

## Vicar's Letter

### Words and Photograph: **Revd Sally Lynch**

ack in April, just before our Annual Church Meet- to different activities. This means ing (APCM), three of us (Sonya, Johanna and my-that we need to be able to adapt self) went on the diocesan Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCIG) conference. It was an intense four days with ten teaching and reflective sessions, a wide variety of different styles of worship and an opportunity to meet with over 100 other Christians from around the diocese. Although it was demanding, I think we all found it truly inspirational as we had the opportunity to reflect on how to give a little time to keeping the our own church is growing and just what church growth

Two crucial things emerged (along with lots of others too!). One is that church growth is not just about getting more 'posteriors on pews', it is about helping every person who crosses the threshold of the church to consider, refresh and deepen their faith – all by the grace of God. The second vital thing that became very clear to us is that our church is growing – both in terms of deepening faith and also in us to explore how to meet out numbers.

It has been great this year to see growing numbers of young families joining us and especially to see the growth of Messy Church. We have had visitors who have stayed on or returned and the variety of styles of worship has encouraged different people. The recent Music Festival was inspirational as some local people who had never before been into our beautiful building had an opportunity to do so. Our choir did us, and God, proud with their singing of Choral Mattins. And our school services have been well attended by parents as well as children – it was great to see the whole church full of adults and children consuming cake and tea / squash after their Easter service. During Holy Week many people joined in the variety of services from Stations of the Cross to All Age Saving Stories. It has been brilliant to see so many people at our mini series of sessions on the Gospels. Our outreach is growing too with increasing numbers of young mums coming to Wednesday morning Re-Charge coffee time and more lettings than ever in the Parish Centre.

Much of this growth is down to answered prayer, to the commitment of those who keep the church open and work on activities, and especially to the implementation of the outcomes of the Everybody Welcome course that we followed during Lent.

We are a growing church. But that does not necessarily mean that our Sunday services are full. For many people Sunday church attendance is impossible and so church flows throughout the whole week with different people coming in

ourselves, our worship and our building in order to be really flexible - enabling people to meet with God when and where they are most able. To do this we need ever more people who are willing church open, or helping out with activities. Of course our re-ordering plans are part of this growth

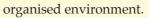
The Re-Ordering group has now shared with the PCC and the whole church the outcome of a feasibility study that will help needs for the next 50 years of life on this growing church. A display in church has more detail and our needs are clearly drawn out of our Mission Action Plan. These are, in summary:

- An entrance to the church that would be more welcoming and less intimidating for newcomers to step into together with a welcoming area
- An area near to the entrance where more intimate meetings of small groups or pairs might take place in a comfortable environment within the church itself.
- A much more flexible worship space which enables better connections between the high altar, choir, nave altar and congregation and is adaptable to the many different forms of worship and music in worship that we currently use, and seek to develop.
- Refreshment facilities at the west end of church to allow post service coffee at the back of church.
- Opportunities for comfortable and unthreatening
- A large area which can be available for bigger group activities such as Messy Church, communal meals and creative activities.
- Excellent storage facilities to ensure a tidy and

**GET STUCK IN:** Children interacting with activities at Messy Church.

- · A flexible heating system which is economical to
- Toilets at the west end to allow multiple independent
- Improved accessibility to ensure equal access for all to all areas of the building and churchyard.
- Improved/increased parking to increase accessibility and encourage more lettings.
- · A building which has environmental sustainability and allows us further to reduce our carbon footprint and running costs and encourage good stewardship of limited resources - our own and the natural world's.
- · A sufficiently roomy office to allow independent and smooth administration.
- Private vestry facilities for choir and clergy to allow preparation and smooth administration and confidential meetings.

Please do look at the information at the back of church, and comment. Two options allow us to develop inside the current shell or outside. Clearly there are cost differences and implications, but it is vital that we go for the option that best meets our needs. And so we must pray for God's guidance and help as we seek to move forward, to grow in every sense of the word.



- · One or more small room spaces with independent heating capacity for small groups.
- A 'performance' area to support both our own activities (e.g. Music Festival) and outside lettings, with fully flexible audio and lighting systems to support both performances
- A pleasant churchyard environment.



### A Note From The Editor

ore observant readers may notice slight changes throughout this edition of InSpire, when compared to previous copies. In short, it's all down to some new software I'm using to 'comp' it; to bring all the pictures and text together for printing. (If you're interested, I'm now using InDesign, as opposed to Apple's Pages application.) But, for the most part, it should superficially be the same great magazine you've come to love.

Across Christianity, though, this is a period of great change. In the last year, our Catholic cousins have welcomed a new Pope in the Vatican, while a new Archbishop has been making himself at home at Lambeth Palace.

Truth is, I still miss old Rowan Williams. There was something magical about him. Maybe it was his beard; his facial halo of silvery hair. Maybe it was the wisdom that you knew such an incredible beard packed. Maybe it was simple fact that he was and is – undoubtedly – among the most intellectual individuals of his generation. He's the sort of bloke you'd want on your team for a St Luke's quiz evening.

But there was one problem with him: it was often virtually impossible to work out exactly what he was saying. As *The Guardian's* correspondents wrote: "[Williams] has complained of being misunderstood, misguoted, and taken out of context; journalists have, for their part, spent many difficult deadlines trying – and failing – to condense his theological teachings into short headlines and punchy prose."

Enter Justin Welby. This new Archbishop – by the way – is not a God-lookalike, as the last one was, but rather a normal-looking bloke. And he's clutching his mobile phone, tweeting. You may not like Twitter, or even understand it, but digital communication services like it offer a real future for the Church.

The best thing Williams ever said was this. As he announced his retirement, in front of a room full of hacks, he said simply: "My successor needs a newspaper in one hand and a Bible in the other".

With the ongoing uncertainty in Syria, the continuing crisis in Egypt, and the volatility in Iran, it's easy to point exclusively to the Middle East to illustrate his point. Do remember, though, that even in the UK, some people are living in some truly awful circumstances. (On that note, it's great to feature good news from Open Kitchen on Page 27, which should enable them to better serve the people of this town.)

If the Church is to survive, it needs to remain relevant to people. It needs to establish 'community banks'. It needs female bishops. It needs to embrace homosexuality. In short, it needs to change.

Andrew Burdett, Editor, September 2013

InSpire magazine is published thrice a year. The Editor wishes to thank everybody who contributed to this issue, and reminds readers that the next issue will be published in Winter 2013/14. Disclaimer: Any views expressed in this magazine are solely those of the article's respective author(s), and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor; St Luke's Church, Maidenhead; the Diocese of Oxford; or the Church of England - unless stated otherwise.

For details of our many events and services, please see: www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

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## It's the Bible... but not as we know it.

Making the most of an electronic Christmas present, Sue Brett read the entire Bible on her Amazon Kindle.

### kindle

fortunate **L**unfortunate depending on your point of view) to have been given a Kindle for Christmas. I have always declined using them, despite having two in the house already, as there is something to be said about the smell the Bible in a manner and soaking up the and feel of a book.

to what to read on out the scriptures I this contraption. I read wanted to look back on; many books of various the parts which gave Old, I struggle with types, but I like to look me comfort or courage; at what I am buying preferably in a shop – find them as quickly beforehand.

Eventually, decided I would read the Bible on it. I was in reading. As with all bear absolutely no two minds about this, as I love my physical copy, with its many bookmarks keeping safe my favourite parts; the texts which, at that moment in time, were actually saying something to me. I can turn to any cornerfolded page and find the passage I want.

pages are marked with guide me. drops of 'blood, sweat, and tears' (as well as New, I am transported occasional drops of tea!), so I was a little there, living the part worried about how I was going to cope with feeling the emotions, which was alien to me. message (not always I was at a loss as Would I be able to mark understanding, but just and would I be able to and easily as I could in what is in my heart, paper form?

other books, I decided resemblance to what to start at the beginning they actually are – are - something which I of no matter to him. I hadn't done with the think just the fact that I Bible for many years.

Unlike the New Testament and the happened.

My Bible, although walking with Jesus (or looking new on the through the New, but in outside, is rather worn the Old he is not there on the inside. Familiar to hold my hand and

> When reading the back in time and I am out, smelling the smells, breathing in the words).

When reading the the names. As a severe dyslexic, I am only too glad that God knows and the names which So I set about I use – which often am trying is enough.

Something Gospels, which come absolutely love a book, alive for me, the Old and I cannot deny that, Testament had (in my almost always, I will mind) been a little continue to choose a harder to read. I love paper version over its

electronic counterpart. (I will never, ever replace my Bible.) But I have begun to fall in love with the Old Testament. The stories which I told my children are all there, I had just forgotten.

A funny thing happened the other day: one of my daily readings (I have a couple each day) was from Ezekiel 12:3, which says: "As for you, son of man, prepare for yourself an exile's baggage, and go into exile by day in their sight. You shall go like an exile from your place to another place in their sight. Perhaps they will understand, though they are a rebellious house."

Not so much a funny reading? I think God was having the last word.

At the time, I was having a conversation with my husband John about whether to take my paper Bible with me on holiday or the Kindle version.

I think I have my answer!

## Local Walks

**Roger and Jilly Bevitt** describe some of their latest rambles with St Luke's.

n 17 February we stirred from our winter torpor and headed out to Bray Lakes for our annual Winter Wildfowl Walk but the impatient Winter Wildfowl had mostly already headed North. Fortunately the Great Crested Grebes had decided it was spring and a pair delighted us with their exotic courtship display. There were human couples too to excite us as they were hauled aloft by a long jibbed crane and released to bungee jump in pairs above the lake.

Two months later the weekly evening walks started and we wandered around the Thicket coming across the usual mass of cowslips in glorious full flower and viewing Robin Hood's Arbour with a new butterfly trail nearby, perhaps worth a visit in the summer. A walk from Cookham Moor via Strand Water and Widbrook Common proved

Bluebells were late this year but superb when they did eventually bloom in oceans of perfumed azure about mid-May and our ramble through Goulding's, Park and other Pinkney's Green Woods was particularly rewarding. So was the next week in the Ashley Hill area, where, seeing a kestrel and a sparrow hawk over the car park at The Dewdrop before we'd even started the walk and hearing a cuckoo later on, were added bonuses.

In June Don kindly led a walk from Sheepridge at short notice and triumphed over the navigational problems implied by the name Hard-to-Find Farm, a key point on the route. We had a 4 mile walk from Little Marlow which took us by the side of fields, lakes, the Marlow branch line, the Thames and, less peacefully, the A404(M). Another fairly long stroll from Moneyrow Green took us by a polo pitch and onto wider views across growing crops and a return along a tree lined lane with a red sun sinking through layered cloud, leaving a warm twilight fit for a glass outside.

With help from Gerry Knight and Don Luff we had a full programme of walks throughout July and August. These included 'The Twin Peaks challenge', as we call the walk over the tops of Ashley and Bowsey Hills. At 500ft total ascent this is hardly a giant step for mankind but it does offer views as far as Windsor Castle, Bracknell and Reading as well as a pleasing mix of countryside. An attempt to go from Waltham St Lawrence to Knowl Hill was frustrated by the closure of a footbridge over the railway – apparently part of a programme to replace bridges to make them suitable for Cross Rail electrification. On an outing from Hurley we made a lucky diversion to take in the view from the footbridge across the Thames near Temple Lock and were blessed with a kingfisher coming to perch nearby to show off its finery. On the final stroll from Eton Wick via the Boveney Ditch, Dorney Common, and the Jubilee River, we enjoyed refreshment en route in the form of blackberries.



The horrific killing of **Drummer Lee Rigby** was internationally condemned - not least, says guest writer Tameena Hussain, because it was carried out in the name of Islam.

As a British citizen, I was inhumane act.

As a British Muslim, I was innocent people. saddened to see a number of have been raised in Britain - and media outlets are realising that a therefore Britain is my home.

The Quran says: "Whosoever angered and saddened by the killeth a human being, it shall be attack on one of our armed forces. as if he had killed all mankind, No innocent man deserves to have and whoso saveth the life of one, it his life taken away from him – and shall be as if he had saved the life no-one of any faith should carry of all mankind." So let's be clear out – or have to witness – such an in saying that no faith, including Islam, supports the killing of

On the back of the Woolwich people, although a minority, incident, as horribly self-centered abusing other Muslims and telling as it may sound, there is a positive: us to "go back home". What I say more awareness is being raised to these people is that I, like you, about Islam, and more people are was born in Britain and I, like you, learning about Muslims. Some small minority with a distorted

Ramadan programme called Ramadan Reflections. It gives the wider audience an insight into the lives of practicing Muslims.

Recently, comedian Jason Manford put out a request for a Muslim family to host him for Iftar (the feast at the end of the fast of Ramadam). He joined a family in Manchester and, whilst enjoying some lovely food, he enjoyed some great company. They enjoyed curry, onion bhajis, as well as Krispy Kreme doughnuts and a cup of tea. In his words: "Couldn't have been more British".

open-days more often, and it's Interfaith Concert, after a successful

by Maidenhead MP Theresa May. And, every week, Maidenhead Muslims assist local charity Open Kitchen.

The Mosque has also just formed links with the Victoria Barracks in Windsor and are exploring ways of working together. We support our Armed Forces and we want to make it clear to people that we condemn attacks on fellow human beings and our soldiers.

Community cohesion work is being carried out daily, but it often goes unnoticed. Currently, the Mosque is working with St Luke's More Mosques are holding Church to organise its second

Muslims you hear, the Muslims you meet and know, who promote the message of peace and compassion, and ask yourself this: if Islam was about war and killing infidels, why aren't the 1.6 billion Muslims around the world doing the same as Al-Qaeda?

As Lee's family said on the day of his funeral, "his death should unite the country not divide it". Let's all vow to stand together and not allow extremists – from any side – to speak or act for us. Let's make it stop. Full stop.

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## A Labour of Love

When woodcarver **Roger Edwards** was asked to create a new lectern for the Chapel, he knew it would be a big project. Now complete, he discusses how he crafted the simplistically elegant piece.

**Photographs: Andrew Burdett** 

hen she left us, Noëline Page kindly gave a gift of money to be used on something for the church.

Separately, I had been thinking for a while that I would like to make something, in wood, for St Luke's. I couldn't think what might be acceptable, but then the call came. Sally asked whether I would be willing to make a lectern for the Memorial Chapel.

I must admit that, at first, I was rather reluctant to take this on, primarily because, although I have made furniture in the past, I am now more a woodcarver used to making smaller, intricate figures, and this would be an altogether bigger challenge, especially in oak. Anyway, after some thought, I obviously said I would do it.

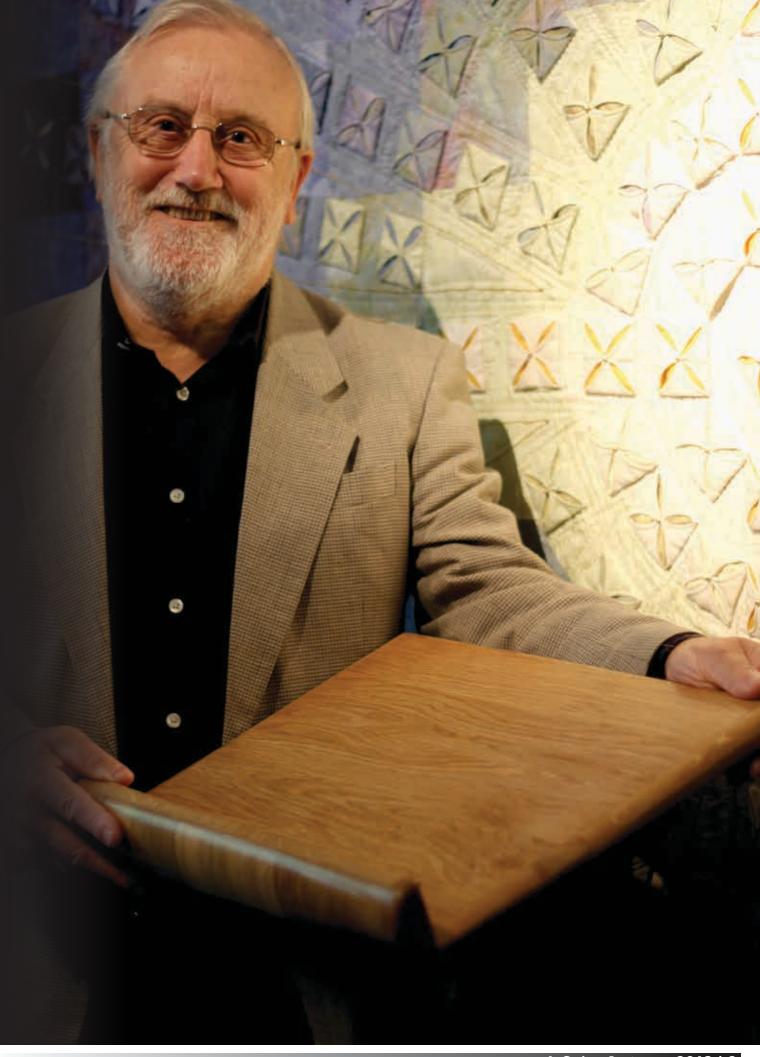
After initial

discussions, measurements were taken, a design was agreed upon (thankfully, Sally – like me – wanted a simple, modern design), and a supply of oak was ordered (paid for with Noëline's gift). It is perhaps of interest to say that, when ordering good quality seasoned oak, it comes in plank form, so this lectern is made up of some 100 separate pieces!

The whole process has taken a lot longer than anticipated, chiefly due to the weather, as I prefer to work outside due to all the dust created.

My sincere thanks to Sally and Noëline for giving me the opportunity to make the lectern, and for being so patient and supportive. I feel privileged to have made something that, hopefully, will remain part of the fabric of the church for many years to come.

Judith (my wife) and I wish to dedicate the lectern to the memory of our daughter Hazel, tragically lost to us, aged 20, in 1987. It is also dedicated to Michael, Noëline's late husband.



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## A Day Trip to Nablus

Earlier this year, Barbara Essam was privileged to visit Israel and Palestine. Here, she writes about her experience of Nablus.

the West Bank. It is a Moslem Arab city with a small number of Christians. It is a strategic city, located at a junction in a pass which links the Mediterranean coastal plain in the west to the Jordan valley in the east.

It came under the British Mandate of Palestine between 1923 and 1948 and was annexed by Jordan after it was taken by the Arab armies in the 1948–49 Arab-Israeli war. In the 1930s it was a centre of resistance to Jewish immigration and remains so today. The first Arab National Committee was founded in Nablus. In 1967 the city was occupied by Israel. Since 1986 the municipality has been in the hands of the Palestinians and it is now one of the towns under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, managed by an elected city council.

We travelled to Nablus for the day with Green Olive Tours, a Jewish organisation which is committed to improving relations between Arabs and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians. Fred, the owner of the company, and our guide/ driver, took us to the outskirts of the city where we were picked up by our Palestinian guide, It would not have been safe at the time to drive into the city in an Israeli vehicle. On the way there Fred pointed out that Palestinians have to use different roads, which make their journevs much

thodox Jewish settlers buy The Greek Orthodox St Photini Church at

Bir Ya'qub.

longer and

whilst the or-

ablus is the largest city on from Palestinian shops and use Pales- tack, but mercifully they survived tinian labour, they try to make them sit at the back of buses, although this is illegal, and schools are segregated in practice though not in law. Some of the hills are burned; olive trees destroyed by settlers. How can they do this to such an ancient tree with such symbolism for all three major world faiths?.

> In Nablus we visited the Balata refugee camp. The alleys between the buildings are extremely narrow and many people are crammed into the small area. Electricity and water are not a constant commodity. There is a UN school and clinic but their future is in doubt due to the recent recognition of the state of Palestine, which has implications for UN aid. Our guide was

> > He may have to leave as his English born wife is still unable to get a residence permit and probably never will after trying for eight years. During the Intifada in 2002, sevenin the house when it was destroyed in an young boys and Israeli at-

with his family in the camp.

and rebuilt it. One of his friends was wounded and they took him to St Luke's Hospital which he told me is the best in Nablus and where everyone is treated equally and with respect. With him we visited the old city with its remaining Ottoman buildings, Turkish bath, soap factory, sweet factory and numerous memorials to those who died or were wounded during the Intifadas. However, we outsiders should be wary of taking sides in this complex historic conflict and it was noticeable that our guide always referred to them as martyrs. In most case the photos of those martyrs were heavily armed men and women in military style clothes.

Watching over the city is a large born, grew up and still lives Israeli military camp.

> Jacob's Well is on the site of a lovely Greek Orthodox Church. The kindly old priest sat filling bottles of water from the well as souvenirs. Apparently he had been threatened and attacked more than fifteen times and his predecessor had been assassinated.

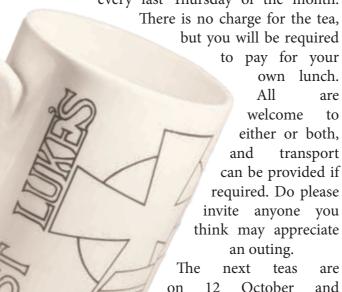
Within the old city is a modern teen of his family were shopping centre with a cinema. Our guide was quite derogatory about the girls wandering around in groups - their westernisation and their expenditure on pricey drinks and food at the cinema instead of outside in the city. But he recognised their wish to escape from their surroundings and their ambition to get out of the city.

Our final stop was Mount Grizim the Samaritan hilltop village above Nablus where Fred could meet up with us again. The high priest met us in the museum he had created himself. The Samaritans believe they are direct descendants of Adam and Eve and have a written genealogy to prove it. They also worship in a more ancient Hebrew than used by their fellow Jews, claiming theirs is the original Hebrew. They are a small community and have recently imported some volunteer Ukrainian brides to increase their dwindling numbers. They have good relations with both their Israeli and Palestinian neighbours and are thriving by keeping a low profile.

If you are interested, there is a short video about Nablus on the Green Olive Tours website (www. toursinenglish.com) and much more information about their work. After I spoke at the Ladies' Breakfast about my trip, the group very kindly donated towards a project to provide a playground in the Women's Centre at the Balata Refugee camp, which will enable the children to be safely taken care of whilst their mothers are able to do vocational training in the Women's Centre. Fred was most grateful for their contribution.

### Fancy a Cuppa?

Fancy a cuppa? Feeling lonely? Want a chat? Then come along to our Thursday Teas on the second Thursday of the month 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the Parish Centre. On the other hand, if you would rather go out to lunch, then we meet at church at 12noon and travel in the cars of volunteers to a carvery or similar, every last Thursday of the month.



12 October 14 November; the next lunches are on 26 September, 31 October, and 28 November.

## From the Registers

### We welcomed into God's church in baptism:

Scarlette Stephanie Barbara Whittle Alfie-Ray Jeff Marshall-Pullin Mia Jane Cherry Millie Dorothy-Janet Major Lincoln James Doyle **Jack David Northover** Richard Michael James Hays Heidi Jennifer Sophie Louise Brudenall Zara Barbara Joan Webb Cameron Christopher Bradley Layla-Skye Macrae Jarnak

### We celebrated the marriages of:

Alexander Banham and Hailey Elsbury Robert Barrett and Hayley Flynn

### We commended into God's care at their funerals:

**Arthur Harris** Audrey Eggleton Paul Hill Leonard Reynolds Irene Waller Muriel Smith Joan Carpenter Terrence Comley Geoffrey Hutson John Avenell Crista Blight

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## Thursday Group Update

Preparing for the new year, Thursday Group Leader Sonya Clarke outlines past and future meetings.

ur March meeting was Walking with Wainwright, a talk backed with slides given by Roger Clarke. We enjoyed a really good evening. So much so, in fact, that Roger re-ran the talk and slides for some of our members that were not well enough to attend the original meeting. If my memory serves me correctly, about another six or seven people had the opportunity to enjoy this 'repeat' of the talk!

In April, we joined together on a lovely spring evening to be inspired by Rhidian Jones with organ music. We spent much of the meeting in church with Rhidian at the organ. He explained not just the history of this instrument but how just about every one is slightly different, particularly in the size of the keys and their spacing on the keyboard. One of our members, Jean Tyrwhitt-Drake, acted as his able assistant, pulling stops when required. Following Rhidian's very interesting and in-depth talk about organs, he went on to play some beautiful music which was perfect to round off an evening with a difference.

Our May meeting was entitled Being an Appropriate Adult, where Jean Tyrwhitt-Drake spoke about her involvement with young offenders. She explained her role, how she came to be active in this, and how often she is called to be present as an Appropriate Adult when a young offender is being questioned. Again, this evening was extremely interesting, giving some of us an insight as to what other members of our congregation are involved with.

To those three people, all from St Luke's Church, Thursday Group's Committee thank you for having been a part of our yearly programme.

We at St Luke's are so blessed to have many people within our congregation. Their wealth of knowledge and commitment to what they do is amazing, and we as a group have for many years reaped the benefit of their activities

Our last meeting was in June. Within our Deanery, just four churches continue to take part in the annual Deanery Festival. This year it was our turn to host this lovely occasion. The theme for our service was Friendship and Fellowship, of which members from Holy Trinity, Cookham; St Peter's, Furze Platt; and All Saints joined with us on a beautiful evening. Our thanks go to Sara Wood from Holy Trinity who played the piano for us, and special thanks to Sally for leading us in worship, for her address, and celebrating Holy Communion. The back of church looked lovely, with small tables dressed with cloths and vases of flowers. Our visitors commented on the wonderful display of homemade baking that was to be enjoyed after the service.

We then begin to look forward again. We start our year for 2013/2014 on 26 September from 8:00pm. This first evening is chiefly for enrolling, although we expect to have a guest-speaker or speakers from our newly-nominated

If you would like to know more of what St Luke's Thursday Group is and does, then please do come along to the September meeting. St Luke's Thursday Group is a group of people who get together once a month to enjoy each other's company, listen to an engaging speaker, raise some funds for charity, and (most importantly, I think) to share all that God has given us in so many different ways.

If you would like further information then please contact me, Sonya Clarke, on 01628 632626. If you would like to come but have a transport problem, then again give me a call and I am sure something can be arranged.

I pray for God's continual blessing on each and every one of us.





In this second of a three-part, episodical publication of their St Luke's memories,  $\operatorname{Roger}$  and  $\operatorname{Jilly}$   $\operatorname{Bevitt}$  recall first noticing each other, as well as the priesthoods of Neil Howells (Vicar, 1960 to 1968), JOHN BROWN (VICAR, 1969 TO 1973), AND FRANK LEWIS (VICAR, 1973 TO 1981).

#### REVD NEIL HOWELLS

■he year is 1960. Jilly is still (just) a teenager, and Revd Morcom-Harneis has left us to become Vicar of Littlewick Green and Rural Dean.

Revd Howells joins us as a youngish Vicar, with a young family and a modern outlook. He's had a short career as a physicist before entering the Ministry. A lot happens around this date so the following is more a kaleidoscope than a strict historic record.

Roger is helping to run our church's 'open to all' youth club and so is Jilly, whereas young Jenny Bailey, we are asked to make clear, is still a member. Open youth clubs have their challenges. A later leader gets beaten up and the PCC throws the church youth club out of the church hall for other problems (not Jenny Bailey).

In the church we have a major re-ordering, the front pews are taken out and the gap filled by taking the choir stalls out of the chancel, thus ensuring that the choir has more contact with the congregation and less with the organist. If anyone still wishes to experiment with the stalls in other parts of the church, they come apart into units by simply knocking out a few wooden pegs but it needs a dozen or so strong people to lift each unit.

Eucharist the choir of uniformed is replaced by women from and girls congregation. They wear

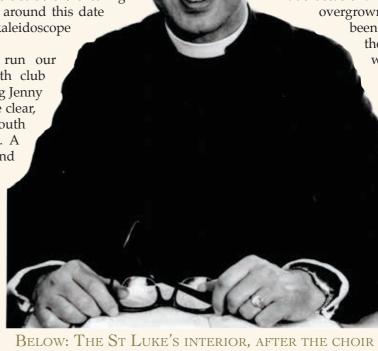
simple white rochets as robes, sit in the re-located stalls and are joined by some of the choirmen, and Jilly and Roger are obliged to gaze at each other during Services.

In 1964 the churchyard is closed for any further burials and the local council becomes responsible for maintenance. Up to then the Church of England Men's Society members made occasional forays with sickles into this overgrown meadow. Since then it has

> been a great improvement for those who prefer tidiness to wildlife.

It is a time of vision and forward thinking - and with a good social life. A new club is formed for members of St Luke's including Dave & Chris Sawyers, Johanna Raffan, John Cox, ourselves and other original thinkers in their twenties who call it the Twenties Club. A coach trip to a London Theatre is organised for members and friends but fails to get there in time for the start. Roger goes straight from work to sit alone in a block of 40 plus empty seats in an otherwise full audience - most, he's sure, whispering about

personal freshness. Fast forwarding we reach 1966, a significant vear for ourselves and St Luke's. We have a photo of a couple signing a Register, of particular interest for its view of the interior of the original Vicar's vestry taken by someone standing near



to where the Parish Centre cooker now stands. 1966 is our church's centenary, and the roof is leaking and must be re-slated for £6,000, which is more than our house costs. Another jumble sale is not the answer, so the PCC hires a commercial Christian organisation to teach us the theology and hard sell techniques for our first Stewardship Campaign. It could be argued that we also cashed in on a national scandal, the Profumo Affair. Many of the associated activities had taken place on the Cliveden estate of Lord & Lady Astor who, following the scandal, were no doubt seeking to restore their good reputation. Someone in the congregation, who ran a riverside hotel, knew them and a grand cheese and wine party in the state rooms of Cliveden House in aid of St Luke's was duly arranged.



Above: Bishop of Oxford, Harry Carpenter, visits St Luke's in 1966 TO CELEBRATE THE CHURCH'S CENTENARY (NOTE THE LADIES IN ROCHETS).

BOTTOM-LEFT: INSIDE THE VICAR'S VESTRY – WHERE THE PARISH CENTRE KITCHEN IS NOW LOCATED.



We couldn't afford the tickets but were allowed in to work

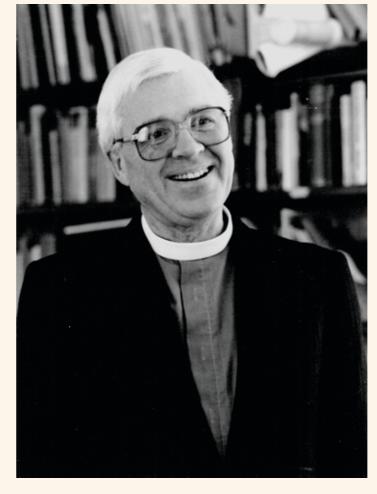
Neil, our Vicar, was very understanding that as newly weds we found it easier to get into bed than out again, and he would delay the entry of the rest of the choir to start the morning Service until we had managed to join them. Must see what happens if we try arriving late like that in 2013. Neil wasn't so considerate two years later when Jilly was in the hospital with our first baby and he visited asking for Miss Jill Butler. Sadly only a month after that but not before baptising Martin Anton he left for his next Parish, coming back to this area later as Vicar of Bray. So, who comes in

A married man with a young son. A man with a name to remember:

### **REVD JOHN BROWN**

man who is going places and who has also been a missionary in the Sudan. He is a man with a world wide vision of the church and brings a local Sudanese Bishop to England for a while to share life in our parish. John is firm and efficient in the parish. When the choir ladies decide that simple white rochets are no longer a fashion statement and opt for blue robes, they have to raise the money. We can no longer have a curate. Graeme Davidson, a young, newly married New Zealander is our last full-time curate and becomes known for his ability to turn up for pastoral visits when food is about to be served. Also for stirring up the golden cockerel controversy which provides a focus for the on-going Christian debate on how much to spend on the glory of God and his church and how much on other people. Not that gold paint is so expensive but getting someone with a brush, up to the weather cock at the top of the spire is.

John Brown is perhaps best remembered for what happens after he leaves us in 1974 when, during the



interregnum, we have our first Harvest Supper, which is organised by the Missionary Committee because it is to raise funds for John's beloved Sudan. John himself moves to the rapidly expanding town of Bracknell, is made Archdeacon of Berkshire, and a few years later Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, a strangely clandestine role in the strictly Islamic Gulf states. He later returns to England as Bishop of Grimsby. But back to 1974 and our new priest:

#### FATHER FRANK LEWIS

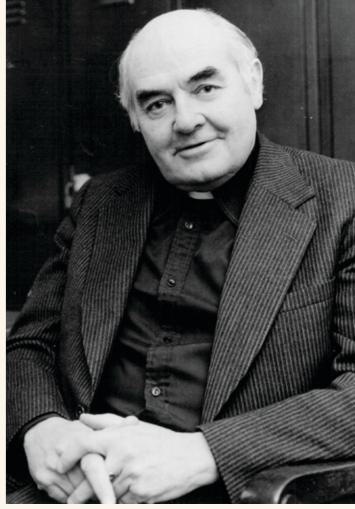
e is a rather older married Welshman. He, in Jilly's words, is gregarious, warm, cuddly, with a great sense of humour - yes, Jilly likes him \_\_\_ and he loves people, parties and golf. He is relatively high church and wants to notch St Luke's up a few candle power. He calls himself Father Frank but most of the congregation aren't ready for that and call him Frank. He is more successful in eliminating Mattins and placing the family Eucharist at 10:00am at the centre of worship, and surprises us with his insistence that Carol Services must be after Christmas. Then he takes on the big challenge, to reorder the church to put the Eucharist at the spatial focus and the choir back behind bars, of the screen that is.

Does this generate controversy and opposition from the congregation? You bet. Does Roger join in? Yes, and writes more rude songs and verses about Frank and his to come to St Luke's in the form of our, and indeed the

ideas than about any other Vicar, and Frank appears to love it. Roger's not sure whether to be pleased or annoyed. In general Frank encourages a very open debate with a Parish News largely given over to people's letters on the re-ordering proposals. He keeps costs down by finding an architect in the congregation to do the design and an energetic technical type to lead the DIY construction and gets lucky with a timely bequest and the congregation is substantially won over except... we'll come back to that.

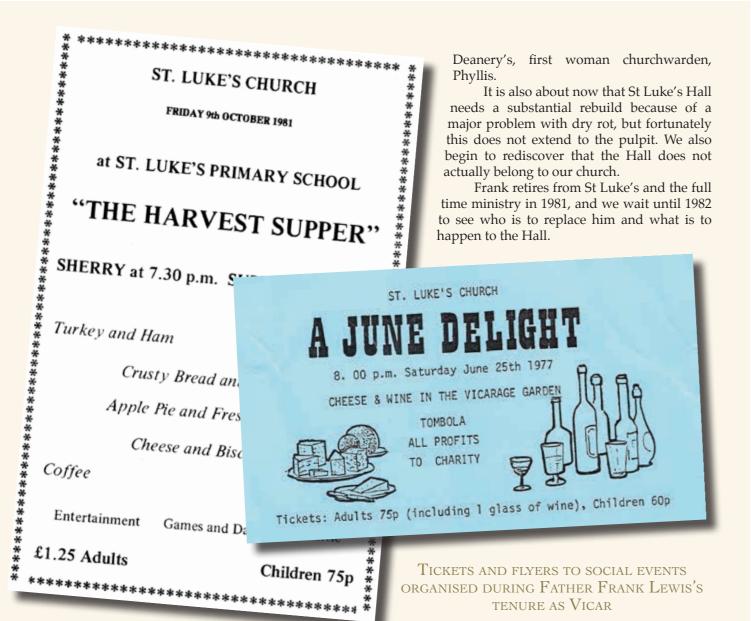
So, apart from the wrought iron work, volunteers from the congregation construct the new dais, lay the red carpeting, and it is dedicated to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The pews either side of the dais are turned to face inwards but – and this is where the re-ordering fails in one of its major objectives – the congregation with a very few exceptions decline to sit facing inwards from the sides and stick to facing East in the body of the church.

Anyway, back to Frank. Social life peaked in his time with nearly 200 of all ages at our Harvest Suppers held in St Luke's School. We may be biased because we were rather involved in the entertainment side. Roger with his twisted mind even wrote a sketch for a Stewardship Supper on how to use the Seven Deadly Sins to promote planned giving.



Jilly appeared as 'Lust' dressed in a bunny girl costume. Does anyone want to see a photo? Sorry, she destroyed them all and refused to pose again for *InSpire*.

But it is about this time that real girl power starts



NEXT TIME: IN THE THIRD AND LAST PART, THREE MORE VICARS COME AND GO, AND THERE MAY EVEN BE A FEW WORDS ON SALLY.



Catch up with the first instalment, published with the Spring/Summer 2013 edition of InSpire.

Browse the archive of this magazine, with every edition since 2009 available to read online – for free – at:

www. stlukeschurchmaidenhead .org.uk

## Walking Through 2013

With more ramblings of amblings, Roger Clarke reports back on his latest treks with St Luke's congregation members.

Since the last report, St Luke's walkers have enjoyed a number of day long walks, as well as the customary shorter walk on Boxing Day, and a number of evening outings that allowed us to enjoy the lighter evenings of the lovely summer that we have had this year.

Our Boxing Day stroll covered traditional and well-known territory close to Maidenhead, and was enjoyed by nineteen souls eager to fight off the Christmas pudding. Parking in Taplow, we walked down Berry Hill and followed the river to the 'Sounding Arch'. Returning via Barge Farm to the Jubilee River, we spotted some waterfowl along the way, and climbed the hill back to our starting point after an enjoyBest of all, the weather was kind to us, and the rain only started as we left for home. Thanks to all those who came along, and to Sonya and all those who contributed to the food afterwards, as we enjoyed lunch at our house in Wentworth Crescent.

In March, a smaller group enjoyed an eightmile walk on a chilly but dry day in the surprisingly rural landscape around Harefield, Middlesex. We passed Harefield Hospital and crossed Moor Park Golf Course, enjoying lovely views, before reaching the Grand Union Canal. After a simple – some would say suicidal – crossing of the lock gates, we picked up the Colne Valley Trail. On the way back via the canal towpath, able three-and-a-half miles. we noticed a sign marked

'LONDON: 7 MILES', which was times thanks to the BBC dradifficult to imagine to be true ma *The White Queen*. in such gentle surroundings. Whilst walking, we spotted plenty of wildlife, including more than twenty species of bird, and we had marvellous views of a pair of 'country'

April saw us travelling to the Buckinghamshire village of Long Crendon and its famous Courthouse. The weather was fine, dry, and quite warm, as a party of fifteen (yes, fifteen... amazing!) set off on a walk of eight miles. The outward stretch was in a generally northerly direction, passing farmland and spotting two swallows en-route. We then headed of Crendon (now Long Crendon), made famous in recent future dates.

In May, we went to Sonning Village, walking 8 miles or so in a clockwise direction taking in Dunsden Green, Littlestead Green and passing just south of Binfield Heath before arriving at Shiplake and the bank of the River Thames. From here, we followed the Thames Path back to Sonning Eye, and our starting point. The bluebells at Shiplake Copse were spectacular. We also spotted a group of Loddon Lily along the Thames path, saw a herd of 20 Fallow deer, and spotted many different species of

In October, a group of south to the banks of the us will be enjoying a long Thames, taking in the manor weekend on Exmoor, so keep an eye on the pewsheet for



The highlight of our April walk took place as we stopped for coffee. There were sheep on both sides of the river and the only way across was by the bridge, which was very narrow, and on which we were sitting. Sheep being sheep, they decided they would all like to be on the same side of the river, and so some of the braver animals on our left started to shuffle between us, and thereby encourage their mates on the other side to join them. Eventually, the other sheep were persuaded to cross the bridge between us but, as they got half way across, the lead sheep launched into the air as if jumping Becher's Brook! At this point, and in the modern vernacular, it all kicked off, and the flock all made a dash for it. They all copied their leader by jumping in the air, much to the amusement of us all! They all made it across the bridge and then stood in the field looking at us as if we were completely mad. Funny animals, sheep!

## Pure Harmony at Music Festival

St Luke's inaugural Music Festival was held in June - and now there's hopes to repeat it biennially. Its Artistic Director, John Cotterill, remembers

it so much, we've come back for more". "Don't those instruments sound superb in here?" "I've not been in this Church before – isn't it lovely?" These were some of the high standard indeed, from the gentle, sonorous sounds remarks overheard during concert intervals at our Music Festival and were themselves like music to the ear!

could hold a Music Festival in our beautiful Church with its excellent acoustics. So when the Concert Committee met last August to consider putting on another series of Sunday afternoon recitals, I took a deep breath and bravely suggested the alternative possibility of a Festival of Music, all in one fortnight, preferably in the Summer. I was absolutely delighted when, somewhat surprisingly, this was met with I felt rather pleased with what the fortnight had achieved. instant enthusiasm, and thus our first Music Festival was

Entrusted with the role of Artistic Director, and the experience, but armed with my fund of contacts in the musical world and suggestions from the Concert Committee, I then set about preparing a long list of possible artists to approach in the hope—that we pulled that this would not only become one of our widest outreach it off. projects ever but also might raise some money towards the

Church's re-ordering programme. What a vision! Was I mad? The task was to provide a whole series of concerts which over a fortnight in June 2013 would give a feast of music for most tastes with Music Sunday at a pivotal point in the middle. Eventually, after pruning my list, I arrived at what seemed to be a sensible mix. Then started the many weeks of phone calls and email correspondence negotiating dates, fees, expenses and programme contents, but things gradually came together and an acceptable series of events was achieved and provisionally agreed by fairly early in the New Year. There were three large bonuses. The first was the legendary Laurie Holloway and some singers from his Montgomery Holloway Music Trust agreeing for a greatly reduced fee to give the opening concert which obviously had to be something special. The second was a group of young professional instrumentalists from London agreeing to form the St Luke's Festival Orchestra and to come for just expenses – I have to say it was a real privilege and joy to conduct them on the middle Saturday and to have my professional soprano daughter-in-law to sing with them. The third was getting the renowned young voices of the Taplow Choirs to give

"We came to one of the previous concerts and enjoyed the grand final concert for which the Church was filled to capacity.

As for the other concerts, they were all of a very of recorders, the contrast between organ and cello/piano, the light-hearted Laurence Frankel mix and the rhythm of I had often thought how wonderful it would be if we four saxophones through to the heavenly beauty of six male voices singing William Byrd, the marches and show music from a full concert band and our own singer with 'dreams to sell'. What is more, I always knew it would be right for our Church Choir to bring the Festival to a close, which they did most beautifully and confidently, and as I conducted them singing their Choral Mattins on that last Sunday morning, There have probably been lessons learned from

> However, have that emphasise none of it would have been possible at all without the simply marvellous

way in which so many people so

willingly and

on the whole my

InSpire's the event. Music Festival enthusiastically photo special worked the support whole venture. starts here... From Sally Lynch and the Concert Committee Photography: to Richard Burdett **Andrew Burdett** Treasurer, nobody could have given more encouragement and backing. Then there

...continued on Page 20

the magnificent

teams and their leaders

who masterminded and

performed miracles with

the essential matters of

publicity (Phyllis Sigsworth),

setting and printing {Richard

Burdett), logistics and 'stage'

ticket bookings and 'front-ofhouse' (Jean T-D), programme

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repertoire, including some celebrating the 450th anniversary of John Dowland's birth.

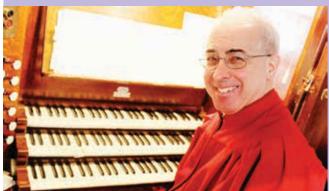




full programme, with items ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime, Laurence and his friends assembled for our fourth concert of the Festival.

### ...While Instruments Play, Tuesday, 18 June 2013

played a wide



St Luke's own organist
Rhidian Jones delighted
his audience, whilst Lesley
Shrigley Jones and Ingrid
Attwater entertained with
an array of music for cello
and piano.





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### St Luke's Festival Orchestra, Saturday, 22 June 2013



John Cotterill conducted some of the best young professional musicians in the region, as well as his own daughter-in-law Nicola Sharkey.

### Nos Miseri Homines, Sunday, 23 June 2013





Six male voices from
Christ Church, Oxford, sang
choral music by William
Byrd, including the muchloved four-part Mass.

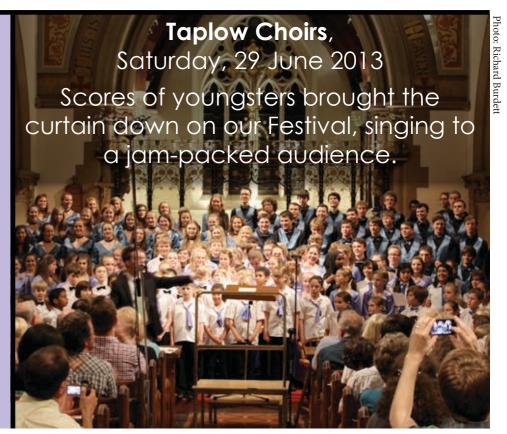
### Maidenhead Concert Band,



Peter Ripper led the town's acclaimed Band for Concert Eight.

## If There Were Dreams To Sell, Friday, 28 June 2013

Ruth Sheppard sang soprano, with tenor Richard Ratcliff and piano accompaniment from Gillian Salmon, in another free lunchtime concert.



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# Best Foot Forward to Canterbury

For the third consecutive year, Don Luff completed a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral. Here, he writes about the 73-mile trek.

funds for the Connection at St Martin-in-the-Field's work with homeless people. For this I thank you all and offer a few reflections on what it means to me to join the pilgrimage. Most of you know that it involves Murray, guitarist and director of Housing Justice, play a wide walking 73 1/2 miles over 4 days (Friday-Monday on the final May Bank Holiday). The walk is staged from St Martin's via SE London to Swanley on Friday, to Aylesford Priory on evening where no meaningful conversation about life or faith Saturday. Then it's on to Charing on Sunday followed by ar- is possible. After sleeping on the floor of the village hall the

any at St Luke's have dug deep into their pock- evening a service is held such as Compline, the Eucharist or ets and purses to support my attempts to raise specific Pilgrimage service at the Priory led by the Father Prior. This of course doesn't prevent pilgrims proceeding to the pub for further reflections and banter!

> Chris Bluemel, a professional violinist, and Alastair range of classic folk, pop, and rock music and there is a lot of raucous singing by a pub full of pilgrims! It's the one late



Pilgrims walking towards Canterbury.

rival in Canterbury on Monday afternoon.

This year we left in drizzle which became persistent miserable rain for almost the whole journey and it was while re-acquainting with old friends that I came to realise I was surrounded by a group of amazing and caring people, some who really labour to achieve the full pilgrimage. But I also came to realise on the challenging second day when we have to make long climbs which in part are steep, that it's not just in arriving but in the journey, conversations, and worship that strong bonds are made with kindred spirits. They show immense kindness and concern for their fellow pilgrims always helping and encouraging.

The food and care for the pilgrims is a major planning exercise as we are accompanied by Podiatrists and a nurse as well as a few priests to look after spiritual needs. Every

final day of walking arrives and when breakfast is finished a short service of Morning prayer is held by some. Those who can set off with raised spirits on the final leg to Canterbury.

We hold a celebration service in the crypt of the Cathedral led this year By the Rev Dr Sam Wells, vicar of St Martin's and then processed behind the choir of St Martin's up to the cloisters to hold a short memorial service at the grave of Rev Dick Sheppard, vicar of St Martin's from 1914. He started the social care ministry of St Martin in the Fields.

I was told when I made the first of my pilgrimages in 2011 that it wouldn't be my last and I said rather casually "Oh Yeah?". Well I suppose that person was right because I think I've been hooked by Pilgrimage. Perhaps another time I'll expand on the spiritual refreshment to be gained along the journey.

### God Answers Prayers

Having moved into new premises, Sue Brett says things are looking up for Open Kitchen.

"But Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

ow true those words are. Open Kitchen for the past couple of years has stored all its food in premises at the Ltop of some very, very steep stairs. The dreaded stairs! Anyone who has been to the old office, knows exactly what I am talking about!

We were at maximum capacity, we were delivering nearly 80 sets of bags a week (240 separate bags of food) and just could not do anything more from there.

People were praying all over town for us, asking for God to provide an answer to the problem. If were to continue helping more and more families we needed things to change.

Last month, after many months of 'pestering' the Council but not getting anywhere, we were suddenly offered ground floor premises. A shop. The old Connexions Shop in King Street, parking right outside and more importantly NO STAIRS! The only problem was we had to act fast, They had called on the Wednesday saying if were to take the premises we had to have a signed Tenancy back with them by the Friday. No problem. As one of the Trustees is a solicitors, the papers were looked at, agreed and signed by the Friday and the keys were duly handed over.

It was the May bank holiday, the ideal time to get everything moved over, so with a fluster of emails, a large team were assembled and on the Sunday at the end of May Foodshare was duly transported to its new premises.

Fantastic, in just over 3 hours we had moved all the food, set up the shelving and unpacked all the food onto the shelves ready for use on the Tuesday.

On 20 July, we officially opened to the general public, who in exchange for their vouchers can collect their food parcels. We are only going to deal with those who have very large families or special dietary needs, but it is

We are now in a position to expand and help even more families, we have the space, the volunteers, and the

God is good and with God all things are possible. He certainly move a mountain for us.

Be Still and Know That I am God

Gerry Knight reflects on a spiritual moment in Windsor Great Park.

'ave you ever stood in awe, looking out over a valley or down from a hillside at the tranquil beauty all around, but feeling almost as Lan outsider looking down in awe of God's cre-

I have often felt overwhelmed at times like these and very aware of God's presence.

I can remember on one occasion standing beside an Oak Tree, reputed to be over 1000 years old, in Windsor Great Park whilst looking down on the Castle; perhaps the tree was there before the first stone was laid.

It gave me an awesome feeling being able to touch a living thing which outdated much of human experience over the last millennium, and was very humbling.

Some years ago I read a book by Joyce Hugget called Finding God in the Fast Lane through which I discovered the wisdom of a little known 17th Century Carmelite called Brother Lawrence.

He worked in the Monastery kitchen but lived his whole life there living in the Presence of God, offering all that he did however mundane to God, prayerfully.

Reading this was something of a turning point, if I too lived in the Presence of God, could God be living in my presence alongside me?

What a thought!

Brother Lawrence admitted that living this discipline is very difficult; I find it even more so living in today's busy world and know that I often fail, but quote 'this is the human condition'.

I know that God's presence in our lives is the real Good News, it is difficult to keep it in focus because we are all living in an ever speedier fast lane; but it helps me to retain and strengthen my faith.

Maybe we should stop more often in our busy lives and take time out to submit ourselves to God recognising all of his works around and within us.

I am often drawn to that verse in Psalm 46 'Be Still and Know that I am God'.

How true this feels when we stop and realise God is with us; what more can we ask; other than to reach out and share his love with all around us.



Vicar: Revd Sally Lynch



Associate Priest: Revd Terrie Robinson



**Licensed Lay Minister:** Sonya Clarke

### And Finally...

"For those interested, you will find next week's preacher pinned to the inside of the front door."

Submitted by: Andrew Burdett

## Who's Who at St Luke's?

#### **Ministry Team**

Reverend Sally Lynch 01628 783033 Reverend Terrie Robinson 01628 634107 Sonya Clarke 01628 632626

#### Churchwardens

Shula Tajima 01628 546889 Johanna Raffan 01628 680913

Assistant Churchwardens Ben Darracott 01628 620280 Don Luff 01628 630833 Flower Organiser Joan Harnby 01628 622140

Electoral Roll Officer Jill Bevitt 01628 633464

Gift Aid Secretary
Ann Cooke 01628 472147

Director of Music John Cotteril 01628 636514

PCC Secretary
Ralph Hinchliffe 01628 784724

PCC Treasurer
Richard Burdett 01628 631486

Parish Administrator Sue Brett 01628 622733

### **The Church Website**



To view the latest pew-sheet, learn about the history of our church, or find out about the church's many prayer and discussion groups,

### find us online at

→ www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

### **The Church Office**

Open Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30am to 12:30pm admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

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