



Sedgeberrow

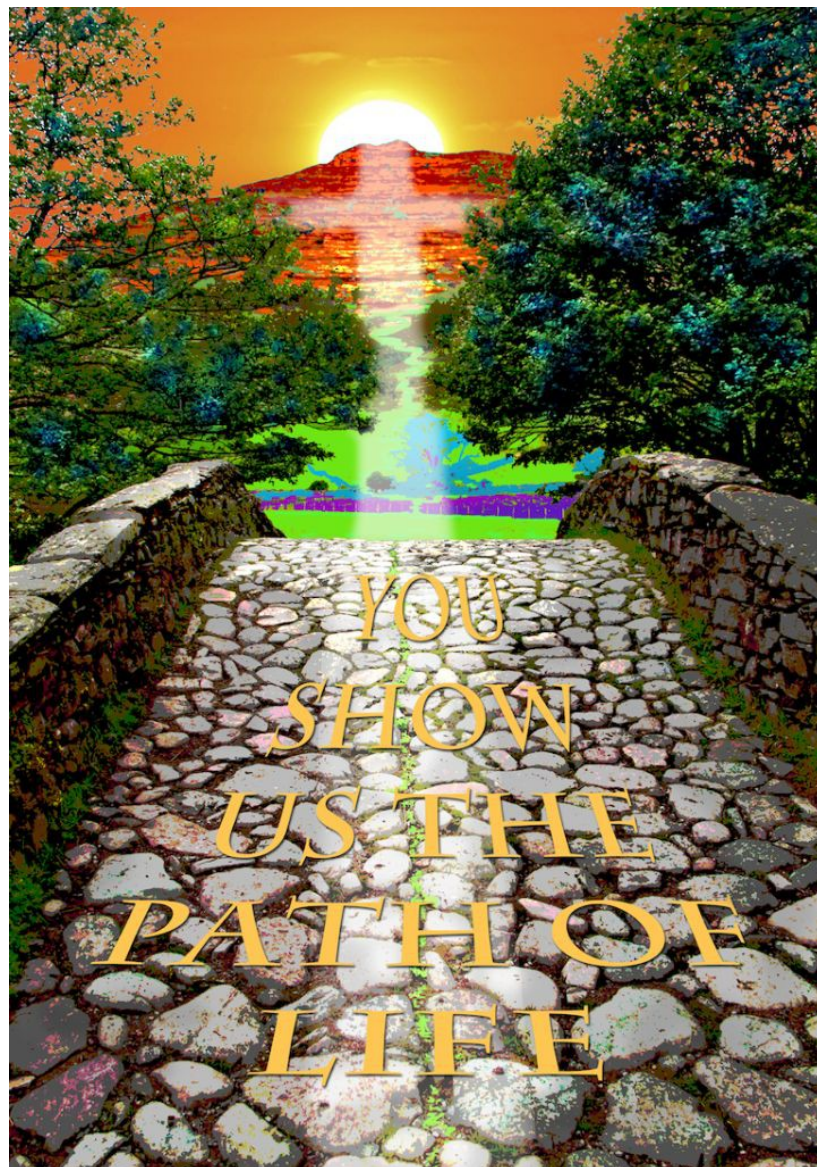


Hampton – Fairfield – Thistledown  
Eastwick Park – Charity Crescent



Hinton on the Green

# THE HERALD



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

30p

July and August 2013  
[www.hamptonchurch.org.uk](http://www.hamptonchurch.org.uk)

# Prayers ... for the Church

*To you O Lord, I lift up my soul*

July 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Festival of Thomas, the Apostle; pray for everyone who has doubts about their faith, that they may feel the assurance of the Holy Spirit. Mary Magdalene's Festival is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; give thanks for her example of service to Jesus and pray that we may be inspired by it to serve with her devotion. On 25<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the Festival of James the Apostle; give thanks for all that he did as one of the original followers of Jesus. Ask God to bless the work of our diocese under the leadership of John and David, our bishops, that we may bear witness in all that we do to God's love for all people. Give thanks for the mission of Communion Assistants and the leaders of the intercessions within our United Benefice and for activities of the Youth Group.

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## Prayers ... for the World

Continue to pray for peace in the world and for the end of the suffering of so many innocent people. Pray, too, for the oppressors that they may turn from their oppression to restoring their victims to a full life. Amongst the many areas of suffering, choose one that you personally feel for. Ask for God's blessing on the children of Europe who are living in poverty, that the means may be found to relieve that poverty and to bring them a share of the plenty that so many people around them enjoy. Bring before God the people of the islands of the Pacific Ocean, that they may find happiness and fulfilment in their lives. Ask for the strengthening presence of the Holy Spirit with all volunteer workers who bring the benefits of their medical skills to any area that needs them.

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# From Mark Binney, Priest in Charge

## Holidays

July and August has become the traditional time for family holidays. The long summer vacation for Schools enables a break from the daily routine, which takes up most of the year. For most families this means the school run, work, shopping, laundry, cooking and evening activities. It is an opportunity to get away and rest before all the activity starts up again.



I remember many holidays from my childhood being spent in seaside places such as Great Yarmouth, Clacton, and Margate. It was good to be by the sea; the beach, pier, amusements, ice creams, and eating fish & chips out of the paper. These are very simple things, but combined together all form part of the holiday fun. The weather was less predictable with the sound of the rain bouncing off the caravan roof. This may explain why in the early 1970's my father drove us all the way to Spain for two weeks of summer sun. It was rather a long way in a Land Rover but quite an adventure with the old heavy caravan on the back and the boat on the roof.

We all need a time of rest. It is a natural part of each day without which we grind to a halt. The same applies to the need for a holiday, a time when we can rest from life and enjoy each other's company. If you feel tired and run down then you need a break.

The Church also needs a time of rest, a month in the year when all the usual activities come to a halt. There is also the opportunity to rest and plan for all the activities which will take us through to next summer. Jesus knew what it was like to be at everyone's beck and call. He was often followed by crowds who expected him to meet their needs, so Jesus had to seek solitude to connect himself to God, If he felt this need, how is it that we sometimes think that we can manage life's demands without doing the same?

We are encouraged to respect our physical body as the temple of the living God and are reminded of the need for regular rest for body, mind and Spirit. The Sabbath day is a weekly time of rest within which we worship God. It is when we are more likely to hear God's word. It is in this sacred space that we grow our faith. The word 'Holiday' derives from the term 'holy day' which links the secular with the sacred. Thus, when we connect to God we strengthen our faith to cope with all that life throws at us.

Have a blessed holiday!

Rev Mark Binney

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

## **BISHOP DAVID TO BECOME NEW BISHOP OF MANCHESTER**

Downing Street announced recently that the Rt Revd David Walker, currently Bishop of Dudley, is to become the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Manchester. Bishop David will leave the Diocese of Worcester in October to take up his new post.

Bishop David said: "Whilst I am very excited about returning to my home city as Bishop, Sue and I will also be sad to leave so many friends that we have made in the Diocese of Worcester. I'm grateful for the many opportunities that I have been given both to support the mission and ministry of the Church of England in Dudley and Worcestershire and to contribute to the life of our villages, towns and communities."

Bishop John said: "Although I shall be very sorry to lose a wonderful colleague from our diocese, I'm delighted that Bishop David has been appointed as Bishop of Manchester. As anyone who knows him will be aware, he is a person of great gifts, immense wisdom and deep personal holiness. I have reason to be profoundly grateful to him – I could not have wished for a better colleague during the last five years. The Diocese of Manchester is very fortunate, as is the wider church and I shall be joining very many others to pray for God's rich blessing upon David and Sue as they prepare to move and in their new life and ministry."

There will be a service to celebrate and give thanks for Bishop David's ministry in Worcestershire and Dudley in Worcester Cathedral during October. The process to appoint a new Bishop of Dudley will begin immediately with a proposal taken to the July Bishop's Council meeting.

Bishop John continued: "We are very fortunate in our Diocese to have a number of very able and committed Assistant Bishops. I know they will step in to help and support me following Bishop David's departure."

Further news about Bishop David's farewell service and the appointment process will be distributed via the diocesan mailing system.

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## **Wednesday Coffee Mornings**

The next coffee morning will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 10.30am immediately after the 10.00am Holy Communion. Please note in your diaries that there will not be a Wednesday Coffee Morning in August.

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 Phillipa Henly (421224)

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## Prayers ... for the people around us

Pray for the people of your immediate neighbourhood, including any personal needs known to you. Bring to God any small shops, which you may use, that they may flourish and continue to provide that personal service which is their trademark. Pray for the members of the emergency services of our area, in the work, sometimes dangerous, that they do for us; give thanks for their work. Pray that the spirit of friendship may continue to bring comfort and joy to us all and mention the Friendship Club. Give thanks for the various organisations serving young mothers and their children, Saint Andrew's Tots and any informal groups you may know of.

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## St Andrew's Tots

As the designated storyteller at St Andrew's Tots I thought you would like to hear what we have been doing this year. The group continues to attract young children, their parents, grandparents and carers. This group provides the children with, what is often, their first taste of social interaction with other children and gives the adults the opportunity to meet other people and share stories about their children, seek advice and socialize. We have planned exciting activities around interesting themes, including Dragon drawings for Chinese New Year, pancake tossing on Shrove Tuesday and at Easter we listened to the parable of the Good Shepherd. We then practiced being good shepherds as we looked for toy lambs that we hid around the room. This half term we built a Gruffalo's home and listened to the story of the Gruffalo. We try to include some bible stories for the children to enjoy - but our ethos is that we show the church in action rather than actively encourage people to attend church. After half term we plan to hear the story of the loaves and the fishes and then have a picnic of our own - Teddy Bears will be invited! We plan to do activities around a holiday theme as we look forward to our summer holidays. At the end of term we will be saying a sad good-bye to some of our young people as they enter the exciting world on BIG school.



Margaret and the St. Andrew's Tots Team

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## **July 31 St Joseph of Arimathea – the man who buried Jesus**

Have you ever suffered from gossip? Ever discovered that people are saying some really wild things about you? If so, Joseph of Arimathea would understand – and sympathise with you. This decent, godly man of the gospels seems to have fired the imaginations of all sorts of odd people down the centuries.

Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council – the Sanhedrin. Mark's gospel describes him as having been 'waiting for the kingdom of God' for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion.

When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority needed to approach Pilate for the body – and get it. Near to where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it – and it was still new and empty. So Joseph laid Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone - Nicodemus helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind.

Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history - and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff.

The mind boggles at what Joseph would have made of it all. One suspects he would have preferred to stick to the simple, but far better, true story: as having had the immense, unique privilege of laying the body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. Even if Jesus didn't stay very long!

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## **Church Coffee**

Volunteers are needed to help with Church Coffee on 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Depending on the number of willing helpers, it involves helping approximately 5 times a year on a rota basis.

If you can help, please contact Ray Edwards on 01386 443683

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## **Hampton Prayer Group**

Following the resignation of Mrs Ida Roberts, the Group Leader, the group has ceased its activities with immediate effect. We warmly thank Ida for her efforts to keep the group going and hold her in our prayers.

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## Hampton WI

Stella Mitchell collects things that people usually throw away and shows them in her museum in Craven Arms, Shropshire. She brought a selection for us to see when she spoke at our meeting on 13 June about *The Land of Lost Content*. There was a candle holder from the days before health and safety, when Christmas trees were decorated with real candles, replacement trouser pockets and a kit for mending stockings - did we really do that?, a card of rubber buttons for liberty bodices (rubber because they would go through the mangle without breaking of course), pot menders, a large pair of school knickers in dark green with a pocket, a packet of Tetley teabags with the instruction that they should be used 'unbroken', hand knitted swimming trunks, and many more. It was a nostalgic and often amusing look back at the past, which brought back many memories for our members.

Following her talk, Stella judged our competition for a family keepsake. The winner was Ivy Pullin, who had brought her great grandfather's diary dating back to 1840. Members really enjoyed their recent tour of the gardens and plant centre at Pershore College. At the beginning of August we will be visiting Bourton House Garden and hope that the summer will have returned by then, so that we can see the garden at its best.

At our next meeting on 11 July, Lynn Stevens from Wychavon will tell us why she is *Passionate about Parks*. There is no meeting in August, but we will get together for lunch at Broadway Golf Club.

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.

### **St Andrew's CE First School Fete**

**Friday 5th July**

**6pm**

Refreshments, loads of stalls including St Andrew's Church Entry – 'Guess the Number of Balloons in my car'

Pre-booking not required, just turn up on the day and pay at the door

## What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Philemon

The letter to Philemon is the shortest and most personal of Paul's letters. It was written at the same time as Colossians around AD 60. Both letters were written during Paul's imprisonment, probably in Rome, and were delivered at the same time by Tychicus and Onesimus.

Philemon was a wealthy believer in Colosse who hosted a church in his house and converted under Paul (Philemon 19). One of his slaves, Onesimus, after damaging or stealing his master's property (Philemon 11, 18), had made his way to Rome. Here he was converted under Paul's ministry himself (Philemon 10). On returning to his master, Paul wrote a personal appeal to Philemon, asking him to receive Onesimus, not as a slave, but as a 'beloved brother' (Philemon 16).

Philemon consists of one chapter of 25 verses. A greeting, addressed to Philemon and the church which meets in his house (verses 1-3), is followed by four verses in praise of Philemon's love and faith (verses 4-7). Paul comes to his point in verses 8-16, where he tells of his affection for Onesimus and entreats Philemon to receive him back as a 'beloved brother' (v. 16). Paul offers to pay any expenses Philemon has incurred and asks him to prepare the guest room for a forthcoming visit (verses 17-22). Final greetings conclude the letter (verses 23-25).

This letter is a wonderful example of 'speaking the truth in love' (Eph. 4:15) in Christian relationships. Although it was Philemon's legal right to punish or even kill a runaway slave, Paul expected that Philemon would receive Onesimus back as a brother not as a slave (v. 16). He addresses Philemon as a trusted friend rather than as an adversary (v. 22); he appeals to the best in his character (verses 4-7, 13-14, 17, 21). However, Paul is careful not to force Philemon to do what is right; he helps him choose it for himself (verses 8-9, 14).

Although Paul never called for an end to slavery, this letter challenges the ways in which we can treat individuals as property instead of people. In Christ, Onesimus (lit: useful) has become a brother and useful to Philemon: 'I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me' (10, 11).

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**Friday 16 – Sunday 18 August**

**If you have a few hours to spare, why not be a Steward at Pershore Jazz Festival?**



***For full details of all opportunities, please contact us to discuss volunteering:***

Val Jackman, Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator - Tel: 01386 554299

Pershore Volunteer Centre, Charlotte Offices, New Road, Pershore.

Email: [valj@pershorevolunteers.org](mailto:valj@pershorevolunteers.org); Website: [www.pershorevolunteers.org](http://www.pershorevolunteers.org)

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## **Hinton on the Green – St Peter’s Church**

**The church tower:** The emergency inspection and repairs – because of the crumbling and falling masonry – were duly carried out on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> June, just in time for the Bonfield/Westmacott wedding on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The contractors used a “cherry-picker” which was able to reach the very top of the tower, thus avoiding the need for expensive and time-consuming scaffolding. The church was packed full for the wedding, and the floral display – which seemed to use the efforts and skills of almost half the village – was superb.

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**July Weddings:** 27<sup>th</sup> July will see the wedding of Imogen Cross, formerly of Hinton’s Old Rectory, and Tyson Peltz - both now residents of San Jose in California - at 2pm in St Peter’s. This will be followed at 4pm by a wedding blessing for Alan & Tricia Davies, who will have just returned from their wedding in Turkey.

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**Bell-ringing:** Our recent appeal for new bell-ringers was answered by Holly Grinnall. We now have a full complement of eight village ringers (but still room for more!). Practice night has been changed - from Wednesday evenings to Tuesdays.

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### **Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Couples married at St Peter’s in**

**Hinton:** Please get in touch with Rosemary Cross on 01386 443240 if you want to hear more. Rosemary is also your contact if you want to book a place on the Ladies’ “Relax Evening”.

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**Change at Hinton:** Change is a difficult concept to embrace in many ways but I’d like to say how small changes have made an impact on our family. The changes to services, as requested by Hinton congregants, have facilitated a child-friendly atmosphere, which our three look forward to being part of once a fortnight. The Family Service, held late morning and the Songs of Praise Service, held early evening, has a vibrant feel to it and I sometimes imagine that this was commonplace within St Peter’s Church during such gatherings over many previous centuries. The service planning committee carefully select the hymns sung, thus adding to the enjoyment of our services.

Our 14 year old daughter, Saskia, is a keen member of the bell-ringing team and she enjoys being part of the community whether it is bell-ringing practice or attending a service. Our 4 year old daughter, Millie, refers to St Peter’s Church in Hinton on the Green as “her beautiful church” and it is clearly a place she values, even if her age currently restricts her understanding of faith & Christianity. Last but not least, our 10 month old son, George, thoroughly enjoys going to church with all of us (as evidenced by his frequent belly laughs) and we are able to acknowledge & present our family values to our children from a young age.

They can be an entertaining if somewhat noisy bunch to have in church and that's OK. They do not cause offence and they often bring smiles & laughter to the congregation & clergy regardless of age. I defy anyone watching & listening to Millie singing her heart out to a hymn with unknown lyrics & melody, not to observe & feel the exuberance of youth embracing the love of God and our community in Hinton on the Green.

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Rosemary Wight, a congregant at St Peter's for decades, suffered a fall and a broken hip in early June. At the time of writing, she is in Cheltenham General and everyone who knows her is wishing her a speedy recovery - many will be drinking to her health with a glass of, as she would say, "Oh be Joyful".

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### **Treat people how you wish to be treated yourself**

When I was a small child, I used to go to church with my Grannie Bailey and while she went into the service I went off to Sunday school where we played, coloured in pictures and told stories. They were happy times. There were many stories but there is a particular one that I remember which I would like to share with you.

A man and his wife lived happily together in a big house. The man, out of a sense of duty and love, invited his father to move in with them. For many years they sat around the table at meal times and ate their food and talked. As the years flew past, the man and his wife had a son.

The man started to notice that his father had become messy at the dinner table, dribbling his food and generally making a mess on the table. The man thought that this was a bad example to set for his son so he made a trough for his father and made him sit in the corner of the kitchen and eat his food from the trough.

One day the man found his son in the tool shed busily sawing away. The man was intrigued and asked "what are you doing son?" The boy looked at his father with love in his eyes and announced that he was building him his own trough for when he gets old.

From that day on, the grandfather was set at the head of the table for every meal and finally given the respect he deserved.

You can take what you want from the story. Respect your elders and love your family, perhaps. I think it says, "Treat people as you wish to be treated yourself". It's funny how certain things stick in your head. If anyone knows where the story comes from I would love to hear. My details are at the front of the herald.

*Lisa James*

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