

# STOURHEAD BENEFICE NEWS

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February and March 2024



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Olivia Burt a pupil at Barnardiston School©

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**Father Chris's day off is Friday – in an emergency please contact a member of the Ministry Team.**

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**Deadline for next issue (April / May) 15th March**

The Stourhead Benefice is grateful to Barnardiston School for printing the Benefice News. Cover drawing is by kind permission of Olivia Burt a pupil at Barnardiston School ©.

## Father Chris writes

**D**ear Friends

Back in the days when each of our parishes had their own Rector, most of the Christian villagers would regularly attend church each Sunday. Today, as a Benefice we are blessed to have eight wonderful Church buildings, so regular Sunday worship is possible. This does mean some Sunday mornings having to travel a little, but in doing so we get to see, experience and use our wonderful buildings.

Sadly, regular attendance at services has nationally dropped significantly. The world has become much more materialistic, and our time seems more precious than ever. In life, there will always be obstacles in our way. Some people work or have some form of sports on Sunday mornings. Others might feel that they just want to relax at home after a stressful week. And many do not think Church is necessary.

Whatever obstacles people face, we will be blessed for choosing to follow God's commandment to worship at Church. As one of His Ten Commandments, God commanded that we keep the Sabbath day holy (Exodus 20:8–11). One of the ways we keep this commandment is to meet together on Sundays to worship God

and give Him thanks. We are also strengthened when we are around other believers.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist helps us remember Jesus and be part of his body. Jesus commanded, 'Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24). Keeping this commandment weekly at Church helps us remember what Jesus has done for us and commit to follow Him.

The Church of Jesus Christ relies on us. In the Bible, the Apostle Paul compared the Church to a body, with Jesus as the head. He said for a body to work, every member is important and must do its part (Ephesians 4:16). Participating in the life of the Church and offering our time and talents will improve and strengthen both us and the people around us.

We should as humans keep our bodies as fit as possible, and many take time in their lives to do just that. Taking time to exercise at home, fitness clubs or at gyms. Equally, we need to refresh ourselves spiritually also. Church services teach and uplift us. What we learn at church gives us guidance on how to follow Jesus, improve and feed us spiritually, and live

better lives. We can be uplifted by fellow believers and by the opportunity to serve, worship and be open to receive the Holy Spirit. By attending Church regularly, we can gain a sense of belonging. It is a community where we can socialize and support and pray for each other and those in need. We can make friends and build a support network that we can rely on.

God can speak to us; we can find answers in his holy house. Maybe you are struggling with a specific question or need some direction in your life. Maybe you just need to feel God's love and know that He is there. In do-

ing so, we have the opportunities to receive insight from God. He wants to communicate with us, and Church is a good place to hear His voice in our heart and mind. 'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.' (Hebrews 10.23-25)?

Every blessing  
Fr Chris

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## Everyday Sayings and Quotes found in the Bible

It is surprising how many sayings in use today originate in the King James Bible. This Bible was printed to be read to the ordinary men women and children of the time and will account for many of the phrases still being around today. The biblical source is shown to give the context in which the phrase was said. I found some very interesting. I hope you do.

Peter Smith

Earn something by the sweat of your brow	Genesis 3:19
A man after my own heart	Samuel 13:14
Nothing but skin and bones	Job 19: 19,20
Escaped by the skin of my teeth	Job 19
Out of the mouths of babes	Psalms 8: 2
Spare the rod and spoil the child	Proverbs 13:24
Pride goes before a fall	Proverbs 16: 18
A time and a place for everything	Ecclesiastes 3:1
Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we will die	Ecclesiastes 8:15/Isaiah 22:
A fly in the ointment	Ecclesiastes 10:1
A drop in the bucket	Isaiah 40: 15
Rise and Shine	Isaiah 60:1
A leopard cannot change its spots	Jeremiah 13:23
Go the extra mile	Matthew 5:41
United we stand divided we fall	Matthew 12: 25,26
The blind leading the blind	Matthew 15:14
A little birdie told me	Ecclesiastes 10:20
Ask for his head on a platter	Mark 6: 25
The powers that be	Romans 13: 1
In the twinkling of an eye	1 Corinthians 15:51,52



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## A Churchwarden's Diary

Earlier this month I went to see a film called 'One Life'. It told the story of Nicholas Winton (Nicky) who you may have heard of. In the Second World War he took some leave from his job to go to Prague where he saw the plight of Jewish families who were fleeing the Nazis. He was determined to do something to help. He worked with others to help the children to escape to England, where they were taken in by foster parents. He helped 669 children escape to safety before Prague was taken by Hitler.

Nicky wasn't a spy or an action hero nor was he particularly courageous but he used the skills he did have to ensure those children had safe and unhindered passage away from danger. Nicky was a stockbroker and good at paperwork. He understood what visas and forms needed to be filled in and he made sure all the t's were crossed and the i's were dotted.

On the first weekend of January, a group of us gathered at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Kedington to clean the church and put away the Christmas decorations. We had a list of tasks we hoped to complete. The list was quite long and this churchwarden envisaged still being in church at lunchtime. One of the tasks was to tidy the crypt so I spent quite a lot of time underground.

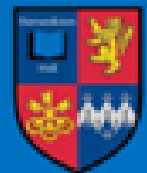
When I emerged, I was thrilled to see that all the jobs on the list had been completed. Those who knew the routine had cleaned the church. Tall people had taken down the chandeliers and removed the candles back into storage. The flower team had tidied the flower arrangements. Someone took great care to wind the Christmas Tree lights ready for next year. Those with knowledge of the items in storage had cleared some to the bin and returned some to the crypt. Those good with a broom had swept the crypt. Strong people had lifted the heavy boxes up or down the crypt stairs and moved the tree to the churchyard. Everyone had played a part and did what they could, according to their strengths.

(Photo shows part of the Kedington Church Cleaning Team.)





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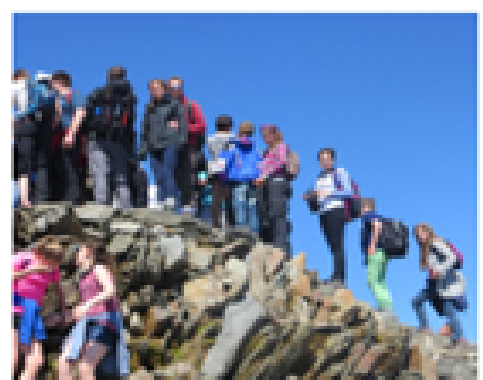
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## Questions of Faith for Lent?

The meaning of Christian faith is explained by St Paul in his letter to the Hebrews, when he wrote: 'Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see'. He explains the certainty of what we do not see as being the belief in the existence of God who is invisible to human eyes, although, of course, we can all, whoever we are, wherever we are, and whatever the time is - and all this without a phone - personally communicate with God through prayer. And it is through prayer that we can build our faith, that is our belief in the invisible God. But on the other hand, it is our faith that encourages us to pray. It's a perfect, which came first, chicken or egg? situation. The two go hand-in-hand and are inseparable. We cannot have faith without praying, and we cannot pray without faith.

There can be no doubt that our personal belief in God, our faith, is intimately linked with our personal prayers to him. And as Jesus once said to his disciples, 'Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.'

But faith is not just about those big moments, in fact it is not about any single moment, it is about our ongoing relationship with God and our obedience to him every moment of our lives. As individuals and as church families we are called by Jesus to use the gifts that we have been blessed with, and this means being sure of what we want to achieve, continuing to pray for it and by stepping out in faith, and to use God's gifts to us both wisely, and to seek new and exciting ways to use what we have, in order to reach out to everyone - the young and old, families and the lonely, the fit, the disabled and the sick, the dying and the bereaved - and in doing so we can show them God's love and what it means to have their own faith in him through prayer.

Faith is hard to learn because we can only learn as much as we allow ourselves to have. A good starting place is to ask ourselves two questions: How would I respond to what Jesus asked his disciples, 'Where is your faith?', and secondly, how much faith am I prepared to allow into my life?

## The Season of Lent

During Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday 14th February, we are called to take ourselves out of the comfortable zones we live in and experience discomfort to enable us to grow closer to God. A good Biblical example of this is the Book of Job, written 500 - 600 years before Christ. Job enjoyed a very comfortable life for his time. He lived according to the ways of God and was subsequently blessed because of his righteousness. He enjoyed good health, had a large happy family, and was one of the wealthiest men on earth with lots of land, huge herds of different animals, plentiful crops, and many willing servants. However, suddenly, all this is taken away from him, and he experiences the most uncomfortable life imaginable.

Job, however, gets advice from his close friends who, like him, were God-fearing people. It's not a comfortable story to read, which makes it ideal for Lent because it can take you out of your comfort zone. His agony and lack of comforting words from his, at times, non-sympathetic friends, leads Job to seek help from God.

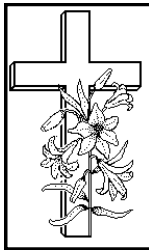
Today, we are more fortunate than Job because we have an arbitrator to seek help from, to comfort us and guide us through life. In fact, we don't have one, but two, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, who are one with God. But, even so, as followers of Jesus, we need to understand that our lives are not necessarily going to be comfortable all the time. Like Job we have to learn to take the rough with the smooth because it is through the bad times that we can recognise the joy of the good times.

In his second letter to the Christians in Corinth, Paul tells us that we have to expect, as he did, to face hardships so that we can appreciate the joyful times - *'sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, poor yet making many rich, having nothing and yet possessing everything.'*

The possessions that Paul refers to are not the worldly possessions we associate with Job, but the heavenly possessions that we can read about in Matthew's gospel: *'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'*

This Lent, try not to do only those things designed to comfort you personally, such as changing your diet or taking more exercise, but seek to store up treasure in heaven by doing some of those things that make you feel uncomfortable but that will bring joy to others. And if you need help in choosing what your Lenten task might be, try reading those parts of the Bible, such as Job, that you avoid because you think they will make you feel uncomfortable, you might be surprised how comforting that can be in the long run.

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## **Thank you from Kedington Church!**

**Whether you are a regular worshipper, or you come to Kedington church for festival services, weddings, baptisms and funerals, or you simply call in to enjoy some peace and quiet – it is your church.**

**As you are probably aware, it takes a considerable amount of money to keep our church open and active within the community. We are immensely grateful to those of you who support the church financially through personal donations and the Parish Giving Scheme.**

**We would have loved to send all our supporters a personal thank you, but data protection laws prevent us from writing to you individually. We hope you will accept our heartfelt thanks; you know who you are.**

**If you would like to support the church by regular giving, the forms for the Parish Giving Scheme can be found on the table just inside Kedington church. Or contact Marion Farrant or Jill Davis for more information.**

**Marion Farrant 07833 431184**

**Jill Davis 01440 713137**

**Churchwardens**

**On behalf of the PCC at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Kedington.**

## Buddy's Blog - January 2024

It is official! The four-legged, fluffy, furry creatures out-number the two-legged creatures living in the Rectory. Just before Christmas time we welcomed a new sister into our pack. Her name is Milly. She is very little in size. She is smaller than Flopsy but she has got a big personality.

Milly is very playful because she is still a puppy. I love her very much. Opie loves her too and they play together very nicely. Opie is a lot calmer since Milly came along. He is not the baby anymore and this has made him stop and think about his behaviour. This is a relief to me. I am not a young dog and keeping Opie occupied by playing with him was very demanding. I couldn't keep up. So having Milly to play with him is good for all of us.

Daddy found a big tree to bring into the house again. This always confuses me. Why do we have to have a tree in the house? They will bring pigeons in next! Trees should stay outside. When the bits fall off the tree, they lie on the ground and get stuck between my pads.

Milly loved the tree when it was decorated with shiny, sparkly things. She was really taken with it and kept staring at it. I found her one day, trying to jump up and reach a shiny gold decoration. She was throwing herself at the branches and more of the spiky things fell on the ground. I heard someone coming and I thought she was going to get in trouble so I pulled a decoration off for her.

Opie and I love Milly, but I am a bit worried that she thinks she is in charge. She is very little, but she tells me and Opie what to do.

But sometimes I help her to learn stuff. She was staring at the top of the decorated tree, at the pretend, gold person on the top who looks like Mummy, like an angel. I showed Milly the other pretend people in the stable. Daddy told Milly about Christmas and the story of the baby Jesus. Daddy has tried to tell Opie that before but he wouldn't sit still long enough. This time he did listen because Milly listened.

I think it is going to be good having Milly in our family.

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.'*

I Thessalonians 5 v 11

Your friend, Buddy



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# Holy Week and Easter Services 2024

**Maundy Thursday 28th March**  
**7pm, St Mary's Little Wratting**

The Last Supper. A simple service of Holy Communion and reflection on the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples when he washed their feet to show his humility and servanthood. At the end of the service, the altar will be symbolically stripped of candles and cloths, there will be a short vigil following the request from Jesus in Matthew chapter 26 'Couldn't you keep watch with me for one hour?'. After this, everyone will leave in silence.

**Good Friday 29th March**  
**2pm, All Saints Barnardiston**

A reflective service remembering the last hour before Jesus Christ's death on the cross. The service will be 40 mins long.

**Easter Saturday 30th March**  
**10.30am, St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington**

Children's Easter Event including Stations of the Cross and an Easter Egg Hunt. Take some time to think about the Easter Story with Fr Chris Giles. Refreshments available.



**Easter Saturday 30th March**  
**8pm, St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington**

Easter Vigil. A service rich in symbolism including lighting a fire, listening to ethereal music, thinking about our faith and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus with the first communion of Easter. There is something for everyone in this hour-long service which will begin outside the church.



**Easter Sunday 31st March**

**10am, St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington**

Easter Sunday Holy Communion. Join with all the churches of the Stourhead Benefice to celebrate this most special Christian festival. Refreshments will be served after the service and they may well be an Easter Egg hunt for all ages!

For more information, speak to Fr Chris Giles, Marion Farrant or Jill Davis.



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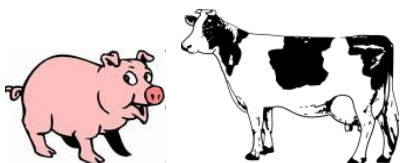
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## Football Verse Word Search by Ralph Hewitt

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

Ralph Hewitt is a member of the Methodist Church. He not only loves doing puzzles he creates them for fun. The 'word search' grid above contains the names of 28 Football Clubs or just the city/town name. (Please note spelling of Bournemouth in this puzzle.) If you find all 28 you will also notice that the unused letters in the grid spell out a relevant verse from the Good News Bible (1976). You might even manage to identify the verse. Good luck!

ARSENAL	CHELTENHAM	LIVERPOOL	RAITH
ASTON VILLA	COVENTRY	LUTON	READING
BARCELONA	DERBY	MANCHESTER	REAL MADRID
BOURNMOUTH	HUDDERSFIELD	MILAN	SUNDERLAND
BURNLEY	JUVENTUS	NEWCASTLE	YEOVIL
BURY	LEEDS	NORWICH	YORK
CELTIC	LEICESTER	NOTTINGHAM	WREXHAM

## Dad Joke Time

- What's the best way to study the Bible?  
You Luke into it!
- When is medicine first mentioned in the Bible?  
When God gave Moses two tablets!
- Did Eve have a date with Adam?  
No, just an apple!
- What did Adam say to Eve when handing her something to wear?  
Take it or leaf it!
- Who was the fastest runner in the race?  
Adam, because he was first in the human race!
- What's a miracle that can be done by a complainer?  
Turning anything into whine!
- How do you know that atoms are Catholic?  
They have Mass!





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## Events Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Saturday 10 February	7pm for 7.30pm	Ceilidh in Hall barn, Great Thurlow Tickets £18 for adults, £9 for under 16s Contact mollyhawkins10@aol.com
Saturday 2 March	From 10.30am	Owl Show at St Peter's Lttle Thurlow
Saturday 6 April	6.30pm for 7pm	A music event by 'The Emergers' at Hall Farm Barn Great Thurlow. More infor- mation to follow.
Saturday 25 May		Benefice Garden Party and BBQ at Great Wratting. More information to follow.
Tuesdays	10am -12 noon	'Dolce Gusto' Coffee morning at St Peter & St Paul's Kedington
Thursdays	2 - 4 pm	Centre café at Kedington Community Centre



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## Gospel Readings during February

4	2nd Sunday before Lent	John	1: 1 - 14
11	Sunday before Lent	Mark	9: 2 - 9
18	1st Sunday of Lent	Mark	1: 9 - 15
25	2nd Sunday of Lent	Mark	8: 31 - end

## Gospel Readings during March

3	3rd Sunday of Lent	John	2: 13 - 22
10	4th Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday	John	19: 25 - 27
17	5th Sunday of Lent	John	12: 20 - 33
24	Palm Sunday	Mark	14: 1 - 15
31	Easter Sunday	John	20: 1 - 8

### St Peter & St Paul's Kedington PCC AGM

Will be held on  
Tuesday 16th April  
at 6.30pm in the Church

All Welcome



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

Are you in need of some daily  
hope during this lockdown?

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



Faith in Later Life CONNECTIONS

The Hidden Bible Verse in the Football word search is from Philippians 3:14 (Good News Bible, The Bible Societies 1976): SO I RUN STRAIGHT TOWARDS THE GOAL

## **Points to ponder**

- Confession is often good for the soul, but may not always be good for career prospects.
- Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the edge of their pool and throw them fish?
- Don't judge yourself by your past. You don't live there anymore.
- Friends are like angels who lift us to our feet when our own wings have difficulty in remembering how to fly.
- God isn't politically correct; He's just correct.
- If there is an occasion when you feel you cannot be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

### **Evening Prayer on Mondays**

Monday Evening Prayer is at Kedington Church at 5pm.  
If you would like to join us, please speak to Fr Chris or  
one of the Ministry Team.

### **Churches in the Benefice open for Private Prayer:**

**St Mary the Virgin, Great Bradley is always open for private prayer.**

**St Peter's Little Thurlow is open daily usually at 9am and closes about 5 or 6pm.**

**St Peter and St Paul's, Kedington will be open daily between 9am and 4pm.**

## **Home Communion – Pastoral Care**

The Blessed Sacrament is perpetually reserved for the Communion of the housebound, the sick and dying. Please inform Fr Chris, or a member of the Ministry Team, of parishioners who are sick or in hospital, and of those who are in need of pastoral care.

**Funeral:** The funeral of the late Roy Phillips was held on 13th December at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington. The funeral of the late David Hack took place at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington on 11th January. The funeral of the late Brian Phillips was held on 22nd January at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington. The funeral of the late Margaret Starling was held also at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington on 26th January.

**'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'**

Thinking of a christening or a wedding in church? Please take a look at our Benefice website where there is useful information about both baptisms and weddings.

## **Holy Communion**

Sharing of the common cup is now permitted. However, if you do not want to receive from the Chalice, please say 'intinct' as the Priest approaches you and they will intinct the wafer in Consecrated wine from a separate Chalice. Good hygiene practises are maintained at Holy Communion.

Gluten-free Communion wafers are available - please ask when you come up to the altar rail.

# SERVICE ROTA

## February 2024

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Sun	4	10:00	Little Bradley	Holy Communion
		10:00	Kedington	Family Service
Sun	11	8:00	Kedington	Said Holy Communion
		10:00	Great Thurlow	Holy Communion
Wed	14	19:00	Little Thurlow	Holy Communion - Ash Wednesday
Sun	18	10:00	Little Thurlow	Holy Communion
		10:00	Great Wratting	Family Service
Sun	25	10:00	Great Bradley	Holy Communion
		16:00	Kedington	Evensong

## March 2024

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Sun	3	10:00	Kedington	Holy Communion
Sun	10	8:00	Kedington	Said Holy Communion
		10:00	Great Thurlow	Holy Communion
Sun	17	10:00	Great Wratting	Holy Communion - Passion Sunday
		10:00	Little Thurlow	Family Service
Sun	24	10:00	Great Bradley	Holy Communion - Palm Sunday
		18:00	Kedington	Evensong
Thu	28	19:00	Little Wratting	Maundy Thursday service
Fri	29	14:00	Barnardiston	Liturgy of Good Friday
Sat	30	20:00	Kedington	Easter Pascal Vigil
Sun	31	10:00	Kedington	Holy Communion Easter Day

## April 2024

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Sun	7	10:00	Little Bradley	Holy Communion
		10:00	Kedington	No service this week as Easter Services have been at Kedington

Mid-week Eucharist at Kedington on Wednesdays at 10am