



“Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley”



Revd.Sylvia Lafford writes.....

Dear Friends,

There is so much to look forward to this month. I am sure there will be much rejoicing as we begin on the 6th with the Coronation of King Charles 111 and an extended weekend of celebration. Here at St Peters we are very fortunate to be able to live screen the Coronation and have a day when we can come together and be part of this special event. Several of our congregation have seen more than one such event in their lives but many of us have only seen the Coronation of our late Queen Elizabeth 11. As a young child at the time, it will always remain a very special memory for me.

Special events in our lives create memories. Memories of course can be both happy and sad. Reliving the past through stories, photos and letters are important whether sad or happy. They remind us of people and times that have shaped our lives and are always interesting for future generations. They help give us our identity, help us to know who we are.

It's always good to look back on the milestones in our lives, especially those celebrated in church, Baptisms, Weddings, the happy times, and of course Funerals, which naturally bring a time of sadness.

As we celebrate 800 years of St Peters Church, I think of the hundreds, possibly thousands, of such occasions which have taken place within these walls. Add to that the Sunday and weekday acts of worship, the great festivals, that have continued, throughout those hundreds of years.

We have just celebrated the great feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ at Easter, a great joy for us all. During this month of May, we celebrate the Ascension and then almost at the end of May, Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit which Jesus promised. These special days have been celebrated for so many years, no wonder our church has worship and prayer built in to the walls! We have so much to praise God for. As we journey on through this year of celebrating our church, may our faith be renewed and strengthened, our hearts and minds filled with the knowledge of His love for us.

With my love and prayers,
Sylvia

Our Mother-tongue Is Love; A Sonnet for Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.

This is the feast of fire, air, and water,



poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release.
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

Taken from 'Sounding the Seasons',

By **Malcolm Guite**



The increased numbers attending church
on Sundays mean that
Communion is taking longer and longer
(a nice problem to have).

To help with this, from the end of May
we will aim to have
two ordained ministers
administering the bread each week,
instead of one.





ASCENSION DAY

THURSDAY 18th MAY

7.30pm

HOLY COMMUNION

ALL WELCOME

800 Appeal progress

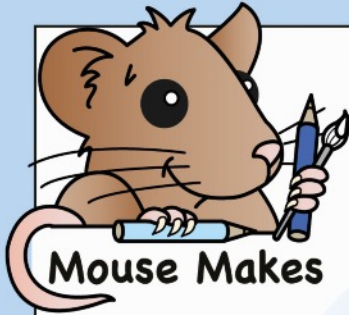
For every £10,000 raised for the 800 Appeal, another pane of glass is coloured in.

Thanks to those who have already contributed. We look forward to watching the colour spread and hope that by the end of the year we have a full window!



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 and ask to receive the church's email bulletin



Mouse Makes

Forty days after His resurrection Jesus appeared to the Apostles one last time. He told them that the Holy Spirit would come, then He blessed them and ascended into heaven.

What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would give the Apostles?

Find the answers in the word search



READ
Acts 1 4-17

to be Jesus' witnesses.

Acts 1:8

What did Jesus from the Apostles?

a _____
Acts 1:9

Who appeared to the Apostles?

Two _____ and what were they dressed in? _____
Acts 1:10

Where was Jesus taken up to? _____
Luke 24:51

Where did the Apostles return to? _____
Acts 1:12

Where is Jesus seated?

At the _____ of God.
Mark 16:19

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

JESUS • CHRIST • FORTY DAYS • APOSTLES • ASCENSION • TAKEN • LOOKING SKY • RETURN • BLESSED • WORSHIPPED • JOY • PRAYER • GOD • SAT GATHERED • WITNESSES • HOLY SPIRIT

800 events and fundraising update

Quiz night

The ever popular quiz night was held on Saturday March 18th. The hall was full and everyone had a great time. Thanks to Bob and Daniel for all their hard work in helping to make it such a successful event. £1018.75 was raised for the 800 appeal.

The book sale, bric a brac and coffee morning on March 24th raised £258.55.

During the evening of March 24th an entertaining and enlightening talk was given by Mr Chris Baseley. The subject of the talk was 'The history of the Privy'. After the talk everyone enjoyed a delicious cheese and wine supper. Our thanks must go to Chris Baseley in helping us to raise £629.50



Forthcoming events:

December 9th Ball tickets are now on sale. See poster on notice board or website for details.

The medieval banquet is to be held on July 22nd and tickets will be on sale very soon. Tickets will cost £50. See poster on notice board or website for details.

The primary school children's Art exhibition will be taking place in church during the weekend of April 28th - 30th. Do come along to support. See poster on notice board or website for details

Plans for the Brides and Blooms festival are well on the way and will take place during the weekend of June 23rd - 25th



**Brides and Bloom
Flower Festival**

FRIDAY 23 - SUNDAY 25 JUNE

Bridal dresses from different eras will be on show. The church will be full of beautiful floral wedding displays created by the St Peter's flower team. A presentation of photos of past weddings held in St Peter's church will be displayed.



Friday & Saturday 10am - 4pm
Sunday 1pm - 4pm
Refreshments will be available.
£3 Entry on the door.

www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800



We are looking for able musicians - adults or students who would like to play background music in church, during the Brides and Blooms festival. A rota of musicians will be drawn up for the weekend. If you are interested or you know someone who would like to take part please contact Sally Hughes on 07925531465 or 01280 700778 or e mail me on e328@btinternet.com

Grateful thanks to all members of the social committee and the 800 events and fund raising committee who continue to work hard together to provide fun events and to raise money for the 800 appeal during this year of celebrations, 2023.

Sally Hughes - events and fundraising co-ordinator

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 !**

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

May 18th 2pm

**Spend an Afternoon
in Celebration of**

**ASCENSION
DAY**

**Our Speaker will be
Rev. Sylvia Lafford**

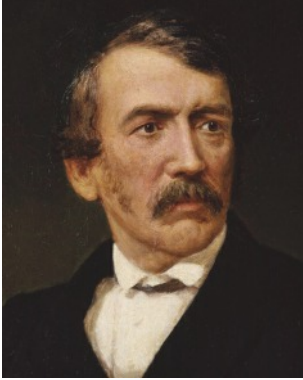
This is an open meeting to which anyone can attend and includes refreshments. We do ask for a donation of £1 towards funds.

Monthly Communion at 9.30am in the lady chapel on May 2nd followed by coffee and of course chat. You do not need to be an MU member to join us.

Beverly

Remembering David Livingstone – missionary and explorer

It was 150 years ago, on 1st May 1873, that David Livingstone, the Scottish missionary and explorer, died. He was best known for his search for the sources of the Nile, and for going missing (and being found by the American journalist Henry Morton Stanley) in the wilds of Africa.



Livingstone was born in Blantyre, near Glasgow, and died of malaria and dysentery in what is now Chipundu, Zambia. He was the first European to cross the African continent from west to east and to discover the Zambesi River, the Victoria Falls and many major lakes.

His mother and father were both strict Christians, and the family was poor: he was one of seven children brought up on the top floor of a tenement. But he felt called to be a medical missionary in China; so he spent two years studying to become a doctor and was accepted by the London Missionary Society.

But the political situation in China prevented his going there, and a meeting with Robert Moffat, a well-known Scottish missionary in southern Africa, persuaded Livingstone that he should go to Africa instead. He arrived in Cape Town in 1841.

He felt that Christianity, commerce and civilisation were destined to open up Africa, and he was strongly against slavery, often clashing with the Boers and Portuguese because of their treatment of the Africans.

He was awarded a gold medal and money by the British Royal Geographical Society for the first European sighting of Lake Ngami, now a birdlife conservation area in Botswana. He also found fame through the publication in 1857 of his *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa*, which sold more than 70,000 copies, bringing a vastly improved lifestyle for his wife Mary (Moffat's talented daughter), who had put up with his repeated absences.