

Vol.66 No 9 September 2026

Online Edition

ST PETER'S CHURCH BRACKLEY

ST PETER'S

**"LOVING GOD,
LOVING EACH OTHER,
LOVING BRACKLEY"**



The Revd. Rob Wood writes.....

Suffering and a heavenward heart



Does pain push you to pray or pull you from prayer? We will come back to that question.

Some of you will have had a joy-filled summer. Some, however, I'm acutely aware, have had a difficult summer.

What is so encouraging to me is that the Bible does not shy away from the reality of suffering.

Last month I was asked to preach on Psalm 88, considered the most sorrowful psalm in Israel's hymn-book. I must confess that it made me wonder if I was chosen for that task as I'm naturally too jolly and needed to be a little more sombre, or if I'm naturally dower and would hit the notes perfectly. You can decide!

Regardless of our personalities, however, the Holy Spirit placed this Psalm in the Bible for everyone.

Here's how it starts:

¹ LORD, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.

² May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.

Unlike other Psalms, where I can imagine the tone as joy-filled jazz or a defiant power ballad, this feels more like a cry from the gut that has been set to music. Yet even in the honest cries, the author states his trust in God.

The writer expresses spiritual sorrow, fear of death, social isolation, and the general sense that he is, 'overwhelmed with troubles' v3. Do you know God welcomes your honest prayers?

Unlike other psalms of lament, this one does not end on a note of hope. Indeed, the last word in the original language is 'darkness'.

But thankfully Jesus is the one who truly cried the sentiment of the Psalm from the cross. He stayed faithful, entered the darkness, travelled to the depths of the grave, and as a result offers us light. This light shows us that God does not hide his face (v14) but reveals it in Jesus Christ, who will never leave us or forsake us.

As always, you can listen to the sermon on the St Peter's website. <https://www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/sermons>

When preparing, I discovered these three quotes that I found striking.

They are from Charles Spurgeon, known as the Prince of Preachers. Spurgeon experienced long-term depression and physical ailments. In his sermon on Psalm 88, he said:

'Severe trouble in a true believer has the effect of loosening the roots of his soul earthward and tightening the anchor-hold of his heart heavenward.'

"Many a text [of Scripture] is written in a secret ink which must be held to the fire of adversity to make it visible."

We are often drenched with truth, and yet it runs off from us like water from a marble slab, but affliction, as it were, ploughs us and sub-soils us, and opens up our hearts, so that into our innermost nature the truth penetrates and soaks like rain into a ploughed land.

I wonder if you agree?

Often it can be good things that tie me to this world. Concerning the second quote, as a wannabe theologian of some sort, I am reminded of the limitations of 'head knowledge'. Some things make much more sense when we've shared the experience of the Psalmist. Regarding the third quote, I can see in my own life that it is often troubles that make me more receptive to God's word.

So let us return to the opening question.

Does pain push you to pray or pull you from prayer?

My prayer for you is that whatever your sorrows are at this time, you may know the light of Christ who entered the darkness and ensures, unlike in Psalm 88, darkness is not the last word.

Bless you,
Rob

Could you attend a summer convention?

This summer I had the joy of going to the New Wine festival for a day with a friend from St Peter's. I then spent a week at the Keswick Convention. There was something incredibly encouraging about worshipping with thousands of other people. There were around 14,000 at New Wine and a similar number across the three weeks of the Keswick Convention.

I was encouraged by the number of young people. I was encouraged by the clear gifting on display from so many. Musicians, preachers, stewards, administrators, kid's workers and more were all equipped by God's spirit to bless others. I was most encouraged that Jesus was the focus and was glorified (as obvious as that is to say it is not always guaranteed!).

As encouraging as those conferences were, however, it reminded me of how wonderful it is to regularly attend St Peter's. You don't need to gather with thousands to be close to God. The same means of grace are offered to all of us. However, the conferences were very encouraging, and there are many similar ones each year. Have you considered attending any?

Rob

PRAISE EVENING

TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER, 7.30 PM

ST PETER'S CHURCH, BRACKLEY



A TIME OF PRAYER AND SINGING, WITH CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC

SUPPORT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE'S BEAUTIFUL CHURCHES

RIDE, STRIDE & DRIVE

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Saturday 12th September 2026

between 10am and 6pm

Do something different – walk, cycle or drive
round Northamptonshire's beautiful churches
and raise money for NHCT and your own church



50% of initial sponsorship money received will be returned to
the church or chapel chosen by you
**Sponsorship forms and a list of open churches and chapels are
available from your local organiser: -**

John Carter
07721 421115

or

Rosemary Leeper
07788 795632

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered Charity No 1021632

For more details see our website: www.nhct.org.uk

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

Never miss an edition of
your favourite parish magazine!
To arrange an annual subscription,
including delivery to your door
(within Brackley)

PHONE MARILYN ON 702634



321 COURSE

Discover life according
to Jesus in 321

A short course to help you think
about God, the world & you

4 Thursdays, starting 17 September
7.30pm in the hall

SPEAK
LIFE 321



Poppies for St Peter's

Thank you to everyone over the last year who has been so busy knitting and crocheting the wonderful array of poppies for our Remembrance net for St Peter's.

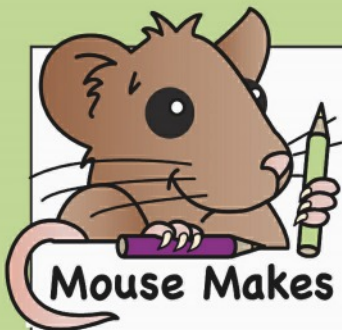
I know some of you are still knitting and we look forward to collecting them in .

We are planning a time to sew the new poppies onto nets in October .

We think that with the ones still to arrive we should have lots for this year so you can rest your needles, hooks and fingers ,although only for the time being !

Again many thanks and we are looking forward to their display in Church .
Caroline

If you wish to donate to
St Peter's Church
Our bank details are
Account Name P C C Brackley
Sort code 30-11-08
Account number 00060124
Thank You



Mouse Makes



READ
John 15:1-17

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus
ask us to do?

"Go and bear

John 15:16

What happens
to the branches
that do not remain
in the vine?

Thrown into the

and

John 15:6

How many
times does Jesus
use the word
FRUIT?

What does
Jesus command?

To _____
one another.

John 15:12,17

How many
times does Jesus
command us
to **LOVE**
one another?

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

Samaritan's Purse- Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2026

After the wonderful success of last year's 'Wrap and Fill' Coffee Morning where, thanks to your incredible generosity, we wrapped and filled 90 shoeboxes for children in need, we are delighted to be running the appeal again this year.

From the beginning of September, there will be a donation box at the back of church where you can leave gifts to help fill our shoeboxes. A list of suggested items can be found below.

Everyone is warmly invited to come along to our **'Wrap and Fill' Coffee Morning at 10.00am on Saturday 31st October**, where you can join us as we wrap and fill the shoeboxes using the donated items.

If you would prefer, you are very welcome to fill your own shoebox and bring it to church. Completed shoeboxes should be returned by Sunday 16th November.

Every shoebox is a simple gift that can bring great joy, hope and the love of Jesus to a child who may have very little.

Items that can be put in the shoe boxes include:

Toys - small toys and games (no toy guns/ soldiers)

School supplies- pens, pencils, notebooks etc...

Personal items- hair brush, mirror, toothbrush (**no soap please**)

Accessories- hat, gloves, socks, hair clips, bracelets, sunglasses.

For more information about what to donate go to:
<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

We also need donations of empty shoe boxes and Christmas wrapping paper.

If you have any questions, then please ask and thank you so much for all your generosity as we support this wonderful charity.

Louise, Edward & Anna

Town Garage

(Brackley) Limited

M.O.T. Testing Station on all cars and
Light commercials

Car Body Repairs

Servicing, Repairs, and Weldings

Diagnostics

Tyres and Exhausts

Phone or call in for our Special Offers at

71 High Street, Brackley

Phone (01280) 702227

Email: deemann2013@gmail.com

www.towngarage-brackley.co.uk



- GENERAL BUILDING AND RESTORATION
- EXTENSIONS AND RENOVATIONS
- CHIMNEYS AND ROOFING
- LOFT AND GARAGE CONVERSIONS
- TIMBER FRAMED GARAGES
- STONE AND BRICK WALLS
- CELLAR MAINTENANCE
- BEAUTIFUL DRIVEWAYS AND PATIOS
- LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDWORK

 **01280 703368**

 abbeybldrs@hotmail.co.uk |  www.abbey-builders.co.uk

J.E.M.S. STATIONERS LTD.

For all your home and office stationery
supplies including computer consumables

Also stockists of -

Winsor & Newton Artists Materials

Medici, Caspari and Carte Blanche quality
greetings cards

13 MARKET PLACE, BRACKLEY

Tel. 01280 706265

www.jemsstationers.co.uk

OLIVER JONES WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Investment, Retirement
and Inheritance Planning

07897 746233

o.jones@sjpp.co.uk

www.oliverjoneswm.co.uk

Brackley, Northamptonshire
NN13 6GA

SERVICE AND REPAIRS R. SOMERTON

01295 711494

Washing Machines,

Tumble Dryers,

Electric Cookers, New

Appliances supplied & fitted

WESTWORKS, THE PLAYING FIELDS, WESTBURY,
NR. BRACKLEY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

For the very best in
Motorcycle Rider Training

www.ridertraining.biz

Tel: 0333 123 2277

Motorcycle Rider Training
at its very best

Tel: 0333 123 2277

call the team on
**01280 706017 or
07770 608199**



ALL IN ONE
LOCKSMITH
& UPVC Door/Window Repairs

Draymans Walk Brackley



**DRAFT & GAP REPAIRS
REPLACEMENT PARTS
GLASS REGLAZING
DOOR & WINDOW REPAIRS
ADJUSTMENTS
NEW LOCKS & KEYS**



COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC SERVICE

07368 960 466 01280 308 803

enquiries@allinonelocksmith.co.uk



TYRE
warehouse

THE CAR, VAN AND 4x4
TYRE SPECIALISTS



- Competitive Prices
- Comprehensive Stocks
- Exceptional Fast Friendly Service
- Comfortable, Clean Reception & Free Coffee



KUMHO TYRES



in Mon- Fri 8.30am-6pm
Saturday 8.30am-4pm

01280 706 030

1 Borough Court, Buckingham Road Industrial Estate
Brackley, NN13 7BE
www.tyre-warehouse.co.uk

Telephone: 01280 701919
PUG1OFF

BRACKLEY BASED PEUGEOT & CITROEN SPECIALISTS



- Servicing carried out to dealer specifications
- Servicing during warranty periods
- Engine diagnostics
- Qualified technicians
- MOT testing
- Courtesy car available

SAVE NEARLY 50% ON DEALER LABOUR RATES!



www.PUG1OFF.com

PUG1OFF 1 Secondary Rd, Buckingham Rd Industrial Estate, Brackley, Northants NN13 7ES



Edd Frost & Daughters

Family Funeral Directors of Brackley

"where caring comes first"

Brackley's only

Independent Family Funeral Director

✓ Dedicated care and advice

✓ 24 Hour Service

✓ Pre-Paid Plans

✓ Monumental Masonry



27 Market Place, Brackley, NN13 7AB



Tel: (01280) 630 630 (24 Hour Service)

www.eddfrostanddaughters.co.uk

ABComputing

Sales Support Repairs Networking

- ✓ Computer, laptop and peripheral sales
- ✓ Computer repair and upgrades
- ✓ On-site and telephone support
- ✓ Data recovery and data transfer
- ✓ Virus and spyware removal
- ✓ Broadband and wireless setup

AB Computing provides computer services for small businesses and home users in the Brackley area. We provide a first class service at an affordable price.

Call Andy Blencowe
01280 840032 or 07815 180969
email andy@abcomputing.net

TastyThymes

Mobile catering direct to your door

Buffets for Special occasions

Canapés & Sandwich Luncheons

Afternoon Teas

Children's Parties

Menus can be tailored to suit requirements

Minimum order of 12 people.

For further information and menus

Please call Kim on 07966 254215