February 2022 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 Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
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https://stmarys-slough.org.uk

https://www.saint-laurence.com

https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk

The Rector Writes:

Dear Friends,

At the end of last year the world lost one of its most significant and best-loved spiritual leaders. When Archbishop Desmond Tutu died on Boxing Day, we were reminded that he was one of only a few global figures whose moral integrity commanded universal respect. As Archbishop of Cape Town and as a prominent anti-apartheid activist, he was instrumental both in ending the injustice of racial segregation and in building a new multi-racial South Africa. He kept his principles to the end, insisting that his coffin be the cheapest available. It was a rebuke to the new classes getting rich at the expense of the poor.

I think that I first learned of Desmond Tutu while watching the television news in 1981. At the funeral of a black activist a crowd of fifteen thousand people set upon a man they believed to be a police informer. They were determined to kill him using a "necklace" of a burning tyre. Desmond Tutu threw himself on top of the prostrate man, placing himself between the mob and their victim. The crowd backed away and Tutu drove the man away to safety. As a young churchgoer I remember being astonished that being a Christian could involve behaving like that. Bishop Tutu, as he was then, showed amazing courage that day and saved a man's life, but he had accomplished more than that. Through his bravery, he had also won an argument. The journey to freedom could not take the path of violence and vengeance but had to be made through reconciliation and forgiveness instead.

Archbishop Tutu's biography makes fascinating reading as we learn of the incidents, challenges and support that made him a person of such deep faith. One event in particular always stays with me. As a child, young Desmond could only recall one white man ever doffing his hat to his mother: Fr Trevor Huddleston CR, the priest who was himself responsible for bringing the horrors of apartheid to the world's attention. Tutu recalled the profound impression that small gesture made on him.

We can never know the full effect of our acts of charity and courtesy. However, we live believing that in God's economy of grace, no goodness is ever wasted and that love is never lost. Who knows what impact our kindness will have in the end?

Fr Scott

[See also page 10. Ed]



FEBUARY SERVICES & EVENTS

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

Tue 1st	2.30pm	"Mulling it Over" - see page 20 for details (SL)
Sun 6th	12.45pm	Church Lunch: Chinese New Year menu. Sign up in church or call 01753 532425 (SL)
Wed 9th	12noon 6.00om	Living in Love & Faith Course (St Mary's, Datchet) Living in Love & Faith Course (St Thomas', Colnbrook) See page 7 for course details (continues next 4 weeks)
Mon 28th	7.30pm	St Laurence's DCC Meeting (SL)

"Yvonne's Art Classes"

These free art classes are held in St Mary's, every Thursday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and are open to all.

St Mary's News

St. Mary's congregation is slowly growing and we are so pleased to welcome back friends who we have not seen for many months. Evensong and the Wednesday lunch time services have now restarted and should steadily grow over the coming months.

Unfortunately, Slough Music service reluctantly cancelled their Carol Service and Long Close School revised their plans so only pupils attended and their performances were recorded so that parents were able to view on line.

Slough Community Engagement have started their art classes in the church on Thursday 12.30 - 3.30 pm. This is a free service and open to anyone. Start the Week has reopened after Christmas holiday and we are seeing new mothers and children each week.

St. Mary's are hoping to host THE BIG LUNCH to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 5th June. Please put the date in your diary. More information will be available in the coming months but in the meantime if you have any ideas and/or are able to help please join our working group.

Jean

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

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

Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

St Laurence's News

Our Church Lunch on Sunday 6th will mark the Chinese New Year (year of the Tiger) with an appropriate menu.. If you have any ideas for themed lunches, please have a word with Julie James.

A DCC subcommittee is planning events to mark the 200th anniversary of the death of Sir William Herschel, musician and astronomer, who is buried beneath the tower in the church. The programme is work in progress and details will be announced as they are confirmed.

Our contributions to the Diocese do not cover the costs of our clergy and we have been asked to pay more. The DCC has agreed to increase our payment and further details will be provided at the ADCM in April.

Dave



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?'

St Peter's News

For the past few months we have had the luxury of an organist at St Peter's, Carl David. Carl had a temporary job and was living locally, and relished the chance to play the organ for our services. His last day with us was scheduled as 16th January, as he was to start a new job in Switzerland the following week. We organised a bring and share lunch to send him on his way but the send-off was cancelled as Carl's mother died suddenly and he had to return to Germany, so we didn't have an opportunity to thank him for all the joy he had given us whilst he was with us. He will be remembered with affection and we hope to see him if he is able to visit at any time.

Fund raising was discussed at the DCC at the beginning of January and we decided to hold an Easter Bazaar on Saturday 26th March - more details next month.

Margaret

Living in Love and Faith Course

Colnbrook and Datchet will be running the Living in Love and Faith course for five weeks on Wednesday's, commencing on the 9th February. The course will look at issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. There will be two sessions each week, one at St Mary's, Datchet at 12.00pm and one at St Thomas, Colnbrook at 6.00pm. Each session will be approximately one and a half to two hours.

This is a Church of England initiative. If you would like to find out more about it please visit the website for more information: https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith

The course is open to anyone in the deanery who would like to participate. If you would like to join the course, send an email to the deanery email address (sloughburnhamdeanery@gmail.com).

Churches prepare Platinum Jubilee plans

Churches, Christian charities and youth organisations are working together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the four-day Bank Holiday from 2nd to 5th June. A new website has been created – www.theplatinumjubilee.com – to provide ideas and resources for communities to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service.

The UK and Commonwealth will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a four-day Bank Holiday from 2nd to 5th June 2022.

HOPE Together is working with a wide range of partners to help churches around the Commonwealth to mark this special occasion and, in particular, to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service. As with the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, HOPE Together and partners will provide a range of ideas and resources for communities, schools, churches and youth organisations.

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director, says, "Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for these national celebrations."

HOPE's Platinum Jubilee Highlights will include:

Our Faithful Queen - a gift book using rarely-seen prayers the Queen prayed as she prepared for the Coronation, will be published by HOPE Together and Biblica in January 2022 to buy and give away.

A Happylands animation and book 'The Girl Who Grew Up To Be Queen' for under-5s is to be published by HOPE Together in partnership with The Entertainer and Hope for Every Home.

A new anthem 'Rise Up and Serve' has been commissioned by HOPE Together and written by contemporary hymn writers Grahm Kendrick, Mal Pope and Rend Collective for choirs to sing as part of the celebrations.

70 Acts of Service – an invitation to communities to celebrate by serving others with 70 community service ideas drawing on Stewardship's 40 Acts

On Her Majesty's Service for 11-14s – youth organisations, schools and uniformed organisations are involved (Pais, CofE, Youth For Christ, YouthScape, The Message, Prayer Spaces In Schools. Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade). Resources include ideas for action and videos to use.

Also – the following websites may be of use to you!

www.theplatinumjubilee.com - a dedicated website with all the ideas and

resources you'll need to bring your community together to celebrate

Banners, posters and other Platinum Jubilee branded resources will be available from CPO - www.cpo.org.uk/queen-platinum-jubilee

The Platinum Jubilee – Celebration of Faith & Service logos can be downloaded from www.theplatinumjubilee.com

As the four-day Bank Holiday ends at Pentecost, our partners Thy Kingdom Come are also providing a Cheeky Pandas film, song and book for primary school children – with resource packs for home/church/school and community events.

Dioceses to receive nearly £5 million to reach more people with Christian message

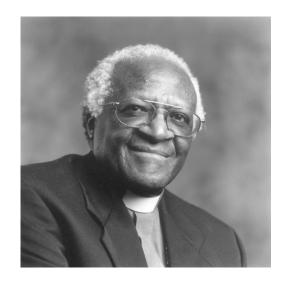
A community choir, a church in a working men's club and ministry with children and young people are among projects to receive funding as part of a drive by the Church of England to spread the Christian message to younger and more diverse groups.

Coventry Diocese is to receive £1.25 million in Strategic Development Funding (SDF) for outreach work in parishes serving estates and suburban areas. The aim is to create 150 new worshipping communities in the diocese by 2030. The funding will support activities such as a community choir, holiday and lunch clubs, pastoral support and Christian enquiry courses.

Separately, a £3.5 million grant has been awarded to Southwell and Nottingham diocese for work to support 40 churches reach children, families and young people over the next five years.

The award, also from the Church of England's Strategic Development Funding, will be used to train leaders and volunteers to build on work already under way to reach children and families with the Christian message.

The grants have been awarded as the Church of England outlines priorities in its Vision and Strategy for the future. This includes a goal of doubling the number of children and young people in churches and attracting more diverse congregations.



Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu

The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

"Don't raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right."

"Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened."

"Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another."

Any Ideas What You Can Recycle in Slough?

As Christians we are given the responsibility to care for our planet, but sometimes it seems a really tall order. There are so many things that we are urged to do, from eating differently to not flying, from turning down the heat in our homes, to recycling. We hear so much about the dangers our planet is facing, but sometimes it seems too difficult to do anything.

One thing we have all been encouraged to do is to use less plastic and to recycle, in particular to recycle plastic, but the list of items that can be recycled by the local council is not brilliant. Did you know however, that many things can be recycled with a little bit of effort, and they will not end up being shipped to the third world and dumped, they will be recycled in the UK? And it is easy for us to be a part of that.

A company called Terracycle recycles many things we don't think are recyclable form all the wrappings and plastic boxes from Ferrero Roche sweets and crisp packets to empty toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes, medicine blister packs. Have a look on their website and see what you can recycle and where you can drop off items.

Here are a couple of local ideas you might like to help with:

Many of us I am sure take regular medications or perhaps even paracetamol. The good news is that you can take the empty plastic blister packs to Superdrug in Queensmere and pop them into the designated box. Terracycle collect the empty blister packets and separate them by polymer type. The material is then extruded into plastic pellets to make new recycled products.

And what about all those used biros, pens and felt tips? Well the pupils at Herschel Grammar School collect all writing instruments (except for wooden pencils and chalk): Any brand of pen, felt tip, highlighter, marker, correction fluid pot, correction tape, mechanical pencil and eraser pen regardless of their composition.

Once collected, the writing instruments are separated by material composition, cleaned and melted into hard plastic that can be remoulded to make new recycled products.

Linda Hillier

Your local church: sanctuary or crime scene?

Crimes which affected UK churches or other religious buildings were committed, on average, 12 times a day during 2020.

Recent statistics from the Countryside Alliance list the crimes as 4,000 incidents that ranged from theft and vandalism (stolen headstones) to actual assault (alleged rape) and burglary in that year.

Mo Metcalf-Fisher, Countryside Alliance spokesman, calls the crimes "shocking" and "sad". "The church obviously wants to keep its doors open. It wants to be that sanctuary for people to go to, and criminals are making that incredibly difficult to carry on with."

Instead of sanctuary, many churches are being seen as easy targets, especially in rural areas.

The figures, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, show that the worst -hit areas are largely in the south-east of England. The Countryside Alliance is therefore urging the government to ensure that funding schemes for churches remain in place.



"The knitting circle are playing their part in our heating efficiency programme."

Nursery Rhymes and Religion

"Goosey, Goosey Gander, Whether Shall I Wander? Upstairs, Downstairs, and In My Lady's Chamber. There I Met An Old Man Who Wouldn't Say His Prayers, So I Took Him By His Left Leg and Threw Him Down The Stairs". The "Providence Hunters" would search towns and villages looking for Catholic Priests hiding away upstairs, downstairs and in a lady's chamber, as it was common for them to be hidden anywhere in the house in Priest Holes, as they were called, to protect them. The rhyme refers to them being caught praying in Latin and not in English. The line "So I Took Him By His Left Leg" relates to the Catholics being known as "Left Footers."

"Three Blind Mice, See How They run, They All ran Up To The Farmers Wife, Who Cut Off Their Tales With A Carving Knife. Did you Ever See Such A Thing In Your Life? Three Blind Mice." The original "farmer's wife" is Queen Mary, Henry VIII's daughter, who was a murderous woman. The farmer bit refers to her husband, the King of Spain, who owned vast estates of land. Mary was a Catholic who persecuted Protestants and burned huge numbers of them at the stakes. The mice represent the nobles in her court and the Farmers Wife (Mary) kills them for their blindness in following the wrong faith. This is how she earned her title "Bloody Mary".

"Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary, How Does Your Garden Grow? With Silver Bells and Cockle Shells and Pretty Maids All In A Row". The garden represents the graveyard filled with the bodies of Protestants, the silver bells represent the instruments used to crush thumbs, and cockle shells represent another part of the victim's body. The pretty maids all in a row, is the original term used for the guillotine.

Alice Sanders

Those who want to get married

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.



On how to survive a residential conference

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything. Conferences exist to provide another entry on your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless.

As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say no.' But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway.

There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic, and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that!

Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this, I became a butcher specialising in exporting offal to Saudi

Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying.

Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you have to report back – and if the leaders use the word 'plenary', then by all means contemplate strangling them also - you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them.

You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty, and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members.

No, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but you will return refreshed and eager to make the next booking.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the March issue by **Sunday 13th February** at the latest!

Dave

In praise of plodders

I've been pondering the words of the apostle Paul where he says, 'I press on towards the goal' (Philippians 3:14). It suggests to me taking one step at a time, and simply keeping moving in the right direction with discipline and determination.

This reminds me of the great Bible translator Willian Carey who said of himself, "If he gives me credit for being a plodder, he will describe me justly. Anything beyond that will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything."

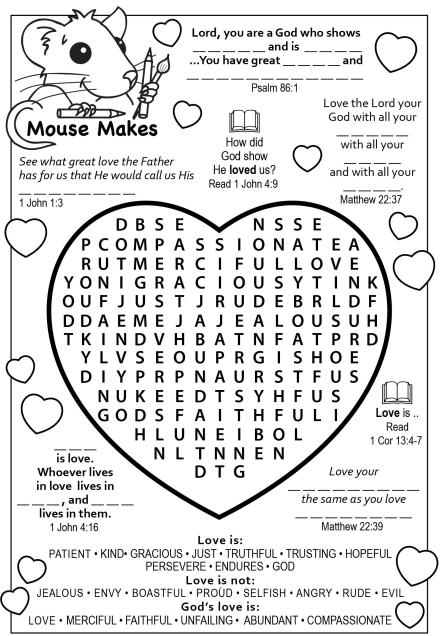
Christian discipleship is not always exciting, glamorous, or even enjoyable. Sometimes it is a matter of quietly getting on with it, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Revd Tony Horsfall



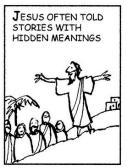
Helen's electric chasuble was the envy of everyone

CHILDREN'S PAGE



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JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN KEPT ASKING'



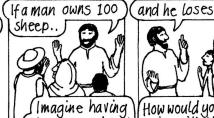
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone who would listen, whatever they were. The Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.



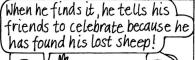
So Jesus told these stories





In the same wau











(Or what if a woman who has) 10 small coins loses 1?



What's special about a small coin

wont she light a lamp, sweep her house, and search until she finds it?



When she finds it she tells her friends to celebrate because she found the coin she had lost.



(In the same way, God's angels rejoice when a bad person repents.







Regd. Charity 249723

UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

All are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

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

oOo

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier, open to all. (St Laurence's Church)

Useful number: Julie James 01753 532425



19 20



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SERVICES IN THE PARISH

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