

800

ST PETER'S BRACKLEY

“Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley”





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

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January we launched our 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal, seeking to raise the sum of **£412,000**. Of that figure, we aim to raise **£56,000** from the St Peter's Church community itself. That probably includes you, if you are reading this! Therefore, might you consider giving as generously as you can towards this centenary appeal? It is vital we play our part and follow the generations before us celebrating the church's past by securing its future.

### **What's the 2023 Appeal money for?**

The Appeal is raising money solely for work on the church building and churchyard. St Peter's is the only Grade 1 listed building in Brackley, and one of only 3000 churches nationally categorised as such (out of 15,700 parish churches in England). A recent quinquennial inspection by our architect highlighted major areas of maintenance work that need to take place.

Those who came to the presentation in church in December will have heard more of the detail but, by way of example, £96,000 is needed for repairs to the roof and guttering, £34,000 for repairs to the church tower, £50,000 for repairs to the churchyard wall, £21,000 for a new boiler, and so on and so on. If you would like more of the breakdown, please contact me, Robin Morello (lead of the 800 campaign), or John MacMahon (chair of the Buildings, Development and Maintenance committee).

There is a common misconception that churches receive government or council funding (beyond charitable tax relief), which isn't the case. Unlike in many European countries, such as Italy and Germany, the state plays no direct part in the upkeep of churches, and nor does the central Church of England provide financial support to its church buildings (other than a recent energy crisis grant of a few hundred pounds).

Covid and inflation have increased financial pressures on all charities and hundreds of churches face closure or demolition in the next five years. We would hate for that to be a risk for St Peter's in the future and want to be able to serve this community for centuries to come. This rare anniversary year is a golden opportunity to do that.

## What else is happening this year?

Please visit our website to find out some of the many 800 Celebration events planned for this year ([www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800events](http://www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800events)). We are hoping there is something for everyone!



The screenshot shows the website for St Peter's Brackley. At the top left is the church logo with the text 'ST PETER'S BRACKLEY'. To the right is a navigation menu with links for 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'RESOURCES', 'WHAT'S ON', and 'COMMUNITY'. On the far right is a circular logo with '800' and 'ST PETER'S BRACKLEY'. Below the menu are four circular event cards:

- Family Fun Day**  
Sunday 9 July  
We will be holding a picnic in the churchyard for all the family to enjoy.
- Cheese & Wine Evening**  
Saturday 15 July  
Come and enjoy a fascinating talk about the...
- Medieval Banquet**  
Saturday 22 July Evening  
Join us for a spectacular evening steeped in history in the wonderful setting...
- Brackley Band Mid-Summer Concert**  
Sunday 23rd July  
Join us for an evening of wonderful tunes from the...

## How can the target be reached?

We are seeking to raise the remaining £356,000 of the target by appealing to grant-making trusts, major donors and the wider Brackley community. Crucially, this means that the whole £412,000 doesn't need to be found by the congregation alone, as would be the case if this fundraising effort were not to take place.

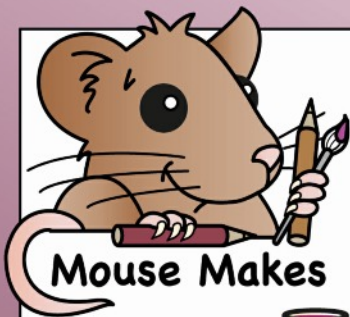
In terms of the £56k, I would love everyone in the congregation to give something, however small. That would both help us reach the target and also be really important to be able to say to the town, to businesses and to grant-making trusts.

Please also join with us in praying for God's provision this year: that he would go on meeting all our needs, just as he has in the past.

## How can I donate?

If you would like to contribute, the giving form included with this magazine has all the information you should need in order to give by cheque, banking transfer, cash or direct debit. Alternatively, you can simply go on our 800 website ([www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800](http://www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800)) and give with a few clicks of a button. Some may not be in a position to give one lump sum, but may prefer to commit to giving a small sum every month for the next 5 years. Please let us know if this is the case, as that will be a vital part of helping us reach the target.

Thank you very much indeed for considering whether you can give to this centenary appeal.



## Mouse Makes

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 26:27-28



SUPPER  
LAMB • LORD  
DISCIPLES  
TOGETHER  
EVENING  
ROOM • JAR  
WATER • TWELVE  
JESUS • CHRIST  
NIGHT • TOOK  
THANKS  
BLESSING  
BROKE • GIVEN  
COVENANT  
DRINK • EAT  
FORGIVENESS  
SINS • HOLY  
COMMUNION  
EUCHARIST

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 26:26



Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in

of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25



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

Find the words from the questions too!



## ***Rev'd Sylvia writes...***

What are we looking forward to as we begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the year? For each of us it is very likely something quite different but it will usually involve a certain amount of planning whatever we are hoping the year will hold.

As the people of St Peter's, we are beginning a momentous year in our history. To be celebrating 800 years of a worshipping community in this church is really something. Although we must remember that Christian worship began on the site of St Peters much earlier than 1223. To think of the Sunday worship, prayer and singing that has taken place during that time makes it the special place it is. Many baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals have drawn people together in this building to ask God's blessing in joy and comfort in sorrow, not to mention the changes to the building and the love shown by those who have taken care of it. It is a place of constancy and reassurance and we are fortunate indeed to have the doors open every day.

Last month Rev'd Rich outlined what is planned so far to mark this special year. There is much to look forward to with so many people giving of their time and expertise in helping to make the plans a reality. Lots of hopes and dreams which, with the help of God will be realised.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month, the Anglican Church celebrates the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, or Candlemas as it is often known. This day the church remembers the time when the Jewish people awaited the consolations of Israel, the comfort the Messiah would bring as written by the prophet Isaiah. Simeon and Anna recognized immediately that Jesus was the Messiah, the 'consolation of Israel'. It is good to remember that Jesus isn't just the consolation of Israel, but the consolation of the whole world.

Just as Jesus was consecrated to the Lord, we each have an opportunity to consecrate our lives afresh to Jesus, by simply making a prayer of re-dedication to God. This can be a simple, heartfelt prayer reaffirming our baptismal promises: a re-visiting of our religious or marriage vows; or a prayer which asks the Holy Spirit to renew our sense of vocation in our chosen job or profession. A re-dedication or renewal *of vows or promises, is a movement of conversion* within our hearts and is always a work of the Holy Spirit.

For this special year, let us remember too that all our plans, will need the help of God and for this we must constantly ask, however ambitious they may seem. It may help us to call to mind William Carey's motto as mentioned in last month's magazine by Bishop John. **"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God".**  
With Every Blessing, Sylvia



WEDNESDAY

22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY

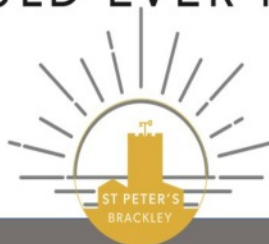
9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION  
7.30PM HOLY COMMUNION

ALL WELCOME

# HOPE | EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE  
YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE?

DISCUSS THE BASICS  
OF THE CHRISTIAN HOPE  
AND ASK ANY QUESTION



WEDNESDAYS 1<sup>ST</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> FEB  
ST PETER'S CHURCH HALL  
8PM, JUST TURN UP

## 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

## **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 !**

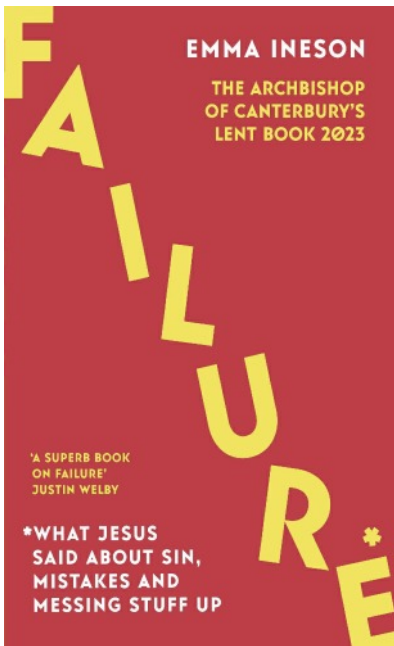
If you would ever like to make a donation to  
St Peter's Church,  
your gift would be hugely appreciated.  
Our bank details are as follows:  
sort code 30-11-08,  
account number 00060124.  
Thank you.

## Failure:

### What Jesus Said About Sin, Mistakes and Messing Stuff Up By Emma Ineson, SPCK £8.99

#### The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2023

In 2019, Emma Ineson wrote about ambition and what it means for Christians to be successful. And then there was a global pandemic . . . Suddenly failure began to feel very much more familiar than success.



But what is failure? What did Jesus think of it? What did He say about sin, mistakes and generally mucking things up? At the start of this wonderfully humorous and encouraging book – which will end at the cross – it's suggested that our tendency to lump all kinds of failure together could be a bit unhelpful. A more nuanced understanding of what sort of failure we're dealing with might just allow us to make friends with it and respond more appropriately.

This idea leads us 'Towards an (Imperfect) Theology of Failure', based on key Christian thinking, and Emma poses the question of whether sin is an individual or corporate thing. Looking at the church, we consider, what is God's purpose for it? And in the light of key concerns such as safeguarding and racial justice, how might we re-examine concepts of success and recognise and measure failure?

We are reminded of our calling to live life to the full, to take risks despite our fears. We are bound sometimes to fail! Yet gazing at Jesus – who looked like the greatest failure of all – we may discern in the heartache, vulnerability and humility of failure, the glory of the cross.