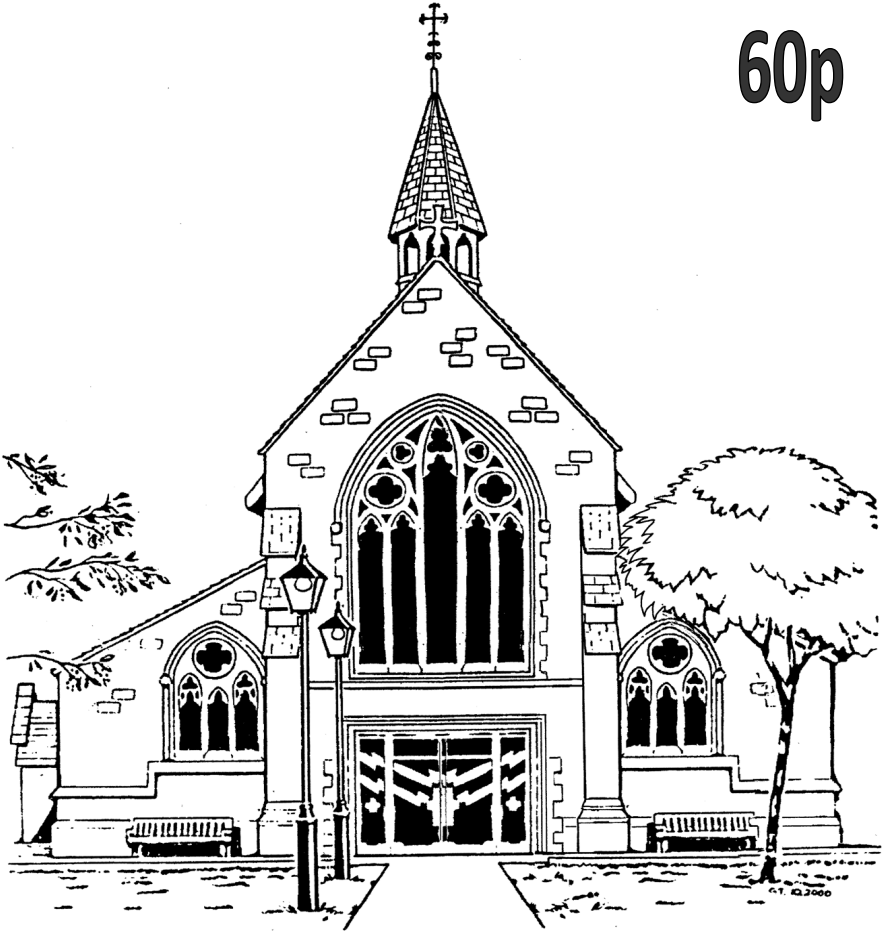


**SAINT
JOHN'S**
BOXMOOR

The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

60p



July 2020 Magazine



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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN

BOXMOOR

CLERGY

Vicar:	The Reverend Michael Macey Boxmoor Vicarage 10 Charles Street, HP1 1JH <i>Day off: Friday</i> Email: vicar@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	01442 243258
Associate Minister:	The Reverend Canon Dr Ruth Goatly 23 Beechfield Road, Boxmoor, HP1 1PP <i>Normally available: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday</i> Email: associateminister@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	07961 980158
Lay Reader:	Mrs Carole Lewis 61 River Park, Boxmoor, HP1 1RB <i>Day off: Wednesday</i> Email: lewicarole@gmail.com	01442 231414

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion (Every Sunday)
9.30 am	Main Morning Service: Week 1 - All Age Eucharist Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5 - Parish Eucharist Junior Church (3-11 Sunday School) in Church Hall (There is no Junior Church on 1st Sunday of month) Weeks 1 & 3 - Holy Baptism
11.30 am	Evening Services: Week 1 - BCP Holy Communion with hymns and sermon Week 2 - Choral Evensong Week 3 - Taizé Service Week 4 - Evensong and Benediction (at St. Francis) Week 5 - As announced
6.30 pm	

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Daily	Morning and Evening Prayer: 8.45 am - Morning Prayer (Daily - except Sundays) 9.30 am - Morning Worship (Thursday at St Stephen's, Chaulden) 5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (Mon/Tues/Thu/Fri at St John's) 5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (Wednesday at St Francis, Hammerfield)
Monday	7.30 pm - Holy Communion
Tuesday	9.30 am - Tiny Tots for under fives and parents including Refreshments - Service finishes by 11.00 am
Wednesday	10.30 am - Holy Communion (followed by coffee in church) (Prayers for Healing on the 4th Monday of each month (7.30pm during Holy Communion) and the 3rd Wednesday Morning of every other month (10 am Service of Prayer for Healing prior to the Holy Communion Service)

Enquiries concerning Thanksgivings, Baptisms and Weddings in the church office: Tuesdays from 6.30 pm to 7.15 pm (Please note during winter months 6.45 pm to 7.30 pm)

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You are invited to

Friendship Teas

The teas are open to everyone, but may be especially appreciated by

- ◆ those who are living alone;
- ◆ those who have been bereaved; or
- ◆ any who are at a loose end on Thursday afternoons.

The teas (for mutual support and friendship) are held in the Church Hall at St. John's, from 3:30pm, on 2nd Thursdays of most months, as:-



- ◆ 9th July)
- ◆ 10th September)

Please note
all dates
currently post-
poned

... Just come along.



MAGAZINE ADVERTISING COSTS

Why not use this parish magazine to advertise your business. There are eleven issues per year with double issue in December/January.

Charges are:	Full Page	£115 per annum
	Half Page	£80 per annum
	Quarter Page	£60 per annum

For part year charges are pro rata of the annual rate rounded up to the nearest whole pound (e.g. 1 month/issue full page $115/12 = 9.58$ rounded up = £10 charge)

To discuss your requirements or for further information, please contact **Sally Bates, 01442 266912 or 07792 768236**
or email: magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

VICAR'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

25 May 2020 was a defining day. The world has not been the same since. But what happened? A US citizen, George Floyd, was arrested in Minneapolis and died in Police custody. George, a black man, was arrested by white Police officers who had him pinned-down in the street, kneeling on his neck, preventing him from breathing even though he pleaded for them to get off. 'I can't breathe'.

His death hit the News headlines around the world sparking protests in major cities and towns in numerous countries. Some of these protests descended into violence whilst the majority passed-off peacefully (just like the protests here in Hemel Town Centre). Statues of colonial bastions of trade and industry, particularly the Slave Trade, have been (forcibly) removed; new guidelines for the Police have been rushed through American legislative bodies; and all this has taken place under the banner *Black lives matter*.

Despite being aware of the white, middle class, privilege that I regard as 'normal' and enjoy each day, and being someone who believes in (and works for) equality for all people, I was not fully aware of the sheer extent to which prejudicium, bigotry, and bias towards/against people of colour in this country caused so much pain and division, and prevented them from fulfilling their full potential. It would be easy to say that racism is not part of our society here in sleepy Boxmoor but that wouldn't be true. It pervades every single community and now we are finally hearing and listening to our black brothers and sisters as they too say 'I can't breathe'!

It would be lovely to be able to say that the Church has led on this issue over the years, but that would be hypocritical as for many years the Church of England was complicit in the Slave Trade. But there is much for the Church, and our faith as Christians, to say.

Firstly, we need to acknowledge what we have done wrong and ask for forgiveness – to repent, to make amends for the injustice we have done. John Newton, an 18th Century Slave Trader, had a Damascene experience whilst traversing the Atlantic with a cargo of slaves when he realised the inhumanity of his actions and sought repentance. Cont'd.....

His hymn, *Amazing Grace*, reflects how forgiveness is possible through and by God's grace, bringing newness and fullness of life. Upon his return to England Newton campaigned tirelessly, alongside Wilberforce and Equiano, for an end to the Slave Trade. As a national Church, our bias against people of colour needs to be called out and forgiveness sought, and our work intensified with, and in, every community to remove the barriers and attitudes that divide in so many ways.

Secondly, we need to affirm, loudly, that all lives matter. Our skin tone (be it black, white, mixed race) is not, and should not be our defining feature. Our defining feature is that we are Children of God – loved by God; known by name, and precious in his sight. We are all equal in God's sight. All matter equally. But for us to get to that point in society we need to show to those who are the victims of discrimination just how much they matter. We need to tell them they are loved and that they matter. We need to show them that they are of equal worth and give them the same opportunities as everyone else. Black lives do matter because all life matters.

Thirdly, inclusion of all people into our worshipping community, and indeed into our communal life, needs to be genuine and sincere. Over recent years it has been pleasing to see that roughly 20% of worshippers at our Parish Eucharist are people of colour and that these new/established worshippers have been made welcome, consequently seeking to make our Church their spiritual home. For years and years we have been praying that the blindness and prejudice which cause division may be removed. Now we have another opportunity to work for, and hasten, that day when all are treated equally.

Black lives matter.

There is much work to be done. The systemic failings will not be changed overnight but they will change if we continue to add our voice to voice crying 'I can't breathe'. Through education and financial investment we need to tackle the root causes of this injustice and not simply focus our indignation on the symbols. But together we can make a difference.

As ever my prayers and blessings to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

PARISH DIARY FOR JULY 2020

PUBLIC WORSHIP RESUMES THIS MONTH.

ALL CHURCH CLUBS AND GROUPS REMAIN SUSPENDED.
SERVICES WILL BE SUBJECT TO RULES AND GUIDANCE ISSUED
BY THE NATIONAL CHURCH & GOVERNMENT

PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS TO KEEP YOURSELF AND OTHERS SAFE

*Enquiries regarding baptisms, weddings, or marriage blessings
are always welcome. Please contact the Vicar*

*Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are said Monday – Friday,
8.45am & 5.00pm respectively, for the Life of the Parish,
in St John's, unless otherwise stated below.*

*The Parish Eucharist and Worship Resources will continue to be recorded
and made available at*

www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/recorded-services

Weds 1	11.00am	Zoom Coffee Morning	
Thurs 2	8.15pm	Zoom Happy Hour Drinks	
Fri 3		St Thomas, Apostle	
Sun 5		Fourth Sunday after Trinity	
	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	<i>St John's</i>
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St John's</i>
		<i>conducted under strict new guidelines and streamed later in the day (See Newsletter for details)</i>	
Weds 8	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	<i>St John's</i>
	11.00am	Zoom Coffee Morning	
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>St Francis'</i>
Thurs 9	8.15pm	Zoom Happy Hour Drinks	
Sun 12		Fifth Sunday after Trinity	
	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	<i>St John's</i>
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St John's</i>
		<i>conducted under strict new guidelines and streamed later in the day (See Newsletter for details)</i>	
Weds 15	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	<i>St John's</i>
	11.00am	Zoom Coffee Morning	
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>St Francis'</i>
Thurs 16	8.15pm	Zoom Happy Hour Drinks	

Sun 19 Sixth Sunday after Trinity
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) *St John's*
10.00am Parish Eucharist *St John's*
conducted under strict new guidelines and streamed later in the day (See Newsletter for details)

Wed 22 **St Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles**
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) *St John's*
11.00am Zoom Coffee Morning
5.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP) *St Francis'*

Thurs 2 8.15pm Zoom Happy Hour Drinks

Sat 25 **St James, Apostle**

Sun 26 July Seventh Sunday after Trinity
8.00am Holy communion *St John's*
10.00am Parish Eucharist *St John's*
conducted under strict new guidelines and streamed later in the day (See Newsletter for details)

We hope to gradually re-introduce Services during the month.

Name above all Names

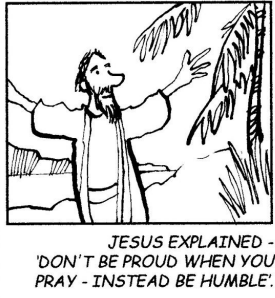
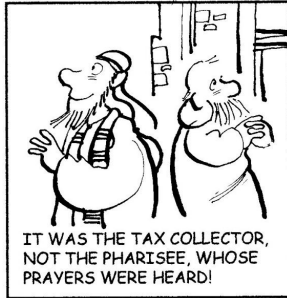
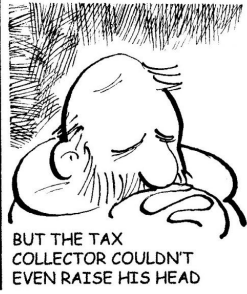
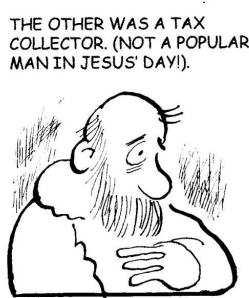
Name above all Names, what's in a name?
Jesus, Messiah, He's coming again,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End,
Apostle and High Priest, the sinners Friend.

Walking on water, calming the storm,
God incarnate calling us home
Creator, the I Am, nailed to a tree
Lion of Judah dying for me.

Risen, the Victor, conquering King
Coming with clouds redemption to bring
To gather His bride for heaven above
To reign with the Lamb whose name is Love.

By Megan Carter

The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**



Miriam Reveley – a young organist making steady progress



At the tender age of 16, **Miriam Reveley** has gained the Colleague diploma of the Royal College of Organists (RCO), with an impressive haul of all six prizes available in the examination session. This award was introduced in 2014 as a stepping stone to the long-established ARCO and FRCO diplomas for organists. It indicates “a standard of reliable and confident musicianship in public performance... confidence in basic keyboard skills, most of which are invaluable in a liturgical context, and proficiency on those aural and written skills (fundamental musical grammar and knowledge of repertoire) which support practical musicianship”.

The examination requires the performance of three set pieces, tests in transposition/figured bass, hymn playing (including a concluding improvisation) and sight reading, aural perception, and a written paper of harmony tests and knowledge of repertoire; a formidable battery.

Miriam secured the highest marks in her session for both the performance and written sections, and therefore also for aggregate marks.

Many of the congregation will remember Miriam as the elder daughter of our former Vicar, James Reveley, and his wife, Jo. Miriam joined the choir of St. John’s in September 2012, distinguishing herself by taking the iconic solo first verse of *Once in royal David’s city* at a Christingle service that Christmas, before the family moved to St. Andrew’s, Bedford in April 2013. Subsequently she was a leading member of the choir there, gaining the RSCM Dean’s Award and Bishop’s Award (both with Distinction), before joining the Girl Choristers’ choir at Ely Cathedral in 2016. Here she took up organ study under Sarah MacDonald, and soon progressed to playing voluntaries at services. She is now Sixth Form Organ Scholar at The King’s School, Ely, which entails playing at services on a regular basis (during normal times). The picture above (courtesy of James Reveley) shows her at the Ely Cathedral console. To support her ongoing study, there is now a house organ in the vicarage at Bedford, at which she has spent lengthy hours during the current lockdown period.

We congratulate Miriam on this latest success, which we are sure is just the first step on a potentially-impressive career ladder, and wish her well as she prepares to audition for an organ scholarship at one of the Cambridge colleges.

Nicholas King
(Director of Music 2006-2014)

Music at St. John's Lunchtime Concerts

The pandemic has prevented us from holding our Spring/Summer Series of lunchtime concerts in the normal way at St John's. They should have been in full swing by now, starting with the one on 1st May.

However all is not lost as we are planning to make a number of the events available as recordings on our website. Some will be recorded in the performers' own homes but others, involving up to three socially distanced musicians, will be recorded in the church.

Please visit the website for further details at: masj.org.uk

Paul Davies



Stella Chandler (1923-2020)

Sadly, Stella Chandler, a well-known and popular member of St John's church, passed away on June 8th at the age of 96, after several days in Watford Hospital following a fall at home.



Stella's early life was somewhat nomadic as her father was in the RAF. As a teenager during WWII she joined the Women's Land Army and between 1942 and 1946 worked on farms in Cheshire in harsh conditions without electricity and with minimal mechanisation. Just after the war, life was a little easier when she was working on a farm where the crop included flowers to brighten the lives of people in those drab post-war days and Stella received training in horticulture, which engendered a lifelong love of gardening.

After demobilisation, a series of courses at the Froebel Educational Institute led to a career in education, initially teaching junior children in London schools. Now married to husband Dennis, Stella moved to Hemel Hempstead in 1961 when she had the opportunity to take a headship at Chaulden Infants School, a position she held for 13 years, and Dennis travelled to his post at the Bank of England. Later Stella was invited to be the first head of the newly built Eastbrook School at Grove Hill.

In later life, she remained very busy. Retirement allowed her to develop her skills as a needlewoman and gardener. Guests were entertained in her lovely garden. Playing bowls and bridge kept her active and her membership of St John's church was important to her. She was a regular attendee of Women's Fellowship and generous donor to the organ fund. She was a founder member of the Hemel Hempstead Ladies Probus club. Stella and Dennis also enjoyed Continental travel together until his death in January 2009.



After Dennis's death, Stella was encouraged by friends to share with others her experiences in the Women's Land Army and she was persuaded to give the fascinating talks about her experiences that she became so well-known for. Audiences enjoyed her engaging and natural way of telling her story.

Cont'd....

Stella was an enthusiastic member of the Local History Society and was assisted by fellow members in developing those talks into a PowerPoint presentation. To accompany her talks she would share her extensive collection of clothing, badges and memorabilia from that era. Not many people in their nineties would be able to speak so clearly and cope with delivering their talk with a PowerPoint presentation! One U3A group voted her as the best speaker of the year! St John's Women's Fellowship also enjoyed her talk.



In July 2008, Stella received a certificate from the then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, together with a specially produced badge in recognition of this important part of her life.

Stella lived her long life well right to the end. She had a wonderful sense of humour, fun and mischief. She will be greatly missed.

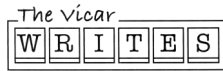
(Adapted from an Appreciation of Stella written by Mike Stanyon for the Local History Society)

Your garden is good for you

Spending time in your garden will do your wellbeing as much good as if you were living in a wealthy neighbourhood.

So says a recent study by the University of Exeter and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). It has found that 71 per cent of people who used their garden went on to report good general health, as compared to 61 per cent who did not use their outdoor space. A similar difference in wellbeing was seen between the highest and lowest income groups.

The study also found that those of us who love our gardens are far more likely to have greater levels of physical activity and much higher psychological wellbeing.



Coronavirus – Update

From 4 July all places of worship are permitted to re-open for Public Worship. Clear guidance is anticipated concerning how this can be done safely yet reverently. Our hope is to be able to welcome you back to St John’s on Sunday 5 July but without guidance this might not be possible. In the short-term I plan not to resume Public Worship at either St Francis’ or St Stephen’s churches on Sundays, or indeed any evening worship, but with the view that if our return at St John’s goes well, and assisting clergy become available, to re-opening at some point during the month. As things are changing rapidly, please check the Newsletter for the most up-to-date information.

Although we are able to return to Public Worship it will not be returning to things as ‘normal’. We know that singing is not permitted (although recorded music is) and that some form of distancing is required. The Peace will not be shared and the reception of the Blessed Sacrament will be in one kind only. Refreshments after the service will not be possible nor will Junior Church be available.

We also intend to record our Parish Eucharist and make this available for those who continue to isolate/shield later in the day. We have opted not to live-stream for various technical reasons.

I propose the following Service times, for the time being:

Sundays

- 8.00am Holy Communion *according to the Book of Common Prayer*
- 10.00am The Parish Eucharist

Wednesdays

- 10.00am Holy Communion *according to the Book of Common Prayer*
- 11.00am Coffee Morning *on Zoom*
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer (at St Francis)

St John’s will remain open each day for Private Prayer. I hope to be able to re-start saying the Daily Office back in church from 6 July with Morning Prayer at the later time of 9.00am and Evening Prayer still at 5.00pm.

I very much look forward to welcoming you back to St John’s as and when you feel able to do so. Do not feel pressured into returning. Just because we can does not mean that we have to. Please continue to act safely and to pray for one another.

Works at St John's

A massive thank you to all who have been working so hard to make the grounds of our churches, particularly St John's, look so welcoming and inviting during lockdown. The raised flower bed near the Memorial garden looks fabulous and awaits Roses which will be planted in the autumn. The paths have been weeded and mended. Bike 'racks' have been installed. Benches varnished. Lights repaired. Trees pruned. Grass cut. And work has re-started on repairing the churchyard wall! As ever there is always more to do, so if you would like to help maintain our grounds please contact the Churchwardens.

Social Events

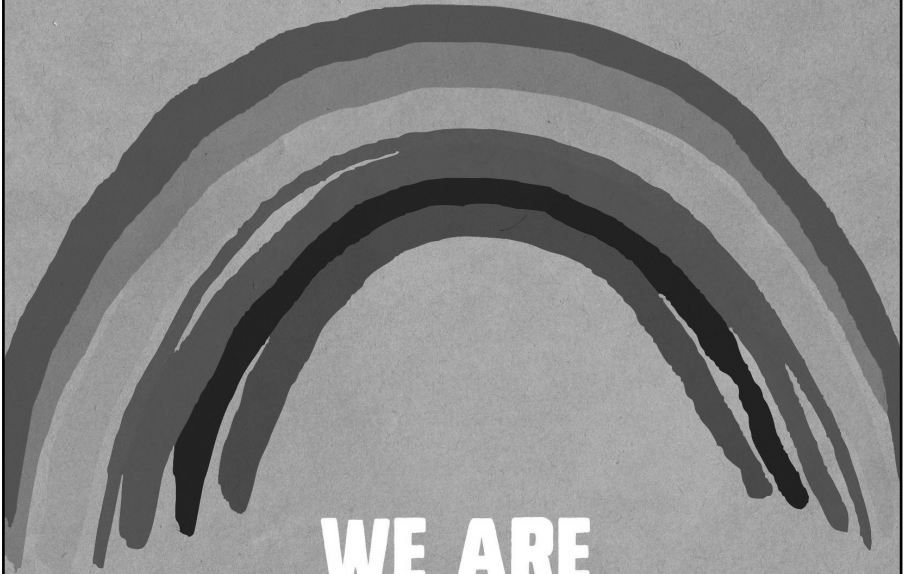
It has been a real blessing to be able to keep in touch with so many during these days of lockdown via our online Social Events. I intend to keep these going for the time being in addition to our return to Public Worship. If you haven't yet joined either our Coffee Morning or Happy Hour you would be most welcome. Please email me for the log-in details.

Called and Waiting...

Vanessa Hadley-Spencer, a former Head Chorister of St John's, was due to be ordained Deacon on Sunday 28 June this year. This has now been postponed until the end of September. She has however started working in her new parish as a licensed Lay Worker. We wish her well as she begins this new ministry hoping that we can join her in September for her Ordination. Please hold Vanessa, and all who were due to be ordained this summer, in your prayers.



**THANK YOU
KEY WORKERS!**



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PRAYING FOR YOU**





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- Handyperson
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Boxmoor

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Neighbourhood Watch and Age UK Dacorum are the founder members of this "Good Neighbours" Scheme in Boxmoor.

Good to know

The little word of love,
the right time and place
Will be blessed by God above,
and watered by His grace.

Author unknown



HALLS FOR HIRE

ST JOHN'S HALL - Well equipped hall suitable for use by special interest groups, clubs and societies. Ideal for family parties and special occasions. Please contact Hall Bookings Secretary on 07939 226977 or email: hallbookings@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk for further information and availability.

ST STEPHEN'S HALL, CHAULDEN - (opposite Tudor Rose) - Sunny Hall with tiled floor suitable for dancing and exercise groups as well as being ideal for children's parties. Please contact Jean on 01442 257023 for further information and availability.

ST FRANCIS HALL, HAMMERFIELD - Well equipped hall suitable for use by special interest groups, clubs and societies. Ideal for family parties and special occasions. Please contact Hall Bookings Secretary by email: stfranchishallbookings@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk for further information and availability. More urgent queries can be handled by leaving a message on Paul Davies mobile phone: 07802 442908



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The Revd. Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... this was written before lockdown.

Beware the spell-checker on your special service sheets!

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

When producing material for your magazine or church services, beware the computer spell-checker. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and, on the night, found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manager”, manglers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers - that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus, on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won't be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

Never, ever, print on them ‘Do not take home’ as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction ‘Take this sheet home for reference’ would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice solve the problem.

Cont'd.....

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

SMILE-LINES

Why did God make mothers?

Here are some of the answers seven-year-olds gave to the following questions...

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mum?

God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.

What kind of little girl was your mum?

I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?

His last name.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

She got too old to do anything else with him.

What's the difference between mums & dads?

Mum knows how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

What would it take to make your mum perfect?

On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.

40 Anagrams of areas in and around Hemel Hempstead

Gradually moving further out

- 1 GIRL HOVEL
- 2 DIED BEGGAR
- 3 NEW ERRANDS
- 4 SERVE ROCKET GLEN
- 5 HOLD WARM LOAF
- 6 LAUNCHED
- 7 SECT COD PINT
- 8 TEN ENDS BENT
- 9 DEFILE DAY
- 10 SMALL SHIN
- 11 ALL SKINNY EGG
- 12 BYGONE BALLAST
- 13 ADD STRANGE EDGE
- 14 NUDE BONER
- 15 DIG HARES
- 16 DEEP RICH FLIP
- 17 ANT SLABS
- 18 PET TENDON
- 19 ARK MESH DEBT
- 20 DAMPENS CRIB
- 21 BORED URN
- 22 DEAL SEVEN
- 23 PANNED HER
- 24 TEAK ARMY
- 25 TEN END LET
- 26 DEAD DELL TESTING
- 27 MADE FLATS
- 28 HEN POUNCED
- 29 THANKS CROW RIM
- 30 SHIRT FEND
- 31 PINED WASH
- 32 BALD TUNES
- 33 SLEWING LECHER
- 34 WEB COOK DIRT
- 35 ON BRIGHT NUDE
- 36 SHRED CLASS CORN
- 37 HERESY ANGEL
- 38 HOWDY COOLER
- 39 LEND NOON CLOY
- 40 GRIZZLED OATH BUN



Good Luck

Answers on page 29

23rd Psalm for the hard-pressed student

The Lord is my real instructor and I shall not want.
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.
He gently reminds me to pray before I speak
and to do things without complaining.

He reminds me that He, and not my school, is my Salvation.
He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions
that I might honour Him in everything I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of social isolation,
live streaming and exams, I will not stop – for He is with me!

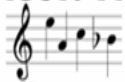
His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.
He will raise me up, even if I fail to get a good grade.

He claims me as His own and knows that I have done my best.
His faithfulness and love are better than any A+.

In eternity it won't matter what degree I got.
When it's all said and done,
I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer than
I'll be in school (even when it doesn't feel like it)
and for that, I bless His name!

Author unknown

MUSIC AT 'Music Percentage Club Update'



Congratulations to our May Draw Winners;

ST JOHN'S
a community project

Nicholas King 1st £15

Richard Lyne 2nd £8

Zoe Harbour 3rd £4

If you know of someone who would be interested in joining the Music Percentage Club and supporting Music at St John's in this way there are forms in church or please contact Mark Harbour on 01582 841019 or see him in church.

Mark Harbour - on behalf of MASJ

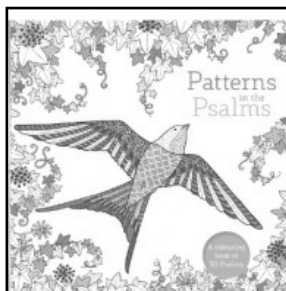
BOOK REVIEW

Patterns in the Psalms – a colouring book

SPCK, £9.99

This summer, if you have time on your hands, why not colour your way through the beautiful imagery of the Psalms?

This book contains 30 illustrations with a corresponding verse, all designed to appeal to an adult market. The designs include animals, flowers, leaves, waves, stars and other patterns. Readers can enjoy the creativity and freedom of adding colour to these intricate designs, whilst scripture provides inspiration and reflection for each page.



AUGUST 2020 EDITION - PRICE 60p

Please note the deadline for articles for the next edition of the magazine is **Sunday, 5th July.**

You can e-mail direct to **magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk** or leave articles in magazine pigeonhole or deliver direct to 27 Beechfield Road. ***Please note any articles sent by email should be in A5 format (MS Word or MS Publisher preferred).*** Thank you. Sally Bates, Editor, Tel No. 266912 or Mobile 07792 768236.

PLEASE NOTE



Website for St John’s Boxmoor is:



www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

E-mail: office@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

Website for Music at St John’s is <http://masj.org.uk>

Facebook Page: St Johns Church, Boxmoor

NEWSLETTER: If you would like to receive a copy of the weekly Newsletter by e-mail, please contact Alan Munford - alan.munford@btinternet.com with your e-mail address and he will arrange to send it to you.

Please send any items for inclusion in the Newsletter to the Parish Office at the email address: newsletter@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

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If you would like to receive a copy of St John’s Parish Magazine on a regular monthly basis, please email alan.munford@btinternet.com or telephone him on 01442 242543 or complete your details below and return tear-off slip to:

Mr. Alan Munford, 16 St Nicholas Mount, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2BB

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Address

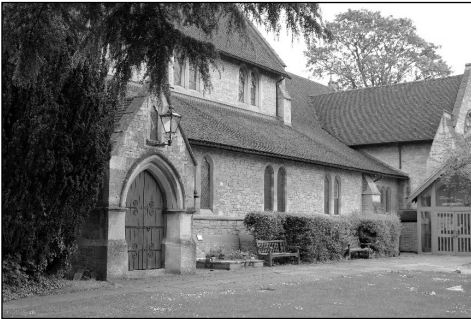
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Contact Telephone Number

The last few months have been very different and for many of us been a difficult time, having to stay at home, without any direct contact of family and friends, working from home if that was possible, limited contact with other people and keeping your distance if you had to go out. We are very grateful to the NHS and all care workers, to people in shops and logistics and all others who continued to provide services to keep the economy going.

For many of us one of the most difficult things was the closure of our churches, not being able to meet with friends in the pews, no social activities and not being able to even enter the church for a private prayer, these restrictions are now easing and hopefully we will be able to get to a 'new normal' in the next few months whatever that 'new normal' will be.



Before the lockdown we had the quinquennial report, which is a substantial list of things that need attention, we started some discussion of how to tackle some of this work, separate from the routine checks and maintenance. A key part of the message regarding Covid19 was exercise and fresh air (with social distancing) so following this advice the work commenced.

It started about the second week of the lockdown and the first job was the repair of the path to the South Gate, a large number of tiles were lifted, soil removed and fresh bed of ballast and concrete laid to ensure that the path was strong enough for car traffic, the hedge was trimmed and the grass cut. The Vicar mentioned that it might be a good idea if we could remove the whole hedge and create something new in its place that would be more in keeping with the Garden of Remembrance.

So, over the several weeks we worked to remove the hedge, clear all the roots and wood, sifted the soil to remove the larger stones and concreted a new upright border to retain the soil. At the same time the path was power-washed and all the grass has been removed from between the slabs which have been repointed from the west door to the Hall and the South gate. The two benches on the south side have also been refurbished and work has been started on the two benches on the south/west corner, there are now three bicycle stands near the hall entrance and near the west door.



The final objective is to create a Memorial rose garden, some standard roses at the back, with small roses with name plaques in front of them, the arrangements are similar to the crematorium allowing people to remember loved ones. Roses planned to be planted in November and there will be more updates on this in due course.

Once you start there doesn't seem to be an end, the Yew trees next to the South

Porches are receiving a very substantial haircut to ensure that new growth has space and at the same time that it doesn't obstruct the path. On the northside we started to weed the paths, cut the hedge, cut the grass and trim some of the dead wood from the trees to ensure the garden looks cared for and is welcoming to any visitor.

The wall on the north/west corner will be repaired and the materials have been delivered with the expectation that the wall will be restored/rebuilt by mid-July. We still have a substantial to-do list, the aim is to sand-blast and paint all the gates, finish clearing the paths and clean/varnish the North/South porch doors as well as the small door by the lady chapel.

The main aim is to ensure a welcoming, cared for presence of our church building and church yards, for any visitor and specially when we are allowed back, not just for 'Private Prayer' but also when weddings, baptisms, funerals and our normal service can resume (even with 'New normal' conditions).



Although Covid19 imposed many restrictions and it was sometimes difficult to get the materials (over 70+ bags of ballast, sharp sand and cement) the weather has been kind and it was a great experience to work together as a group and see the change that it has made, many thanks to Rob Porter, Tony & Pat, Nigel, Rob Rodway and others for all their efforts and continued support. If anyone is interested to participate than please join us...

Job Rombout - Churchwarden

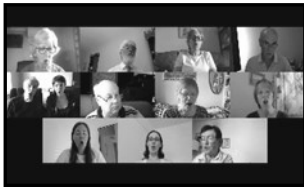
Only Connect

Filming the Services

We usually record the service on Saturday morning. This way the light looks largely the same as it would on Sunday at the same time, and there is maximum up-to-date relevance in the intercessions and sermon. Primarily we go for a single fixed-picture view. The camera is set in the middle of the aisle between the choir stalls. The backdrop of the window and the altar is wonderful with candles and appropriate colours. Modern video cameras are very small, yet produce and record stunning pictures, without needing much effort at all as they adjust light and focus automatically. This Sony camera (centre) is the one I presently use, placed on a big, steady tripod between the choir stalls.



The inbuilt automatic audio system is, however, less sympathetic to our needs, even with external microphones. Variations in setup have helped compensate for this, with wisdom from Google research, and a few clever additional gismos procured online. Almost all of the “gear” you see on the side table is to do with the audio. The hymns are recorded live as we go along, me playing and Mike singing, but in a separate project, members of the choir and friends have created the recordings you hear of the Gloria and Agnus Dei. The accompaniment in the Gloria is orchestral, though purely computer generated, while the organ accompanies Lamb of God. Each singer was sent by email a recording of the accompaniment to which, individually, at home, they then sung and recorded their own voice part. Their separate recordings were sent to Paul Davies who very cleverly put them all together, creating a pretty good united effort which you now hear each week while the service progresses, visually uninterrupted.



Cont'd.....

Carole and Ruth have both presented sermons from home which Mike “Zoom”- recorded via the internet. Initially we set up a TV in church for delivery but now we insert them directly at the editing stage.

Back at home, I download the camera recordings to my computer and an Application seamlessly combines and converts them to a single “Mp4 file - small enough for the website and You-Tube, a process often taking the computer an hour or more. I wait tensely, as this can sometimes crash! Lastly, I transfer the completed video to Stacey Barton and Mike via Dropbox. Ready to upload to the website and You-Tube I must stress that I do not claim to be more than a fair amateur in this sphere- not being something that was taught at music colleges in my day!

Naturally there is always the unexpected: on the lighter side, at the Corpus Christie service, Mike of course had sole responsibility for the many preparations with which others normally assist him including the incense. At the point after Carol’s sermon you might notice a dramatic increase in the incense which Mike had recharged. It literally billows around for a while.

Paul or I would be happy to answer any additional questions about the processes. For all involved, Mike, Paul, Carol, Ruth and me, it’s a constant voyage of discovery! The regular messages of appreciation from members of the congregation have been much appreciated. Once Online, services are accessible from anywhere in the world, and I know that my own friends in Germany, Jamaica, America and Chipperfield have also appreciated watching.

Keith Beniston
Director of Music

Life is a journey that no one makes alone. The more people you touch along the way, the more meaningful and rewarding your time. – Anon

As fine silver...

Malachi 3:3 says: *“He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.”*

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study. They got to wondering what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, so as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, and then she thought again about the verse that says: “He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.” She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

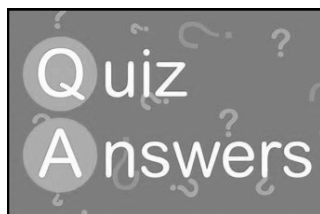
The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, “How do you know when the silver is fully refined?” He smiled at her and answered, “Oh, that's easy – when I can see my image in it.”

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you. His aim is not to abandon or destroy you, but to refine you – until He sees His image in you.

Local place names Answers

Answers

- 1 GROVEHILL
- 2 GADEBRIDGE
- 3 WARNERS END
- 4 LEVERSTOCK GREEN
- 5 WOODHALL FARM
- 6 CHAUDEN
- 7 PICCOTTS END
- 8 BENNETTS END
- 9 ADEYFIELD
- 10 NASH MILLS
- 11 KINGS LANGLEY
- 12 ABBOTS LANGLEY
- 13 GREAT GADDESSEN
- 14 BOURNE END
- 15 ASHRIDGE
- 16 CHIPPERFIELD
- 17 ST ALBANS
- 18 POTTEN END
- 19 BERKHAMSTED
- 20 BRIDENS CAMP
- 21 REDBOURN
- 22 LEAVESDEN
- 23 HARPENDEN
- 24 MARKYATE
- 25 NETTLEDEN
- 26 LITTLE GADDESSEN
- 27 FLAMSTEAD
- 28 POUCHEN END
- 29 RICKMANSWORTH
- 30 FRITHSDEN
- 31 WHIPSDEN
- 32 DUNSTABLE
- 33 CHISWELL GREEN
- 34 BRICKET WOOD
- 35 HUNTON BRIDGE
- 36 CHANDLERS CROSS
- 37 ASHLEY GREEN
- 38 CHORLEYWOOD
- 39 LONDON COLNEY
- 40 LEIGHTON BUZZARD





**at St John's
in the month of June 2020**

HOLY BAPTISM

No Baptisms were conducted in June

HOLY MATRIMONY

No Weddings were conducted in June

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL SERVICES

11 June Sidney Smith Coulser Close

*May this soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace.*

BURIAL OF ASHES

27 June Jennifer Susan Rodway Barberry Road



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

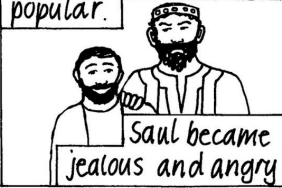
It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next king.



David was very successful as a fighter and very popular.

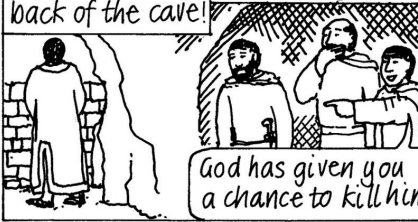


David had to go on the run and hide.



One day, Saul and his army were in En-Gedi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sheep fold built next to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave!



David crept over and cut a piece off Saul's robe.



Then David felt bad.



David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.



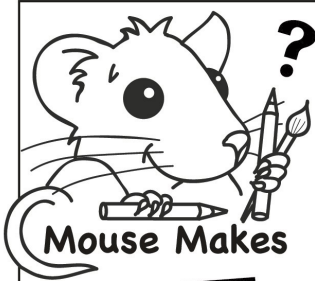
David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.



Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.

David promised, and Saul and his army went home.





WHO AM I?

The last letter of one name is the first letter of the next name.

P L

- Wrote 13 New Testament letters
- He wrote the third Gospel

E

- Mother of John (Luke 1:3)

H

- Sarah's servant (Genesis 16:21)

 R

- Joseph's mother (Genesis 29:35)

- His wife turned to salt (Genesis 11:31)

 L

- Paul's friend (2 Corinthians 8:27)
- A brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55)

N

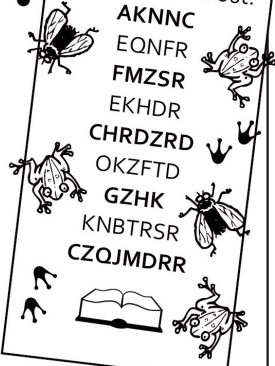
- Ruth's mother-in-law. (Ruth 3:1)

IT'S A PUZZLE!

God sent 9 plagues on Egypt...

What were they?

Change each letter to the one after it in the alphabet to find out.



AKNNC

EQNFR

FMZSR

EKHDR

CHRDZRD

OKZFTD

GZHK

KNBTRSR

CZQJMDRR

FIND THE MISSING HUSBANDS

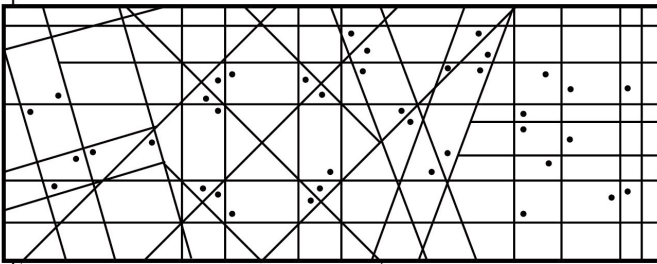
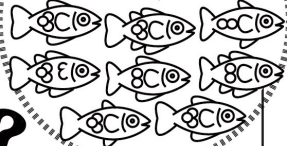
Match the wife to their husband

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| MARY | BOAZ |
| SARAH | JACOB |
| RUTH | ZECHARIAH |
| REBEKAH | JOSEPH |
| RACHEL | ABRAHAM |
| ELIZABETH | ISAAC |



FIND THE FISH

The Disciples have been fishing and have caught TWO fish the same, can you find them?



Colour in all the shapes with a DOT to find out what Jesus want us to do



SMILE LINES

Lost in translation

Last year, some friends took their six-year-old on a car trip to France. To help pass the time on the way down to the Channel, they encouraged their son to practise his new reading skills by calling out road signs.

He fell asleep just before they entered France. When he awoke, he saw the French motorway signs and rubbed his eyes. In a worried tone he whispered, "I think I forgot how to read while I was asleep."

New version of Apostles' Creed

When our church began live streaming its services, our minister was at first a bit nervous. Still, he kept his cool, and you would never have known he was struggling until he reached the Apostles' Creed. Then he firmly announced that Jesus was..."confused by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary..."

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