

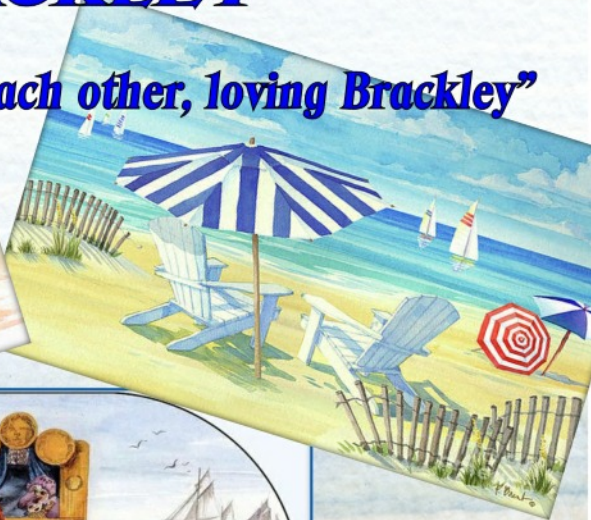


**Vol.61 No 8 August 2021**

**Online Edition**

# **ST PETER'S CHURCH BRACKLEY**

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





How do you feel when the person you talk to after a church service takes a different approach to wearing a mask, singing in church and social distancing? Are you tempted to feel superior? Or judgemental? Or frustrated? Or defensive about your own approach?

Since the onus for making these calls shifted from the government to individuals (on 19 July), fresh opportunity for division has arisen in all walks of life: within households, within businesses, within friendship groups, and within churches.

Over the coming months, I'm very keen that St Peter's is a place where both the more confident and the more cautious can feel comfortable, and where each side is gracious toward the other. This is what we are called to as God's people.

Paul, in Romans 14, gives several helpful principles that can help Christians to navigate such 'disputable matters' (v1):

1. Welcome those who disagree with you (v1-2)
2. Don't look down on those whom God has accepted (v3-4)
3. Have a clear conscience about your own position (v5)
4. Assume that those who differ from you do so from right motives (v6-9)
5. Don't judge – that is God's job, after all (v10-12)
6. The relaxed must not encourage the tentative to sin against their conscience (v13-15)
7. There are much more important things than being right (v16-23)

There is much valuable, practical wisdom here and the fact that this was one of the main reasons the apostle wrote his longest letter shows just how important he considered this mutual acceptance to be. Paul took quite a run-up to the issue (13 chapters), so if we struggle to stick to the 7 principles above, perhaps we should read Romans 1-13 to glean the gospel motivation that underpins such a godly approach to disagreement. This August, I hope we can all heed what Paul says

in Romans 15v7, "Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Three other things to mention about the month ahead:

- a **new proposal**... on 1<sup>st</sup> August, there will be a short presentation straight after the 9:30 service, explaining the new lighting scheme, proposed for 2022 or 2023.
- a **new meeting**... on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 'Compline in the Choir Stalls' will happen at 7:45pm as an alternative to the prior format of the monthly Church Prayer Meeting. It does what it says on the tin, but there will also be a chance for extempore prayer and the sharing of prayer requests.
- a **new arrival**... on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, we welcome to Brackley and St Peter's our fulltime Children & Families worker, Helen Price. Do flick to page 6 to find out more about Helen. Her role will incorporate many different aspects as she oversees our children's ministry and seeks to build up ties with families and primary-aged schools in the parish. She will need our prayers and ongoing support as she moves to a new town and gets to grips with the role. This appointment is right in line with the church family's vision to reach young families and has been made possible by the wonderful legacy left by Rosemary Miles.

I'd like to pass on heartfelt thanks to Jo Brice, Rosemary Leeper, my wife and all the other volunteers who helped to run Junior Church and Tots during May, June and July. Both groups are having a pause during August, but children are always welcome to stay in throughout our services (making use of the Children's Corner if that helps) or to play in the church hall (where the audio link can be switched on).

Lastly, it's not too late for children to sign up for our Holiday Club called 'Land Ahoy!' Running 10am-12pm on 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August, it should be enormous fun as we go looking for paradise in the Good Ship St Peter!



**ST PETER'S CHURCH, BRACKLEY**

**SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER AT 2.30PM**



**£10 ENTRANCE, IN CASH**

**INCLUDES**

**TEA AND CAKE**

**BINGO WITH HOLIDAY THEMED PRIZES**

**WHY NOT DRESS UP**

**FOR YOUR STAYCATION BINGO AFTERNOON**

**SEPARATE RAFFLE**



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How many great  
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create in the heavens?

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Genesis  
1:-31



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## Social Committee

### “Get me to the Church on time”

Getting St Peter's Church on the Brackley Scarecrow map was the aim of the game and by Jove we certainly did it !



Kath Bell had the great idea of the “drunken Vicar” in the wheelbarrow with the Bride and Groom scarecrows which she masterminded very skilfully all the characters dressed beautifully with help from others for special effects!



Sylvia and Ian Rhodes produced a lovely chap who chatted to everyone on the bench when they sat by him.

The St Peter's Brownies and Guides displayed their “practicing knots” scarecrow beautifully and I am sure this was all a first for St Peter's.

Marg never fails to come up with a great tombola and dressed the part although having spent the night in a field was a little dishevelled ! However Jacky brushed her down when necessary!



We spent four hours welcoming people , serving tea coffees and homemade cakes selling tombola tickets and it was lovely to chat and have a normal buzz of life as it should be . Our treasurer John was on hand with his credit card machine which boosted our takings in this cash less society

and in four hours we took £432.00 which was brilliant and much needed for the Church .

Many thanks as always to ALL cake makers and for donations of prizes which are always so welcome .Particular thanks to Bev and ALL the social gang as always for their hard work and Dennis, Geoff , Lucy , Beverly and Anne Carter for supporting us .

Thanks Rich for letting us do it and congratulations on winning ‘guess the number of sweets in the jar ‘  
Did you share them ?

We are always hoping that more will join our social gang and are delighted that Kath Bell and Sylvia Boasman have recently joined us . We are a very friendly lot and our meetings are always very sociable so please do come and chat if you would like to help us .You don't have to be involved in everything but having as many hands on deck dipping in and out will keep us going at the moment.

At our recent committee meeting we were discussing future events. Unfortunately we were not able to hold the Bingo on 17<sup>th</sup> July, but this has been rescheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> September.

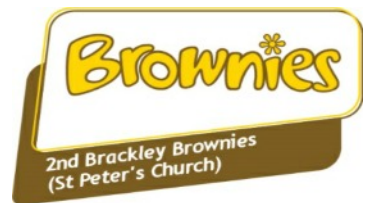
We are planning a Harvest Supper on 2<sup>nd</sup> October £6, tickets will be available later and Advent lunch. More details will appear later.

Caroline

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## **Brownies and Guides tie up their leader!**



After more than a year of online meetings, the Brownies have been able to take advantage of the lighter evenings and enjoy outdoor meetings again.

Last month, we had fun making scarecrows as part of Brackley's Scarecrow Festival, with the Guides.



**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.**

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.

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[marilynisrael2017@gmail.com](mailto:marilynisrael2017@gmail.com)



## THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

At our recent ordination of new curates I started my sermon by asking the candidates; “What did it feel like when they first looked in a mirror and saw themselves wearing a clerical blouse or shirt?”

There’s a great book “Legacy” about the All Blacks, the New Zealand national rugby team by James Kerr. He offers a fascinating reflection on the All Black jersey which is regarded as a semi-sacred thing. One famous star player, on being given his first shirt, held it with religious awe for almost a minute before putting it on. Kerr comments; in that moment of donning the jersey he was changed – he wasn’t just wearing a rugby kit, he became an All Black.

In a similar way, at their ordination, our new curates didn’t just start wearing a clergy collar, they became clergy.



During their pre-ordination retreat, Bishop Donald had led us through the letter to the Christians at Ephesus. It was appropriate that at the service in the Cathedral we heard words from the famous last chapter; “Put on the whole armour of God”. Again, it was good to be reminded that this isn’t just about dressing up, but about joining up. In putting on spiritual armour we become spiritual soldiers.

In my sermon, I spoke of Christian character, lifestyle, integrity and the unity of God’s people. In conclusion I drew one final lesson about being a deacon (literally a servant) from being an All Black. Quite often ministry is simply about showing up, sometimes about setting up, frequently it is about clearing up! At the end of every international rugby match, the All Blacks review the game and then the two most senior players each grab a brush and sweep the changing room. The greatest willing to be servants. May God bless our new deacons as they and we follow Jesus in serving His world.

With my prayers and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a flourish.

+John  
Bishop of Brixworth