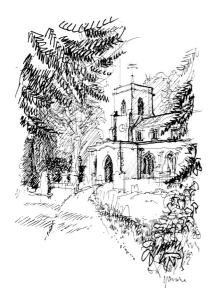
New Life



St Mary the Virgin

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

October 2025



St Peter

₩ 50p

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

Rector/Vicar Rev'd Canon Nick Moir (607433) email: nick.moir@3parishes.org Curate

Rev'd Sharon Byrne (07703 022927) Email: sharon.byrne@3parishes.org

Associate Priests

Rev'd Canon Ben Quash email: ben.quash@3parishes.org Rev'd Pam Thorn (864262) email: pam.thorn@3parishes.org

Lay Ministers

Trevor Thorn (864262) email: trevor.thorn@3parishes.org David Williams email: david.williams@3parishes.org

Churchwardens

Fen Ditton: Jacky Ambrose (513206)

Sue Buttery (07902 901678)

Horningsea: Jennie Pratt (864513)

Teversham: David Taylor (880424)

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EDITOR: Kerry Sayer email: newlife.editor@gmail.com

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October 2025 Contents

Page	
4	A message from Nick
5	Bell Ringing in Horningsea Besom Hampers Update October is Black History Month
7	Our Parishes November dates for your diary: Horningsea
9	Ancient Shepherds' Book Club Harvest in Horningsea Fen Ditton 200 Club
10	In search of St. Cuthbert
16	Fen Ditton Gardening Club
21	Compline at Horningsea and the Feast of St Teresa of Ávila
26	All in the month of
27	Mouse Makes
28	Church Services



Dear friends

The first weekend in September saw a group of eleven of us head up north on a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne from where the great Northumbrian saints Aidan and Cuthbert journeyed around their missionary diocese teaching the faith, baptising and founding churches.

I have been to Holy Island two or three times before but always as a daytripper. There is a large car park for visitors who drive across the causeway at low tide and who must time their return to the mainland so that they are not inadvertently stranded on the island. Only a few actually stay on the island (which has a population of 120) — and it feels very different being one of those few. You begin to sense why Aidan chose the place. He needed both to be connected to his diocese and people, but also to have times of seclusion with just the company of a few humans (and a few thousand seals and seabirds...) and the Holy Spirit.

Those holy men needed that rhythm of connection and apartness that was determined by the tides. That enabled them both to nurture a deep relationship with the Divine and to communicate something of that to the masses. Without the former they would have nothing profound to share; without the latter the country would never have been Christianised and we would never have heard of them or, more importantly, the gospel entrusted to them.

Even on Lindisfarne it could have become crowded and the demands on their attention overwhelming. as people came then – as they do now – in search of spiritual insight and growth. St Cuthbert had his own tiny island off the beach, which was also tidal and where he was able to retreat and find solitude and space for prayer – a tidal island off the tidal island, a spiritual retreat (and powerhouse) for Lindisfarne as Lindisfarne was a spiritual retreat (and powerhouse) for the mainland.

That is a reminder to me that for the gospel to be truly heard and received, and for the church to grow again as it did in the days of Aidan and Cuthbert, it requires that the church is both connected with the mainland – and fully in touch with our people and society – but also able to cultivate its spirituality apart from the pressures of the world. It needs both the high tide and the low tide, connectedness and apartness,

to be well-travelled and deeply rooted in its island home.

Our pilgrimage took us to a place where we could momentarily be cut off from the mainland and spend some time in prayerful reflection – so that we could come home and engage with day-to-day living with, I hope, some small measure more of spiritual depth and wisdom.



Bell Ringing in Horningsea Wednesday 8 October at 7pm

If you came and "chimed" a bell to celebrate the cancellation of the sewage works, why not come back on Wednesday 8 October and have a lesson at ringing the bells? New ringers are always welcome at Ringing practice — if you can't make the 8 October you could go to Landbeach on the other Wednesdays or to Fen Ditton on Mondays. For more information contact Barbara on blegallez@yahoo.co.uk



Besom Hampers Update

Besom are pleased to confirm that we have a volunteer to coordinate this year's Christmas hampers, so these will be going ahead again this Christmas. Details will be in the November New Life. If you'd like to be involved in coordinating the contributions from the 3 parishes, please let Jennie Pratt know.



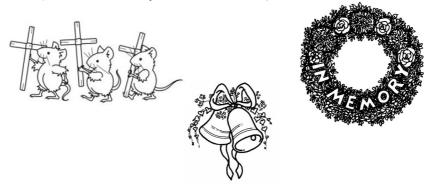
October is Black History Month

On Wednesday 22 October at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Reverend Sharon Byrne, our curate who is also the Bishops Adviser for Racial Justice, and Lindsay Davies will be talking about the links between Horningsea and the Abolition of the Slave Trade in the 19th Century. In particular what is known about George Gurney who was baptised in Horningsea and the story of Moses Roper, an escaped slave who came and lectured in Horningsea. Join us at 7.30pm on 22 October for a fascinating evening.



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).



Do you have something to announce, someone to thank or congratulate, or a request to make? If so, send your message to the Editor and see it published here!

Preliminary dates for your diary for events in November in Horningsea

Saturday 1 November at 3pm: A Time to Remember your loved ones who have died – whether in the last year or a long time ago. Join in the quiet reflective service and light a candle in their memory.

The Remembrance Day service will be on **Sunday 9 November** in the church, moving to the War Memorial in the jubilee gardens for the silence at 11am.





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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, 1st October, 7.30pm, 'Yellow Face' by Rebecca P. Kuana

Wed, 5th November, 7.30pm, 'The Last Days of Night' by Graham Moore

Harvest in Horningsea

The fields around Horningsea are being ploughed and no doubt seed is being scattered for winter crops! The traditional Harvest Service will be on Sunday 5 October at 10.30 when we will sing the well known harvest hymns and listen to the readings. The church will be filled with flowers, fruit and vegetables from gardens and allotments in the village – if you can help decorate the church please contact Liz Harrison on lizhakeman@hotmail.com. During the service we hope to have reports from our farmers about the 2025 harvest – it is always interesting to hear how the crops we watch growing during the year have done. This year we had a very dry spring and summer so I expect we will hear that yields were down on previous years

We will invite everyone to bring something they have grown or made up to the altar for a blessing.

After the service the produce will be sold and the proceeds sent to Farm Africa. This reminds us that however hard our lives are, there are many, many people who are much worse off and who can benefit from some basic help – often a water pump can make all the difference to a village.

FEN DITTON 200 CLUB

The lucky winners for **October** were:

£50 Claire Smith (98) £10 Glenfield Wisbeach (53)

£20 Mim Garner (102) £10 Jackie Ambrose (157)

£10 Lucy Bowns (11)

I think I came close to him on the beach below the Heugh on Lindisfarne. We dug silently in the sand in search of crinoids, tiny circles of fossilised seaweed known as St. Cuthbert's Beads. These were prized for making rosaries to assist prayers. Bent over in our digging, few words were spoken and the silence of Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, then surrounded by the high tide, enveloped us and the air was soft. The tiny St. Cuthbert's Island, also known as Hobthrush Island, was a short distance across the water but far enough away for Cuthbert to escape the daily routines and troubles of the monks, to seek the solitude he needed for his prayers, meditation and to wrestle with his own personal "demons". Perhaps he needed such peace to strengthen himself for his journeys on the mainland, preaching Christianity to people in the villages and farms. He was loved and respected for that and for healing the sick according to monks who travelled with him. In his search for solitude he later took himself further away to the island of Inner Farne.

The Venerable Bede in his "Life of Cuthbert" wrote of how beloved he was and of the constant stream of monks who visited him on his island retreat to seek his advice and prayers, to enjoy his warmth and wisdom and to take him food. Bede claimed to have spoken to old monks who had known Cuthbert and witnessed his good works and miracles. Cuthbert died in 687 and Bede was writing about him in the early 700s. This major work showed what a prominent figure Cuthbert was in the story of early English Christianity.

To learn more, 11 of us had set off on a Pilgrimage entitled, "In Search of St. Cuthbert" bright and early on Friday, September 5th. After Morning Prayer at St. Mary's we boarded a comfortable minibus driven by Rev. Nick Moir and set off up the A1. At Newark Ros took the wheel. The fact that as well as being an expert minibus driver Ros is a Professor of AngloSaxon History was central to the success and excitement of the venture. A pit stop for a guided tour and Eucharist at York Minster saw us on our way northwards to Lindisfarne conscious of the tide and more especially that Supper was at 6pm!

Our accommodation for the weekend was at Marygate House, a hostel for pilgrims where we had a warm welcome, delicious wholesome food and comfortable beds. There was a library across the hall where we met for Morning and Evening Prayer each day. Pam and Trevor Thorn led our worship and had produced a leaflet containing Orders of Service, prayers and hymns for daily use which is a fitting souvenir of our trip. Their expert knowledge from many previous visits to the Island was also a real bonus.

On Saturday 6th we set off to visit a very significant site in the history

of English Christianity at Ad Gefrin on the mainland. It is a sandy plateau beneath which are remains of human activity back to beyond the Bronze Age but our interest was that in 627AD it was one of the townships of King Edwin. He was an AngloSaxon monarch wishing to establish a strong dynasty. He had arranged marriage with a Kentish princess called Aethelburga, who was a Christian. She agreed to go to this wild northern kingdom on condition that she could take her Confessor and priest, an Italian Bishop called Paulinus.

Once there, Paulinus preached for 36 days and baptised many people in the River Glen in the valley below Edwin's township. People came from the surrounding countryside to hear the peaceful message of the Christian faith rejecting the warlike gods of the Saxon invaders. This strengthened the Roman version of Christianity introduced to Kent by St. Augustine as opposed to the Celtic version which had come to the west of the country from Ireland via Iona. Ros introduced us to the story of the site but before we left we met the Secretary of the Ad Gefrin Trust. He enthusiastically told his version of the story with reference to the archaeological dig being undertaken there and gave us an unexpected tour of it. Remarkable was a dig of a very early earth-banked theatre from the time of Edwin. This extra treat meant that our time at a strikingly built modern Museum about Ad Gefrin at Wooler was cut short because of anxiety about being back at Lindisfarne before the tide came in!

We crossed the Causeway on dry land and planned an afternoon exploring the Priory Ruins and Priory Museum. However, once the tide had cut us off everything closed except the ice cream shop and the pubs. Peace descended. A leisurely walk took us around the harbour and eventually to the observation tower which we climbed and viewed the ruins from above in bright sunshine. We found the stone footprint of a small much earlier church only discovered in 2006. Could this have been connected to the earlier mission of the Irish monk Aidan who established a monastery of wooden buildings in the mid-600s and walked the lanes preaching as Cuthbert did later?

Sunday morning saw us with a large congregation in the Parish Church of St. Mary, Lindisfarne to celebrate the Eucharist. The Celebrant was none other than Frances, the Warden of Marygate House, who had served us breakfast and later served us a delicious Sunday lunch at 1 o'clock! After some free time we made our way to the harbour at moonrise in the hope of seeing the lunar eclipse. Cloud got in the way so we went back to the house for Evening Prayer and a high tea of bread and cheeses and a welcome cup of tea.

Saturday and Sunday evenings were spent at the house where Nick, Ros and Sharon were staying. The Pilgrimage gave us all the opportunity to get to know each other better and the small glass of locally produced mead or a glass of wine and nibbles we imbibed helped this along. On Sunday evening, the wind having abated and the cloud having cleared, we were blessed with being able to watch the eclipse together from their back garden. After Night Prayer it was time to pack for our morning departure and to sink into our beds.

I rose early on Monday morning in order to savour the peace on the beach. The sun on the calm, blue sea and the distant mainland was the backdrop. The seals on the sandbank were singing to each other and curlews were calling. I wished that I could "bottle" the serenity and calm. The scene at least is etched in my memory. What a gift.

Breakfast and Morning Prayer over and luggage stowed, we set off for Durham and the prospect of visiting Cuthbert's shrine in the magnificent cathedral built to house it. The streets of Durham city gave way to the Castle and the Cathedral. We soon learned that all guided tours were cancelled due to the great organ being tuned! Ros talked to us in the Cloisters and we waited until just before the 12.30 Eucharist when tuning paused, to hear more. Our picnic lunch on the terrace over, we made our way to St. Cuthbert's Shrine and sat silently with other pilgrims as many thousands had done before us over the ages. His peace pervaded this special place, too. Our Pilgrimage was at an end.

However, one more Cuthbert experience remained: a visit to the Museum in the Great Kitchen. There we saw the coffin made for him in 698 when his original coffin was opened up, 11 years after his death. His body was found to be incorrupt confirming him to be a saint. His gold and garnet pectoral cross was there too, probably worn for most of his life and still shining brightly. His small portable altar and his elephant ivory comb were also there. Wonders indeed.

Back on the minibus we headed homewards, the bright sunshine and dark rainclouds producing stunning rainbows ahead of us. What could be a more fitting end to our inspiring and prayerful pilgrimage in search of St Cuthbert?

On behalf of all the Pilgrims I would like to say a sincere thank you to Nick and Ros for all the research and organisation involved in planning such a tightly scheduled venture, for driving us safely and imparting so much fascinating information. Thank you, Pam and Trevor, for directing our prayer life and for giving us the benefit of your previous experience of visits to Lindisfarne. Thank you, Sharon, for supporting all of the above and for cheerfully making sure we were all in the right place at the right time and joyfully sharing such wonderful experiences with us. Thank you for being such a Brilliant Team and making our Pilgrimage an experience we will always remember and thank God for.

The Coffee Pot



20	25

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

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FEN DITTON GARDENING CLUB

We held our 41st Annual Village Show on Saturday 6th September at the Village Hall in Fen Ditton. The hall was full of vibrant colours from all the spectacular entries of fruit, vegetables, flowers, jams, chutneys, and other handmade items and photographs in a total of 51 classes. We thank the judges for their vital contribution to the smooth running of the Show, members of the committee who worked so hard to make it a success, and all the entrants who made the effort to show their produce. A total of 18 trophies were awarded, as shown in the accompanying table.

Alex Hilton won the Frank Burton trophy and was awarded the prestigious RHS Banksian medal for the most points in the Show. In fact, Alex won First Prize in eight classes and accrued double the total number of points to his nearest rival. The judges chose Daniel Collins' basket of perfect, beautifully presented vegetables as the best exhibit in the Show and the people agreed with their choice! Daniel was awarded the Len Gooden cup, the St Mary rosebowl, and the Paulson salver for this entry. The children's entries were full of colour and variety and a delight to see. Arlo Vause won the John Drake memorial cup for his imaginative Fir Cone Elf. The judge also gave a special mention to Lyla Bowles for her beautiful, well composed flower arrangement.

Club Meetings

Our first meeting of the gardening club year will be the AGM and Social on Tuesday 28th October, starting at 7.30pm at Fen Ditton Village Hall. Wine and soft drinks will be available, along with cheese and biscuits. The AGM is an opportunity for the committee to share the highlights of the past Gardening Club year and to inform members of upcoming plans for 2025/26.

We always welcome new members.

Members range from those with a passionate interest in gardening and allotment growing, to those who enjoy visiting gardens and coming to listen to our varied and interesting speakers.

We meet monthly (from October-April), on the fourth Tuesday of the month and listen to some varied and interesting speakers. The programme changes during the summer months and includes weekend garden visits, a picnic and a plant sale.

Membership is £10 for the year. This can be paid on the night of the AGM in cash or via BACS. Guest price on the night £3.

Other dates for your diary:

Tuesday 25th November: 'Attracting Bees and Butterflies to your garden' (all welcome)

Saturday 6th December: Christmas Party (members only)

For all enquiries about the Gardening Club, please refer to our webpage at http://fdgc.uk or email c@fdgc.uk. We can also be found on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/FenDittonGardeningClub

SPECIAL AWARDS	TROPHY	NAME
Most points Section A	Bob Fison cup	Liz Minichiello
Most points Section B	Ansell cup	Alex Hilton
Most points Section C	J Francis cup	Charles Jones
Most points Section D	Cambridge United cup	Lizzie Wieser
Best in section E	John Drake memorial cup	Arlo Vause
Best handicraft exhibit	Joanna Faye trophy	Alex Hilton
Best vegetable exhibit	Ray Matthews cup	Maureen Dye
Best fruit exhibit	Brown & Tawse cup	Charles Jones
Best flower exhibit	Kingsbury cup	Sarah Beeson
Best flower arrangement	June Wright cup	Alex Hilton
Best pot plant	The Brenda cup	Sarah Beeson
Best domestic entry	CAMGAS cup	Tony Wieser
Best photographic entry	J & M Huntridge cup	Lizzie Wieser
Collection of vegetables (class 15)	Len Gooden cup	Daniel Collins
Best exhibit in Show	St Mary rosebowl	Daniel Collins
Most points in Show	Frank Burton trophy, RHS Banksian medal	Alex Hilton
Novice	C & C Lang salver	Liz Minichiello
People's award	Paulson salver	Daniel Collins



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Compline at Horningsea and the Feast of St Teresa of Ávila Andrew Dobrzanski

Compline is a short 20-minute service that forms that last of the 'Daily Offices'. It includes psalms, silence, a hymn, short reading, prayer, and a blessing. Compline will next be held at Horningsea on the 15th of October, which also coincides with the Feast of St Teresa of Ávila (1515–1582).



St Teresa of Ávila was born in Ávila near Madrid. Brought up a dedicated Christian, she was fascinated by the lives and heroism of the saints, so much so that when she was seven she and her brother ran away from home to seek martyrdom at the hands of the Moors. They were caught by their uncle just outside the town walls and safely returned home, but following this she decided to build a hermitage in her back garden instead. Her mother died when she was fourteen, leading her to embrace a deeper devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary as her spiritual mother. While in her youth she enjoyed the finer things in life including reading popular tales about knights and wearing fine fashion, though she would eventually decide that these things had drawn her away from God. After time at the Augustinian nuns' school in Ávila she entered the Car-

melite convent there at the age of 20. Unable to obtain her father's consent she left his house unknown and took the habit, at which point her father accepted her decision. Worried that she was too great a sinner to achieve anything, she found solace in the *Confessions* of St. Augustine and found consolation that such a great saint was once an inveterate sinner himself.

Her attitude to prayer is often illustrated by the story of her being thrown from her horse into a muddy river just outside her convent after time away spent spreading the Gospel. She looked up to heaven and said to God, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" Perhaps this comes across a bit harsh, but St Teresa shows us that it is best to hide nothing from God and be honest in prayer as a way of simply offering up to God our incomprehension of what he is giving us. In the end it is not about what we want but accepting his will in all things and acknowledging that every attempt to do good will come at some cost to ourselves.

Early on in her life Carmelite convents were very comfortable places to be, but St Teresa felt that things had gone too far and she was drifting away from her connection with God. In time St Teresa decided to reform the order to return to the austerity, poverty and enclosure that she considered the authentic Carmelite spirit. In 1562, and in the face of much opposition, she founded a convent of Discalced ('shoeless') Carmelite nuns in Ávila. In 1575 the Chapter of the Order decided to dissolve the Discalced Carmelites, with many of her followers (including St John of the Cross) imprisoned and cruelly treated. In 1580, and with the support of King Philip II, the Discalced Carmelites were made independent.

St Teresa wrote her most famous work the 'Interior Castle' in 1577 after she received a vision from Christ: 'let us consider our soul as a castle, composed entirely of diamonds, or very clear crystal, in which there are many rooms, just as in Heaven there are many mansions. If we consider the subject properly, sisters, we shall see that the soul of a just man is nothing else but a Paradise'. The book cannot be well summarised here, but the analogy of the mansions is used to show how people in each stage of their growth in prayer behave and how they can gradually progress on their journey. In the first mansion the people are free from serious sin but are yet immersed in worldly matters and pleasures for which careful and considered prayer is recommended: 'for she who does not consider with whom she speaks, and what she asks, and who she is that asks, and of whom she asks, knows little of prayer, however much her lips may move'.

With the journey through further mansions the draw towards spiritual joys of God is increased as does the letting go of worldly things. St Teresa speaks of the need for good companionship, embracing the cross and staying focused on loving Jesus Christ crucified; of perseverance: 'O what a great delight is it to suffer in doing the will of God', persistence: 'God only wants a resolute will', courage, humility, growth in love, love of God and neighbour, avoiding all occasions of sin and desire only of God's will. It is at the seventh mansion where

22

the journeyer begins to see and understand the favours God has bestowed upon their soul: 'she is brought into this mansion by an intellectual vision, all the Three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity discover themselves to her, by a certain way of representing the truth. ... accompanied with a certain inflaming of the soul, which comes upon her like a cloud of extraordinary brightness'. In the soul's deepest centre, an instantaneous, transformative and permanent union with the Trinity occurs, just as water falling into a pond cannot afterwards be separated or divided.

St Teresa was canonized by Pope Gregory XV in 1622 and declared a Doctor of the Church by St Paul VI in 1970.

"Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

St Teresa of Ávila - Ora Pro Nobis

Summary of Interior Castle by St. Teresa of Avila – Fr Richard Conlin (2018)

5 Important Lessons From St. Teresa of Ávila – Fr Roger Landry (2021)



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All in the month of...

It was:

750 years ago, on 27th Oct 1275 that the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands is traditionally considered to have been founded.

200 years ago, on 25th Oct 1825 that Johann Strauss II was born.

125 years ago, on 20th Oct 1900 that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight.

100 years ago, on 13th Oct 1925 that Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher, was born.

90 years ago, on 12th Oct 1935 that Luciano Pavarotti, Italian operatic tenor, was born.

65 years ago, on 30th Oct 1965 that Diego Maradona was born.

60 years ago, on 8th Oct 1965 that the Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) in London was officially opened.

50 years ago, on 9th Oct 1975 that the IRA detonated a bomb near the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly. One person was killed and at least 20 injured.

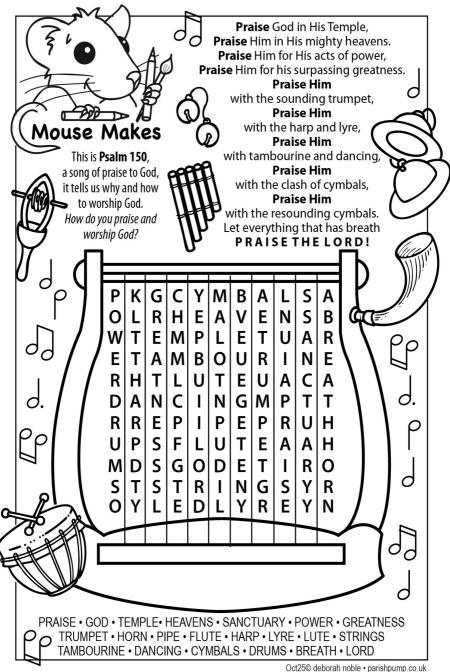
40 years ago, on 1st Oct 1985 that riots broke out in Toxteth in Liverpool and Peckham in London.

Also 40 years, on 26th Oct 1985 that the Australian government returned the ownership of Uluru / Ayers Rock to the local Pitjantjatjara people, on condition that they lease it to the National Parks and Wildlife Agency for 99 years and allow it to be jointly managed.

20 years ago, on 3rd Oct 2005 that Ronnie Barker, TV comedian, actor and writer, died.

Also 20 years ago, on 18th to 26th Oct 2005 that Hurricane Wilma, the most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, hit the Caribbean, Central America and the eastern USA.

15 years ago, on 13th Oct 2010 that 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped underground for 69 days following the collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine were rescued.



THE THREE PARISHES

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2025



St Mary's Fen Ditton



ST PETER'S HORNINGSEA



ALL SAINTS TEVERSHAM

10.30am United Holy Communion			26 October All Saints' Sunday
	10.30am Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 10.30am All-age Worship	19 October 18 th after Trinity
	8.30pm Compline (Night Prayer)		Wednesday 15 September
10.30am Holy Communion – Harvest Thanksgiving	4.00pm Village Service	10.30am Holy Communion – Harvest Thanksgiving	12 October 17 th after Trinity
4.00pm Village Service	10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving	10.30am Café Church & Holy Communion	5 October 16 th after Trinity