



ST PETER'S BRACKLEY

“Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley”



We're Going Back To School

COME LET US SING TO THE LORD!
PSALM 95:1



The Vicar writesGrowth Groups



Why are we launching Growth Groups this September? (Wednesdays 10am or 7:30pm in the church hall, beginning on the 20th)

We sometimes talk about St Peter's being a "family", for that is what it should be. The New Testament describes Christians as "brothers and sisters" over 300 times! Church should feel like family. *Good* family. Dysfunctional, of course (what family isn't?), but family nonetheless. If you attend St Peter's, does it feel like a supportive family to you? I hope some can honestly say "yes". But others won't be able to.

If not, one reason could be that you have no interaction with people from church outside of the Sunday service – whether that's a text, a phone call, a coffee, an email or a walk. It is very hard to be family if we only see each other once a week (at best).

That sense of family (of doing life together, leaning on and supporting one another, sharing joys and sorrows, hopes and fears) sometimes comes by other means: through the workplace, the pub or the gym, the book group, the U3A group, or the addiction support group, the running club, the badminton club or the bridge club. These often put churches to shame when it comes to bringing people together. If you have such a friendship group (or, indeed, a biological family) that you can fall back on when times get hard, count yourself blessed. It is a wonderful thing.

Well, church should be every bit as emotionally supportive, life-giving and familial as any of these. In fact, more so! After all, we Christians have been formed into a family by the one who dreamt up family and friendship in the first place. It genuinely thrills me when I hear of church members having meals together, phoning each other, sharing lifts or advice, borrowing from each other, praying for each another, bailing each other out. And things like the Maintenance Day (2nd), Friendship Lunch (3rd), Barn Dance (8th), Ride & Stride walk (9th) or Welcome Drinks (10th) can all help build those bonds. But we need more.

Hence... Growth Groups!

Why the name? My hope is these meetings each Wednesday will help us to grow in two ways (two 'ships'): *fellowship* (growing in depth of relationship with each other – see above) and *discipleship* (growing in depth of relationship with God – see below).

Having waxed lyrical about the first of these, let me touch on the second. Recent sermon series have reinforced the idea that growth comes through rootedness. The key verses in Colossians said, "Continue to live your lives in Jesus Christ, *rooted and built up in him*, strengthened in the faith as you were taught" (Col. 2:6-7). Psalm 1 said "The one who delights in the law of the LORD... is like a tree *planted by streams of water*, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither" (Ps. 1:3-4).

Therefore, if we are going to grow *up* as Christians (to be strong and fruitful) then we need to grow *down* as Christians (with ever deeper roots into Jesus and his Word). A key part of Growth Groups will therefore be Bible studies to help us dig deeper into Scripture, with a greater chance to apply it concretely to our lives, in addition to a time for prayer requests to help us share our lives with each another.

Do you find it hard to really get to know people at church? Do you wish that someone was praying for you and knew your struggles? Do you find interactions a bit rushed on Sunday? Do you find it hard to open your Bible during the week? Do you find it hard to know what being a Christian looks like outside of church? Well, Growth Groups may just be for you. They are no silver bullet, but they may just help. **You can sign up for either a 10-11:30am Growth Group or 7:30-9pm Growth Group using the sheet in the extension foyer.** Alternatively, you may like to form a little triplet yourself and resolve to meet with two others from church fortnightly to encourage each other (chat to me if you'd like to be placed in a triplet).

St Peter's has been growing in *number* for a while now. It is even more important that we grow in *depth*. Please join with me in praying that Growth Groups would help us to do just that.

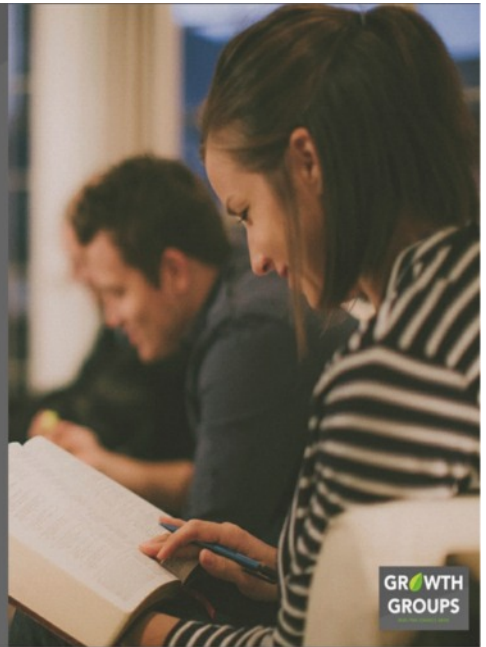


GROWTH GROUPS

Wednesdays 10am & 7:30pm

Launching 20th September

"Growing between Sundays"



Saturday 2nd September
9:30am-3pm (give an hour/more)

St Peter's

MAINTENANCE DAY

Cutting grass, cleaning, DIY
Refreshments provided



800 Fundraising Events update

July was a busy fundraising month! A very well attended History Talk raised £1185.13, the Brackley & District Band 800 Concert raised £865.21, we are very grateful to the band for supporting us, what a wonderful afternoon we had. And finally our Medieval Banquet was amazing, the costumes alone were outstanding, we had a fantastic evening eating, singing and dancing and raised £2279.82.

If you have enjoyed any of the events this year look out for September and October's, tickets are now on sale either from Jacky Mortimer (jackycmortimer@yahoo.com), or on the website for:

- Barn Dance on Friday, 8th September 7pm to 10pm at The Venue, Brackley Football Club, dancing to Sleeping Moggy. Tickets £10.00 (children under 16 free) from Jacky Mortimer (jackycmortimer@yahoo.com), or on the website
- Harvest Supper on Saturday 23rd September in the church hall 6.30pm to 10.00pm. Tickets £15.00 (children under 16 free) from Jacky Mortimer (jackycmortimer@yahoo.com), or on the website
- Brackley & District 50th Anniversary Concert with afternoon tea on Sunday, 24th September, 3pm to 5pm. Tickets £7.00 from Jacky Mortimer (jackycmortimer@yahoo.com).

Coming soon

We have another of Chris Bazeley's talks to look forward to on Saturday, 7th October A Year in the Life of a Northamptonshire Wood a fascinating and beautifully illustrated nature talk with cheese and wine. Tickets £12.50 **are on sale now** on-line or from Denise Johnson (Bensie5459@gmail.com).

Is it too early to mention Christmas?! Wreath making workshop tickets will be on sale from 1st September. Speak to Sally or book on the website, tickets are £30.00 and include all materials, a glass of prosecco, tea/coffee and a mince pie.

If you don't have your ball tickets yet speak to Kath, Jacky or Yvette or go on-line and book! Saturday 9th December is the date and tickets are selling fast. Don't miss out, bring your friends and family and enjoy the highlight of our fundraising year.

HARVEST FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER
9.30am
ALL AGE HOLY COMMUNION
ALL WELCOME



The poster features a central circular graphic with a pink border and a wreath of green and red leaves. The text 'ST PETER'S BRACKLEY' is arched across the top of the circle, and 'HARVEST SUPPER' is written in large, bold, black letters in the center. The background is white with a pattern of small, colorful stars. Below the circle, the date 'Saturday 23 September' is written in a red, serif font, followed by 'St Peter's Church Hall' and '6.30 - 10 pm' in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains ticket information and a logo for St Peter's Brackley.

ST PETER'S BRACKLEY

**HARVEST
SUPPER**

Saturday 23 September
St Peter's Church Hall
6.30 - 10 pm

Tickets £15 available from
www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800
or from Jacky Mortimer
jackymortimer@yahoo.com
07970 583342



800
ST PETER'S
BRACKLEY

Reflecting faith - pews and chairs

Most of us think of pews as having been installed at the same time the church building was built, with occasional upgrades over time. But that's not the case.

Originally church floors consisted of little more than stone flags or beaten earth on which grasses or rushes were lain as a renewable winter covering for cleanliness and insulation. Each year, in late summer, the old and rotten rushes were cleared out and new ones taken to the churches in carts. There are still a number of English towns, in particular in the north of England that celebrate 'Rushbearing' each year.

The people stood for all the services. However, it was recognised that the infirm and elderly needed support, and stone benches - often backless - were placed by the walls for them. It was not until the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s that wooden pews were introduced for everyone to be able to be seated.

Naturally, people being people, there were pews and then there were *pews!*

Society was organised in classes or hierarchies and the richer and more important folk had the best seats near the front so they could hear what the priest was saying and watch the service.



One's place to sit was arranged by your place in Society, so the poorer and least important were at the back.

Sermons alone could be lengthy; two hours was not unusual, and if you could pay for privacy to doze off and some form of personal heating for winters, then clearly that made sense.

Remembering the genius of JRR Tolkien

Fifty years ago, on 2nd September 1973, JRR Tolkien, the fantasy writer, poet, scholar and educator, died. He was best known for his novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.



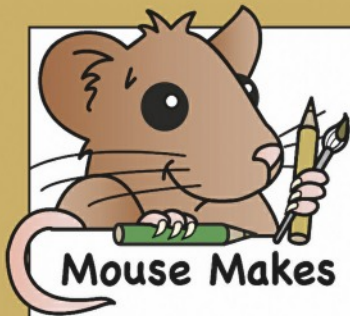
Born in Bloemfontein and descended from a family that originated in an area that was then East Prussian and is now Russian, Tolkien – always known as Ronald – thought of himself as unmistakably English. He was brought up in the Birmingham area after the death of his father, who had stayed in South Africa while his wife and children visited England.

Ronald's mother then died when he was 12, and he was raised by aunts, uncles and a guardian who was a Roman Catholic priest, Father Francis. Tolkien later became a devoted Catholic and insisted that his fiancée, Edith Bratt, join him in that faith. She did so, reluctantly, and they had a long and extremely happy marriage. His beliefs were a significant factor in C S Lewis's conversion to Christianity.

Tolkien had a longstanding fascination with language and became an acknowledged expert in both linguistics and mythology, which led to his writing his two most famous works – and several others. Despite assumptions by some, none were intended as children's books, and *The Lord of the Rings* was never a trilogy – it was printed in three volumes for cost reasons.

The huge success of his writing led to unexpected fame. He and his wife eventually moved to Bournemouth and lived there until she died in 1971. He was then given rooms in Merton College, Oxford. He said in an interview shortly before his death: "A pen is to me as a beak is to a hen."

Since 2003, The Tolkien Society has organised Tolkien Reading Day, which takes place on 25th March in schools around the world.

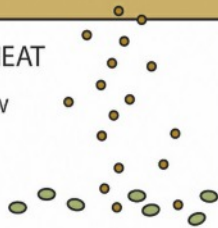


Mouse Makes

THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow amongst the wheat?

Matthew 13:25



At harvest time the weeds are gathered, bundled then

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

READ
the parable in **Matthew 13 v24-30,**
and **v36-43**

but the wheat is stored
in the -----
Matthew 13:30

What does the field represent?

the -----
and who is the good seed?

The people of the -----

Matthew 13:38

Who sows the weeds?

The -----

Who are the harvesters?

The -----

Matthew 13:39

"He who has ears, let him -----"

Matthew 13:43

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

PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN
GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE
PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

Find the words from the questions too!