

800

ST PETER'S

***“Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley”***

Pumpkins in the cornfields,  
Gold among the brown,  
Leaves of rust and scarlet  
Trembling slowly down.  
Birds that travel southward,  
Lovely time to play,  
Nothing is as pleasant  
As an Autumn day!



## Revd. Rob Wood writes.....



### Walking with God

On the hottest day of the year, I assumed it would be a good idea to do Ride and Stride. Rather than ride (I thought a minister riding a bike is too cliché) I went for the stride. This was a 10-mile walk (OK it was 7.5 miles but allow me to round it up for dramatic effect!).

I had a great time. There is something about walking that helps the conversation flow. The ice cream was also much appreciated (and needed!). There were difficulties too, of course. The heat was stifling. Also, don't tell the vicar, but trying to wake up for the service on the following day was tough.

Well, it may surprise you to learn that the Bible has a lot to say about walking. Here are just a few examples you can explore. God walked with humanity in the garden (Genesis 3:8). Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:22–24). Noah and Abraham are said to have walked with God too (Genesis 6:9, 17:1). This theme is also picked up in the New Testament (John 12:135–36, 1 John 1:7). I wonder if you realised, spiritually speaking, we are all rambles.

I think this walking metaphor is helpful in at least four ways.

First, the Christian walk has a beginning. All journeys start somewhere, of course. Jesus restores our fellowship with our heavenly Father and empowers us, by his Spirit, to be a follower of Christ. Trusting Jesus for forgiveness and starting out on this journey is an amazing first step to take.

Second, the Christian walk is relational. The metaphor of walking points to fellowship, doesn't it? When you walk with others, you get to know them. Conversation rarely feels strained. Like all relationships, from our vantage point, a relationship with God develops. We actively put one foot in front of the other and get to know him more. We learn to hear his voice with greater clarity. Our obedience to the LORD grows as our love for him flourishes.

Third, the Christian walk is tough. As anyone who participated in Ride and Stride will tell you, walking is not always easy. Often when walking with God, there is a fork in the road. We choose to follow Jesus,

who is the way (John 10:10). But that path is narrow, and the broad road can look appealing (Matthew 7:13–14). Walking with God is not equivalent to a leisurely stroll. Sometimes it is difficult. However, whatever the challenge, even if we walk through the darkest valley, God is with us.

Fourth, the Christian walk has a goal. The metaphor tells us we are heading somewhere. All things come from God and all things return to him (Romans 11:36). This means we are not aimless rambles. One day, the relationship with God experienced here and now will be fully enjoyed: 'For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known' (1 Corinthians 13:12).

So, the next time you are out for a wander, why not reflect on these four truths?

If you do that, you may be pleased to hear that the scientific advice has been downgraded. Rather than needing to walk 10,000 steps to stay healthy, apparently 4,000 is enough. I can almost hear your sigh of relief! But there is even better news than that. In the Christian life, there is no spiritual smartwatch poised to judge us. Whatever your journey has been like until now, God graciously invites you to walk with him.



The poster features a dark blue background with several glowing white stars. In the top left corner, there is a circular logo with a stylized church building and the text "ST PETER'S BRACKLEY". The main title "Light Party" is written in large, white, sans-serif font, with the letter "i" in "Light" being orange. To the right of the title is a single orange pumpkin. Below the title, there is a cluster of several pumpkins in various colors (orange, white, and green). In the bottom right corner, the event details are listed in orange and white text: "Tuesday 31st October, 5-6:30pm", "St Peter's Church, Brackley", "primary-aged kids & parents", "activities, sweets, fun", "just turn up", and "celebrate the ~~darkness~~ light".

**Light Party**

Tuesday 31st October, 5-6:30pm  
St Peter's Church, Brackley

primary-aged kids & parents  
activities, sweets, fun  
just turn up

celebrate the ~~darkness~~ light



## 800 Fundraising Events update

The Barn Dance was a great success, our grateful thanks to The Venue at Brackley Football Club for their support. We raised £576.43.



**SORRY** but A Year in the Life of a Northamptonshire Wood planned for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October has been postponed. It will be rescheduled for 2024

### Don't forget your tickets

Soup and Sing is on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October from 11.30am to 1.30pm, come and enjoy a good sing song and some home-made soup. Tickets are on sale from Denise Johnson  
Bensie5459@gmail.com



### Coming up in November:



Wreath Making Workshops on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 to 12 noon and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Also, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets are available on-line or from Sally Hughes e328@btinternet.com or 07925 531465. All materials will be provided. Come and enjoy a glass of Prosecco and mince pie and leave with a fabulous Christmas door wreath.

### And finally:

Our fabulous final event of this fundraising year is the Christmas Ball, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Egerton Hall. Tickets are £75.00 each and are on sale online, or from Jacky ([Jackycmortimer@yahoo.com](mailto:Jackycmortimer@yahoo.com)), or call Jacky on 07970 583342.

**Thank you to everyone who has supported our events this year!**

## 800 Appeal progress



For every £10,000 raised for the 800 Appeal, another pane of glass is coloured in.

Thanks to those who have already contributed. We look forward to watching the colour spread and hope that by the end of the year we have a full window!

### **ALL SOULS SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**3PM**

There will be a memorial book placed by the font from 1<sup>st</sup> October if anyone wishes to have the name of a loved one read out during the service.

### **MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION**

If you have enjoyed this short online edition of the current magazine you can purchase the full 20 page printed edition for the modest sum of 40p. It is available from Jems on the Market Place.

The printed version contains so much more. Service Times, Contact details, and local adverts. Plus varied articles.

**TO ARRANGE A SUBSCRIPTION  
INCLUDING DELIVERY TO YOUR  
DOOR (WITHIN BRACKLEY)  
PHONE MARILYN ON 702634**

**NEVER MISS AN EDITION OF YOUR  
FAVOURITE PARISH MAGAZINE !**

## **Those over-the-top words that we use**

The word **'incredible'**. It's overused and has become almost meaningless. "We are incredibly grateful"; "I had an incredible meal". As the word really means 'beyond belief or understanding', it can't actually apply - in either case.

**'Unbelievable'** is similarly misused. So is **'fantastic'**, which is meant to describe something belonging to an imaginary world. So, strictly speaking, a fantastic tennis player can't be a real one.

How about **'amazing'**? Count how many times you hear it today. It should be reserved to describe something astonishing, out of this world. If you think about it, if everything is amazing or incredible, then nothing really is. When the exceptional becomes normal or commonplace, nothing is special.

We seem to be struggling to find words to convey something out of the ordinary. Try **'iconic'**. Iconic only appeared recently and has been distorted to mean 'historic' or 'traditional' or 'classic'. The dictionary tells us iconic actually means something to do with an icon, which is a depiction of Christ, the Virgin Mary, or a saint.

In fact, most of these over-the-top words, now in everyday use, have a religious association. Originally, they were reserved to communicate otherness, difference, deep respect.

For example, what about **'awesome'**? It should mean 'awe' or reverence. It's a take-your-breath-away word. Awe is what Moses felt when he saw a bush on fire, because it didn't actually burn away, and he sensed the presence of God. Awe is something St Peter experienced, when he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!'

If you try to imagine what Moses and Peter actually felt, words like 'unworthiness' and 'fear' might come to mind. They really were experiencing something out of the ordinary, too hot to handle. They were out of their depth. An experience like that stayed with them for life. They had encountered holiness. Now there's a word worth using.

# RIDE+STRIDE

Of all the days to arrange a leisurely walk across the fields to raise money for both St Peter's and the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust (NHCT) we picked the hottest day of the year! The annual Ride & Stride event, in which we walk and cycle between St Peter's in Brackley, St Mary's in Turweston and St George's in Evenley took place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Other, more sensible churchgoers had an early start and made a different trip on their bikes. The more cool headed joined with Maggie Wright for a "sit and knit"!

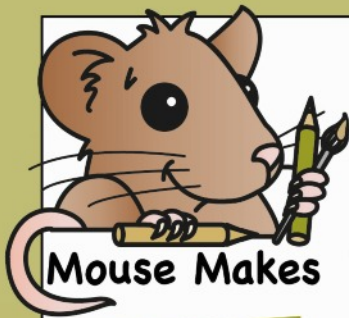
Many hundreds of pounds were raised on the day from sponsorship and when all pledges have been received we'll be able to report on the totals. 7 miles were covered and the temperature was 33deg!

The pictures show the family picnic at Turweston, Jacky Mortimer cooling her feet in a halfway stream and a some of those who made it all the way round nearing the end of an extremely challenging day.

Congratulations to all who took part, and many thanks to the back-up helpers who provided refreshments at St Peter's for those visiting from other churches.

John Carter





# Mouse Makes

What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 17:14

What food did the ravens feed Elijah?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 17:6

What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?  
 Five \_\_\_\_\_ and two \_\_\_\_\_

John 6:9

## CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
| MANNA   | HONEY |
| OIL     | WINE  |
| WATER   | FISH  |
| LOCUSTS | QUAIL |
| LOAVES  | FLOUR |

What drink ran out at the wedding?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

and what did Jesus use to make more?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

John 2:3 and 7

### FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU  
 MJWF PO CSFBE  
 BMPOF, CVU PO  
 FWF SZ XPSE UIBU  
 DPNFT GSPN UIF  
 NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4

### DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

READ Genesis 19 v15-26

E B R E A D H O N E Y Q J S F  
 L O A V E S G Q W A T E R C I  
 M Q I W M F R U I T F I S H G  
 E U S H A L A A N O L I V E S  
 A I I E N O I I E G R A P E S  
 T L N A N U N L O C U S T S Y  
 M U S T A R D E I H D A T E S  
 E V E G E T A B L E S A L T H

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

- OLIVES • CHEESE
- FIGS • DATES
- MUSTARD
- RAISINS • WHEAT
- SALT • GRAIN
- FRUIT • GRAPES
- VEGETABLES



Whilst I have been enjoying these sunny September days, walking through fields and woods, foraging in preparation for harvest festival at St Peters, it made me think of this beautiful poem.....

***Ode To Autumn by John Keats:***

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless*



*With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.*

*Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozyngs hours by hours.*

*Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river sallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*

Sally Hughes Flower team co-ordinator