written by the women of Taiwan.

As always, the National Committee have worked hard on this service. We received the materials from Taiwan in 2021, and from that polished the service, created free children's and youth activities (with a leader's resource sheet) which can be found on the website, wrote a bible reflection, and collated fascinating background information about Taiwan. The Taiwanese women have structured their service so that you hear women's stories as a series of letters written to them, and we encourage everyone to use the postcard of the artwork given in the order of service to send your own message of support and encouragement to someone you know.

More information about Taiwan and the services can be found on our website (wwdp.org.uk) or in the *Together in Prayer* magazine which I had the honour of editing. The magazine contains news from around the globe about the WDP's activities and both new and old members of the England Wales and Northern Ireland National Committee (Scotland has their own), anecdotes about the 2022 service written by women from England Wales and Northern Ireland, information from the 2021 Vanuatu service from committees across the world, and much more. We also have some wonderful updates from projects which received grants from us, which is only possible thanks to the incredible generosity of those who attend the World Day of Prayer services (for more grant updates check our website).

This year is a very special year for World Day of Prayer EWNI – it's the 40th anniversary of *Together in Prayer*. To commemorate the anniversary, this edition contains a special prayer booklet with the best prayers and meditations from the past 39 issues of the magazine, and even some special Welsh prayers (with English translations). Of course it also contains the traditional country background, with some truly spectacular pictures, and two delicious Taiwanese recipes.



Together in Prayer also includes a large-format poster of the country artwork (shown in miniature here). This work was created by the Taiwanese artist Hiu-Wen Hsaio. She explains 'As a woman, I want to explore the female identity through my artwork. The subjects of my art always depict the relationship of mothers, women, and people...I cherish my God-given talents and serve God with my artwork'. The image depicts women praying while looking at darkness; the endangered Mikado pheasant is endemic to the mountainous regions of Taiwan and is regarded as one of Taiwan's national birds; the Black-faced Spoonbill symbolises the characteristic confidence of the Taiwanese people and their perseverance in times of difficulty. The island is known for its natural resources (with its forests hosting over 250,000 different species with 64% of mammals and 13% of birds being endemic to the island), and the pink Phalaenopsis (Butterfly) orchids are the pride of Taiwan, which has a reputation as the 'Kingdom of Orchids'.

I feel it's only right to end this article with a brief word about the WDP annual prayer conference Y-Pray (<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/about-y-pray/>). The Abingdon WDP local committee sponsored my attendance at this conference in 2016, and it's been a fantastic rollercoaster since then – I am now the Anglican rep on the committee, and just starting my second year as editor of *Together in Prayer*. The 2023 prayer conference will be held in Swanwick Friday 28-Sunday 30 April and is a wonderful opportunity for any ladies over 18(!) to get together for creative prayer, spending time with other Christian women, and a lot of fun.

We look forward to 2024 where we will be hearing from the women of Palestine with a truly thought-provoking service on the theme 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'.

Oh England, how we do love thee..

Barbara and Mark Evans-Ehrich

Canadians, resident of, Victoria, British Columbia (on Vancouver Island, once a separate British colony!)



As retired Canadians living in Abingdon for December - February, we appreciate the richness and diversity of this architecturally lovely town. Actually, we pinch ourselves of how fortunate we are to have a taste of life here! Here are some reflections of appreciation:

Living beside and very wide views of the Ock River and the 'urban' jungle it nurtures in our front yard (even when we nervously watch the water levels rise).

Walking everywhere for what is needed, doing our part by picking up litter where we can, stopping to chat with folks often with their dogs on a meander.

On Monday, buying eggs and veg (we'd say vegetables) in your 700 year old market.

Bundling up with many layers during the cold snap and exchanging encouraging comments with others walking out! "not as cold as yesterday". Feeling the literal warmth of the library as we pop in to browse "the papers". Walking back into history as we sample food and drink at the pub, walking through the old brewery development and by the historic occupied almshouses.

Taking part in numerous activities (making Christingles) and diversity of worship at St. Helens, enriching organ and choir voices soaring, refreshment time chatting, the welcoming attitude of parishioners, feeling like we are going to a wedding in a Jane Austen movie as we hear the bells ring out as we scurry to church.

Shopping Waitrose - from free coffee with our Waitrose card to amazingly tasty pre made meals such as from the Charlie Bingham and standing in awe, sometimes at bargain price and often confusion at the unlimited milk, creams, cheese selections and asking other customers for their opinions of what to try... Wandering the aisles of 3 Masons stores and feeling overwhelmed and inspired to create something! (The charity shops could have their own paragraph). Your local tiny friendly Polish deli, crammed with interesting reasonably priced foods. They are keen to share their high quality Polish, and other European, foods (try their smoked butter fish or smoked ham)

Baking cakes for St Ethelwold's books and bakes, weekly checking their winter garden for slight changes.

Jumping on the double decker to Oxford, rushing upstairs to the front seats and enjoying Oxford life: art, museums, colleges and music, music, music.

Having English friends come here and proudly walking them to our favourite views of the Thames, the bridges, the lanes, squeezing through the narrow passage to pass the Unicorn theatre and the nearby gardens

Our generous hostess lent us her car so we enjoy a "day out" to great places - National Trust houses, quaint villages, walks, places reminding of the famous and important - graves and vestiges of Winston C., Agatha C., Eric Blair (George Orwell), William Morris - 19th c. and 20th c. - and the serendipity of learning of the important and not very famous - lots of them; pastoral views complete with perfectly placed trees and sheep!

Much kindness. Invitations from locals to share coffee, lunches, walks in the country and pub visits- we glean insights into Abingdon living and sooo much more - the experiences of people amaze...we are curious beings and last but not least, the first brave tiny white snowdrops I cradled in my hand...the promise of spring. We hope to come back!

Events in February and March



at

St Michael and All Angels Church
Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB

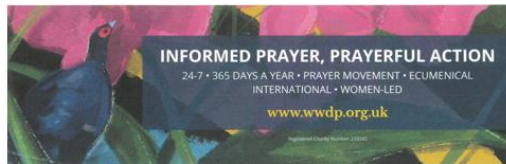
2:30 pm

Light refreshments will be served after the service

This year the service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan

Parking restrictions will be lifted for the service

All welcome



HOG ROAST NIGHT

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH **DOORS OPEN @ 5:30PM**

THE BARN, CHRIST CHURCH,
NORTHCOURT RD, ABINGDON

TICKETS £15 IN ADVANCE OR £20 ON THE NIGHT
WWW.ABINGDONPASSIONPLAY.CO.UK

Come and enjoy a classic hog roast with all the trimmings along with a side and desert. Vegetarian? We have you covered! Whilst your taste buds are being delighted, your ears will be delivered a feast by our musical line up:

Abingdon Community Choir (ACCord)
Rule of Six
The JAM Band

Abingdon & District Musical Society

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 2023 7.30PM

GRIEG — PEER GYNT SUITES 1 AND 2
GLAZUNOV — VIOLIN CONCERTO WITH ALDA DIZDARI
MUSSORGSKY — PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

ST HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON
OX14 5BS

ALEXANDER WALKER - CONDUCTOR
KATE BAILEY - LEADER

Tickets: £13 at the door / £13 buy early / £1 children from waggittickets.com/venue/5270982 or Peter Smith (01235 521392 / 07979 894095) psmith49@btinternet.com www.adms.org.uk

Faith Forum. Sunday 5th March in the Parish Centre at the usual time of 9.15 am, with breakfast served from 9 am.

Save the date!

Come and Sing

Handel's Messiah parts 2 and 3
Saturday 20th May in St Michael's Church

Abingdon & District Musical Society

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2023 7.30PM

Vaughan Williams - *Five Mystical Songs*
Bob Chilcott - *Little Jazz Mass*
Karl Jenkins - *The Armed Man Suite*

ST HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON
OX14 5BS

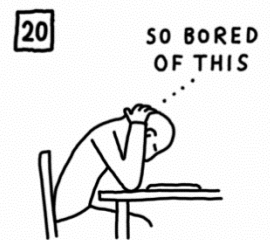
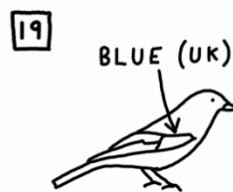
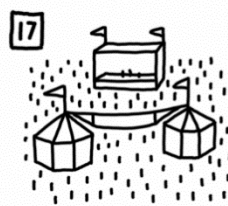
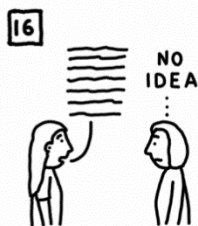
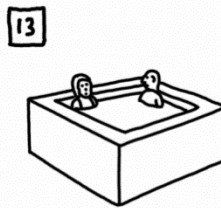
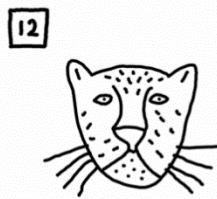
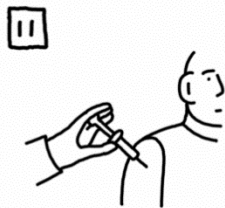
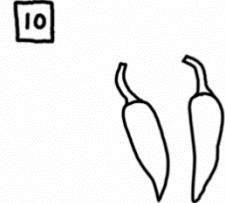
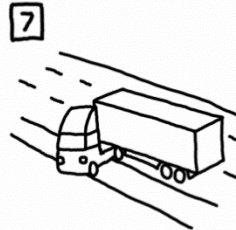
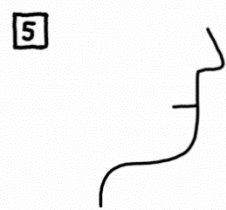
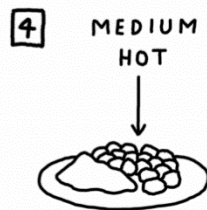
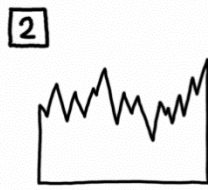
ALEXANDER WALKER - CONDUCTOR
ANDREW KNOWLES - ACCOMPANIST

Tickets: £13 at the door / £13 buy early / £1 children from waggittickets.com/venue/7671022 or Peter Smith (01235 521392 / 07979 894095) psmith49@btinternet.com www.adms.org.uk

Yes we know it's February ..
 but we thought you might enjoy this quiz
included with the permission of Dave Walker <https://davewalker.com/>

JANUARY QUIZ

FIND THE WORDS BEGINNING WITH 'JA'



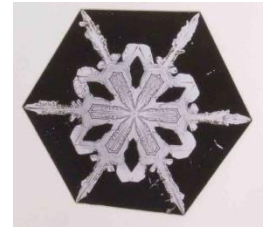
For the answers, see page 14

Tragic or Magic

Eileen Duckett

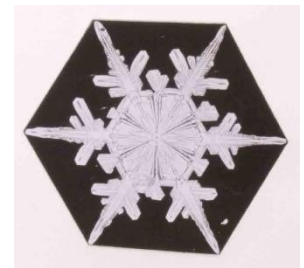


It's snowing and blowing,
Oh what a delight.
I love to see snowflakes
Dancing in flight.

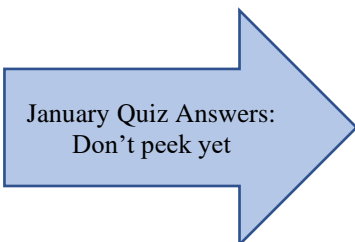


They are whirling and twirling
And turning the world white.
On a cold winter's morning
It's a beautiful sight.

Not everyone likes snow
So to some it seems tragic
But I just love it
So to me it's just magic.



These microphotographs of snow crystals, taken by Wilson Bentley, have been digitised by the Natural History Museum in London and made available [here](#). Interestingly Bentley never copyrighted his work and sold many of his plates to schools and colleges for a minimal price in order to share the wonders of what he had recorded.



1. Jar (or Jam)
2. Jagged
3. Jacket
4. Jalfrezi
5. Jaw
6. Javelin
7. Jackknifed (or Jackknife)
8. Jail (or Jailed, etc)
9. Janitor
10. Jalapenos
11. Jab (or Jabbled, etc)
12. Jaguar
13. Jacuzzi
14. Jackpot (or Jill accept 'jammy')
15. Jaunty
16. Jargon (or Jill accept 'jabbering')
17. Jamboree
18. Jarring
19. Jay
20. Jaded

Useful Weblinks:

Services: for the latest news see the Parish Website:

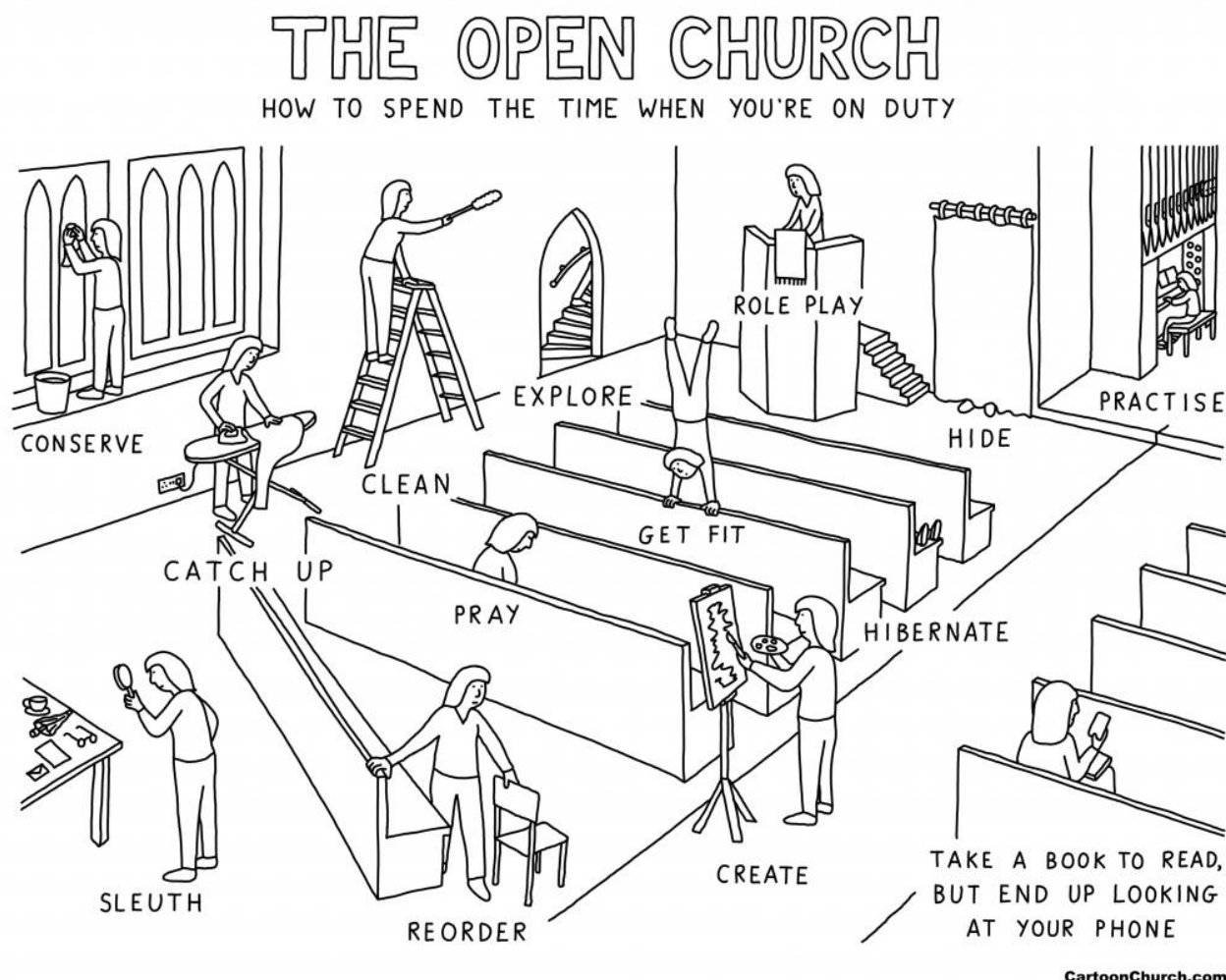
abingdonparish.org.uk

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.** You can also donate money 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 has details if you want to donate via online banking.

And finally, from Dave Walker of
Cartoon Church.



Thanks to all contributors and to you, the readers.

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