

**Vol.66 No 6 June 2026 Online Edition**

# **ST PETER'S CHURCH BRACKLEY**



**ST PETER'S**

**“LOVING GOD,  
LOVING EACH OTHER,  
LOVING BRACKLEY”**





### ***Rev. Rich Duncan writes...***

One of my sons often experiences growing pains.

I try to explain that it is a positive sign he is getting bigger and stronger. I don't think he takes much comfort from his dad's reassurance. But, in the end, we all know that short term pain is worth it for long term gain.

St Peter's is a different sort of body, but it too experiences growing pains.

Happily, there are new faces every week at church, more pews are filled, an increasingly broad spectrum of the Brackley community is represented, and new initiatives and ideas are proposed.

And with that growth in the church body comes mild growing pains: children's groups that are full to bursting, more needs to meet, more people to greet, more names to learn, more leaders to find, new seats to find, old ideas challenged, and so on. These are all good problems to have and a small price to pay for the long term development of the church.

One bold step that we have been seriously considering in response to all this growth, is the appointment of an Assistant Minister at St Peter's. This would require an increase of roughly 50% in the congregation's regular giving (I told you it was bold). Remarkably though, we have already seen an increase in monthly giving of 36% at the time of writing (when compared with this time last year). This is truly phenomenal!

Thank you so much to everyone who recently began or increased their regular giving to the church. Although such giving is not restricted to funding the role, my hope and expectation is that your contribution will result in this new position from next year. Your generosity will not only enable us to serve the church community better, but also help the church to share God's love with the ever-growing Brackley community.

To anyone else: might you be able to help us get all the way to 50% by the end of June?

It is extremely exciting to think of how God might transform lives in this town over the coming years. Would you consider joining in to get us over the line?

If so, please head to [www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/giving](http://www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/giving), which has everything you need.

Growth comes at a cost. But it's worth it in the long run!

## **Date for your diary**

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm Brackley & District Band will be holding their Summer Concert at St Peter's. The tickets cost £8, under 12's free, and are available from Jacky on 0797 0583342. Tea & Cake included

## **June's Easy Eco Tip**

### **Support our Count on Nature Event.**

As part of the Book Swap and Coffee Morning on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, why not take part in the National Churches Count on Nature event? Enjoy your drink in the churchyard whilst looking out for all the wildlife on our own doorstep!

Your support in this event is working towards our Silver Eco Church award.

Hannah Griggs





## Are you a follower of The Chosen?



Several of us at St Peter's are watching the docudrama about Christ's life, The Chosen.

Over 230 million people have watched this series worldwide, and it is currently being dubbed into six hundred languages, (subtitles are already available) to allow for further coverage. Big budget tv series? No, the whole cost is being covered by crowdfunding and donations.



Ten years in the making and five seasons in, it covers those dramatic and world changing three years of Jesus' ministry on earth. We see how he chose his disciples and gained followers. Quietly performing miracles and teaching, but with his reputation spreading and crowds growing, it shows the effect it had on the Roman

oppressors and religious leaders.

Season six is due to be released later this year, which will cover the Crucifixion. That is going to be a tough watch. The final season, seven, is being filmed now for release in 2028.

Feel you already know the stories? Have read your bible and worshipped for years. This programme shows the human side of a 30-year-old man, who happens to be the son of God finally fulfilling what he was put on earth to do. It can be very intense at times, but humorous at others.

So how can you watch? It is available on Prime Video but also there is an app you can download which means it is free to watch. Just search for The Chosen.

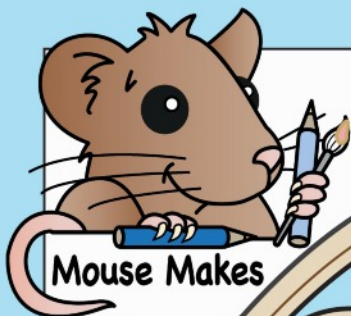
If you have young children, the makers have thought of that too. There is a cartoon version called The Chosen Adventures, available from the same places.

Yes, I will admit it I am somewhat addicted but have learnt so much about the history of the times. The faiths that people followed until Jesus, our Saviour came.



Why not try it, I am sure you will not regret it.

Beverly Bigmore



Mouse Makes



“May the grace of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST** and the love of **GOD** and the fellowship of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all.”

2 Corinthians 13:14



<b>FATHER</b>		
<b>Ω</b>	<b>Α</b>	<b>Ω</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>H I W</b>	<b>I S D</b>	<b>U D E</b>
<b>V E N L R</b>	<b>J Y I A M</b>	<b>T R U T H</b>
<b>S L A E P L G</b>	<b>A C G O D J M</b>	<b>T H A H S R I</b>
<b>H A L D O O R</b>	<b>L R O C K U A</b>	<b>O S P O W E R</b>
<b>E M E W O R D</b>	<b>M E L O R D J</b>	<b>U L F L I F E</b>
<b>P B R E A D W</b>	<b>I A B B A G E</b>	<b>P O W Y N D R</b>
<b>H L A L P H A</b>	<b>G T D E B E S</b>	<b>A W I S D O M</b>
<b>E E M C G J Y</b>	<b>H O Y R F E T</b>	<b>D B E P B V C</b>
<b>R M E H O E K</b>	<b>T R A H A T Y</b>	<b>V W T I R E O</b>
<b>D M I R S S T</b>	<b>Y G H O I E F</b>	<b>O I E R E F M</b>
<b>S A V I O U R</b>	<b>V S W L A R A</b>	<b>C T R I A I F</b>
<b>P N E S N S U</b>	<b>O H E Y E N T</b>	<b>A N N T T R O</b>
<b>O U N T L O T</b>	<b>J E H O V A H</b>	<b>T E A C H E R</b>
<b>M E S S I A H</b>	<b>I K I N G L E</b>	<b>E S L G I F T</b>
<b>R L G B F I S</b>	<b>S H I E L D R</b>	<b>D S G U I D E</b>
<b>K E O M E G A</b>	<b>S A V I O U R</b>	<b>T H E L P E R</b>

**JESUS • CHRIST**

SON • SAVIOUR • LORD  
EMMANUEL • MESSIAH  
SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY  
TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR  
BREAD • WORD • HEALER  
VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

**GOD • FATHER**

ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH  
YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY  
HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR  
ETERNAL • CREATOR  
KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE  
SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

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ADVOCATE • WISDOM  
POWER • TRUTH • BREATH  
LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE  
WIND • FIRE • TEACHER



## Mens Monthly Breakfast

In an age of unprecedented digital connection juxtaposed with widespread loneliness, there is something quietly countercultural about a small group of men meeting once a month over a cooked breakfast at a local pub. What began as an idea from Les has grown into a simple but meaningful expression of fellowship at St Peter's.

Since its launch in February, around 15 men have gathered at the Paisley Pear, sharing bottomless coffee and conversation while waiting for a good-value fry-up. There is no formal programme, no agenda, and no pressure. Instead, the emphasis is on presence: men talking openly about work, family life, church, health, ageing, hens (you had to be there) and sport. In a culture often driven by productivity, this is a space where simply turning up is enough.

The Gospels often show Jesus at the table—eating with disciples, friends, and strangers alike. While it may be a touch grandiose to compare a full English breakfast in Brackley to those encounters, the principle feels familiar. As we are often reminded in sermons, grace frequently arrives through ordinary moments. A shared meal, however simple, can be a place where God is quietly at work.

One of the most encouraging aspects of these breakfasts has been the mix of people and conversations. Some speak easily; others contribute occasionally, but everyone is included and involved. Friendships do not appear overnight, especially in a culture such as ours where many men are naturally reserved. Yet, over recent months, something has begun to grow—familiarity with each other.

For some, these gatherings have provided an opportunity to speak with others they had not previously connected with, despite attending the same church. That in itself is a reminder of how easily we can remain strangers, and how valuable intentional spaces like this can be in building community and a shared sense of purpose.

Perhaps most significantly, there is something quietly restorative about setting aside time with no obvious goal beyond companionship. Much of life is shaped by outcomes and achievement; this is different. These breakfasts reflect a simple but important truth: that being together matters.



Each meeting ends with a short, informal “thought for the day” before everyone heads off to continue their Saturday. Time and again, people leave with a sense of encouragement—and the feeling that something special is taking shape within the life of St Peter’s. If you can spare an hour, the group meets on the third Saturday of each month from 8–9am at the Paisley Pear.

Why not come along? At the very least, you will enjoy a good breakfast—and perhaps something more besides.

Ben Maylor

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## Remembering John Constable

It was 250 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1776, that John Constable, British landscape artist, was born.

Widely known as a painter in the Romantic tradition, Constable had a deeply conservative faith centred on the Church of England, which he viewed as an essential stabilising force in society. His painting of Salisbury Cathedral is regarded as a symbol of this.

Born in East Bergholt, Suffolk, to a wealthy corn merchant who owned Flatford Mill, he was expected to take over the business: although he was the second son, the eldest was regarded as incapable. But John Constable was always focused on painting, and the business was eventually taken over by his younger brother.

Constable enjoyed painting the areas he knew well – primarily those on the border of Suffolk and Essex which is now known as Constable Country. “Painting is but another word for feeling,” he wrote to a friend. He regarded nature as a reflection of God’s creation and his own work as spiritual, though a tour of the Lake District in 1806 did not convince him of the attraction of mountains.

He is now highly valued, but he was never successful financially in his own lifetime, though he was elected to the Royal Academy at the age of 52. He was more popular in France than in England, but refused invitations to travel to promote his work, saying he would rather be a poor man in England than a rich man abroad.

After the death through tuberculosis of his wife Maria Bicknell at the age of 41, Constable became depressed: it had been a love match that triumphed over opposition from her wealthy relatives, and he was left a widower with seven young children. He continued to paint, but in a different style, darker and semi-abstract, but still compelling.



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