

Vol.65 No 10 October 2025 Online edition

ST PETER'S CHURCH. BRACKLEY



"LOVING GOD,
LOVING EACH OTHER,
LOVING BRACKLEY"



Rev. Rich Duncan writes...



Many hotels have those little door hangars that let the cleaners know whether or not you want them to tidy your room and remake the beds.

Someone I know visited a De Vere hotel and came across these hangars (below), which express the two options in simple terms: on one side the card read, "I'm clean enough, please don't disturb." On the other side it said, "I'm a right mess, come on in."

I think this neatly sums up the only two reactions to Jesus Christ.

Every day, I meet people whose underlying attitude to God is, "I'm clean enough, thank you very much, please don't disturb my life." The door is firmly shut to Christ because of pride. It's the same self-righteousness that made the Pharisees so closed off to Jesus in the Gospels.

But I also meet many people who have the opposite reaction to Jesus' offer of complete forgiveness and his power to change, "I'm a right old mess, come on in!" They gladly give him the green light to enter and welcome his transforming grace into their hearts and lives.

You see, one of the most common misconceptions about Christianity is that it is only for good people. How ironic! Christianity is actually only for those who know they are *not* good people and need to be made clean. After all, Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me" (John 13:8).

So, which response do you have to God?

Can you admit you are a mess? Or would you rather keep up the pretence?

Jesus won't just barge in. He stands at the door and knocks (Revelation 3:20). So will you invite him in, to cleanse and remake you?



How wonderful it is to walk into a hotel room that once resembled a bomb site, but now has been put straight. How much more wonderful if that were to happen in our lives!

The stats say monthly church attendance in this country has risen by 50% in the past 6 years. If you haven't been to a service in yonks, why not try St Peter's or one of the other Brackley churches during October? Join the resurgence.

Sure, it takes humility to invite the cleaner in. But, my goodness, you never regret it!

WANTED

A magazine distributor to cover the St. Peter's Park and Poets area of the town. This is a job done faithfully by Joan Ramsay for over 11 years. Unfortunately due to family illness she needs to step down, so if anybody reading this would like to take over, either speak to Joan or ring Marilyn on 01280702634 or e-mail marilynisrael2017@gmail.com

Confirmation Service

Wednesday 8th October, 7pm

ALL
WELCOME



ST PETER'S

Prayer Morning

Saturday 11th October, 9am-12noon



☞ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ☞
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Autumn Glades

We stroll through leafy autumn glades,
An amber carpet 'neath our shoes;
As Nature's summer beauty fades
She clothes herself in golden hues.

The stillness of October days,
The chillness of a frosty dawn,
Yet autumn sunshine's slanting rays
Caress us with their glowing warmth.

They also warm the southern breeze,
Which comes upon us, as it may,
Releasing crispy, ochre leaves
To gently patter on our way.

Soon, soon comes winter's icy grip,
Of freezing wind and driving snow,
But, just for now, we'll gladly slip
Through gentle autumn's golden glow.



By Nigel Beeton

Let's read together

Sixty years ago, a young Dutchman called Andrew was called by God to smuggle Bibles into Communist Eastern Europe.



He set off in his VW Beetle, which was full of Bibles for him to distribute to the persecuted church behind the Iron Curtain. It was illegal. It was dangerous. But this young man felt compelled to go and encourage believers who felt they had been forgotten.

At one point, he was pulled over by Soviet Union guards for a vehicle check. As he climbed out he prayed:

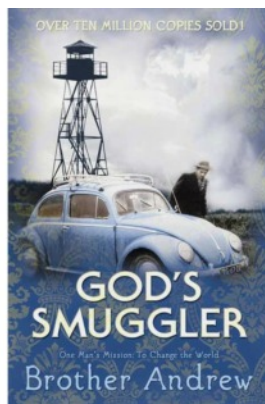
"Lord, in my luggage I have Scripture I want to take to Your children. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Do not let the guards see those things You do not want them to see."

The guards searched the car but didn't see a thing and sent him on his way. This is one of many miraculous stories in the life of Brother Andrew (as he came to be known) and his work of smuggling ultimately thousands of Bibles across dangerous borders and into needy hands.

It's all recounted in his book, *God's Smuggler*, which is a genuine page-turner full of gripping real-life stories.

I have just begun re-reading *God's Smuggler* and I'd like to invite everyone here to join me in reading it too. Over the last few years I've not found it easy to read – lack of time and energy haven't helped, but it's also often hard to know what's good. So I've curated a list of excellent Christian biographies and autobiographies – past and present, and from all around the world – which are inspiring, encouraging and easy to read.

Every couple of months I'm going to read one and I would love it if you joined me! I will share the book and details on how to get it. There won't be anything formal in terms of a book group or meeting up to discuss, but I will share broad questions for anyone that does want to think more deeply about what they've read or would like a prompt for chatting about it with others.



Biographies are a great way to see ordinary Christians stepping out in faith to serve Christ wherever and however He calls them. The best biographies make God the hero, not the individual, so we see their flaws as well as their godliness. Indeed, Brother Andrew describes his early life as an “adrenaline junkie-heavy drinking-reckless Dutch soldier”.

My hope is that our overriding sense as we read these books is fresh awe and wonder at our powerful and gentle Lord, and a greater desire to live for Him.

If you'd like to join me in reading *God's Smuggler* over the next couple of months then you can actually get a free copy from the Open Doors website. Open Doors is the brilliant charity that Brother Andrew founded and which today supports persecuted Christians in over 70 countries.

Follow the link below to order your free book. If getting online is tricky for you then come and find me and I can order it for you. It's also available as an audio book and you can listen to it on Audible.

Then, over the next few weeks, look out on the screen and in future magazines for questions to help you think further or discuss more about the book. And keep an eye out in a couple of months' time for the next book for us to enjoy!

Kate Duncan

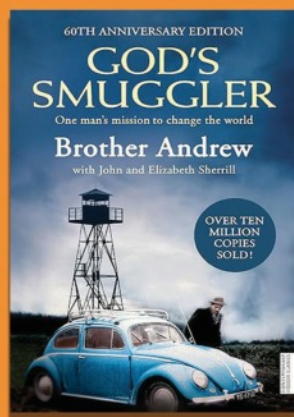


opendoorsuk.org/brother-andrew

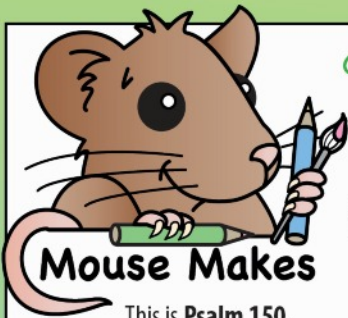
Let's read together...

GOD'S SMUGGLER

available in print,
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Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.

*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him
with the sounding trumpet,
Praise Him
with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him
with tambourine and dancing,
Praise Him
with the clash of cymbals,
Praise Him
with the resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!

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

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TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD

ALL SOULS SERVICE
SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER
3PM

There will be a memorial book placed by the font from 1st October if anyone wishes to have the name of a loved one read out during the service.

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321

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St Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival



2025

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Deliver to the Church

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**ALL trees must be removed by
Sunday 4th January**



**Further info
from Caroline
07845 397168**



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Thursday Nov 27th 6.30-8.30pm

Tuesday Dec 2nd 6.30-8.30pm

Saturday Dec 6th 10am-12 noon

Ticket price of £35

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Contact

Sally Hughes to book your place on

07925 531465 or 01280 700778



**CHRISTMAS
WREATH
WORKSHOPS**



Samaritan's Purse-

Operation Christmas Child 2025



Here at St Peter's we take great joy each year in supporting Operation Christmas Child which provides much needed Christmas gifts and practical items in a wrapped shoe box to some of the poorest children around the world.

This year we are changing the ways in which you can help. You can still fill your own shoe box with items and bring it to church **by Sunday 9th November**. Alternatively, we are going to set up a donations box at the back of the church where you can leave items that can be used to fill the boxes. We will have a 'Wrap and Fill' coffee morning at **10 am on Saturday 8th November** where we invite you to help us to use the items that have been donated to fill shoe boxes.

Items that can be put in the shoe boxes include:

Toys - small toys and games (no toy guns/ soldiers)

School supplies- pens, pencils, notebooks etc...

Personal items- hair brush, soap bar, mirror, toothbrush

Accessories- hat, gloves, hair clips, bracelets, sunglasses.

For more information about what to include please pick up a leaflet in church or go to:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

We also need donations of empty shoe boxes and Christmas wrapping paper.

If you have any questions, then please ask and thank you so much for all your generosity as we support this wonderful charity.

Louise

lbazeley@gmail.com





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