

New Life



St Mary the Virgin

The Monthly
Magazine for the
Parishes of
St Mary the Virgin,
Fen Ditton,
St Peter, Horningsea
and
All Saints, Teversham

July/August
2025



All Saints



St Peter

50p

**THE PARISHES OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FEN DITTON,
ST PETER, HORNINGSEA AND ALL SAINTS, TEVERSHAM**

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Dear friends

*A serious house on serious earth it is,
In whose blent air all our compulsions meet,
Are recognised, and robed as destinies.
And that much never can be obsolete,
Since someone will forever be surprising
A hunger in himself to be more serious,
And gravitating with it to this ground,
Which, he once heard, was proper to grow wise in,
If only that so many dead lie round.*

So wrote Philip Larkin in his 1954 poem, Church Going. Larkin was, to put it mildly, not a devout man – and yet still reflects on a parish church's enduring value in a sceptical age. I suspect that most of today's parishioners are glad that the church is there even if they have never ventured into it. And many more who do cross the threshold – though not for regular worship – would want the church to continue being 'a serious house on serious earth'. They might welcome the church being used for wider purposes such as concerts, exhibitions and coffee mornings, but would still want the building normally to retain a calm and be a place for the devout to pray and the curious visitor to find meaning and comfort.

I was thinking of this as we found ourselves – for climactic reasons – shifting the Teversham Feast away from the village green to the church and churchyard. There were a few questions about what was appropriate to do where, but overall I think everyone was pleased that so many people had an enjoyable afternoon in a lovely location within the churchyard walls. It also serendipitously highlighted the lack of any toilet facility in the church and our dependence on the now sadly departing Borley Brothers' office over the road.

More on that (the provision of a toilet in Teversham) in the coming

months, but I want to report that we have reached a significant stage in our 'Fling wide the gates' project in Fen Ditton. You will remember that the vision is to install community facilities at the back of the church to enable a wider use of the church building (whilst preserving its special atmosphere and sacred purpose). Since appointing project architects (Freeland Rees Roberts) a few months ago we have worked with them towards the production of a feasibility report for consultation with the permission-givers and amenity societies, the church, potential users and the wider parish. This is now almost complete and we have a report and lots of sketches and drawings to share. When we have taken on board all the feedback we hope we will be able to move forward to the design stage, formal approvals, tendering and the possibility of work beginning in the first part of next year.

We'd love to know what you think – you can send comments to fdproject@3parishes.org. I hope to be able to brief everyone at the Café Church & Communion on 6 July (depending on how we get on at the PCC earlier that week!). There will be plans on view and everyone will have the chance to have their say.

The planning group are very excited about where we've got to and look forward to sharing it with you.


Every blessing

Nick



Horningsea Village Day Saturday 5 July from 3pm

Horningsea Church will be playing a full part in the Village Day on 5 July. They will be running a side show called "Do You Give a Toss" which involves flinging bean bags at a frame which gives different points for various climate linked matters (clean air scores high, dirty fuel scores low!). This was created for the Fen Ditton science festival in May. Furthermore, David Williams – our Lay Minister and vet – will be judging the pet show! Come along and enjoy the fun.



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Our Parishes

If you would like to discuss baptism or thanksgiving for the birth of a child, the reading of marriage banns and weddings, or arrangements for a funeral at any of our churches, please contact Nick, our Rector/Vicar (see inside cover for contact details).



King's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to Laurie Woolfenden on being awarded the BEM for her services to the community of Fen Ditton.

And to the Rev'd Dr Malcolm Brown of Waterbeach, (who helps taking services in Horningsea on occasions) who was awarded the OBE for his service as Director of Faith and Public Life at the Church of England for the last seventeen years.

Horningsea Horticultural Show in on Saturday 12 July – doors open at 2.30pm

Schedules can be obtained from www.horningsea.net/horningsea-horticultural-show

There are classes for visiting family and friends so you can enter even if you do not live in the village. This year the theme for the photograph is "Summertime" which is also the theme for a flower arrangement. Enter if you can, or come and see the Show and take part in the auction.



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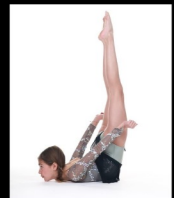


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Vee: a tribute

Vee, a stalwart member of the Church Community at St Peter's Horningsea and a great supporter of all three parishes, died at the end of May aged 89. Until a few weeks before her death she had been living in her own home in the village. Vee had made a significant contribution to the life of Horningsea in the last 30 years: serving as Church warden and on the PCC, Treasurer of the Horticultural Show, one time chair of the HRA, Trustee of the Village Green and Hall, committee member of the Friends of Horningsea Church – the list continues. The Service of Thanksgiving was recorded and can be accessed via this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HLSkcecczqlyiO9f8ZpHywiT6qyG3HI6/view?usp=sharing>

Unfortunately we did not manage to record the music so you will find some gaps where the congregation are singing For the Beauty of the Earth, All People that on Earth do Dwell and Jerusalem. Julian's organ voluntaries are also muted unfortunately. It was a splendid and uplifting service. The church was filled with flowers from village gardens and a display of Vee's hats surrounded the font!

In his talk Nick compared Vee to an anchorite in medieval times and an Anchor for all of us today. A fitting analogy for a very special person.

Ancient Shepherds' Book Club

Please contact Carol on 07941 492271 for further information or just join us at The Plough, where we currently meet.



Wed, 2nd July, 7.30pm, 'Brotherless Night' by V. V. Ganeshananthan

Wed, 6th August, 7.30pm, 'I Who Have Never Known Men' by Jacqueline Harpman

Wed, 3rd September, 7.30pm, 'Things We Do For Love' by Miranda Dickinson

Fen Ditton Children's Science, Faith and Climate Change Afternoon: The Outcomes

Saturday May 17th was kind to us in weather terms as those who came were able to enjoy an imaginative collection of Eco-themed outdoor sideshows. Indoors, the Schools and Education team from The Faraday Institute provided a fascinating array of 'stations' which included a spectacular collection of fossils, an opportunity to make a DNA bracelet and the wherewithal to make a suet-ball birdfeeder as a tangible expression of encouraging the bird-life in our gardens.

It would be dishonest to say that we were besieged by children from the three schools in which we promoted the event but there has been a promising development around the sideshow collection. The picture of the most popular of these, which will now be renamed 'Do You Care a Toss' will give a sense of what we might now regard as a prototype for a Mini Eco Fayre which we can offer to schools and other churches as a package. We will put the stalls into a nearby storage facility, so they are readily accessible, and seek further support from the Cambridge Schools Trust to finance this second step of our Eco-venture.

One of the important elements of the display was to give children HOPE that Climate change need not be the disaster story that is all too constantly in the media. In order to make this message clear, a two sided slip was prepared, one side addressed to children and the other to their parents or carers. Here, for your interest are the two texts:

Parents & Carers: OUR SIDESHOWS

The aim of our sideshows is to give children a sense that Climate Change is not the threat it is sometimes made out to be.

New clean technologies are developing all the time and are now attracting big investments, notably the TOKAMAK, a nuclear fusion generator which can generate huge energy output without nuclear waste, and is due to come online early 2030s. A TOKAMAK has attracted \$2billion in investment (Source CNN) which might otherwise have gone into dirty energy production.

It does not take a lot of thinking to realise that investors will soon wake up to the idea that the future has to be one of clean, green, technologies and that money will move from dirty fuel generation into these far more attractive investment areas. The sideshows imply this message

and are, thus, designed to give your children and teenagers HOPE – a vital message for their generation.

And HOPE is also the greatest message of the Christian church.

Thank you for reading this.

Message for Children about our SIDESHOWS

Please have fun on our sideshows.

As you try to win tokens for prizes you will be helping to raise money for remote villages in Africa who will be helped to build solar lighting to avoid using dangerous fuels, like kerosene.

If you look at the sideshows carefully, you will see that clean, green ways of generating energy score much better than the dangerous dirty fuels that have been part of your mum, dad and grandparent's history.

Clean, green ways of making power are getting better all the time and the world is waking up to that fact.

In the not too distant future, lots of people will want to put money into supporting these clean methods rather than the old ways – and then Climate change will not be as bad as some people say.

So why not talk to the older people of your family and ask them to consider Solar panels, Heat pumps and electric cars if they haven't already. That could be YOUR way of helping this change happen.

Let's hope this next step proves to be a positive one in our efforts to link the church to concern for the issues of climate change and the effects this is having on some children.

Trevor Thorn



Teversham Church Garden Party

The annual **Teversham Church Garden Party** will be held on **Friday 18 July**, from 7pm, at 30 High Street, the home of Martin and Dinah Clemoes. Tickets are £30 – from Martin & Dinah (01223 293885, evenings) or other members of the congregation.

Cambridge/Heidelberg Churches Exchange

On the last weekend of September from Friday 26 September to Tuesday 30 September, a group of up to a dozen people from Heidelberg will be visiting Cambridge as part of the exchange scheme which has been running for over 60 years. The programme is nearly planned. On the Saturday there will be a “church crawl” down Castle Hill and along Magdalene Street to Jesus Lane calling in on a number of churches with ecumenical links, lunch will be at Michaelhouse and supper at The Friends Meeting House. On Sunday we will all go to Christ the Redeemer for their Sunday morning service, the afternoon will be spent in Ely at the Cathedral, supper will be in Horningsea and there will be a short concert at St Peter’s Church. On Monday there will be a visit to the mosque on Mill Road, a meeting with the Chaplain at the Arthur Rank Hospice and a meeting with the Diocesan Chaplain for the Homeless.

If you would be interested in getting involved, by joining some of the outings or – more importantly – hosting a guest from Heidelberg can you contact Lindsay on churchwardenhorningsea@gmail.com



'I dearly loved the Red Lion'

Grace Dent,

The Guardian, February 2018

'A perfect gastropub'

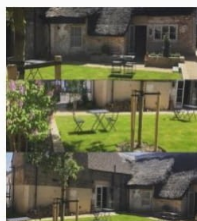
James Knappett 2* michelin

The Telegraph August 2021

Over the last two years

The Red Lion in Soham has been lovingly restored by Peter Leonard to bring the building back to its former glory.

Lucy Jarman (formerly of The Old Fire Engine House in Ely) has now opened the Red Lion as a restaurant, serving a rustic menu of Mediterranean and British food, using seasonal and local produce. Private dining available and an event space which seats up to 80 people.



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9th	Jan	Village Hall	3rd	Jul	Recreation Ground*
6th	Feb	Village Hall	7th	Aug	Recreation Ground*
6th	Mar	Village Hall	4th	Sep	Village Hall
3rd	Apr	Village Hall	2nd	Oct	Village Hall
1st	May	Village Hall	6th	Nov	Village Hall
5th	Jun	Recreation Ground*	4th	Dec	Village Hall

***Weather permitting**

FEN DITTON GARDENING CLUB

On **Saturday 7th June**, 26 members of the gardening club boarded a coach to go on our annual summer outing. This year we decided to visit RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Chelmsford. Having had a very mild and dry Spring, the weather forecast was predicting showers and thunderstorms. Despite this, we enthusiastically headed off packed with rain-coats and umbrellas, eager to see which plants were looking their best.

Set in a landscape of rolling hills and with beatific panoramic views, Hyde Hall is an oasis of peace and tranquillity. Since its inception in the mid 1950s, this vast garden has established from a handful of trees atop a windy hill to a jewel in the landscape that embraces superb ornamental horticulture, wild woodlands, majestic meadows and stylish gardens that embrace new ways of thinking about our world and our future. From global produce to dry climates, winter wonders, courtyard gardens and arboreta, Hyde Hall delivers something for everyone.

There was so much to explore, and fuelled with tea and coffee in the cafe on arrival, everyone set off to see what was in bloom. A particular highlight for me was the Dry Garden (something that Hyde Hall is famous for). It has such a wonderful variety of texture and colour with striking blue *Eryngium bourgatii*, bright yellow *Achillea* 'Moonshine' and statuesque *Verbascum olympicum*. Not only did it give me the feeling of being on holiday in the Mediterranean it was inspiring to see what plants grow well here in the East of England as our spring and summer starts getting hotter and dryer.

Another highlight was the Rose Garden which was full of fragrant shrubs and climbers and a fantastic mix of fantastic colours from cool whites and creams to dark pinks, vivid reds and oranges.

Finally, a mention needs to go to the Cottage Garden, which was such a dream to walk around. It was packed to the brim with plants. It is the garden I wish to create at home; romantic and beautifully haphazard, overflowing with quintessential cottage garden favourites, including Delphiniums, Lavender and Hollyhocks.

After a few hours of exploring the gardens there was time for a trip to the garden centre and another cuppa before boarding the coach to take

us home. We all had a wonderful time exploring these beautiful and varied gardens and I would definitely like to return at another time of year to see how they change throughout the seasons. It was an inspiring visit, made even better by the fact it didn't rain at all.

Other dates for your diary:

Friday 11th July, we will be holding our annual Summer Picnic at one of our members' gardens in Green End. This is a member only event.

Saturday 6th September, it is the annual Fen Ditton Village Show to be held at Fen Ditton Village Hall.

Opening at 2:30pm. Admission £1. Accompanied Children under 16 years free. Presentation of Prizes 3:30pm.

If you would like to enter, please do so no later than Wednesday 3rd September, 8pm.

Schedules and details of timings and how to enter are available on our website <http://fdgc.uk>

Members of the Club and anyone resident in CB5 8 postcode may submit entries.

For all enquiries about the Gardening Club, please refer to our webpage at <http://fdgc.uk> for more details. We can also be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FenDittonGardeningClub>

FEN DITTON 200 CLUB

The lucky winners for **July**:

£50 Sarah Green (70)

£20 Michelle Ambrose (20)

£10 Lucy Lord (166)

£10 Luke Eady (184)

£10 Mrs Collins (54)

The lucky winners for **August**:

£50 Dorothy Smith (50)

£20 Sam Doble (87)

£10 Jamie Green (68)

£10 Tim Sansom (105)

£10 Sarah Beeson (92)

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Save Honey Hill update

In May we received the Secretary of State's response to our Pre-Action Letter and on the advice of our legal team we concluded that there is little point in pursuing a JR any further incurring costs which might lead to a negligible outcome.

In advising the team on the merits of continuing our fight, our KC noted that the strength of the Secretary of State's response demonstrated that his legal team had likely anticipated early on the grounds on which we might launch a JR and that his DCO decision letter was crafted so as to minimise the risk of a successful challenge – this also might explain the two delays to the decision that played out earlier this year. The detailed and timely response from the Secretary of State's legal team to our Pre-Action Letter has backed this theory up.

We will be winding things down from a financial point of view. We will await the invoices from our solicitors and barristers and settle our accounts forthwith.

We would like to assure you that the Save Honey Hill team will continue its duty as per our constitution to engage with Anglian Water, our Parish Councils and all other stakeholders and do our best to ensure that mitigating the detrimental effects of this project on our communities and the environment is at the forefront of their minds always.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everyone's support over the last five years and more recently through the Crowdfunder project; without it we may not have won the argument and had the agreement and support of the Planning Inspectorate in its recommendation to refuse the application. It is clear that government, of whatever persuasion, regards the growth of Cambridge and Cambridgeshire as the answer to our country's huge economic problems at all cost and we sincerely hope that if it succeeds it will have been worth the irreversible effects we are experiencing.



Thank you to New Cambridge Singers

In mid June the New Cambridge Singers gave a concert in St Peter's Church Horningsea culminating in the Song of the Mass by Rheinberger. The very stones of Horningsea Church seemed to absorb the singing of the double choir. It was a real treat – so thank you!

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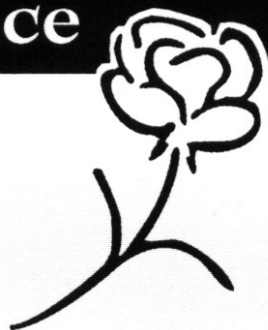
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All in the month of...

It was:

250 years ago, on 1st July 1775 that the British Parliament brought in the New England Restraining Act.

175 years ago, on 2nd July 1850 that Robert Peel, Prime Minister (1834–35, 1841–46) died.

150 years ago, on 26th July 1875 that Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst was born.

80 years ago, on 5th July 1945 that WW2 leader Winston Churchill lost the General Election to Clement Attlee's Labour Party.

75 years ago, on 11th July 1950 that the first episode of the BBC children's TV show Andy Pandy was broadcast in the UK.

Also 75 years ago, on 24th July 1950 that the first rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida. It reached a height of 25 miles.

70 years ago, on 16th July 1955 that Stirling Moss became the first British driver to win the British Grand Prix.

40 years ago, on 13th July 1985 that the two Live Aid concerts were held simultaneously in London and Philadelphia.

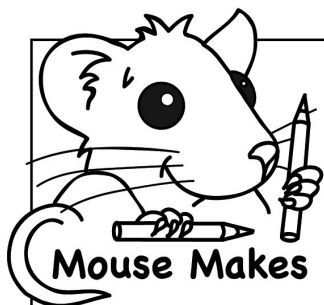
30 years ago, on 16th July 1995 that Amazon.com first opened its website to the public.

25 years ago, on 11th July 2000 that Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury (1980–1991) died.

Also 25 years ago, on 23rd July 2000 that American golfer Tiger Woods, then 24, became the youngest player to win the Grand Slam.

20 years ago, on 28th July 2005 that the IRA ended its 30-year armed campaign in Northern Ireland and ordered all units to dump their weapons. IRA leadership said that they would continue their campaign exclusively through peaceful means.

10 years ago, on 14th July 2015 that NASA's New Horizons space probe, launched in 2006, completed the first-ever flyby of the dwarf planet Pluto, and returned close-up photos.



"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." And He said to them, "When you pray, say..."



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen



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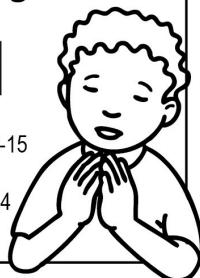
Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4





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REPAIRS

THE THREE PARISHES SERVICES FOR JULY 2025

6 July <i>3rd after Trinity</i>	 ST MARY'S FEN DITTON	 ST PETER'S HORNINGSEA	 ALL SAINTS TEVERSHAM
13 July <i>4th after Trinity</i>	10.30am Café Church & Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion 4.00pm Village Service	4.00pm Village Service 10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 16 July		8.30pm Compline (Night Prayer)	
20 July <i>5th after Trinity Kigall Sunday</i>	8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 10.30am All-age Worship	10.30am Holy Communion	
27 July <i>6th after Trinity</i>			10.30am United Holy Communion

THE THREE PARISHES SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2025

3 August <i>7th after Trinity</i>	 ST MARY'S FEN DITTON	 ST PETER'S HORNINGSEA	 ALL SAINTS TEVERSHAM
10 August <i>8th after Trinity</i>	10.30am United Holy Communion Holy Communion	pm Teddy Bears' Picnic 4.00pm Village Service	4.00pm Village Service 10.30am Holy Communion
17 August <i>9th after Trinity</i>	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am All-age Worship & Baptism		10.30am Holy Communion
Wed. 20 August		8.30pm Compline	
24 August <i>10th after Trinity</i>	10.30am United Holy Communion		
31 August <i>11th after Trinity</i>		10.30am United Holy Communion	

Saturday 19 July 2025 2pm–4.30pm at St Peter’s Church

On the 19th July 2025 a plaque will be unveiled in St Peter’s Church, Horningsea dedicated to James M Farmer (see article in June’s *New Life*). We will Zoom the event so that Barbara, James’ great niece, can watch it in the USA. Two airmen from the USAF based at Lakenheath will come along and lay a wreath. Hattie Hearn from Duxford Imperial war Museum will unveil the plaque. Weather permitting, it is hoped that there will be a fly past of vintage planes at about 3pm during the afternoon.

John has found photographs of part of the crashed plane and Jeff Crosby found remnants of the plane still buried in the Fen. It is hoped that the exhibition can include the photographs if not the remnants of the plane.

The plaque has been funded by the Parish Council, the HRA and the Village Green and Hall Trust. Peter Halford has worked with John to design the plaque. It has been a real village event.

As a number of the “small boys and girls” who remember the plane going down were pupils at Horningsea School it is a good opportunity to hold the **Horningsea School Reunion** at the same time.

Put the date in your diary and make a plan to come along to St Peter’s Horningsea between 2pm and 4.30pm on Saturday 19th July for the unveiling of the plaque in memory of James M Farmer, to view an exhibition about him and Horningsea in War Time, to meet up with old school friends, listen to the stories and recollections – and enjoy tea and cakes!

The Timetable for the Day:

2–2.30: The Church Bells will ring (as they did 80 years ago for VE and VJ Day)

2.30–3pm: Ceremony: Unveiling of the plaque and Laying of the Wreath

3pm (weather permitting): Fly over by Vintage planes

3.30: Reading of the “ghost story” of the American Pilot at Eye Hall Fen written by Peter Crosby

All afternoon: Exhibition; Tea and scones and chatter!