

**Vol.62 No 10 October 2022** Online  
Edition

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

***"Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley"***





## ***The Vicar writes....***

***"My power is made perfect in weakness."***

Do you ever feel too inadequate to be useful to God? Maybe you sense God prompting you to serve him in some way, but you feel out of your depth and too weak. Well, according to the verse above, weakness is *precisely* what God is after (2 Corinthians 12:9).

There was a teenager from Cumbria called Patrick, who felt God calling him into ministry, but he was poorly educated, not very eloquent and people said he wasn't up to it. Even as an old man, Patrick would later admit, "I still blush and fear more than anything to have my lack of learning brought out into the open." However, he remained convinced that God had chosen him to spread the good news, so he did. Today, his more articulate contemporaries are long forgotten, but the impact of St Patrick's mission to Ireland 1500 years ago is still recognised around the world. God used Patrick's weakness mightily.

The same could be said of Moses, as we are seeing on Sundays. Moses had a fear of public speaking, yet God handpicked him to be his most influential prophet. Three times in Exodus 4, Moses tries to wriggle out of being God's spokesperson: "The people won't believe me... I'm not a good speaker... send someone else!" (v1, v10, v13). How might we have encouraged Moses? The world would say he needed a boost in his self-confidence: "Don't be so down on yourself, Moses, you can do this. You are more than capable." God does nothing of the sort. Instead of saying, "*You've* got this," God says, "*I've* got this!" Moses didn't need more confidence in himself. He needed more confidence in God. Perhaps the same is true for you.

There used to be a saying that the greatest pairing in tennis was John McEnroe and anyone! Well, the greatest pairing in life is *God* and anyone (similar to the phrase: "God plus one equals a majority"). If God is for us, no one can stand against us. Time and time again in the Bible, God underlines this by deliberately choosing unlikely candidates for his service. We could list a hundred examples but just think of the disciples. Instead of recruiting from respected professions of the day, Jesus

selected uneducated fishermen and despised tax collectors – and very flawed, unbelieving ones at that. Yet, from them, the worldwide church was born. “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong,”(1 Corinthians 1:27).

This is bad news for our excuses. God won't be fobbed off. Just read Exodus 4! He bends over backwards to accommodate Moses' hesitancy and cowardice: offering miraculous powers, one-to-one coaching and even a sidekick in Aaron. And, despite a critical shortage of confidence and competence, Moses became one of the key figures of the whole Old Testament, and even one of its authors. Why? Because the one thing Moses excelled in was the only ingredient God needed: we are told elsewhere that Moses was “more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3). You see, an almighty God more than compensates for a lack of ability – he's got that covered (Exodus 4:11). All he needs in his servants is dependence, and that often makes the weak more qualified than the strong.

I'm so grateful for the small army of volunteers who serve in all sorts of ways at St Peter's (see the circle diagram below). Others may feel they have capacity to get more involved – take your pick of one of the areas in the diagram give it a try! You might feel out of your depth, but you are never out of God's. When you acknowledge weakness, he rubs his hands and thinks, “Perfect! Remember? My power is made perfect in weakness.”





# Light Party



Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 5-6:30pm  
St Peter's Church, Brackley

drop in for 15 minutes  
sweets, games & craft  
for primary-aged kids & parents

"Celebrate the ~~darkness~~ light!"

## All Souls' Service

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 3pm at St Peter's, Brackley

To give thanks for loved ones who have died in recent years,  
with the reading of names and a chance to light a candle.



**WANTED**

**We need raffle prizes, with many future events planned.**

**Please give to Margaret Sheppard**



## Christmas wreath making workshop

**Saturday 26th November**

The session will begin with a demonstration from our flower team co-ordinator Sally Hughes . After that, you will be provided with all materials and step by step instructions will be provided for you to make your own Christmas wreath . Help will be on hand if required from

Sally and the flower arranging team .**The cost is £25 pp** to include materials and tea, coffee and mince pies. There will also be an opportunity for you to buy raffle tickets, so please bring some cash ! Please bring gardening gloves or rubber gloves for your comfort along with a pair of sharp scissors and or secateurs . A note pad and pen might be useful.

Get into the Christmas spirit, have fun ,be creative and enjoy yourselves and make new friends. Take your wreath home to begin your Christmas festivities There will be two sessions 10am-12 noon & 1.30-3.30pm

Only 20 places available for each session, Tickets to be purchased in advance from Caroline 07845397168. [caroline.dunning@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline.dunning@btinternet.com)

Sally Hughes



There are many events planned for the coming months and more details will follow later. Look on the Church Notice board and next months magazine.

Dates to save

9<sup>th</sup> October 3pm Brackley Band Concert : Jacky is selling tickets NOW

12<sup>th</sup> November 6.30pm Fish & Chip Quiz Night

26<sup>th</sup> November Wreath making, as above

Christmas Tree Festival 4<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> December

4<sup>th</sup> December Advent Lunch

## ***Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II***

*Throughout an exceptionally long life of public service, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth frequently said “Thank You” and “Well done” on our behalf to countless deserving people. On the sad news of her death, we now have an opportunity to say “Thank you” and “Well done” most deservedly to her.*



*In doing so, I believe we will be joining our words to those of Christ, quoted in the old Prayer Book funeral service; “Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter now into thy rest”.*

*I was deeply moved by our late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee letter signed simply “Your servant Elizabeth”. Someone once called her “the servant Queen following the Servant King” and this was most evident in her annual Christmas broadcasts.*

*In the days since Her Majesty’s death I have been reminded of the lovely General Thanksgiving prayer which I have discovered was written by a former Rector of All Saints Church in Northampton, Edward Reynolds (1599 -1676). He based it upon an earlier private prayer of the first Queen Elizabeth.*

*As I reflected on this beautiful prayer, I was filled with gratitude for God’s goodness in ordinary life (“creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life”), spiritual life (“inestimable love in the redemption of the world”), eternal life (“the hope of glory”). It pleads for unfeigned thankfulness to be lived out in deeds not just words (“giving up ourselves to thy service”) and for faithful life-long goodness (“holiness and righteousness all our days”).*

*The more I read the prayer, the more it described our late Queen, humble gratefulness leading to life-long servant-hearted faithfulness. It is printed on the next page so you may use it in your thankful reflection upon her.*

With my love and prayers,

**+John**

Bishop of Brixworth





## ***A General Thanksgiving***

*ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end.*

***Amen.***

## **MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION**

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.

The printed version contains so much more. Service Times, Contact details, and local adverts. Plus varied articles.

**TO ARRANGE A SUBSCRIPTION  
INCLUDING DELIVERY TO YOUR  
DOOR (WITHIN BRACKLEY)  
PHONE MARILYN ON 702634**

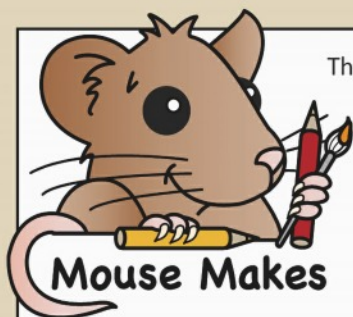
**NEVER MISS AN EDITION OF YOUR  
FAVOURITE PARISH MAGAZINE !**

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.

**Would you like to hear more from St Peter's?**

If you are online and would like to receive the weekly Vicar's Update, just send an email to [brackleyvicar@gmail.com](mailto:brackleyvicar@gmail.com) and ask to receive the church's email bulletin





The New Testament has **four gospels, twenty one epistles** and the book of *Revelation*.

The **epistles** are a collection of **letters** that were written by the apostles to the early Christians, they contain teaching, instruction, advice and encouragement.

The Apostle **Paul** is thought to have written **thirteen** of the *epistles*...



Look in your Bible to see who wrote the other eight and who they were written to.

How many people does Paul send greetings to at the end of his letter to the Romans?  
.....

The word **epistle** comes from the Greek word **epistolé** which means *letter or message*

Which are the longest epistles?  
.....  
.....  
How many chapters do they have?  
.....

**DID YOU KNOW...?**  
At the time of the New Testament letters were written on scrolls

Which is the shortest epistle?  
.....  
How many chapters does it have?  
.....

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

EPISTLE • LETTER • ROMANS • CORINTHIANS • GALATIANS • EPHESIANS  
PHILIPPIANS • COLOSSIANS • THESSALONIANS • TIMOTHY • TITUS • PHILEMON  
HEBREWS • JAMES • PETER • JOHN • JUDE • PAUL • SCROLL • WRITE