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Online Edition

# **ST PETER'S CHURCH BRACKLEY**

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





## **'Which radio station is our church?'**

I remember a friend pondering this question about their own church a while ago. What he meant was, 'What sort of style of music features in our services?' As I'm the person who chooses the hymns and songs for Sundays, it's something I have to give a fair amount of thought to. So, for a bit of fun, let's ask the question,

'Which radio station is St Peter's?'

### **Classic FM**

Classic FM trades on playing the golden oldies that most people will know and often draws on a particular theme or the time of the year. This, I think, is the staple for St Peter's: well-known traditional, barn-storming numbers that have stood the test of time. I'm a huge fan of hymns that combine theologically rich lyrics with stirring melodies. Sadly, my voice isn't quite as smooth as those of the Classic FM presenters when I'm introducing, but in some ways, the selections are of a similar flavour.

### **Radio 3**

Radio 3 selects music of a similar vintage (long out of copyright), but likes to be a bit more niche. In a similar way, the choices at St Peter's will sometimes come from delving into the lesser-known recesses of our old Common Praise hymnbooks. This can be good in small doses to ensure variety, although the doses may have been rather generous earlier in the year!

### **Radio 2**

Like Radio 2, a mainstay of our playlist is music that is less ancient and more modern – produced in the last 50 years, but still not bang up-to-date. This would probably describe much of the contents of our white Songbook, which contains a whole range of dearly-loved tunes.

### **Radio 1**

Novelty and contemporary trends are obviously core to Radio 1's USP and, now and then, we like to throw in a new release to the St Peter's

line-up. Some of these have proven very popular. It's good, very occasionally, to add to the repertoire and make sure we accommodate younger audiences, in some small way, as well as our long-serving stalwarts.

## **Fun Kids**

Didn't know this radio station existed? Well, whilst we're on younger listeners, we at St Peter's have a children's song in the service from time to time. Partly to give the grown-ups a free workout if they join in with the actions, but mainly to ensure that the next generation know that church is for them too.

In using this radio analogy, we must be wary of a danger: if we liken church music to switching on the radio in the car or at home, we'll probably end up with an individualistic, consumerist mindset. If I don't like the song on my radio, I can either switch over or switch off. But church is different. Church music is corporate worship:

- 1) **Corporate** (i.e. it's about others' needs too – perhaps it's more like radio in a bus than in a car, needing to cater for a range of tastes and styles)
- 2) **Worship** (i.e. it's ultimately about God's pleasure not mine – meaning if the words are great but the tune is painful, I can still choose to worship Him).

I think the singing at St Peter's is excellent, which is such an encouragement. I'm also extremely grateful that we have such a flexible organist in Jacinta, who is always willing to accommodate my eclectic tastes. Please pray for me as I choose what songs we sing on a Sunday and let's keep remembering that it is *corporate worship*.

## **Radio 4**

Finally, at the risk of pushing the metaphor too far, any Radio 4 listeners (who appreciate news and current affairs), hopefully get a bit of that at the very end of our services in the notice slot: informative, though often overly wordy. If that parallel works, then perhaps the reading of Banns of Marriage is like the Shipping Forecast: familiar and vaguely nostalgic background noise for most, but for a small minority, they'd be sunk without it!



Thanks to your very generous donations during lent, the flower team were once again able to beautify the church for Easter Sunday when we celebrated the resurrection of Christ.

You probably noticed that we used mainly white and yellow flowers in the larger arrangements, as these colours represent new life and hope.

The rabbits and chicks we used in the displays also remind us of new life and hope.

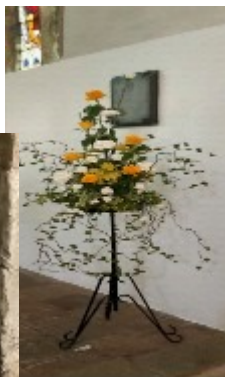
Easter lilies have been used in arrangements near the chancel steps. They are commonly used in churches at Eastertime to symbolize Jesus' resurrection and the promise of everlasting life.

Legend has it that white lilies sprung from the ground around Jesus as he spent his final hours on the cross. It is said that when his perspiration hit the ground, a lily grew up in that spot.

Easter lilies are a symbol of new life, as well as purity.

Thank you to the members of our congregation who sponsored the rabbits and chicks on display. I know they will make a regular appearance at Eastertime.

Sally Hughes  
Flower team co-ordinator



## St Peter's new Lighting System

I am delighted to inform you that we are installing a new lighting system at St Peter's. **The work starts on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May and is complete on June 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no access to the church on the weekdays whilst the work is underway, but the church will be available as normal for the weekends.** There will however only be minimal lighting on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

The scheme includes lighting of the Chancel and Lady Chapel ceilings. This is a major project and has a substantial price tag of over £40,000 plus VAT!

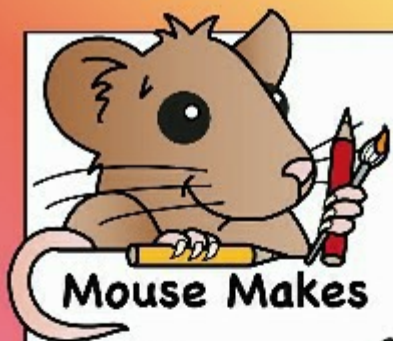
I have listed the price of the different lights if you would wish to pay for one and leave a legacy for us all to enjoy. That would be wonderful! This price does not include the design, installation, or control gear.

John Carter, our Treasurer, is always happy to receive money!  
St Peter's New Lighting

Location	Type	Cost each fitting	Number	total
Nave	Down lighter	£268.75	16	£4,300.00
Nave Crossing	Down lighter	£263.75	4	£1,055.00
Lectern	Down lighter	£283.75	1	£283.75
Aisles	Down lighter	£206.40	12	£2,476.80
Chancel	Down lighter	£268.75	12	£3,225.00
Chancel ceiling	Up lighter	£206.40	6	£1,238.40
Lady Chapel ceiling	UP lighter	£206.40	4	£825.60
Lady Chapel altar	Down lighter	£206.40	2	£412.80
Lady Chapel	Down lighter	£206.40	4	£825.60
Chancel arch	Wash	£281.75	2	£563.50
Nave ceiling	Uplighter	£206.40	6	£1,238.40
West door	Welcome	£206.40	2	£412.80
South door	Welcome	£206.40	2	£412.80
West door	Outside light	£490.00	1	£490.00

Please will you help, with a spring clean. There will be a working party on May 9th – May 12th as we try to clean the ceilings, of many years of grime, before illuminating them!

John MacMahon



## Mouse Makes

*"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever"*

Psalm 136:1

Jesus said,  
*"This, then, is how you should pray:*

Our

\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
hallowed be your

\_\_\_\_\_ your

\_\_\_\_\_ come,  
your \_\_\_\_\_ be  
done, on

\_\_\_\_\_ as it  
is in \_\_\_\_\_  
Give us this day our  
daily \_\_\_\_\_  
And

\_\_\_\_\_ us our \_\_\_\_\_,  
as we also have  
forgiven our debtors.  
And \_\_\_\_\_  
us not into  
temptation, but

\_\_\_\_\_ us from the  
\_\_\_\_\_ one."

Read Matthew 6:9-13  
to fill in the words.



*"Never stop praying."*  
1 Thessalonians 5:17



*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*  
Philippians 4:6



The **“Songs of Praise”** concert, a joint venture between Brackley & District Band and St Peter’s Church, took place on Sunday 27 March. It was very much enjoyed and appreciated by nearly 100 attendees, and both groups benefited from the event.

A splendid afternoon tea was provided by ladies from the church, whom we thank (you know who you are, ladies) and special thanks must go also to Beverly Bigmore who prepared all the artwork, printed the programmes and displayed the words to the hymns.

The band combined a repertoire of instrumental offerings, all with a “song” theme of sorts, with nine very well-known and well-loved hymns, and those present raised the roof on more than one occasion during the afternoon, ending proceedings with the wonderful “Jerusalem”.

Brackley & District Band are always grateful for the wonderful welcome that they get at St Peter’s. It is a magnificent venue for a performance with tremendous acoustics.

The afternoon left those who attended wanting more and asking “when can we do this again?” Hopefully, another joint event can be organised in due course: we are all very grateful also for the support of those who attended.

Caryl Billingham



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### **Knit a corgi for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**



Thousands of people across the country are buying in light brown and white wool just now, in order to knit up a corgi in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It is a fun way in which anyone with knitting needles can get involved in the coming celebrations.

If you google 'knitting patterns for corgis', you will find a wide variety of free patterns on offer. Knitted corgis could help decorate house windows, local shops and churches as the big day approaches.

### **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