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800

ST PETER'S BRACKLEY

“Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley”



Revd. Rich writes.....



Happy New Year!

If you make resolutions, I hope you are more realistic than the mathematician G. H. Hardy, who apparently made the following list one January in the 1930s: 1. Prove the Riemann hypothesis (one of the great unsolved problems in maths to this day), 2. Score 211 runs batting in the last innings of the 4th Test at the Oval, 3. Find an argument for the non-existence of God which convinces the general public, 4. Be the first man to climb Mount Everest, 5. Be proclaimed the first President of the USSR, Germany and Great Britain, and 6. Kill Mussolini.



I don't think I need tell you whether foolhardy Hardy managed to keep his resolutions.

There is nothing wrong with **ambitious resolutions** *per se*. The psalmist writes, "I am resolved to obey Your statutes to the very end" (Ps. 119:112). But this side of Christ's return, every Christian will identify with the Apostle Paul's experience, "I do not do the good I want to do" (Romans 7:19). Thankfully, while our resolutions may be new every year or even every week, God's mercies are "new every morning" (Lam. 3:23). Therefore, past failure doesn't need to breed present despair about future progress. Instead, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14). This means that Christians can and should hit the reset or refresh button every *day* instead of every *year* (read 2 Cor. 4:16 for a beautiful description of this daily renewal).

But let me switch from talking about the **new year** to a very **old one**: 1223.

Long before clocks, cannons or codpieces were invented, around the time a revolutionary bit of technology called the wheelbarrow was

bursting on to the European scene, the settlement of Brackley gained its first vicar, named Robert de la Hay, in 1223 (see the vicars' board at the back of church). Of course, Christian worship began on the site of St Peter's much earlier, as even its architecture can attest, but it was from 1223 onwards that a sustained and ordained Christian ministry was located in the town. Therefore, it doesn't take a mathematician like Hardy to work out that 2023 is in fact our **800th anniversary** as an



established church! So, it is my great pleasure, as Brackley's 51st vicar, to announce that we will be celebrating this remarkable eight century milestone throughout the coming year.

In due course, there will be many dates for your 2023 diary related to the 800 celebrations. For now, let me highlight just one: **Sunday 22nd January**. This is the day we will be launching our 800 appeal at St Peter's and we'd love as many people as possible to attend the 9:30am service. As well as all sorts of fabulous events this year, we will be raising a significant amount of money for crucial work to be carried out on the church building and its surroundings. This will mean we can continue to fulfil for years to come the task of loving this community and transforming lives to the glory of God. Part of this year's aim will therefore be to secure the church's future, in addition to celebrating its past. Lots more information about what is coming up can be found on our website (at stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800) and you can also subscribe to receive an update about the 800 celebrations by emailing stpetersappeal@outlook.com.

Whatever other resolutions you may or may not make this January, could you resolve to pop along to St Peter's on **Sunday 22nd January** at 9:30am? It's simpler than climbing Everest, at least!

I hope to see you there. Every blessing, Rich



CELEBRATING
800 years

800


ST PETER'S
BRACKLEY




Soup & Sing



Saturday 28 January



11am - 1.30pm



**Lunch and Group Singing
of well known and popular songs**



Tickets £5.00



can be purchased from
Caroline



07845 396168



“Expect great things from God, Attempt great things for God”

As you read this, the diocese will be in the process of saying “Good-bye”, literally “God Bless You” to Bishop Donald after almost 13 years as Bishop of Peterborough. I hope many of you will be able to share in the special service of thanksgiving in the Cathedral on Sunday 8th when there will be opportunity to express our gratitude for his ministry among us.

I’m thrilled and deeply honoured to have been invited to serve you as Acting Bishop of Peterborough until Bishop Donald’s successor arrives. We have a superb team of senior clergy, excellent diocesan officers, brilliant office staff and three wise retired bishops to guide us through this year. Our clergy, lay ministers and lay leaders are wonderful servants of Christ and I have every confidence that God will guide us and be good to us. Within that great team, my job is to help you to do your jobs in serving Jesus and your communities, or as one of our amazing Gen2 Youth team prayed for me recently; “to help everyone in the diocese realise their dreams”.

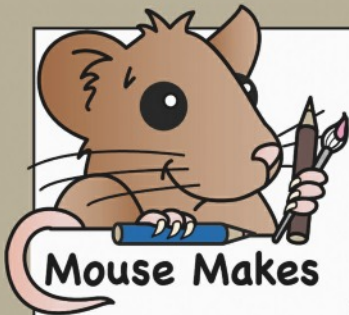
One of Bishop Donald’s special gifts is as a teacher and I’m delighted to announce that for the Bishop’s Bible Day this year we have attracted one of the leading Bible teachers in the country. The Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, a former Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the author of last year’s powerful Lent Book “Embracing Justice” will give the two keynote addresses on Psalm 23 “The Lord is my Shepherd” and Psalm 137 “By the rivers of Babylon”. There will also be the usual range of workshops and an opportunity to “grill the bishop”. Saturday 18th March, Northampton High School. Details available soon.



At a recent service in Westminster Abbey, I was delighted to discover that the lectern in front of the high altar was a gift in memory of the great Northamptonshire Christian William Carey (1761-1834). He persuaded British Christians to share the good news of Jesus with the wider world, translated the Bible into six languages and served as a pioneer missionary in India. Carey’s great motto “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God” is inscribed on the lectern and has been an encouragement to many for 200 years. Perhaps their reassurance and challenge might be an inspiration to us this year. With my love, prayers and best wishes,

+John Bishop of Brixworth

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a flourish.



A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



When the **Magi** (wise men) came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?

The _____

Why did they make the journey?

What did they follow to get there?

A _____

What did they see?

Read *Matthew 2:1-12*



Why did **Joseph** and **Mary** travel to **Bethlehem**?

Read *Luke 2:1-4*

When **Samuel** came to **Bethlehem** who sent him? Who did he go to see?
_____ and his sons.

Who had he come to anoint as king?

Read *1 Samuel 16:1-13*



Naomi and **Ruth** came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?

_____ and why?

When did they arrive?

At the _____ harvest.

Read *Ruth 1:22*

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

The name **BETHLEHEM** means 'House of Bread'

Look up the Bible references to find the missing words, find them and these words below in the wordsearch

JOURNEY
BETHLEHEM • GOD
JOSEPH • MARY
JESUS • BORN
MAGI • MESSIAH
NAOMI • RUTH
FOOD • HARVEST
SAMUEL • ANOINT
KING • BREAD



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The man who made the first-ever vaccine

Two hundred years ago, on 26th January 1823, Edward Jenner, the British physician and immunologist who created the first vaccine (for smallpox), died of a stroke.

He was the son of a Gloucestershire clergyman and the brother of another – who brought him up when his father died. He was also a violinist, a poet and a naturalist, but he chose medicine and became the pupil of a distinguished surgeon, John Hunter, at St George's Hospital in London. Hunter also had wide interests, and the two kept in touch for many years.



Jenner, a committed and sincere Christian, married a near neighbour, Catharine Kingscote, in 1788. He was described as amiable and quiet, but his work in creating a smallpox vaccine was said to have saved more lives than any other man on earth, though his treatment in making inoculations using cowpox lesions, initially from a dairymaid in 1796, was laughed at by some to start with.

The word 'vaccination' (relating to cows) stems from this experiment. Previous smallpox inoculation attempts were known as variolation and were both less successful and dangerous to health. Jenner himself had received this treatment as a child.

Jenner was a member of the Royal Society, primarily because of his work as a naturalist. He published valuable observations and interpretations on, for instance, the life of the cuckoo, which was little understood at the time.

But in the end, he gave so much time to vaccination work that his personal affairs suffered badly, though he was voted a total of £30,000 by Parliament.

His wife died of tuberculosis in 1815, after which he retired from public life. In 1980 the World Health Organisation said that smallpox had finally been eradicated from the world, though a few lab samples were kept.