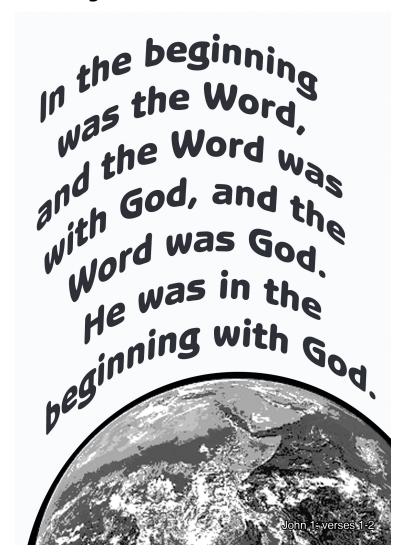
November 2021 30p Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

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.

Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Rob Walker (Licensed Lay Minister)	
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Lynda Bussley	01753 573614
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): David Kill	01628 776856
District Churchwarden (SL): Richard Emerson	01753 526325
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07464 718909
District Churchwarden (SP):	
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651
Mothers' Union: Julie James	01753 532425

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Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

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Web-sites:

https://stmarys-slough.org.uk

https://www.saint-laurence.com

https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk

Fr Alistair Writes:

"Nearly the end," somebody said to me. "it will all be over soon." And a touch of TS Eliot came over me, as I reflected that this was a journey which would end up where it began.

And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time.

Nearly the end of the vacancy (the end to which my interlocutor was referring), hopefully (though only a tentative hope) the end of lockdowns and restrictions, nearly the end of the church's year as we enter the dark days and remember the saints in their light, and the triumphant Christ over them, whilst remembering also our own beloved dead, and remembering those fallen in warfare, recollecting that these ends are beginnings and that Christ and the saints triumph through a process no different from the death we dread for ourselves, though dread it more for others.

We die with the dying: See, they depart, and we go with them. We are born with the dead: See, they return, and bring us with them.

These ends lead to beginnings. The end of restrictions, if indeed it has come, leads us back to old ways and familiar patterns; perhaps we can appreciate anew what we have always taken for granted. The end of the vacancy may lead us back to our familiar ways as well, though it may also bring us new insights, new encouragement, new energy, as we recollect that the point of having clergy is not simply so that they can do things for us, but that by doing things for us they can free us to do other things. The end of our church's year leads us to our beginning again, however. As soon as we have celebrated the triumph of Christ in the feast of his eternal kingship, entwined amidst the sadness of our own experience of loss, we are once again in Advent:

... while the light fails
On a winter's afternoon, in a secluded chapel
History is now and England.

NOVEMBER SERVICES & EVENTS

Regular services at the three churches are listed on the back page

Mon 1st	8.00pm	St Peter's DCC Meeting (SP)
Tue 2nd	7.30pm	St Mary's DCC Meeting (SM)
Mon 8th	7.30pm	St Laurence's DCC Meeting (SL)
Sat 13th	12noon	St Peter's Christmas Fair (until 2.30pm) (SP)
Mon 15th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SM)
Sat 20th	11.00am	Santa's Christmas Special (until 2.30pm) (SL)
Sun 28th	6.00pm	Advent Sunday: Joint Parish Carol Service (SL)



We so enjoyed the fireworks display, can we do it again at New Year?

St Mary's News

No news this month.

Jean

Sunday 19th December

10.00am Licensing of Revd Scott Lamb: Joint Parish Eucharist (SM)

4.30pm "Donkey Community Carols": led by Revd Scott Lamb. (SM)

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

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

Determined to help

Half of people in the UK who are aged over 50 have cut down on the amount of meat and dairy that they eat. They want to help the environment and to reduce their carbon footprint.

A recent survey by the charity Rest Less, which offers advice to older people, found that many older people "feel a huge sense of responsibility for the health of the planet and their role in reducing climate change."

The charity found that "the vast majority of mid-lifers are making changes to their own habits, from recycling more to consuming less, changing travel habits, and even giving up their car."

St Laurence's News

Our final major FUNdraising event of the year will be "Santa's Christmas Special" on Saturday 20th November, starting at 11.00am (see page 11 for details). If you can help out, please sign up if you haven't already done so.

Advent Sunday is 28th November and we'll welcome our friends from St Mary's and St Peter's to an evening Parish Carol Service at St Laurence's.

Our Dedication Festival and Gift Day wail be on Sunday 5th December and will be followed by Christmas Lunch. Sign up for the lunch in church or by calling 01753 532425.

Dave



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.

Contactless payment limit goes up

The contactless payment limit has just more than doubled. It now stands at £100. And while this will be more convenient to many of us, it is also "a thief's dream."

So say the critics. As one financial expert from fund shop AJ Bell, points out: "By spending £100 a pop without having to put in a PIN, it will be very easy for thieves to blitz through money quickly, before you even spot that your card is lost or has been stolen."

Another finance expert, from the consumer group Fairer Finance adds: "it's much more attractive for petty criminals to steal cards and use them a few times if they can spend up to a three-figure sum."

St Peter's News

The Chalvey war memorial was unveiled in the summer of 1921. It was paid for by public subscription and records the names of all the men from Chalvey who died in WW1. The names are also recorded on the town memorial in St Mary's churchyard.

Because of Covid restrictions we were not able to celebrate the centenary in the summer. Instead we are intending to have a short ceremony at the memorial at 11am on Thursday 11th November, Remembrance Day. We are inviting children from the local schools to attend and to take part by reading out the names of the men.

Father Derek West and the late Arthur Spicer spent many hours researching the story behind the names and using their records we have compiled a list giving as much detail as possible on the 84 men commemorated on the stone. The details of their ages and where they lived in the, then, village of Chalvey will make their stories all the more real to those listening. For the children WW1 is also a part of their curriculum. We have also advertised the event via local media.

At last we will have a fund-raising event in St Peter's with our Christmas bazaar on Saturday 13th November, from 12noon to 2.30pm Admission is free. We will serve soup and ploughman's' lunches and there will be a tombola, raffle and the usual variety of stalls. Do call in.

Margaret



...it's perhaps not the most dynamic of mission statements... but at least it received the unanimous approval of the Church Council!

Bishops join leaders of other major faiths to demand climate action at COP26 in Glasgow

Faith leaders have been joining together to demand climate action ahead of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow (1st - 12th November).

Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, and lead Bishop on the Environment for the Church of England signed the letter alongside leaders of every major Christian denomination and representatives from Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities.

The declaration states: "We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights to protect the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity.

"We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change.

"Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations.

"To offer hope in the world we need to have confidence that those in power understand the vital role they have to play at the Glasgow COP26."

The Glasgow Declaration pledges a response to the challenge set by the climate emergency through being "advocates for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future."

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the December issue by **Sunday 7th November** at the latest!

Dave

Caring for Creation

This month sees the eagerly anticipated COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. As Christians, we need to hold together two key insights, if we are to engage with the challenge of climate change:

The world is not ours:

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! If we understand this, we will rediscover the responsibility of our calling to care for God's world: 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.' (Genesis 2:15). This challenges our consumer mindset that says the resources of the earth are both limitless and exist for our pleasure. As well as caring for the planet, we also need to care for its people, for it's the poorest who will suffer the most from climate change. According to the World Bank, 100 million could fall into poverty by 2030. We cannot properly address the climate crisis until we re-learn our place in God's world!

We belong to Christ:

We also belong to the one in whom: 'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.' (Colossians 1:16). We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.

However great the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage in it with faith and not with fatalism!

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church will be taking place on Sunday 7th November. This year Open Doors, CSW and Release International are again teaming up for a special online social media event on that day.

For more details, please visit:

Open Doors at https://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/prayer/idop/

CSW at https://www.csw.org.uk/idop

Release International at https://releaseinternational.org/idop/

Church Commissioners, C of E Pensions Board and CCLA now signatories to UK Stewardship Code

Following their successful applications to the Financial Reporting Council, the Church Commissioners for England, the Church of England Pensions Board and CCLA, investment manager for the Church of England CBF Funds, are now signatories of the UK Stewardship Code. They have met the FRC's expected standard of reporting in 2021.

The UK Stewardship Code 2020 sets high stewardship standards for those investing money on behalf of UK savers and pensioners, and those that support them.

What National Tree Week may have to do with local churches

National Tree Week (Saturday 27th November to Sunday 5th December) is the UK's largest annual celebration of trees.

It marks the start of the winter tree planting season, and so aims to encourage anyone with space to consider planting a tree. That includes churches with churchyards (where permission will be required!)

The Conservation Foundation would be happy to advise anyone on which trees might be best for a churchyard. Go to www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/churchyardtrees.

Scroggling the Holly

Haworth is the same small village that the Bronte Sisters grew up in. Here each year in November is a very old custom takes place called "Scroggling the Holly." In this, the children dress up in the traditional costumes of the Victorian age and welcome Santa and the Christmas Spirit to the village. The village people gather holly to put on a cart. On the Saturday there is a procession with Morris Men, chimney sweeps, a brass band and, of course, the Holly Cart. The parade goes up the cobbled street from the Christmas tree to their church, where the Holly Queen is crowned on the steps before the gates are opened with a special, huge (pretend) key to admit the Spirit of Christmas in...and Santa of course!

Alice Sanders

An invitation to . . .

Santa's Special



Saturday 20th November St Laurence's

(Upton Court Road, Slough SL3 7LS)

 $11_{am} - 2.30_{pm}$



Food, Cakes, Craft,
Decorations, Gifts,
Raffle and much
more . . .

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Parking in Upton Court Road Car Park

Nationwide digital churchyard mapping project underway

The first few of 19,000 churchyards have been surveyed as part of a Church of England project to create a free digital map of every grave and feature in every churchyard in the country.

The ancient church of St Bega on the shores of Lake Bassenthwaite in the Diocese of Carlisle was the first churchyard to be scanned by surveyors. They used sophisticated laser equipment, as part of the national programme.

A new website will go online in the new year, giving free access to the map. It is expected to be of special interest to local community groups, conservationists, and those researching family history. The website will also enable the charting of biodiversity and green technology.

The Church of England has partnered with Cumbrian-based surveying company Atlantic Geomatics who will use back-pack mounted laser scanners to map churchyards. They will also photograph all the visible headstones.

There are around 19,000 Anglican burial grounds in England, and the ambitious scheme will aim to digitally survey the majority over the coming seven years. Data on burials will be combined with other information, such as the National Biodiversity Network Atlas, to present the most complete picture of churchyards to date.

The project will come at no cost to parishes or dioceses in the Church of England and parishes will have free access to the map through a new webbased record system which is set to launch in Spring 2022. There will also be the option to subscribe to additional services.

Substantial funding for the programme has been given by Historic England, with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and *Caring for God's cre* supporting the pilot phase, as well as support from genealogy research websites.

As well as details of burials, the online interactive map will detail biodiversity in churchyards, including ancient trees and plant-life, as well as green technology such as solar panels.

Parade for Remembrance Service

Local newspapers advertising church services don't always get it quite right. Such as the local paper advertising a Remembrance Day service, who should have printed: *There will be a parade of uniformed organisations*.

Instead, they printed: There will be a parade of uniformed organists.

Dioceses invited to bid for funding to explore new approaches to mission

A fund aimed at helping parishes explore new ways of sharing the Christian message alongside tried and tested approaches has been launched.

Dioceses are being encouraged to apply for a share of the £4.8 million Innovation Funding for projects lasting up to three years that could act as blueprints for future mission and growth across the country.

Successful bids will support the Church of England's Vision and Strategy; in particular, the priority of becoming a Church which is younger and more diverse.

The projects could focus on younger people and children, people living in low -income communities and urban areas and people from UK Minority Ethnic groups.

An early Innovation Funding award has been made to the Diocese of Ely to fund sports ministry work over three years with children and young people at Christ the Redeemer church in Barnwell, Cambridge.



An epic struggle between good and evil took place in the Vicarage kitchen



There are more frightening things than bishops out there....

The Rectory St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rose-beds. It gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would have been to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying that you had seen the archdeacon do it, and then you had watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time.

No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once – and arrived in church the following Sunday, to see a ten-foot-high floral arrangement at the front of church. I assumed it was by way of making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multi-coloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were apparently talking chrysanthemums.

A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.

Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he would assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded halfway down the aisle.

And finally, never, ever upset your verger. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket.

No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; real dangers lurks much nearer home.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

A fair way to Christmas

To mark the launch of the 2021 Real Advent Calendar, the Meaningful Chocolate Company is offering free delivery to churches and schools if they buy a case of 18 calendars.

The Real Advent Calendar is designed to support outreach work, mission and is a great way to share the Christmas story. Each calendar includes a 24-page Christmas story activity book, the chocolate is Fairtrade, and it supports charitable causes including a baby clinic in Kenya and Fairtrade farmer community schemes.

Real Advent Calendars cost £4.50 each and is not available in supermarkets. There is a case discount and free delivery if buying at www.realadvent.co.uk

You can view a video of the Christmas story activity book at https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/christmas/products/real-advent-calendar

Should We Have Faith in Science?

How do you feel about science after more than 18 months of pandemic: tired or interested, impressed or cynical – or a bit of everything? The response to COVID -19 has demonstrated how ideology or worldview are hugely influential in our interpretation and use of scientific data – and at times in the process of experimentation itself. Should we trial a vaccine in Spain or South Africa? Is this treatment safe enough to administer to the general public? Should vaccination be made compulsory? The data don't tell us what to do.

So, when we are encouraged to 'trust the science' in our ongoing response to the pandemic, or in the run-up to the COP26 UN climate change conference, how can the Church respond? The whole biblical story affirms that God is the only one in whom we can have complete faith. On the other hand, I do put a certain amount of trust in other things. I can have faith in a plane, a body of knowledge, or a person. This trust is within limits because I know that air travel involves hazards, a body of knowledge will contain some mistakes, and every ordinary human is fallible.

I trust science to some extent because it involves careful observation and measurement, collecting different kinds of evidence. Data is interpreted, and competing interpretations are tried out. We summarise our findings in general principles or mathematical equations. Scientists keep each other accountable by looking critically at each other's work. Our knowledge is always provisional. You can't prove anything scientifically because we only deal in evidence, not proof.

On the other hand, there must always be the potential to disprove a theory or it's not science. Our aim is to keep getting nearer to the truth about the way the world is. Overall, I believe this method is reliable and worth supporting, but that only God is completely trustworthy.

Psalm Eight reminds us both of the splendour of God's creation, and that He has placed us in a position of responsibility over it. Scientific knowledge can be part of what helps us to rule well. The process of doing science can be a bit like a blurry image coming into focus. The more we learn, the better we can usually see what's going on, and hopefully the easier it is to decide on a course of action. So in answer to the question 'Should we have faith in science?' I would say yes, when used wisely and within its proper limits.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

One million downloads for Daily Prayer podcast

Hundreds of thousands of people have discovered the ancient monastic cycle of daily prayer through a Church of England podcast which has received more than a million downloads in just six months.

The Daily Prayer podcast, which is integrated into the free Daily Prayer app, brings listeners together twice a day for short traditional services of Morning and Evening.

The podcast, available both via the Daily Prayer app as well as all major podcasting platforms, has had just under a quarter of a million unique listeners since launching.

The services follow the pattern set out in the Church of England's Common Worship services, with readings recorded by people around the country and music from one of the choirs of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

The podcast, which was launched in March 2021, has around 8,000 people listening each day. Find it at:

https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast

Prayer for November

Father,

In these short, dark days of November, with all the uncertainties and complications in our new Covid 19 landscape, help us to feel the reassurance of Your presence in the gift of each new day. Help us to be guided through the darkness by Your light – by Jesus, who will never leave us or forsake us.

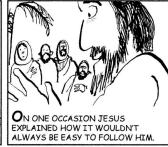
In His name - the name above pandemics and shortages and rising bills and all anxieties - we pray.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching







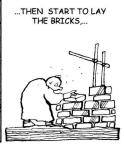












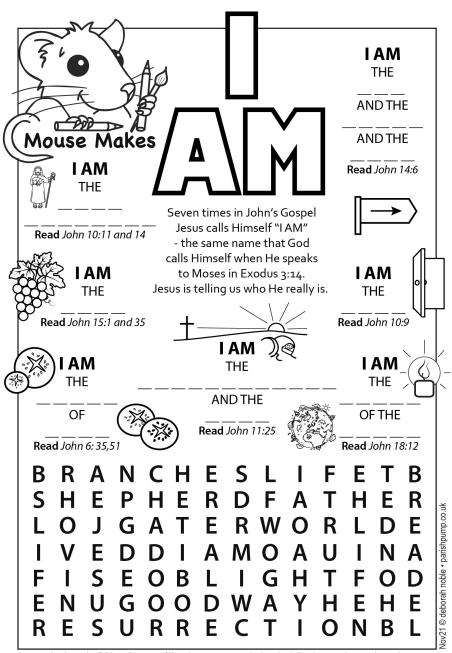






WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.; IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search

It can be read in the Bible in Mt 14:13-21, MK6:30-44, LK 9:10-17, Jn 6:1-15

A short story from the Bible

Jesus and his dusciples went by boat to a quiet place to have some time alone, but the crowds noticed, and followed them.

Jesus felt sorry for them so he taught and healed them.











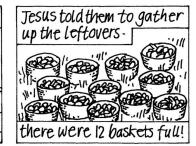








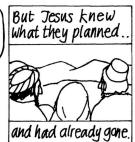














UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

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 Wednesday: 12.30pm 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