



Sedgeberrow



Hampton – Fairfield – Thistledown  
Eastwick Park – Charity Crescent



Hinton on the Green

## THE HERALD



Blessed  
is the one who  
comes in the name  
of the LORD!

Psalm 118:26-27 Matthew 21:8-9

# Prayers ... for the Church

*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord*

The month begins with Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday (2<sup>nd</sup>) give thanks for all that the Eucharist, instituted on that day, means to Christian people throughout the world. On Good Friday (3<sup>rd</sup>) remember the Crucifixion when Jesus died in agony for all people. On Sunday join with Christians everywhere as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, his triumph over death and the salvation which it ensured. Pray that the joy of this day may inspire us in our mission to live our lives in accordance with the Scriptures. Include prayers for our United Benefice, the people who lead our Intercessions, those who greet us on arrival at church the congregations of our local Methodist church.

# Prayers ... for the world

Continue to pray for those areas of the world which are torn by armed conflict, especially now for the Ukraine, that a way to lasting peace and agreement may be found to bring to an end the suffering that arises out of conflict. Pray too for all whose lives are blighted by famine and for the organisations and volunteers who are dedicated to the cause of bringing relief. Ask for God's blessing on the many peoples who live on the scattered islands of the Pacific and on the women anywhere who are treated as second class citizens. Pray for the European Union, for the members of its Parliament that they may govern wisely and for the officials that they may administer justly and with understanding.

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Priest in Charge	The Revd Mark Binney (01386) 424235 mark@hamptonchurch.org.uk The Vicarage, Pershore Road, Evesham WR11 2PQ
Honorary Assistant Priests	The Revd Leonard Burn (01386) 881160 The Revd Bernard Rumbold (01386) 424993 The Revd Patrick Wooster Tel: (01386) 45907
Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers)	John Lynch (01386) 553392 Elaine Major (01386)40722
Parish Administrator Monday – Thursday 9.15am – 1-15pm	Elaine Major The Parish Office, The Vicarage, 54A Pershore Road, Evesham WR11 2PQ (01386) 446381 email:- office@hamptonchurch.org.uk
Church Wardens	
St Andrew's Hampton	Phillippa Henly (01386) 421224 pippahenly@googlemail.com Margaret Thomson (01386) 47541
St Mary the Virgin, Sedgeberrow	Ann Banks (01386) 881623 Roger Horton (01386) 881307
St Peter's, Hinton-on-the-Green	Amanda French 07961 935925 Lisa James 07866 654923

## **From Mark Binney**

### **'Peace be with you'**

When Jesus appeared among the disciples on that first Easter Sunday, his first words were 'Peace be with you'. These were the usual words with which one Jew greeted another and they still are. The Hebrew word for peace is 'Shalom'.



Nowadays it has become a widespread custom to pass the peace in Church during our Sunday Worship. The priest or minister will read a verse of Scripture and then say, 'The peace of the Lord be always with you', to which the congregation reply, 'And also with you'. Next the minister says 'Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.' Then everyone shakes hands with those around them, saying 'Peace be with you.'

In doing so we are repeating to each other the words with which the risen Christ greeted his disciples on the first Easter Sunday. We are declaring our faith that 'where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them'. We recognise that Jesus stands with us when we worship and that he brings his peace into our troubled lives. The hand of Jesus is extended to us through the other members of our church.

For many people there is no peace in their lives. There is strife at home, strife at work, money problems, being let down by friends. So if you wish them peace then you are praying for a radical change in their circumstances. Peace is not something to be taken for granted. It has to be worked for, appreciated, accepted. When we look at the world about us there are terrible conflicts going on where peace is absent and whole nations are suffering.

The peace of Jesus is very much at the heart of the church. It is sad when someone refuses to share the peace. In middle eastern tradition you do not sit down at a meal with someone unless you are at peace with them. Every worshipper is called to share Christ's peace this Easter with those around them that we might know his risen presence to bring peace to the church, peace among nations, peace in our family life, and peace in our hearts.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reverend Mark Binney  
Priest in Charge

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# Never Far Away – The Road to Emmaus

*Lester Amann considers how the risen Christ reveals Himself to us...*

We can only imagine how the two travelers to Emmaus felt knowing that Jesus had died. Gone were their hopes for a bright future. They thought God had let them down. They had suffered a cruel blow and were bewildered and upset.

In their grief, the risen Jesus came alongside them and spoke with them at length but somehow they didn't recognise Him. Why was this, and why did Jesus intend to leave them at Emmaus without first revealing who He was?

The answers may be found by looking back at the encounters Jesus had with people. He never forced His true nature onto anyone. Every individual had to make up their own mind as to who He was, and to decide if the things He said were true.



Today, Jesus does not 'gate-crash' into our lives. In a number of ways He gently and persuasively reveals Himself. So, the story of the walk to Emmaus should encourage us each time we feel His absence; at those times when we thought He would step in and immediately solve our problems! On our journey of life, we can have times of sadness and it can seem as though God is far away.

But while we are thinking that Jesus has left us alone, He is actually with us. He knows where we are and what we are feeling. He can quietly draw alongside us. Surprisingly, it can sometimes be in situations of sadness and solitude that Jesus 'speaks' to us more clearly.

We don't have to go off in search of some 'religious experience' or to a special 'holy place'. He is present in the here and now. Jesus is the unseen companion on every journey and the unseen guest at every meal. In His way and in His time, our Lord reveals Himself to us in different situations. We may be aware of His presence in surprising circumstances and on unexpected occasions. How important it is that we stay alert.

There will be times when we will be like those two men on the Emmaus Road, searching for answers. We will earnestly desire clear and direct answers to our questions and the knowledge, understanding or revelation may be slow to come. But, with Jesus, there are many lessons to be learnt along our Emmaus Road than would have been discovered any other way.

Further reading: Luke 24:13-35

# **Missioner News from Sarah Jayne Hewitt**

## **SoulFood: Sunday Evening Service**

Every Sunday at All Saints 6pm – meal and reflection, free entry, all welcome. Run by Churches Together in Evesham and District.

Feeding Body, Mind and Soul

## **CafeChurch, Costa Coffee, Bridge Street:**

Tuesday 7 April 7pm

## **2 April ASUM Maundy Thursday Agape Fellowship Meal:**

Expressing our unity in Christ and celebrating our life together in community.

Please put your name on the list at the back of church if you'd like to come.

All Saints.

## **All Saints Book Club:**

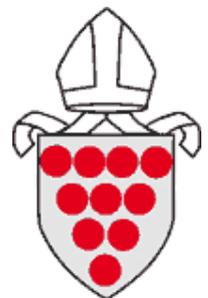
This new book club will have its first meeting on Thursday 9th April at 7.30pm at Noelle Beaumont's house. Our first read will be Karen Joy Fowler's novel 'We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves'. Each month we'll meet in a host's home and discuss the book for an hour then over a dish of delicious pudding we'll choose next month's book and share any recommendations of books we've enjoyed. If you love reading then do come along for some stimulating discussion, yummy puddings and fun! If you'd like more information contact Noelle via church house on 01386 442213

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## **From the Diocesan Newsletter**

### **Barons Storm the Cathedral**

2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta by King John. King John had a special relationship with Worcestershire and often visited the Cathedral to worship at the shrine of St Wulfstan. When he died in 1216 he specified in his will that he be buried in the Cathedral between the shrines of St Wulfstan and St Oswald. This relationship with the county gives Worcestershire a direct link to the story of Magna Carta which is genuinely unique. An event in March featured thirteenth century barons storming the Cathedral to confront King John, recreating the moment 800 years ago that put in place one of the most important building blocks on the road to democracy in Britain and the world. An exhibition on King John and Magna Carta is now open in the Cathedral. To celebrate this legacy, a programme of historic, immersive and fun events will take place in Worcester and around the county over the next 18 months. Details of all events can be found on the Cathedral and Visit Worcestershire websites.



## Working out the Date for Easter Day

Because the Church calendar follows the moon, Easter Day can be on any Sunday from March 22nd to April 25th! Easter happened on a date representing the first Full Moon of Spring on the Jewish Calendar. Because of that, Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the first calculated Full Moon on or after March 21st. If the Full Moon is on a Sunday, Easter Day is on the next Sunday.

For the past 1500 years, March 21st has been used to represent the date of the March equinox (the real equinox might be a day or two different).

Several methods have been used since early Christian times to work out the date of Easter Day. It was made more complicated in 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII replaced the old Roman 'Julian' calendar (started by Julius Caesar) with a new more accurate 'Gregorian' calendar, which most people still use today. In the UK, Easter was first calculated using the Gregorian calendar in 1753 when the country had changed calendars.

The next time Easter will be on March 22nd (as early as it can be), will be in the year 2285. Easter last occurred on March 22nd in 1818!

There are several version of how to calculate the date of Easter. Below is a version with all the maths already done (it works for the Gregorian calendar for the years 1900 to 2199), so all you have to do is:

1. Divide the year number by 19: e.g.  $2015/19=106.05$
2. Multiple the number before the decimal point by 19 (106 for 2015):  $106 \times 19 = 2014$
3. Then subtract the result from Step 2 from the year number:  $2015 - 2014 = 1$
4. Add 1:  $1 + 1 = 2$
5. Look up the 'Golden Number' in the following table (2 for 2015!). Easter is on the first Sunday after the date in the table. In 2015 Easter is on April 5th, so it works!

Golden Number	Date	Golden Number	Date	Golden Number	Date
<b>0</b>	Mar 27	<b>7</b>	Apr 8	<b>14</b>	Mar 22
<b>1</b>	Apr 14	<b>8</b>	Mar 28	<b>15</b>	Apr 10
<b>2</b>	Apr 3	<b>9</b>	Apr 16	<b>16</b>	Mar 30
<b>3</b>	Mar 23	<b>10</b>	Apr 5	<b>17</b>	Apr 17
<b>4</b>	Apr 11	<b>11</b>	Mar 25	<b>18</b>	Apr 7
<b>5</b>	Mar 31	<b>12</b>	Apr 13	<b>19</b>	Mar 27
<b>6</b>	Apr 18	<b>13</b>	Apr 2		

The number 19 is used to find the 'Golden Number' because the dates of Full Moons repeat, almost exactly, every 19 years. The dates in the table are the dates of the 'Paschal Full Moon' (a 'representative' Full Moon used in the calculations!), which represents the real Full Moon quite closely.

## For the love of chocolate

Are you going to indulge in Easter chocolate this year? Ever wonder where it first came from? We have the Aztecs of equatorial Central America to thank: it was they who discovered that a certain tree, later named Theobroma Cacao, was well worth cultivating. The Aztecs considered chocolate the 'drink of the gods' (Theo means God, broma means drink; hence the name). The Aztecs credited chocolate for everything from spiritual wisdom to sexual prowess; Emperor Montezuma is reported to have drunk more than 50 flagons of the stuff each day.

The Spanish explorer Cortes also called it 'the divine drink', and the conquistadors brought chocolate back to Spain. From there it travelled north, and reached England about 1849. It was first served as a drink, until during the Industrial Revolution it caught the attention of several leading Quaker families, (including the Cadburys, the Frys, the Rowntrees and the Terrys. It was the Fry family who created the first 'eating' chocolate... and the rest, as they say, is history. Today the world eats about 600,000 tons a year. Enjoy your Easter egg!

## The Real Easter Egg

The Real Easter Egg is still the only Fairtrade egg with a copy of the Easter story in each box. There is also a charitable donation for every 150g egg sold. More than £140,000 has been donated from sales. It also supports farmers and producers in the developing world by using Fairtrade chocolate.

David Marshall, who heads up the Meaningful Chocolate Company, said; "The Real Easter Egg campaign aims to establish giving a Real Easter Egg as a tradition. We can be found in Tesco, Waitrose and Morrison's. This is a very positive example of putting our faith into practice so it is hoped that churches will support this year's Real Easter Egg campaign by visiting [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) and ordering.

Each year the content of the Real Easter Egg changes. This year blue egg has a unique 3ft storybook/banner, the Premium Peace Edition contains an olive wood key ring made in Bethlehem and there is a dairy free dark chocolate egg.



## Prayers ... for the people around us

Ask God to bless the businesses established within our United Benefice, that they may grow as part of the improvement in the United Kingdom. Mention those which are well known, and those which are small, employing just a few people; may they share in prosperity and find satisfaction in the work they do. Pray for the lonely who do not share in the friendship of the people around them. Pray that we shall reach out to them and help them to find the pleasures of good company. Include in your prayers our W I's and all social groups within our parish churches, especially any you may share in.

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## EVENTS FOR EVESHAM BELL TOWER APPEAL

### ***Sunday 8 March to Saturday 25 April 2015: ART EXHIBITION!***

Celebrating and supporting the Evesham Bell Tower Appeal with an exhibition of artists work inspired by the Bell Tower. Exhibition space open for viewing on show nights only. To avoid disappointment please check the Evesham Arts Centre website: [www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk](http://www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk)



***Sunday 26th April 2015: Virgin London Marathon*** – Bell Tower Appeal Committee Chair, Sue Ablett, will be pounding the streets of London for 26.2 miles and hoping to raise sponsorship for the Appeal. It is easy to donate online, or download a copy of Sue's sponsorship form! You can contact Sue directly on 0787 1285606 or email: [sueablett1@btinternet.com](mailto:sueablett1@btinternet.com)

### ***Sunday 10th May 2015: Every time a bell rings.....***

A 112 km ride in aid of the Evesham Abbey Bell Tower Appeal. This ride is moderately hilly, starts from Evesham at 9am, with controls at Kineton, The Coffee Stop and Earlswood, Manor Farm Tea Rooms, plus 1 information control. Entry fee - £6.00. Closing Date for entries – 3 May 2015.

For details contact Sue Ablett - 0787 1285606 or email: [sueablett1@btinternet.com](mailto:sueablett1@btinternet.com)

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## Prayers ... for those who are unwell

With anyone you know who is unwell and the patients in our local hospitals pray for Beattie Ballard, Anne Brace, Judy Buffrey, Maureen Cauldwell, Sarah Clements, Pamela Collins, Ivy Curwen, Grace Dolphin, Andrew Dyke, Sylvia Emson, Monica Garston, Rosie Goodwin, Peter Hanagan, Brian and Gwyneth Holiday, Girlie Humphries, Sue Jones, Harry Lawson, Clifford Lewis, Barbara Lines, Hubert Martin, Maurice Miller, Vera Peart, Grace Percival, Janice Sinclair, Pat Smith, Tony Townsend and Beryl Wood.

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## **St Andrew's Fellowship – 10 March**

I think that today we had one of the most interesting and entertaining speakers that we have ever had! Nick Grainger, who is from British Bespoke Auctioneers, spoke of his life working in Antiques, but also how he began his working life training to be a tailor in London's Savile Row. He later moved to Winchcombe, where his business in Antiques and Auctions thrived.

Members brought along their own valuables, for which he gave some of the history, and in most cases, a valuation.

Our speaker for next month's meeting will be Steve Garside, who is the new Headteacher at the Vale of Evesham School.

Members were reminded to bring a deposit for our day out to the Hop Pocket Shopping Village on 4 June.

If you would like to come and see what else we are up to this year, we meet every second Tuesday of the month, at the Hampton Guide and Scout Community Hall, where everyone is welcome, male or female, Church members or not.

If you would like to know more, please ring 01386 49161 for details.

*Jenny Perkins*

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## ***ST. ANDREWS CHURCH*** **THE DOUBLE "C" MONTHLY TEAS**

Conversation

those who are lonely or  
bereaved.

Please come & join us for

### **Traditional Afternoon Tea**

Last Sunday of the month - next one - 26 April 2015

Hampton Guide & Scout Hall from 3 - 5pm

For further information contact Elaine Major

01386 446381 or 01386 40722

Company<sup>For</sup>

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

Save the Dates!!

12<sup>th</sup> April: No service

23<sup>rd</sup> April: Annual Meetings

26<sup>th</sup> April: Animals Service

28<sup>th</sup> April: Afternoon tea at the church

14th June: Petertide Church Fête

31st Oct: Harvesteen Supper and Music

**Fête:** Sorry, 14 June is a bit early for “Petertide” (St Peter’s Day is 27th June), but we’re calling it our patronal service and Fête anyhow! We’re planning to build on the success of our three previous Fêtes: Can you help?

**Help:** Would you be able to help on the day – for example by running a stall - or know someone who would? Do you know of any local clubs / groups who might like to put on a display, show or performance to help entertain the throngs?

**Donations:** Like those of most villages, our fête relies on support and donations from the local community. We’re looking for bottles for our bottle tombola, raffle prizes and offers to bake a cake for a cake stall.

If you are in a position to help with any of the above, please let us know. Contact Clare Davies on 07814188077 / 01386 48283 / clare7875@gmail.com.

### **Harvesteen Supper:**

Friday 31 October 2015. More details to follow. Please just save the date if you enjoyed last year’s event! If you haven’t attended one of our suppers, please do think about coming this year. We have a great time (licensed bar!) with a wonderful community and a good time was had by all! For 2015, we’re planning more of a “folk” theme.

### **Scarecrow Festival:**

The Hinton Community Group is planning to put on a village “Scarecrow Festival” to coincide with Harvesteen. The whole benefice is invited to join in by making scarecrows and positioning them around Hinton. Prizes for the best ones! There will also be competitions for children. If anyone would like to make a scarecrow or has ideas about how to join in or help in other ways, please contact Liz Davies on 01386 41762.

### **Afternoon Teas:**

Back in the church now that the weather has warmed a little. Last Tuesday of every month, 3pm to 5pm, so the next one is on 18<sup>th</sup> April. All welcome!

### **Annual Meetings, 23 April:**

Hinton’s annual meetings will be held at the church at 7:15pm on Thursday 23 April (St George’s Day!). The first meeting is open to all parishioners and its primary

function is to elect two churchwardens for the coming year (churchwardens have to be elected every year).

The second meeting is open to those who are on the church's electoral roll (this is not the same as the civil electoral roll – if you wish to register to attend and vote at this meeting, please see Clare Davies, details above, or any member of the PCC). This meeting will review the church's 2014 work and accounts and will elect three lay members to the PCC. If you are interested in serving on the PCC or as a churchwarden, please ask any of the PCC about it.

### **Gifts from God:**

To many of us, the animals with whom we share our lives are a gift from God. To celebrate this there will be an **Animals Service** at **St Peter's in Hinton**. We hope a lot of you will wish to join in celebrating our pets and livestock and to thank God for all animals. The service will take place on **26 April at 11.15 a.m.** If you want to suggest a particular poem, reading or prayer please contact Rosemary on 01386 443240. Any artistic youngsters out there might like to draw/paint some animal-themed pictures for us. You are invited to bring well-behaved animals to the Church to be blessed. Cats should probably be in cat baskets and other small animals in appropriate carriers or cages. Dogs should be on leads and kept under control!! (Also please make sure you clean up after your animal.)



Please get in touch if you want to bring any unusual animal which we should know about in advance - any ferrets out there? How about a lamb, or piglet...?



Some people ask whether animals have souls and whether we shall see our animals in Heaven. A wise Vicar was approached by an elderly lady, whose treasured pet had just died. 'Vicar,' she said 'little Rufus has died and I loved him so much. I've been told that there are no animals in Heaven. I couldn't bear not to have him with me in Heaven.'

The Vicar replied 'Dear lady, God, in his great love and wisdom has created Heaven to be a place of perfect happiness. I am sure that if you need little Rufus to complete that happiness, you will find him there.'

Let's celebrate and give thanks for ANIMALS!!!

Have you entered Hinton's Name the Easter Bunny competition? His name will be picked and the winner announced on Easter Sunday on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April at our service at 11:15am.

**GOOD LUCK!**

A Hinton resident, Amanda Black, is running the London Marathon to raise funds for the Mental Health charity, Mind.



On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, after months of running around the streets of Hinton, Sedgeberrow, Bengeworth and Hampton I'll be taking on the London Marathon's 26.2 miles.

As well as raising funds for Mind I'm using the opportunity to heighten awareness of mental health issues currently faced by 1 in 4 of us and you can read my story at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Amanda123>

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## Sedgeberrow News

Regarding 'Open the Book', Ann Banks would like to let readers know that despite their omission from last month's article, Sedgeberrow First School has been participating in 'Open the Book' since 2008/2009. Initially, it was started by Ann, Sarah Deakin and Toni Rains. Since then, Revd. Mark Binney has joined Ann. For more detail, please see this month's report from Sedgeberrow School.

The next Coffee Morning in Church will be Thursday 23 April 10am to 12 noon.

Why not pop along for coffee /tea and a chat, and have a go on the Tombola and Raffle?

The Annual Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 19 April at 9.30am.

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## Prayers ...for those who have died

Arthur Batt, Robert Cudmore, Audrey Taylor, Gwendoline Keen, Elizabeth Nicholas, Steven Stayte and Cordelena Bradley.

*Be still before the Lord and wait for him.*

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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.

**Articles can be submitted by email to: [editor@hamptonchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@hamptonchurch.org.uk)**

or sent to the editor at The Parish Room, Hampton Vicarage, Pershore Road, WR11 2PQ

Large Print editions of the magazine are available on request.

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## Hampton WI – March 2015

Ann Evans welcomed members to this month's meeting, along with one new member, Sally and a prospective dual member who had recently moved into the area. The New Year Lunch at Broadway Golf Club had been very enjoyable. The food, as always, had been very good, and on such a fine day, the views over the Vale had made a lovely backdrop.

Several members had attended the Daffodil evening at Fladbury WI. It had been a lovely evening, with a talk on Mary Quant, illustrated with many of her designs and other items, accompanied by a 60's style buffet.

Two members have birthdays this month and they were presented with posies made by Ann. This was an innovation for the current year, along with the new competition format, which had proved very successful, with a marked increase in entries.

Members were told of a Special WI Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June, to mark the WI Centenary. Unfortunately tickets were limited to one per institute. Members wishing to attend would be balloted.

Four members volunteered to make up a team for the Group Quiz on 28 April.

A friendly skittles morning followed by lunch, had been arranged for 30 April at St Ecgwins Club.

It was then time to welcome John Derby, who had come to tell us about the work of the Evesham Street Pastors. He started off by telling us about Evesham nightlife, which was a bit of an eye-opener for most of us who tend to think of Evesham as a relatively quiet town. Apparently Evesham has the reputation for being a lively place at night! The three night clubs are open past midnight, and people come for a fairly wide radius to enjoy the night life. On a busy night between 2am and 3am, there can be up to 500 people on the streets, or 200 to 300 on less busy nights.

The Street Pastors spend time in prayer before going out on to the streets at 10pm. They return at midnight for some refreshment and go out again at 1.45am until around 3pm, and are usually back home in bed by 4pm. Back at base, prayer partners will be praying for them.

Street Pastors started nationally about ten to twelve years ago, at a time when street crime was on the increase. They form a bridge between the Church and the world at large, and are well supported by the Churches in Evesham.

During a typical night they will be giving out flip-flops to girls struggling on high heeled shoes; space blankets to keep scantily girls warm; lollipops which help to diffuse potentially dangerous situations; bottles of water to help with dehydration; bottle tops which can be used to prevent drinks being spiked with dangerous substances, and last but not least – sick bags.

A great deal of the time, they will just be talking, or rather, listening to young people who need to talk about their problems. According to their activity log, last year they had 2695 significant conversations, and were asked to pray for 220 people. In many cases just by talking and listening they can alleviate situations without the need for police to be involved.

John kindly judged this month's competition, for an item beginning with 'M', and the winner was Joan Parry with some pre-decimal MONEY. Next month it's 'A', so we are looking forward to a wide range of entries again.

At our meeting on 9 April **Prime Ministers' Partners** will be the subject of David Howe's talk.

We are always pleased to see visitors, so do come along to one of our meetings at the Hampton Guide and Scout Community Hall. You will be made very welcome. Our meetings are held at the Hampton Guide and Scout Community Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. Do come and join us.

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## Events Update – April 2015

SoulFood	Sun	5 Apr 6pm	All Saints
Café Church	Tues	7 Apr 7pm	Costa Coffee
Hampton WI	Thurs	9 Apr 7.30pm	Scout & Guide Hall
Church Open Morning	Sat	11 Apr 10am-12noon	Hampton
SoulFood	Sun	12 Apr 6pm	All Saints
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	14 Apr 9am	Scout & Guide Hall
St Andrew's Fellowship	Tues	14 Apr 2pm	Scout & Guide Hall
Standing Committee	Wed	15 Apr 7.30pm	Hampton
Sedgeberrow Annual Meeting	Sun	19 Apr 9.30am	Sedgeberrow
SoulFood	Sun	19 Apr 6pm	All Saints
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	21 Apr 9am	Scout & Guide Hall
Coffee Morning	Thurs	23 Apr 10am-12noon	Sedgeberrow
Hinton Annual Meeting	Thurs	23 Apr 7.15pm	Hinton
Animal Service	Sun.	26 Apr 11.15am	Hinton
Double C's Teas for the Bereaved & Lonely	Sun.	26 Apr 3 – 5pm	Scout & Guide Hall
SoulFood	Sun	26 Apr 6pm	All Saints
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	28 Apr 9am	Scout & Guide Hall
Afternoon Tea	Tues	28 April 3 – 5pm	Hinton
Hampton PCC and AGM	Wed	29 Apr 10.45am	Hampton

# What do we want from our Parliament?

*With the General Election coming in May, this Christian perspective on politics might be of interest...by Antony Billington, head of theology at the LICC.*

A few months ago, in late January, we marked the 750th anniversary of the first English Parliament, held by Simon de Montfort in the Palace of Westminster. In another few weeks, in May, we will be facing a General Election. So it seems appropriate to recognise the long, albeit somewhat chequered, history of democracy we have enjoyed in this country.

At the very least, elections provide an opportunity for us to reflect on priorities and concerns, for ourselves and for the society in which we live: health, education, transport, housing, welfare, tax, crime, environment, immigration. Not for the first time will we notice how many of these play to our fears as well as our hopes.

In all of this, we recognise that politics is an inevitable feature of life for the 'whole-life' disciple. We recognise, too, that Scripture allows us to be neither overly cynical nor overly confident about the potential of politics to make a difference.

As Romans 13:1-7 reminds us, we acknowledge that 'the authorities... have been established by God for... our good' – words written in the context of an imperial power holding sway. In the UK, where we have a voice in deciding who the 'authorities' should be, where it's possible to encourage the values by which society operates, we accept the responsibility that comes with the privilege, and vote wisely.

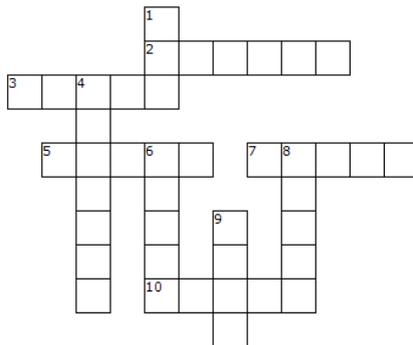
More specifically, a perspective nourished by Scripture helps to reframe how and why we vote. We vote not simply for what will benefit *ourselves*, but for what will benefit *others*, for that which serves the wider community. Scripture places high premium on right treatment of the vulnerable and marginalised. What do manifestos say about the poor, the elderly, the disabled, the asylum seeker? Since the gospel reframes *aspirations*, we vote less for what might bring material gain than for what might bring moral gain.

What will be the effect of policies on marriage, family life, poverty? Given the centrality of *relationship* at the heart of the gospel, we vote for what will build and nurture relationships – personally, nationally, internationally. On issues related to religion, not least the freedom to practise our faith in the public square, we vote for that which is more likely to promote the way of the gospel.

Who we vote for and why arguably says as much about us as it does about candidates and parties. Who will you vote for? *What* will you vote for?

# Childrens' Page

## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

2. To be raised up
3. A heavenly servant of God, often pictured as a human with wings
5. What we humans use to speak or sing
7. The Son of God
10. The end of life

### DOWN

1. Everyone and everything
4. To bring praise and honor to God
6. A large group of people
8. The land surface of the world
9. To attract someone or something

DEATH	ANGEL	VOICE	EARTH	JESUS
ALL	DRAW	GLORIFY	LIFTED	CROWD

## Multiple Choice

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

Check your answers in John 12:28-33 (NIV)

- \_\_\_ 1. Everyone and everything  
A. lifted B. angel C. voice D. all
- \_\_\_ 2. To be raised up  
A. earth B. all C. voice D. lifted
- \_\_\_ 3. A heavenly servant of God, often pictured as a human with wings  
A. earth B. Jesus C. lifted D. angel
- \_\_\_ 4. The end of life  
A. all B. death C. voice D. crowd
- \_\_\_ 5. To bring praise and honor to God  
A. glorify B. death C. earth D. draw
- \_\_\_ 6. The land surface of the world  
A. earth B. lifted C. draw D. death
- \_\_\_ 7. The Son of God  
A. Jesus B. Andrew C. Philip D. John
- \_\_\_ 8. What we humans use to speak or sing  
A. all B. voice C. draw D. lifted
- \_\_\_ 9. To attract someone or something  
A. voice B. lifted C. draw D. crowd
- \_\_\_ 10. A large group of people  
A. death B. earth C. crowd D. draw

# SEDGEBERROW CE FIRST SCHOOL

*“Reach for the Stars”*

We are proud to have been one of the first schools in Worcestershire to take part in ‘Open the Book’ when we started it back in 2008 through a link we had with Gloucester. Reverend Binney and Ann Banks, churchwarden, take part in the service every week and over the years we have had various other volunteers involved including our own staff and pupils acting out the stories. It is indeed a wonderful way of introducing bible stories and we were pleased when St Andrews School came to visit us to observe and subsequently took on the initiative themselves. We see from last month’s Herald that the Asum Group are interested in extending their work with schools and would be happy to hear from them if they were able to enhance what is already in place here.

Our links with St Mary the Virgin in Sedgeberrow are very strong and we take the children down for services every half-term. In addition children will make separate visits to the church as part of their RE curriculum.



Each year group visits a different place of worship such as church, cathedral, Hindu temple, and Year 2 recently went to visit a Synagogue in Cheltenham to enhance their work on Judaism. They thoroughly enjoyed the visit and learnt a great deal. We were delighted to receive an email from the organisers thanking the children for their visit and

praising their behaviour and attitudes.

Our value for first half of this term was Love and we held a non-uniform day just before half-term, ‘Have a heart for Kibera’, to fund-raise for the Lunchbowl network charity who fund daily hot dinners for orphaned and vulnerable children in Kibera slum, Nairobi. Soapstone love hearts made in Kenya were also on sale for the cause and we were able to send £252 which will provide 756 lunches.

We celebrated world book day in by coming to school dressed as a character from a book and prizes were awarded for the best costumes in the form of a £5 book voucher to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair which was in school for the week. On Red Nose Day we will be ‘Making our faces funny for money’ to raise funds for Comic Relief and everyone is looking forward to this as well as our Key Stage Two show M.I.N. (Minions in Need) which takes place in Pershore Number 8 theatre on 19 and 20 March and is already a sell out.

**Sedgeberrow CE First School wishes everyone in the village and the parish a very Happy Easter.**

Mrs M M Humphreys  
Headteacher

01386 881391      [www.sedgeberrow.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.sedgeberrow.worcs.sch.uk)

# St Andrew's CE First School

*Successful learners. Success for life.*



Once again, this half-term is flying by and the school has been a hive of activity. All the children have been working extremely hard, which was relayed to parents and carers at our recent parents' evenings.

Recently, we were extremely proud to host a Gymnastics Festival in our wonderful new hall. Forty Year 4 children from our cluster schools, along with help from ten leaders from St Egwin's Middle School, worked together and participated in 'gymnastic' activities. Children performed vault exercises, body conditioning and floor routines. Everyone who attended the event had a superb time.

Both children and adults celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite book characters. Everyone made a fabulous effort and prizes were awarded to two children in each class for the most imaginative and creative costumes.



Fundraising was in full swing on Friday 13 March when our School Council held a competition in aid of Comic Relief. Children were invited to pay 50p to make their hair and face 'funny for money'. We had some incredibly 'funny' faces and 'funky' hairstyles, and, after much deliberation, two children from each class were presented with a prize for their immense effort. The amount raised, including the sale of red noses, was a wonderful £192.

We are very pleased to announce that our Early Years outdoor area is currently in the process of being established. Over Easter, work will take place to repair damage to cladding and render on the main building. A canopy will also be installed, which means that our Reception class will be able to occupy their wonderful new classroom on their return to school after Easter.

On Thursday 26 March at 6pm, our Parent Teacher Association (SASSA) is holding a 'Chocolate Bingo' evening. Entry is £1 and bingo books are 50p. Please come along and support the event because all profits made on this, and every SASSA event goes towards purchasing equipment, subsidising trips and providing social events for the children.

To celebrate the end of the term, we will be attending Church for our annual Easter Service, during which the Easter Story will be performed by the children and the Open the Book team.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter.

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**From the Registers – February 2015**

**Baptisms**

1 February	Mia Leigh Ballinger	Hampton
15 February	Hollie Summer Stevens	Hampton

**Funerals**

2 February	Hayden Hall	Hampton
3 February	May Winifred Lillian Corbett	Hampton
13 February	Robert James Cudmore	Oakley Wood
19 February	Arthur Henry Batt	Redditch
25 February	Coralena Bradley	Cheltenham

**Services for April 2015**

Wednesday 1	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
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Wednesday 1	7pm	Compline	Hampton
Thursday 2	7pm	Last Supper	All Saints
Friday 3	10am	Stations of the Cross	Hampton
Friday 3	2pm	Good Friday Service	Hampton
Friday 3	2pm	Good Friday Service	Sedgeberrow
Friday 3	6pm	Good Friday Service	Hinton
Saturday 4	8pm	Easter Vigil	Bengeworth
<b>5 April – Easter Day</b>			
	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	9am	Parish Eucharist	Sedgeberrow
	10am	Family Eucharist	Hampton
	11.15am	Easter Eucharist by Extension	Hinton
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8			
Thursday 9	12 noon	Wedding	Hampton
<b>12 April – Second Sunday of Easter</b>			
	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	9.45am	Asum Eucharist	Bengeworth
	11am	All Age Worship	Sedgeberrow
Exodus 14:10-end; 15:20-21 or Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 1:1 – 2:2 or Acts 4:32-35, John 20:19-end			
Wednesday 15	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
<b>19 April – Third Sunday of Easter</b>			
	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	9am	Parish Eucharist	Sedgeberrow
	10am	All Age Worship	Hampton
	3pm	Baptism	Hampton
Zephaniah 3:14-end or Acts 3:12-19, 1 John 3:1-7 or Acts 3:12-19, Luke 24:36b-48			
Wednesday 22	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
<b>26 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>			
	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	10am	Parish Eucharist	Hampton
	11am	All Age Worship	Sedgeberrow
	11.15am	Animal Service	Hinton
Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 or Acts 4:5-12, 1 John 3:16-end or Acts 4:5-12, John 10:11-18			
Wednesday 29	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton