

InSpire



Autumn 2015

The Magazine of St Luke's Church, Maidenhead

Autumn: Time to Go for Growth

At a time that marks for many a period of new starts, St Luke's vicar, **Revd Sally Lynch**, calls on the church to grow.

What a good summer we have had at St Luke's. We kicked off with a fabulous Music Festival and enjoyed a glorious Summer Fair and many evening walks. Congregation members have enjoyed holidays, weddings and family get-togethers. We have had sadness too, in the loss of Rita Buckland and Betty Pearce. And so the summer has rushed by, or so it seems.

By the time you read this, the new academic year will have started and schools will be setting out their aims for the year ahead. Whole-school targets about examination performance are required, along with individual targets on all sorts of things. 'I will improve my spelling', or 'I will get into the school football team', or 'I will do my homework before watching TV'.

I find that, although we celebrate New Year in January, for many people September also marks a time of new starts. We often feel that sense of newness and beginning again at this time of year. So, I wonder if we can set targets for ourselves as Christians this Autumn?

Our Re-Ordering project is moving on apace. We ought to set ourselves a deadline to accomplish phase 1 so that we can reap the benefit of the work. We have seen a good number of baptisms over the summer, might we challenge ourselves to re-examine our own baptismal promises and seek to grow in our faith and deepen our relationship with God? Elsewhere in this edition of *Inspire* you will find details of the different courses, fellowship and learning opportunities on offer this Autumn to



help us do that.

Everyone should have had sight of our Mission Action Plan for 2014–2016 which lists the targets we have set ourselves to help grow the numbers of folk in church. Perhaps we could each bring a friend to a church service or activity to help grow the Kingdom of God — with people of all ages.

One area that we might challenge

ourselves is that of our finance. Clearly our Re-Ordering will take a large amount of money but we are almost there with what we need for Phase 1, with a contribution from our savings for just this sort of thing, with a generous bequest, and with funds being raised. The Funding Group will encourage some fundraising activities and guide grant applications, and some people will feel called to give to the project. However, it is our giving to the General Fund and our regular weekly stewardship that we might all think about. It costs around £1600 per week for the basic running of the church. Clearly that money needs to come from each of us. Perhaps a question to ask ourselves is: 'Am I giving realistically to the work of this church?'. Or, to put it another way: 'If I put just £1 in the collection plate each week, is that realistic, given what I pay for my gym membership / film hire...?'.

Currently the General Fund is supported by share income from the Fabric and Benefactors funds, and that is clearly not good financial management. So let's challenge ourselves to give to the Lord what he is worth, and to cover the daily running of the church realistically.

As we come to celebrate Harvest this Autumn my prayer for us as a Church is that each of us may grow in faith and move a little further on our Christian journey. And I'd love to see our Church grow too as we share the good news of God's love for all people.

Our challenge, should we choose to accept it, is to participate in God's work in this place.

Inspire magazine is generally published three times a year. The editor wishes to thank everybody who has contributed to this issue. Front cover: a floral display seen at the end of the church's Music Festival (photograph: © Andrew Burdett 2015). 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

Coming Soon at St Luke's

Monday 14 September

From Bach to Baby

The first of a series of classical music concerts in church for babies and their mums. Also on 12 October, 9 November, and 7 December.

**Wednesday
16 September
(and every third
Wednesday)**

Book Group

Time to share the reading of Christian books. 2:30pm in the chapel.

**Harvest weekend
Saturday 26 September**

Messy Church 3:30pm to 5:30pm, in church

Harvest supper 7:00pm to 9:30pm, in the Community Hall.

Sunday 27 September (Harvest Sunday)

Holy Communion 8:00am

All Age Service of the Word (not Holy Communion) 10:00am

Friday 2 October

Lunchtime Worship

A short and simple service of Holy Communion in the chapel at 12:30pm. Continues every first Friday of the month.

Saturday 10 October

Ladies Breakfast

The speaker is Jean Tyrwhitt-Drake.

Saturday 17 October

Quiet Day

10:30am to 4:00pm at Ascot Priory, £15 pp.

Sunday 18 October

Patronal Festival

Tuesday 20 October

Grave Talk café

8:00pm to 9:30pm, in the Parish Centre. Also being offered on the morning of 3 November.

Sunday 8 November

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 15 November

Inter-faith walk and service

Mini teaching series

**Six Wednesdays from
7 October**

Spirituality

The next in our teaching series is about aspects of Spirituality, 8:00pm in the Parish Centre.

**Six Thursdays from
15 October**

Pilgrim Course

Follow (Book 1): *Turning to Christ*

Grow (Book 6): *The Eucharist*

8:00 to 9:30pm in the Parish Centre / Chapel

28 November

Advent Pilgrimage

11 to 13 December

Christmas Tree Festival



A Note From The Editor

I've written before about how hard it can be to be a Christian in today's world. This time last year, I remember being newly troubled by the unfolding horrors of the so-called Islamic State, percolating at last into the public's consciousness. The world suddenly became aware of an unprecedented level of evil, integral to that organisation's very being.

It's one thing being aware of something, though. It's quite another being directly affected by it.

But that, in simple terms, is where we're at now. As the ripples of the Syrian conflict spread out across the planet, this summer's narrative has been one of people displaced, and people arguing what to do about it all. As flimsy little boats continue to be launched into the Mediterranean, refugee camps are bursting at the seams.

People are desperate to be safe — and, yes, to many that means they're desperate to reach Britain's borders.

I recently attended a journalism conference at which the writer AA Gill was a speaker. He openly admitted — in words that are perhaps best left out of the church magazine — that he's a divisive figure. Some people love his unique brand of snarling critique, others find his acidic reviews unnecessarily unkind.

"I understand that that style of my writing is the marketable side of me," he explained, "but it's not the side I wish to be judged on." Referring to the *Sunday Times* pieces he occasionally writes about life inside slummy refugee camps, he added: "I hope that people will judge me instead on the serious stories I do too."

At this point, he made a fascinating point.

"The story of our time is one of people moving: people holidaying, people forced to move, people seeking a better life." None of this — to this extent, certainly — was possible in a bygone time.

"Do you know, last year there were 100,000 flights per day?"

That statistic made me really sit up.

In many ways, it's easy to feel blessed that we live in a time in which, for us, travel is so easy. Personally, though, I struggle to balance that feeling of being 'blessed' against the reality of, for example, the refugees' plights. How narrow-minded it seems to unquestioningly 'give thanks and praise' to our Lord when it is religion forcing others to leave their homes and the ones they love.

I don't have the solutions, but — for what it's worth — I pray for those who do.

Andrew Burdett, September 2015

The Way to Wisdom

In one of her first sermons since joining as Curate,
Revd Nicola Hulks preached on the Wisdom Literature.

Have you ever wished that you were born with a handbook for life? Perhaps a route map which you are presented with on your 18th birthday that lets you know the right paths to take, the areas to avoid; how best to make the most of the years you have ahead of you. Or perhaps, in this day and age, we ought to be born with a sat-nav that we can just turn on and know that we're going the right way. To have something, someone, to advise us of the right way to go, to help us with all the many decisions we have to make every single day.

These questions, of how to live life well and make good decisions, have not surprisingly perplexed human beings for generations. Our readings today from Proverbs and Ephesians both tell us to be wise. In Proverbs we are told to 'live and walk in the way of insight'. In Ephesians we are told: 'Be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise'. Proverbs falls into a category of literature in the Old Testament which concerns itself with the questions of how to live well, how to be wise. Unsurprisingly, it is known as the 'Wisdom Literature'.

But Wisdom Literature isn't restricted to the writings of the Israelites. It seems that in nearly every culture from which we have written records there is this quest for wisdom in some form, whether that be in proverbs, or storytelling, or songs. The quest for wisdom, of how to live life well, is universal. And that quest for wisdom doesn't seem to have gone anywhere today.

In her book *Thrive*, the founder of the online newspaper *The Huffington Post*, Arianna Huffington, writes,

"Wherever we look around the world we see smart leaders – in politics, in business, in media – making terrible decisions. What they're lacking is not IQ but wisdom."

When we pray here every day for the community and for the world, I find myself asking over and over again for wisdom: wisdom for leaders in our communities, wisdom for judges, for

healthcare workers, for politicians, for anyone who makes a decision for anyone! Wisdom, I somehow know, makes all the difference and yet is so hard to define. You might be able to think of someone in your own life who you consider to be wise. What is it that they have and how did they get it? It is just something! If you could bottle it you would make a fortune!

It is very interesting to realise then that the Old Testament has some very particular things to say about wisdom. Wisdom in the Old Testament is a real and tangible thing, something to be chased after with all your might. There is an awful lot of material about what wisdom is and how to get it and this, believe it or not, has a great deal to do with our gospel reading today on the bread of life. Hang on in there and all will become clear!

One of the first things the Bible says about wisdom is that it is very often to be found in the everyday things — in our day-to-day lives. A huge amount of Proverbs are about the day-to-day decisions of life. How should I raise my children? How should I approach work? What should I do with my money? When I think about this way of seeing wisdom, I picture a wise lady in a rocking chair, reaching the end of her life having seen it all, done it all, and who answers any query you have with a knowing smile and a few words that completely change your perspective. Wisdom is not some special thing tucked away in holy places like this: it is concerned with the things of life, it is worked out in the real things of our day-to-day existence, it is gained over time. Proverbs is like one great big collection of wisdom gathered from a nation. It's all the things your Grandma told you that you really wish you had written down. So that's one way wisdom might be found — the University of Life as it were!

Another hint we are given in the Bible about where we might find wisdom is to look to the natural world.

Wisdom, the biblical writers say, is right outside your window. It is watching how the birds gather their food, how the flowers grow. It is noticing the order and beauty of the world and learning from it. One of my favourite passages from Proverbs on this is the series of things we can learn about life from ants. It reads:

'Four things on earth are small yet they are extremely wise:

Ants are creatures of little strength yet they store up food in the summer.

Rock badgers are creatures of little power yet they make their home in the crags.

Locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks.

A lizard can be caught in the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces.'

As a former student of Biology, I am very much in favour of this kind of thinking! It tells us something important though. Just as wisdom is gained from everyday life, wisdom is also found in nature because in the Bible wisdom is depicted as being everywhere, a real thing that is all around us, to be sought and to be found.

So Wisdom, then, might be gleaned at home with your family or by sitting a while watching the beauty of nature all around you, but the other thing the Bible tells us about wisdom is that it can, on the flip side, be frustratingly illusive. In preparing for this sermon I dug out an old gift book called *A Special Gift of Wisdom*. Despite all the interesting snippets it contains, from all different traditions of the world, each considering what wisdom might be like, it never identifies what on earth wisdom is! It's like wisdom is always one step ahead: something you know when you see it but that is really hard to put your finger on. Wisdom is all around us, in nature, in the everyday things of life; something we know some people have (and others really don't), but it is still pretty hard to pin down.

During my theological studies I

wrote an essay on 'What is Wisdom?' and I can tell you that even the scholars can't agree!

Job, considered to be another wisdom text, laments how very hard wisdom is to find. He says:

*Where then does wisdom come from?
Where does understanding dwell?
God alone understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells.*

Job 28:20–23

Job here highlights one of the unique approaches of the Bible when it comes to seeking, finding, and living with wisdom — God.

On the subject of 'What is Wisdom?', my gift book actually quotes one of the most amazing texts from our wisdom literature, the Wisdom of Solomon, that describes what wisdom and God might have to do with one another.

There are some powerful images here of what this real, yet illusive thing, Wisdom might be. The author describes wisdom as 'the breath of the power of God and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty'. Seeing Wisdom is like seeing God; it is like looking in a 'spotless mirror' and seeing God's reflection. It is like seeing the light of God firsthand. If we live with wisdom, then, we are living in the light and guidance of God. That is why we are to seek to live with wisdom in every aspect of our lives. That is why a life lived with wisdom is so different and so desirable.

By now you might be thinking: 'Well, this is all very nice but what on Earth does this have to do with John's

Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.
She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,
'You that are simple, turn in here!'
To those without sense she says,
'Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.'

Proverbs 9. 1–6

Brothers and sisters, be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5. 15–20

Jesus said to the Jews: 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'. So Jesus said to them: 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

John 6. 51–58

Gospel and all this talk of the bread of life?'. This is the point where I get really excited and start hopping up and down about how brilliant the Bible is! If you think back to our reading from Proverbs you will remember Wisdom calling us in to 'eat of my bread and drink of my wine'. Wisdom is depicted as a person, a woman, calling out to us on the streets to follow her path and not the path of foolishness. In the passage we heard she calls us to her banquet, to 'come, eat, and get wise!'.

Meanwhile, in another recent reading from John's Gospel, Jesus basically says: 'Come and eat me!', which the crowd find, quite understandably, a bit strange! But when we think about the idea of wisdom, and this passage in Proverbs in particular, a whole bunch of interesting possibilities of what Jesus means begins to emerge. It seems very likely that the author of John's gospel is deliberately recalling Lady Wisdom's banquet in Proverbs when writing this

account of Jesus. And this isn't the only time that John makes a link between Jesus and Wisdom.

In the opening verses of John's Gospel is that beautiful and memorable phrase 'In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God'. John's opening prologue, through which he intends us to read the whole of his Gospel, is stuffed with references comparing Jesus to the Old Testament idea of Wisdom. The Old Testament describes Wisdom as like looking in the mirror and seeing the reflection of God. John describes Jesus as 'God here with us'; that when we look at Jesus, we see God. The Old Testament says that we can find wisdom in nature, in the world all around us. John says that all life came through Jesus so we can indeed see his fingerprints everywhere. Just as Wisdom is understood in the Old Testament as a reflection of the light of God, Jesus, in John's prologue, is the light which 'lightens everyone'.

Just as Wisdom is about our everyday lives in the Old Testament, Jesus comes to us as a human being to show us how to live our lives here and now with wisdom. Jesus, for John, is the path to understanding and to insight.

So our story, as Christians, of what it means to live a wise life is perhaps less about having a route-map and more about having a tour guide. Wisdom, the Bible says, is indeed real and can be seen most fully in the person of Jesus. Wisdom is God with us; God showing us the way in all our everyday decisions; God showing us his beauty in the wild flowers or the sea view. God calling us to him, always, to know the right way for every little aspect of our lives and how we live them.

For me the wisdom literature is so exciting because it says 'God is even closer than you think'. He is here in the very ordinary, in your back garden, in every part of your life. So come, take, eat, and know that he will lead you.

ly working so closely with someone I didn't know. Fr Tom and I had very different personalities but he was very gracious and welcoming to me and gave me every opportunity to try something new. I remember in my first week he asked if I wanted to lead a mother-and-toddler service as he was going to be in a meeting, but I didn't feel ready so we ended up having a coffee morning instead. This gave me an opportunity to get to know some of the families in the parish.

Christ Church runs a foodbank once a week called the Parish Pantry. It is staffed by volunteers from that church as well as the local Roman Catholic church. It is a great way to not only offer food or necessary toiletries but also fellowship and support. I volunteered at the foodbank when I could and found the experience very humbling. One person whom I remember used the foodbank every week was a man called John, who'd just turned 86 and was in the Merchant Navy. Every day, John goes around the Island and sweeps the steps of St Edmund's, the Roman Catholic church, and Christ Church. He is almost completely deaf so it can sometimes be difficult to talk to him but I think he just likes being around people and keeping busy. He says that if he stops he'll die, so he just keeps going and takes great pride in doing a good job. You can always hear John coming because he sings to himself. Before I left, he gave me a picture of the Virgin Mary which was so kind.

Another thing that I did during my time at Christ Church was to run the midweek children's Bible study class for youngsters aged eight to ten. We basically followed the Sunday liturgy but tried to make it easier for the children to understand the message of the readings from that service. For example, we were looking at the Ten Commandments and I told the children we were going to play a game with a ball, so I gave them the ball and said "Go!". But they looked at me and, quite understandably, asked 'What are the rules of the game?'. This led me to say that rules are therefore important to help us understand what to do. Working with the children took a lot of patience and imagination to create a class was both educational but also enjoyable. When I first started, the class there numbered only four children, but by the time I left we had about fourteen children coming which made



Serena Tajima and Father Tom collecting ASDA customer donations to Christ Church's Parish Pantry foodbank scheme.

me feel really proud. Fr Tom and I discussed creating a confirmation class for this group and I hope this will be happening in the new school year.

On Mondays all the interns went to St Mellitus Theological College where we took lectures in biblical studies and theology. I found the lectures really interesting and often very challenging. St Mellitus is an evangelical Christian college and I sometimes found the lecturers would say things I didn't always agree with. However this is not always a bad thing: having your understand-



ing and beliefs challenged can help clarify what you believe in and why.

After our lectures, the interns and I would then go to St Anne's community centre in Hoxton to discuss urban theology and how it was impacting on the parish communities that we worked with. I have to say I often found Mondays pretty exhausting as we spent all day thinking! It was great to have the other interns around to wind down with and talk about what we had learnt during lectures and our sessions at St Anne's.

One of the last things I was involved in during my internship was an event organised by all of the churches on the Isle of Dogs. There are six churches of different denominations which have been coming together once a year and raising money to hold a free weekend event for everyone on the Island. Everything is free, including a barbecue, a bouncy castle and other inflatable games, craft activities, and face-painting. They also have a big tent that has a prayer area and information point for those who want to find out more about what the churches do. It was a fantastic event which everyone enjoyed and, I understand, many people from the local community look forward to every year. I really enjoyed working with people from different churches and getting to know them — it really helped me get a sense of other churches' viewpoints.

The internship was an amazing experience from which I learnt a lot. I was also so lucky to be able to spend a year living in London. The people and the different cultures that all live together in the city create a great atmosphere and it was such a unique experience. However, now the internship is over, the next step on my journey is just around the corner. From 27 September I will be living at Westcott Theological College full-time for two years and studying a diploma in Theology and Ministry studies. Part of the course involves being attached to a local parish church or chapel; details of this I will be told when I arrive. I am also expected to take classes in New Testament Greek, which will be quite a challenge!

I will hopefully be able to come back to St Luke's during the holidays to see you all but I will try and write a little update for *InSpire* as well. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I embark on the next two years of this faith journey.

MISSION PROGRESS

After a twelve-month internship, St Luke's ordinand **Serena Tajima** is ready to commence her clerical training.

Well it's been quite a year! Thank you all so much for all your thoughts and prayers: they have meant a lot to me.

The internship I was part of was a Stepney Internship scheme which was created as a way for young people who are exploring their faith and vocation to be immersed in a church community, but also have the opportunity to learn more about Theology and the Church of England.

There were eight interns in total, of which I lived with three in a flat in Bow. We all spent most of our time in our parishes working alongside the priest of our allocated churches.

I worked at Christ Church on the Isle of Dogs alongside Father Tom Pyke. The tradition of the church is quite high Anglo-Catholic, so I was taught to be a thurifer (the person who swings the thurible full of incense) quite soon after I started. I got to Christ Church at 8:20am every morning to say Morning Prayer, which always started with the Angelus. This is a short prayer said at sunrise and sunset to the Virgin Mary. I would then usually finish by 6:00pm after doing Evening Prayer, unless I had a meeting to go to and then sometimes I wouldn't get home until 11:00pm!

It took a while to get used to everything, especial-

‘Lord, teach us to pray...’

Revd Sally Lynch explores some of the ways we can build prayer into our everyday lives.



When Jesus’s disciples asked him to teach them how to pray he replied with words that we now know as the Lord’s Prayer (found in Matthew 6. 9–13 and Luke 11. 1–4). Whether we say it in the traditional version (which, of course, is not the version that Jesus knew as he didn’t speak English in any form!) or a more modern translation, this prayer is very familiar and helpful. Jesus did not intend it to be used verbatim as a prayer but as a guide to the areas of prayer that help us when we converse with God. Today it is probably translated into more languages and dialects than any other prayer. When some of us were in Jerusalem last February, we visited the Pater Noster church and saw over 140 colourful ceramic plaques around the walls with different translations. The gift shop and website at the church offers over 1440 languages and dialects.

Prayer is international big business!

Daily prayer is also crucial in our relationship with God. Prayer takes so many forms — arrow prayers in need or of thanks, corporate liturgical acts (praying together from a book!), silent meditation, a quiet time, throughout the day.... What matters most is that we do pray, that we maintain our relationship with God - listening to Him, seeking his help, sharing our lives with Him, our loving Father.

Prayer is not always easy. For some of us just chatting to God comes naturally. For others it can be difficult to know where to start and written prayers can be a great help. There are many books of prayers which offer well thought out words. Why not try any of the following (all of which are available on Amazon or from the Quench bookshop on Queen Street):

- The *Pocket Prayers* series published by CHP
- *How to Pray* by John Pritchard

- Books by David Adams (with a Celtic feel)
- *Occasions of Prayer* by Lisa Withrow
- A William Barclay prayer book
- Books by Susan Sayers
- *Hit the Ground Kneeling* by Stephen Cottrell
- *The SPCK Book of Christian Prayer*

In the prayer area at church there is also a selection of prayer leaflets to take away and use as you wish. You may even like to stop there a few moments and light a candle – the flame will continue to burn, carrying your prayer heavenward once you have left the church.

The Daily Office is said in the chapel at church every morning (except Monday and Thursday) and on Friday evenings. Those of us who attend find the order of the Common Worship services helpful, and even when we feel inarticulate they help us to relate to God. Anyone is welcome to join us any time.

We recognise though that time constraints, demands of family life, and early-morning Maidenhead traffic makes joining us in person very difficult, and so modern technology has also made prayer more accessible to us. Anyone can access Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Night Prayer via the Church of England website (www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer.aspx). This gives you everything you need in one place: psalm and readings for the day, along with prayer ideas. You can even download the app to your phone or iPad — it is so easy to use. You then decide how much or little you say of it. Simple!

Lastly, this autumn we are going to introduce Prayer triplets for those who would find it helpful to pray regularly with other people in a very small group. If you would like to join a triplet, please email me or sign up in church.

Happy praying!

In Faith
Out There
St Luke's Church, Maidenhead

12
PAGES
OF PHOTOS!

music festival 2015

ENCORE!

InSpire's exclusive, comprehensive coverage of the two-week event starts here



Concert 1

St Luke's Festival Orchestra

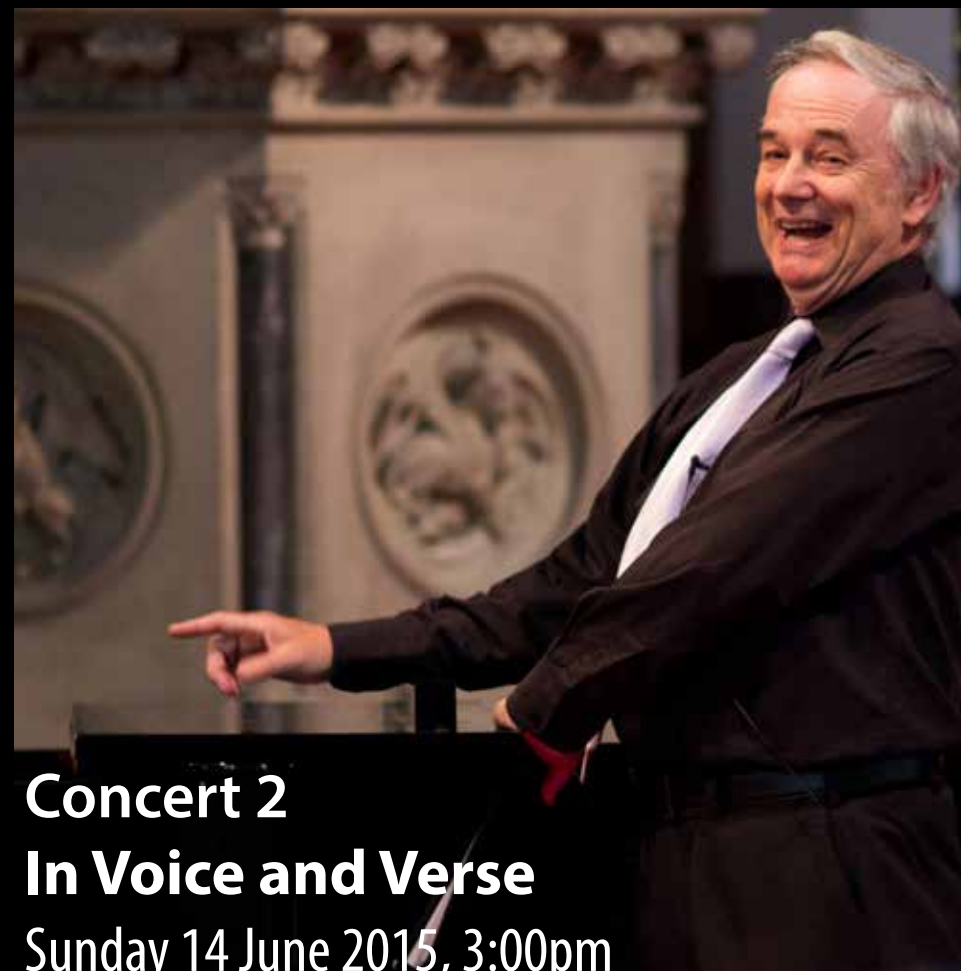
Saturday 13 June 2015, 7:30pm



All photographs in this supplement © Andrew Burdett 2015, except where otherwise noted.

The St Luke's Music Festival was made possible thanks to the hard work of a dedicated team, who worked tirelessly throughout the fortnight – and in the months running up to it – to make the event run smoothly. The church also acknowledges a generous donation from the Louis Baylis (Maidenhead Advertiser) Charitable Trust.

Artistic Director: John Cotterill



Concert 2
In Voice and Verse
Sunday 14 June 2015, 3:00pm

For performer **Lance Pierson**, one audience member was of special importance.

My piano teacher when I was 10 was a lovely lady. She is now 85 and can't travel far. But she lives in Winkfield Row, so Maidenhead is within reach, and I invited her. The concert was due to start at 3pm. From 2:30pm I stood at the door, watching and hoping. By 2:55pm there was still no sign, so I joined my colleagues to get ready, unable to suppress a slight feeling of disappointment.

We started without her in the audience. But about ten minutes in, the church door opened and in she came. It turned out that she had had visitors that morning who wouldn't go. Finally she had to say: "I've got to leave now for a concert". There wasn't time for lunch. So, much as she loved the concert, I think she enjoyed the cream tea even more. Her verdict on the afternoon: "Those were the best cheese scones I've ever had!"



The Girls' Booze Cruise to France

It's a tough job, but someone had to get the interval wine,
writes **Jean Tyrwhitt-Drake**.

Breathalyser kit? Check. Fire extinguisher? Check. Red triangle? Check. Spare set of light bulbs? Check.

With the car-boot cleared and the

tyres pumped up to cope with the extra weight, the car was ready for its voyage.

On Wednesday 3 June, after picking up Sally Lynch, Sally Somerville, and Phyl Sopp at 7:00am, we sailed round

the M25 to the Eurotunnel terminal. Elevenses were served about midway under the Channel and we arrived in no time at all in France.

Phyl was our navigator and we

drove down the coast, passing through countless pretty, sleepy villages, with hardly another vehicle to be seen. At Audresselles, we stopped at a restaurant for a delicious lunch. Whilst the others enjoyed a glass of wine, I stuck resolutely to bottled water. A captain cannot be drunk while in charge of a vessel!

We then headed back up the coast to find the hypermarket where we made our selection of the available wines — a total of seventeen cases of red and white.



Photo: Sally Lynch

After loading them in, we headed back to do our own (personal!) shopping.

The car was pretty heavy for the return journey and I drove off very gingerly. Happily, most of the route was on motorways, which were relatively smooth.

Was it worth it? As a fun day out, yes. As a team-building exercise in anticipation of the Music Festival, definitely. As an economic method of buying the wine, probably not, but I would do it again. Roll on 2017! Cheers!

Concert 3
Youth Music
 Tuesday 16 June 2015, 7:30pm



Concert 5
Richard Allen (harp)
 Friday 19 June 2015, 1:00pm



Concert 4
Thames Valley Chorus and Harmony Inspires
 Thursday 18 June 2015, 8:00pm



Concert 6
Andrew Gallacher and Friends
 Saturday 20 June 2015, 7:30pm



When John met John

In a headline event, the composer and

Festival Director John Cotterill spent an hour with conductor John Rutter. **Andrew Burdett** reports.

In the world of music, John Rutter's name is synonymous with a particular brand of choral arrangement: saccharine melodies, mawkish lyrics, and a 'cheesy key-change' forty bars before the end. As a result, any similar music by other composers is derided with the old choristers' joke: 'I can't believe it's not Rutter'.

"People sometimes criticise my music for being too sunny," he says, some way into the interview, "they say

it's too much 'honey and flowers'. But that, probably, is what I do best. You've got to have hope; somehow to have a sense of a better future. I sometimes get fed up with the relentless darkness of the art world today."

Indeed, on the surface, Rutter oozes with calm. At nearly 70, he maintains a calendar of engagements that would exhaust many — and yet, here he is, totally relaxed, answering questions about his life and work before a hundred-strong audience. Dressed in

a casual Ralph Lauren striped Oxford shirt and dark navy suit trousers, he's an image of ataraxy. Perhaps this is down to his pre-existing relationship with his interviewer — he met John Cotterill many years ago through the Association of British Choral Directors, or simply because of the promise of a cream-tea at the end.

"You seem such a calm gentle man", says Cotterill, "is there not some hidden fury?". "I'm calm," comes the

cautious reply, "providing things don't go wrong."

But he does appear to be very good at making things go right. Just last night he was in Bristol, conducting his major work *Mass of the Children* with 150 young voices, as well as the City of Bristol Choir

and a professional symphony orchestra. "Conducting children is a bit like herding cats", Rutter jokes, "although they were wonderfully good come the concert."

The conducting takes around half of his professional time; the rest is filled with composing. When Cotterill asks which he prefers, Rutter says that they are both "different". "With conducting, the hard part is there in the moment. Like being a pilot, it's a highly stressful thing requiring 100 per cent concentra-

tion at the time, but when it's done, it's done, and you can relax and leave it.". Composing, on the other hand, "haunts you continually". A very solitary exercise, one is left "starved of company", and for that reason, Rutter explains, "I couldn't do it all of the time".

Undeniably, this is a man whose life has been devoted to music — work that was recognised when he was awarded a CBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List in 2007. He recalls the moment before he ticked the box marked 'Yes' to accept the honour. "I remembered the words of my old Latin teacher: 'Dear boys, decline all orders, except for the Order of Merit, for that is the only one worth having'. So I remembered his words, hesitated, and then ticked the box anyway."

Yet his life could have taken an entirely different route, were it not for a brave disclosure midway through his Cambridge interview in the 1960s. Applying to Clare College, as the prestige of King's seemed just too daunting, he arrived for his admissions interview for, as it was then set to be, Modern Languages. "Part way through the interview, I stopped and admitted: 'I think I'm a musician'. The senior tutor took a long, heavy puff of his pipe — then, breathing out, sighed: 'I think you ought to see Dr Temperley.'" Rutter's sense of humour shines through at this point, chuckling that it sounded as if he were being sent for psychiatric testing; some form of mental correction with the college doctor. In fact, no. After a short conversation and brief written assessment, Rutter was allowed to proceed as a Music undergraduate.

It's clear he fell in love with his university city. "Is it the best place on Earth?", asks Cotterill. Rutter's response does not gush with the praise one might have expected of a man who's spent the last 45 years around the banks of the Cam. He does, however, single out its choral groups: "It's not that it's the best place on Earth, but I don't think there's another city with so many fine choirs."

It was in California, during a choral workshop Rutter was running, that he met his wife JoAnne. "She looked at me, and looked at me again. Then she said: 'You're John Rutter? The John Rutter?! I thought you were at least 80! Or... dead.'" With a twinkle still there in his eye, he goes on: "I was able to tell her that I was indeed younger and in much better health than she had previously believed.". The wedding took place at his alma mater, and the couple remain happily married today.

At one point, Cotterill questions Rutter's faith. "I obviously grew up in the Church of England, sang in the school chapel choir, and mine was probably the last generation to regularly use the 1611 King James Bible and the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. That never leaves you. It's a terrific foundation.". But does he believe now? "Well, like many people in Britain, I'm not very good at signing on dotted lines. I stop short of weekly worship — and I see the good in many faiths. But I remain a huge friend, fellow traveller, and agnostic supporter of the Christian Church". He goes on: "And when I keel over, I want the full works: the funeral has to have a choir... there's a list of about 86 pieces I want sung."

The laughter this generates subsides as the discussion moves on to the poignant subject of child bereavement. "You, like me," John Cotterill says tenderly, "lost your son. How did you deal with that grief?". Rutter pauses for a moment before briefly describing the accident. In 2001, when he was just nineteen, his eldest son Christopher was killed by a car whilst crossing a road. "Life seems to stop", says Rutter. "Nineteen years is not really enough. But I found solace in my belief that nobody's life counts for nothing. We all make a difference, however short our time is. The dark loss of bereavement does turn to something good eventually." (A musicians' scholarship now exists to the memory of Christopher.)

"I don't know if Christopher's death changed my work patterns, but it did teach me that life is sacred and life is good. Don't waste it."

Now, Rutter gets by in the enviable position of being able to live off the royalties from his compositions and recordings, giving him the freedom to spend time doing what he loves best: conducting his choirs, composing in his cottage retreat, cooking "in a very amateur sort of way", and enjoying riverside walks. "I read," he says, "but I'm an ignoramus of the visual arts."

The hour-long interview draws to a close, but there's one final question on which he passes, cheekily posed by Revd Sally as she thanks Rutter for his time: "We currently have a vacancy for our Director of Music position. Would you possibly consider..."

No. The audience applaud a great raconteur, as the eagerly-anticipated St Luke's cream-tea beckons.

➡ Read more from the interview:
www.andbur.uk/johnrutter2015



Concert 8 Ascot Brass

Wednesday 24 June 2015, 8:00pm



Photo: Richard Burdett



Concert 9 Richard Gowers (organ)

Friday 26 June 2015, 1:00pm



My Day as a Roadie

Words: Richard Burdett

Accommodating the 160 singers of the Taplow Choirs required proper choral risers, so that each singer could see the conductor adequately. Fortunately, this already exists, since it was purchased by the now-defunct Maidenhead Chamber Choir, after a lot of work obtaining funding for it by the late Peter Petter.

Unfortunately, it now lives at Norden Farm, meaning the day before the concert, my son Andrew and I became true roadies.

After hiring a tail-lift van to fetch it, we loaded the staging in and drove it around to church. The cobbled stones on the driveway proved a problem for the rudimentary trucks on which the wooden pieces are transported, with one trolley shearing a wheel. As a result – on what was one of the hottest and most humid days of the year – it had to be effectively carried in piece-by-piece.

Finally, we were left with what was essentially a giant Meccano set. Somehow, the dozens of pieces would assemble to form the staging. It was only at midnight, though, after hours of trying, that I realised a part of it was missing. I therefore had to come home and make four wooden packing blocks, ready to slot in the next morning.

Eventually, just before 10:00am, the risers were ready – just in time for the choirs to move in for their rehearsal!

Concert 10
Taplow Choirs
Saturday 27 June 2015,
7:30pm



Photos: Jake Smith



Pint and a Ponder...

...St Luke's Relatively Young People

Words: Louisa Ellins

You may have seen the recurring notice in each week's pew sheet about St Luke's Relatively Young People. Perhaps you're wondering exactly what this group is and who can join. You may even wonder why the title is so long.

It's no secret that James had been a member of St Luke's for several years before I joined. It was the appeal of community that eventually brought me along more regularly: the opportunity to worship both alongside my husband and friends we'd made in the congregation, particularly through the monthly 'On the Way' (formerly Emmaus) gatherings at the Burdett's house.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18–20

SLRYP is an extension of this sense of community. About eighteen months ago, two members of the group – James Ellins and Tony Lane – realised (prompted by Sally too, it should be noted) that the congregation included a small but significant number of people around the same age and this was something we really shouldn't ignore. Time marched on and for a while this was just an idea, but our first meeting eventually took place in February this year. We've met on Sunday evenings every six weeks or so since then, each time at The Bear on Maidenhead High Street. 'Informal fellowship' has very much been the tone: a few drinks, good conversation, and altogether a great way to round off the weekend.

Last time we tried something a little different. At our first 'Pint and a Ponder', we discussed militant atheism and attitudes to religion – and simultaneously set the record for our highest attendance so far (fourteen!). And yet, even after an hour of serious discussion, once onto the second round of drinks we naturally drifted back to more general conversation – something I personally find much easier to contribute to!

By the time this goes to print, we'll have had our next meeting which will be different again: a night of bowling to mark Andrew Burdett's last meeting before heading off to university.

The group has been a great way to get to know others better. As well as Andrew's forthcoming adventure, there's a wedding fast approaching, a new baby, and another on the way (more on this to come, no doubt). I'm sure I'm not alone when I say that sharing our experiences has deepened friendships.

So why call ourselves St Luke's Relatively Young People? The title is a little unwieldy but the last thing we want to do is exclude anyone or impose an upper age limit: after all, age is just a number. So if you're reading this, are at least eighteen (well, we do usually meet in a pub), and would like to come along, speak to James or me at church or email us at jamesandlouisa.ellins@googlemail.com. (We do have a long email address too, but that's another story...)

the church summer fair

This year's summer fair was one to remember, says **Andrew Burdett**.

One of my favourite parts of the church summer fair is when I – as compère – get to walk around the vicarage garden and talk to the stallholders and attendees. I remember doing this one year and speaking to a mischievous Rob Baughan, whose father was tucked away behind the barbecue. To his horror, through the PA, he heard his son announce: "Well, Andrew, the part of the fair I'm most looking forward to is Dad's morris-dancing display at quarter-to-three." Of course, no dancing had ever been planned, and it was left to Kevin to apologise to the couple who'd stuck around especially.

This year, though: quite the reverse. Reprising a role he'd played first at this January's social evening, Ian Gilchrist led a number of folk-dances for willing participants. Kevin was, sadly, a no-show, but his daughter Ruth watched on from her face-painting stall, which did a roaring trade all day.

More entertainment came in the form of a small choir of angelic voices from St Luke's Primary School. Led by Deputy Head Bethany Greenwood, it was something of a reunion for me: a former teacher at Courthouse Junior School, Miss Greenwood remembered me instantly from my own Year 4 days. (Alas, I took a moment longer to recognise her, although in my defence a decade has passed since she last taught me.)

Congregation member Rachel Beaumont brought along a couple of dancing friends, giving a wonderful tap display at 2:15pm, and there were a good deal of sideshows and attractions to keep the punters happy throughout the day.

Among them, the usual cake sale, tea-stand, and jam-jar lucky-dip (a recent favourite, which went on to appear at our Maidenhead Festival pitch). It was also wonderful to see an entirely new stall selling delicious homemade treats, manned by John and Rita Salter. Their toffee apples did particularly well, with parishioners proving noticeably sweet-toothed.

As well as the cash raised, we must be grateful for what else there was at this year's fair: fun, sun, and smiles.



➔ See more pictures and watch a video tour: www.andbur.uk/churchfair15

Marching in the Light of God

As summer fades away, ramblers **Roger and Jilly Bevitt** recall happy evening strolls with members of St Luke's.

The hills near Maidenhead are not very high, the twin peaks of Ashley and Bowsey near Knowl Hill being the highest at about 470 feet above sea-level. For views, however, the main factor is how much higher you are than the surrounding land. It came as a pleasant surprise, on our first walk at the end of April, when one of our sharp eyed company spotted the London Shard 30 miles away from Star Lane on a lower slope of these hills. We had some other memorable sights on other evenings such as the numerous young white fawns bounding along with the pale-coloured deer of the Culham Court herd. Near Fifield we had distant views with black clouds, rainbows, and brooding skyscapes from the artificial but grass-covered hills of a former landfill site (with luscious blackberries and sweet little plums for the picking).

Last year we talked about arranging some walks for those who like a stroll but prefer them to be slightly shorter. In response, this summer we



held three such 'leisurely walks', each of about two miles, which proved quite popular (and not just with our 'less young' friends), so expect more of these in the future. These walks took us through Pinkneys Green and Cookham Dean on an afternoon with plenty of butterflies; to Hurley and Temple Locks; and separately around Spade Oak Nature Reserve lake by evening. Among less expected sightings at the latter were three little egrets, a pair of black swans, and an oystercatcher.

Roger Clarke and Don Luff also led a few walks, helping provide a full programme for the summer months.

The season ended on 27 August when we set off from the rear of Cookham Dean church in the light of orange-fringed clouds, took in the view of Maidenhead with the spires of both St Luke's and All Saints easily visible, and finished under a bright, almost full moon. During the coming months we hope to organise a proper moonlight walk and occasional afternoon walks so keep an eye on the pewsheet.

Many happy returns to **Dorothy Stott**, who celebrated her 100th birthday in August.



For a long time, Dorothy was a regular at our Thursday Teas group, which meets monthly – in the Parish Centre – for afternoon tea, slices of homemade cake, and the opportunity to get together and enjoy each other's company.

The dates for the next few months:

- 2pm, Thursday 8 October
- 2pm, Thursday 12 November
- 2pm, Thursday 10 December
- 2pm, Thursday 14 January 2016

Rita Buckland

At her funeral on 20 August,
Revd Sally Lynch gave the following
address in memory of Rita.

What can we say about Rita?

So often at the end of someone's earthly life we recall the basic facts of their life and it feels a bit like we are reading out their CV — but I think that it matters. It helps us to sort our memories, to bring order to the end, and to lead into the newness of full eternal life: it reminds us what Rita brings of herself to heaven.

So, Rita was born in Edgeware at the tail-end of World War II, in January 1945, a sister for her elder brother David. We celebrated her 70th birthday with her back in January. Her father worked for the Gas Board and so was exempt from military service. Rita went to school in Wembley and then went to work at Barclays bank. It was there that she met a handsome young man called Peter and they were married at St Cuthbert's Church in Wembley on 8 December 1968.

At first they lived in a flat above the bank at Totteridge and Whetstone — the bank of course has long since moved — and they moved out to Maidenhead in 1969 to be near Rita's parents in Bourne End. They moved into their brand new home in Green Leys — the last bit of the estate to go up — and then along came Nicola and Jamie and JaneAnne.

I don't think any of us can possibly imagine how it must have been for Rita when Peter was killed in a car crash the very day after JaneAnne's birth in 1978. When she was first in hospital earlier this year we talked a lot and she said to me, 'when Pete died I said that I would devote myself to bringing up my children' and that is exactly what she did

for the next 37 years. I think we would all agree that she did a brilliant job and I know that she was proud of all three.

Nicola, Jamie and Jane have told me that they suddenly had many 'aunties' on the estate and that the support they received at that time was amazing. Rita did not return to full time employment but was a busy homemaker and also worked as a lunchtime assistant at Ellington School and thus came to be known and loved by many people.

She took her family on holiday to places and with people who became

very close over the years. She started going to Pentewan many years ago and kept going back there and to Newquay from 1981. The family has had messages of support from there too.

Rita also valued the life of this church — she was a member of the 'old' wives group, she helped at Toddler group, she was Brown Owl at one time and involved in the social group. She was also the weddings verger and more recently also verger for funerals.

I have lovely memory of Rita not so long ago singing lustily as she sidled down the aisle during a hymn to the CD system — she brought such a smile to a young girls face at a difficult time. And she was so good at putting wedding parties at ease — and ushers in their place. People just talked to her because she was open and wanted to listen to them. She was an invaluable help at wedding preparation days and not only made refreshments but shared her story. I shall miss the clicking of her knitting needles during some sessions.

And her needlework is beautiful. She made many blankets — we can see just one here [we had one on the altar rails for her funeral — her verger's gown on the other rail]. She used incredibly fine weave to stitch stunning cross stitch pictures — she did the footprints one in church and she created the welcome picture by the door from a photo I gave her, saying: 'Do you think you could



From the Registers

We welcomed into God's church by baptism:

Robert (Bobby) Lambert
Lexi Teeder
Hayden Pearce
Nathan Pearce
Francesca Lane
Grace Crossley

We celebrated the marriages of:

John Norcott and Leanne Davies
Samuel Green and Jennifer Howells
Ben Jarnak and Rachael Holmes
Darryl Brudenall and Jane Hine
Robert Tillin and Amy-Rose Fountain
Pedro Marquez and Dee Agnew
Adam Bennett and Lara Heywood

We celebrated the golden wedding anniversary of:

John and Rita Salter

We commended into God's care at their funerals:

Fiona Nunn
Doreen Headington
Gerald Gunner
Hazel Birch
Cyril Vizard
John Draper
Terrence Greene
Rita Buckland
Elizabeth (Betty) Pearce

do this?'. Many of you will have been recipients of blankets, baby clothes, gloves (with or without fingers) and so on.

Rita gave — she gave of herself to her family and to all of us. And, as Jamie told me it was her faith that sustained her. She was Martha and Mary in one.

What can we say about Rita?

Rita was your mother, she was your sister, she was your aunt... and she was our friend. And we should not speak of her in the past tense because she still is.

She was in this earthly life and she remains in the eternal life a friend of Jesus and now she sees him face to face. She is fully in the company of her Lord and Saviour, and of all those whom she has loved and lost, most especially, of course, her husband Peter.

When she was first in hospital Rita talked about her funeral — she has chosen all the music and readings — how

we will celebrate her life. She wanted communion so we will come to share the family meal at the very heart or her — our — faith. And in that we will be united with her. The Eucharist is a thin place where heaven and earth actually touch.

And the readings that Rita has chosen help us to see that too. Chronologically we heard them the wrong way round. In the gospel reading the risen Jesus was preparing his friends for the fact that he could not stay on earth with them. And he charged them with a task — to share the good news of his love and the promise of eternal life with others. On the day of Pentecost those early followers received God's Holy Spirit to enable them to carry out the task entrusted to them.

Were it not for those early followers of Jesus doing as he asked them we would not be here and we would not know his comfort. But we are and we do. As Jesus returned to heaven he

made ready places for all of us and Rita knew, very clearly knew, that she had a place in heaven — wherever that is — where she could be with the Lord whose spirit she too had received at her baptism and been blessed with throughout her life on earth. As Jesus returned to heaven he blessed his friends as we will bless our friend soon. And they in turn blessed God — they thanked him for all he had given them, as we thank God for Rita's touch on our lives. That is what blessing is, quite simply it is a recognition that what God has made is good and can be even better with his touch.

We can rage at God for allowing Rita to be taken from us to soon. We can weep with God at the loss of our sister, mother and friend. That is quite right: God has broad shoulders.

But let us also bless God for giving Rita to share 70 years of life with us — each in different ways — and let us allow God to bless us now through the comfort of his Spirit.

Songs of Praise

In our regular feature, church chorister **Roger Bevitt** looks into the composition of another popular hymn.

'Thy Hand, O God, Has Guided'
Hymn 606, Common Praise

This hymn speaks of similar areas of faith to the more recent *Lord, For The Years* (Hymn 81), which was discussed in April's edition of *InSpire*; you may wish to read them alongside each other.

The words of *Thy Hand, O God, Has Guided* were written by Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821 to 1891), who was a considerable scholar, linguist, historian, theologian, preacher, and minor poet, and at various times held the positions of Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral; Professor of New Testament at King's College, London; and Dean of Wells. A probably reliable source reports that when he submitted this hymn to the editorial committee of the 1889 edition of *Hymns Ancient & Modern* he included a verse which began:

*God bless our merry England
God bless our Church and Queen
God bless our great Archbishop
The best there's ever been...*

I fancy he was teasing the committee.

A quick glance at the proper words may suggest that Plumptre thought the CoFE had been doing rather well. But commentators remind us that the words also talk of times throughout history and throughout the world when all seemed sunk in night. The Victorian Church had difficult theological, social, scientific, and ecclesiastical issues to address, and we, with our own problems, also need to seek and rely on God's Grace and inspiration.

The tune we sing was composed especially for this hymn in 1898 by Basil Harwood (1859 to 1949), who served as cathedral organist at Ely and Oxford. He was a great walker and gave his hymn tunes the names of places he passed through whilst strolling near his family estate at Woodford in South Gloucestershire. This one is *Thornbury* and you will also know *Luckington* which we use for *Let All the World in Every Corner Sing*.

Whether for the words or the music several former vicars of St Luke's included this hymn in their induction services.

A Good Read

Licensed Lay Minister **Sonya Clarke** found John Leach's new book inspiring.

Revd John Leach's book *God's Upgrades... My Adventures* is a book I highly recommend.

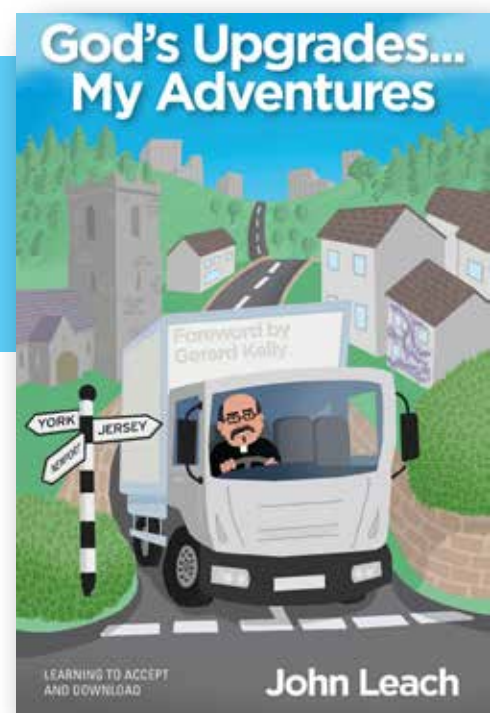
I met Revd Leach at the Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM) Conference held last June. He was our key speaker and probably one of the best. Revd Leach now holds the post as Developing Discipleship Adviser and Trainer in the Lincoln Diocese, and his talks were based around this topic.

John has a very direct way in addressing his audiences which makes what he says all the more interesting. He combined humour with passion, hurt with forgiveness; all the time encouraging us in the way of developing discipleship.

He was also very adept at plugging his new book, which tells not just of his life in ministry but also of his life more generally. He shares instances which will make you laugh, make you angry, and make you cry, but in the end the book teaches us much about how we can go about making disciples.

Gerard Kelly wrote the Forward to this book, but he also says: "I think I can predict how you will feel as you turn the last page of this book. I think you will be encouraged. I think you will have hope. I think you will find yourself smiling."

I'm not the fastest of readers, but managed to read this 200-odd page



book in 48 hours. Why not give it a try, but don't forget the tissues.

***God's Upgrades... My Adventures* is published by Authentic Media. ISBN: 1860249124**



Last Word

InSpire's Editor, **Andrew Burdett**, is leaving the publication after five years. Here, he reflects on his tenure in charge of the church magazine.

Forgive me, dear reader, if I allow myself this last page to say goodbye. Yes, for me it'll be tear-sodden and sentimental, and you're perfectly entitled to, at this point, flip over, read the back-page joke, and put the magazine on the pile in the living room.

But this, the thirteenth *InSpire* I've compiled, is to be my last. That's five years' worth of editions, with 332 pages and something like 124,991 words. I've been fortunate to be able to rely on a small but committed band of regular contributors, as well as a wider pool of writers able to be called upon to offer their perspective on certain events. To all those who've written for *InSpire* over the last half-decade: thank you. It's you who've made it what it is — a record of church activity; a source of reflection and, perhaps, inspiration; and a guide to some of the events, services, and provisions in the parish.

I owe a lot, too, to my predecessor, former vicar Richard Holroyd. He took advantage of desktop publishing and colour printing to create the stand-out publication I took on in 2010. I hope the design changes I have introduced in my time have built upon what was already a great magazine.

Certainly, the magazine today features a lot more photography than ever before — in many ways, *InSpire* has provided me with a mandate for my otherwise obsessive picture-taking. I hope that with the ubiquity of the smartphone — containing in one package the tools to take a great picture and immediately email it off to the magazine inbox — photography can remain a key part of *InSpire*. There's truth, you know, in the old saying that 'a picture says a thousand words'.

You'd probably expect me to modestly say that taking on the reigns to *InSpire* just sort of happened, rather than being part of a premeditated plan. In fact, no. It was an unashamed land-grab, through and through. Richard's departure as vicar left a vacancy in the magazine editor's chair: a vacancy I was sure would provide useful experience for my long-dreamed career in journalism.

It's in pursuit of that career that I now leave *InSpire* — my next step, on what will surely be a very long pathway, is to the University of Sheffield's Journalism Studies course. People ask: 'Why don't you just edit it in the holidays? You students get long enough, don't you?'. Well, this is true... but whilst it's a technical possibility, it would be difficult to continue pouring love into a publication produced at a church from which, for a lot of the year, I'll be absent.

And besides, it's time to go. I've had my stint; now it is time to leave my baby in the very capable hands of James and Louisa Ellins. It's worth remembering, though, that they'll have another, rather more important, baby on their hands from mid-October. My best wishes go to them at this exciting time.

I shall continue to read *InSpire*, following with interest any new direction that the Ellinses take it in. Sitting down with them recently, I realised they're buzzing with brilliant ideas; they made suggestions for material that I can't help wishing I'd commissioned during my time!

With them now at the helm, *InSpire* will surely remain — in the words of the former Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard — "one of the finest magazines in the Diocese... and probably, too, one of the best in the country".



Vicar:
Revd Sally Lynch



Curate:
Revd Nicola Hulks



Associate Priest:
Revd Terrie Robinson



Licensed Lay Minister:
Sonya Clarke



Pastoral Coordinator:
Sue Hinchliffe

Who's Who at St Luke's?

Ministry Team

Reverend Sally Lynch 01628 783033
Reverend Nicola Hulks 01628 788209
Reverend Terrie Robinson 01628 634017
Sonya Clarke 01628 632626

Pastoral Coordinator

Sue Hinchliffe 01628 784724

Churchwardens

Johanna Raffan 01628 680913
David Sopp 01628 673617

Assistant Churchwardens

Don Luff 01628 638602
Peter Goford 01628 638238

Flower Organiser

Joan Harnby 01628 622140

Electoral Roll Officer

Jill Bevitt 01628 6633464

Gift Aid Secretary

Ann Cooke 01628 472147

Director of Music

Currently vacant

PCC Secretary

Ralph Hinchliffe 01628 784724

PCC Treasurer

Richard Burdett 01628 631486

Parish Administrators

Ruth Humphreys
Mary Klymenko

The Church Website



To view the latest pew-sheet, learn about the history of our church, or find out more about St Luke's many activities,

find us online at

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

The Church Office

admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

☎ 01628 622733

Open Mondays, Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, and Fridays,
9:30am to 11:00am.

And Finally...

Seen in Smile, Please!, compiled by Phil Mason

On one occasion at the midweek meeting I spoke on 'Heaven and Hell'.

At the end of the talk, the secretary stood up to give the notices, saying: "Well, friends, it'll soon be time to think about the outing – to which place do you want to go?"