

800
ST PETER'S

“Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley”



Revd. Rich Duncan writes.....



Have you heard the fable about the day there was trouble in the carpenter's workshop? The tools were having a row. One of them said, "It's the hammer's fault, making such a racket with all that banging." The hammer protested: "I blame the saw: all he ever does is go back and forth." The saw shouted, "It's the plane's fault: her work is so shallow, she does nothing but skim the surface."

And so it went on. The screwdriver was always going round in circles, the ruler always measuring others by his own standards, the drill was boring and the sandpaper forever rubbing people up the wrong way. But just as the sandpaper was about to protest, the carpenter came in and began to work. And using every one of his tools, he crafted a beautiful pulpit from which the gospel of love and peace was preached to all.

Well, when it comes to Christianity, we are the tools and Christ is the master craftsman. It is all too easy to focus on our differences and deficiencies, yet we each bring something to the table and our divine workman isn't one to blame his tools. Instead, the Lord Jesus graciously uses such diverse and defective instruments as us to fashion something beautiful as he builds his church.

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul uses another metaphor in to make a similar point: "If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12).

If you are a congregation member, then whichever body part you are (whatever your particular gifts, expertise or experience) the rest of the body needs you. Ditch that exhausting habit of comparing yourself to others (along with the feelings of superiority or inferiority that follow)

and instead give thanks that God made you as you are. After all, the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you," any more than the foot can say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body" (1 Cor. 12:15, 21). The church needs everyone to play their part in order to be the fully functioning body of Christ.

That is why I'm grateful for so many of you serving at St Peter's in a whole range of ways: whether that's on the cleaning rota, the laptop rota, the coffee rota or the prayer rota, the Welcome Team, the gardening team, the flower team, the 800 campaign team, the Social Committee or the Church Council, helping with finances, buildings, magazines or children's groups... the list goes on. Thank you so much for playing your unique part. If you didn't, the church body would be less healthy for it. And as ever, please just chat to me if you want to start serving or be used in a new or different way.

Being called a tool or a body part is normally an insult! Let's hope I've got away with it because, in actual fact, there is nothing more dignifying than being an instrument for noble use in the hand of the Master (2 Tim. 2:20-21), or an indispensable part of the sacred body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27). Practical service for Jesus may often feel very ordinary, but don't be fooled: it is to be part of something bigger, something eternal, something truly divine.

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!



Getting to know Rob Wood, our new curate

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Wellingborough and Irchester. I've never lived outside of Northamptonshire, but I don't feel bad about that!

What family do you have?

I've got a wonderful family. My parents are up in Lincolnshire. I have two older brothers, Dave and Rich. Dave, my eldest brother, and his girlfriend Cara are in Swindon (hopefully he will come over and help with DIY!). Rich — who has suffered from middle child syndrome — is in Hertfordshire with his wife Cass, and daughter's Piper and Kenny.



How did you become a Christian?

I grew up a Christian and attended a CoE church — All Hallows Wellingborough — as a child. However, I don't think I understood the gospel (the good news about Jesus) at that time. I started attending a Pentecostal church in Irchester when I was around 9 or 10 years old. There was something different about the people (in a good way!), and there was a sense of God's love that drew me in. It was there the penny dropped regarding who Jesus is and what he did. At some point, the classic C.S. Lewis line was offered. Jesus claimed to be God's Son, so was he a liar, a lunatic, or Lord? I opted for Lord and have spent my life seeing how that plays out.

How do you spend your free time?

I spend some of my free time wondering how I should be spending my free time! The rest includes walking, reading, watching football, and spending time with friends.

What is a random fact we should know about you?

If I ever get a dog — which seems almost obligatory in Brackley — I will call him Turretin. That's the name of the theologian I'm studying for my dissertation.

Favourite Bible verse?

I'd probably say Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Favourite food?

Indian food with an IPA.

Favourite film?

Sorry, it's the common Shawshank Redemption answer. I remember Donnie Darko being quite good too.

If you could time travel, what year (outside of Jesus' lifetime) would you go for and why?

Probably the 1930s. I grew up watching way too much on the history channel. However, the 90s is appealing too. That appeal is partly because of the music. Also, Man Utd were successful back then!

What made you want to be a church minister?

There was a sense of calling into ministry that wouldn't subside. I wanted to help others flourish in faith and church ministry offers a unique way to do that. The discernment process in the Church of England is quite long and the door never shut at any stage. I took that as a confirmation of the desire to serve as a minister.

Rob, brackleycurate@gmail.com

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.

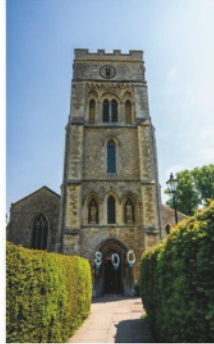
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800th Anniversary Celebration Service Held on 11th June

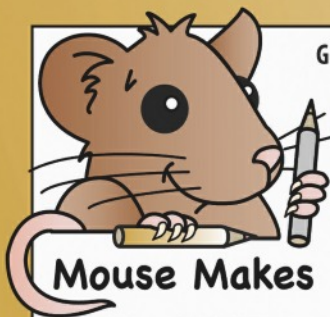


FAMILY FUN DAY

JULY 9th 11.30am

We will be holding a picnic in the churchyard for all the family to enjoy on this Formula 1 weekend. Children can enjoy their own race circuit around the churchyard as well as a teddy parachute drop from the church tower. The event is free to attend but please bring your own picnic.





Mouse Makes

Where did Goliath come from?



_____ *1 Samuel 17:4*

How tall was Goliath?



_____ cubits.

_____ *1 Samuel 17:4*

What was Goliath's armour made of?

_____ *1 Samuel 17:5,6*

What weapons did Goliath carry?

a JAVELIN,

a _____

and a _____

_____ *1 Samuel 17:45*

How many stones did David take from the stream?



_____ *1 Samuel 17:40*



Where did David's stone hit Goliath? On his _____

_____ *1 Samuel 17:49*

Goliath, the champion of the Philistine army, taunted the Israelites.

"Choose a man to fight with me and if he kills me then we will be your servants!"



The Israelites were afraid, but **David**, a shepherd boy who had come to bring food to his brothers on the battlefield said:

*"The **Lord** who delivered me from the lion and bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."*



So David went out to face Goliath on his own...



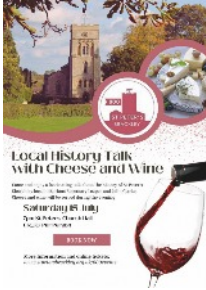
Read the story of how David defeated Goliath in *1 Samuel 17 verses 1-58*

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LION • SHEPHERD • STAFF • STONES • BAG • SLING • STRUCK • HIT • FELL • GROUND

800 events and fundraising update

By the time you read this, the Brides and Blooms festival will have taken place. There will be updates about this event in next month's magazine.



The history talk evening and cheese and wine will take place on July 15th. Tickets are now on sale from Rosemary Leaper or online.

The Brackley Brass band mid-summer concert will take place on July 16th. Tickets are now on sale from Jacky Mortimer or online.



The medieval banquet is to be held on July 22nd and tickets are now on sale. Tickets cost £50.



A family barn dance is organised to take place on Friday September 9th.

The Christmas Ball is to be held on December 9th tickets are now on sale. Tickets cost £75.



For more events and more details of the events above please visit :

www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800events

Sally Hughes - events and fundraising co-ordinator