

# ST PETER'S CHURCH BRACKLEY

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



**H A R V E S T**



I don't know if you were fortunate enough to get away from Brackley this summer, but there's something fantastic both about going away on holiday and also about coming home. In fact, both of those sensations are actually a foretaste of heaven, which will be like the ultimate holiday *and* the ultimate home.

### **Heaven will be the ultimate holiday**

Not all holidays are straightforward, but all of the best aspects will be there without the hassles and headaches: rest, beauty, good food, laughter, friendship and adventure, without any of the travel sickness, traffic jams or family feuds. Heaven will exceed even our wildest dreams as the best holiday we have ever had. If you are a Christian, then you're going where the sun shines brightly.

What's more, it's so certain that Christians should start looking forward to it now. A British passport allows bearers to pass freely around the world "in the Name of Her Majesty", but a Christian's faith in Jesus Christ guarantees free passage beyond this world on the authority of an even higher Name.

Even after the best trips away though, there can be something incredibly satisfying about returning: walking through the door and thinking "I'm home." Well, this will also be the case upon arrival in heaven.

### **Heaven will be the ultimate home**

All the best things about coming home will be there (comfort, security and reunions with loved ones) without any of the disappointment that our vacation has ended (no unpacking, Monday blues or the deflating sense that all good things have to come to an end). In fact, heaven will far outstrip the homeliness of any earthly residence. It may be that you've never really felt you 'belong' in this life, wherever you have lived. If you are a Christian, that's right: you actually belong in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

C.S. Lewis wrote in 'The Weight of Glory' that "our lifelong nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we now feel cut off... is the truest index of our real situation." Our primary citizenship is out of this world. To some extent, Christians will always feel like homesick travellers in this life (Hebrews 11:14-16), but one day we will arrive home and the Lord Jesus is currently getting it ready for us (John 14:2-3).

Autumn can feel to many of us like a melancholic season. As light and life recede, it can seem as if the best is behind us. But for the Christian, the best is always yet to come. The key is not just to look forward to our next time away (if that's even a possibility for us), but to our eternal, heavenly holiday home.

*In the shorter term, this magazine will highlight some of the things we can look forward to in the month ahead at St Peter's. Let me briefly highlight four:*

1. **Essentials** – starting 8pm on Wed 8<sup>th</sup>, this new course is for those who want to cover the basics of the faith in a relaxed environment, suitable for believers and non-believers alike. Perhaps you're not sure that heaven is where you are headed. Why not come and ask questions, or just soak it up (five Wednesday evenings in the church hall: no fee, no booking and no need to come to more than one).
2. **Welcome Drinks** – 11-12 on Sun 12<sup>th</sup> at the Vicarage, for anyone who has joined St Peter's in the past two years. You can just turn up and (as with Bingo on the 4<sup>th</sup>) this should be a great opportunity to get to know more people in the church family.
3. **'The Church's Response to the Climate Crisis'** – 6pm on Wed 15<sup>th</sup> at St Peter's, with Dr Peter Brotherton speaking, followed by bring-and-share supper (booking essential through Rev. Carolyn Oley 01280 701311).

4. **Generosity Week** – Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Sept to Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Beginning with our all-age Harvest Festival service, and tying in with the national church, St Peter's will be giving thanks for the time, talents and treasure that so many people give to the church and asking for people to review what they can give in light of current needs and opportunities.

Finally, please let us know if we can pray for you or if you need support. If you would like more frequent updates on what's going on at the church, do sign up for our 'Weekly Bulletin' emails (subscribe through our website). I am conscious that a number in the orbit of St Peter's are unable to attend our services, but I'm keen that they continue to feel a valued part of our community.



**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**9.30AM ALL AGE HOLY COMMUNION**

**ALL WELCOME**

## Feoffee Grants

Are you a Brackley resident who has struggled financially since the pandemic?

It might be worth you applying to Brackley United Feoffee (pronounced 'feffy') Charity for a one-off grant to help with a specific pressing need or educational expense.

The rules of the charity state that any beneficiary must live within the 'ecclesiastical parish of Brackley' (which covers the whole of the town and includes also Halse). Enquiries may come from or via local GPs, local schools, social services etc., but the charity considers all applications on their individual merit and is pleased to receive them from any source. If you have a genuine reason to apply for assistance that will fall into either the 'Relief in Need' or 'Education' category, it is always worth an ask.

For further information, or to make an application, contact the Secretary, Mrs Irene Bennett, on [brackleyunitedfeoffee.charity@gmail.com](mailto:brackleyunitedfeoffee.charity@gmail.com), or write to the Chairman, Caryl Billingham MBE, at 7 Bridgewater Rise, Brackley, NN13 6DA. The trustees (who include Rev. Rich Duncan) meet quarterly to discuss all charity business including any applications for assistance that may have been received.

## First Day of 2021 Holiday Club





**St Peter's Church**  
**Harvest Supper**



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
**6.00pm**

**£6.00 for a supper of**  
**Ploughman's and Pudding**



**Bring your own drinks**



**Tickets available from**  
**Kath Bell**



**on 07568 472264 or 01280 703859**

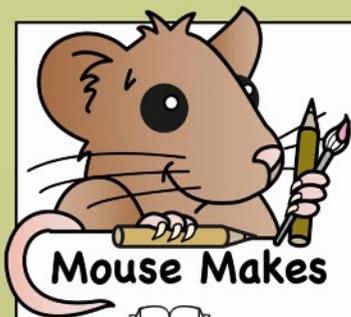
**If you would ever like to make a donation to  
St Peter's Church,  
your gift would be hugely appreciated.  
Our bank details are as follows:  
sort code 30-11-08,  
account number 00060124.  
Thank you.**

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If you would like to take out an annual subscription for home delivery please email Marilyn Israel at

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



## Mouse Makes



### The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months, there was a drought in the land. God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the town of Zarephath. At the town gate he saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water and some bread." he asked her.



She answered "All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."

"Do not worry." Elijah said,

By Daphne Kitching

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never ran out of oil until it rained again!



Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW  
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE  
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY  
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY