

Vol.62 No 6 June 2022 Online edition

**ST PETER'S CHURCH  
BRACKLEY**

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

**THE QUEEN'S  
PLATINUM JUBILEE**

**70  
years**



*Vernon Hawken*



I want to talk about the power of **hope**. There is a spine-tingling passage in 'The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King' when one of the key characters finds hope in the midst of a desperate situation:

*"There, peeping among the cloud-wrack above a dark tor high up in the mountains, Sam saw a white star twinkle for a while.*

*The beauty of it smote his heart, as he looked up out of the forsaken land, and hope returned to him. For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty for ever beyond its reach. His song in the Tower had been defiance rather than hope; for then he was thinking of himself. Now, for a moment, his own fate, and even his master's, ceased to trouble him. He crawled back into the brambles and laid himself by Frodo's side, and putting away all fear he cast himself into a deep untroubled sleep."*



This beautifully expresses the way that hope can help us to transcend our circumstances and find poise, composure and a measure of peace in times of real turmoil.

After the **Brackley Jubilee Service** on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June (11am in Brackley Park), when we will give heartfelt thanks for the 70-year reign of the Queen, the remainder of the Sundays in June will be spent looking at a chapter in the Bible that is all about the Christian hope. When people use the word 'hope', they might say something like 'I hope we win' – wishing for something, but unsure it will happen. In the Bible though, hope means absolute certainty about the future. In **1 Corinthians 15**, we will find the apostle Paul arguing that the past certainty of Christ's resurrection from the dead guarantees the future certainty of Christian resurrection to eternal life.

If this is true, belief in heaven is more than just wishful thinking or blind optimism. J.I. Packer wrote, "Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Every moment, the believer can say with truth... that the best is yet to come." The ending of our lives here on earth becomes something Christians need not fear, for "every prayer then shall have its answer; all hungering and thirsting shall be filled and satisfied; every sigh, groan, and tear that has fallen from the saints' eyes shall then be recompensed" (Thomas Brooks). In Paul's words, "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54).

Too good to be true? Let me give you two ways, other than coming on Sundays or listening back online, that you can investigate. Firstly, the **Hope Explored course** will run on Wednesday evenings (8pm on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> June). This will cover the basics of the faith and allow people to test and challenge its veracity. Just turn up, watch a video or two, eat a slice of cake or two, and ask any question you like. Secondly, we will be selling a short book called '**Tears and Tossings: Hope in the Waves of Life**' by Sarah Walton. It is a very quick read and aimed at those whose lives feel turbulent, painful and sometimes hopeless. You can pick up a copy from the back of church for just £2.

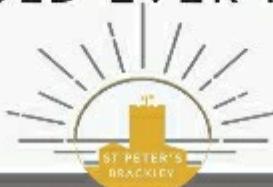
Wouldn't you like to be one of the most hopeful people in the world? This month, come along on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings – or read a book from the comfort of your own home – and hear about "an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade" (1 Peter 1:3). Amidst the Jubilee celebrations, it feels only right that we quote Her Majesty, who regularly references her Christian faith as a continual source of inspiration and strength: "Even on the darkest nights – there is hope in the new dawn" (the Queen, 25.12.20).

This June, whether life is incredibly dark for you at the moment or flooded with light, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:13).

# HOPE | EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE  
YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE?

DISCUSS THE BASICS  
OF THE CHRISTIAN HOPE  
AND ASK ANY QUESTION



WEDNESDAYS 8<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE  
ST PETER'S CHURCH HALL  
8PM, JUST TURN UP

SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

8.00am BCP Communion Service  
11.00am Platinum Jubilee Service in Brackley Park

Please note there is no 9.30 am service at St. Peter's



You are invited to the



## Brackley Jubilee Thanksgiving Service

at Brackley Park on the High Street

11:00-11:30am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June



A short service for all ages to give thanks  
for the 70-year reign of Her Majesty

Bring a rug or chair if you will need to sit  
down, or an umbrella if it is wet



## St Peter's Summer Picnic

12-2pm on Sunday 3rd July

in the churchyard

Bring-and-share lunch,

and bring some change for the ice cream van

No need to book, just show up with a little bit of food  
and drink.

We'll finish well before the  
Silverstone Grand Prix starts at 3pm.



"Huge thanks to the 40+ people who worked so hard on the Maintenance Day in April. It was lovely to have such a huge range of skills and ages amongst the volunteers - one in their 8th month, some in their 8th decade! We were also grateful to Tesco, Sainsburys, Farm Foods, Waitrose and Aldi, for providing the sustenance. The next Maintenance Day is planned for Saturday 3rd September."

As the 1<sup>st</sup> of May fell on a Sunday this year it meant we welcomed The Brackley Morris Men to our 9.30am service where they re-presented the 1623 Paten, which had originally been presented to St James' church and was transferred to St Peter's in the 1930's.



### 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

## New Lighting

Very many thanks to the fifteen volunteers who helped to vacuum the ceilings in the Chancel and Lady Chapel and the clerestory windows before the new lighting installation. They all did a wonderful job, and we will now not be illuminating cobwebs!



*Ant in action!*

As I write this, we are in the middle of installing the new lighting at St Peter's. There is still an opportunity if you wish to donate any of the lights.

Location	Type	Cost each fitting	Number	total
Nave	Down lighter	£268.75	16	£4,300.00
Nave Crossing	Down lighter	£263.75	4	£1,055.00
Lectern	Down lighter	£283.75	1	£283.75
Aisles	Down lighter	£206.40	12	£2,476.80
Chancel	Down lighter	£268.75	12	£3,225.00
Chancel ceiling	Up lighter	£206.40	6	£1,238.40
Lady Chapel ceiling	UP lighter	£206.40	4	£825.60
Lady Chapel altar	Down lighter	£206.40	2	£412.80
Lady Chapel	Down lighter	£206.40	4	£825.60
Chancel arch	Wash	£281.75	2	£563.50
Nave ceiling	Uplighter	£206.40	6	£1,238.40
West door	Welcome	£206.40	2	£412.80
South door	Welcome	£206.40	2	£412.80
West door	Outside light	£490.00	1	£490.00

The contractors will complete the installation of the new lighting on 1<sup>st</sup> June with the official switch on the 12<sup>th</sup> June at the 9:30 service.

John MacMahon



## Mouse Makes



Read the full  
story in Acts 2:1-11



It was the **festival** of **Pentecost**, **fifty days** since **Passover** and **Jews** from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to **celebrate**.

The **Apostles** and other believers were all **together** in one place when they heard a **sound** like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like **tongues** of **fire** which spread out and **touched each person**.

All of them were **filled** with the **Holy Spirit** and began to **talk in other languages** as the Spirit enabled them. A **crowd** gathered outside, they were all excited because each of them heard the believers speaking in their **own**



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

language about the great things **God** had done. About 3,000 people **heard**, **believed** and were **baptised** that day!

## **Vestry & Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

This was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April and along with presentation of the annual report (which can be found on the website) the Treasurer gave a verbal report on the finances of the church. The Vicar gave his verbal over view of the past 12 months and future ideas. They both took questions from the floor.

During the Vestry meeting two church wardens were elected for a term of one year:-

Val Lynam Bev Lazenby

The APCM saw the re- election to the PCC of :- Karen Gees, Steve Gees. Three new members were also elected:- Uli Ashley, Rosemary Leeper and Stuart Wright

### **MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION**

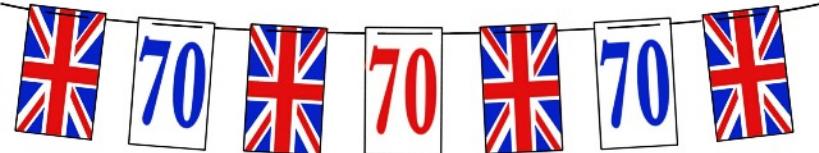
If you have enjoyed this short online edition of the current magazine you can purchase the full 20 page printed edition for the modest sum of 40p.

It is available from Jems on the Market Place.

The printed version contains so much more.  
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Plus varied articles.

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## HOW WE HAVE CHANGED IN THE LAST 70 YEARS

Pasta had not been invented.

Curry was a surname

A takeaway was a maths problem

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas

Rice was a milk pudding, never part of our dinner

A big mac was something you wore when it was raining

Oil was for lubricating and fat was for cooking

Coffee was camp and came in a bottle

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh

Only Heinz made baked beans

Fish didn't have fingers in those days

Eating raw fish was unheard of and so was sushi

Healthy food consisted of anything edible

Not peeling potatoes was regarded as laziness

Cooking outdoors was called camping

All crisps were plain,

the only choice was whether to add salt or not

Tea was made in a teapot, with loose leaves, never green

Sugar had a good reputation, regarded as white gold

Water came out of the tap,

buying bottled water would have been considered madness