



Chalfont St Giles  
Parish Magazine

June -August 2026

# The Parish Church of Chalfont St Giles

<https://csgparish.church>

**in the Benefice of Chalfont St Giles with Seer Green and Jordans**

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**See inside back cover for details of other Parish roles**

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**Deadline for the next issue: August 14th**

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Chalfont St Giles Parish Magazine is edited, produced  
and distributed entirely by volunteers.

## Welcome

Here at last is the summer edition of the magazine. In addition to the usual features it contains a piece by Dan explaining his plans for his Sabbatical and a tribute to Heidi Nolan.

There are also reviews of concerts that have taken place here in church and some items generated by my pleas for something different. Mary Bentall has contributed an account of an interesting rail journey and Mike Anderson about an eventful life.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered a contribution. If you haven't yet then don't be shy. You can do it!

The Editor

Next deadline: Friday 14th August



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Magazine articles and photos are always welcome and can be emailed to:  
[stgileschurchmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchmagazine@gmail.com)



## Rector's Letter

Friends,

The other evening I was driving home as the sun was beginning to set and I realised something quite strange. I had spent most of the day rushing from one thing to another without really stopping to notice anything around me.

The day itself wasn't bad. In fact, it had been a good and productive day. There had been meetings, conversations, emails, planning, phone calls and all the normal things that fill our lives. But somewhere in the middle of all of that I realised how easy it is to move through life without ever really slowing down.

I think many of us live like that now.

Everything feels fast. We are constantly thinking about the next thing that needs doing. Even when we stop physically, our minds often keep going. We sit down to rest but immediately reach for our phones. We pray but our thoughts drift elsewhere. We spend time with people while already thinking about what comes next.

One of the things I notice when I read the Gospels is how present Jesus always seemed to be with people. He noticed those around Him. He listened carefully. He stopped for people that others ignored. Even in busy moments there was a calmness about Him that feels very different from the pace many of us live at today.

Jesus often encouraged people to slow down and notice what God was doing around them. He told people to look at the birds of the air and the flowers of the field. He regularly withdrew to quiet places to

pray. He invited His disciples to come away and rest.

I think one of the great challenges for Christians today is not simply believing in God, but learning how to be still enough to notice Him again.

God often speaks in quieter ways than we expect. Sometimes it is through Scripture. Sometimes through prayer. Sometimes through another person, or even through a simple moment that suddenly causes us to stop and reflect. But if our lives are constantly full of noise and distraction, it becomes much harder to recognise those moments.

There is a verse in Psalm 46 that says, "Be still, and know that I am God." That sounds simple, but I think many of us find it surprisingly difficult.

Being still does not mean doing nothing. It means creating space for God again. Space to pray properly. Space to reflect. Space to listen. Space simply to be in His presence without constantly rushing ahead.

As we continue through another busy season of life, perhaps one of the best things we can do is slow down a little more. Put the phone down occasionally. Spend time in prayer without hurrying. Go for a walk. Sit quietly. Read Scripture slowly instead of quickly.

Because often it is in those quieter moments that we begin to notice God again.

And when we do, we often realise that He has been with us all along.

Many blessings,

Rev Dan.

## My Sabbatical

Over the coming months I'll be taking a sabbatical, and I wanted to write something for the church family explaining what I'll actually be doing and why I felt this was the right time to take one.

For some people the word "sabbatical" sounds like a long holiday, and for others it can sound a bit mysterious, but really the heart of it is quite simple. It's a season set apart for rest, prayer, reflection, renewal, and learning. Not stepping away from ministry because I no longer care about it, but stepping back for a time so that I can return to it more deeply rooted in Christ, more spiritually healthy, and hopefully more useful in the years ahead.

If I'm honest, one of the things I've realised over the last few years is how easy it is in ministry to spend so much time serving God that you don't always leave enough space simply to be with him. Parish life is full, varied, and often joyful, but it is also constant, and part of the purpose of this sabbatical is to slow down spiritually for a while, to pray, reflect, listen, and allow God to renew me before the next season of ministry begins.

So the sabbatical will really have three parts: pilgrimage, retreat, and rest.

The main learning part of the sabbatical will probably sound slightly unusual. I'll be undertaking a motorcycle pilgrimage across Europe, visiting several major Marian pilgrimage sites including Walsingham, Fatima, Lourdes, Loreto, Medjugorje, and Jasna Góra in Poland. Some of you will immediately think, "That sounds amazing," while others may think, "Hang on a minute, Dan, what exactly are you doing?" and honestly that tension is partly why I'm doing it.

As most of you know, I come from a firmly Evangelical Anglican background. Scripture is central for me. The gospel is central.

Jesus Christ is central. That isn't changing. But over the last few years I've become increasingly aware that there are large parts of the worldwide church that express faith, devotion, beauty, symbolism, and tradition very differently from the circles I naturally inhabit. Sometimes Evangelicals can react to that by dismissing everything immediately, while others swing so far the other way that they lose theological clarity altogether. I'm interested in exploring whether there is a better way than either reaction.

So this pilgrimage is not about abandoning convictions or pretending differences do not matter. It's about learning. Listening. Observing. Asking questions. Trying to understand why these places matter so deeply to millions of Christians across the world, and thinking carefully about what that means in a post-Christian culture where many people are spiritually hungry but deeply disconnected from historic Christianity.

Along the way I'll be journaling, praying, taking photographs, recording reflections, and spending a lot of time thinking about faith, beauty, tradition, mission, and what it means to communicate Christianity meaningfully in the modern world. I suspect some parts of the journey will encourage me, some parts will challenge me, and some parts I may come away disagreeing with quite strongly, but I think there is value in engaging honestly rather than simply criticising things from a distance.

And if I'm honest, there is also something spiritually healthy about pilgrimage itself. We live in such a distracted age. Everything is instant. Everything is fast. Everything is online. There is something powerful about physically journeying, praying, travelling slowly through places shaped by centuries of Christian faith, and allowing yourself time to think again.

After the pilgrimage I'll then spend some time at Sheldon Retreat Centre in Devon. I intentionally wanted the retreat to come after

the travelling rather than before it, because I suspect I'll need space afterwards to process, reflect, pray, and properly listen to what God may have been teaching me through the journey.

I want that time at Sheldon to be quiet and simple. Time for prayer, Scripture, silence, walking, journaling, and spiritual reflection without constantly rushing on to the next thing. One of the dangers of modern life is that we experience things but rarely stop long enough to absorb them deeply. My hope is that the retreat will help me slow down spiritually again and allow some of the questions, challenges, encouragements, and reflections from the pilgrimage to settle more deeply.

The final part of the sabbatical will simply be rest and reconnection with family life. After the travel and retreat, I want time to decompress properly rather than rushing straight back into ministry mode again. That will include quieter family time, reading, writing, photography, motorcycling, prayer, and just recovering a healthier rhythm of life for a while.

And I think that matters more than we sometimes admit. Rest is not laziness. Even Jesus withdrew to quiet places. Human beings are not designed to run constantly without stopping, and clergy are no exception to that.

While I'm away, ministry here will continue. We are incredibly blessed to have wonderful churchwardens, Paul, Peter and Garry, our pastoral team, visiting clergy who will be helping to lead services, and many faithful volunteers who will help carry things forward during this season, and I'm deeply grateful for them all. In many ways it is a healthy reminder that the church does not rest on one person's shoulders. It belongs to Christ.

My hope is that I return from this sabbatical not with dramatic new ideas or some grand reinvention, but simply more prayerful, more grounded, more spiritually healthy, and better able to serve

faithfully in the years ahead.

So thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support. Please do pray for me during this time. Pray that it will not just be interesting, but genuinely fruitful spiritually. Pray for safety in travel, wisdom in reflection, deeper love for Christ, and ultimately that this season will help me come back able to serve both God and this church family more faithfully in the future.

Rev Dan



## **Churchwarden's Corner**

The APCM in May saw Richard and me standing for our third year as churchwardens – how did that happen?

The APCM also saw the launch of a new Stewardship campaign for the church. We have seen the church growing over the last two years and have prayerfully considered how to

navigate the year coming up and facilitate the number of large projects we would like to undertake. Projects like upgrading the AV in church, hiring a Children and Families' Worker, updating the Reading Room kitchen and taking over the Youth Club on Narcot Lane. It is exciting to talk about how we can improve and enjoy our existing church and lay foundations for the future. The time has come for action. Of course we can't do these things alone. We have worked with the finance team to formulate the Stewardship campaign.

Stewardship is a word we hear a lot in a church context but what

does it mean? A dictionary defines Church stewardship as: 'The careful and responsible management of a church's resources – financial, physical, and human - to fulfil its mission and serve the community effectively. It goes beyond simply giving money; it includes volunteering, using personal talents, managing church property, and supporting ministries in ways that reflect faithfulness to God. Stewardship emphasizes accountability, transparency, and ethical use of resources to strengthen the church's mission and impact.'

This definition emphasises our responsibility to the church. Over the last few months, the newsletter has highlighted and thanked people who volunteer to undertake both large and small roles within the church community. Together, every volunteer role makes an important contribution to the life of the church. Many of these vital roles have been faithfully carried out over the years, but there are still some gaps that need to be filled. These roles form part of the physical stewardship of the church through the giving of our time, talents, and service. They are just as important as financial stewardship.

Please prayerfully consider where God may be calling you to serve in the stewardship of the church. If you have not yet received a booklet about the Stewardship Campaign, please collect one, or ask and one will be delivered to you.

Treasure, or financial support, is also key to the Stewardship campaign. Please prayerfully consider giving a monthly gift or tithe to the church or increasing one you already give. These funds will help with the daily running of the church and the big projects we have in mind. These funds will secure our future.

Janelle Stevenson

## Heidi Nolan - A Memory



The funeral and committal of Adelheid Nolan, held at the Crematorium on Monday 30 March, was led by the Rector and well attended. Not really a surprise as Heidi had been involved in many aspects of village life over the nearly 60 years she had lived here. I was lucky to be a neighbour and friend for 22 cherished years.

Heidi came from a Swiss farming family and was an enthusiastic, dedicated and skilful gardener as her own garden and vegetables evidenced – the Spring flowers this year were stunning. She was a keen traveller and, in the last year alone, had visited family in Switzerland, the States and enjoyed a long holiday with a niece in Argentina, gleefully avoiding the UK Winter. She had only returned home shortly before she died and, in the days before, was full of excited chat about her trip.

Heidi gave visitors to Highfield a great welcome – her catering skills were terrific and put her hard-earned City & Guilds catering qualification to continuing use.

Heidi's village activities covered so many different aspects:  
Being a volunteer at Milton's Cottage, welcoming visitors,

organising volunteer rotas and filling in gaps, talking to the visitors about Milton and the Cottage history, liaising with the former resident expert and the current team.

Playing her part in the village church, including being its cleaner for many years. She was also a member of the Swiss Church in Covent Garden, London, dedicated to Paul the Apostle. She was an active member of the local Swiss Community, meeting at least monthly to enjoy fellowship - and cakes!

Being an enthusiastic helper at the Friday Lent Lunches in the village Reading Room.

Involvement in the twinning with Graft-De Rijp in the Netherlands going back many years and including exchange visits.

Playing a large part in the Village Show which her husband, Fred, chaired.

Inevitably I will have missed out chunks of her activities – that is not to diminish them and you will call them to mind. I should not come to a close without paying tribute to the way she looked after Fred in his later, troubled, years.

I count myself fortunate to have had the joy of knowing her and of happy memories.

Richard Bolton

## **Mission to Seafarers**

Latest from the Mission:

An estimated 50,000 seafarers are stranded in the Straits of Hormuz in over 1000 vessels. Supplies of food and water are running dangerously low . Desalination plants cannot work whilst they are stationary. The lack of communication to home and increased security risks mean the seafarers are reporting increased anxiety.

MTS has been supporting them with supplies as best they can.  
Kathleen Martin



## **Music Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026** **Chalfont St Giles Parish Church**

Once again we are planning a Sunday especially dedicated to the place of music at the heart of our worship. We shall showcase and fundraise for the fantastic work of the Royal School of Church Music, which works internationally to support church music in all Christian denominations and styles of worship.

### **What we plan:**

**9.30** A lively service with some of the congregation's favourite hymns, (selected in last year's poll), communion hymns accompanied by instruments, and The Choir Prayer, set to music.

**11.15 till 12** Coffee Concert - with your coffee and cake, a music session to include a new hymn for all, a song from our trebles, music played by members of the congregation and a couple of choir anthems to finish, including the one composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber for the Coronation of King Charles III.

We might include a chorus from the Messiah, or maybe a spiritual...

**6 pm** Celtic Reflection, which includes music.

### **What YOU can do:**

1. Have you been wanting to try out in the choir?
2. If you play eg flute, clarinet, violin, could you play along with a hymn that day? We'd invite you to our Friday practice.
3. If you play or sing, any style, would you like to take a 3 minute spot at coffee time? (all ages welcome).

Answers please to  
Cathy Langdale at [csgchurchchoir@gmail.com](mailto:csgchurchchoir@gmail.com)



### **Lent Lunches 2026**

Lent lunches were again very successful and each Friday saw the Reading Room full of people enjoying excellent soup and lively conversation. The kitchen was busy and at times looked very chaotic, but soups and bread and cheese were delivered to both the customers in the room and the various businesses in the village that support our delivery service so generously.

Many thanks to all those who helped, some of whom are pictured here, who made soup, set up and then cleared up all the tables and chairs, served soup, cut bread and cheese, organised and delivered the takeaways, made tea and coffee and, last but certainly not least, did all the washing up. And to Kathleen who masterminds the whole thing. It's all quite exhausting but also enjoyable and there is a great feeling of teamwork.

In case you missed any of the notices, this is to confirm we made £2,981 for the charities. After deductions for expenses, £1,341 is going to both charities – the Reading Room and the Youth Club Project.

Looking forward to 2027, the Lunches will be held on Fridays between and including 12<sup>th</sup> February and 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Rachel Leonard





# Chalfont Summer Art Trail Seer Green & Chalfont St Giles Edition

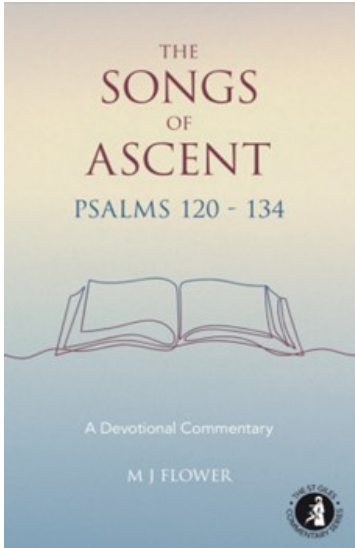
Paired with Chalfont St Peter Ed



6th - 21st June 2026  
10 Artists and makers exhibiting in  
Seer Green and Chalfont St Giles



PIC•COLLAGE



**In this issue, we have the first extract from Mavis Flower's latest commentary on 1 and 2 Corinthians. All Mavis's commentaries are available on Amazon, (search: 'M J Flower'), from book retailers, and copies can be found in Church - please see Richard Silman.**

**The early church in Corinth was primarily composed of the weak, foolish, and enslaved, whom God deliberately chose to subvert worldly standards of status and humble human pride. While the**

**community also included a few influential, upper-class members, this diverse gathering ultimately highlights the power of the cross and an enduring love that levels all human achievements**

## **The Church in Corinth.**

*For consider your calling brethren, not many of you were wise according to worldly standards; not many were powerful; not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish to shame the wise. God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).*

We may be encouraged by this description by Paul of the composition of the church in Corinth, for it could well describe most of us; the foolish, the weak; the low and despised. And what encourages us even more is that Paul's statement qualifies his observation by implying that though there are *some* who are wise and powerful and of noble birth, yet all those who are called, whatever their status in life, high or low, are chosen by God. (1 Corinthians 1:27, 28).

God actually chose the foolish and the weak. He deliberately decided to include people like us in His great plan of redemption. We begin to see a little of God's 'foolishness', (1 Corinthians 1:25), for what earthly king would choose such people to represent his kingdom? For even the wise and noble are only so by human standards.

Jesus, in His life and work, showed us a completely different aspect of nobility and wisdom, not because He was insignificant, but because He chose the path of humility. He chose to be humble, laying aside His majesty. For though He was in the form of God, He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself of no reputation, becoming a slave with no rights at all, and in His humility, going to the cross. (Philippians 2:6-8). Such a Man, such a Saviour, would be bound to draw slaves, servants, to him and there were many slaves throughout the Roman empire. Barclay estimates as many as sixty million. (Barclay p 24).

Morris says slaves would have had little to recommend them from a human standpoint, but there would have been many slaves, both men and women, in the church in Corinth. Undoubtedly there would also have been slaves in the households of influential men, who had become believers. (Morris p 47).

Slaves were not influential unless they were in the ownership of a master who was prepared to listen to advice. They had no status in Roman society, whatever had been their position in a previous existence, before their country had been overcome by Roman legions. They were entirely at the mercy of the master, who could have them beaten or even killed on the slightest pretext. They were not persons but 'things', tools or instruments for the master's use. Even their wives, husbands or children did not belong to them, but to the master who could deal with them as he wished, selling them on to another household inaccessible to them if he so desired. There was no such thing as a loving marriage relationship for them.

But here was a preacher of the gospel who told them that they actually mattered to God, and mattered so intensely that He sent His Son to bring them into His kingdom, a different kingdom from the one where they had been born and a different one from that in which they now lived. In this kingdom they were to be sons and daughters of the king! If they did not matter to their master, they mattered to Him and even as slaves, they could live their life as unto Him. (Barclay p 24).

But though there may have been a considerable proportion of slaves in the Christian community, there were also a number of so-called unimportant people who came from the lowest classes of society, people who had no power, no political influence, who were not wise by any standard. (1 Corinthians 1:26).

And God had called them to Himself. He had chosen them, working His wonderful work through people who were from a human point of view, the most unpromising. (Morris p 47). Paul writes, God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. He chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. He chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are. (1 Corinthians 1:28).

Perhaps Paul is remembering his earlier not inconsiderable human strength and energy, and his influence with the religious authorities, which caused him to wage his own war against the Lord's people, what he could now perceive to be his foolishness, until he had met with the risen Christ on the Damascus road. And yet the Lord had chosen him, all unworthy as he was, called him to be His apostle, to preach the gospel and by His grace to bring to nought much that had been part of people's unregenerate lives; to bring about a revolution in the hearts and minds and lives of many through the gospel.

Bruce comments, the Old Testament does not lack instances of God's deliberate choice of people as instruments of His will, who

were foolish, weak or despised, or mere nonentities by ordinary standards. In this present regard, the gospel marks no change of procedure on His part, for by this means, the operation of His will, and pre-eminently so by the gospel, He annuls all conventional standards of wisdom, power, reputation and value. Nothing in the Graeco-Roman world could be more subversive than the prospect of a crucified Man exalted as Lord over the universe. (Bruce p 36).

God's standards are so different from men's, and He is committed to overthrowing the world's standards. His standard is love and nothing can separate men and women from His love for them. (Romans 8:39). He did not spare His only Son but gave Him up for us all, and with Him has freely given us all things; (Romans 8:32), His own wisdom, His own righteousness, His own love; this is what He gives us as He sanctifies and redeems us, so that no-one can boast in His presence, for all comes from Him. (1 Corinthians 1:31). He is the source of our life; (1 Corinthians 1: 30); life itself, the very atmosphere in which a believer lives, is the gift of God. And for Paul, Christ is to be regarded as the climax and definition of the wisdom by which God orders His world. (Dunn p 88). We who live the crucified life, live in Him. (1 Corinthians 1:30; Matthew 16:24).

The ground is level at the foot of the cross. There are 'not many' wise who are called by God, 'not many' powerful, 'not many' of noble birth, (1 Corinthians 1:26). But there are some. According to Fee, Lady Huntingdon of the Huntingdon Connexion was reported to have said, "saved by an 'm'. Paul did not say not 'any', but not 'many'." (Fee p 83).

Paul of course is well aware that some of the Corinthian believers were what we might term 'upper class'. Crispus was the ruler of the synagogue, and he believed with all his household which would almost certainly have included not only his well born family but slaves. (Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 1:14). Gaius had a home which was large enough to host the whole church. (Romans 16:23; 1 Corinthians 1:14). Erastus was the city treasurer of Corinth, a

most important official in a commercial centre like Corinth. (Romans 16:23; Acts 19:22). The household of Stephanas was also large enough to be able to help relieve those in need, and Paul encourages the Corinthian believers to be subject to such men as Stephanas, a fellow labourer and worker with Paul, whose household he had baptized. (1 Corinthians 16: 15,16).

There may of course have been many others temporarily overlooked by Paul as he writes his letters to both Roman and Corinthian believers. We have noted that he did not always remember everybody. But primarily, the community in Corinth was not upper class, and some may have truly been poor, or slaves, or even despised; or there may have been some like Paul himself, who had creative ability, and were artisans, craftsmen-and-women like Aquila and Priscilla.

The sociological structure of the church however, was not Paul's ultimate concern. Paul even sees the disenfranchised nature of the members of the church, (for neither women nor slaves but only free men and those men who had been freed from slavery known as freedmen, were allowed to vote in this birthplace of democracy), as a greater demonstration of the power of the cross. What God has done through the cross of His beloved Son is to vindicate His own purpose which was His from before the foundation of the world. He had chosen men and women in Christ that they should be holy and blameless before Him. (Ephesians 1:4).

Throughout the Old Testament, He had said time and time again, that He had always wanted men and women made in His image, to come to Him freely so that He could dwell with them and be their God, until at the last, when time is no more, 'the dwelling place of God will be with men and He will dwell with Him and they shall be His people'. (Revelation 21:3). And He said, 'Behold I make all things new'. This was what He had promised through His prophets, a new sanctuary, to be a replacement for the old, for the

chosen people of God, for all the families of Israel, (Exodus 25:8; 29:45; Leviticus 26:11; Ezekiel 37:27; Jeremiah 30:22, 31:1), for those whom He had called to be sons of the living God, (Hosea 1:10); and for all those who are called by His name, who will walk in the light of His new creation, knowing the peace and mercy of God upon the Israel of God. (Galatians 6:16). The revelation to Jeremiah is particularly pertinent as the Lord says to His people through him, 'I have loved you with an *everlasting* love; therefore with lovingkindness will I draw you'. (Jeremiah 31:1). It is not only that God calls men and women, but that He calls them in love, a never-ending love which He had for them from before the foundation of the world.

His call to them was no accident, for He is indeed love, (1 John 4:8), and through Him who is the firstborn of the new creation, (Colossians 1:15); He is making peace through the blood of the cross, (Colossians 1:20); the old has passed, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17). In His love, He calls men and women to be partakers of the divine nature, (2 Peter 1:4), participants in the glory of God as He renders of no effect anything which would cause them to glory in themselves, their birth, whether noble or not, their achievements, their wisdom, their power or influence, so that they can say with Paul, 'God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ through whom the world is crucified to me and I to the world'; the crucified life. (Galatians 6:14; Matthew 16:24).

References:

Barclay, William *Letters to Corinthians*; Bruce, F.F. *1 and 2 Corinthians - The New Century Bible Commentary*; Fee, Gordon D. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*; Morris, Leon *1 Corinthians*.

## **Blankets**

I am donating three more blankets this week to the Collection point for Ukraine, where it is still cold. Please continue knitting. If you have no bedding, one blanket may still be a lifeline.  
Kathleen Martin



# *Music in Evening Worship*

Evensong &  
Choral Evensong

28<sup>th</sup> June - Evensong - 6pm

26<sup>th</sup> July - Choral Evensong - 6pm

Centenary of Charles Wood

23<sup>rd</sup> August - Evensong - 6pm

**FAIR TRADE : LIVING THE BIBLE  
THE MISSION IS STILL VALID AND THE WORK IS NOT  
FINISHED**



**MEANINGFUL CHOCOLATE EASTER EGGS**

Thank you for your generosity in support of our efforts to tell the Easter story via the fair trade Easter eggs. We were able to donate many boxes to the food bank. We hope the eggs were enjoyed and the Easter story told to many.

**TANZANIA DELICIOUS CASHEWS**

I love to eat cashew nuts and I hope you do too. There is however much worker abuse in the industry and not all cashew nuts are processed in a safe way so please buy only fair trade and/or ethical cashews. I stock a variety of cashew nuts from 150gm packs to 700gm so please do come to the next stall and have a look at what I offer. We also sponsor Tanzania Delicious Cashews and last year, thanks to your support, they were able to acquire a dryer for their cashews, which can dry 1000kg in just 6 hours, far faster than they could before. Transform Trade spoke with Zainabu Chivalala from Tanzania Delicious Cashews who said, "The dryer enables us to not damage the environment because in the past we used to dry cashews with wood (as fuel.) Transform Trade have enabled us to preserve the environment. We didn't cut wood again."

Buying a dryer sounds like a small change but the benefits are significant, both for protecting the local environment and making

processing much more efficient, helping the business to grow. Sadly Tanzanian Delicious Cashews are not available to buy in the UK and the nuts on the stall are sourced from Mozambique and Burkina Faso but we will continue to sponsor them and I will include any updates on their progress in the magazine.

### **NEW PRODUCT**

In addition to the wonderful fragrance free olive oil soap from Zaytoun in Palestine I now stock their rose scented olive oil soap. It is handcrafted in small batches by a family business in Nablus using time-honoured traditional methods. Nablusi soap has long been celebrated for its gentle, moisturising effect. Rich in olive oil, this is a nourishing choice for everyday use, restoring the skin's natural softness.

### **FAIR TRADE STALL**

Once a month there is a fair trade stall at the back of Church. I regularly have new products so please come and have a look. By doing so you are helping your neighbours across the world who are working hard to make life better for them and their children. Future dates are May 24<sup>th</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup>. Also in Chalfont St Peter Church Hall on the first Wednesday of the month, 10am to 12 noon. (Great homemade cake as well)

### **REDUCE YOUR PLASTIC WASTE**

Don't forget we are able to supply refills in reused plastic bottles. We stock washing-up liquid, toilet cleaner and laundry liquid, all from Bio D, a leading supplier of environmentally friendly products manufactured in the UK.

### **FOOD BANK**

Supplies are still required by the food bank and demand remains high. We continue to supply them so please do not stop your generous donations.

**“A poor man's field may produce an abundant harvest but injustice sweeps it away.” Proverbs 13 v 23**

## Our New Altar Cloths

Last year I was approached by someone who wished to buy an item for the church and mentioned an altar cloth for the High Altar and the altar in the north aisle. After expressing huge thanks we began discussing exactly what was wanted, and to my surprise four altar cloths were to be ordered, two for each altar. This was amazing news!

After several quotations and samples Charles Farris Church Supplies was chosen, followed by a visit from their representative, Mark, to meet our donor and myself. The linen was chosen for both altars. The design for the High Altar comprised five embroidered crosses within the area on the top of the altar, one central cross with four further crosses, one in each corner of the altar top and 33" up from the bottom edge of the drop on either side. Lace was also chosen for the edges of the cloth either side. The north aisle altar cloth had only a central cross on the top and lace on each side edge of the cloth. A dedication on each cloth was to be embroidered on an inside edge. Mark was thorough, double-checking everything on the order and delivery would be approximately 6 weeks.



Excellent, in time for Christmas, or so we

thought.

When the cloths did arrive all four cloths were 3" too wide! The four crosses chosen for the top of the High altar cloth had been placed two either side above the lace. Also, the dedication wasn't as ordered. I contacted Mark who visited very quickly. He checked all the instructions and measured cloth and nothing was as ordered. Mark was very relieved as his copy of the order was correct, and he had worried it was his error. Mark took the cloths away saying they would have to be remade and should be ready for Christmas! Well, they weren't! In the office another invoice was received, which again wasn't paid!

There were quite a few emotions going on; Mark felt embarrassed and frustrated with the company contracted to make the cloths in that they couldn't read simple instructions. Like Mark, I couldn't believe this was

happening. I felt sorry for him as he was clearly embarrassed! Apart from the frustration and disappointment of all this, the one to really consider was the very generous person who was making such a large donation and had obviously thought they would be used for the first time at Christmas!

The cloths eventually arrived, but we were unable to use them for Christmas. All the cloths had been remade and were now the correct width, but again, the four crosses on the High altar cloths had been sewn in exactly the same places as before and not 33" from the top of the lace!



I dreaded making a further call to Mark, and even worse, explaining it to the donor! We weren't surprised when a further invoice was received! It remained unpaid!

Once again, Mark was incredulous when he saw the cloths. Mark, of course, said they had to be remade. I think, like me, he dreaded the prospect of them being remade again! After some thought, I suggested that instead of remaking them four crosses be added to the cloths. The only

problem with this was we would have nine crosses in total! Somewhat excessive, but something we could live with if it meant we finally had the cloths! Janelle told me we had received another invoice!

Finally, we received the remaining two cloths with 9 crosses, and the exciting thing was four of them were where they had been originally ordered! Wow! Absolutely unbelievable. It had taken six months from the original order. They were used for the first time on the very special Easter Day. Dan made an announcement during the service and gave heartfelt thanks to our anonymous donor. We are very lucky to have had this donation as our altar cloths were in a very poor state, and some still are.

We received a further invoice, which was, at last, passed to Chris Neville for payment. Mark was more than relieved that the order was now complete. It was quite an experience for myself, Mark and our donor,

but one that was worth it. It was a good thing we had a sense of humour!

Please do go and have a look at both altars, they are worth looking at. I'm not sure if it makes us holier having nine crosses, but I do know the cloths are there to commemorate a loved one and are to the glory of God.

Finally, grateful thanks for their kindness, generosity, and most of all patience, to a very generous donor.

Sylvia Morrison-Moore

## **Flowers in Church**

Prior to Covid, we in the Flower Team were often asked if the flowers could be arranged to celebrate an anniversary or remember a loved one and the offer of a donation to cover it. Since Covid only a few people have requested this. The option is still there for anyone who would like this.

Often particular flowers or colours are requested and the name of the person being remembered is displayed.

We used to ask for £50, and this would often pay for all the flowers in church, but with price increases it eventually became £50 towards all the flowers.

If there is an anniversary you would like remembered, do please text or WhatsApp me on 07798 766322 and we can discuss flowers and possible dates.

Thank you!

Sylvia

## The Great British Rail

Peter and I planned a visit to my brother in Montrose, Scotland to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The ticket office in Gerrards Cross has wonderful staff for planning a train journey -so we went to book the train. If you book a split ticket, separating parts of your journey, it reduces the cost of the train fare. Thus we were booked from Kings Cross to Edinburgh, then Edinburgh to Montrose but staying on the same train with our booked seats in the same carriage. A friend kindly took us to Little Chalfont for the Metropolitan tube to Kings Cross where we caught the train up the east coast. The scenery up the east coast is beautiful and the train so comfortable.

My brother and sister-in-law live in the country where we see deer daily in the fields, a great variety of birds, including oyster catchers and snipe, and hear birdsong everywhere as we walk around the moors, down to the sea and through woodland. We took a day following the North Esk river into Glenesk where we still saw stretches of woodland decimated by Storm Arwen a few years ago. Patches of snow were visible on the top of the hills. We visited a fascinating museum which told us the population of the Glen had been 1000 but it now only has a population of 100. We also had lunch at the museum which is run by local volunteers.

Montrose was a glacial area 2.6million years ago and it became a tidal basin caused by a tsunami from Norway 8,000 years ago. This has been made into the Montrose Basin Wildlife Reserve which is the estuary of the South Esk River and covers 750 hectares of tidal mudflats. There are hides and viewing platforms with binoculars to see the variety of birds and the seals. In Spring and Autumn the pink footed geese arrive in flocks.

On our departure from Montrose we were given instructions not to leave the train at Edinburgh but remain in our seats to continue to Kings Cross. The announcement at Edinburgh was all passengers to leave the train. We stayed where we were until a guard told us we had to leave the train as due to a problem it was going back to Aberdeen! We alighted to find wonderful LNER staff who assisted us to another train which we saw departing from its platform. They took us into the station office, altered our tickets and with another train soon departing gave us 1st Class seats to continue to Kings Cross. The staff could not have been more efficient and helpful.

That same week in the newspaper was an article celebrating 150 years of the Yorkshire Dales Settle-Carlisle Railway. It opened in 1876, blasting through the rockface to make 14 tunnels and erecting 22 viaducts with lives lost in its construction. It has 34 arches rising more than 100 feet above the moorland. It was voted the second most beautiful railway in the world. Our friends and locals petitioned to keep it operational and many walking groups in Yorkshire use it regularly. It's now on my 'wish list'.

Mary Bentall

## **Moonrakers**

On 30 April the Moonrakers, an Oxford based group founded in 1998, brought their new programme 'Magic, Myth & Mystery', to the Chalfont St Giles church. The large audience enjoyed their original and traditional (Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English) folk tunes – and a glass of Prosecco! This was a return visit, having been enjoyed here in 2022 and 2024.

Their website ([www.moonrakers.net](http://www.moonrakers.net)) fairly comments "There is a tapestry of multi-instrumental acoustic sounds and harmonies around each song and tune. Becki Luff's luscious Celtic harp is complemented by Jacqui Johnson's superb cello, backed by Jon

Bennett's bouzouki, guitar, whistles and bodhran. The warm vocals of Sarah Fell combine with Jon's rich baritone.' In addition was Jon's super recorder playing in one piece. You can find jolly excerpts of their oeuvre on YouTube.

Their entertaining introductions, with intersperses from the others, navigated through the programme. Jon's opening words set the scene with: "There was a time when people believed that the devil was a real creature living among us. You may think that as sophisticated modern people we have left belief in the supernatural behind us. But do you walk under a ladder, do you throw a pinch of salt over your shoulder, do you touch wood, hang a horseshoe on the door? Do you make a wish while blowing out candles? We often cross the boundary between myth and facts and place spiritual yearnings or superstitious fears alongside the reality of human life. This is where our imagination can run wild."

Giving the background to the folk tale of 'a year and a day', being the point at which if mourning continued for a loved one he/she would return as a ghost, to Jon's addition that the pair could kiss, Sarah commented – not likely when the body has been in the ground that long!

Jon enticed the audience into joining enthusiastically in several choruses including that of John Barleycorn:

*John Barleycorn was a hero bold,  
Of noble enterprise;  
For if you do but taste his blood,  
'Twill make your courage rise.*

Richard Bolton

NB Many thanks to the Friends for organising this concert which raised in the region of £175



Loving People  
Transforming Lives  
Glorifying God



# Summer Choral Evensong

Sunday, 26th July 2026 6:00 pm

A Celebration of the music of  
Charles Wood  
1866-1926

Anthem: O Thou the Central Orb  
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D  
by Charles Wood

Hymns for all to sing  
Come along to sing with our fine church choir,  
to listen and enjoy the service

Want to join in future services?  
Contact Cathy Langdale at  
[csgchurchchoir@gmail.com](mailto:csgchurchchoir@gmail.com)

## Paul Mnatsakanov

On Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup> an audience in St Giles' Church were treated to an outstanding recital by the young American-Russian pianist, Paul Mnatsakanov, arranged by the Friends of Chalfont St Giles' Church.

From the outset he showed himself to be an excellent communicator, introducing himself and explaining his musical philosophy, his aim to find the emotional depths of the music he plays and to explore the range from joy to tragedy. He also prefaced each individual piece with a short explanatory introduction and as most of the pieces he played were not overly familiar to many of the audience, this was very helpful. His enthusiasm for the pieces he had chosen was infectious.



He began with a Bach Toccata, BWV 914 and followed it with a delightful set of Mozart variations on a traditional French song, “La belle Françoise”, which were played with delicacy and lightness of touch. In contrast Beethoven’s Piano Sonata 13, was a more complex piece and combined that delicate touch with power. As Paul explained it showed Beethoven as an innovator who subverted the traditional sonata structure to fit his own ideas.

After a short interval he played “Dumka” a piece by Tchaikovsky which allowed him to show the full range of emotion in its changes of mood and tempo. The piece begins in a melancholic mood but moves quickly to a middle section full of frantic exuberance. The last part is very dramatic and returns to sadness.



I'm sure his Russian heritage allowed him to catch the full drama of the music through some virtuoso playing. Before he began he explained these shifts in mood and also warned us about the double ending so that we did not break out into premature applause. He finished with another Mozart piece, Keyboard Sonata No 12.

However I have to say that he had saved the best till last. As an encore he played Debussy's "Clair de Lune".

This was exquisite and the audience were spellbound by the delicacy and beauty of both the music and the performance. The pause after the final note before the applause began was testament to the spell that it cast over the audience.

It was an interesting experiment to hold an afternoon concert and it worked well. It attracted a good audience and the quality of the performance made it an afternoon to remember. Many thanks to the members of the Friends who continue to organise excellent concerts for the benefit of the church building and for us to enjoy.

Rachel Leonard

### **A Well-Blessed Country Bobby**

After an 8-year career with the West Riding Constabulary in Yorkshire initially as a 16 year-old Cadet, then Constable and Detective, I left to take up a post with an international Security Consultancy based in London investigating major commercial crimes necessitating long term surveillance and undercover work.

It also involved Close Protection Officer duties of which the high points would be as one of two officers attending the American

Ambassador in London, His Excellency Walter Annenburg from 1969 to 1974. His Excellency, who was on the “Al Fatah Death List”, was also the third richest man in the world who had supported President Nixon’s successful presidential campaign. A side issue to keeping the Ambassador safe was protecting his enormous Lincoln Town Car, registration Number USA 1, from left wing students and the like wishing to express their disapproval of the Vietnam War.

In 1970 another major assignment came where H.H. Sultan Said bin Taimur of Muscat and Oman had been overthrown by his son H.H. Sultan Quboos, with the assistance of the Royal Air Force, due to his perceived increasingly bizarre conduct. As the door to his apartment in his Palace was knocked down in the coup, he pulled out his holstered hand gun from his dishdasha and unfortunately shot himself in the foot. He was then shipped to England heavily bandaged with his five servants and a garry (motor-driver) where Special Branch Officers handed him over to me and my team at a high-end care home in Newbury.

The relationship didn’t get off to the best of starts when the Sultan asked for a kettle. I stupidly boiled one and handed it over to him, turned away and he suddenly yelped and shouted that I had tried to kill him. Unbeknown to me at that time, Arab nationals used cold water from kettles in connection with any serious toilet visit. I obviously made amends as two days later I was invited to join him to take afternoon tea and on a daily basis thereafter where he would regale me with tales of his life and our Royals and discuss where he wanted to live in the future. I spent two months with him visiting prospective mansions to purchase, educating his staff and driver on life in England and removing Marks and Spencer labels from the underwear of his staff as a precaution against any potential travel to Saudi Arabia where they were likely to take offence at any Jewish brand. I also had to remove imitation 9mm Browning hand guns which his staff had purchased in Woolworths! (This was a torrid time in Arab and Israeli politics

with surface to air missiles in play around Heathrow Airport looking to obliterate an El Al plane.)

In 1972 the Consultancy was closed down for political reasons and so with two colleagues I set up our own Security Consultancy taking with us many clients, including the Ambassador.

Thereafter I had much fun and games with the likes of David Rockefeller, Chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, Prince Charles, Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen, Billy Connolly, Vinnie Jones, Wembley Stadium, Cup Finals and Live Aid and very seriously dishonest police officers.

And then I bought a small thoroughbred stud.....

Mike Anderson

### **Quiz Corner**

Too easy last time so easily and quickly solved by our regulars. This is another set on the same theme – states and state capitals of the USA. A little more tricky, I hope.

1. Nomad is all over the place
2. For a Russian conductor at the Philharmonie de Paris?
3. Cellist Katya gets confused
4. Questioned by cockney about the type of pigeon
5. Revolutionary has longing for noble gas
6. Aircraft lacking energy
7. Sort out feast and lose 500
8. Join and sever with information between
9. Inside the gazebo is everything
10. Man in a boat with endless fast food

Answers to previous quiz: 1. New Jersey 2. Alaska 3. Frankfort 4. Albany 5. Honolulu 6. Idaho 7. Iowa 8. Des Moines 9. Raleigh 10. Colorado

## Your Amazing Genealogy

The Bible claims that you are descended from Adam. In fact, the first ten men in the ancestral line consist of Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah. (See Genesis 5, 1 Chronicles 1:1 and Luke 3:37, 38.) If you find that difficult to believe, consider the following:

In Hebrew each name has a meaning which is given in many Bible footnotes. Taking the Hebrew root of each word we find that Adam means “the man” or “man”. Seth means “appointed” for Eve said, “God has appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew” (Genesis 4:25). And so on down to Noah, which means “comfort”, or “rest”. All strung together, this is what their names mean:

Adam          Seth          Enosh          Kenan          Mahalel  
**“Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the Blessed God**

Jared                  Enoch          Methusaleh  
**shall come down teaching.      His death shall bring**

Lamech                  Noah  
**the despairing comfort(rest).**

This is an outline of the Bible concealed in the first genealogy! After his original sin in the Garden of Eden, man was to toil for his food and work the ground until he died; but the blessed God came down, teaching repentance and the kingdom of God. And his death shall bring to the despairing comfort (eternal rest).

Could this have been deliberate on the part of the human authors? Impossible! In which case, it is surely a miracle. Well, what do you expect to find in a miraculous book?!

Tony Reynolds

## **Metroland**

### **Lunchtime Recital for Oboe and Piano March 21st**



This year an enterprising group of students at the Royal Academy of Music, led by Edward Tait have set up **MetroLand** Music Festival, a not for profit festival raising money for Barnardo's .

They arranged a short series of three recitals in churches along the Met line, including Amersham, Harrow and Chalfont St Giles.

The St Giles recital featured James Mayhew, a pianist who has grown up in the village, been a scout and still lives here whilst continuing his studies at the RAM. He's joined the church choir from time to time.

He was accompanying oboist and fellow student Harold Lee in a concert of wide-ranging styles . They included oboe sonatas by G P Telemann (1681-1767) and Francis Poulenc (1899-1963), a piano etude by Charles-Valentin Alkan (1813-1888) and ended with a flourish on Kalliwoda's Morceau de salon. (A new name to me, Kalivoda, b 1801 in Prague, d 1866 Germany.)

The audience were delighted by their virtuosity and musicianship and enjoyed chatting with the performers over coffee and cake. This was very kindly hosted by Jan Bradley of the refreshments team.

The concert series raised £280 for Barnardo's.

We hope to welcome some of them again in the future.

Cathy Langdale

## **Route 66 – the Sequel ( and why the magazine is late)**

I finished my account of Route 66 by explaining that I would get to choose the next holiday. My ambition has always been to go to Svalbard and see a polar bear so that is what I chose. As we wanted to go by Hurtigruten the choice of dates was limited, especially as I have to be at home for Wimbledon (naturally) and we chose the late May/early June cruise. It was only when I had made the booking that I realised that was the crucial time for the summer magazine. I made a valiant effort to get the contributors to send in material early but unfortunately not all of them did. So apologies to our readers.

Svalbard was terrific. We made two stops, one at Longyearbyen and the other at Ny-Alesund. The first sounds as if it is a very poetic name, based on the fact that the town does not see the sun for a third of the year. In fact it is named after the American owner of a coal mining company, Mr Longyear, which is a bit disappointing. There we visited the most northern brewery in the world and sampled its products. The other feature of interest was the Svalbard Global Seed Vault which stores millions of seeds from all over the world as a precaution against global disaster.

In Ny-Alesund which is a research station we were taken through the polar bear drill. If we saw one we were to run into the nearest house. All doors are left unlocked for this purpose. When we ventured outside the area with buildings we were accompanied by an armed guide with a rifle and flares. Unfortunately we didn't see a polar bear, though one had been spotted just outside the residential area only a few days before.

On the other hand if we had encountered one you may not have got a magazine at all.

Rachel Leonard

## Parish Directory

Parochial Church Council	(area code: 01494)
Chair	The Rector
Hon. Secretary	Peter Miles                      872465
Hon. Treasurer	John Southworth                875500
Electoral-Roll Officer	Kathleen Martin                870 704
Stewardship Recorder	Chris Neville                    873 457
Pastoral-Care Co-ordinator	Margaret Carey                762 341
Chatterbox organiser	Marion Miles                    872465
Messy Church Co-ordinator	Dan Beesley                    211 738
YZone (group for 11-15s) Co-ordinator	Dan Beesley
Church Watching	Tony Ferguson                07769 361 795
Reading-Room Bookings	Richard Silman                07786194695
	Janelle Stevenson    07771423553
Church Choir	Cathy Langdale                581 385
	csgchurchchoir@gmail.com
Bell-Ringing Master	John Davidge                    873 325
Flower Guild	Sylvia Morrison– Moore
	07798766322
Fair Trade	Margaret Dykes    07919314461
Friends of the Parish Church	Claire Long                    875 445
Safeguarding Officer	Victoria Neil
	victoriacneil42@gmail.com
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**Loving People**  
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