

**Vol.66 No 8 August 2026**

**Online Edition**

# **ST PETER'S CHURCH BRACKLEY**



**"LOVING GOD,  
LOVING EACH OTHER,  
LOVING BRACKLEY"**



## ***Revd. Rich Duncan writes.....***

After the World Cup, many were wistfully harking back to the summer of 1966, when Bobby Moore held aloft the Jules Rimet Trophy at Wembley Stadium (although, only after that most valuable of trophies had been stolen pre-tournament and discovered by a dog called Pickles, wrapped in newspaper under a hedge in south London – but that’s another story).



Anyway, I want to hark back to the summer of '66 for another reason entirely. Not to bemoan 60 years of hurt, but to recall the time, just 4 weeks earlier, when Wembley Stadium had been packed out by a crowd of 94,000 for a very different purpose: to hear an American speak about Jesus.

Billy Graham had spoken to nearly 1 million people during his month in the UK (including some of our readers), most of them under 25, with an estimated 42,000 people making a decision to follow Christ. Despite some condescending clerical appraisals at the time, Time Magazine called it a “record-smashing triumph”, with some 6,000 new Bible-study groups launched across the country off the back of the rallies.

Less well-known is the fact that Graham’s trip was preceded by months of organised, round-the-clock prayer, with many also on their knees out of sight whenever he preached. Indeed, his team considered prayer to be the most important part of the whole campaign.

This continues a pattern throughout church history, whereby great moves of God tend to follow great prayer amongst his people. Take, for example, the tremendous revivals on both sides of the Atlantic in the 1850s.

Many London churches had been struggling in the early 1850s. One of them was New Park Street Chapel: a large Baptist chapel seating around 1,500 people, where the congregation had dwindled to about 150. In 1854, they took the extraordinary step of calling a 19-year-old village preacher with no university education to be their pastor. His name was Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Spurgeon believed that preaching must be undergirded by prayer. Throughout his ministry there were people gathered to pray while he spoke and God answered in remarkable ways. Within months, the chapel was overflowing and in his first year around 300 people were baptised. The crowds soon became so large that the church moved to the Surrey Gardens Music Hall, where many thousands gathered every Sunday. Later, Spurgeon preached to more than 20,000 people at the Crystal Palace – one of the largest congregations of that century.

Meanwhile, across The Pond, a group of 6 New York businessmen started a lunchtime prayer meeting in September 1857. A year later, 6,000-10,000 businessmen across the city were gathering every noon to pray. The movement spread across the US, with an estimated 1 million people joining churches within a 2-year period. Comparable upticks in church attendance were seen at the same time in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

All this is a powerful reminder that God often delights to work through the ordinary means of prayer.

England may not be celebrating a revival in footballing success this summer (still recovering here), but it is undoubtedly seeing a renewed interest in Jesus. Some of our players made very public displays of their faith at this World Cup – which is being described as the most visibly Christian in recent history – and that increasingly seems to chime with our culture. The broadcaster and theologian Krish Kandiah recently wrote about “more openness, more curiosity, more conversation about faith” across the country, and others have used the language of ‘quiet revival’ or ‘surprising rebirth’.

Are you one of the many wanting to find out more? Try St Peter’s! Any Sunday at 10am. We see new faces every week. Already a Christian? Well, let’s learn from the past and pray wholeheartedly, expectantly and persistently for the future. The glory days might just be ahead.

**If you wish to donate to  
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## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

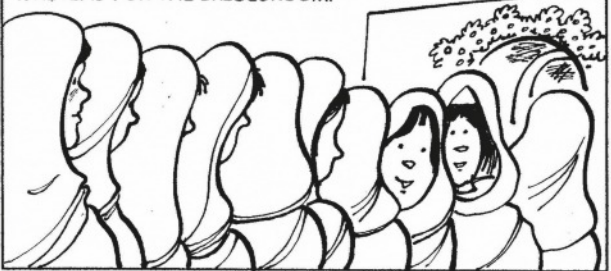
Do you ever look at the stained glass windows in our church?  
The window to the left of the extension door depicts the following parable



JESUS ONCE SPOKE ABOUT TEN YOUNG WOMEN



THEY HAD BEEN INVITED TO A WEDDING - AND THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE BRIDGROOM.



EACH ONE HAD AN OIL LAMP.



BUT ONLY FIVE OF THEM HAD BROUGHT ALONG SOME SPARE OIL.



LATE AT NIGHT THE BRIDGROOM ARRIVED



FIVE YOUNG WOMEN COULD LIGHT HIS WAY.



THE OTHER FIVE FELT VERY FOOLISH - THEIR LAMPS HAD RUN OUT OF OIL!!





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Registered Charity No 1021632 For more details see our website: [www.nhct.org.uk](http://www.nhct.org.uk)

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September St Peter's is holding its annual Ride & Stride event, but with a difference! This year, for the first time, it will be Ride, Stride and DRIVE! So, e-bikes, mobility scooters (and even cars) can now be included – helpful for those of us who would have difficulty walking 5 miles or so.

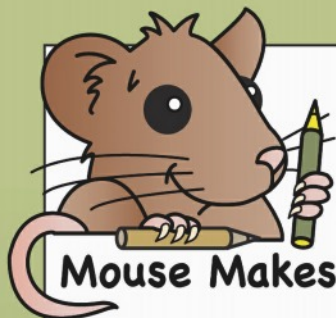
This is an opportunity to have fun, take some exercise and raise money for our church funds. Although this is a national event, it is managed in Northamptonshire by the NHCT (Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust) with whom we share the substantial amount of money raised.

We'll meet at 11.30 am on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at St Peter's, leaving shortly afterwards on foot, bicycle, scooter, pushchair, horse or vehicle and make our way to St Mary's church in Turweston where we'll enjoy a picnic lunch in their churchyard (toilet facilities available in Turweston's church hall). At around 1.00 pm Ken and Christine Watts will lead the walk from Turweston, heading off across the fields to St George's church at Evenley and maybe enjoying an ice cream on The Green en route! Then returning to St Peter's mid-afternoon.

To raise money, take a sponsorship form (available from John Carter or Rosemary Leeper), and ask your friends, relations, neighbours, etc. to sponsor you for making the trip – it's about 5 miles on foot. St Mary's (Turweston) and St George's (Evenley) will be open during your visit so you could have look round if you wish. It's fun and it's worthwhile.

For those who feel the full trip maybe too much of a stretch, a small group will be walking to Turweston, enjoying our packed lunches and then returning to St Peter's. So, take a form, get sponsorship, turn up at St Peter's on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, raise some money and have a fun day!

John Carter



## Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

*Jonah 1:1-2*



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

*Acts 16:9-10*

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

*Matthew 15:29*

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

*Ruth 1:22*



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

*Acts 13:51*

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

*Acts 14:19-20*

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

*Acts 9:3*



EGYPT



7

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

*Acts 11:22*

JERUSALEM

10 JOURNEYS

9



11

12



JUDEA

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

*Genesis 8:4*

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

*Acts 8:5*

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

*Mark 1:5*

11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

*Acts 20:6*

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

*Exodus 15:4*



8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

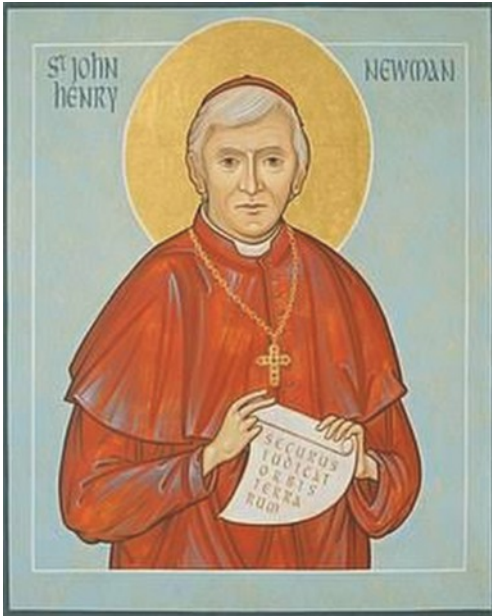
*Matthew 2:13*

13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

*Acts 18:1*



## 11<sup>th</sup> August – John Henry Newman, priest and Tractarian



John Henry Newman (1801 – 1890) was a highly influential 19<sup>th</sup>-century theologian, scholar and poet.

Born in London in 1801, the son of a banker, Newman had an evangelical conversion when he was just 15. He went on to Oxford in 1817, and in time became Fellow and then a tutor at Oriel College. Here he began the shift from evangelical Anglicanism to a more High Church understanding of the Christian faith. In 1826 he was ordained and became Vicar of St Mary's Oxford.

In the years that followed, Newman became a key leader in the

Oxford Movement, whose aim was to renew the C of E by reviving ancient Catholic beliefs and traditions. He pioneered *Tracts of the Times*, writing three of the first four himself. He came to exalt the Church Fathers as on the same level as Scripture, believing that the Anglican Church was mistaken to insist on Scripture as the sole authority. Church and tradition, he felt, played an equal part.

Whereas other leaders of the Oxford Movement always remained Anglicans, by the time that Tract Ninety was published, Newman was losing faith in the C of E. In 1842 he retired from Oxford, left St Mary's in 1843.

In 1845 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church, and in Rome he was ordained priest and entered the Congregation of the Oratory. Returning to England, he established an Oratory near Birmingham and lived there most of the remainder of his life.

In 1854 he founded the Catholic University of Ireland (University College Dublin). In 1877 Pope Leo XIII made him a cardinal.

In addition to all this theological work, John Henry Newman loved poetry. He wrote many hymns, the most famous of which include: 'Firmly I Believe and Truly', 'Lead, Kindly Light' and 'Praise to the Holiest in the Height'. He also authored dozens of books. He died on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1890.

## **ASSOCIATE VICAR**

Dear friends,

As you know, we are aiming to consolidate the staff team at St Peter's so that we can better grow Christ's kingdom here in Brackley over the coming years. After Rob's curacy comes to an end, we therefore hope to appoint an **Associate Vicar** (which I'm told is a more appropriate title than Assistant Minister) and would love for Rob to apply for this role, whilst remaining conscious of the fact he may be called elsewhere.

In terms of funding the position, we have made **enormous progress** but we do still have **further to go** to reach our target of increasing regular giving by 50%. Therefore, the PCC (church council) opted this week to **defer the decision** about whether to recruit until its next meeting in early September, leaving more time for new giving to come in.

Nevertheless, because things are **headed in the right direction**, it was felt we should prepare all the recruitment documents so that we would still be able to advertise the role in September as planned, if at that point we feel God is leading us to do so.

Therefore, let me take this opportunity to say a **special thank you** to everyone who has recently started or increased their monthly giving to get us to this very exciting place. We are so grateful, whilst recognising that not everyone is in a position to do this. If anyone had planned to adjust their giving, but just hasn't got round to it, please could you **email our Treasurer**, Oliver Jones, at [brackleychurchtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:brackleychurchtreasurer@gmail.com) as soon as possible to let him know your intentions.

Most importantly of all, please **join us in praying** that Jesus Christ would continue to build his kingdom here in Brackley and that, whatever our future staffing, we as a church would be **shining like stars** as we hold firmly to the word of life (Philippians 2:15-16).

Every blessing, Rich



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