



Chalfont St Giles Parish Magazine

December 2025 -
February 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

How to Contact the Magazine Team

Put your copy in the post rack at the back of church (in the slot "Magazine Articles")

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Deadline for the next issue: Friday 13th February 2026

Please send diary dates to:

Church - Parish Office at: saintgileschurch@gmail.com

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

Welcome

Welcome to the winter edition of the magazine which spans Christmas and the New Year.

As usual there are all the regular items as well as news about events over the Christmas period. You will find all the Christmas services on Page 7.

Richard Bolton has written about the Commonwealth War Graves and Tony Ferguson about a cricketing hero, Jack Hearne, who is buried in our churchyard. There are photos of Jenny's Farewell lunch and her last midweek communion so you may be able to spot yourself in one of these.

Contributions on any topic very welcome.

The Editor
The Editor



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Magazine articles and photos are always welcome and can be emailed to:
stgileschurchmagazine@gmail.com or placed in the pigeon hole in
church,
or the post box by the Plumb gate



Rector's Letter

Friends,

As winter settles in around us, these months invite us to pay attention in ways we often miss during the busier parts of the year. December arrives with its noise and its sparkle, but behind all of that is the steady truth that God's light still enters the world in places we do not expect. The Christmas story

reminds us that God didn't choose comfort, power or applause. He chose a stable, an anxious young couple, and a handful of shepherds watching their flocks in the cold. In other words: ordinary people in ordinary life. That alone should give us hope. God still has a habit of meeting us right where we are.

As you walk through December, I'd encourage you to make space for even a brief moment of stillness. A candle in the evening. A quiet prayer before bed. A pause to remember that Christ's coming isn't just a story from long ago but a light offered to us now. John tells us that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. That is still true, even when the world feels heavy.

January often brings a different sort of mood. Some people feel energised by a new year. Others feel tired before it has even begun. The Bible understands both. When Scripture speaks of God's mercies being "new every morning", it comes from a writer who was struggling, not celebrating. Which means the promise reaches us in our struggles too. If the beginning of this year feels uncertain, let that promise steady you. You don't need to have everything sorted. You simply need to walk with the God who has already gone ahead of you.

By the time February comes, many of us start looking for something to change. A hint of warmth in the air. Snowdrops pushing through frozen ground. The first birdsong of the morning. Those small signs remind us of how God works: quietly, patiently, beneath the surface. Christian hope often begins before we feel it. Lent approaches with that same invitation. It isn't a season to impress God or prove ourselves. It's a chance to clear space, to listen again, to let God shape us with His grace rather than our effort.

Wherever you find yourself over these coming months, please know this: you are not forgotten and you are not alone. Our parish is made up of people who are strong some days and struggling on others, people who have deep faith and people who are still finding their way. You are welcome among us. If you would like a place to reconnect, reflect, pray or simply sit quietly for a while, you are always welcome at one of our Sunday services. Sometimes being together is exactly what we need to remember that hope is still alive.

May Christ's light guide you through winter, may his peace steady your heart, and may his hope lead you gently towards spring.

In Christ,
Rev Dan.

Save the date!
Piano Recital - Paul Mnatsakanov
28 February, matinee
Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms, Debussy,
Tchaikovsky

Churchwarden's Corner



Looking back over the last three months it is a pleasure to see how God is working in our church. We regularly run out of service booklets for the 9:30am service which is inconvenient but also a sign that our attendance is increasing. Two interns have been welcomed to help with the children's events, and they have enthusiastically jumped in and are already a

hit with the children. The acquisition of the Youth Club on Narcot Road is moving forward nicely and the PCC is brainstorming about what that could look like in the early part of next year when we have those golden keys. Oh, the possibilities!

Richard and I have donned our Churchwarden badges and engaged in several 'official' Churchwarden business type things this autumn so we could earn our keep. We walked around the church and churchyard with an eye to health and safety issues, finding a few here and there. We had tea at Merlin's with the associate archdeacon to ask for advice with special requests regarding graves. We have been working on the job description for a Children and Youth worker. We have been managing the bookings for the Reading Room and sorting out the heat and Wi-fi in the building. Well, Richard has been fighting with the heating system while I stay well away. Sorting out the attic remains on the list. Sadly, that was added to the list last year so...

As a church we are about to enter the Christmas season which is

full of exciting events and great cheer. We've kicked off with the Wreath Making Workshop; the Christmas Lights switch on and the Toy Service are soon and we will finish with a packed Christmas Eve and a gentle Christmas Day service with so much in between. There is a multitude of activities coming up where we can be together as a church family. These events are the perfect opportunity to invite our non-Christian friends and neighbours so they can see how much Christ is working in our community. Watch for a printed list of all there is to offer during Christmas and take a few extras home to share.

The new year promises new things. A new sermon series, a new Alpha course starting the 7th January and of course all the new things to do with the Youth Centre. There is a lot to look forward to.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year from Richard and Janelle

Desiring God

"There must be more than this". Tim Hughes tells us in his worship song - Consuming fire.

And it's not a rhetorical question but words which represent a heart cry from those who want God and a deeper Christian life. And it's often powerful and persistent, a dissatisfaction that won't go away.
Do you feel that?

And it's almost intuitive and comes from within many who are strongly persuaded there is more of God to know.
But why this restless pull? It's because we were created to know God and the Holy Spirit is faithful to prompt us of our need. But let's not be palmed off with anything less or that which

masquerades as intimacy. And may God protect us from the curse of shallow Christianity.

The song continues. *"Oh breath of God, come breathe within"*. But God is faithful and in return promises us the reality of knowing him, because *"he rewards those who earnestly seek him"* - Hebrews 11:6.

So Lord, fan into flame a passion for your name. Amen

Garry Walton

Come and join us this Christmas

November

Sun 30th **Toy Service 9:30am**
Bring new toys and gift cards to the service for donation to the All Together Community for families in need in CSG

December

Sun 7th **Messy Church Christingle 4pm**
Joyful family celebration putting together a symbol of Christmas starting with an orange supporting the children's society

Fri 12th **Gingerbread House Decorating 3:45pm**
In the Reading Room spaces limited
Booking required via QR code below

Sat 13th **St Giles Consort 7:30pm**
Gaudete Omnes! A concert of choral music for Advent. Performing in the church

Sun 14th **Gingerbread House Decorating 3:45pm**
In the Reading Room spaces limited
Booking required via QR code below

Tue 16th **Tractor Carols 4:30-6pm**
Join the choir and sing carols as they travel through the village via tractor. See the website for stops

Fri 19th **Pub Carols 7:45pm**
Join the choir and sing carols in Merlin's Cave

Sun 21st **Carols by Candlelight 6pm**
A traditional service of lessons and carols

Wed 24th **Christmas Eve**

Crib Service 4pm
Children come dressed as angels, shepherds, kings or animals

Christmas Eve Celebration 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Communion 11:30pm

Thur 25th **Christmas Day Communion 10am**
Bring a Christmas gift for show and tell

 Gingerbread House Decorating
Booking QR Code

Join us as we resume our regular services in January.
8am BCP & 9:30 Parish Communion

 **CHALFONT ST GILES**
Parish Church



A Few Thoughts About Our Friend Bridget

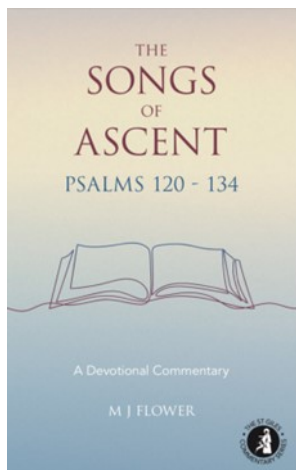
On 6th October a valued and treasured member of our Church family passed away in the Thames Valley Hospice at Bray, approximately three months after receiving a diagnosis of Pancreatic cancer.

Bridget, who was quiet, shy, kind and gentle, was self-effacing which belied her inner strength and resilience. She was in actual fact fun loving and extremely talented. She had many interests which included a love of historic buildings, museums and the arts as well as interior design and flower-arranging. Her email address said it all: 'busybridget'! Her strong Christian faith, along with a wry sense of humour and support from many friends, gave her an inner strength to cope with her situation. Throughout it all, Bridget's main concern was not for herself, but for her much loved daughter Aimee.

Bridget lived in our village for almost thirty years with her husband Leslie and daughter Aimee. Sadly, Leslie died a few years ago. Bridget loved living in the village: she supported the shops, loved our Church and our Church family. She was a willing volunteer when help was needed and as a member of the Coffee Rota Team she often served us coffee after a 9.30am service, and she also helped at our 'Lent Lunches' each year! Already, we miss Bridget, and we understand the loss her family, especially her daughter Aimee, must feel. So, a huge 'thank you' Bridget for all you did and for being part of our lives for many years.

**Bridget Paice
1959-2025**

Compiled by two of her friends



In this issue, we have an extract from Mavis Flower's commentary on Psalms 120 - 134, known collectively as *The Songs of Ascent*, which is due to be published in December 2025. This passage reflects on Psalm 130.

Previous titles in the *St Giles Commentary Series* - *Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians 1 and 2: A Devotional Commentary*; *Paul's letter to the Galatians: A Devotional Commentary*;

The Acts of the Apostles: A Devotional Commentary and *The King and the Kingdom: A Devotional Commentary on Matthew's Gospel*, are available on Amazon, from book retailers, and copies can be found in church.

Psalm 130: A Song of Salvation

Out of the depths I cry to You. O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and in His word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord for with the Lord is steadfast love and with him is plenteous redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his sins.

This was Martin Luther's favourite psalm. (Motyer p106; Day p140). Luther wrote more on the psalms than on even any New Testament book. His exposition of the seven penitential psalms (6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143), reflect the reformer's emphasis on the

literal sense of scripture. (Day p 140). He saw in this psalm all that the New Testament teaches about justification by faith, redemption from sin and the life of faith.

For here in this psalm is a man like Luther was; in fact, like we all are. He is crying out to the Lord. This is not a cry of distress over his circumstances as in Psalm 120, nor a cry of consecration and dedication as in Psalm 123, but a desperate cry for mercy, for he has now come to understand that he is in dire need of forgiveness for his iniquities. He is desperate. 'O Lord, if You should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?'

There is even a hint that he understood that he needed more than the blood of sheep and goats to take away his sin. He knows himself to be in the 'depths' of sin and his first cry to the Lord is a cry that in His mercy He will listen to him, to let His ears be attentive to his cry, to the cry of this man struggling to find an answer to the age old problem. 'How can I find that cleansing from my sin which will enable me to come into the presence of a Holy God? How can I approach Him? Is He not of purer eyes than to behold evil?' (Habbakuk 1:13). Will He listen to me as I pray 'Lord, lift me out of this pit and from the miry clay of my own sinfulness?' (Psalm 40:2).

Motyer explains that 'iniquity' in Hebrew means what *we are* rather than what *we do*. (Motyer p107). We are trapped in helplessness, hopelessness and condemnation because of our natural bent towards sin, wrongdoing and rebelliousness against God. (Motyer p108).

This is what the psalmist is acknowledging as he cries out to God, for he recognizes, as who would not, that God is a holy God. If He were not holy, then sin would not matter, says Motyer, (p108). But He is holy. And a sinful man or woman cannot have fellowship with a Holy God. This is what the pilgrim acknowledges. 'If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, then who could stand'? There would

be no hope for any of us. We would all be utterly ruined, utterly condemned to live as unredeemed people, people who had no knowledge of the love of God.

But there are at least two things that the psalmist can truthfully say about God. One is that with Him is forgiveness that He may be feared; that is, given reverence and honour as a God of forgiveness. (verse 4). And secondly, that with Him is '*hesed*', (*Hb*), translated variously as *mercy*, *lovingkindness*, *steadfast love*. And plenteous redemption. (verse 7). It is a settled love, the love of the will of God which will never change for it is His nature and His will to love. (1 John 4:8). It is unfailing, steadfast love.

So what does this sinful man do? Rather than attempting to do something so that the Lord is attentive to him, he decides to 'wait' for the Lord to be attentive to him, and to wait for His word, which gives him hope. This is a wise decision. As he waits on the Lord, the word of the Lord comes to him. This may not be an instant word. Just as the watchman watches all night, waiting for the dawn to come, so the psalmist gives himself to waiting, watching, in the Lord's presence, certainly all night if necessary, earnestly desiring the Lord to bless him with His righteousness, to bring him to that place of redemption through His word. (verse 7).

He has come to realize that God requires of him that he yields everything he is, and has, to God, to be concerned only with doing His will, (Psalm 40:7), even though he knows that actually, he can do nothing unless the Lord helps him. (Psalm 121:1,2). But he has this hope in his heart and this is the hope which he wants to share with his Israelite family. He says, 'With the Lord there is steadfast love. With Him is plenteous redemption.. And the psalmist is convinced that *He Himself, and no other, will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. (verses 7,8).*

If salvation is to come, it must come from God. Therefore, pray. Additionally, it is wholly dependent on God. Therefore trust. And

wait upon His decision and His action. Wait on Him. (Motyer p110). He is the Lord and it is for the Lord that the pilgrim waits, the sovereign Lord, the God of salvation. This has been described as a song of lament. It is indeed that; a person becoming all too well aware of their position before a Holy God, lamenting their state in regard to His holiness, of being in the 'depths', trapped in iniquity, unable to save himself and crying out to God as his deliverer, for His mercy and the forgiveness of his sin. (Psalm 130:1-4). But there is another side to this lament.

First, it is a place to which God has brought the sinner. He has brought him to the knowledge that he cannot save himself from the pit in which he finds himself, for it is only God that can forgive sin. And then, as God has brought him under condemnation, so God has the power to release him. He sees that with God there is forgiveness, a forgiveness which not only brings the person up from the depths to which his sin has confined him but which is also a testimony to those around that God is to be feared, to be worshipped; a God so great that He cares about a sinful individual who cries to Him for deliverance.

Why does God bother? He is the creator God, the sustainer of the universe. Why should He be concerned with the struggles of one contrary human being? Surely this is all part of His greatness for His greatness is an expression of His love, *hesed*, His unfailing love for men and women. (verse 7).

We cannot explain this love. We may try to understand it by considering the love of a man for his wife or a woman for her husband or a mother or father for a child. But these analogies fall short of this love of God which is beyond description.

The man or woman who is committed to, who is leaning on, the God of love, knows from experience the comfort, the encouragement, the sense of being wrapped up in the bundle of life and love with their Lord. And they know that with Him is

plenteous redemption. (verse 7). Their redeemer, the *goel*, (*Hb*), has paid the price for the one to be redeemed.

Under the Levitical law, the tribe of Levi was brought back to God, redeemed from among the tribes of Israel, (Numbers 3:44), to be priests to Him and to serve Him. The Levites became separated from among the people as a substitute for all the firstborn among the Israelites, to be wholly given to the Lord. (Numbers 8:14). And this redemption was a covenant act of the Lord. (Psalm 111:9).


But the psalmist goes even further. He believes that not only will God redeem the Levites as a substitute for all the first born of the Israelites, but He will redeem *all Israel* from their iniquities. (verse 8). We cannot limit a limitless God. With Him is plenteous redemption. His abundant love 'covers', like the cover which was on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant. Those who come to Him in faith, and find there His mercy, His forgiveness, to the mercy seat which for the Christian has become the cross of Christ. (Romans 3:24,25). The redemption, the expiation, the *hilasterion* (*Gk, LXX, the Septuagint*), the mercy seat where sin is dealt with. The sinner knows that he cannot stand before the Lord. Motyer quotes Elijah who expressed his sense of his acceptance before God as the One 'before whom I stand', (I Kings 7:1; 18:15. Motyer p110). But this person cannot 'stand' before God. He is not accepted in his sinful state, but he can pray although he is a sinner, (verses 1,2). And he can 'wait' for the response which he believes will surely come.

There is no suggestion that sin prevents him from praying or that before he can come before a Holy God there are specific acts which he must do, some reformation of his character, some attempt at living a good life of morality. If salvation is to come, it can only come from God, from His mercy, not from works of righteousness which he has done but by God's mercy alone. Therefore, pray. (Motyer p110).

It is a very personal prayer which the psalmist prays. 'I cry to You, O Lord. O Lord, hear my prayer, hear my voice'. And it is a very personal waiting time, 'I wait on the Lord, my soul waits for the Lord', expectantly, expecting to receive a word from Him. (verse 5), hoping for the word of release, of forgiveness, of redemption.

Who can doubt but that God heard the cry of His servant, for with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plenteous redemption. (verse 7). And as the psalmist thinks of his fellow Israelites he looks forward to when not only himself, but all Israel will be redeemed from all his iniquities. (verse 8). How wonderful will be that day when their Messiah for whom they are waiting comes to them as the Son of Man, and as He dies on the cross, takes all their sin into death, so that they are free from sin, free to worship Him.

References: Day J., *Psalms*, (Sheffield Academic Press,1995); Motyer, Alec, *A Scenic Route Through the Old Testament*, (Inter - Varsity Press 1996); Motyer, Alec, *Look to the Rock*, (Inter-Varsity Press 1996); Motyer Alec, *Journey, Psalms for Pilgrim People*, (Inter -Varsity Press. 2009)



**the
alpha
course**

Starting 7th January 2026
Reading Room
7pm for a meal together

**Exploring is good. We're built for it. Explore together more
about life, faith and meaning with Alpha**

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



**MEANINGFUL CHOCOLATE ADVENT CALENDARS FOR THE FOOD
BANK**

Thank you for your generosity in support of our efforts to tell the Christmas story via these plastic free, fair trade advent calendars in the hope that the true meaning of Christmas is given to someone who doesn't know about the Saviour's birth.

UPDATE FROM ZAYTOUN

Zaytoun is a cooperative based in the UK which supports farmers in Palestine and trades their ethically grown Fair Trade products, especially those deriving from the olive trees which have been farmed in Palestine for thousands of years.

As the olive harvest continues the outlook for the farmers is increasingly grim. A number of forces are converging in real time: a poor harvest, soaring local prices and a fragile economy already on the brink, all dealing a harsh blow for farmers who are contending with so much. During the current conflict in Palestine which began with the killing of Jewish settlers in southern Israel, the ordinary people of Palestine have found it difficult to farm their land safely. Many farmers have lost their olive trees or found it impossible to access their land as a result of Israeli military operations. Villages like Al-Mughayvir have lost trees in the war as has Deir Ballout.

Please therefore support Zaytoun and the Palestine Fair Trade Association by buying their oil, soap, delicious dates and almonds. All these are available on the Fair Trade stall.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you for your support for these cards from Transform Trade, By choosing these charity cards you are having a real impact on the lives of farmers, workers and artisans - helping them to demand fair wages, decent working conditions and a brighter future for their families and communities.

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 so doing you are helping your neighbours across the world who are working hard to make life better for them and their children. Future dates are:

December 7th

January 25th

February 22nd

And in Chalfont St Peter Church Hall on Wednesday morning
10.00am to 12.00 (great homemade cake as well!)

December 3rd

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.

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

Margaret Dykes 07919314461 margaretdykes@btinternet.com

Commonwealth War Graves

After the AGM of the Friends of the Church on 24 September in the Reading Room we were treated to a fascinating talk on the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission given by Chris Leach, a volunteer speaker from St Peter. Chris spoke of the initial dream of Fabian Ware (the founder) to memorialise in perpetuity those who had died in armed conflict or within a period after discovery of their bodies. He was a former civil servant and journalist running a Red Cross mobile ambulance unit in 1914 who, realising the inevitably improvised nature of burials and grave marking, lobbied the War Office to turn his unit into a dedicated team for the dead. The War Office agreeing, his unit was transferred from the Red Cross to the British Army as the 'Graves Registration Commission'. So many enquiries from bereaved relatives led to a name change to the 'Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries'. This body was tasked with searching for missing bodies, moving isolated graves or burial plots to larger cemeteries, and trying to identify bodies that were found or disinterred. In 1915 Field Marshal Douglas Haigh commented that "The mere fact that Officers visit day after day the cemeteries close behind the trenches, fully exposed to shell and rifle fire, accurately to record not only the names of the dead but also the exact place of burial, has a symbolic value to the men that it would be difficult to exaggerate".

By the time work ceased in 1921, tens of thousands of bodies had been recovered and reburied. Just under 20% were identified, using name tags, uniform features, personal effects and then even teeth.

Ware and others soon began to grow concerned about the longevity of these sites, and who would care for the graves after the war was over. At the suggestion of the Army, the British government created a special body to take over from the DGRE after the war. Fabian Ware felt this should be an Empire-wide

organisation and on 21 May 1917 the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) was established by Royal Charter. The Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) was appointed President, while Ware became the Vice-Chairman. The IWGC was tasked with not only formalising the cemeteries and creating memorials to the missing, but also maintaining these sites forever more.

In July 1917, a working party toured the Somme battlefields to determine how the formal cemeteries and memorials should take shape, resulting in a report setting out what would become core principles of Commission design – marking every individual grave in a permanent material and having the “dominating feature” of a cross in the cemeteries.

Fabian Ware and his team believed the war cemeteries should have consistent features that distinguished them from their civilian counterparts. However, what those features should look like – and even be called - was hotly contested but led to a consistent look of the cemeteries with the individual graves being mostly marked by Portland Stone memorials. In countries where these will not stand weathering, there are bronze pedestal markers. When identified, the military details are engraved in a standard layout without variation according to rank. Some may also have a religious emblem and personal inscription chosen by their family. Those with no known grave are commemorated on one of the Memorials to the Missing, according to where and when they died.

Individuals who died away from the battlefield, or after they were discharged may have been buried by their family in a churchyard or civil cemetery and their grave marked by a private memorial. If the memorial becomes damaged, the CWGC will replace it with a Portland Stone memorial, as has happened in our churchyard. Commonwealth civilian casualties from the Second World War are commemorated in specially bound volumes of the Roll of Honour held at Westminster Abbey in London.



War graves at St Giles

Rudyard Kipling who was involved in publicising the Commission's work and had lost a son in WW1 commented that it was: "The biggest single bit of work since any of the Pharaohs – and they only worked in their own country". Having publicised the talk widely beforehand, the Friends provided cheese and wine before the talk to anyone who came.

Richard Bolton

Editor's note

There is a large group of Commonwealth war graves in the church yard of St Mary's, Harefield. There are 120 First World War graves and six from the Second World War.

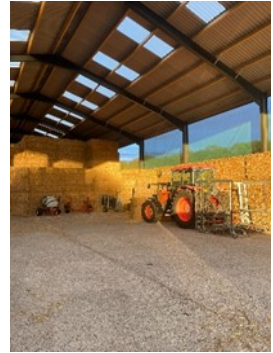
Those from the first World War are mostly of Australians and New Zealanders who died in the Australian auxiliary hospital at Harefield Park, which is now Harefield hospital. The design of these was chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital and is slightly different from the standard shape.



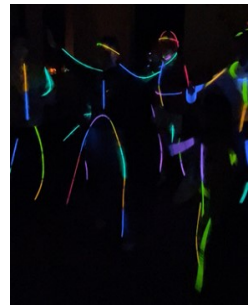
Children's Work

The church has been blessed with two interns who are adding to the force of people involved with our children and youth. Starting with organising the cupboards and finding many hidden treasures, Ed Overy and Lauren Stevenson have enjoyed the beginning of their work. Ed from King's Church Amersham (and recently baptized) and Lauren, university graduate and now back at the church, have now done two messy church gatherings.

Messy Church at the Farm was a massive success with new families and a total of 14 children. Finding the sheep proved difficult but each child enjoyed seeing the animals and countryside at the Chapmans' farm. Singing and crafts took place in the barn surrounded by hay bales to truly give the rustic feeling.



The Autumn Light Party brought more singing, but this time accompanied by dancing with glowsticks! Leaf wreaths, bracelets and ping pong ball Jack-o'-lanterns, along with the traditional autumn foods such as caramel apples, were a big hit and great opportunity to reach those in the village.



Ed and Lauren are looking forward to the Christmas period with the turning on of the lights, Christingle, the Crib Service and much more. Planning has been in place for weeks and with the help of the volunteer army they are excited about the next stages. After Christmas, Lauren will be leaving for her new job in Dartford and Ed will be holding the fort. Please pray for them both and the church as we look for a more permanent Children and Youth worker.

Social Media News

CSG Parish Church is building our social media presence on Instagram and Facebook!

There are semi-regular posts about the church and events we are holding with Bible verses interlinked. The page is starting to show our church vision of bringing God’s blessings to the village. It is very much a work in progress. subject to the ups and downs of unpredictable social media usage, but I believe it is growing. Posts and short videos are regularly seen by 200 people, many of whom are outside of the church. The Remembrance post itself featuring the beautiful poppy arrangement

by the Flower Guild had 1,840 views across our platforms. If you have any fun ideas or things to showcase about the church, please let me know. Experimenting is what it’s all about.



Lauren Stevenson



Jenny's Farewell Lunch

On September 7th there was a farewell lunch for Jenny, held in church. Food was organised by Sylvia Morrison-Moore on a bring and share basis and it was a sumptuous spread. The main focus of the event was to give Jenny a present from the congregation to acknowledge our gratitude for the ten years of service to the parish. Dan and Roy Stroomer expressed the thoughts of us all in paying tribute to all she has done for us.





A good attendance at Jenny's last midweek Communion. As she said herself on another occasion, "It's amazing what the mention of coffee and cake can do."

Please Join Us For A
Family
Gingerbread
House
Decorating Party

December 12th & 14th
3:30-5pm

£13 per house
Reading Room

Across from Chalfont St Giles pharmacy

Houses, Sweets for
decorating & Hot Chocolate
provided

Book with QR code. Places are limited

Fawsett Trust Update

On 5 November the Rector, Gordon Patrick, Marion Challis-Warren, Mary Phillips, Richard Bolton and Valerie Bayly Jones, the Trustees of the Fawsett Trust, met in the Reading Room, not to remember Guy Fawkes but to consider and plan for the Trust's 2025 Christmas vouchers which are only exchangeable in our village shops. Last year we issued vouchers to a total value of £3,100 to 24 households comprising 26 people aged from just under 70 to 100, average age 83 and including 5 folk between 90 and 100. To be eligible to apply those people had to have lived in Chalfont St Giles for over 20 years - their average time here was some 65 years - and to have a limited income.

Application forms are available from the Co-Op, the Post Office and Warners and notices of their availability are publicised on the Village News and in a number of shops. We are grateful to the shops for engaging in this and also accepting vouchers in payment of goods purchased from the beginning of December to Christmas. The Trust dates back to 1905 when it was established by the Will of the daughter of a former Rector to provide coal to challenged households. Its detailed operation was first modified by a Charity Commission Scheme in 1940 which set the shape of the Board as the Rector and four further trustees, two nominated by the Parish Council and two others being residents or carrying on business in or near Chalfont St Giles. Subsequently the Treasurer was added and two other small trusts were absorbed.

As noted on the Charity Commission site for the Trust, the longest standing trustee is Valerie who was appointed in 1991. Gordon was appointed in 2005. I only became involved in 2016 when Alan Hawkins, now deceased, retired having been Treasurer for many years.

The funds for our operations come from gifts supporting the work. I should first thank those who have given money in the past, being

kind individuals, the Village Show, the PCC and other local organisations. And I now ask for ongoing support for the 2025 voucher scheme. Please consider aiding this local initiative by a cheque given to any of the trustees or put under B in the post boxes at the back of the church. We are able to recover gift aid if you are a taxpayer and complete a gift aid form – send me an email if you'd like one richardheatherlea534@gmail.com.

And do mention our existence to anyone you think may be helped by us. Applications needed to be with us by 21 November so the deadline has passed for this year, but bear The Trust in mind for anyone you know who could benefit next year. Do chat to any of us if you'd like to know more.

Richard Bolton and fellow trustees.

Reading *Paradise Lost* in Milton's Cottage, Chalfont St. Giles

In 2024 a dozen people sat around a table in Milton's Cottage to read *Paradise Lost*. The poem is in 12 books, or chapters, so we met once a month to read and discuss one book and found it very enjoyable.

I plan to do this again in 2026, beginning on January 17th, the third Saturday, starting at 10.30 am. The readings take approximately one hour, so including a little discussion, the sessions will last one and a half to two hours.

If you would be interested in this project, please email lyndaweiss@gmail.com

The cottage will take a maximum of 12 people sitting around the table, so the group will be limited to that number.

Lynda Weiiss



CHRISTMAS *Tractor carols*

**16 DECEMBER 2025
TUESDAY**

Come and enjoy Christmas in word and song with our parish church choir and Rev Dan at stops around the village including:

Kings Rd/Stylecroft Rd,
Milton Fields/Albion Crescent,
Crossley, and the village Green

First stop will be made at 5:30pm finishing on the green at 7:45pm. Check the website for the route.



NB: Each stop will be marshalled. Please remain on pavements and make sure children are supervised

Talks and Tours!

2025 has seen a new initiative, an excellent programme of insightful Talks and Tours run by Tony Ferguson who also co-ordinates Church Watch.

Multiple groups have enjoyed illustrated, guided tours around the church and churchyard over recent months, looking at items of rich historical, architectural and liturgical interest, and unique features. Presentations include stories of the extraordinary lives of some of those buried in the graveyard, several of great local, national and international significance.

These talks unveil many of the hidden stories from our church and community, and bring them to life in an accessible, enjoyable way. They are sufficiently detailed for history buffs and light enough for a curious resident or visitor. All are welcome and there is no charge. When possible, refreshments are offered.

On 1st November, the church talk “In the Triduum of Remembrance: Halloween, All Saints and All Souls” raised £210 (the largest sum to date!) through donations. Our goal is to grow this programme, looking to provide events on a regular basis for drop-in guests, and pre-booked by local interest groups. Tours will range from general, historical interest to themed talks.

Please feel free to pass on news about these tours to any groups that you feel might enjoy this opportunity! They are welcome to contact Tony Ferguson (tony@ibl.ie) or Claire Long (claire@musicprods.co.uk).

The Legend of Jack Hearne

Hyperbole in sporting commentary has become a feature of life in the twenty-first century as media channels compete to attract the attention of a fickle public. How refreshing to discover the cricketer J.T. Hearne whose achievements in the late nineteenth century remain unparalleled today. Now that is my definition of “legend” as distinct from some footballer who recedes into statistical obscurity within a few seasons of retirement.

I discovered Jack Hearne in my research for a talk I was giving recently on the Triduum of Remembrance- Halloween, All Saints and All Souls have traditionally been a time for commemoration in a combination of Christian devotion and pagan ritual. Jack lies in the eastern side of the churchyard at Chalfont St Giles Parish Church, under a small Celtic cross with barely discernible lettering. He was born in 1867 and lived his entire life in Chalfont St Giles until his death in 1944. From a cricketing family, Jack soon excelled with ball-in-hand and forced his way into the Middlesex 1st XI, no mean feat for a working-class lad in a sport dominated by “gentlemen” and snobbery.

A fast medium bowler with an ability to swing, he took six wickets in his first innings against Notts at Lords in 1888, despite only being called up the previous evening. It was the start of an accumulation of wickets at an unprecedented rate, over a sustained period. By 1910, he had topped the national bowling averages five times, the last one at the age of 43. Overall, his first class career stretched from 1888 to 1914, during which he only missed two games through injury. What a contrast to the Jofra Archers of modern times! In between, he took over 3,000 wickets, placing him high on the all-time list of wicket takers. Yet his right to legend status goes well beyond.

He was a particular scourge to the Australian tourists. In one devastating summer day in 1896, he bowled 16 overs, 13 of them

maidens and took 6 wickets for 8 runs! That bears repetition in cricket scoring language: 16-13-6-8. One of his several unbelievable feats! Twice he claimed nine Australian wickets in an innings. One of these games was for the MCC and the remarkable scorecard is presented below. As you can see, he took ALL the wickets in the second innings as the number 11 (G Giffen Esq) was injured and did not bat. 1896 was the apotheosis of his career, taking 257 wickets, including 56 Australians at a paltry 13 runs each. Incredibly, he bowled 10,000 balls that summer.

Yet his single greatest feat came in 1899, a feat that surely cements his legend for eternity. In the first ever test at Headingley, against Australia, he took a hat trick. He remains the only English bowler ever to take an Ashes hat trick on English soil.

That hat-trick laid the reputation for the “Headingley Heroics” that followed from Botham, Stokes, Root, Boycott et al.

It was a pleasure catching up with you, JT. Your legend lives on.

Tony Ferguson

Jack Hearne's grave in the Eastern side of the churchyard. He spent many years as a Church warden up to his death



M.C.C. and Ground v. Australians.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 12.

M. C. C.	First Innings.	Second Innings.
1 W. G. Grace, Esq.....	b Trumble 15	
2 A. E. Stoddart, Esq.....	st Kelly, b Trott 54	
3 K. S. Ranjitsinhji.....	b Trumble 7	
4 F. S. Jackson, Esq.	c and b Trumble 51	
5 Gunn	b McKibbin 39	
6 G. MacGregor, Esq.	b Trumble 0	
7 Davidson	b Trumble 0	
8 F. Marchant, Esq.....	b McKibbin 20	
9 Pougher	not out 9	
10 W. Attewell	b Trumble 7	
11 J. T. Hearne	b McKibbin 1	
	B 13, l-b 2, w , n-b 1, 16	B , l-b , w , n-b ,
	Total219	Total
AUSTRALIANS.	First Innings.	Second Innings.
1 J. J. Kelly, Esq.	c and b Pougher 8	b Hearne 0
2 H. Graham, Esq.	b Hearne 4	b Hearne 5
3 G. H. S. Trott, Esq.....	b Hearne 6	c MacGregor, b Hearne 14
4 S. E. Gregory, Esq.	b Hearne 0	c MacGregor, b Hearne 28
5 F. A. Iredale, Esq.....	b Hearne 0	b Hearne 0
6 C. Hill, Esq.	b Pougher 0	b Hearne 4
7 H. Trumble, Esq.	b Pougher 0	b Hearne 0
8 J. Darling, Esq.....	not out 0	c Stoddart, b Hearne ... 76
9 C. J. Eady, Esq.....	b Pougher 0	c Grace, b Hearne 42
10 T. R. McKibbin, Esq. ...	c Davidson, b Pougher... 0	not out 3
11 G. Giffen, Esq.	absent..... 0	absent..... 0
	B , l-b , w , n-b ,	B 9, l-b 2, w , n-b , 11
	Total 18	Total183

Umpires—W. A. J. West and Phillips.

Scorers—T. Hearne and Clayton.

M.C.C. won by an innings and 18 runs.

Friends of the Church – Guitar recital by Arie Dakesian – Saturday 18 October 2025

We were delighted to welcome a rising star of the classical guitar world, Arie Dakesian, to play for us in October. Alongside building an enviable performing career and attracting terrific reviews, Arie is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Performance at the world's leading music conservatoire (no.1 in the QS World University Rankings for the fourth year), the Royal College of Music. He's a Houston Family Scholar and is supported by several foundations and the highly sought-after Julian Bream Trust. Arie is also a grant holder of the Royal Philharmonic Society, the International Guitar Foundation, the Kathleen Trust, the Wolfson Foundation, and the St. Marylebone Educational Trust. As a 2024 Debut Artist for the Tillett Trust, Arie was selected for a two-year collaboration and a wide range of performances; this made him the fifth guitarist to ever be awarded since the scheme emerged in 1995. Recent notable

performances include the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall, Kew Gardens, King's Place, the Royal Albert Hall and the Wigmore Hall.



Arie's programme was wonderfully varied and included works by Tarrega and Piazzolla, Gangi and Pujol. He played pieces with an incredibly delicate touch, through to virtuosic accounts of core guitar repertoire. We were also treated to a piece he composed himself. Writing in

response to his grandmother's illness, his 'Meditation sur Kahlil Badawi' conveyed the warm, loving quietness of her apartment, set high above the noisy bustling streets of her home town, Beirut. The recital was well attended and raised in excess of £550 for the Friends' charity.

Sharing a little about his background, Arie wrote: "The most complicated question you can ask me is where I'm from. That's because I'm ethnically Armenian although I was born and raised in Lebanon, so there is simply no right answer. It all started in the capital city of Beirut, in a densely populated Armenian town called Bourj Hammoud; that's also where I bought my first guitar and had my first ever guitar lesson at the local *Parsegh Ganatchian* Music School at the age of six. Time there went by very quickly, and before I knew it I was graduating in 2019 as the first ever guitarist to complete the 10-year programme in nearly two decades. During my teenage years I performed quite a lot both as a solo artist and a chamber musician across Lebanon, which included a wide variety of classical repertoire, as well as an exploration of Armenian as well as Eastern folk music. I went on to pursue my higher education in Armenia and was enrolled at the *Yerevan State Conservatory* for a short period of time, having lessons with Hakob Jaghatspanyan for a little shy of a year. There, I had a wider access to, and really fell in love with, the music of Komitas, who is considered the father of Armenian folk music. I naturally took a deeper interest in the world of Armenian folklore and the vast artistic wealth it had to offer.

Since moving to London, I've had the immense pleasure of working with the stars of the industry: among them are *Sergio Assad, Antigoni Goni, Gabriel Bianco, Judicael Perroy, Sean Shibe, Dušan Bogdanovic, Carlos Bonell, Mark Eden, Laura Snowden, Steve*

Goss and Xuefei Yang. Having completed my undergraduate studies at the Royal College of Music, I have now dived even deeper into everything performance-related as I pursue my Masters of Music in Performance alongside my busy schedule of recitals and workshops.”

Claire Long

LENT LUNCHES

2026 is not far away – and neither is Lent, which is early this coming year.

Ash Wednesday is on 18th February and so the first Friday is February 20th.

We plan to hold Lent Lunches on Fridays: February 20th, 27th and March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

If you have been a regular contributor in any way towards these events, please note the dates. Also, if you can, let me know whether you are or are not able to join the willing team again. Immediately after Christmas I will also be writing to you.

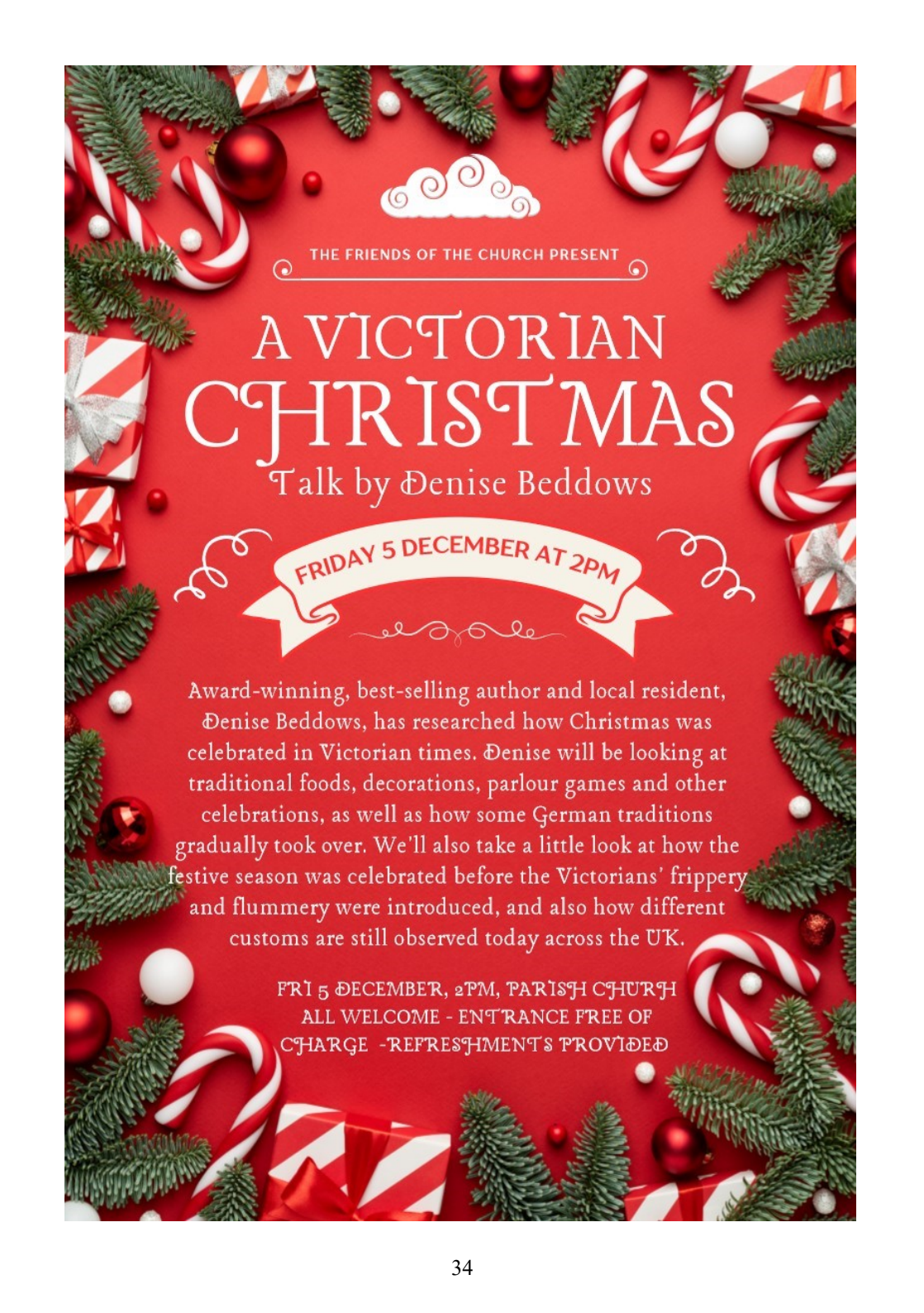
If you are unaware of our annual contribution to local charities and would like to join in, please let me know.

Lunches take place in the Reading Room and help is needed to prepare the venue, to make soups, to serve, to wash up, and so on. Should you feel unable to help, then please come along and join a convivial weekly lunch.

And do have a very peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

Kathleen Martin

kathleen.martin@talktalk.net



THE FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH PRESENT

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Talk by Denise Beddows

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER AT 2PM

Award-winning, best-selling author and local resident, Denise Beddows, has researched how Christmas was celebrated in Victorian times. Denise will be looking at traditional foods, decorations, parlour games and other celebrations, as well as how some German traditions gradually took over. We'll also take a little look at how the festive season was celebrated before the Victorians' frippery and flummery were introduced, and also how different customs are still observed today across the UK.

FRI 5 DECEMBER, 2PM, PARISH CHURCH
ALL WELCOME - ENTRANCE FREE OF
CHARGE - REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

The Friends of Chalfont St Giles Parish Church

We are pleased to welcome local author, Denise Beddows, to the church to give an illustrated talk about Christmas in the Victorian times. Denise will also touch on traditions that pre-dated this period, as well as many of the Victorian (and German) customs that we still enjoy today. The talk will take place at **2pm on Friday 5 December** and will be followed by tea and mince pies. There is no charge for the talk and all are welcome. As always, any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

It is likely that many of the Friends already know Denise as she is a prominent local figure - founder of the hugely successful Chiltern Kills Crime Festival in Gerrards Cross, and an active supporter of Chalfont St Giles & Jordans Literary Festival. Denise held a senior position in government for many years. Her background in research, investigation and intelligence analysis saw her work and live in over 20 countries. During this time she was tear-gassed, mortar-bombed, held-up at gunpoint by sky marshals and briefly taken hostage. Now writing from the much quieter environment of her home in the Chalfonts, she has published numerous crime and espionage novels, and true crime. Her books regularly sit in Amazon's top five best sellers and she is widely celebrated in professional awards ceremonies. We are honoured and grateful that Denise has generously agreed to give this talk for our enjoyment and as a fundraiser to support the Friends of the Church charity.

We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please get in touch (claire@musicprods.co.uk).

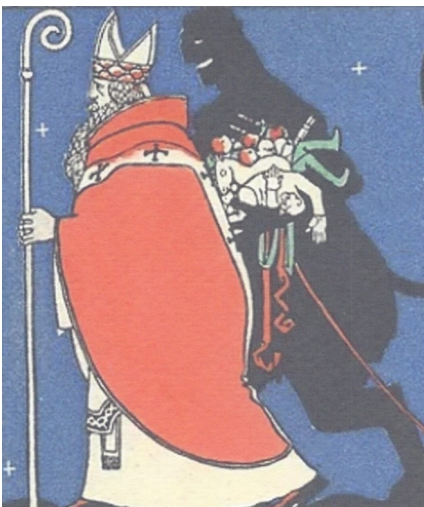
Krampus

Everyone needs a side-kick, and Saint Nick is no exception. In much of Europe, he's accompanied by Krampus - an anthropomorphic, snake-tongued, goat-horned, black-furred demon. Unlike Santa, Krampus follows through on his naughty list, beating badly behaved children and even carting them off to the underworld. We're sure Milton's Satan would approve.

The origins of Krampus remain obscure. Many folklorists have suggested a pre-Christian alpine origin for the figure, although it wasn't until the 17th century, during Milton's lifetime, that Krampus seems to have become a regular companion for Saint Nicholas.

He's remained a popular Christmas fixture ever since. Difficult as it might seem to commercialise a devil-goat with a taste for violence, the 19th century invention of the Christmas card saw an accompanying surge of Krampus cards around the world. Given his alpine origins, many of the most creative examples were produced in Austria before the First World War.

John Bradley



Krampuscarten by Wiener
Werstatte

Artist Josef Diveky (1909)

QUIZ CORNER

Again only one entry but an almost correct one (with some discussion of the one they failed to get). So congratulations again to Mel and Chris – they really do need some competition.

The subject again is Parliamentary constituencies and if the constituency is part of a large city (like Sheffield Hallam in the last quiz) then the name of the large city is not included in the answer.

1. Small child, X and dodgy strings (9)
2. Cape doctors cutting area (7)
3. Despondent and muddy? (6)
4. Mixer where US state replaces metal (9)
5. Important date loses 50 (5)
6. Largest I've seen included (2,4)
7. Hurry back to base, by the sound of it (8)
8. Sounds a bit irritating (8 or 6)
9. Marsupial swaps insect for a lot of water, we hear (8)
10. Bird, currency, agreement (number clue would make it too easy!)

Answers to previous quiz

1. Orpington
2. Bolsover
3. Fylde
4. Broxbourne
5. Broxtowe
6. Basingstoke
7. Nuneaton
8. (Sheffield) Hallam
9. Blackburn
10. Gravesham

Correction

It has been brought to my attention that some people may have been misled by one of the articles in the previous Parish Magazine. Sue Wakeford's very helpful article on Page 11 about how to find The Kindness Club for those wanting to offload surplus possessions also contained directions to the location of this admirable organisation. This included a right turn after the ambulance station on the A413. I am sure that readers will be aware that this is prohibited and that it is necessary to continue to the Greyhound roundabout and go right round it, thus retracing one's route and making a left turn into the road by the ambulance station. If you are not aware of this, which I'm sure you are, then there are prominent signs warning the motorist that the right turn is not allowed. I am confident, therefore, that no-one has been misled into committing a road traffic offence because of this article.

The Editor

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
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
Transforming Lives
Glorifying God