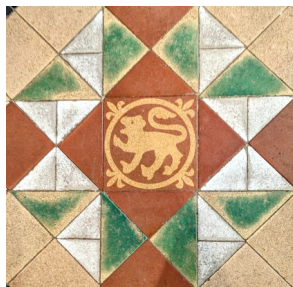


Welcome

To All Saints' Peppard

News for August 2025



Who is Who – Contact List

Rector	The Rev'd James Stickings	0752 204 2735
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Junior Choir and Sunday Club	Rebecca Bell	becksyonig@icloud.com
Flower arranging	Ann Butler-Smith	0118 972 1871
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		sylvia.overbury@btinternet.com
Peppard Relief in Need	Valentine de Haan	0118972 3806
	Sue Nickson	0118972 4520

Church Website www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5977

The Magazine – if you would like the magazine delivered please let us know

Parish Register

Dear Friends

As we move into August, which is for many of us a quieter time of year, I have been thinking more about the value of silence. It's partly, I realise, a matter of personality. To use somewhat simplistic terminology, I am an introvert. I have always valued time on my own, as well as periods of silence. Some other people are extraverts, who are energised by activity and the presence of others - and I mean no value judgement, as if one is better than the other. Whether one is more of an introvert or more of an extravert seems largely a matter of genetics and upbringing.

Nevertheless, I would argue that carving out times of silence and solitude can be valuable for all of us. Many of the qualities and activities commended by the world's spiritual traditions depend on a measure of focus and quiet. How can we discern the right path or make the right decision if we are distracted by noise and activity? And how can we reflect on the past if we don't achieve a measure of temporary freedom from the many current demands and tasks that assail us?

In our Christian tradition there is another key reason for trying to safeguard periods of silence and solitude. For in the teaching of the earliest exponents of Christian spirituality (the Fathers and Mothers of the Church), it is in silence that one encounters God. They presented the 'desert' (both literally and metaphorically) as a place of spiritual encounter. Just as Moses met God in the burning bush, and Jesus sought communion with his Father in the wilderness, so can we.

In recent years I have been exploring a meditative spiritual practice called 'Centering Prayer,' which aims to be a way of engaging with what the Christian tradition calls 'contemplative prayer,' a silent resting in the presence of God. Centering Prayer is very simple, and it enables us to get beyond the outer and inner distractions of our lives in order to encounter the God beyond all thought and image, who is Love. You might be interested in reading more about it here: <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/>. If this interests you, please let me know. If there are a few of us, we might set up a small group to talk about Centering Prayer and practise it together.

Whether our August is busy or reasonably 'quiet,' may we find ways of embracing silence (however brief) in order to reconnect with what St Paul called 'Christ within us, the hope of glory.'

God bless

James

Confirmation Memories

Attending the lovely service for Alan and Caroline's confirmation last month reminded me of my daughter's confirmation at All Saints' in her yearly teens. She will be 50 this month!

My husband's younger sister was her Godmother and attended the confirmation service accompanied by her own daughter who was just a toddler at the time. 'Mummy why is that man wearing a gold dress?' asked little Ellie in a very clear voice. Many smiles all round the congregation and clergy!

Just as after the recent confirmation service, we enjoyed refreshments in the Parish Room afterwards. With a cup of coffee in hand, my husband was chatting to the Bishop of Dorchester when his elbow was accidentally jogged by someone and his coffee went down the front of the Bishop's 'gold dress'. Not the best memories of that day but certainly ones that have stuck in my mind!

Sue Nickson

One of the new, rather splendid Car Park notice boards



ICBS

Every Sunday James or Sarah invites us to adjourn to the Parish Room for refreshment after the morning service. This provides us with an opportunity to catch up on news with church friends and to indulge our taste for chocolate biscuits or, sometimes, home made cake. These occasions are very pleasant affairs that have been enhanced over the last seven months by friends from CTK whilst their church undergoes a major restoration. It is a pity that not all members of our congregation are able to stay; perhaps by 1130 Sunday lunch preparations have reached a critical point. Now that we have navigated the diocesan approval process, we hope that it will not be too long before we have a newly refurbished Parish Room to make the experience even more pleasant.

As the congregation moves from the church to the Parish Room, I wonder how many people stop to read the rather faded notice on an oak panel in the passageway. It says:

**The Incorporated
Church Building
Society granted £30,
AD 1874, towards
repairing & £10, AD 1908,
towards enlarging this
church, upon condition
that all the sittings are for
the free use of the
parishioners according to
law.**

The ICBS was established in 1815 to help “keep England Holy” and ushered in an unprecedented era of Anglican church building, some 50 churches per year at its peak. In the 20th century it went into decline and its affairs were taken over by the Historic Churches Preservation Trust. The £30 donation in 1874 presumably assisted with the major restoration and enlargement of the church to include the north aisle by William Scott Champion; the further £10 in 1908 would correspond with the addition of the bell tower. No doubt both contributions were gratefully received but they would have been far short of

the costs involved. Inflation between 1874 and 1908 was very small but since then the nominal value of money has declined dramatically. The donations in today's currency would be worth around £4,500 and £1,500, respectively. A major church restoration would now be reckoned in millions and the addition of the tower some hundreds of thousands of pounds. A small village with a congregation of around 120 located in a relatively poor rural area could not have raised the necessary funds alone. Where did the rest of the finance come from?

Ian Heriot

Eloquentia virtus evocant

There was a great deal of interesting material in the July edition of the *Parish Magazine*. It caused much chatter in the Atkinson household as memories were stirred. Ian Heriot wrote about David Silsoe, a friend of many who remember his warm personality. The Latin motto of the 2nd Baron Silsoe heads this item and translates as *Eloquence evokes virtue*. David was a noted planning lawyer but how did he come to be singing in the choir of All Saints' Church? After the years of Dr Hubert Pim and Col Roland Langton, the bass section was rather thin. Also in the choir was the long serving tenor, Wing Cmdr Reg Seymour (also PCC treasurer for 17 years). Reg also sang with the South Chiltern Choral Society and when asked he persuaded other singers to swell the ranks of All Saints' Choir. On this occasion, Reg hit the jackpot and two singers joined us. One was David Silsoe and the other was Gary Magill. Gary must have only been about 18 at the time as I can remember him as an undergraduate at Imperial College, London. David, when he joined, was known to us as David Trustram Eve. His father was the 1st Baron Silsoe. I have a distinct memory of David telling me that his father had died and that he would have to change his name.

Marian Turner's article was particularly interesting as she has memories of All Saints' Church clergy and personalities which pre-date mine. We do remember her father, Clarence Cook. Our involvement began in October 1966 when the Revd Richard Arch was rector. Sandra, being Welsh herself, warmed to the accent from the pulpit. At that time, many members of the congregation had also benefited from his predecessor, the Revd Leslie Badham who, when he left Peppard, became Vicar of Windsor and chaplain to HM the Queen. He was also a published author. His book entitled *Verdict*

on Jesus appears to have run into six editions. What do Richard Arch and Leslie Badham have in common? Both were Welsh and came to Peppard Rectory by the usual route of Jesus College, Oxford. our patron. A glance at the List of Rectors which hangs in the chancel of All Saints' shows several names which are distinctly Welsh.

In the same edition, Rebecca Bell has written about the Junior Choir at All Saints' Church. In this role, Rebecca's excellent contribution was preceded by Barbara Crawshaw and Cynthia Hutt. I think that there was a gap but Joan Openshaw and Beryl Warwick also took care of the Junior Choir. They must have followed the all boys' front rows which can be seen in the photographs to which Marian Turner refers. Almost the first thing which Cynthia did was to recruit a number of children. The circumstances were favourable in that several families with children already attended All Saints' and there were plenty of boys! This was in 1983 and our two children, David and Elizabeth were keen to join. Elizabeth is still singing in the choir after 42 years. David sings in a church choir and in the Anton Bruckner Choir in London after a solid start at All Saints'. Of course, Andrew Howles developed his singing skills at All Saints' which led to a choral exhibition to Cambridge. Marian mentions the hot cocoa, provided by Alan Shave and Fred Richens. In this more recent period, Barbara Butler (now Winnington) was kind enough to provide this for the children. Among regular members of the congregation at Evensong were Les and Maud Caswell and we all knew that Les had a bottomless supply of toffees!

Keith Atkinson

REMEMBER WHEN

Many people visit our lovely Church, strangers, people who have lived locally in the past, and current residents who have worshipped here for many years. So many memories and stories to tell about All Saints over those years, which we would love to share

If you have a memory or incident to tell, please let us know.

Ann Butler Smith

CANDLES



Some time ago it was decided to reinstate the Lady Chapel and return the table to it's original use as an altar. During this process a pair of oil candles were found in the vestry cupboard. We had no idea if they would work but thought they would look quite nice on the Lady Chapel Altar, so Ian set about refurbishing them. ~ The result can be seen in the photograph or in real life in the church.

A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW HEADTEACHER FOR OUR SCHOOL

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Peppard Primary School. It is a great privilege to join such a vibrant and caring school community and I am truly excited about the journey ahead.

Over the past few months I have been visiting the school regularly to get to know the staff and children and I hope to meet some of the wider community soon. These visits have been invaluable in helping me understand the schools strengths and priorities and they've allowed me to work closely with the team to ensure a smooth and positive transition.

At the heart of the school we have the values that shape the way children learn, grow and interact with one another – Compassion, Humility Thankfulness, Courage, Forgiveness and Perseverance. These values are clearly embedded in the culture of the school and are reflected in the way the children support one another, approach challenges and celebrate success.

A verse that beautifully captures the spirit of the community is from 1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Encourage one another and build each other up". This message will continue to guide my approach as Headteacher and I hope it will resonate with parents and carers too.

Mrs Kirsty Wakefield

Memory Hold-the-Door

"Memory Hold-the-Door" the title of John Buchan's wonderful 1940 autobiography, is Buchan's view that memory preserves and enriches experiences, rather than simply cataloguing them. It suggests that experiences, though initially fleeting, are stored in memory and can be revisited and reinterpreted later in life.

So I hope that the memories revived in this magazine will be pleasant.

As one grows older, friends remembering one's youth are very comforting. During Covid 5 friends and I were allowed to meet in a bubble for lunch. We still do with more of us now called "The Crumbles". Some of us have known each other all our lives, so when we reminisce, we spark each other to recall things we thought we had forgotten. This is wonderfully life affirming, so our luncheons are very lively as we regain our former vitality.

It is so good to talk to people as we never know what may emerge. Recently on my buggy I saw a new face in Blounts Court Road. Then we realized that we knew each other. She had baby-sat for my 5 year-old son 50 years ago. Only now I learned that he had insisted on being read to the whole time and she got through a whole book! On another day I met a very nice young woman. When we discovered we both grew up in Shiplake and knew each other's families, we enjoyed swapping stories.

Having had a very happy Enid Blytonish childhood, I love telling children about the carefree time we had, roaming the countryside on our ponies. My mother had a large bell with which she would summon us to lunch. In those days the Pullein-Thompsons used to tether ponies on the common quite safely. Sometimes cattle and goats were there too. This was a wonderful place in which to grow up and I am so grateful to be able to relive memories of it with my beloved Crumbles

Valerie Phelps

VISITS TO BRITISH CATHEDRALS – COVENTRY

We visited Coventry in 2004 on our way to Litchfield. It's unlike any other British Cathedral in that it's a completely new building designed by Basil Spence. The previous cathedral was destroyed in a bombing raid in 1940 and the new cathedral is built at right angles to the remains of the old so you enter through the shell of its predecessor. Outside is a carving of Saint Michael by Epstein

The foundation stone was laid by the Queen in 1956 and the building was consecrated in 1962.

We could not fail to be impressed by the large Graham Sutherland tapestry behind the high altar and the magnificent baptistry window by John Piper, described by Patrick Cormack as the most memorable stained glass made in Britain in the twentieth century.

It's very different to what we usually conceive of as a cathedral but you should go nevertheless.

John Hasler

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Services for August

Sunday 3rd August

10.30am Benefice Sung Eucharist

Reader Margaret Colossians 3:1-11 Gospel Luke 12:13-21

Sidesmen Eric and Adrienne Server Margaret

Sunday 10th August

11.15am Benefice Sung Eucharist at St John's Kidmore End

Sunday 17th August

9.30am Benefice Sung Eucharist at Christ the King

Sunday 24th August

10.30am Benefice Sung Eucharist

Reader Acts 5:12-16 Gospel Luke 22:24-30

Sidesman Samantha and Ryan Server Nigel D

Sunday 31st August

9.30am Benefice Sung Eucharist at Christ the King