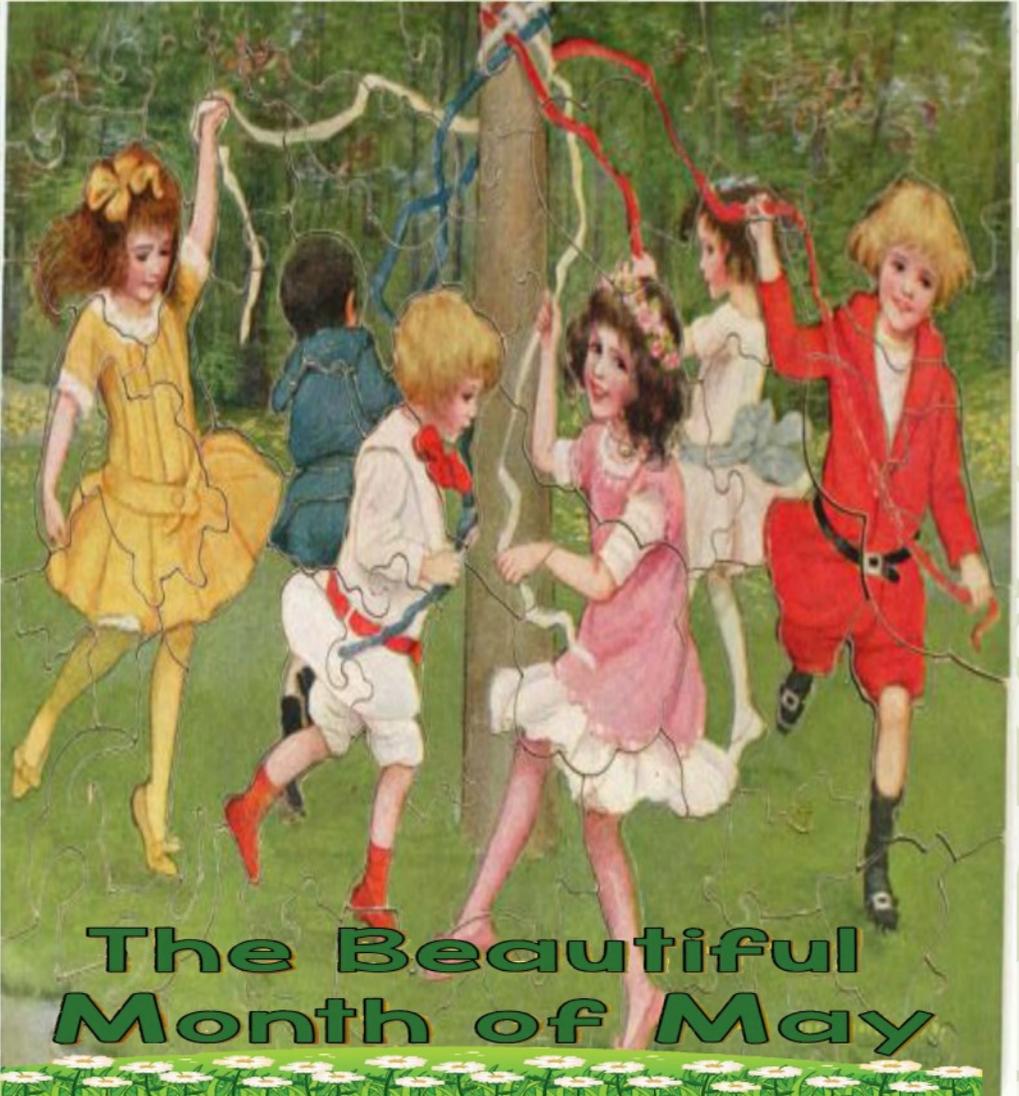


**Vol.61 No 5 May 2021**

**Online Edition**

***ST PETER'S CHURCH  
BRACKLEY***

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



**The Beautiful  
Month of May**

**Revd. Rich writes.....**



I had hoped that, in this month's article, I would be able to offer a clear (if provisional) 'roadmap' out of lockdown for St Peter's Church. Sadly, there are still too many unknowns and various decisions depend on how things pan out. Nevertheless, here are three principles that guide my thinking.

### **1) Church in person is far better than church online**

Having your preferred brand of coffee, a comfy chair and no need to get dressed or find a parking space – virtual church has its perks! But in one sense, online services are not church at all. As I recently wrote in this magazine, the word 'church' simply means a gathering or assembly. There is very little sense in which a pre-recorded service is a gathering. Even a Zoom 'meeting' is a stretch. I'm not sure we can re-translate Matthew 18:20 to read: "For where two or three log in in my name, there am I with them."

Of course, there have been some wonderful benefits to churches putting their services online. New audiences have been reached, the housebound have felt more connected and it has been possible for people to 'catch up' on services they otherwise would have missed. I have found Zoom fellowship meetings on Sundays and midweek to be enormously encouraging at times. Praise God for such technology. But, whereas this sudden move online was initially viewed as accelerating the already inexorable shift towards virtual church, I believe it has actually had the opposite effect. As time has gone on, I think people have realised that online church delivers diminishing spiritual returns, whereas the unique value of real, physical church has only become more apparent.

As a result, the St Peter's online service will cease at some point over the summer (with the option, of course, of restarting in the event of a third wave). Once meeting in St Peter's is relatively safe for the vast majority, there should be every incentive for people to attend in person rather than stay at home on the couch. This will be a blow for those who are housebound, but we will continue to record sermons (see the 'Talks' page of our website, if you haven't found it yet) and provide the 'Dial-a-Sermon' service for those without internet access. Painful as it will be for some, the 'sofa service' will at some stage be switched off.

## **2) Young families have been disproportionately impacted**

Children's work has been one of the major casualties of the pandemic. When church has been online, children have struggled to concentrate (even more than adults), and when church has been in person, children's groups have been largely impossible. It is daunting to think of the long-term impact this could have on the Church at large. A year is a very long time in a young life – ample time in which to drift spiritually, lose touch with Christian friends and drop the habit of attending a local congregation.

Therefore, it is vital we do what we can to enable young families to return to St Peter's. Our aim is to run Junior Church (for 5-11s) and a Tots group (for 0-4s) every Sunday in the church hall from now on, with the children staying in the service for the first 5-10 minutes before going out to their groups. Since April 12<sup>th</sup>, groups of up to 15 children have been allowed to meet indoors (and even sing together), providing appropriate safety measures are in place. We are following closely the guidelines set out in the National Youth Agency's document 'Managing Youth Sector Activities and Spaces During COVID-19' (version 5.2). Further details and risk assessments are available on our website.

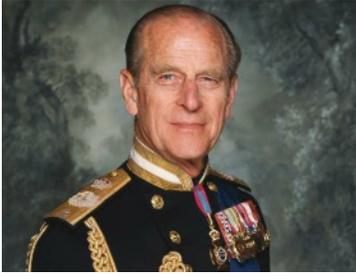
In order to make all this happen, we obviously require leaders for the groups and need to make the start of the 9:30am service slightly more child friendly. We don't really have enough helpers to cover one service at the moment, let alone two as we had before, so please contact me or Val if you could be a second pair of hands in a children's group one Sunday a month (no preparation required) so that we can add you to the rota and run a DBS check. Alternatively, please get in touch if you have ideas about how to make children feel more welcome at St Peter's generally. We are also planning a holiday club for 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August (9:30am-12 Mon-Thurs), so volunteers for that would be hugely appreciated.

### **3) We need to stay flexible**

Research suggests that the organisations coping best with COVID-19 are those that are adaptable. Over the coming months, we will need to be flexible, both individually and as a church. In time, there may be a need to book in for weekly services, review service patterns, meet outside when the weather allows and think creatively about indoor seating arrangements. It's worth doing whatever it takes to keep meeting physically, since as material beings we were made to relate in the flesh rather as disembodied faces on a screen.

Thank you so much for your patience and flexibility to date. Please pray for wisdom and that we might have more and more opportunities to "spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as [we] see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

## H.R.H Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. R.I.P.



### The Jubilate sung at the Funeral

The words of The Jubilate are:

'O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name. For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth from generation to generation. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen

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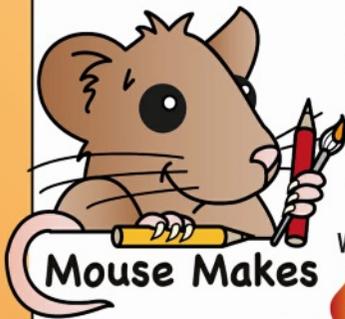
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Do You Have Wrens in your family?

I'm not referring to the tiny, feathered variety in the garden but the indomitable ladies who joined the Women's Royal Naval Service. Specifically, ladies who joined up between 1946 and 1981 and did their basic training at Training Depot Burghfield/HMTE Burghfield/HMTE Dauntless/HMS Dauntless/Reading.

Dauntless Divisional Photos is a nationwide project, in collaboration with the Association of Wrens, to gather divisional photographs and memories from those training days but also to reunite ladies with old friends, share anecdotes and relive exciting moments.

So if you, your mum, granny, aunt, godmother or even next door neighbour donned a blue suit and aimed for a life on the ocean wave, please get in touch on either [ddpwrens@gmail.com](mailto:ddpwrens@gmail.com) or 07765 435295/07719 909844.



## Mouse Makes

Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

 The Holy Spirit  
**VSEIL**  
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit helps us to  
**WKNO**  
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit  
**HCTSEEA**  
us about God.

The Holy Spirit  
**KPESSA**  
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit  
**PHLSE**  
us to tell others  
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit helps us when we  
**AYPR**



On the day of **PENTECOST**  
the disciples were gathered  
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

*Acts 2:2*

What did they see?

*Acts 2:3*

What filled them?

*Acts 2:4*

How did they speak?

*Acts 2:4*

What did the crowd hear?

*Acts 2:6*

Which countries  
had they come from?

*Acts 2:9*

What was  
their reaction?

*Acts 2:12-13*

Who explained  
what was  
happening?

What did he say?

*Acts 2:14-36*

How many  
people were  
baptised  
that day?

*Acts 2:41*

Change each letter to the  
letter before it in the  
alphabet and see what  
the **Holy Spirit**  
produces in us:

KPZ  
IVNJMJUZ  
TFMG DPOUSPM  
GBJUIGVMOFTT  
LJOEOFTT  
QBUJFODF  
QBFDF  
MPWF  
HPPEOFTT

*Galatians 5:22*

What is the work of the  
**Holy Spirit**? What does He do?  
Fill in the missing letters.

  
TEAC \_ ES  
COMF \_ RTS  
REVEA \_ S

IN \_ OU  
    
TRAN \_ FORMS

 HEL \_ S 

 GU \_ DES

 NEWS  
CONV \_ CTS  
SANC \_ IFIES

## Caroline Chisholm, helping the emigrants to Australia



If you want an example of someone who can show you their faith through their works, Caroline Chisholm is a saint for you. This doughty little 19th century English woman had such a compassionate heart that she helped tens of thousands of people, from India to Australia.

Caroline was born in Northamptonshire in May 1808. Her father William was a pig dealer, and already had 15 children, by four wives. When Caroline was about five, her father brought a poor maimed soldier into the family home and urged his children to look after the wretched man well, as he had fought for their freedom. This disinterested compassion for a poor struggling 'outsider' would become the lodestar of Caroline's life.

In 1830, when Caroline was 22, she married Captain Archibald Chisholm, of the East India Company Army. Out in Madras, Caroline grew alarmed for the young girls growing up in the barracks. She founded the Female School of Industry for the Daughters of European Soldiers, to provide a practical education.

After having two sons and working on the Indian subcontinent for a number of years, Captain Chisholm was granted a two-year furlough in 1838 on grounds of ill health. The family moved to the sunshine of Australia, near Sydney. Here Caroline was appalled at the conditions that faced emigrants, especially female, arriving in the colony. Many ended up working the streets, just to survive.

Caroline stayed for seven years in Australia, placing more than 11,000 people in homes and jobs, and in all, her Female Immigrant Home helped more than 40,000 people. Highly respected by the government, she gave evidence before Legislative Council Committees, but accepted money from no one. When Archibald left the army in 1845 he and Caroline toured Australia at their own expense, collecting more than 600 statements from emigrants that detailed the truth about the problems of emigration.

Back in England, the statements caught the attention and respect of Charles Dickens, the House of Lords Select Committees, Lord Shaftesbury, Sir Sydney Herbert, Wyndham Harding FRS and even Pope Pius IX. Caroline and Archibald went on to help more than 3,000 people *safely* emigrate to Australia, before moving back there themselves, where they both died in 1877. In his novel *Bleak House*, Charles Dickens is said to have partly based the character of Mrs Jellyby on Caroline Chisholm.

Caroline Chisholm was born in Wootton, South Northampton and married at The Holy Sepulchre Church, Northampton, there is a school named after her in Northampton, but very few people have actually heard of her.



## Nectar in your garden

Our home gardens are now the largest source of food for insects such as bees and wasps in towns and cities.

They yield 85 per cent of the nectar produced in urban areas, according to a study published in the Journal of Ecology.

Three such gardens will generate about a teaspoon a day of the sugar-rich liquid which is found in the flowers that the pollinators drink for energy. A teaspoon of nectar is the equivalent of more than a ton of food for an adult human, and it is enough to fuel thousands of flying bees.

One ecologist has called home gardens “pivotal” in promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the county. Gardens are thought to cover 29 per cent of the land in urban areas, which is six times the area of parks and 40 times that of allotments.

The research was carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society.

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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.

The magazine is available at Jems on the Market Place or you can have delivered to your door at no extra charge monthly.

If you would like to take out an annual subscription for home delivery please email Marilyn Israel at

[marilynisrael2017@gmail.com](mailto:marilynisrael2017@gmail.com)