

St Peter's Church Magazine



*October 2026 issue ❖ 75p (£7 subscription for one year)
St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot ❖ www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk
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Where was God?

This has been a year of tragic anniversaries. On 11th September we marked 25 years since the terrorist attacks on multiple sites in the United States of America. This year also marks 30 years since the horrific Dunblane Massacre, in which 16 primary school children and one teacher were murdered and a further 17 people were injured, on 13th March 1996.

On 21st October 1966 the Aberfan disaster took place in South Wales. A colliery slag heap had been created on top of a natural spring. As rain added to the water table, there was a build-up of water within the heap which caused it to collapse, releasing a torrent of slurry onto the village. It engulfed a number of houses and Pantglas Junior School, killing 116 children and 28 adults. It was a disaster that shocked the nation. As we reflect on it today, we are left asking the question, 'where was God when this happened?'

At the time there was a mixture of strong emotions: grief and sadness over the loss of those who had died, and anger against the Coal Board in allowing the disaster. However, people gave their energy to support each another. A local Baptist Minister, the Revd Kenneth Hayes, lost his eldest son at the school; the local news reported how he responded to the tragedy: 'For 36 hours he was working non-stop either at the school, or going around comforting bereaved and stricken families and kept open house for many who came seeking news and comfort.'

On the 50th anniversary, the then Prince of Wales, now King Charles, summed up the community's response: 'darkest sorrow, but also the most shining selflessness.'

How should we respond to such an incident? There is never an easy response to the question, 'where was God?'

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Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?' ' (Romans 8:35). Paul reminds us that even in our darkest times of loss, God is with us to bring comfort. 'Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also' interceding for us.' (verse 34). Paul also tells us that Jesus understands our suffering and is praying for us. 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (verse 31). We can let go of bitterness and blame, because God? is a God of justice.

Christ in the Incarnation came to share fully in the human experience, including in our pain, grief and even an excruciating, unjust death. Where was God when these tragedies took place? He was there, he gave his life to be the 'first fruits of those who died' – raised from the dead so that those innocent souls were also raised from the dead to new life in Him. We know that Jesus wept when his friend Lazarus died, and he knew that he was going to raise him from the dead. We have the comfort that Jesus also wept alongside every parent who lost their child in Aberfan, in Dunblane and in every tragedy we have witness.

'The Lord is here, his Spirit is with us.'

Wednesday Church First Wednesday of the Month

Help is needed for Wednesday Church, our monthly group for adults with learning disabilities and their carers.

We need help with moving some of the pews and setting up tables and chairs in the narthex, starting at around 9am on the day of the meeting.

If you are able to help, please speak to Sheila Brown.

Ride and Stride

Well done to Leon, who undertook the Ride and Stride this year for St Peters.

He has raised £465, although a few donations are still to come in.

Well done too to Anita for taking on the administration, and all those who manned the church on the day.

The church will see half of this coming back later in the year – so thank you to everyone for supporting Leon and this great scheme.

Prayer for October:

Father,

Thank you for your written Word to us in the Bible, inspired and interpreted by your Holy Spirit.

Thank you that from beginning to end it reveals Jesus, the living Word, sent by you to rescue us from the mess of selfishness and disobedience.

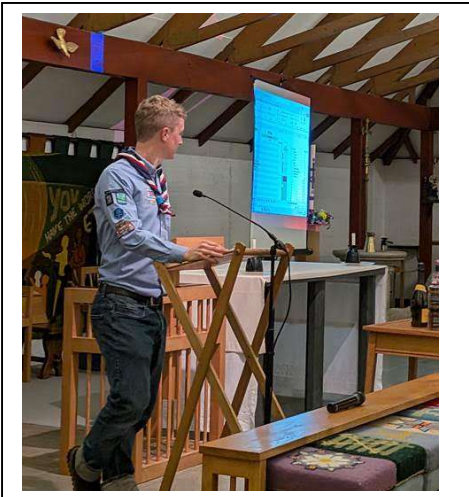
May we treasure your revelation to us and allow you to guide us by it through the confusion and pain of this world, confident that your Word is unchanging and powerful and trustworthy.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

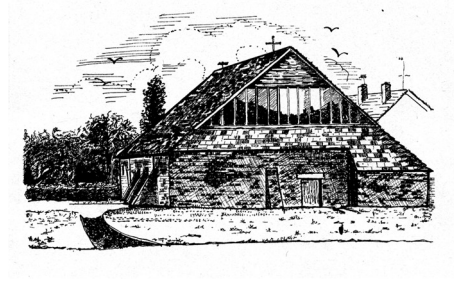
By Daphne Kitching

Quiz & Chips – New Season 2026-27

The new season started on 19th September. The first of the new season was won by Grangreen, with the Charity Raffle supporting the Scouts fundraising for their trip to the World Jamboree. We raised £355. It was lovely to see the young people speaking so confidently about what they were doing, and they set a great quiz. We welcome everyone who'd like to come and play. There is no age limits, nor levels of ability! If you'd like to bring a new team, or are returning please get in touch with quiz@stpeter-didcot.org.uk or speak to Hugh.



St Peter's Church Quiz & Chips Dates for 2026-27



2026
17th October
21st November
2027
16th January
27th February
17th April
15th May
19th June

Contact quiz@stpeters-didcot.org.uk, or Hugh on
01235 811465.



Sustainable Didcot have recently launched a Community Fridge with an aim to reduce food wastage. Community Fridges redistribute surplus food from supermarkets, local food businesses, producers, households and gardens, making it freely available to everyone in the community.

Community fridges are open to all. They're not means tested, so anyone can visit to see what food is available to 'save', take home and cook with - just drop in during opening hours!

The Community Fridge will be in the Green Hub on Lydalls Road. What3Words: tiny. hillsides. strongly. Please keep an eye out on our [Facebookpage](#) for more details of when the Fridge will be open.

Prayer Intentions: October 2026

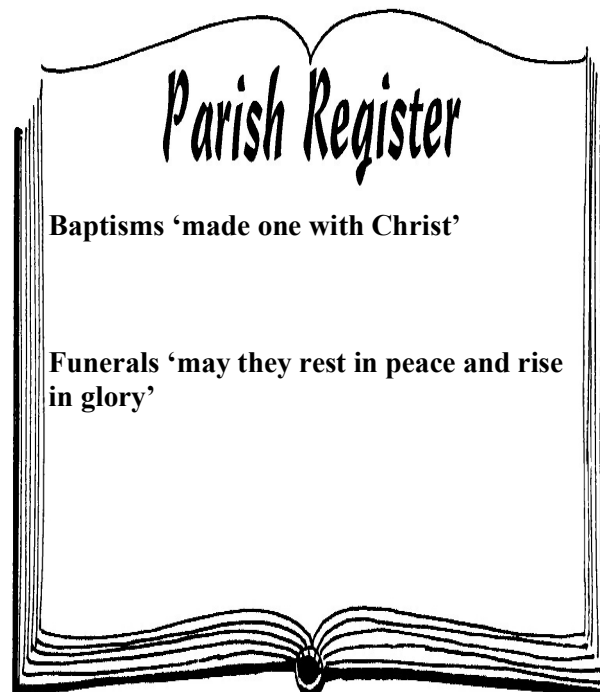
1st: Remigius Readings: Psalm 78: 1-39; 2 Kings 1: 2-17; Acts 24: 1-23. Bishop of Reims. Baptised Clovis I, King of the Franks on 24th December 496, leading to the conversion of the Frankish nation. Prayer intentions: Edwin Road; Elder Close. The work of the Mothers' union around the world.	2nd: Readings: Psalm 55; 2 Kings 2: 1-18; Acts 24: 24-25: 12. Prayer intentions: Cockcroft Road, Mowbray Road. Our Director of Music and choir.	3rd: George Bell Readings: Psalm 76, 79; 2 Kings 4: 1-37; Acts 25: 13-end. Prayer intentions: Barnes Road, Barnes Close. The Quiz n Chips team, those who raise funds for the ministry of St Peter's.	4th: Trinity XVIII Readings: Psalm 80; Isaiah 49: 13-23 Luke 12: 1-12. Prayer intentions: Loyd Road; Bradbury Gardens. For Farmers, animal rescue centres and vets.
5th: Readings: Pss 80, 82; 2 Kings 5; Acts 26: 1-23. Prayer intentions: Green Road; Green Close. Didcot Food Bank, its clientele, and all those who volunteer there.	6th: William Tyndale Readings: Ps 89: 1-18; 2 Kings 6: 1-23; Acts 26: 24-end. Bible translator and martyr during the early Reformation. Prayer intentions: Royal Berkshire Close Those who keep the church and grounds clean and tidy.	7th: Readings: Ps 119: 105-128; 2 Kings 9: 1-16; Acts 27: 1-26. Prayer intentions: Queensway, Hardings Strings. Wednesday Church and those who work with people with learning disabilities.	8th: Readings: Psalms 90, 92; 2 Kings 9: 17-end; Acts 27: 27-end. Prayer intentions: Tavistock Avenue; Bowness Avenue. Our retired clergy in the Deanery.
9th: Denys Readings: Psalm 88; 2 Kings 12: 1-19; Acts 28: 1-16. Better known as Dionysius, St Denys was beheaded in 250 as part of the Decian persecution of Christians. Prayer intentions: Warner Crescent; South Park Avenue. The persecuted church worldwide.	10th: Paulinus Readings: Pss 96, 97, 100; 2 Kings 17: 1-23; Acts 28: 17-end. A companion of St Augustine on his mission to England. He began the building of a cathedral in York. Prayer intentions: Newlands Avenue; Downs Road. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell and the Province of York.	11th: Trinity XIX Readings: Psalm 138; Isaiah 50: 4-10; Luke 13: 22-30. Prayer intentions: Larch Drive; Morse Road. Those who read the scriptures in church.	12th: Wilfrid Readings: Pss 98, 99, 101; 2 Kings 17: 24-end; Philippians 1: 1-11. Bishop of Northumbria. He fell out with several kings and was exiled to the South, where he established monasteries and churches. Prayer intentions: Glebe Rd; Lynmouth Rd. Pebbles Baby Church for parents and carers for babies toddlers.
13th: Edward Confessor Readings: Psalms 106; 2 Kings 18: 1-12; Philippians 1: 12-end. Called Confessor as he lived a Godly life, but was not martyred. He died in January 1066. Prayer intentions: Craven Way; Hillary Dr; Lockinge Close. The communities at Wantage and Cuddesdon, and former Alton Abbey.	14th: Readings: Psalms 110-112; 2 Kings 18: 13-end; Philippians 2: 1-13. Prayer intentions: Cullen Place; Bernard Barlow Close, Hanover Court. The Ministry Team.	15th: Teresa of Avila Readings: Psalms 113, 115; 2 Kings 19: 1-19; Philippians 2: 14-end. A Carmelite nun, mystic and visionary. She wrote <i>The Interior Castle</i>, describing a form of silent, internal prayer. Prayer intentions: Clarence Pl; Frideswide's Court. Those who speak truth to power and hold those in authority to account.	16th: Ridley & Latimer Readings: Psalm 139; 2 Kings 19: 20-36; Philippians 3: 1-4: 1. Two of the three Oxford Martyrs, burned at the stake on what is now Broad Street, charged with Heresy, under Queen Mary. Prayer intentions: Wantage Road; Colbourne Road Affirming Catholicism and groups working towards Anglo-catholic evangelism

Prayer Intentions: October 2026

17th: Ignatius Readings: Pss 120-122; 2 Kings 20; Philippians 4: 2-end. A follower of John the Apostle. Ignatius, on the way to his martyrdom in Rome, he wrote a series of letters to Christians, which are considered great works of early theology. Prayer intentions: Barleyfields; Elbourne. Those who support St Peter's with prayer.	18th: Luke Readings: Psalm 145, 146; Isaiah 55; Luke 1:1-4. A companion of Paul on his travels and author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Prayer intentions: Drake Avenue; Collingwood Avenue. Sunday School and its leaders.	19th: Readings: Pss 123-126; 2 Kings 21: 1-18; 1 Timothy 1:1-17. Prayer intentions: Park Road; Park Close. Our families and our Church family.	20th: Readings: Psalm 132, 133; 2 Kings 22: 1-23: 3; 1 Timothy 1: 18– end of 2. Prayer intentions: Garden Close; Rutherford Place. Those who put together the Church magazine and weekly news-sheets.
21st: Reads: Ps 119: 153-end; 2 Kings 23: 4-25; 1 Timothy 3. Prayer intentions: Norreys Road; Norreys Close. Our partners in ministry in Didcot.	22nd: Readings: Psalms 143, 146; 2 Kings 23: 36-24: 17; 1 Timothy 4. Prayer intentions: Meadow Way; Brunel Road The police in Didcot and our PCSOs.	23rd: Readings: Pss 142, 144; 2 Kings 24: 18-25: 12; 1 Timothy 5: 1-16. Prayer intentions: Portway; Wheatfields. Those who care for the Church linens and furnishings.	24th: Readings: Psalm 147; 2 Kings 25: 22-end; 1 Timothy 5: 17-end. Prayer intentions: Cromwell Drive; St Ann's Court. St Peter's Outreach to the community.
25: Last after Trinity Readings: Psalm 90; Isaiah 59:9-20; Luke 14:1-14. Twin brothers preached the Gospel in Gaul. Martyred by beheading in 286. Prayer intentions: St Hilda's Close; St Hugh's Rise. Our team of welcomers and those providing refreshments, and the assistance they give.	26th: Alfred Readings: Psalms 1, 2, 3; Judith 4; 1 Timothy 6: 1-10. Prayer intentions: Campion Hall Drive; Pebble Drive. Wantage Parish Church and their public celebrations of the life and faith of King Alfred.	27th: Readings: Psalms 5, 6; Judith 5: 1-6: 4; 1 Timothy 6: 11-end. Prayer intentions: Stonesfield; Mansfield Gardens. Our schools, Willowcroft, Aureus, Northbourne and St Birinus.	28th: Simon and Jude Readings: Ps 116, 117; Wisdom 5: 1-16; Luke 6:12-16. Simon the Zealot and Jude were martyred in Syria around 65AD. Jude is the patron saint of the Armenian Church. It is believed that the Wedding at Cana was Simon's wedding. Prayer intentions: Linacre Close; Balliol Drive. Didcot Citizens' Advice Bureau.
29th: James Hannington Readings: Pss 14, 15, 16; Judith 7: 19-end; 2 Timothy 1: 15-2: 13. An Anglican missionary whose murder was ordered by King Mwanga of Uganda—one of many Christians martyred in mid-19th Century Uganda. Prayer intentions: Sycamore Way; Willow End. Missioners and evangelists.	30th: Readings: Psalms 17, 19; Judith 8: 9-end; 2 Timothy 2: 14-end. Prayer intentions: Buckingham Close; Balmoral Road. Those who need support from carers, district nurses, health visitors and social services.	31st: Martin Luther Readings: Pss 20, 21, 23; Judith 9; 2 Timothy 3. Prayer intentions: The Old Catholic Church, The Lutheran Church. Those providing children with alternatives to Halloween celebrations.	

Year's Mind for October

1	Harriet Mobley	14	Margarite Bennell
	Charles Goodenough	15	
	Robert Walker	16	Gloria Onions
	Sidney Williams	17	Violet Brewerton
	James Scott		George Barrow
2	Leonard Hiscocks		David Arthur
3	Norah Talbot		Blackburn
	Helen Jones	18	Thomas Houghton
	Barbara Mayhew		Ronald Stevenson
4	Elizabeth		Maureen Howell
	Buckingham	19	
	Herbert Crisford	20	Evelyn Rouse
	Daphne Haxton		Gladys Wright
	Adam Baxter		George Ritchie
	Jean Jones	21	Peter Newman
	Luke Crook		Margaret Morgan
	Ronald Spratt	22	Thomas Adams
5	Mabel		Kenneth Smith
	Hannaford-Hill		Aileen Tyler
	Roger Jones	23	Maurice Hartwell
6	Iris Tubb		Lilian Buckner
	Stuart Daynes		Samuel Boyle
7	Maggie Griffiths		Ellen Stevenson
8	Edith Fleming	24	Claud Cooper
	Elsie Pryor	25	Winifred Smith
	Kevin Tallett		Samuel Berry
	Flora Hatt		Susan Scott
	Ellis Murray	26	Philip Baker
	William Gore		Ford Davis-Porter
	Alfred Holt	27	Gillian Barney
9		28	Sidney Pope
10	Joy Edith Anne Carter		Wallace Belcher
	(priest)		Roy Bentham
11	Kenneth Elias	29	Gladys Bennett
	Raymond Hopkins	30	Robert Keynan
	James King		Marjorie
12	Walter Talbot	Churchman	
13	Frederick Ruddle		John Frederiksen
		31	Iain Murray



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Calling all local Editors, Publishers, Printers and Distributors the Didcot and District U3A - Autumn update!

Newly retired or semi retired and wishing to remain active in body and soul, then the **Didcot and District U3A** (motto, '**Learn, Laugh, Live** !') could be just what you are looking for ?!

With over **30 Interest Groups** that include walking, gardening, learn an instrument or language and many more - see details at didcot.u3asite.uk

Monthly meetings start at **2:30 pm on the Third Tuesday of every month** at the **Didcot Civic Hall**, new members are always warmly welcomed over tea and biscuits (first visit free-pre membership) along with a Guest Speaker, forthcoming Speakers include;

October 20th - Sing with Mandy who offers **a brief history of folk music** (but beware - you will be invited to sing along!).

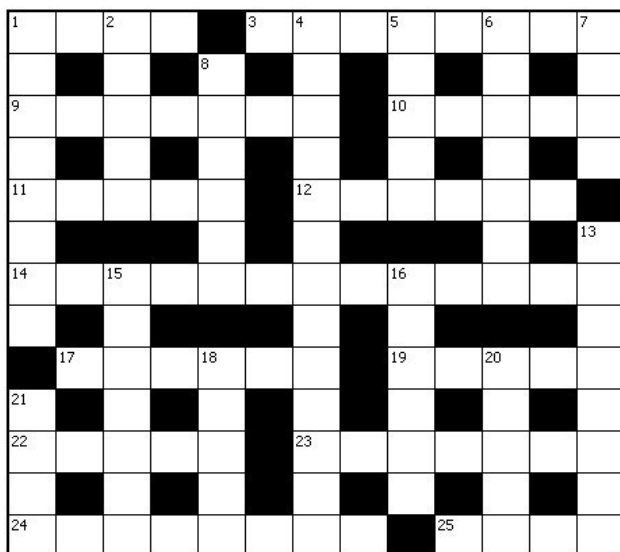
November 17th - Jennifer Cowling talks about 'The extraordinary things we say' The talk will ask are you the kind of person who happily uses phrases such as "*a turn of the screw*" or "*a turn up for the book*" "*cupboard love*" or been "*taken to the cleaners*" in your everyday conversations - **a light-hearted look at figures of speech.**

December 15th - Our **Christmas Lunch and Entertainment** will be held from 12:00pm to 3:00pm (ticket only event) at The Barn, Foxhall Road, Didcot

Why not come along and sample for yourself - remember you are never too young to '**Learn, Laugh, Live!** ' more information available at **NEW WEB SITE:**

didcot.u3asite.uk

October Crossword



Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of —, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Answers to September Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN: 1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed

NEXT ISSUE

Wednesday 21 October 2026 is the next magazine deadline. Please email the editor with any articles—
se.scane@gmail.com

Church Calendar for October 2026

SERVICES IN CHURCH THIS MONTH

Thursday 1 Remigius

9.30am—Said Mass

Sunday 4 Trinity XVIII

10.00am-Parish Mass

Thursday 8

9.30 am—Said Mass

Sunday 11 Trinity XIX

10.00am—Parish Mass

Monday 12 Wilfrid

9:15AM– Pebbles Baby Church

Thursday 15 Teresa of Avila

9.30am —Said Mass

Sunday 18 Luke the Evangelist

10.00am—Parish Mass

Thursday 22

9.30am —Said Mass

Sunday 25 Bible Sunday

10.00am—Parish Mass



October
2026



ONLINE SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS MONTH

Monday - Thursday & Saturday

9.00AM Morning Prayer

Sunday

**10.00AM - Parish Mass—live
streamed from church**



Vicar

The Revd. Hannah Reynolds
The Vicarage,
47A Newlands Avenue,
Didcot
01235 812114

Associate Minister



The Revd. Fran Childs
01235 816166

Safeguarding Officers



Gail & Paul Hedley
07775 675401

Church Wardens



Alan Wilson
07817 061752



Tim Scane
07785 308160