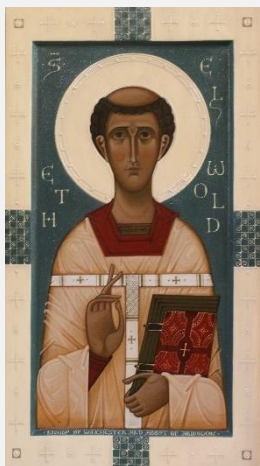


Issue 4:
May 2024



A candle in....

THE

WINDOW

News and Views from the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames

This issue was shaped
by:

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There was a thanksgiving service at High Wycombe on Saturday 13th April for the life of Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, who died suddenly and unexpectedly in February

These words, often quoted by Bishop Alan at the end of his sermons, were included in the order of service. They are based on text from 'The Blue Mountains of China' by Rudy Wiebe:

“In the kingdom of the Prince of Peace
you show wisdom by trusting people;
you handle leadership by serving;

you handle offenders, by forgiving;
you handle money, by sharing;
you handle enemies, by loving;
and you handle violence by suffering.

Because this is a Jesus society,
And you repent, not by feeling bad,
But by thinking different.



In this issue: Christian Aid Week – ‘A letter from Nigeria’ and ‘Burundi comes to us’; the forthcoming Passion Play; recollections of Rev. Peter Silva; thoughts about miracles; poems and pictures.....

A Letter from Nigeria

Mary Anderson

*I hear thunder, I hear thunder,
Hark don't you, hark don't you?
Pitter-patter raindrops, pitter-patter raindrops,
I'm wet through, so are you.*



Thunder is such a welcome sound after a hot, dusty day in Abuja, the ‘Brasilia of Nigeria’. I have always felt it was a welcome augur of the transition from dry season to rainy season. How much more were the rains needed by local subsistence farmers in the North of this vast country.

But my memories of Nigeria nearly 50 years ago are irrelevant now. At a meeting with the Christian Aid country director this week, I learnt that preparedness for drastic flooding – *un*welcome rains – constitutes part of their programme management. Times they are a-changing; times they’ve already changed. Climate change, with its scorching heat and disastrous rains, is a huge problem in this ginormous country.



As Channel 5’s Michel Palin series may have shown (I haven’t had a chance to see it yet), Nigeria is a country of youth, enterprise and inequality. The average age is 18. This photo shows a roadside tree nursery by a busy highway in Abuja. It is brimming with youthful trees and is emblematic of enterprise. Behind you can just see a building site where yet another new office block or palatial residence is being erected. Some of those young trees may grow up to be magnificent flame-of-the-forest trees, which abound in this city. Others may be neem trees

(‘dogon yaro’, or ‘tall boys’ in the Hausa language), which provide welcome shade and fruits with medicinal oil. Some may be mango trees (the mangoes here are the best you’ve ever tasted).

The nursery probably doesn’t include baobabs, with their ‘roots in the air’, but I can’t resist sharing a photo of one outside a school we visited near Kano in the North.

My reason for coming to Nigeria was to help promote Hausa mother-tongue literacy resources, which my friend and I have been developing over several



years. (Hausa is the third most widespread language of Africa, after Arabic and Swahili.) We have trained teacher-trainers in Hausa Phonics methodology and more, and on this trip we made



presentations to our local sponsors and to government ministers. We've also been privileged to see our books in classroom use, an incredibly gratifying experience. However, we were starkly reminded of the challenges ahead when we realised that the children have very few pencils – so how can they learn to write? The photo shows a 'sand tray' for practising basic letter shapes. At least that is a beginning.



As well as Christian Aid and mother-tongue literacy, I have also had the chance to attend a local church. Security concerns mean that I'm 'not allowed' to wander and explore – a situation that is anathema to me, but I have to respect my generous (Muslim) hosts' concerns. So I have twice attended the local Catholic Church of the Assumption. The first time I took home a powerful message about forgiveness, which was encouraging and uplifting.



The second time I began to make more sense of the church service. The structure was not dissimilar to the familiar liturgy at St Helen's. The sermon and much of the linkage were in English, but every so often a part of the liturgy would be projected in a Nigerian language: first Yoruba, then Idoma, Tiv, Igbo and Hausa. And the Lord's prayer was chanted in Latin. Nigeria is a Babel of languages!

I found it difficult to worship in the midst of such a multitude of impressions: imagery of the Virgin and of St Joseph as white (see the photo), people processing in their finery, languages in profusion, and a sermon about the good Shepherd that came over as hectoring rather than guidance. It was wonderful to see Psalm 23 projected on the screens. But with its cacophony of generators and gas-guzzling vehicles, its dusty streets and endless flyovers, Abuja offers little hope of 'green pastures' or 'quiet waters'. I'm not sure where or how the Holy Spirit is moving here. Maybe that is because my ears have not had time to attune, my eyes are goggling with incomprehension.



Back to Christian Aid. Whilst I have had innumerable conversations with people from the élite to the poorest, all my experiences have been anecdotal. So it was helpful to tap the wisdom of professional development strategists Temitope Fashola, Nigeria Country Director, and Victor Arokoyo, Head of Programmes. They observed that in Nigeria (unlike in India) the poor are getting poorer.

Christian Aid in Nigeria has three focus areas:

- good governance and rights, especially to education and health care
- climate adaptation and resilience, and
- preparedness for disaster, especially flooding.

It is clear that Christian Aid has a pivotal role in working with other agencies, and this is beginning to bear fruit. For example, investment in education in the infamous Boko Haram areas (in the north-east, near Lake Chad) has reduced violence. There continues to be significant conflict between herders and farmers, but Christian Aid is effectively facilitating dialogue about the use of land resources.

Education is key to changing mindsets, in order to foster accountability and fight corruption – which will in turn result in better governance. We all have our part to play in making sure that such work can continue, so that Nigeria can become a fairer society.

After yet another sweltering day, I'm glad to report that the rains have finally come: pitter-patter raindrops, not devastating floods this time. But this is only the beginning of the rainy season.



Here is a satellite dish outside a prestigious office block. (Notice the tree nursery to the right and the pawpaw tree to the left.) Wifi and the power supply are constantly switching off, so generators are to be seen and heard everywhere.



This photo was taken just before my friend Hindy and I gave a presentation to assembled government officials and teacher-trainers in the capital of Jigawa State in north-east Nigeria.



These three-wheeled 'Keke Napep' weave in and out of the traffic in all major cities. They can officially carry three passengers but invariably take as many as six.

Christian Aid and Burundi

Rob Rutherford



If you had a map of the world in front of you – a map without towns and countries and borders – would you be able to put a pin in the map to indicate the position of Burundi? It is the country at the centre of this year's Christian Aid campaign.



My stamp collection of long ago used to group it with Rwanda. They are neighbouring countries and of course Rwanda has been much in the news of late so that might help to fix its whereabouts. It is in the Rift Valley, cradle of Homo Sapiens, landlocked but alongside Lake Tanganyika, the deepest lake in Africa whose biodiversity is under threat from global warming. Its largest city, Bujumbura, might sound familiar.

I haven't been to Burundi but Burundi sort of came to us. It was 2008 and we were in Basingstoke. The Lambeth conference was about to happen and visiting Bishops were to spend a few days in various Dioceses across the UK. The call went out to find hosts and thus it was that Bishop Sixbert (now Archbishop Sixbert of Burundi) and his wife came to stay with us in our vicarage in Basingstoke. They came to our church on the Sunday and talked about the situation of the church in Burundi. Sixbert didn't come to raise money but when we heard that a community was trying to build a church and was short of £200 for a corrugated iron roof, we decided that we could help. Basingstoke also provided various other things – the network of wives had obviously heard of charity shops. We occasionally had to tread carefully – there were theological differences – but it was very enriching.

So why is Burundi at the heart of this year's Christian Aid Campaign?

In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water. On the website [here](#), you can read the story of Aline Nibogora and how Christian Aid helped her. For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young, gave birth to her eldest son when she was just 14 years old and experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband. A few years later, her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and in a further act of cruelty, told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children. Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

'I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me,' says Aline.

She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible. With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, her hard work had finally paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house. There is more to the story but it illustrates the type of help Christian Aid gives.

*Last year, despite the decline of the house to house collection, Christian Aid week raised £5million. Come and find the local group in the **Market Place** on **Saturday 11th May**, and contribute home bakes and plants if you can. There will be no house-to-house collection, but you can donate to our Abingdon collection [here](#). If you are able to, please donate. Thank you!*



Market Place sale

Saturday 11 May 2024 - 9.00 am to 12.00 noon.

There will be stalls selling plants, cakes, preserves, books, CDs and DVDs. There will also be a street (cash) collection on the day.

We need volunteers to help run the sale and collect money. We also need items to sell i.e. plants, cakes and books to sell.

Plants: Gardeners! Please can you save some saleable garden plants – either bedding plants, perennials or veg. seedlings – and indeed houseplants, in a saleable condition. It would be helpful if these could be labelled. You can bring them to the Market Place on the day.

Preserves and cakes – we'd appreciate lots of home-made cakes and preserves to sell on the morning, please! Remember, to put a list of allergens with the cake. Again, you can bring them down to the Market Place on the day.



Books, CDs and vinyl records: please look out any books etc you no longer want and that you consider would sell well.

Volunteer helpers: Best of all, can you spare an hour or two to help staff our stalls – if you can, then please contact Christine Hutt or Doug Bradshaw to arrange times. We'll provide the cash float! We have also created our own e-envelope:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/christian-aid-task-group-abingdon>

Right now, the world is experiencing a distressing surge in hunger. With your help, we're playing our part to raise much needed funds to push back against the inhumanity of poverty.

Thank you for all you do, for your support, your prayers and for your giving. As always – Give – Act – Pray!

Doug Bradshaw & Christine Hutt

A large audience in the excellent acoustic of St Michael's Church heard the close harmony 'a cappella' singing of the Harmony InSpire choir of Marcham. A favourite item was their version of the Billy Joel classic 'And So it Goes'. They were joined by the children's choir, Caritas, from Wantage. This excellent choir was set up for two very good reasons – to give a musical education and to raise funds for Christian Aid. Now there's an idea! RAR



Why a Passion Play?

Members of the Passion Play team

It's not long now until 22nd June, when the Abingdon Passion Play 2024 will be performed in the Abbey Gardens. A Passion Play, months after Easter, in June? Here are some thoughts and reflections on why a Passion Play is timeless, and still has a place as a uniquely theatrical experience for people today.

It's early March in Abingdon, and we are sitting in a café near the bridge, wearing our bright red Abingdon Passion Play 2024 hoodies. We are joined by David Pope, Chairman of the APP 2024 committee and cast member, and Daniel Silve, who is joining the Abingdon Passion Play for the first time as one of the actors. Daniel has taken part in several Passion Plays over the years, in Brighton and Lewes. Each of these were very different experiences – in one of the Brighton performances, the Passion Play was taken to the seafront and acted out over three hours; in the play at Lewes, the Passion Play was performed over several evenings in different locations across the town, each time with a different stage, in order to emulate the actual timing of the Passion Story according to the gospels.



Abingdon has had its own Passion Play ever since first initiated in 2013, and since then has performed the Passion story every three years, following different formats. The last one was in 2019; then the pandemic hit and the 2022 Passion Play never took place. Having learnt from previous years, when the weather turned unseasonably cold just before Easter, the Abingdon Passion Play committee took the decision to move the performance to 22nd June 2024 in order to enable an outdoor performance to take place.

But does a Passion Play still have an appeal for the people of Abingdon, nowadays?

Both Daniel and David passionately believe in the relevance of the Bible and of Jesus' words to people today. Times may well have changed, but what motivates us as humans - our ambitions, our dreams and our flaws - are not so very different from 2,000 years ago. Nevertheless, many feel cautious about the church, given its history of misusing power and its corruption. Few like experiencing aggressive evangelism, so in contrast the Passion Play offers an opportunity just to sit, watch and reflect: watching and listening to two characters talking, the audience members can step back and feel more comfortable, as they are not being addressed directly, but the scenes unfolding before them may well prompt consideration of the effects and relevance of the story they see and hear.

In his thoughts about the Passion Play, Daniel compares the impact of the play to Jesus' parable of the mustard seed: "... *it's so small but it can grow so big, and that's what we're doing: we're sowing the seed. You may not see its immediate effects, and it could happen years later.*"

We have been blessed with an excellent script, which brings the Easter Story into the 21st century, through a clever theatrical device of two students in a café, commenting on the events unfolding in front of them, acting either as the voice of the audience, or echoing the role of a Greek chorus, "filling in the gaps", in addition to opening and ending the play. The audience is engaged on a dramatic and an intellectual level, explaining the history of Passion Plays in general, as well as some of the cultural background of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice.

David is looking forward to reaching people of all backgrounds: "*Jesus' message is universal, throughout the universe, not just our church, our particular congregation. The Passion Play is an*

opportunity for people to find out a bit more about Jesus of Nazareth, whatever their background is, whatever religion they come from. The encouraging thing is that when you look at the cast, we come from different aspects of the church, different denominations ... And that's the whole point."

Over the past few weeks and months, the cast have been able to get to know one another, and the communities where we come from, more closely, united in our enthusiasm for the Play. There are many moving moments as we play out the road to the cross in our rehearsal venues, reflecting several different dominations in Abingdon. Our latest venue for Monday rehearsals is St Helen's Church, providing a unique theatrical space, very different from the more functional space with its "workshop" feel at All Saints' Methodist Church. The Abingdon Passion Play Singers, who bring additional colour to the play in song, rehearse at St Nicolas Church on Thursday nights. Each of these spaces with its distinctive atmosphere is becoming a part of the journey of the actors, musicians and helpers, all gathering to create The Abingdon Passion Play 2024 for the people of Abingdon.

Please come and join us! 12 noon and 5pm, in the Abbey Grounds, Abingdon, on June 22nd, 2024. All are very welcome. As Jesus once said: "When two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there..."

Parish News

Eluned Hallas

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners last month, the following were elected as Church Wardens for the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames, though with special responsibility for their home churches: Margaret Horton (St H), David Pope (St H), Joyce Kelly (St M), Louise Heffernan, (St M), Eluned Hallas (St N) & Paul Rast-Lindsell (St N).

At the immediately following APCM members were elected / re-elected to the PCC, the full membership of which is now:

Revd Dr Charles Miller, Revd Paul Smith, Revd Dr Andrew Adam, Revd Dr Jen Brown, Gwen Bevington, the Wardens, our Deanery Synod Reps: Revd Rosalind Rutherford, Hazel Glennie (St H), Alexandra Green (St H) Sue Scott (St M), Alex Scott (St M), Eluned Hallas (St N)) and elected representatives: Mary Anderson (St H), Kate Burland (St H), Hilary Clare (St M), John Clare (St M), Jenny Fishpool (St N), Gwyneth Lewis (St N) & Jenny Metcalfe (St N).

Do feel free to contact any of these if you have any comments, questions or observations you wish to make.

Our Safeguarding Officers are: St H: Emmanuel Chukwuma, St M: the Team Rector, St N: Jenny Fishpool, and the Parish: the Rector. (Contact details on https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_policies.html)

The APCM also received reports on the activities of the Parish in 2023, and the Financial Accounts for the year. Copies are available from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html

The **main news** of the evening was, however, the announcement of the Team Rector's retirement – with his last Service in the Parish to be at a parish-wide Corporate Communion on the afternoon of All Saints' Sunday, 3 November (of which more in a future edition).

We wish Charles well in his retirement, but look forward first to another 6 months of his ministry among us.

Agnostics Anonymous – a personal view

Eluned Hallas

We are lucky in Abingdon to have many great (even renowned) theological, scientific and philosophical thinkers – who are also ordained Anglican clergy. In a series of sessions they have discussed questions of faith. Keith Ward wrote: The intention is not to convert anyone to a particular view. It is to provide reliable information about and understanding of various religious (and anti-religious) views, and promote reasonable discussion in a friendly and informal atmosphere. In this I think they have been successful, there's certainly a friendly and informal approach, and lots of discussion.

Attendees probably came with questions, and probably left with questions - although the questions might well have changed during the evening.

There was no sense of 'the right answer' or 'the correct belief'. More an exploration of how it was possible to hold different ideas in tension. To believe without necessarily fully comprehending. To wonder and to question.

Did the sessions make me think? Certainly, and this continues.

Did I learn things? Yes, but I might have difficulty in explaining exactly what.

Will I continue? Definitely.

I was reassured that it is OK to question.

Miracles

Rob Rutherford

The main message of John Kerr's talk was, I think, that we should be careful and sceptical about attributing the word 'miracle' to an event but that we should also be open minded. He finished by quoting Hamlet:

There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

- Hamlet (1.5.167-8), Hamlet to Horatio

There is a problem of definition said a philosophy student behind us.

Are miracles events that cannot be explained within the laws of nature?

Where does that leave the scientist who says that the laws of nature themselves are miraculous?

No easy answers here - but we should certainly say that the laws of nature, as outlined by science, are not complete - the 'theory of everything' doesn't exist and probably never will. Therefore, there is much that we do not understand.

What about the miracles described in the bible? John Barton pointed out that they include events that could be described as vindictive. Look up 2 Kings 2.23-25 to explore that one. Of course the miracles in, say, St John's Gospel, are of a different order and whether literally true or not contain deeper truths about the kingdom and the nature of God and point us towards who Jesus is.

Perhaps that's our definition – a miracle is something that reveals God to us.

Congratulations to the Revd Peter Silva

David Duce

It's hard to believe, he looks so young, but our former Team Vicar, Peter Silva recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Saturday, 23 March. The occasion was marked by a Eucharist on Saturday 6 April in St Kenelm's Church Enstone, celebrating the anniversary and also the people who have worked and worshipped with Fr Peter over those years.

Peter graduated from Rhodes University in theology and then studied education. He was ordained deacon and priest during 1974. His ministry in South Africa included a curacy at Bloemfontein Cathedral, a school chaplaincy and various parish posts. He also held posts in education including Director of Educational Projects for the Grahamstown Foundation. Peter, Penny and their family moved from South Africa to a very cold and grey Abingdon in 1999, being licensed in January as Team Vicar at St Michael's.

Partly prompted by the retirement of the Revd Martin Lovering as Team Vicar of St Nicolas' Church in December 1999, there was a long period of reflection on staffing for the Team Ministry which at that time also included Christ Church in North Abingdon. Eventually the decision was taken to allocate one stipendiary post to St Michael's and St Nicolas' Churches and Peter Silva was the first priest to be Team Vicar for both churches.

Returning now to the celebration on 6 April, this was a wonderful, joy-filled occasion. Fr Peter chose John's account of the Wedding at Cana in Galilee as the gospel passage (John 2.1-10) and preached a memorable sermon on transformation, drawing on moving experiences of churches he served both in South Africa and this country. One of these was when as a young priest (long before Apartheid ended) he was asked to celebrate the Maundy Thursday Liturgy at a black township church. He did the foot-washing in the traditional way, ending by kissing the feet of each person. The participants found this deeply moving and afterwards one of them said to him, 'This is the first time a white person has kissed our feet; it is a vision of what South Africa can become'.

His sermon brought back many memories of his ministry at St Michael's. Peter's working copy of the New Testament (which he is still using) is a combined Greek and English New Testament. Not interlinear, but in two parts. At informal services when a lesson was to be read Peter would often hand over his bible to someone and ask them to read verses n.m. More than once he handed over the Greek text, leaving most readers rather bewildered and the few who had a knowledge of NT Greek wondering whether to read the Greek or attempt a real-time translation. It was clear from some of the conversations after the service that this happened in churches other than St Michael's.

One of Peter's lasting contributions to our life at St Michael's was to set up a lunchtime Mass on Thursdays. This was followed by an informal light lunch to which Peter would contribute a large bowl of home-made soup; hence it became known as the Soup-a-Mass.

Peter left the parish in 2002 on taking up the post of Chief Executive Officer for Peers Early Educational Partnership. In retirement Peter continues a very active ministry in the CHASE Benefice (a group of parishes serving the villages of Chadlington, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Spelsbury and Enstone) and again from comments made after the service, seems to be the "go-to" priest if a local parish is in need of a priest to take a service at (very) short notice!

Transformation indeed. 'Laudete Dominum' for Fr Peter's ministry.

‘Congratulations’ also to the Revd Joe Kennedy, former Curate in the Parish, recently appointed Bishop of Burnley (<https://www.archbishopofyork.org/news/latest-news/next-bishop-burnley-will-be-revd-dr-joe-kennedy>)

Awakening

In the earth's rhythm, season follows
season, winter is slowly edged out
by spring.

Cowslips edge the field, while on
the forest floor, primroses gleam in
palest yellow from among mossy
tree roots.

Trees waiting for the sap to rise
stand tall, their delicate tracery
of branch and twig displayed against
a tumbling sky of sun and cloud.

Beech trees dazzle in brightest new
green, fresh and vibrant, their leaves
limp and cool, soft as tissue.
Hawthorn has burst to life with a froth
of white blossom, while evergreens
provide a subdued backdrop to all
this splendour.

The forest explodes with birdsong,
piercingly sweet, rising and falling
in joyous cascades; in the distance
is the rhythmical dull thudding
of a woodpecker, drilling its way
to a new home.

Bluebells are everywhere.
Along the paths, dark buds above
slender leaves have opened to deepest
blue, now spreading beneath the trees
in a sea of shimmering colour, which
flows away to a haze of blue, from
where smooth grey beech trees
rise to find the light.

Susan Gee



Bluebells at Basildon Park: Norman Gee

May Events

Compiled by Louise Heffernan

Throughout May
Artists' Open Studios
& Pop-Up Exhibitions.
Free to visit.
www.artweeks.org



**St. Nicolas Church, Market Sq.
Abingdon, OX14 3HG**
Mon 20 – Mon 27 May, 10-5
Abbey Group
5 local artists showcasing:
Glass, collage, cyanotypes, painting, drawing and jewellery in
beautiful surroundings. Fully accessible.
Artworks, prints, cards and more! Venue 464




Cream Teas
St Michael & All Angels' Church,
Park Road



Saturday 25th May
2.30 – 4.30 pm

Tea/coffee with scone/cake £5
Proceeds to church funds
All welcome

TAIZÉ WORSHIP



at
HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON

Join us for **Taizé prayer** at 5.30pm on 12th
May, 9th June and 14th July

All Saint's Singers:
Dvorak, Mass in D; Charpentier, Te
Deum.
All Saints' Church Sutton Courtenay
Sunday 12 May, 7:30pm.
Tickets £15 from the Bookstore,
Bury Street, or

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/55182>

Christian Aid Market Place Sale
 Saturday 11 May 2024 - 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. Plants, cakes, preserves, books, CDs and DVDs. Volunteers needed
 See page 6 for further details

Christians and Muslims in a fractured world: FoSH meeting
 7.30pm Wednesday 15 May in St Nic's church. It will be led by Dr Richard McCallum, Director of the Centre for Muslim- Christian Studies in Oxford. All welcome,

Abingdon School Music Awards Holders' Concert.
 St Michael's Church 23 May at 7 pm
 Musicians in 3rd, 4th and L6 with a range of solo and chamber items. Please come and support them. The concert is free.
 The link to this concert is:
<https://www.abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/performance/music-award-holders-concert/>
 This includes a booking page.

May Festivals:
Ascension Day Thursday 9th May Parish Corporate Communion at St Nicolas' Church at 7 pm, followed by refreshments
Trinity Sunday 26th May: Corporate Communion takes place, hosted this year by Fr Paul and the congregation at St Michael & All Angels Church on Park Road at 10.00 am.
Corpus Christi Thursday 30th May 7pm St Michael's Church

Dates for your diary

Abingdon Passion Play
 22th June 2024 in the Abbey Grounds
 12.00pm and 17.00pm



Wantage Academy Brass and Wantage Youth Brass

St Michael's Church Saturday 6 July, 7pm.
 These popular bands are returning to give another fund-raising concert for The Abingdon Bridge, TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe and St Michael's Church



May Quiz



CAW PAPER QUIZ

CHALLENGE YOUR FRIENDS

Each cryptic clue below gives you an animal or creature. Why not challenge your church and friends and ask them for a donation to Christian Aid Week?

Answers next issue

Each answer is an animal/creature

1. Tail backward deity (3)
2. Moan about whisky (6)
3. Wrench my French opener (6)
4. Avoid nothing (4)
5. Weaponise a herb with nothing (9)
6. Country swine (6,3)
7. Toy boy, we hear, is a good swimmer (7)
8. Canine whistle (4)
9. Margarine said to deliver babies (5)
10. Polish greeting, we hear (7)
11. Butter Billy (4)
12. Vegetable fowl is vain (7)
13. Arctic nude (5,4)
14. I hear relative will run off to marry (8)
15. Strut about famous lake (4)
16. Should do, we hear (5)
17. Huge pot, father (5,5)
18. Fiery circle could be pink (8)
19. Close up (4)
20. Large, pale hustler (5,5,5)
21. Sounds like he doesn't play fair (7)
22. Meat you long for, I hear (9)
23. Smoke at home (6)
24. Cricketer makes a racket (3)
25. Timid creature on a computer (5)
26. This horse is a friend of mine! (8)
27. Monty's snake (6)
28. Greet girl, we hear, laughing (5)
29. Au turbot (8)
30. I say, bad weather, darling (8)

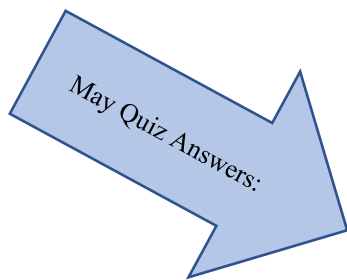


Friendship

Eileen Duckett

My best friend came today
And we had so much to say.
We discussed our aches and pains
And how much it always rains.
We put the world to right,
Told how our grandchildren delight.
We drank several cups of tea
Because our throats were dry, you see,
From all that lovely chatter
About the things that really matter
And I know anything I say
My friend will never give away.
She brightened up my day
And then she went on her way.
What a blessing friendship can be
With a friend as good as she.

Quiz Answers!



Sorry folks, you will have to wait
until the June edition

Useful Weblinks:

Services: for the latest news see the Parish Website:

<https://abingdonparish.org.uk>

for Church of England links: services, daily readings etc

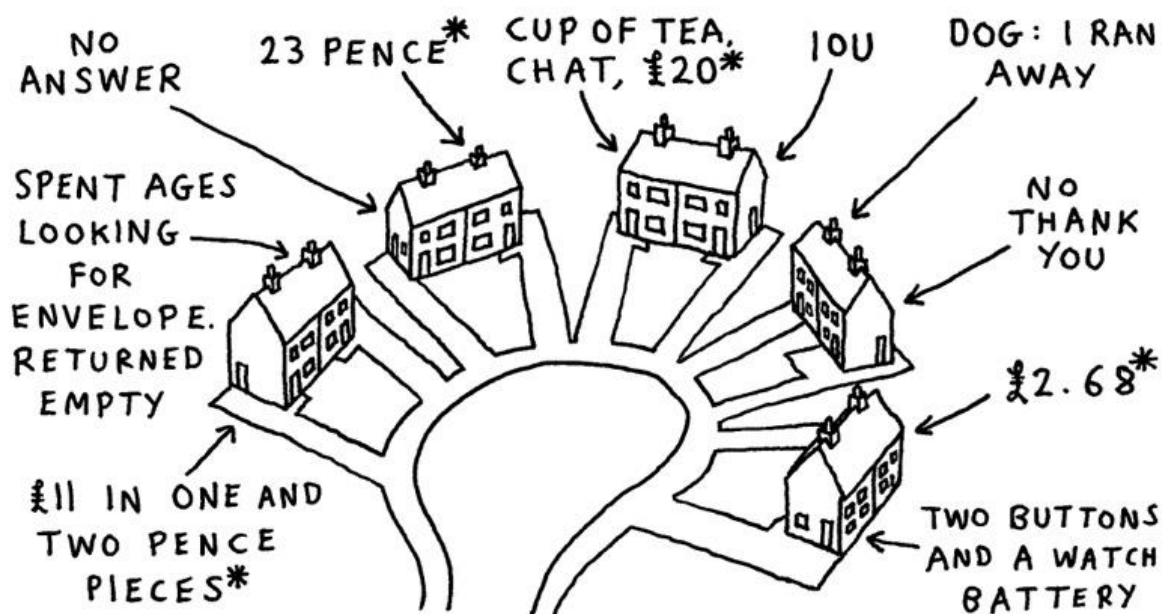
<https://www.churchofengland.org/>

FOOD BANK. The Abingdon Foodbank is still very busy and anxious to keep up the support. Northcourt Road (Christ Church) is open to receive donations on Tuesday and Friday mornings between 9.30 am and 1.00 pm. The foodbank also operates from Preston Road Community Centre. Donations are welcome there too between 12.00 and 2.30pm on Wednesdays. You can also donate money by sending a cheque made out to North Abingdon PCC Christ Church, clearly marked 'for Food Bank' or via the Foodbank website <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/> or the Parish office has details if you want to donate via online banking.

Finally, from Dave Walker:

This is out of date (see page 5) but use it to remind yourself how relieved you are that you don't have to do it and give thanks to Christian Aid by donating 21st century style

COLLECTING CHRISTIAN AID ENVELOPES



* ADDED TO EVERYONE ELSE'S: 12.5 MILLION POUNDS FOR CHRISTIAN AID

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Thanks to all contributors and to you, the readers.

The next issue will probably be published on June 9th - ideas and contributions to Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk