



Sedgeberrow



Hampton – Fairfield – Thistledown
Eastwick Park – Charity Crescent



Hinton on the Green

THE HERALD



Ascension Day - 9 May

The magazine of the Churches
of Hampton, with Sedgeberrow
and Hinton on the Green

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Prayers ... for the Church

My heart is ready, O God, I will sing and give you praise

1st of May is the Festival of Philip and James, Apostles, and 14th May is the Festival of Matthias, the Apostle; give thanks for their service to Jesus and pray for missionaries throughout the world. 31st May we celebrate the Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. Pray for the welfare of mothers-to-be and for their husbands and partners. Ask for God's blessing on John and David, our bishops and on the clergy of our diocese, that they may feel the support of the Holy Spirit in their ministry. Pray that the congregations of our United Benefice may find encouragement in our ministry to bring the love of Jesus Christ to the people amongst whom we live. Ask for blessing on the people who read the scriptures to us at our services and those who lead the intercessions.

Prayers ... for the World

As financial problems continue to oppress the people of Europe, pray for those whose lives are disrupted and for whose work it is to lead us and to direct financial policies that they may be blessed with unselfish wisdom and know the reward of seeing their efforts bear fruit. Continue to bring the victims of civil war in Syria to God, especially the children who are traumatised by their experiences, those living in camps with limited services; and pray for the workers in relief agencies who strive to improve the conditions of the children.

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From Mark Binney, Priest in Charge

Rogation Sunday - Sunday the 5th May is Rogation Sunday when we ask for God's Blessing upon the crop. The word Rogation comes from the Latin word for ask. It was introduced as a Christian substitute for the Roman pagan celebration Robigalia, when there was a special celebration to pray for crops. This used to be observed on April 25th when there would have been a procession through the fields. Judging by the poor weather recently it seems more important than ever to bless the crops this year!



Later on a second set of Rogation days was introduced (AD 470) as the three days of Rogation Monday, Rogation Tuesday and Rogation Wednesday, immediately before Ascension Thursday. These are now observed on the Sunday preceding Ascension Thursday which is known simply as the Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday). In earlier times the faithful observed the Rogation days by fasting in preparation for the Ascension. Farmers had their crops blessed by a priest at this time which in the Northern Hemisphere happily coincides with spring. Unfortunately for the farmer the priest could not guarantee a good crop.

A common feature of Rogation days was the ceremony of beating the bounds, in which a procession of parishioners led by the Vicar, churchwardens and choirboys, would proceed around the boundary of the parish and pray for its protection in the forthcoming year. Some of you will remember doing this and there are still some parishes which maintain the tradition. Nice though this is, it is perhaps more important to pray for the work of human hand in food production. Anything which improves our awareness of how food is grown and the issues involved in farming has to be a good thing. Harvest is widely celebrated. Rogation hardly features in most parishes and schools.

Farming is more important than ever. We need to grow food if we are to provide for the needs of the world. It does not matter if you live in an urban or rural community. Everyone needs to have a greater awareness of where food comes from and how it is grown, to enable a better understanding of diet, cooking, shopping, wastage etc. The point is that to achieve a harvest somebody has to work. On the 5th May we will be praying for everybody involved in the farming

industry in the Vale of Evesham and asking God for a good crop.

'At the back of our communion service is the bread. All of God's creation is in it;

*Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
and back of flour, the mill;
And back of the mill is the wheat and the shower;
And the sun,
and the father's will.'*

Mark Binney

Priest in Charge of Hampton, Bengeworth, Sedgeberrow and Hinton on the Green

Christian Aid Week **12 - 18 May**



Christian Aid's vision is to bring an end to poverty around the world, by tackling its root causes as well as its effects. We help people of all faiths and none.

We currently work through 578 partner organisations in 48 countries, providing urgent, practical and effective assistance, giving communities the support and skills to find their own solutions to poverty.

You can help with this work by putting a donation in the Christian Aid envelope in your magazine and returning it to Church or by sending it directly to Christian Aid as per instructions on back of envelope. Thank you.

Your Christian Aid Representative is Ray Edwards 01386 443683.

Prayers ... for the people around us

Pray for the continuing work of the Christian Centre in Evesham for the needy and lonely of our district at this difficult time, that they may find relief from their problems and comfort in their loneliness. Ask God to bless the social organisations of our United Benefice, WI's, clubs, young people's activities, that they may be a means of bringing everyone together in friendship. Pray for our counsellors in local government in their work to promote the well-being of our communities.

Hampton WI

Gillian White made the story of Mary Queen of Scots come to life at our meeting on 11 April. It was a life which included three marriages, to the French Dauphin, who sadly died two years later; Lord Darnley, later murdered, father of Mary's son, James VI of Scotland and James I of England ; and the Earl of Bothwell. This third marriage caused an uprising against Mary and she fled to England, seeking the protection of Elizabeth I, having been forced to abdicate in favour of her son. In 1587, after 19 years of house arrest, Mary was found guilty of plotting to assassinate Elizabeth and was executed, wearing scarlet, which was the colour of Catholic martyrs. Mary had written to her brother-in-law in France claiming that her only crime was that she was a Catholic. It is said that her little dog was found hiding under her robes, covered in her blood. Gillian's talk kept us all spellbound.

Our team of 4, plus supporters, is looking forward to the quiz night at Ashton under Hill on 16 April. Travel arrangements have been made for the backstage tour of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford on 30 April, and some members will be attending the Group Meeting at Childswickham on 24 April, when they will enjoy a talk on War Time Rationing. We are also planning a lunch at Broadway Golf Club in the summer and a visit to Winterbourne House and Gardens in Birmingham.

The meeting on 9 May will be our Resolutions Meeting, on 13 June our speaker will be Stella Mitchell on the subject of **The Land of Lost Content** and on 11 July, Lynn Stevens from Wychavon will explain why she is **Passionate About Parks**.

Our meetings are held at the Hampton Guide and Scout Community Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome. Please contact Joyce Davey on 01386 443755 for more information

Hampton Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be after the 10am Communion Service on 8 May. Offers of Cakes, Handmade Cards and other suitable items for sale will be gratefully received before the service. If you would like to offer help or require additional information, please contact Gabrielle Falkiner (41302) or Shirley Lynch (553392) or Phillippa Henly (421224)



Hampton Election of Church Wardens and Annual Parochial Meeting

On the whole the meeting proceeded smoothly, although at the end, when the subject of the church re-ordering was brought up by Gabrielle Falkiner, things did become a little more animated.

We are pleased to be able to report that Gabrielle Falkiner was elected for her sixth and final year as church warden and Phillippa Henly was elected as the second Church Warden.

Mrs Charlotte (Charlie) Binney was formally elected to the PCC following her year as a co-opted member: sadly no candidates came forward to fill the vacant positions created by Ida Roberts, Cath Lattimer and John Cotton, who had completed their three year terms and wished to step down. The PCC extends their thanks John Ida and Cath for their years of service and the hard work that they have put in over the years. The post of Treasurer also remains vacant.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the resignation of Ivy Pullin from the Altar Guild, her skill and enthusiasm will be greatly missed but her long service to the Church is very much appreciated. Graham has also decided that the time has come to step aside, specifically from his duties as Verger, and we must now try to find another suitable candidate to fill his place. All wished Ivy and Graham every success with their future plans.

After the meeting all enjoyed a social cup of coffee: our heartfelt thanks to Ray Edwards.

Hinton on the Green – St Peter's Church

Petertide 2013: Hinton is keen to follow-up last year's revival of our Patronal fête. This year's fête will be on Sunday 23rd June. And hopefully, bigger and better! Many of the attractions will be much the same as last year, but we hope to do much better with the refreshments! Anyone who would like to be involved should contact Clare Davies.

Coffee Morning: 28th May 10.30 am in St Peter's Church. Come and see what goodies we have to offer. All are welcome.

Events for 2013

If you have any ideas and suggestions for an event which you would like to see at the Church, please contact PCC vice-chairman Nick Frost by phone on 01386 47230 or by email nick@frostline.org.uk.

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Titus

Paul wrote to Titus, who he described as his 'partner and fellow worker' (2 Cor. 8:23).

Although Titus is not mentioned in Acts, Paul's letters reveal that he played a crucial part in Paul's life. He was one of Paul's converts and an uncircumcised Gentile. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to demonstrate how Gentiles don't need to be circumcised on becoming Christians (Gal. 2:3-5). When Paul was dealing with the difficulties in the Corinthian church, Titus was a messenger for a number of Paul's letters, including 2 Corinthians (2 Cor. 7:6-9).

Paul brought the Christian Faith to Crete, after which he gave Titus the challenging task of overseeing and strengthening the churches on the island. The island was notorious for immorality, quarrelling, and laziness. This letter gives Titus personal authorisation and guidance in meeting opposition, instructions about faith and conduct, and warnings about false teachers. Paul was also concerned that the church leaders were effective and honouring Christ in their lives, and Titus was to appoint elders in every city. The letter was probably written in Macedonia, after he was released from his first Roman imprisonment (cf Acts 28) in AD 64.

The letter to Titus emphasises sound doctrine (1:9; 2:8,10) and challenges believers to good works (1:16; 2:14; 3:14). Following Jesus faithfully leads to godly behaviour, so Paul urges 'that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good' (3:8). The letter also teaches that leaders should be examples in lifestyle and sound doctrine. The basic qualification for effective leadership is character ie being blameless, self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined (1:5-9). Paul also urges Titus to avoid quarrels and division within the churches and discipline those who stir up trouble. This letter remains essential reading for us because ill-directed and badly formed leadership still causes a lot of damage in the church today.

'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope-the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (2:11-14)

May 9: Ascension Day - 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! - but these are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

St Andrew's Fellowship

The next meeting on 14 May,

Additional cost for churches

Every time a church warden asks his Archdeacon for permission to undertake 'Small Works' (day to day repairs fall in to this category) one of the declarations that has to be made before any work can commence is that the work to be undertaken will not disturb or cause harm to any resident or local bat population.

For many churches this statement causes little or no problem but for those churches who do have a residential population of bats the the cost of ensuring compliance with the current legislation can be horrendous and complicated. The following item was plucked from a report that was circulated a short time ago and indicates just how large this problem had become.

"Bat conservation is now actively damaging churches not just physically, but financially, and cannot be sustained, the Environment Minister Richard Benyon MP has been told. The cost of replacing one small piece of a leaded window, for example, increased from £5 using plain glass to £140 when fitting a lead 'bat flap' is required by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) - many weeks' collection in some rural parish churches.

Leaving interpretation of the law on bat conservation largely to the BCT is bringing the European Habitats Directive into disrepute to the detriment of endangered species more generally, warned a Church of England delegation led by Second Church Estates Commissioner Sir Tony Baldry MP, with representatives of Natural England. "I remain puzzled as to why our churches are treated as if they were uninhabited barns. They are not," said the Rt Revd Graham James, Bishop of Norwich.

The delegation looked forward to results that would mitigate the impact of bats on buildings. Churches are places of worship, centres of communities and heritage sites, not sites of special scientific interest, they reminded the Minister."

Online child protection

Progress is being made on improving online child protection in the UK. Safermedia recently met with Claire Perry MP, an adviser to the Prime Minister, and report that all the major ISPs have agreed that by the end of 2013, they will provide a one-click filter at network level which can block adult content on all internet-enabled devices in the home.

Public Wifi will be "cleaner" as providers are to be offered a package blocking porn, and the Mobile Phone industry is are reviewing its current block on adult content to make it more robust.

COFFEE MORNINGS AT SEDGEBERROW

This month's Coffee Morning at St Mary's church will be on Thursday 30th May, at 10am to 12-noon.

Events Update – May 2013

Amendments and additions in **bold>**. Unconfirmed and provisional in *italics>*.

St Andrew's Tots	Tues	9 April 9.00am	Scout & Guide Hall
St Andrew's Fellowship Meeting	Tues	9 April 2pm	Scout & Guide Hall
Coffee Morning	Wed	10 April 10.30am	Hampton
Church Open Morning	Sat	13 April 10am-Noon	Hampton
Bingo	Sat	13 April 8pm	Sedgeberrow
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	16 April 9.00am	Scout & Guide Hall
St Andrew's Prayer Group	Tues	16 April 6.45pm	Hampton
Standing Committee Meeting	Wed	17 April 7.30pm	Hampton
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	23 April 9.00am	Scout & Guide Hall
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	30 April 9.00am	Scout & Guide Hall
Coffee Morning	Wed	8 May 10.30am	Hampton
Church Open Morning	Sat	11 May 10am-Noon	Hampton
St Andrew's Fellowship Meeting	Tues	14 May 2pm	Scout & Guide Hall
Hampton PCC Meeting	Wed	15 May 7.30pm	Hampton
St Andrew's Prayer Group	Tues	21 May 6.45pm	Hampton

Church Security

Do you walk or drive near your church during the day or better still in the evening? If you do, please keep an eye open for people loitering in and around your church grounds - one of the churches in the Pershore area has been broken into and the safe ransacked. If you see something suspicious please do not interfere but contact the police and let them deal with the incident.

The Herald is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month prior to the publication date. Items for inclusion should be received by 5th of the month prior to the publication date or by special agreement.

Articles are submitted on the understanding that they may be edited to fit the available space.

The Herald is edited by Roy Buffery.

Articles can be submitted by email to: editor@hamptonchurch.org.uk

or sent to the editor at 11 Hillside Close, Hampton, Evesham WR11 2PB

or left for the editor in St Andrew's Church.

Large Print editions of the magazine are available on request.

From the Registers – March 2013

Baptisms	3 March	Pixie Nayr Corbett	Hampton
	24 March	Colbi Miah Rusher	Hampton
Weddings	8 March	Paul Lewis Sheward / Lisa Ann Groves	Hampton
Funerals	12 March	Alan Keith Onens	Hampton
	13 March	Keith John Bradley	Hampton
	14 March	Richard Stanley	Hampton
	14 March	Joy Preece	Hampton
	15 March	Edward Stanton	Hampton
	21 March	Janet Lesley Smith	Hampton
	22 March	Neil Simpson	Hampton

Prayers ... for those who are unwell

With the patients of our local hospitals and people who are ill and known to you personally pray for Dave Beasley, David Canning, Pamela Collins, Win Clifford, Audrey Davies, Pam Eustace, Monica Garston, Harry Green, Ella Hampton, Evelyn Hewitt, Girlie Humphries, Sue Jones, Clifford Lewis, Beryl Lord, John Nymann, Joanne Painter, Iris Pinkstone, Graham Quiney, Rosie Rencher, Alan Roberts, Phillippa Shepherd, Celia Sheward, Joan Simpson, Pat Smith, Matthew Springett, and Mabel Thompson. May they find strength, patience and comfort.

Prayers ... for those who have died

Alan Keith Onens, Keith Bradley, Richard Stanley, Joy Preece, Edward Stanton, Arthur Williams, Janet Lesley Smith, and Kenneth Reginald Gittos together with those who mourn.

My trust is in you, Lord

Bible Readings – May 2013

5 May Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:9-15 Revelation 21:10. 22 – 22:5 John 14:23-29 OR John 5:1-9	19 May Pentecost	Genesis 11:1-9 OR Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17 OR Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17 [25-27]
12 May Seventh Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:16-34 Revelation 22:12-14. 16- 17. 20-21 John 17:20-26	26 May Trinity Sunday	Proverbs 8:1-4. 22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15

Services for May 2013

	Wednesday 1	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
1st	Sunday 5	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		9am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		10am	All Age Worship	Hampton
		2pm	Baptism	Hampton
	Wednesday 8	10am	Holy Communion / Prayers for Healing	Hampton
	Thursday 9	7am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Ascension Day			
	Saturday 11	3pm	Wedding	Hampton
2nd	Sunday 12	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Eucharist	Hampton
		11am	All Age Worship	Sedgeberrow
		6pm	Songs of Praise	Hinton
	Wednesday 15	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
3rd	Sunday 19	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Pentecost	9am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		10am	All Age Worship	Hampton
		2pm	Baptism	Hampton
	Wednesday 22	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
4th	Sunday 26	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Eucharist	Hampton
		11am	All Age Worship	Sedgeberrow
		11.15am	All Age Worship	Hinton
	Wednesday 29	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton

Services for June 2013

1st	Sunday 2	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		9am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		10am	All Age Worship	Hampton
		2pm	Baptism	Hampton
	Wednesday 5	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
2nd	Sunday 9	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Eucharist	Hampton
		11am	All Age Worship	Sedgeberrow
		2pm	Baptism	Hampton
	Wednesday 12	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton