

Vol.61 No 11 November 2021 **Online edition**

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

"Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley"



Revd. Rich Duncan writes.....



As we begin November, the eyes of the world turn to Glasgow and COP26, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference. Sir David Attenborough has described it as “our last opportunity to make the necessary step-change” required to protect the planet, and the conference has the stated aim of prompting “ambitious 2030 emissions reduction targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century” (www.ukcop26.org/cop26-goals/).

Perhaps surprisingly, the Church of England was bold enough last year to commit to aiming for net zero emissions by 2030, scrapping its previous and more modest target of 2045. That’s not bad for an institution comprised of thousands of ancient, energy-inefficient buildings. Well, we at the parish church in Brackley want to play our part. Therefore, we too are aiming to make **St Peter’s “net zero” by 2030**.

In May 1961, President John F. Kennedy famously announced his ‘moonshot’ ambition (to achieve a lunar landing by the end of the decade) long before the requisite technology even existed. Likewise, we at St Peter’s have under 9 years to reach our goal and, as yet, no clear plan of how to get there. But now is the time for such ‘earthshot’ targets and hopefully our step-change is not quite as vast as Neil Armstrong’s ‘giant leap’ – or as expensive: the Apollo 11 programme cost \$25 billion!

It is all too easy to call for action from others (especially governments) without taking action ourselves. But Christians ought to be at the forefront of care for the environment. If God made the world and everything in it (Psalm 89:11), and if humanity has been given the explicit command to take care of the earth (Genesis 2:15), then sustainability becomes not just a practical imperative but a moral one: abusing the environment is not only foolish, it’s wrong. We therefore aren’t just motivated by a utilitarian concern for self-preservation, but by a loving concern for the Lord’s creation and the world’s poorest.

Yet now is not just a time to dream big. The author Wendell Berry wrote an essay in 1970 called *Think Little*. He argued that in order to sustain the Green Movement over the long-term, it couldn't just be something we expect Big Thinkers in government to fix. Instead, it also needed to involve billions of tiny, mundane choices in individuals' lives. We may feel our personal contribution is miniscule in the face of a global crisis, but Jesus consistently cared about the little things, saying he would reward a "a cup of cold water" (Matthew 10:42) and account for "every careless word" (Matthew 12:36). Mother Teresa is famously quoted as saying, "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

Sometimes, Christians are accused of being so heavenly-minded that they are of no earthly good. After all, unlike Extinction Rebellion activists who believe this world is all there is, we have a new, better and indestructible world to look forward to come what may (Revelation 21:1). However, far from lessening the importance of this life, the reality of God and eternity actually lends far greater significance to every aspect of our lives here and now. Timothy Keller, a church leader undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer, recently said in interview, "It is only as I have become, for lack of a better term, more heavenly-minded that I can see the material world for the astonishingly good divine gift that it is." In a similar vein, C. S. Lewis observed, "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next."

So then,

- let's pray: for COP26 to be a world-changing, future-shaping event
- let's plan: to make St Peter's an environmentally-friendly church
- let's each play our part: "think little" and turn off the lights!



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 14TH

10.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION

WITH AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

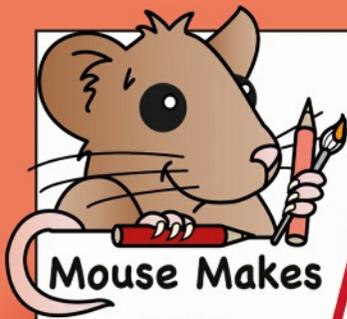
PLEASE NOTE CHANGED SERVICE TIME



**Operation
Christmas
Child**

**Shoeboxes
to St Peter's by 15th November Please**





I AM

I AM
THE

AND THE

AND THE

Read John 14:6

I AM
THE

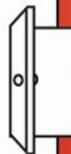


Read John 10:11 and 14

Seven times in John's Gospel Jesus calls Himself "I AM" - the same name that God calls Himself when He speaks to Moses in Exodus 3:14 Jesus is telling us who He really is.



I AM
THE



Read John 10:9



I AM
THE

Read John 15:1 and 35



I AM
THE

I AM
THE



I AM
THE

OF

AND THE

OF THE

Read John 6: 35,51



Read John 11:25



Read John 18:12

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

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search

War memorials

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)

National and local *memorials* to the casualties were first proposed during the First World War. After the war ended, local committees were set up to plan how to commemorate the sacrifice of their young men's lives. The committees were not usually run by the local churches but often by landowners, employers, and representatives of comrades' groups. Memorials often started as shrines where locals could gather to leave messages or flowers.

Over the next few years, permanent memorials were set up in every village, town and city across the UK. They differ widely in style. Sometimes a stone cross was chosen, other times a plaque or an obelisk. They usually list the names of local men who died, but sometimes all the men from the community who had served. Sometimes they list just names, while others are complete with details of the units they served in. They usually reflect an equality in death – that no-one was more important than another.

In many cases, memorials were not dedicated until well into the 1920s. It took time to decide on the design and raise money. In many cases there was difficulty in tracing the names of all the fallen. There was also the question of where to site the memorial. Most are on roadsides, or in the centre of a community. Some, but not many, are in churchyards. Many memorials were facilities for the community such as recreation grounds or village halls in addition to the lists of names.

Most memorials were paid for by public donations, local fetes and concerts. No-one gave a thought to who would pay for their upkeep in the future. Now, one hundred years later, many are in need of repair, cleaning or restoration. Sadly, some have been vandalised or have had the metal plaques stolen.

Many local authorities, including town and parish councils, have taken responsibility for the upkeep of memorials although there rarely is any legal duty to do this.

English Heritage has notified the Town Council that the War Memorial in Market Place has been approved for Grade II Listing. The reasons given were:

* Historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the local community, and the sacrifice it made in the conflicts of the 20th Century;

* Design: an ambitious and slightly unusual design, whose scale befits its central place in the town's Market Place;

* Group value: with various listed buildings around the Market Place, including the Town Hall (Grade II*).

Posted: Mon, 09 Mar 2015 14:52 by Linda Carter

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

**NEVER MISS AN EDITION OF YOUR
FAVOURITE PARISH MAGAZINE !
TO ARRANGE A SUBSCRIPTION
INCLUDING DELIVERY TO YOUR
DOOR (WITHIN BRACKLEY)
PHONE MARILYN ON 702634**



*An epic struggle between good and evil
took place in the Vicarage kitchen.*



*We so enjoyed the fireworks display,
can we do it again at New Year?*

**If you would ever like to make a donation to
St Peter's Church,
your gift would be hugely appreciated.
Our bank details are as follows:
sort code 30-11-08,
account number 00060124.
Thank you.**

November

Comes and
November goes,
With the last red berries
And the first white snows.

With night coming early
and dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket
and frost by the gate.

The fires burn
and the kettle sings,
And earth sinks to rest
Until next spring.

By Elizabeth Coatsworth

