

HUTTON PARISH LINK



FREE EDITION

OCT / NOV 2024



SERVICES · BIBLE STUDY · SOCIAL · CONTACT · GAMES

Rectors Welcome

My dear sisters and brothers,

A warm and autumnal greeting this edition of Hutton Link. Once again, we find ourselves at the beginning of a new school year but at the end of the church's liturgical year. As we transition back into regular patterns of work and school, we also welcome the shorter days, colder weather and a retreat into the darkness of the autumn season.



For me, the last few months of the year offer optimism and hope. There is certainly an intent in our church activities as we gather around the key liturgical markers of the Harvest Festival, All Saints Day, All Souls Day and Remembrance Sunday. There will be thankfulness for God's gifts to us, candles to light, lists of names to remember in prayer, as well as wider community gatherings.

October begins with our annual Harvest Festival, with a joint parish Eucharist at 10.30am on Sunday 6th. This will then be followed by a bring and share parish lunch, with everyone being encouraged to bring a dish from their own cultural background. So if you're from Hackney or Hong Kong, Romford or Romania, and even if you're from Brentwood or Brazil you are welcome to come and join in this Global Feast!

We will also be raising money for the fantastic charity, **I GOT SHOES** who provide shoes for women and children in Uganda. The charity's founder Penny Seithel will be speaking at the Harvest service about how providing a simple pair of shoes can provide a child with access to education, dignity and security and can protect people from diseases.

I met Penny and her husband Gary recently at Becket Keys awards event and was really inspired by the work of the charity and the story behind it. Please take a look at their website www.igotshoes.co.uk for more information on what they do.



I also hope you will be able to join us for our annual commemoration service on Sunday 3rd November, at 6pm in All Saints Church. As ever the invitation is to all who wish to remember a loved one on the feast of All Souls Day. As well as inviting the families of the recently departed, all are welcome to ask for a name to be read out in the service and to come and light a candle in their memory. If you'd like to add a name to the list, then do please email Heidi in the Parish Office – office@huttonparish.com

As we move through this season of reflection and gratitude, let us remain connected to one another and grounded together in faith we share. Whether through celebrating our blessings at the Harvest Festival or honouring the memory of loved ones at All Souls, I pray we will all find comfort in God's presence and in seeing how he is at work in our community. I look forward to sharing in these special moments with you all and pray that this season brings peace, hope, and joy to each of you.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy' followed by a simple cross symbol.

Rectors Reflection

EUTHANASIA AND THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE – A PERSONAL REFLECTION

In the last Edition of Hutton Parish Link, the subject of “**Assisted Dying**” was brought up by one of our readers and I wanted to respond to that letter. My prayer and hope is that this article is pastorally sensitive but also highlights what is orthodox Christian teaching in the mainstream church. I also want to offer my own perspective as the Rector of the parish, as I often have to think about such difficult topics and the grim reality of facing death as a regular part of my job.

As a Christian, I have always understood that life is a gift from God, and every moment of it, even the most difficult ones, has value. Yet, I understand that when we see our loved ones suffer, especially in the final stages of illness, it can be incredibly hard to reconcile that belief with the pain they endure. Euthanasia, or assisted dying, presents one of the most emotionally charged and complex issues of our time, especially for people of faith.

The Christian position, firmly rooted in scripture and tradition, holds that euthanasia (*that is to help someone bring about an early end to their life*) is inherently wrong. Life, as given by God, is sacred from its beginning to its natural end, and we are called to honour that. But I want to approach this topic not just as a theological debate, but from a place of compassion, especially for those who've watched loved ones suffer.

My own experience of watching both my grandmothers decline, particularly as they battled dementia, has deeply shaped my perspective. The slow unravelling of their memories, their personalities, and ultimately their dignity, was profoundly painful to witness. I remember the helplessness we all felt, not only for them but for the toll it took on my family as they looked to care for relatives who were fading away in front of their eyes. Those moments of confusion, where they didn't recognise familiar faces, or the frustration that came when even the smallest task became insurmountable—these were heartbreaks I know that many of us have become sadly accustomed to.

I understand why people might be drawn to the idea of euthanasia in such

situations. It's only natural to want to end suffering, especially when it feels like there's no hope for improvement. And yet, as Christians, we're called to view suffering differently. It's not something we seek, but we know from Christ's own life that suffering can have meaning and purpose, even when we don't fully understand it.

The Bible teaches that each life is precious because we are all made in the image of God (**Genesis 1:27**). Our worth isn't based on our abilities, our health, or our independence, but on the fact that we are loved by God. **Psalms 139:16** reminds us that God has numbered our days, and it is not for us to decide when those days should end. In the New Testament, Paul speaks of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**), emphasising that our physical existence has a sacred dimension.

The slippery slope argument, often dismissed by proponents of euthanasia, is a valid concern for Christians. What starts as an option for those with terminal illness can gradually expand to include those with chronic conditions, disabilities, or even mental health struggles, as we are seeing played out in places like Canada, who have changed their laws on Assisted Dying in the last decade. Some alarming statistics which were published in a recent Wall Street Journal article stated the following:

"Physician-assisted suicide is now the fifth-leading cause of death in Canada: an astonishing 13,241 people took their lives this way in 2022, up from 1,018 in 2016. The belief that doctors wouldn't just "rubber-stamp" applications has proven totally misguided. Around four-fifths are approved, for everything from "vision/hearing loss" to "diabetes". There's more to come: the government is making mental illness an eligible condition in 2027, and the courts may well force it to do so sooner."

(Source: wsj.com)

This widening of criteria devalues life at its most vulnerable stages, and it risks pushing people towards ending their lives rather than receiving the care, compassion, and support they need.

But here's where the conversation becomes really important for us as a Church. While I will stand firm in my belief that euthanasia is wrong, I also believe that we

must be a community of care for those who are suffering, and for the families who watch their loved ones suffer. It's not enough to say that euthanasia is wrong we must also be present in the pain, offering our support, our prayers, and, when possible, our practical help.

I have seen how the support of our church community can be invaluable to those in the most difficult times of need. The prayers, the visits, the meals cooked for others can all become acts of love that can make the burden just a little lighter. I believe this is what we, as the body of Christ, are called to do. We may not be able to take away the suffering, but we can ensure that no one walks through it alone.

As a church leader, I believe we have a duty to uphold the sanctity of life, but also to be sensitive, compassionate, and pastoral in our approach to these difficult issues. Euthanasia may seem like an answer, but it overlooks the deeper, spiritual realities of life and death. I also believe we should be challenging any proposed change in the law here in the UK, because it is always the most vulnerable and needy who suffer the most – even if those proposing change believe that what they are doing is an act of kindness.

Let's continue to support those in our community who are facing these difficult end-of-life situations, reminding them that even in the hardest moments, God's love is present, and His plans for us extend far beyond the suffering of this world. Ultimately, we believe in a God who brings hope from despair, and life from death. May we, as a church, reflect that hope to all those around us. Do please reach out to me if you would like to chat about any issues raised here.

With every blessing and prayers assured,

Fr Andy

(Should anyone have any views or experiences that they would like to share with the rest of us, please send them to me by email – my contact details are on the back of the magazine – and I shall include them in the Letters Page of the next edition of the Hutton Parish Link. As usual, I shall respect your right to anonymity if that is your wish. Ed.)



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DECEMBER	5 th • 12 th • 19 th	CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION	19 th



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The Mothers' Union

At our September meeting we met up and were able to have Holy Communion in the Chapel; this was followed by prayers.

Our members ordered copies of the 2025 Mothers' Union Diary and were given details of the October Lunch at **the Eagle, 1pm on 9th October.**

Our November meeting will be on **Wednesday 13th at 1.30 pm.** Everyone is welcome.

A Date for your Diary: the A.G.M. will be in Chelmsford Cathedral on **Monday 18th November.**

2025 MOTHERS' UNION DIARY



Would you like a 2025 Mothers' Union diary? Its features include a Sunday start week-to-view calendar, note pages, and important Christian calendar dates.

This year the diary has a Mothers' Union-blue cover with embossed logo and the year of the diary. There is also a blue ribbon page marker so you can easily access the relevant week you need.

The size of the diary is 153mm x 85mm. Its reference



number is PD251 and it costs just £4.95.

If you would like me to order a copy, please speak to me. - **Margaret Morris**

RISE UP

against domestic abuse

Collecting Items for Local Refuge Clients

Domestic abuse is a pervasive issue that affects individuals and families of all backgrounds, causing lasting harm and trauma. In response to this urgent need, Mothers' Union launched its **RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse** campaign, with the aim of empowering its members, their churches, and the wider community to combat domestic abuse. Through the RISE UP campaign, Mothers' Union members are committed to raising awareness about domestic abuse, praying regularly for those affected by abuse, and supporting local domestic abuse services.

Hutton Mothers' Union has pledged its support for the RISE UP campaign and has recently started collecting items needed by our local refuge provider, Changing Pathways. Families entering refuge provision have often left their homes with nothing and are in need of essential items to enable them to settle into their accommodation. Changing Pathways are currently most in need of cleaning items such as washing up liquid, cleaning products, laundry liquid, mops, dust pans and brushes, and cleaning cloths; dry and tinned goods, such as pastas and rice; baby wipes; and crisps and biscuits for use in group work.

If you would like to support this collection and have any items to donate then please get in touch with me (ksmale25@yahoo.co.uk)

Kathryn Booth





SNAPS!



These photos were taken by Lynn Rae during a visit to a small Derbyshire village.

Eyam Church and village dates from the 12th century and is famous as being "the plague village". The plague is believed to have been brought to the village tailor in 1665 in a bale of cloth from London. Under the leadership of the rector Rev. William Mompesson, the villagers decided to make the sacrifice of containing the plague within the boundaries of their village. The spread was halted to nearby villages at the cost of 260 lives out of a population of around 800.



The link below gives more details. There is a very interesting museum in the village and the cottages where some of the victims resided reveal their own stories.

<https://www.eyamvillage.org.uk/plague>



Also this month we have pictures from Annie and Andrew Bayley who were on holiday at Whitby and visited St Mary's. It is next to Whitby Abbey.

As you can see, the pews arrangement is very different from what we are used to, and what we would probably regard as 'conventional'. And that theme is maintained with the children's church area, which looks very cosy!



Please keep your holiday snaps coming! It's fascinating for the rest of us to see different places of worship in different countries or different parts of this country. And if you can add any interesting details to accompany the pictures, so much the better!

Becoming A Bell-Ringing Teacher At Hutton

When I started to learn bell ringing at All Saints Hutton, as with all other churches, there wasn't a specific learning programme. To begin with I just had 15 minutes tuition a week before the start of the practice night. There was lots of encouragement and helpful comments from other ringers but it meant very little to start with. In fact, it was several weeks before I realised that when the Tower Captain suggested they ring the method plain hunt I thought they were saying go play hunt!! But I stuck at it as the band were a lovely friendly bunch and, very slowly, I improved. Today there is an accredited training scheme run by The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) which teaches how to teach.



Our little band was in need of a few new ringers. So, Beth, our Tower Captain organised an open day and we managed to attract several eager beginners. St Nicholas, Ingrave, also needed new ringers. We had been attending each others' practice once a month for some time to help keep both our bands going and they had also drummed up a few new beginners. Now we needed some extra hands to teach them. Beth suggested that Jackie from St Nicholas and I help by learning to teach.

This was very much out of my comfort zone but I thought I should give it go. So, one freezing cold January day myself and Jackie, who was equally reticent, attended an ART Module 1 teaching course. The training scheme consists of the one-day course, an online theory test, a period of teaching followed by an assessed lesson by an ART Assessor. It was quite an intensive day with several other prospective new teachers, broken up with a pub lunch, but enjoyable and we returned eager to put into practice our new skills and knowledge.

New teachers are supported by a mentor so there is always an experienced teacher working alongside to help you develop as a teacher. Along with access to online material and your course tutor you are never short of additional help. After several weeks teaching Beth arranged for Ruth Suggett, an ART Assessor, to come from Suffolk to All Saints Hutton to observe us in action so we could become accredited teachers. We were both quite nervous but Ruth put us at

ease and our two new ringers were excellent. We were delighted to pass and become Accredited Teachers. The weather was wonderful so Beth arranged a lovely picnic lunch at the church with Ruth and our learners. This was followed by a trip to Downham for some fun ringing.

If anyone is thinking of becoming a teacher I would definitely recommend going on the course. Yes, it is scary when you first start but the delight when your learner achieves each stage, from back stroke to hand stroke and when they stand the bell, on purpose (!) is both mutual and magical.

And finally, on 7th September, two of our ringers – Martin and Lorraine – were married at All Saints. Naturally they couldn't resist having a ring with us!

Lesley Clarke



An afternoon at Downham



Teachers and their students, l-r:
Violet, Lesley, Jackie, Ruth & Evan



Lesley, Ruth and Jackie
after their Assessment



Lorraine and Martin – Just Married!

This month we are stepping back in time only a matter of fourteen years to the magazine of November 2010, and specifically to the following article:-

HUTTON SCOUT GROUP

Hutton (All Saints) Scout Group has been fairly busy over the last few months, as always.

The Beavers have had a sleepover at Thriftwood, where they spent time cycling round the woods and trying the new play area at King George's Playing Fields. Coming up - they will do a Bat Walk at South Weald and bowling at 'Eddies'.



The Cubs have had a weekend camp with Brentwood District at Belchamps near Southend, where they learnt something about several countries and got to eat bugs and stroke a snake. Some also took part in a District Scout challenge day. They have also been going to Thriftwood to do what Cubs love doing best - running around and getting muddy!

The Scouts had a great summer camp in Romsey, Southampton, from where they also visited Brownsea Island, where scouting started, and the Beaulieu Motor Museum. They are getting ready for a night hike at the end of October.

All sections attended the District St George's Parade along Brentwood High Street in April.

I am pleased to say that the Cub Leadership has steadily grown in the last year and we are soon to re-open the Friday evening Burrige Pack.

The point of reproducing this article is not so much to show how the Scout Group was thriving, although that in itself is commendable, but rather to highlight the distinctly dubious and positively cavalier attitude towards 'Health and Safety' in those days! I am sure that many of us will be nostalgic for the days when filthy hands and grazed knees were de rigueur, and many things that were not necessarily good for one's digestion were popped into mouths. It was part of "growing up".

Also in that edition of the magazine, amongst fifteen (!) advertisements was one for "Tony Baxter Painting, Decorating and Much More" and another for "Terry Hayden Carpenter and Joiner". So there was absolutely no excuse for any parishioner's house to be anything other than pristine - especially since I'm certain that those gentlemen would have been open to quoting "mates' rates" to the congregation.....!

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CHILDREN REMAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF THEIR PARENTS/CARERS AT ALL TIMES

A LETTER FROM WEST HORNDON

(LIKE "A LETTER FROM AMERICA" BUT A LOT CLOSER)

Hello Hutton,

I am still alive in case you wondered and working hard in sunny West Horndon. So much has happened in the last four months it is hard to keep up with it all. One of my key priorities was to try and embed the church back into the community. Now whether it is embedded I am not entirely sure but it is certainly being noticed. The poor "Horndoners" have met me in their park, on their streets, at their village hall, in their local shops: everywhere they turn I try to be there. Some have given up resisting and are now coming to church and others have been visible at things like our SummerFest.

Launching into the world of FaceBook has been an experience and as a teacher something I have always stayed well away from. It has, however, made contacting people and publicising the things that are going on much easier, which is great. I have also been contacted by lots of ex-students which has also been great and so lovely to hear what they are all up to. I have been working



closely with the school and was lucky enough to be invited to their end of year show, in which every child in the school performed - bless them. It does mean that on my village wanders scooter riding youngsters whizz up and say hello, which I love. In turn I then organised their leavers' assembly at St Francis - great fun.



I noticed early on that the village seems to be the dog-owning capital of the world and so we had a dog show at the SummerFest. One of the lovely locals, Nicola, ran it for me as I suddenly realised that the only dog

show I had ever seen was Crufts and that my expectations may be a little unrealistic. We had a host of very well behaved dogs and a very rare entry from a gent called Kevin (not my Kevin) and his Mexican bald dog - a Xolitzcuintli!

There have been some sad times with two well loved members of the congregation dying. One came to the church in a horse drawn, glass, hearse for a blessing prior to travelling on to a lovely service at which Tino presided in Upminster Crematorium.

One of the greatest things I have discovered is the strength of my faith. The power of the Holy Spirit's presence has really made me feel that taking chances with things is worthwhile and that if things are done with faith, love and prayer they turn out ok. It is a challenge to turn people's minds to God when they have no belief but the Lord has kept putting opportunities into my path and I trust in his wisdom so I've run with some of them. The preschool's sponsored walk and the Blessing of the Bags service are a couple of examples.



Thank you to all of you that have come down/up/across for a visit. Your appearances have been very welcome at services and events alike. I have missed you very much, and the St Peter's and All Saints team. There is a loneliness in what I am doing that took me by surprise but has allowed me to think about whether I will look for a position in a team or on my own when I am finally looking for a post.

I really can't believe that I am now in my third year of curacy - it really does feel like just a few weeks ago that we were eating lovely cake and that poor dead and completely delicious piggy (the hog roast) in the sunshine together.

One thing that has not changed is my love of the Lord. He has given me opportunities, friends, feelings and challenges that I would never have had anywhere else except in Hutton and West Horndon, and all with the support of Father Andy, who rocks.

So this is Rev. Sue signing off for now and saying "God bless you all".

Revd. Sue



ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS the next generation

The **Air Training Corps 2476 (Hutton) Squadron** has its Headquarters in Wash Road and for many years has been a presence in this church on parade three times a year - on ATC Sunday in February, on Battle of Britain Sunday in September and on Remembrance Sunday. The turnout is always impressive as they and many of their parents join our congregation at these services.

The Squadron usually marches with its standard from the Cricket Club in Hall Green Lane and into Church Lane to assemble on the road outside the church.



The Remembrance Service is always the most moving as we remember all those who have lost their lives in conflict but especially as we read out the names of those from Hutton from our

two Memorials on the south aisle of the church.

During a hymn the Standard is taken by the colour party to the altar before we continue with the service when readings and prayers are delivered by members of the Corps.

Then, during the final hymn the Standard is returned and after the blessing we remain standing to sing two verses of the National Anthem whilst the flag is lowered to the floor.

These young people meet twice a week at Headquarters learning the disciplines of a military life and over the years we have seen raw recruits blossom into fine young men and women who become leaders. And don't forget also that a team comes to help us twice a year to tidy the churchyard.

They should be proud of themselves.



Bible Study

The Parables Unpacked

Over the course of the next few editions of Hutton Parish Link I thought I would take an in-depth look at some of the well-known parables that appear in the three Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. John's Gospel has no parables, probably because it covers a different timespan to the others and focuses more on the feelings and emotions of Jesus and theological issues.

The word "Parable" originates from the Greek 'parabolē', meaning 'comparison'. In the Bible, Jesus teaches his disciples and followers by using parables, among other methods. Parables were a way of conveying oral principles or stories that people could understand and relate to; it is a teaching method that uses the familiar to illustrate unfamiliar concepts, and can be a story or saying to demonstrate a truth using comparison, hyperbole or a simile. Some theologians describe parables as extended metaphors.

There are at least 35 parables in the Gospels, and I'm going to start with perhaps the most well-known of them: The parable of the Good Samaritan, which is found in *Luke 10: 29-37*.

The Good Samaritan

Before Jesus told this parable, a lawyer stood up to test Him, asking "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus replies "What is written in the law?"

The lawyer answered :You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus agreed that that was the right answer, and



the lawyer then asked “And who is my neighbour?”

So what is meant by ‘neighbour’ in the law? Where does it draw the line between friend and enemy; sister or brother and stranger? To answer this question, Jesus tells a story.



A Jew is robbed and beaten on the dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Two fellow Jews – a priest and a Levite – refuse to help him. At first thought, it might be easy to judge the priest as a hypocrite. But let’s hypothetically look at some reasonable excuses: -

- In the 1st Century, priests were set apart to administer the sacramental duties of the Temple.
- Priests were not expected to perform manual labour or to be involved in the ‘unclean’ tasks of nursing the sick and wounded.
- If the man was dead and the priest so much as touched him, he would have to be isolated for seven days.

Now let us look at some reasonable excuses for the Levite. They were also officials of the Temple, though subordinate to the priests. When the twelve tribes of Israel were first established, the tribe of Levi was set apart to tend to the priestly functions. Times changed, but the Levites were able to maintain their close affinity with the inner workings of the Temple. In Jesus’ day, Levites were responsible for the Temple treasury.

So now this Levite in the parable might be carrying a large sum of money, the route was notorious for thieves and robbers lurking around, so the Levite might think it could be a trap for travellers.

Then Jesus went on to describe how the Samaritan stopped and helped the Jew despite there being a long history of hatred between them. In the Jews’ eyes the Samaritans were racially inferior to them due to intermarriage with the Assyrians, and the fact that they also worshipped pagan gods. Yet in the story the Samaritan saves the man’s life and demonstrates compassion by providing for his future care.

So you can imagine the reaction of the lawyer when Jesus told this parable. The parable exposes the prejudice of the Jewish people in Jesus' day. It challenges their tendency to judge who is worthy of God's love and who is not. Contrary to common belief in Jesus' day, it was not the priests, or the Levites or even the Jews who held the citizenship to God's kingdom, but whoever God chose to call, including a lowly Samaritan.

Who, then, is the neighbour? The religious person? The law expert? The fellow Jew? No! The neighbour is the person who acts in a neighbourly way – the person who helps. It also shows the power of love that overcomes social, ethnic, and religious boundaries.

Jesus has turned the question round. It is no longer, 'Who is my neighbour?' but, 'To whom can I be a neighbour?' So, ask yourself: How are you going to respond the next time you cross paths with someone in need? What kind of neighbour will you prove to be?

Timo xx.

Autumn Term 2024

OLDER Youth GROUP

Sundays 4-5.30pm
29th September
27th October
24th November

Sunday 8th December Youth Christmas Party

**Age 14+/Year 9 +?
Join us!
Contact andy@huttonparish.com/
07860 156971 for more info.**

Fridays 7-9pm
13th September
11th October
15th November

All Saints - St. Peter
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4-5:30PM

13TH & 27TH OCTOBER

10TH NOVEMBER

8TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

ST PETER'S CHURCH, CLAUGHTON WAY

SATELLITES



Satellites is an annual, summer five-day gathering of young people representing numerous churches and youth groups from around the country.

It's run by an organization called Youthscape, a Charity based in Luton and originally started by 45 churches in the area who were deeply concerned with the apathy, hopelessness and disaffection from their communities that they perceived in the local young people.

From those humble beginnings, the Charity grew steadily and is now country-wide and has the Archbishop of Canterbury as its Patron. And its highlight is the Satellites Festival held at the Bath and West Showground in August and attended by some 2,000 youngsters from 13 -18 years old along with 500 of their adult leaders, which is designed to inspire those young people to live with God at the centre of their lives for the other 360 days of the year. Basically it's camping with a lot of fun, games, activities, barbeques, discos, and central to it all discussions about faith and worship and helping the young delegates to connect with scripture.

Fr Andy and Revd Alice took a group to the event in August, and from the "before" and "after" photos that were taken, it was evident that they all had the time of their lives, even if that included too many late nights and doughnuts!



At the "Blessing of the Bags" service at St Peters on 1st September two of the youngsters spoke movingly and passionately about what the week had meant to them:

the fun they'd had; the friendships they'd made, and the different slant it had given them on religion.



Next year's event is scheduled for the 6th - 10th August. Whether Alice and Andy will have recovered sufficiently to take another group along remains to be seen.



2nd - 6th August 2024



We realise that it might seem a bit early to start thinking about Christmas (although, as usual, there are certain shops and garden centres that have had their seasonal displays out since August!) but we want to give you as much time as possible to take part in and complete the following initiative.

Once again we shall be running our Christmas Hamper appeal this year to help those in our community who otherwise wouldn't be able to enjoy some of the basic food and drink that we traditionally associate with Christmas.

This year we are streamlining the process a little by emailing a form to anybody who expresses an interest in compiling a hamper or who has done so in past years. 'Sign-up' forms have already been emailed to past participants, and if you would like to be included in the scheme for the first time, please contact the office.



By completing this form you are signing up to either put together a hamper or make a cash donation towards the appeal.

If you choose to bless us with a cash donation, this can be made either by physical cash to the Daily Bread Office in an envelope marked 'Hamper Appeal 2024' or via Bank Transfer. If you choose to pay by Bank Transfer, please email dailybreadhampers@gmail.com for the details.

If you choose to put together a hamper, you will receive an email after you have signed up giving you a list of items that we suggest you include in your hamper. If you wish, we shall also send you weekly reminders suggesting a particular item from the list for you to buy that week.

By committing to putting together a hamper, you are agreeing to drop off your hamper on Saturday 7th December between 9am and 11am. Please deliver the contents in a large, sturdy bag – perhaps with a Christmassy theme! Unfortunately we cannot offer to collect as we shall need all of our volunteers to help receive and distribute the hampers on the same day.

Thank you in advance for your continued support: we wouldn't be able to bless the community each year without it.

The Daily Bread Team



Tea Break

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This is a straightforward little quiz where all the following biblical statements are either true or false. Tick the one you think is correct and see how well you know your Bible! The answers can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

1. The Bible is the most popular book ever written in terms of copies sold. **True / False**
2. Jesus was an only child **True / False**
3. John the Baptist wore clothes made of goat hair **True / False**
4. At first, Jesus' family tried to stop his ministry and said he was crazy **True / False**
5. Jesus would sometimes spit as part of his healing miracles **True / False**
6. Peter raised a woman named Dorcas from the dead **True / False**
7. Paul had a vision of a man calling him to come to Carthage **True / False**
8. Peter was rescued from prison by an angel **True / False**
9. God sent an earthquake to rescue Paul and Silas from prison in Philippi **True / False**
10. David wrote the entire book of Psalms **True / False**
11. The opposite of the Fruits of the Spirit are called "the Works of the Flesh" **True / False**
12. The Bible was first written in Latin **True / False**

HOW OLD???

One day recently, whilst looking for something (I can't remember what now) in the early chapters of the book of Genesis, I became fascinated by how many references there were to the ages of some of mankind's forefathers.

We all know that Methuselah was "the oldest person ever to have lived", and that he survived until the great age of 969 - allegedly, but there are plenty of others who apparently achieved what we would now regard as mind-boggling longevity. Quite a few of them are not particularly well-known, but the two with the highest profile today were probably Adam and Noah. **Genesis (5:5)** assures us that "all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died" and a little further on **(9:29)** a similarly stark statement refers to Noah living to the age of 950.



ADAM



NOAH



METHUSELAH

Surely, the obvious conclusion to draw from these pronouncements is that 'years' were calculated rather differently in those days to how we know them now. Possibly it was customary to regard the time it took for the moon to orbit the earth - what we now call one month - as a "year". Applying that philosophy would mean that Methuselah lived for about 80 years: still a good age by the standards of the time.

Another popular theory is that great heroes or titans of that time were afforded lasting status as marks of honour, so that the entire duration of the family tree of the direct ascendants of someone like Methuselah became dedicated to him until he himself died. There is of course a relatively modern similarity to that in the references, especially in medieval times, to royal "Houses", or Dynasties. The House of Tudor, best known for Henry VIII, lasted for 118 years, and had been going for 56 years when Henry died. So if the theory about a pre-historic year being in reality a month, Henry's age would have been about 672. Not bad for an overweight philanderer, but still a long way short of the supermen of Genesis.

Or maybe it was simply that the lifestyle of those pioneers was so unpoluted and free from disease, stress, wars, or anything else that we have learnt to live with (or die from) that they were genuinely able to live to such advanced ages.

If anyone has any other theories as to how such ages were achieved, please let me know. Drop me an email and I'll put it in the next edition of the magazine in the "Letters" page.

Malcolm Webb

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ANSWERS TO “TRUE OR FALSE” QUIZ

1. True 2. False

3. False (It was camel hair)

4. True 5. True (The Bible describes him spitting three times)

6. True 7. False (He was from Macedonia) 8. True

9. True (They didn't escape but stayed in jail to share the good news)

10. False (They're a collection by many writers although David contributed the most) 11. True

12. False (The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek)

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Weddings

31st August Dora Torfor and Peter Jones
7th September Martin Axon and Lorraine Dodge

Baptisms – All Saints

25th August Isla Betty Bradley

Funerals

12th September David Sims – Funeral at Bentley Crematorium.
13th September Doreen Bunting – Funeral at Bentley Crematorium.

Funeral Arrangements

Should you need to book a funeral for someone, please contact a member of the Ministry Team, and they will arrange for you to be talked through what needs to be dealt with. In normal circumstances this would include funeral arrangements, pastoral care, a visit from a member of the Bereavement Visiting Team, if appropriate, and information about interment of ashes, plaques on the Memorial Wall, Book of Remembrance, and anything else that you would like to know.

Baptisms

Any child or adult who lives in the Parish may be baptised in our churches during an appropriate Sunday service at either All Saints or St Peters church.

For a child, baptism is the beginning of an exciting journey of faith. In choosing to have their child baptised, parents are saying that he or she is precious to them and precious to God. For some parents – or other adults, for that matter – they themselves didn't have the opportunity for whatever reason to be baptised as a child. We want to encourage them to be baptised as adults and to enjoy the same feelings towards God as their children will.

In the first instance please contact the Parish Office. The Parish Administrator will liaise with the Clergy to establish a date suitable to all parties and you will be sent an application form and information leaflets about the baptism itself and the other facilities available for you and/or your child to become involved with, all of which are mentioned elsewhere in this magazine.

Weddings

Information about getting married in our churches can be obtained by contacting our Weddings Co-ordinator, Annie Bayley.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE FOUND ON THE "USEFUL CONTACTS" PAGE AT THE BACK OF THE MAGAZINE.

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
6 th Oct	Trinity 19	10.30	Joint Holy Communion	St Peters	Guest
13 th Oct	Trinity 20	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Revd Lisa
		11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints	Revd Lisa
20 th Oct	Trinity 21	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Fr Andy
		11.15	Morning Prayer	All Saints	Fr Tony
		16.00	Evening Prayer/Worship	St Peters	Fr Andy
27 th Oct	Trinity 22	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Fr Andy
		11.15	Holy Communion/Baptism	All Saints	Rev Alice
3 rd Nov	Trinity 23	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Fr Andy
		11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints	Fr Andy
		18.00	Memorial Service	All Saints	Revd Lisa
10 th Nov	Trinity 24	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Fr Andy
		10.45	Parade Service	All Saints	Revd Lisa
17 th Nov	Trinity 25	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Fr Andy
		11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints	Fr Tony
24 th Nov	Trinity 26	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Revd Lisa
		11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints	Revd Lisa

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION OF:



This magazine that you are reading has been produced in its current form since April 2020. It has always been completely free of charge to anyone who wants a copy.

We produce 130 copies of each issue. Some are taken to All Saints for its regular worshippers to pick up, whilst the majority are placed in the foyer of St Peter's where there is naturally a far greater footfall from all the various daily activities and larger congregations.

All copies regularly go, but if you do struggle to get your hands on one, or you know of any local residents who would like one but are unable to get to church, and to whom you would be happy to deliver a copy, please let me know and I'll make sure you get what you need.

I said at the start that the magazine is and will remain free to all who want a copy. But of course there are costs involved in the production – paper, ink and the 'per sheet' rental charge from the company from whom we hire the printer. We need to try to cover some if not all of our production costs, and the best way to achieve that is to sell a small amount of advertising space in the magazine. To that end.....

- **Do you have your own business, or know of someone who does, and would you or they consider advertising in future editions?**
- **Would you be prepared to approach local shops – particularly those where you are well-known – and enquire whether they would be prepared to support us by way of advertising in the magazine?**

We charge £120 (full page) or £70 (half page) per year (six copies) for full colour adverts. All the advertiser has to do is present us with his preferred artwork and we'll do the rest. And the "year" can start at any time – usually from the date of the first edition published after we receive the advertiser's copy.

These rates are incredibly cheap for the amount of exposure that the advertiser will get, but it is not our desire to make a profit, just to cover our costs so that we never have to even consider charging for the magazine.

If you think you can help, or know of someone who might be able to, or just want more information about advertising, please get in touch with me. My contact details are on the back page.

Thank you.

Malcolm



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