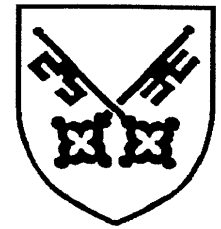


St Peter's Church Magazine



May 2014 issue ❖ 75p (£7 subscription for one year)
St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot ❖ www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk

Sunday School News

Since January, the children have been learning about parables including the Parable of the Lost Sheep, the parable of the Prodigal Son, the Unforgiving Servant and the 10 bridesmaids.

At the start of term, we planted seeds in four different types of soil to see which would grow best, and there were no surprises that the seed in the good soil produced the best beans.



The children also wrote poems after hearing one of the stories about buried treasure, about making sure that God is the most important thing in their lives. Here are two of them

“I once saw that I loved a rabbit
And made no fuss about God
But then I saw the light of things
And turned my face to God
Now that I love God
I make loads of friends”

by Fiona

“Some people love God
Some people don't
I love God
I turned to him because he makes the right choices
So now you know to love God and make the right choices”

Also, this term, Sunday school served the tea and coffee after the 10.00AM service. Many hands make light work!



Inside this month

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Update from the PCC

The Annual Vestry Meeting took place on the evening of Wednesday 9th April after a celebration of the Eucharist. At this meeting Julie Mintern and Hugh Collins-Rice were re-elected to the positions of Churchwarden.

This was followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting when the following were elected/re-elected to the PCC: Sheila Brown, Craig Bull, Tim Coutts and Alan Wilson. Margaret Meardon and Andrew Strangeways were elected to the Deanery Synod.

The reports which had been submitted prior to the meeting and made available for parishioners to read covered all areas of our church life. It is encouraging to see how St Peter's ministers to all ages from the babies and toddlers at Little Fishes upwards. Many people serve St Peter's

to make this ministry possible, some more visible than others like the ministry team, servers, sidesmen and choir and some in the background keeping the church and grounds clean and tidy and others such as the finance team work hard keeping the business of the parish ticking over. We are called to serve our community and as such go out into Northbourne and Willowcroft schools and we also minister to all ages including the Wednesday Church and St John's Guild within our own building. We join with our fellow Christians in the local area, for instance with the Act of Witness on Good Friday. As members of our church we all have a part to play to support this ministry whether it is in person or by our prayer support.

*Frances Hall
PCC Secretary*

For LENT For PACT

Our Lent collection for the work of PACT - Parents and Children Together - an Oxford Diocese initiative - raised £124.55p. Thank you to all who contributed.

There are further leaflets about their work in the church hall.

Jenny Loder, LLM

Plant Sale

Saturday 3 May
10.30AM—1.00PM

Plants, Refreshments, Raffle

Come and support your social team, you might even win a raffle prize!

Church Ladies with Typewriters

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Summer Fete

Saturday 5 July
12.00NOON—4.00PM

Various stalls, Refreshments, Raffle

Come and enjoy an afternoon whilst supporting your church.

Help will be needed to set up, man the stalls and clear away on the day.

Please contact Debbie Wilson with your offer of help.

Didcot Railway Centre

St Peter's is still known and highly regarded as the railwaymen's church. On 5th April I was privileged to be asked to lead the commemoration of two of Great Britain's finest steam locomotive designers, Sir Nigel Gresley and Charles Collett, who both happened to die on 5th April (1941 and 1952 respectively). It was the start of a weekend of activities for fans of those wonderful feats of engineering, not least myself (considerably more awe-inspiring than my miniature train set of very many years ago – it wasn't even electric!), with three famous locomotives (*Sir Nigel Gresley*, *King Edward II* and *Tornado*) working the display line at the Didcot Railway Centre. *SNG* is sister to *Mallard*, (the all-time record holder for steam locomotive speed – 126 mph on 3rd July 1937), and holder of the post-war record of 112 mph. Below is the short commemoration that I gave, which was followed by the sounding of the whistles for a minute – a fantastic sound and unlikely to be heard again from these locomotives together at the same place.

“After serving his apprenticeship at Crewe, Sir Nigel Gresley went on to become chief mechanical engineer of the newly-formed LNER, via the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and Great Northern Railway. He became one of Britain's most famous locomotive designers with his famous line of Pacifics and his A4 class ‘Mallard’ still holds the world speed record for a steam locomotive.

Charles Collett was an engineer at the Swindon Works and developed George Churchward's designs, resulting in the ‘Hall’ class coming from the ‘Saint’ class and the ‘Castle’ class arising out of the ‘Star’ class, the prototype of which was ‘North Star’. Collett was subsequently asked by the General Manager of GWR to develop the Castle class locomotive. From this came the ‘King’ class.

We are privileged to have ‘Sir Nigel

Gresley’ here at Didcot this weekend, with ‘King Edward II’ and the baby of the trio, the LNER Class A1 Peppercorn, ‘Tornado’, which was completed in 2008, all dressed in the British Rail express passenger blue livery.

So let us thank God for the development of engineering through the years; for the skills and foresight of those who designed our great locomotives, and for all those who built them. And especially today we give thanks for Sir Nigel Gresley and Charles Collett; for their work and dedication to the rail industry and for all that they did to improve life and travel in the last century. We also give thanks for the dedication of everyone who works to preserve and maintain our historical locomotives, especially for all who work here at Didcot Railway Centre. Amen.”

Fran.



Photo by Frank Dumbleton

Church Ladies with Typewriters

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be ‘What Is Hell?’ Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Prayer Intentions: May

<p>1st: Philip and James Readings: Psalm 139; James 1:1-12.</p> <p>Philip, the disciple who introduced Nathanael to Jesus, and James, the brother of our Lord (rather than the disciple).</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Church Street, East Street. The work of the Mothers' Union</p>	<p>2nd: Athanasius Readings: Psalm 61; Colossians 3:12-4:1.</p> <p>A champion of Trinitarian Christianity against Arianism in the 3rd Century. Associated with the long creed used on Trinity Sunday (the Quicunque Vult in the BCP).</p> <p>Prayer intentions: High Street, Bourne Street. Theological colleges and Ordinands.</p>	<p>3rd: Readings: Psalm 84; Colossians 4:2-end</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Northbourne Court, Pease Place. The social committee and those who work on the Plant Sale.</p>	<p>4th: 3rd of Easter Readings: Psalm 23; 1 Peter 5:1-11.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Ridgeway Road The Didcot Cluster churches and leaders.</p>
<p>5th: Readings: Psalm 96; Luke 1:1-25.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Sinodun Road, Bridge Close Singing for the Brain and all those with dementia and similar diseases.</p>	<p>6th: Readings: Psalm 98; Luke 1:26-38.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Kynaston Road Eucharistic Ministers and those receiving Home Communion</p>	<p>7th: Readings: Psalm 105; Luke 1:39-56.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Broadway, Vicarage Road Wednesday Church and its leaders.</p>	<p>8th: Julian of Norwich Readings: Psalm 136; Luke 1:57-end.</p> <p>Lady Julian was an anchoress (walled into the church, with a small window). She was in constant demand and Norwich became a place of pilgrimage with many seeking her advice.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: St Andrew's Road, St Peter's Road. The Youth Group.</p>
<p>9th: Readings: Psalm 107; Luke 2:1-20.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Wessex Road. Our Choir, Director of Music and Didcot Community Gospel Choir.</p>	<p>10th: Readings: Psalm 110; Luke 2:21-40.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Lower Broadway, Roebuck Court. Those preparing for new ministries at St Peter's.</p>	<p>11th: 4th of Easter Readings: Psalm 106; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Hagbourne Road Little Fishes. Our ministry team.</p>	<p>12th: Readings: Psalm 103; Luke 2: 41-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Ernest Road, Edmund's Court. Those who maintain the Church grounds and Gardens.</p>
<p>13th: Readings: Psalm 139; Luke 3: 1-14.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Fairacres Road, Marlborough Court. Little Fishes</p>	<p>14th: Matthias Readings: Psms 16, 80 Acts 2:37-end.</p> <p>Chosen by lot by the 11 remaining disciples to replace Judas.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Oatland Road, Samor Way. Wednesday Fellowship</p>	<p>15th: Readings: Psalm 118; Luke 4:1-13.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Mereland Road, Laburnum Grove The social committee and those who work making Quiz and Chips successful.</p>	<p>16th: Readings: Psalm 33; Luke 4:14-30.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Abbott Road, Abbott Close Those who keep the church and its facilities clean and tidy.</p>

Prayer Intentions: May

<p>17th: Readings: Psalm 34; Luke 4:31-37.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Richmere Road, The Croft; The Didcot Food bank and all who use its facilities, the Citizen's Advice Bu- reau.</p>	<p>18th: 5th of Easter Readings: Psalm 30; John 5:19-29.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Marsh Cottages, Jubilee Way, Regent Gardens Our colleagues in Churches Together in Didcot and District.</p>	<p>19th: Readings: Psalm 145; Luke 4:38-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Saxon's Way, Viking Drive. Our families and those who work to support Parents.</p>	<p>20th: Readings: Psalm 19; Luke 5:1-11.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Oriel Court, Lincoln Gardens. Alton Abbey and Wantage Convent</p>
<p>21st: Helena Readings: Psalm 30; Luke 5:12-26.</p> <p>Identified as the daughter of 'Old King Cole', and the mother of the Emperor Constantine. Founder of the True Cross, the relics of the 3 wise men, and other holy sites and relics.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Beaufort Close, Worcester Drive. Our Treasurer, Gift Aid officer, and Finance team.</p>	<p>22nd: Readings: Psalm 57; Luke 5:27-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Exeter Court, Magdalene Court. Our PCSOs and Police in Didcot. PS Christopher Geen who runs the Thames Valley Adopt-a- Cop scheme and Didcot PCSO Chris Wyatt.</p>	<p>23rd: Readings: Psalm 138; Luke 6:1-11.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Merton Close, Somerville All those who provide refreshments after services and at events.</p>	<p>24th: The Wesleys Readings: Psalm 146; Luke 6:12-26</p> <p>John and Charles both died as Anglicans but are closely associated with the Methodist Church.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Nuffield Close, Dirac Place Hymn writers, Katherine - our Methodist minister.</p>
<p>25th: 6th of Easter Readings: Psalm 73; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Fleet Way, Kibble Close; Our Lay Minister.</p>	<p>26th: Readings: Psalm 65; Luke 6:27-38.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: St John's Close, Ruskin Close The Sacristans and those who care for the Church linens.</p>	<p>27th: Readings: Psalm 126; Luke 6:39-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Shannon Road, Severn Road St John's Guild.</p>	<p>28th: Readings: Psalm 132; Luke 7:1-10 .</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Kennet Place, Thames Court. Maurice and Mar- garet who produce the Magazine and weekly sheets.</p>
<p>29th: Ascension Day Readings: Psalm 110, 150; Hebrews 87:11-end</p> <p>The day - 40 days after the resurrection - that Jesus as- cended to heaven.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Kennet Place, Thames Court. Didcot Community Hospital</p>	<p>30th: Readings: Psalm 81 Luke 7:11-17</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Western Avenue Our sides-people and Welcomers.</p>	<p>31st: The Visitation Readings: Psalm 85; Mark 3: 31-end</p> <p>The day the Blessed Vir- gin Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and John the Baptist leapt in the womb.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Western Avenue Our Bishops, Archdeacon and Area Dean</p>	<p><i>Those wishing to deepen their experience of read- ing the bible may wish to read alongside the read- ings already set the Book of Deuteronomy Chapters 1 - 30. Deuteronomy means Second book of Law - it was the discov- ery of this 'lost' book un- der the reign of King Josiah that is described in 2 Chronicles 34 (v14)</i></p>

Who was ... ?

ECCLESIASTES...?

We don't know, although there is a book of the Old Testament by this name. His Hebrew title means "a caller of assemblies"; it is usually translated "the Preacher". Someone ecclesiastical, hence the name.

He claims to have been a king of Israel, and hints at Solomon, but every clue suggests that the book dates from long after Solomon. Solomon had a name for his wisdom, and the writer is seeking the meaning of life, but generally speaking he is very pessimistic. ("A pessimist is someone who has faith that the worst will happen!")

His great phrase is "Vanity of vanity; all is vanity" - vanity means emptiness, futility. The more he thinks about life, about man, about history, pleasures, even wisdom itself, and death above all, the more he feels everything is futile. The only thing is to take life a day at a time, and to trust God through it all; God alone knows the whole plan so the best you can do is to trust him. Kings and rulers are no help. Civil servants are only out to oppress the poor. Money is deceitful and brings more trouble than it is worth. Be content with what you have. Do not be proud. Do not boast of your talents - they were given you in the first place.

At the same time, there are some excellent proverbs - wise sayings - worth remembering. For example: "A live dog is better than a dead lion", "The living know they are going to die, but the dead know nothing", "Fast runners do not always win the race", "The brave do not always win the battle".

Most famous of all is his last chapter, "Remember your creator in the days of your youth..." You may not have heard it read since you heard it often in school, but it is worth reading again whatever your age today!

Peter Barratt

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

The May 2014 meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 May 2014 at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall on the topic of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution with John Owen.

Didcot & District U3A is a democratic, self-funded and self-managed organisation

which exists to provide educational and leisure activities at minimal cost. It draws upon the knowledge, experience, skills and enthusiasms of its members to organise interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership.

Tel: 07804159993

Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com

Didcot All Saints' & The Ladygrove Church Services

All Saints'

Sunday 8:00 AM	The Holy Eucharist (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language)
10:00 AM	The Parish Eucharist (Except first Sunday of Month)
10:00 AM	Family Service (First Sunday of Month)
6:30 PM	The Holy Eucharist with a hymn and Prayer for Healing (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language, First Sunday of Month)
Tuesday 9:30 AM	The Holy Eucharist (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language)

The Ladygrove Church

Sunday 10:00 AM At the Ladygrove Community Centre
(All ages, with Sunday School)

Services

Sundays

8.00AM Book of
Common Prayer Holy
Communion.
10.00AM Parish Sung
Eucharist
6.00PM Evensong
(1st Sunday in month)

Weekday Offices

Morning Prayer:
usually said at 8.30AM
on weekdays (except
Fridays) & Saturday.

Weekday Services

Tuesday 12.00NOON
Little Fishes Eucharist

Thursday 9.30AM
Eucharist

**The Sacrament is
reserved at St Peter's
and is available to any
who wish to receive it
in their home or in the
hospital.**

Registers

**Funerals 'may they rest in peace and rise in
glory'**

Albert Bailey
Anthony Edwards
Sylvia Hughes

Subscription and website information

St Peter's offers a few
ways in which one can
keep up-to-date with
events and happenings
at the church—the
website, the monthly
magazine, the weekly
news-sheet.

The website—www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk is
updated on a weekly
basis.

If you would like to
subscribe to the
monthly magazine or
electronically receive
the weekly news-sheet,
please contact the
editor, Margaret
Meardon, on 01235
210525 or email
maurice.meardon@ntlworld.com.

Next issue

Wednesday 21 May 2014 is the next magazine
deadline. Please telephone or email the editor with any
articles—210525 or maurice.meardon@ntlworld.com

Quiz 'n' Chips

17th May

21st June

20th September

18th October

15th November

Year's Mind for May

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Olga Everitt | Robin Buckley |
| | Percy Major | Norman Calvert |
| | Frank Martin | 19 Florence Mitchell |
| 2 | | Sidney Cherrill |
| 3 | Alfred Macken | John McNamara |
| | Gladys Snow | Clifford White |
| | Ivy Stevens | Nellie Hornblow |
| 4 | Samuel Berry | 20 Phyllis Young |
| | David Fernback | 21 Henry Hitchcock |
| 5 | Alice Drewitt | John Wicks |
| | Frederick Goodall | John Whitehead |
| 6 | Florence Abbott | Anthony Cook |
| | Walter Morgan | 22 Dorothy Butler |
| | Fred Peppard | Jack Harrison |
| 7 | Marcus Shorrocks | Roy Culliford |
| | Maud Calvert | 23 Eileen Yates |
| 8 | Bill Bond | Henry Mole |
| | Jean Bentham | Edgar Crawford |
| 9 | Terence Daley | Louisa Beaven |
| | Frank Hill | 24 Pauline Cathcart |
| | Phyllis Powell | Edwin Beard |
| 10 | Elliot Goodall | Margaret North |
| 11 | Stanley Chandler | Dorothy Almond |
| | Frank Rushen | Stella Holt |
| 12 | | Donald Orr |
| 13 | Christopher Brown | 25 Ronald James |
| | George Wall | Jack Goodall |
| | Kenneth Wicks | 26 Fernley Dodd |
| | Lillian Davis | Louisa King |
| 14 | Muriel McGibbon | 27 Stanley Wadley |
| | Ken Missenden | 28 Hartley Abbott |
| 15 | Charles Osborne | Harriet Lyttle |
| | Grace Talbot | 29 Iris Miles |
| | Linda Hunt | Mavis Burren |
| | Paul Hill | 30 |
| 16 | Thomas Mathews | 31 Jim Wyatt |
| | Reginald Dawson | |
| 17 | George Wigley | |
| 18 | Lynne Atkinson | |

Church Calendar for May 2014

Thursday 1

9.30AM Holy Communion (MU)
7.30PM Deanery Synod meeting.

Friday 2

6.45PM Choir practice

Saturday 3

10.30AM-1.00PM Plant Sale

Sunday 4 Third Sunday of Easter

8.00AM Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.
8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.
10.00AM Sung Eucharist
10.00AM Sunday school

Tuesday 6

12.00NOON Tuesday Club with Little Fishes Communion
7.30PM Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Wednesday 7

10.00AM-1.00PM Wednesday Church
7.30PM Didcot Community Gospel Choir rehearsal..

Thursday 8

9.30AM Holy Communion

Friday 9

6.45PM Choir practice

Sunday 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

8.00AM Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.
8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.
10.00AM Sung Eucharist
6.00PM Choral Evensong.

Monday 12

10.30AM—Alzheimer's 'Singing for the Brain'

Tuesday 13

12.00NOON Tuesday Club with Little Fishes Communion.

Wednesday 14

11.45AM Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday 15

9.30AM Holy Communion

Friday 16

6.45PM Choir practice

Saturday 17

7.30PM Quiz 'n' Chips
(Doors open 7.00PM)

Sunday 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.00AM Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.
8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.
10.00AM Sung Eucharist
10.00AM Sunday school
12.00NOON Baptism
6.00PM Holy Hour & Benediction.

Tuesday 20

12.00NOON Tuesday Club with Little Fishes Communion.
7.30PM Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Thursday 22

9.30AM Holy Communion

Friday 23

6.45PM Choir practice

Sunday 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.00AM Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.
8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.
10.00AM Sung Eucharist

Monday 26

10.30AM—Alzheimer's 'Singing for the Brain'

Tuesday 27

12.00NOON Tuesday Club with Little Fishes Communion.
2.00PM St John's Guild
7.30PM Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Thursday 29 Ascension Day

9.30AM Holy Communion.
7.30PM Holy Communion.



Priest-in-Charge

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01235 816166