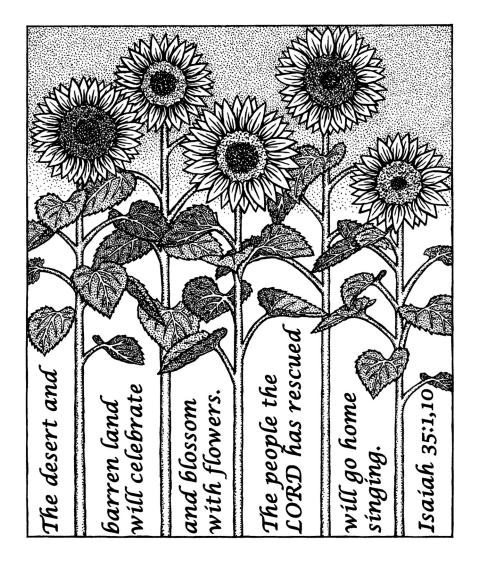
August 2021 30p Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter





Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

The Anglican parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey includes St Mary's, St Laurence's and St Peter's churches.

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Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
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Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Lynda Bussley	01753 573614
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
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District Churchwarden (SL): David Kill	01628 776856
District Churchwarden (SL): Richard Emerson	01753 526325
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07464 718909
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https://stmarys-slough.org.uk

https://www.saint-laurence.com

https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk

Fr Alistair Writes:

You may recall me saying, in a magazine earlier in the year, that as a result of our Lent course we have been asking ourselves what we can do about climate change, and climate justice, and that this is in many ways opportune because this year the UK hosts both COP26 (the UN Climate Change Conference) in Glasgow from 1-12 November, following on from the 2021 G7 Summit in Cornwall in June. If you have a very good memory you may even recall me stating that a group of young Christians is walking from Cornwall to Glasgow to lobby our leaders, and would be passing through our parish.

As things work out it seems that they are avoiding Slough (!) but Slough (or at least Upton cum Chalvey) are going to them, as on Sunday 1st August they arrive in Dedworth, and a group will walk from St Peter's to join them, and other walks from other parishes in different directions, for a celebration in Dedworth parish church. We leave at 3.15pm... who's joining us? If you're really keen you can go to Reading Minster on the Saturday (31st July) and have your boots blessed by the Bishop of Reading in a liturgy as part of the climate relay walk, starting at 10am. Reading Minster also has a climate-justice art installation which will be there until 6th August, the feast of the Transfiguration.

Of course, you might not fancy going to Reading, or Dedworth. But climate justice will not be achieved simply by going on walks, or attending bootblessings, or even by lobbying governments. We can all look to find small adjustments to contribute to this. Can we not walk or cycle more? Do we need to fill the kettle right up? Can't we do the wash on a lower temperature? The thought of climate justice seems overwhelming, but these small things are contributions.

The thought of contributing to the Kingdom of God is equally overwhelming. Yet the Kingdom, we are told, is like a mustard seed which grows into a vast tree. Our own contributions to the church are small in the context of a worldwide Christian family and in the sweep of thousands of years of history, but if they represent the best that we can do in our own setting then they are taken and blessed to become part of the Kingdom. In the small things, and in our ordinary lives, we can make our contribution to the presence of the Kingdom on this suffering earth.

SERVICES UNTIL 1ST AUGUST

Due to Covid restrictions, the pattern of services up to and including 1st August will be as follows:

Sundays: 10.00am Mass at St Mary's,

Tuesdays: 10.00am Mass at St Mary's

Wednesdays: 9.30am Mass at St Peter's

Thursdays: 10.00am Mass at St Laurence's

SERVICES from 8th August

Sun 8^{th} 10.00am Mass (SM) + Zoom

11.00am St Laurence's Patronal Festival – Mass, led by Rev

Linda Hillier, followed by Church Lunch (SL)

3.00pm Church Open until 5.00pm (SL)

Subject to Covid restrictions, we hope resume our normal Sunday pattern of worship (listed on page 24) at our three churches on Sunday 15th August. Check our websites for the latest news.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER EVENTS

August

Thu 12th	2.00pm	Mary Sumner Mothers' Union 145th Anniversary
	_	Service (St Mary's, Langley)

September

Tue 7th	6.30pm	St Peter's Dedication: - Evensong, followed by bring
	-	and share 160 years party (SP)

Fri 10th 2.00pm National Heritage Open Day - church open until

4.00pm (SL)

Sat 11th 10.00am Bucks Historic Churches Ride & Stride - St Laurence's

open until 6.00pm

Sun 12th 3.00pm National Heritage Open Day - Presentation on Ward,

with refreshments. Church open until 5.00pm (SL)

Thu 16th 10.30am National Heritage Open Day - church open until

12.30pm (SL)

Justice

From Isaiah 42: 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold...A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.'

I often hear people say: "I just want justice" or "why can't I get justice?" It is usually a plea for help before a legal case or a complaint about the outcome later.

For some people caught up in the law justice is the last thing they really want. They are seeking retribution, a solution to their problems or they just want to win. Justice means putting their problem is someone else's hands to sort it out.

Justice can mean different things. For some Christians it means a redistribution of resources and a levelling out of inequalities. Certainly, a society that treats one group of people differently because of their background is unjust. For others justice does not necessarily mean a levelling out or fairness.

I enjoyed BBC's drama *Time* recently. It is set in a prison and stars Sean Bean and Stephen Graham. It is about a teacher who killed a cyclist while driving a car when he was drunk. It is bleak and sometimes has violent scenes, but it is a brilliant series and tremendously well written and acted. It raises questions about how we treat offenders, and how we as Christians should support chaplaincies and others who work in prison.

It is also about whether forgiveness and redemption. I have a lot of admiration for people of faith who work in prisons. A just society punishes offenders and protects society, but we need to do more to rehabilitate prisoners. It is amazing when you hear of prisoners who discover some talent or ability that they can then go on to develop.

The passage talks of establishing justice on the earth. As Christians we need to be part of that by prayerfully upholding everyone people who administer justice and those on the receiving end.

David Pickup (a solicitor)

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no Saturday Lunchtime Concerts until further notice.

St Laurence's News

If all goes to plan, we hope to resume our 11am Sunday services on 8th August, with our Patronal Festival. At which we'll remember St Laurence and his work amongst the poor, who he regarded as the church's treasure. All being well, we may be able to have a church lunch afterwards and open the church to visitors from 3pm to 5pm.

Please do check our website in case changes are made at short notice.

We also hope to resume FUNdraising activities soon. Our finances have taken a bit of a battering during the lockdowns. As usual, helpers will be needed.



St Laurence's Preserves

If you would like to order some St Laurence's jam, marmalade, chutney or other item from the preserves stall, please call Allan on 01753 532425 and he will arrange collection or delivery in line with current Covid-19 regulations.

St Benet's Blessing

This annual open air service takes place at St Benet's Abbey, Norwich. It's open air because the ancient abbey has been a ruin for centuries. The Bishop of Norwich arrives by boat, followed by other ferries, to be able to get to the very wild isolated site where it stands. A huge wooden cross marks the area of the medieval high altar of the Abbey. The Bishop leads the service at about 3.30pm with hymns and prayers, and all are welcome to attend.

Alice Sanders

St Peter's News

We were pleased to be able to celebrate our patronal festival on 27th June. It was lovely to see folk we hadn't met for months and to welcome our new organist, Carl. Although we couldn't sing, it was great to hear the organ again.

Sadly the fete had to be cancelled, but we still held the summer draw on 3rd July, which would have been the fete day. That added a few pounds to the coffers, thanks to those who generously donated prizes

We are looking forward to mid-August and getting back to something like normal.

Margaret

Want a coffee?

Drinking three cups of coffee a day is good for you. A recent study has found that it can cut your chance of dying from chronic liver disease by up to half.

On average, coffee drinkers seem to have a 21 per cent reduced risk of developing chronic liver disease, and a 49 per cent reduced risk of death from the condition. Researchers found that the optimum intake for health is three or four cups a day.

The results apply to all kinds of coffee, whether instant, ground, or decaf versions, although the instant is slightly less effective. This may be due to the lower levels in instant coffee of the liver-protecting chemicals kahweol and cafestol.

The study at the universities of Southampton and Edinburgh studied almost half a million Britons for a decade, to assess the link between coffee intake and health. The findings were published in the journal BMC Public Health.

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the September issue by **Sunday 15th August** at the latest!

Dave

Do you have a new phone and new number? Be prepared: it is likely that scammers will still be texting you within just two weeks.

A Which? survey has found that of new numbers that have not been shared with anyone, still half of them receive at least one scam text message within the first two weeks.

Scammers do it by using computers to generate numbers. They then send messages out in bulk, using 'Sim farms' – devices that operate several cards at a time.

The most frequently received scam message for all of us in recent months has been a text message claiming to be from Royal Mail, usually requesting small amounts of money for a parcel to be delivered. 70 per cent of us have received that fake delivery text over the past five months.



Suddenly, Jim caught sight of his mum

The Reverend Phyl's 20-year Journey

Phyllis Sopp (right), a former member of St Laurence Church, was ordained priest at Reading Minster last month [June]. Phyl, as she is known, was well known in the Parish, through church activities and as a nurse at Herschel Medical Centre in Osborne Street.

Phyl, husband Dave and daughters Nicola, Laura and Rachel, are fondly remembered at St Laurence for their roles in activities ranging from membership of the district church council and worship planning team to serving teas at the church fair. Phyl now lives in Maidenhead where she also works as nurse practitioner and where her church, St Luke's, is located.



Her ordination, Phyl said, 'was an amazing experience, the culmination of a journey that began at St Laurence 20 years ago. God was very patient in his call to me and now the journey continues.' The last 12 months have been especially hectic. As well as training for the ministry, Phyl has been deeply involved in the covid vaccination programme. This meant stepping back a little from ministry commitments, but Phyl has no regrets.

'Hospital staff were at breaking point. It was like a weight lifted when I realised there was something positive I could do.' Phyl's family also keep her pretty busy. She said: 'Rory, my latest grandchild, was born to Nicola six months ago. Laura also has two children so life is very full but I wouldn't have it any other way.'

Richard Emerson

Who first

While flying home, my mother was sitting across the aisle from a woman and her eight-year-old son. Mum couldn't help laughing as they neared their destination and she heard the mother say to the boy, "Now remember - run to Dad first, then the dog."

Christian Aid launches emergency Global Hunger Appeal

Christian Aid has launched an emergency appeal, warning that more than 30 million people in 20 countries are "teetering on the brink of famine".

The Covid health pandemic, climate crisis, and continued conflict has exacerbated hunger and food insecurity in 20 countries. Countries like South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria (in the North East) and Afghanistan are particularly affected.

In South Sudan, 60% of the population are struggling to get enough food to eat, and 82% are living in extreme poverty. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, six of the country's counties are already categorised as being in IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe - which means people face starvation, death, destitution and debilitating levels of acute malnutrition. 34 states are in the emergency acute food insecurity phase as people experience very high acute malnutrition and excess deaths. The most food insecure states are Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Lakes, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. 7.2 million people are now affected during this lean season, expected to be the worst on record.

James Wani, Christian Aid's South Sudan Country Director, based in Juba, said: "Floods, drought, conflict and Covid-19 have joined forces to deliver devastation and fuel the food crisis in South Sudan - the combined result is the destruction of crops, livelihoods, houses and dwellings, while roads have become impassable, markets have stopped, supply chains have been crippled, and food prices have soared."

Prayer Walk 21 and OIKOS

Hope for Every Home, part of HOPE Together, has recently launched OIKOS, a new prayer walking app, as part of Prayer Walk 21. You can find the app free in your app store under OIKOS Outreach.

Hope says that: "During Covid and lockdown God has taken His church out of the building, reconnected people with their local communities and mobilised us through our daily walk. Now the invitation is to turn the daily walk into a prayer walk. Over the next year the Prayer Walk 21 challenge is to pray for the people in every street, every road, and every lane in the UK."

The OIKOS app is simple to use. To pin a prayer, use your finger to move the map to where you want to pray and tap the screen. You can also pin a 'share' when you have shared faith through a caring action, an invitation, or a conversation for example.

Praying for the people in every street, every road, every lane in the UK is huge but it starts with each of us stepping outside our front doors and praying as part of our day to day lives. There are resources available on the Hope for Every Home website to support you at www.hopeforeveryhome.org.

So, as part of Prayer Walk 21, download the OIKOS app. Pray as you walk your local streets and get your friends involved too!



Yet another of the vicar's moneyraising wheezes, I see

Physicist and Priest: John Polkinghorne (1930-2021)

At the age of 48 the Cambridge Professor John Polkinghorne decided he'd done his bit for physics and that it was time for a different sort of adventure. Resigning his academic position, he trained for ordination in the Church of England. In an interview 40 years later he said, "It's one thing to go to church on Sundays but to give up a professorship and train for something else – that was a bit more than a gesture...I think a lot of people realised I was a religious person but they didn't expect me to take it quite that seriously...People were saying to me, 'Oh John what are you up to?' They mostly weren't thinking so much about my becoming a clergyman but just the fact that I was a Christian." (From Test of Faith, Paternoster, 2009)

John saw his work in science as a Christian vocation, and felt a responsibility to use his talents in that area. Once ordained he found himself thoroughly engaged in the conversation about science and religion. One of his main messages was that "I'm not a vegetarian butcher. There is a cousinly relationship between thinking about theology and thinking about science."

When asked for a Bible passage to appear at the end of his 2009 interview John chose Colossians 1:15–20: 'He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.' John's explanation for his choice speaks volumes to anyone interested in the science-faith dialogue. "I value this passage because it speaks of the cosmic significance of Christ, the One in whom all things hold together and who redeems all things (notice, not just all people) by the blood of his cross. Here meet my deepest religious beliefs and my strongest scientific concerns."

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

The purpose of the font

That Sunday our Family Service included two baptisms and many young children were there. In his talk, the Vicar asked the children if any of them knew what the font was for – and the answer came back: "For washing babies' hair"!

Oueen's Platinum Jubilee - a celebration of faith & service

A four-day Bank Holiday from 2nd to 5th June 2022 will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is being called "an amazing opportunity" to bring our communities together for the celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.

HOPE Together, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, Biblica and other key partners are currently planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a specially commissioned souvenir book to give away; a new anthem for communities and churches to sing; a '70 Acts of Service' community challenge to adapt to use together with churches and other organisations, and lots of resources for children and schools.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director said, "Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes!

"It is so appropriate that the nation and Commonwealth should be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the same weekend as Pentecost, the day when the church celebrates the gift of God's Holy Spirit."

The anointing of God's Holy Spirit was central to the Coronation and, in preparation for the day, The Queen prayed: 'Come, Holy Spirit, and daily increase in all of us, and in me, thy humble servant, thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and forever. Amen.'

Find out more at hopetogether.org.uk/jubilee

Hard to tell

During a summer music festival, a punk rocker stopped at the front desk of the reception tent to ask if there were any messages for her. The desk clerk handed her an unsigned note, and she asked for a description of the person who had left it. "That's easy," replied the clerk. "He wore tight pink-leather trousers, high-heeled black boots and a T-shirt with strategically cut holes. There was a row of coloured safety pins through the outside edge of one ear, and he wore purple eyeshadow. And his hair was orange and spiked."

"Oh, man!" she said, obviously disappointed, "that could be anybody!"



Press one for vicar, two for curate....12 for prayer....

The Rectory St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Now you have got your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of 'press 1 for the vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary', until we end with '12 for requests for prayer.' I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 for making a confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing 'Thine be the glory' on one finger on an electric organ while I am 'on hold' I will have him excommunicated. At least you have the grace not to ask me not to hang up, as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not, as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.

Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 for leaving messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second message on 8 for baptisms, and save on a large phone bill in months to come. As for 9 for funerals, entire families could be born, marry and die before they reach that one. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine does not accept incoming messages, and that I only answer personally on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they could write me a letter which may (or may not) be answered, at my convenience.

As for the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to say that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St James the Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all but impossible.

You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy; I shall be just about to enter a tunnel.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



The secret of happiness?

Scientists have been trying to work out a 'formula' for happiness. The result is incomprehensible to most of us, beginning as it does with Happiness (t)=w0=w1, running on for three lines, and then ending with jRPEj......

But, in plain English, the neuroscientists at University College London (UCL) have concluded that happiness depends not so much on how well you are doing, but on whether you are doing better than you expected to be doing.

And one professor added: "The ephemeral nature of happiness means we might be better off thinking about happiness in a different way. Happiness is a tool, not a goal in itself. It can help us better understand what we care about, what we value." And we can adjust our lives accordingly.

What do you consider to be 'beautiful countryside'?

According to Natural England, thorny scrubs and floodplains should be seen as more beautiful than manicured fields.

Tony Juniper, chair of Natural England, which is the government's adviser for the natural environment, has said a 'cultural revolution' is necessary to help people appreciate the beauty of a messy countryside.

He strongly supports the increasing popularity of 'rewilding' projects which have become a popular way for land managers to give nature a chance. Rewilding can help to heal degraded landscapes and provide better habitat for wildlife.

Tony Juniper has said that the "orderliness" of much of our British countryside, with neat stone walls, sheep-grazed fields and villages has often created "ecological deserts" for wildlife, who starve. "To ensure our future security, it will be necessary for us to let nature take back some control."

A post-Brexit plan to reward farmers and other land managers for improving water quality and helping plants and wildlife is expected to replace the EU's Common Agricultural Policy.

BIDEBIG

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in 25am 15,16:15-19,17:4-22, 18:1-12,33, 19:1-8 King David had many wives and children. He loved his sons so much that he never punished them or told them off if they did wrong.

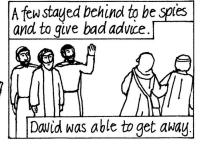


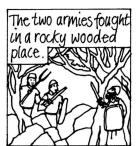


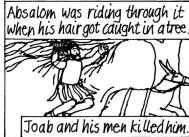






















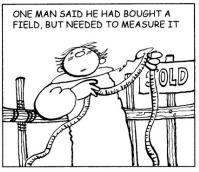


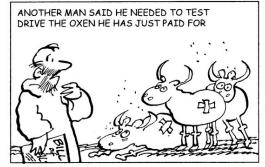






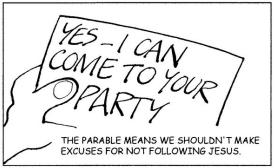
MAKING EXCUSES



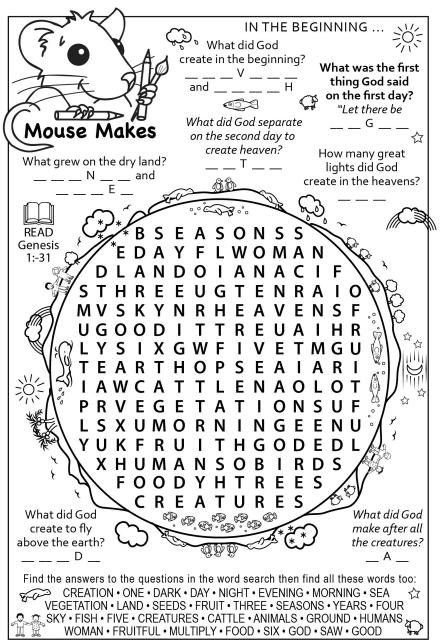








CHILDREN'S PAGE



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UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

All are open meetings and are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

Meetings with a talk, either:

Third Wednesday of the month at St Laurence's Upton. Coffee and chat at 10.15am. A short service at 10.45am. Talk at 11.00am followed by a light lunch. **OR**

Third Monday of the month at St Mary's Church Centre, Langley, 2.00pm

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier (see notice sheet for venues), open to all.

Second Thursday of the month at St Laurence's: 10.00am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no meetings until further notice.



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SERVICES IN THE PARISH from 15th AUGUST

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough, SL1 1PJ

Sunday: 9.30am Family Eucharist with children's groups.

6.30pm Evensong/Evening Prayer (BCP)

Tuesday: 10.00am Eucharist Saturday: 9.30am Eucharist

St Laurence's Church, Upton Court Road, Upton, Slough, SL3 7LU

Sunday: 11.00am Family Eucharist with children's group.

Thursday: 10.00am Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, Church Street, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2NL

Sunday: 9.30am Family Eucharist with children's groups.

Wednesday: 9.30am Holy Communion

Websites:

https://stmarys-slough.org.uk

https://www.saint-laurence.com

https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk