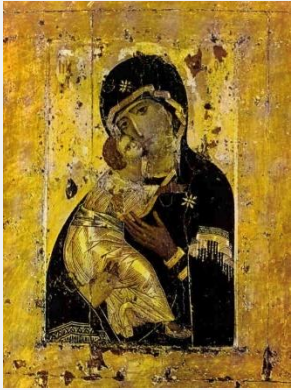


Issue 6:
July 2023



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



50 years a priest!

Canon Charles Masheder celebrates and we celebrate with him!
Photos on pages 1,2 and 3: thanks to Norman Dawson

In this issue:

Memories of
Ministry

Vocation

Piero della Francesca

A Variety of Poems

Events

Lucca and Argentan

Special times and seasons within 50 years as a priest

Canon Charles Masheder

I cannot believe it but fifty years ago I started my time as a priest in God's Church. It has been a wonderful life for me, with many special times to remember and I want to share just a few with you.

On July 1st 1973, on a very hot day (yes we used to get them then too!) in St Margaret's Church Leytonstone (East London) I was ordained priest alongside seven others. The preacher that morning was Colin Winter, Bishop of Damaraland, but in exile as he had been expelled by the apartheid government in South Africa. He started by saying that in his African diocese they would praise God by a clapping and proceeded to encourage us to do the same...amazing how radical that was back then! The service, led by Bishop William Chadwick of Barking, had a very deep impression on me as I moved from being a deacon to a priest – a service not only of joy but of sincere worship. I was to serve for another two-and-a-half years in St Francis, Barkingside (actually in Hainault, the Essex end of the Central line on the tube).



Two days later, I celebrated the Eucharist for the first time, designated my 'First Mass' it was according to traditional language though as a parish we were just about to start using the modern language of Rite A. My father assisted as a deacon; a joy for us both. I was guided throughout by my training incumbent, John Allard, who was a truly inspiring influence. At the end of the service, attended by a congregation of probably in excess of 150, each person came forward for an individual blessing from me and received a memento card.

On Advent Sunday 1975, I began a new ministry in Chingford. The church where I was to be Curate-in-Charge was closed for repairs so my first few months involved leading worship in the local Baptist Chapel and laid the foundations for some good cooperation with the then minister. It was while I was there in 1982 that I was involved (but not leading) in an unusual funeral – that of Violet Kray, the mother of the infamous twins, Reggie and Ronnie. Our church was used as the Cemetery chapel for the graveyard opposite. There was much media speculation and on the day enormous crowds surrounded the church and churchyard, simply to see the twins. One of my claims is that I have shaken the hand of Her Majesty (just before I was made a deacon) and those of the Kray twins! My ministry there was largely pastoral and spiritual as I was not an incumbent. I was in Chingford for over 15 years and it was where I met and then married my first wife, Patsy, a professional 'cellist.

Early in 1991, we moved out into the Essex countryside to the benefice of Matching and the Lavers (if you have ever heard of them, I would be amazed). They were five villages of low population and yet with great enthusiasm in their village life (East End of London influence?) – and also in the Church life. It was here that Patsy became more ill; she already had been suffering from ME. Life was hard and in 1996 she died and the parishioners were very supportive. A year later, and at her suggestion, I had a sabbatical year, travelling the world with many great experiences and learning a bit about the wider subject of healing. My return to my parishes coincided with 25 years as a priest and I had a deeply moving service one evening in early July 1998; I remember choosing 'The day thou gavest, Lord is ended' recollecting how I had worshipped in various parts of the world. On my sabbatical, the country which had influenced me most was South Africa as it was moving away from its apartheid past. May Day on Matching Green included a short outdoor service as well as at Harvest services in the pub and carol-singing on nine consecutive nights!

Some memories of course will be of large events but twice in my Essex years I had the privilege of sharing Communion with people in emotional times. One was when a lady knew she would soon die and wanted all her family around her to share in Communion and afterwards, looking round saying 'My

children, never forget what has just happened'. The other was with a mother who had only a couple of days before given birth and the tears flowed. She is now a priest herself.

It was in Essex, that the most special thing happened when I met and later, after two years of 'courting', married Felicity. The local School had had a horrific Ofsted inspection, followed by a Consultation for Closure by the Local Education authority. It had been a hard-won fight by the School with good assistance from local politicians and others and we succeeded. As Vice-Chairman of the Governors, I have always felt Felicity, one of the new teachers, was my reward for hard-graft! We were married in High Laver church on August 14th 2005 – a wonderful occasion. In my Essex years, I served as Rural Dean for six years and two years as part-time PA to the Bishop of Barking.

Time came for a move and it was to the Ray Valley Benefice of eight parishes and twelve villages near Bicester. I sometimes thought of my leadership as being like the father of eight children – I loved every one of them but they had a great variety of strengths and needs. There were many lovely occasions but one regular one was a fortnightly Fellowship Group.. We had a wonderful time investigating our spirituality through learning from one another – and with humour. One of the parishes, Islip, had a unique relationship with Westminster Abbey and I served several times as a Duty Chaplain and on one occasion (2012) preached on the Sunday Evensong after Christmas – to a congregation of about 1,300. About three weeks later, I was made a Hon Canon of Christ Church Cathedral; an honour that was most unexpected and followed on from my being Area Dean of Bicester for five years and involvement with new housing projects. Another abiding memory was of Palm Sunday in the village of Charlton-on-Otmoor, walking through the streets with a donkey. One of the best was when one of the Congregation, Lisa, was herself ordained; I was her training Incumbent.

In 2015 we moved to Dorset for a bit more than three years – and two of them as Assistant Rural Dean – to the lovely villages of Bere Regis and Affpuddle. This was a chance to enter into community life again and we both got involved in the local Am Dram society. There were some lovely people there and although particularly in Bere, the usual congregation was of 'considerable age', once a month they had an unusual Family Service with puppets which certainly drew in younger people.

By the end of 2018 it was time for me to retire and we moved to a village called South Brent in Devon. As you know that was not to last and so (thanks be to God!) we moved back to Oxfordshire to you all in Abingdon which has been for us a very special time with many further different memories; a wonderful epilogue to my priestly ministry.

Being a Parish Priest must be one of the most fulfilling roles (not for everyone, I know) but it is a wonderful privilege, with of course some challenges but far more great joys. One of those joys is seeing newly ordained priests finding the same happiness in their ministry.



The celebration cake, made by Linda Hobbs

A Christian Vocation

Rob Rutherford

We have rightly celebrated the 40th anniversary of Charles Miller's priesthood and the 50th anniversary of Charles Masheder's priesthood. The calling to be a priest is a very particular form of vocation.

A question comes to mind: 'What is a Christian vocation?' Some professions are regarded as more of a vocation than others – nursing and teaching come to mind – but to make a hierarchy of worthy careers is a mistake as all careers need people who hold Christian values.

When Rosalind's 'Church Times' arrives, I often scan it and a paragraph jumped out at me. On the back page they usually have an interview with a lay person who describes how their Christian beliefs inform their daily life. In the 23rd June issue it featured Mark Hedley – a retired High Court judge. Here is a quote:

I regarded my calling to be a barrister as a vocation, and I'd do the same again, though the practice is now more complicated, particularly in the field of family law.... It's colossally important for lay people to understand that vocation is for everyone, though you wouldn't know it if you went to a diocesan vocation conference. Full-time Christian work? What do you think I did for 45 years? I concerned myself with justice for those at the bottom of the social pile: their housing, care proceedings, crime and suchlike community matters.

Another example springs to mind arising from this week's news about Thames Water and its financial difficulties. Here is the essence if I understand it right (and please bear in mind that I am just an interested lay person with little knowledge of the business world):

When Thames Water was privatised, it had no debts. It now has debts of around £14 billion. You might think that the company borrowed money to carry out work on its infrastructure – to reduce leaks, to prevent sewage being released into rivers and seas. This happened to an extent, though there is much anger about the lack of urgency and debate about its effectiveness. It is becoming clear, though, that *some* of the debt taken on by the company (then under different ownership) allowed it to increase the dividends to shareholders, payments to executives and to reduce the debts of those that originally bought the utility. In the meantime, interest rates have risen and the reason the company is in the news is that it may not be able to service the debt. Another criticism of the company is that its structure and reporting are unnecessarily complex and therefore not sufficiently transparent.

What, you may be asking, has this got to do with a little, insignificant parish magazine? I think the answer is to do with vocation. We need people of integrity to be accountants who can spot the dodgy practice, to be business leaders who treat their staff well, provide satisfying employment, who take the environment seriously and who don't 'juice the profits'* for their own benefit. We need regulators to be observant and rigorous in the setting of rules and we need politicians who can oversee a fair and just society. In other words, we need people with a vocation to 'do good'. Of course we need 'good' scientists, engineers, architects, shop assistants, care workers etc as well. We all have a role.

I'm not saying that Christians have a monopoly of goodness but if we look to Jesus to see what God is like and ponder how we can be like Jesus in the world then it is a good start. Young people need to hear this message – so encourage them to come - but 'vocation' isn't just for young people - it doesn't end when we retire. Vocation is for all - God is *always* calling *everyone*!

*A phrase used by Faisal Islam, BBC Economics Editor, on the Today programme on the 29th June

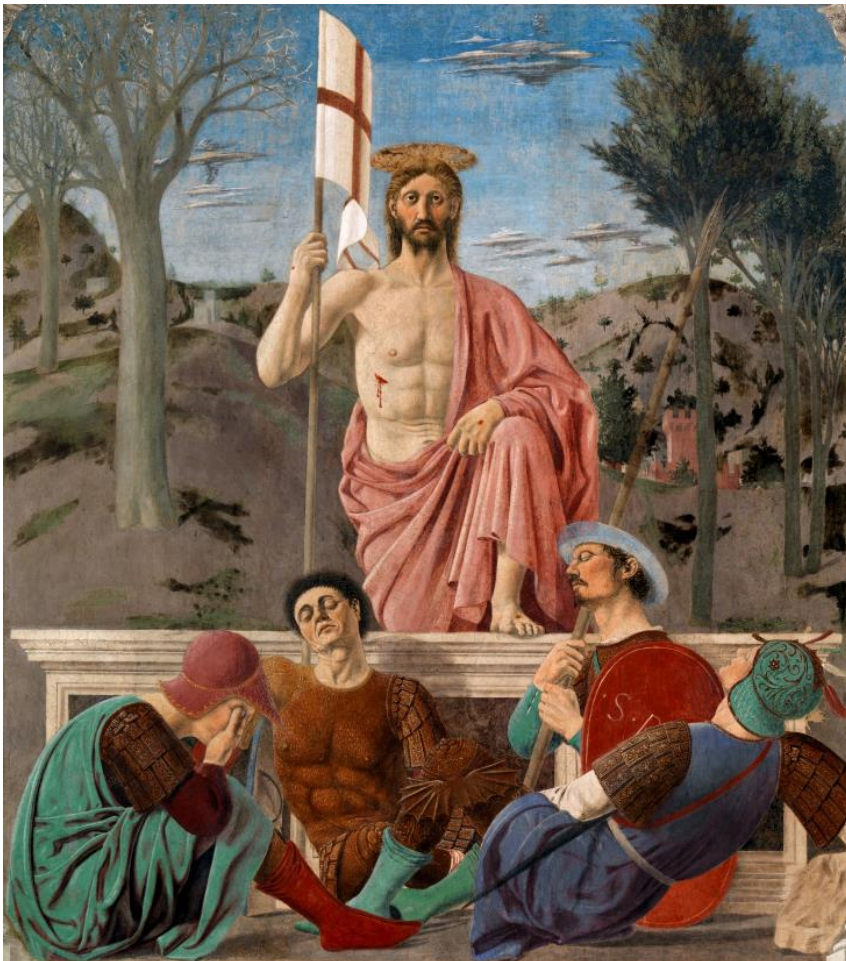
The Resurrection by Piero della Francesca

– ‘the greatest picture in the world’?

Roderick Smith

It’s usually only the recipients of our annual round-robin newsletter at Christmas who get a ‘what we did on our hols’ piece to read. I wouldn’t normally dream of inflicting such a report on the readers of this august magazine. However, I did happen to mention to Rob, our editor-in-chief, that I was going to revisit several paintings and frescoes by Piero della Francesca, my most admired Renaissance artist, on a visit to Umbria and Tuscany in June. Of course, he immediately asked if I could write a short piece on my favourite work by Piero.

It’s actually hard to choose a favourite but [Piero’s *The Resurrection*](#) was described by [Aldous Huxley in a 1925 essay](#) as ‘the greatest picture in the world’. I’m happy with that assessment, but your tastes may be different. Looking at the image reproduced here is a very poor substitute for seeing the fresco itself high up on the wall of the communal (secular) meeting hall in Sansepolcro.



The picture has several biblical elements – the sleeping guards and the wounds of the crucifixion retained in the risen Christ’s body. But there are features which deviate from, or expand on, the biblical account. Firstly, Christ rises from a classical sarcophagus rather than a rock-hewn tomb. Secondly, although the empty tomb and encounters with the risen Christ are recorded in the gospels, the resurrection itself is not described in canonical sources. But no matter, the picture depicts the rising Christ powerfully emerging from his tomb. The perspective is such that we cannot see the tomb’s lid. This feature of the composition ensures that we are free to assume that Christ steps forth miraculously from a tomb still sealed.

Piero was one of the first artists to explore perspective in his compositions – he was also known to be a talented mathematician and geometer. The Resurrection is unusual in that there are two vanishing points - one is very low in the picture, because the faces of the guards are seen from below, and the other is in Jesus's face. We see Christ straight on in a dramatic confrontation even though he is high above us.

One art historian (Marilyn Aronberg Lavin) describes Christ’s visage as having ‘the roughness of a peasant, the power of a herculean athlete, and the mystery of the eternal’. The eye sockets are deep and darkened, indicating the torments Christ has endured for us. Christ’s eyes gaze directly into those of the viewer, almost demanding a response. In a [Church Times article](#) some years ago the Very Revd John Drury says that ‘the eyes that meet us from the town-hall wall have the authority of complete knowledge. They are the eyes of one who knows it all [from the depths of hell to the glory of heaven]’. Piero has been described as depicting in this fresco a modern (i.e. post-Byzantine) Pantocrator.

Note also the contrast between the barren landscape and leafless mature trees on the left and the verdant young growth on the right, symbolising new life through Christ's resurrection.

Two other paintings by Piero, the Adoration of the Christ Child and the Baptism of Christ, can be seen in the National Gallery in London. If you go there before the end of July you can also see a (free) exhibition of artwork inspired by St Francis of Assisi, whose presence is also inescapable when visiting Umbria.

Lucca – One of Abingdon's twin towns

Rob Rutherford

Part of our holiday was spent in Pisa and whilst we loved seeing the Piazza dei Miracoli full of people taking photographs of their friends pretending to hold up the leaning tower, there were other delights too. The botanical garden, for example, founded in 1543 – Oxford's was founded in 1621. Half an hour from Pisa by train, to the north east, lies Lucca. We did not realise it was twinned with Abingdon until the night before we went. Its cobbled streets are surrounded by ramparts 400 years old topped by broad, tree-lined pathways. We hired bikes and 'orbited' the city. The cathedral, dedicated to St Martin, is where Puccini sang in the choir. You probably know all of this but we didn't. If you are in Tuscany, do visit.



St Martin's cathedral in Lucca. The more energetic amongst you could climb the bell tower. We didn't but our 4 year old grandson did!

Argentan – Another of Abingdon's twin towns

Elizabeth Simpson

The Church Twinning Group in Argentan, Normandy, has invited members of the congregations of the Church in Abingdon (CiA) to visit them in October (Thursday 12th to Monday 16th). Abingdon and Argentan have been twinned for over sixty years and many firm friendships have been made through these reciprocal visits to each others' homes. If you would like to take part, or are interested to learn more about this visit, please contact your church representative, or CiA twinning committee secretary Eileen Bontempelli on 01235 526331, or mobile 07821 617333 or email, epkbontempelli@gmail.com

Faith Forum

Autumn – Early Winter 2023

FAITH in FRANCE: Retrospective on a Sabbatical – The Revd Dr Charles Miller

The Diocese of Oxford encourages a sabbatical leave of three months for clergy every ten years. The notion of a ‘sabbatical’ is biblical in origin; you’ll notice its root is like the word ‘sabbath’, the day when God’s people are meant to rest from their labours as the Creator God did on the seventh day when the creation was completed. For many years those in academic life have had sabbatical leave offered every *seven* years (that’s the strict biblical pattern) and gradually the church has embraced the idea on its own terms. Those ‘terms’ in the Diocese of Oxford mean that an approved sabbatical leave will include in some measure three aspects: study, retreat and rest/recreation. The sabbatical plan I submitted included a week of spiritual retreat, a good bit of rest and recreation and in large measure study. The entire period was spent in France in order to gain access to important resource and archive material for my next book *The Spiritual Adventure of Henri Matisse: Vence’s Chapel of the Rosary*.

The Diocese wants the fruits of a sabbatical leave to be shared appropriately in the parish setting. To that end I will be the presenter at the September – December **Faith Forum** sessions offering a retrospective look at the experiences of my time in France. Without being tied to the titles, I am planning the following four short talks:

September 5th – ‘The Glory that was Bec. The Benedictines of Bec Hellouin and the English Church’

A brief look at the history of Bec Abbey with its historic and contemporary links with the Church of England.

October 1st – ‘Anglicans in Exile and on Sabbatical. Life in and from the Latin Quarter’

What was it like living on the edge of the sixth and seventh *arrondissements*, Paris, for two months? Historical recollections and a few museum stops along the way.

November 5th – Church Life in Paris & Nice.

A whirlwind tour of French Catholicism through Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

December 3rd – Pilgrimage to Vence. Researching the Chapel of the Rosary

Tracking my steps researching *The Spiritual Adventure of Henri Matisse*.

All of the talks will be illustrated with photographs.

And another sabbatical...

A Date for your diary:

Fr Paul invites all parishioners to a talk about what he did on his sabbatical, how learning to paint had a profound influence on him during that time and how it has impacted on him since.

Tea and cakes to follow. There will be a retiring collection for charity tba.

Date: Sunday 1st October at 3pm

Venue: St Michael’s Church

To the wise

Spare a thought for the foolish virgins
Those silly girls who left spare lamp oil on the table.
I, who leave my shopping list in the kitchen
Feel for their scatty unpreparedness,

I, who spend four hours arranging church flowers
And then leave them parched without water,
I who leave doors unlocked, inviting thieves
To take my car, steal my money, borrow my bike

I, who organize group trips but forget to book the coach
Or bring the tickets, or lose my glasses countless times each day,
I understand their problem of unreadiness.
Lord, please teach me to focus on the detail to avoid disaster,
Protect me from a moment's inattention.

And you virgins (and men) who are wise, organised and thoughtful
(And maybe slightly smug?)
Spare a thought for those foolish virgins (and men).
Next time take some spare oil for their lamps as well.

This poem came to mind unbidden after hearing the reading of the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. I know you will object that I have misunderstood the parable. Perhaps the Pieter Lisaert IV painting to the right shows a more conventional view with the five girls indulging in gluttony, licentiousness, drunkenness, music playing(!) and sloth in contrast to their worthier friends who seem to be reading (good books no doubt), discussing, sewing and spinning and praying – all beneath a picture of Our Lord. I understand that many people interpret the parable as a warning against unreadiness for Christ's return.



Source [here](#): Attribution: Unidentified location, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

But I just felt a sudden sympathy for the girls as I have described in my poem. Obviously because I have taken it all rather literally.

Louise Heffernan

Matthew Chapter 25

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. ³Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

One Summer's Day

Turn aside from the bustle and clamour,
step into the forest to walk again
the ancient paths softened by many years'
leaf fall; footsteps silenced.

Smooth grey beech trunks, solid as pillars, rise
and stretch to the sky, while far above,
the vivid canopy dances in sunshine, dazzling
bright against the curving sky.

Sunshine paints the tree tops with gold,
then flows, shifting and glancing through
swaying branches to make glowing pools
on the forest floor, luminous as stained glass.

Branches creak and whisper in the breeze,
making their own music.
Out of sight, birds chatter and call, creatures
scurry and rustle among the leaf litter,
while in the distance, deer, quiet as shadows,
drift in and out of the trees, then vanish.

By the path, hawthorn billows in white clouds,
vibrant bracken unfurls and wood anemones
shine like stars.
Sun-warmed, the forest releases its fragrances;
the tang of old wood, bright green with moist moss,
the pungency of vigorous new growth,
and the age-old scent of the forest, earthy yet sweet,
rise like incense this summer's day.

Susan Gee



Photo: Norman Gee

Cat among Pigeons, or hardly worth mentioning?

Gwen Bevington

In May I fulfilled a long-cherished ambition to visit Fairford Church – surely already known to most Abingdonians, as it's not that far away. It's famous for having the only complete set of medieval glass left in an English parish church. As I walked round, however, my eye was caught by a "poem" pinned to the choir notice-board – reproduced below. (There was no mention of copyright...)

In the case of people who choose to attend churches in our parish, the poem probably preaches to the converted. Those sweet innocents who haven't experienced worship outside the parish of Abingdon-upon-Thames may not understand it at all.

Is it true? Fair?

Is it overstated? Could someone improve on it? What would the people being satirised say about us? Is there room in worship for all instruments in the right contexts? And, burning question for our church musicians: how does one access a lyre and lyre-player??

The Old, Old Story

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
for most of us, when asked our mind,
admit we still most pleasure find
in hymns of ancient days,
in hymns of ancient days.

The simple lyrics, for a start,
of many a modern song
are far too trite to touch the heart,
enshrine no poetry, no art,
and go on much too long,
and go on much too long.

O, for a rest from jollity
and syncopated praise.
What happened to tranquillity?
The silence of eternity
is hard to hear these days,
is hard to hear these days.

Send thy deep hush, subduing all
those happy claps that drown
the tender whisper of thy call;
triumphalism is not all,
for sometimes we feel down,
for sometimes we feel down.

Drop thy still dews of quietness
till all our strummings cease.
Take from our lives the strain and stress
of always having to be blessed;
give us a bit of peace,
give us a bit of peace.

Breathe through the beat of praise-guitar
thy coolness and thy balm;
let drum be dumb, bring back the lyre;
enough of earthquake, wind and fire.
Let's hear it for some calm,
let's hear it for some calm.

Could this spark a debate? All hymns were new once! Looking on the positive side, what 'modern' hymns would be on your list of 'let's sing those more frequently!' Responses welcome: Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk
RR

Trinity Learning

Nicola Williams



Can you knit or crochet?
Do you have some time to share?
In a school or at home?

Trinity Learning are now recruiting for volunteers for their Thinking Books mentoring programme for the next school year.

Thinking Books involves volunteer mentors sharing a carefully chosen book with a child or small group of children over 10 sessions. The focus is on discussing characters' feelings to help children think about other's feelings and develop empathy. There are notes to accompany each of the books, and volunteers receive initial training and regular follow-up sessions. Training will be running in the summer term and September. If you are looking for a rewarding regular volunteer activity and can offer to volunteer for around an hour a week, please contact Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com to find out more. TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks.

Volunteers are also needed to **knit a little rabbit** which will be included in each Thinking Books pack for the child to keep at the end of their sessions. We can supply everything you need (pattern and supplies) if you're happy to supply your knitting know how!

Or perhaps you might **crochet a bear** for the TL Bereavement Packs? The Bereavement packs offer resources and advice for adults working with bereaved children. Each pack contains a tiny hand crocheted bear for the child to keep.



Sustrans Sculptures

Silvia Joinson



Some of you may have already noticed the sculptures and bench recently installed by the cycle track in the Abbey meadow. They were officially unveiled last Tuesday July 4th in a ceremony organised by Sustrans with a small invited audience of those connected with the two sculptures, environmental volunteers and Mienieke Cox. For Mienieke this included members from St Helen's, the local History Society (AAHS) and her family. Her eldest son Pieter spoke and was joined by his brother Paul, wife, son, two grandchildren and a beautiful Irish wolfhound! Mienieke was born in Holland so it is quite remarkable that she was chosen as a local hero to be honoured in this way for her work as a local historian of her adopted town.



Events:

Compiled by Louise Heffernan and Eluned Hallas



Cream Teas

 St Michael & All Angels' Church,

 Park Road



Saturday 22nd July

2.30 – 4.30 pm

Tea/coffee with scone/cake £5

 Proceeds to church funds

 All welcome

Partakers of Cream Teas will also be able to view a few of Fr Paul's paintings, some of which were completed during his sabbatical in 2022.



Eco-Theology Day Conference
Painting the Cross in Shades of Green: Environmental Theology for Today.
 Conference held at Ripon College Cuddesdon, 9.30am – 4.30pm on **Monday 17 July.**

Cost: £5 to book a place and to cover cost of lunch and refreshments. For more details and on-line booking, please see <https://www.rcc.ac.uk/events/eco-theology-day-conference>.

Festival of Prayer

The 11th Festival of Prayer will be taking place on Saturday 22 July 2023, 10.30 am – 4.35 pm, at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford. The event this year explores the theme of 'Prayer as a way of life' and the keynote speaker is David Runcorn. Cost £37.50 with discount for group bookings. For further information and to book, go to www.brffonline.org.uk.

Holy Ground: Ecumenical Spiritual Direction Training

An ecumenical spiritual direction training course for Christians who find themselves accompanying others on their spiritual journey, whether in a formal capacity or perhaps for those who have noticed that others turn to them as a listening ear. This foundation course is ideal for all those who would like to train in the ministry of spiritual direction, whether ordained or lay. It will take place September 2023 to May 2024, online in the evening. For further details, go to www.spidirnetwork.org.uk or contact Sue Sheppy at susan.sheppy@btinternet.com.

Canon Charles Mashedor will officiate his final service on Sunday 3rd September in St Helen's Church at 10.30 am.





**Oxfordshire Historic
Churches Trust**

Saturday 9th September 2023

**St Helen's
St Michael's will be open
St Nicolas**



**See your
Church Representative
for information on
how to get involved
Its great fun!**



**16-17 September
Abingdon Heritage Weekend 2023**

Ride & Stride Saturday 9th September

Alexandra Green

Do you enjoy walking or cycling and visiting local churches? Then why not take part in the annual Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) Ride & Stride and raise money for local churches. For those new to the event, participants cycle (ride) or walk (stride) to as few or as many churches in Oxfordshire as they choose gaining sponsorship for each one visited. Half the money raised goes to the OHCT and half to a church of your choice.

What does the OHCT do? It is a grant making charity which aims to provide funding to help local communities repair, maintain and improve Oxfordshire's historic churches, preserving them for future generations. All three churches in this benefice have received grants from OHCT in recent years supplementing funds raised locally and from other grant awarding bodies.

Why take part? First of all, it is great fun giving an opportunity to see churches some of which may not be open usually and giving a cheery wave to other cyclists when you spot their sticker. Secondly it raises money for regular maintenance and one-off special projects; often an award from OHCT leads to matched funding from other organisations.

Not feeling energetic? You can be sponsored for being a 'Welcomer' sitting in church to greet cyclists and sign their sponsor forms, provide directions to the next nearest church, and pouring a much needed glass of water. You can be a sponsor for a cyclist/walker or a welcomer.

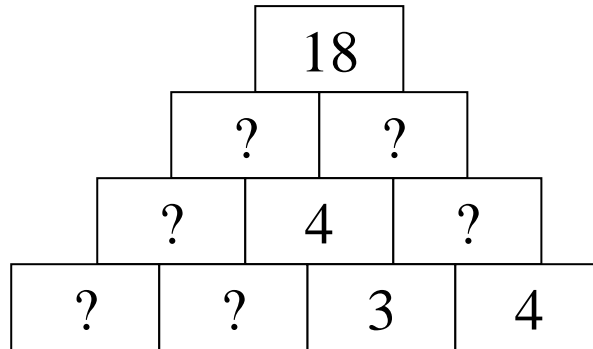
Further details of the Ride & Stride and the work of the OHCT are available on the OHCT website <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/> or from the local reps, Alexandra Green (St Helen's), Eluned Hallas (St Nicolas), Louise Heffernan (St Michael's).

Puzzles:

The first 3 are thanks to Rob's book: 'Wrinklies' Puzzles' (Sevenoaks)

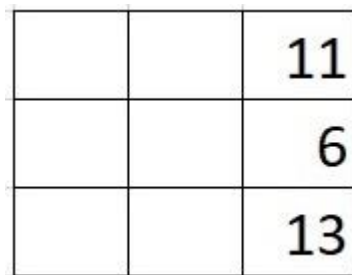
1. Number mountain:

Replace the question marks with numbers so that each pair of blocks adds up to the block directly above them



2. Magic Square:

Complete the square using nine consecutive numbers, so that all rows, columns and large diagonals add up to the same total.

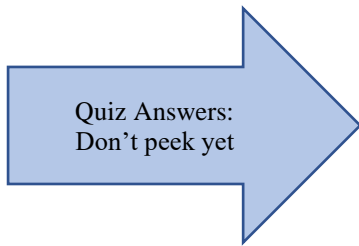


3. Riddle:

Lucy met a pig and a goat in the woods and asked them what day it was, knowing full well that pigs always tell lies on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and that goats always tell lies on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. She asked the pig first, 'Well yesterday was one of my lying days,' he said. She asked the goat. 'Yesterday was one of my lying days too' he said.... So what day is it?

4. What time is it?





2	1	3	4
3	4	7	
7	11		
18			

7	12	11
14	10	6
9	8	13

What time is it? Well... The clock is in the cathedral in Florence and it reads old Italian time. It is set weekly so that '1' corresponds to sunset. It reads XVII or '17' so 17 hours after sunset. I estimate that sunset on the day before was 9pm in Florence so I reckon the clock was reading 2pm. Easy!

Riddle: Thursday. The goat is lying



Photograph of buttercups and ox-eye daisies at Hurst Meadows by David Bevington

Useful Weblinks:

Services: for the latest news see the Parish Website:

abingdonparish.org.uk

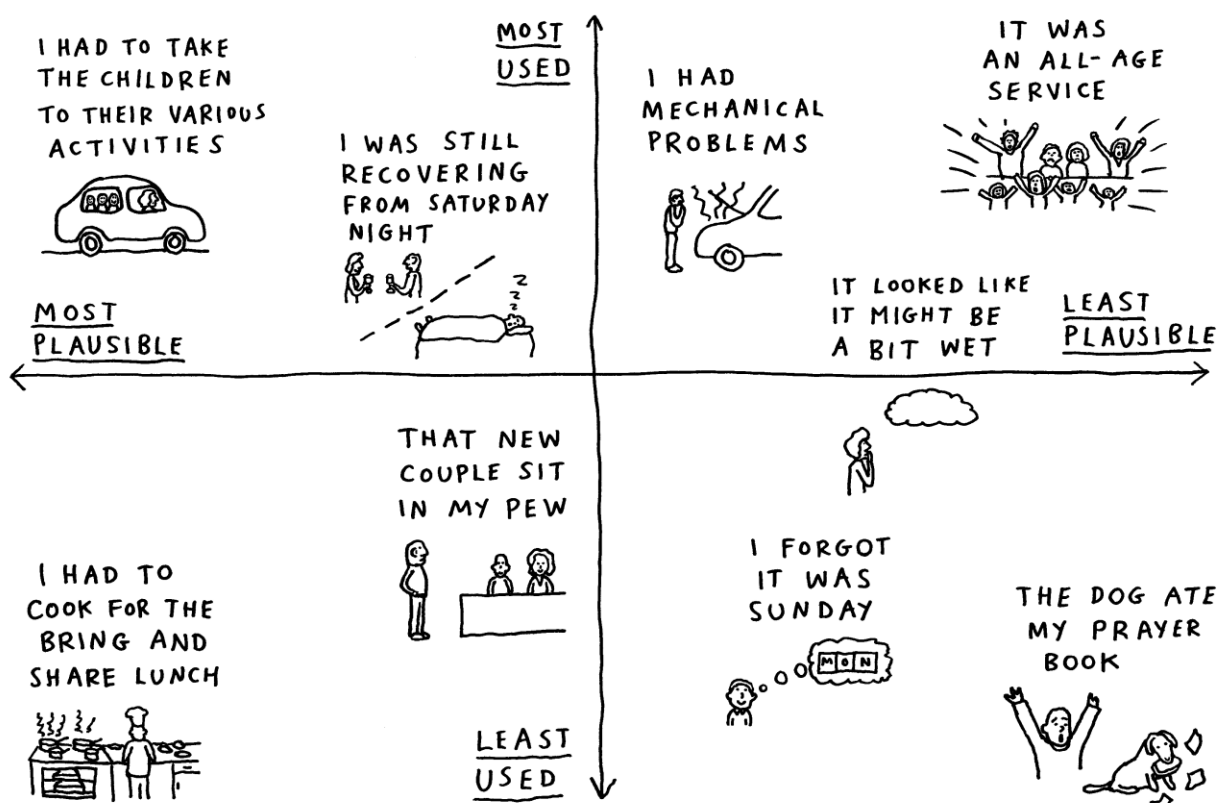
Page for Church of England links: services, daily readings etc

<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. The foodbank also operates from Preston Road Community Centre. Donations are welcome there too between 12.00 and 2.30pm on Wednesdays. 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, This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times

EXCUSES FOR ABSENTEEISM



CartoonChurch.com

Thanks to all contributors and to you, the readers.

The next issue will be published on September 10th - ideas and contributions to Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk