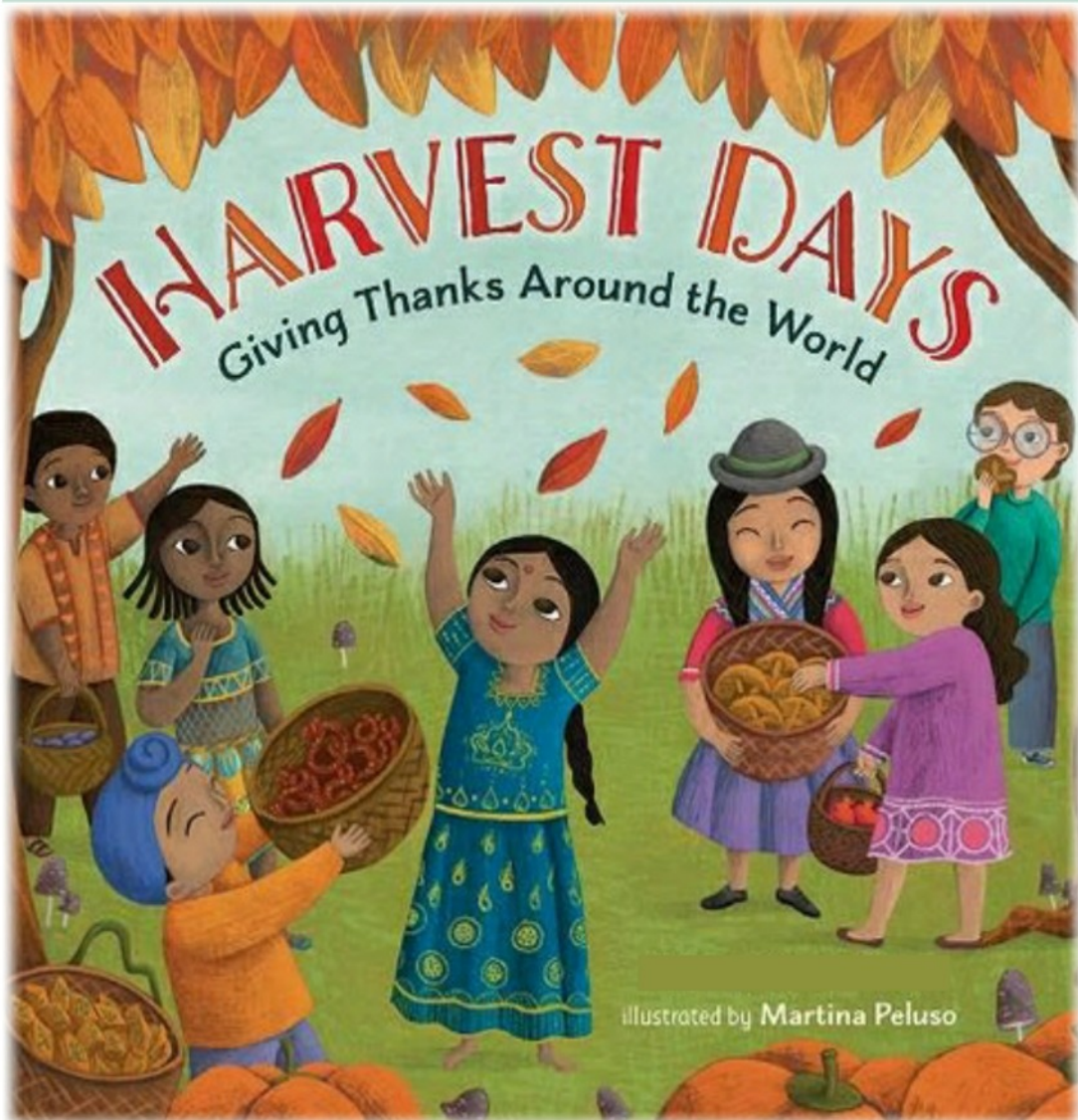


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Online
Edition

ST PETER'S CHURCH BRACKLEY

“Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley”





The Vicar writes...

Even if you are not subject to the academic year, September always feels like a **fresh start** after the summer.

For us at St Peter's, after the mayhem of Holiday Club and CYFA camps for some, various activities restart: Friendship Lunch, the Bible discussion group, our First Steps toddler group, the Alpha Course, PCC meetings, school assemblies, and so on. But there are also a number of new things to highlight.

Firstly, our **Church Prayer Meeting** will now take place 11-11:45am on the first Sunday of each month (in the side chapel, after the morning service and before Friendship Lunch), in an effort to encourage more people to try out what is the most important meeting at St Peter's, outside of our weekly gathered worship. There is no compulsion to pray out loud. Please come along this Sunday, if you can, as we rely on God to build his Church, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

Our new **Exodus teaching series** also begins on Sunday 4th. We can be so familiar with the story that we forget how gripping it is. But Hollywood hasn't forgotten: the 2014 'Exodus' film directed by Ridley Scott topped the box office charts in its opening weekend and was just the latest big-budget blockbuster to base itself (however loosely) on the book. Even from a human perspective, Exodus has all the makings of great cinematic drama, with its barnstorming plot, its rich character development, and its ample opportunities for special effects (miracles galore). Best of all, it points us to Jesus as it introduces us to a mighty, caring, rescuing God, who wants to save his people from slavery, dwell amongst them and lead them to the Promised Land.

The **Ride and Stride** event on Saturday 10th September (11:30am onwards) should be a good opportunity to get to know more people at St Peter's, with a picnic lunch and a chance to walk (or bike, or scoot) around the local area as much or as little as you like – whilst raising a

bit of money along the way. Forms to sign up are available at the back of church.

Conscious of the many newcomers at St Peter's, Kate and I will host **Welcome Drinks** at the Vicarage (11am on Sunday 18th) for anyone who has joined the congregation in the past 12 months. No need to RSVP, but we would love to welcome you properly to the church family and get to know you better. Just turn up at The Vicarage, Old Town, NN13 7BZ after the morning service.

Helen Price will also be starting a **Youth Group** for 11-18s that Sunday (Sept 18th, time TBC), with the idea that it will meet fortnightly. Such a group was absolutely vital for my own spiritual survival and development in my secondary school years, so I'm thrilled this new venture is getting underway. Do chat to Helen if you need more details.

Finally, on Sunday 25th we will have our all-age **Harvest Festival** service. Of course, this is not 'new' – it is an ancient festival! But I want to highlight it in case you wish to invite someone who enjoys a slightly more informal service where the child remain in throughout. Harvest is a time to thank God for all he has given to us in the past, be inspired to respond with generosity in the present, and rely afresh on his provision for the future.

Therefore, I hope this September gives you a chance to not only be more involved with St Peter's, but to be more dependent on God. He is, after all, the God who specialises in fresh starts and new beginnings, as the book of Exodus is at pains to remind us (Exodus 34:6): "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness!"



Alpha starts on Wednesday 21st at 8pm



Brackley
And District
Band

and St Peter's Church



"Autumn Concert"



at St Peter's Church

Sunday 9th October

3-5pm

Tickets £5
includes Afternoon Tea

Raffle



Tickets from Jacky on
07970 583342



A Favourite Month

People sometimes ask which is my favourite month, or season. On balance, just, I'd go for autumn as the season, and probably September as the month. August is great (holidays and birthdays – mine, my brother's, one daughter's) but for me September tops even that.

Second helpings of summer and the first tastes of autumn: the glory of creation with the initial reminders that it is cyclical and nothing lasts for ever. A new academic year (I used to love going back to school.) September has it all: endings, beginnings, harvest appearing, the most temperate month of our temperate climate.

The reminder that nothing lasts for ever, combined with the satisfaction of harvest home – even Elton John singing “Circle of Life” – is so important. Not just because of my personal circumstances, or with the diocese facing endings and a new beginning, but because this is an essential part of creation, of the way things are, in this life.

I suspect that in the new creation, when we discover it, the cyclical nature of things may be no more, but in this world it governs everything. Day and night, the weekly sabbath, the moon and monthly reproductive and tidal cycles, the seasons and the years: these frame the way we live. Life comes and goes, as do youth, vigour, maturity, wisdom. Everything passes, and everything is renewed or replaced. September is a great reminder of that.

We need to be aware of this, and to live wisely in this circle of life: not to cling onto the old, but hopefully to take the best of it into the new; not to grasp at every new thing, but to discern what is worth nurturing for its season. We can rejoice in the profligacy of creation and re-creation, and not shed too many tears when the natural harvesting or culling takes its course.

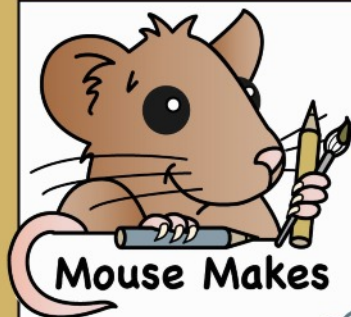
But that new creation, to which Christians look forward, hopefully like St Paul with eager longing, will be different. The energy of youth and the maturity of age will combine forever in each of us: no more tears or tiredness, ageing or loss; no more reminder of mortality; no more Septembers. For now, in this life, happy September!



+ Donald

+Donald

Bishop of Peterborough



Mouse Makes



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and does **not** do them will be like a

The _____ fell,
The floods came and the
_____ blew.

Matthew 7:25




_____ man.
On what did he build
his house?

Matthew 7:24

_____ man.
On what did he build
his house?

Matthew 7:26

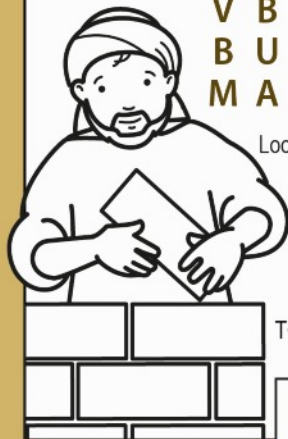

Matthew 7:24-27
and
Luke 6:46-49

What
happened
to the
houses?
Read
Matthew
7:25 and 27

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



What was
the reaction
of the crowd
to Jesus'
teaching?
Read
Matthew
7:28-29



Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word
FOUNDATIONS



When the Church first agreed that the Earth went around the Sun

It was only 200 years ago, on 11th September 1822, that the Roman Catholic Church admitted that the 16th century astronomer Galileo Galilei might have been right about the Earth orbiting the Sun. The College of Cardinals reversed the Church's condemnation of his ideas. Galileo had spent the last nine years of his life under house arrest for publishing his work on the subject.

Galileo (1564 –1642) was a brilliant scientist and a pious Catholic. Albert Einstein called him the father of modern science, and he was one of the first to state that the laws of nature were mathematical. He was not infallible, however: his theories on tides were quite wrong: he described the idea that the moon influenced them as "childish" and "occult".

His support for heliocentrism, a theory that had existed since the Ancient Greeks, however, was spot on, but the consensus at the time – political, scientific and religious – held that the Earth was the centre of the universe, and that any other view was "foolish, absurd and heretical". That was the conclusion of the Inquisition in 1615.

Some 17 years later, Galileo published his theories, but unfortunately in a way that alienated the Pope, who until then had given him support as a scientist. He was tried by the Inquisition, who found him "vehemently suspect of heresy", forced him to recant, and subjected him to house arrest. It could have been worse.

The Cardinals' decision in 1822 was a bit late to help Galileo, but it represented a big shift for the Roman Catholic Church – though it was not until 1835 that his work was removed from the Vatican's list of banned books. And it was only in 1992 that Pope John Paul II conceded officially that the Earth was not stationary in the heavens. Eight years after that he apologised to Galileo for the way he had been treated.

Nigel Beeton writes: "September is a time when we begin the celebration of harvest, and the rhythms of the seasons that lead up to it. But, as this Summer shows, the seasons have been disturbed. My cousins are farmers in Suffolk, and it has been so dry this year that they couldn't even drill one field until June.... So our harvest celebrations this year must be tempered with a humble awareness of the part we've played in upsetting the rhythms of creation."

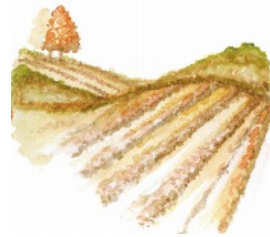
The Rhythms of Creation

The rhythms of creation –
The never-ceasing beat
Of seasons in rotation
As cold gives way to heat;
We know, when it is raining
The sun will dry the rain
And when the moon is waning
It soon will wax again.



The farmer drills his acres
When springtime rains shall fall
Then gathers wheat for bakers
As sunflowers grow tall;
In spring, the fruit trees, blooming
Attract the busy bees;
As autumn clouds are looming
We pick from loaded trees.

The Lord, our Great Creator
Allowed us, by His grace
To be the regulator
Of earthly time and space
But mankind has been greedy
In burning coal and oil
So farmers now are seeding
In dry and desert soil.



The rhythms of creation
Are wand'ring from their beat
Increasing suffocation,
Of fire, flood, and heat.
Lord, teach us new behaviour
To spend, with care, our days:
Dear loving Lord and Saviour
Forgive our foolish ways!

By Nigel Beeton

Synod votes to condemn Russian invasion

Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine was recently condemned by the General Synod in a debate where members heard of the suffering and terror experienced by ordinary Ukrainians because of the conflict.

Members backed a call for prayer for an end to the war in Ukraine and for parishes and dioceses to work towards providing long term refuge and hospitality for people fleeing the war.

The Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, said: "Russia's invasion of Ukraine constitutes an act of evil that cannot go unchallenged. Ukraine has a legitimate right to self-defence and a right to seek assistance from others in doing so.

"The Government and the wider international community must stand with Ukraine and provide financial, humanitarian, military, and diplomatic support as part of its broader efforts to uphold international law.

Yet, as the MOD suggested, such support cannot realistically be unlimited, and this war cannot be waged without restraint. The focus of our efforts must be bringing this conflict to an end in a way that respects Ukraine's independent sovereign status."

Archbishop meets head of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine

The Archbishop of Canterbury recently welcomed the head of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan Epifaniy, to Lambeth Palace.

"We heard the most heart-breaking stories of atrocities against civilians and against Orthodox clergy in occupied territory, yet amidst it all the Patriarch spoke of love for all, especially enemies," he said.

"Of course, like all Ukrainians, he feels passionately about the terrors and horrors visited on his country, the lies told and the remorseless fear and attack, but the passion is not showing itself in hatred, nor is it showing itself in weakness, but in faith and determination and a plea for support for the church in its humanitarian work and for Ukraine. Let us give that support as a church as best we can."

So far, the appeal organised by USPG and the Diocese in Europe has raised more than £300,000 for humanitarian work in Ukraine and amongst Ukrainian refugees.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

25th SEPTEMBER
9.30am ALL AGE SERVICE

ALL WELCOME

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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. It is available from Jems on the Market Place.

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