

HARPSDEN PARISH NEWS

AUGUST 2025



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PAM'S PONDERINGS

What do 'titles and labels' mean?

What is our perception of leadership and ministry within the life of the church? How we do see our place in the community of faith?

I was challenged by the process of selecting a successor for Robert.

Who are the 'ministry team'? ... those who wear clerical collars? Surely not so in this benefice. We have an amazing team of Jesus' disciples who step up to serve, to minister, with the skills, knowledge and time that they have. Some were commissioned by Robert as lay leaders, others as Anna friends and since then we have added our musical directors and Josie to represent the choir. And that's just the ones who are more upfront.

As we approach the end of a year since we knew Robert was being called elsewhere, at the September Benefice service, I will lead a focus of thanks for the ways God has blessed us, the ways God has provided in, through and with us.

Please come with some symbol of your involvement in our shared commitment as an offering – be that the marigolds that are used for washing up after our many catering events, a Bible for being a reader, gardening tools for your care of the graveyards, flowers as a sign of your creativity in decorating for our worship, a hymn book as a sides person, a taper as a sacristan – the list is endless because you are too. Everyone is playing their part to share God's Kingdom reality on earth.

More importantly, I would like us all to reflect on how we have encountered the very life of God's Holy Spirit through the ups and downs of this year. Review and reflection are both healthy ways to manage and healthy ways to connect with the now of our situations.

The interview process highlighted, for me, the ways that Heather and I draw on different experiences as we seek to fulfil our vocations.

I was reminded of a vision, a concept, that was laid on my heart when I was first a curate. We called it the Anna and Simeon prayer network where those who could no longer be active in outreach to the 'next generation' gave prayer time to support, equip and enable others who were in position to mix and mingle with children and young people. I produced a pattern of suggestions and requests for prayer that reflected different aspects of activities and groups for children and young people. The generation 'gap' was bridged. And it was reciprocal as younger people were able to explore the interests and needs of the more senior members of our community.

I have since discovered that the Guild of Anna and Simeon has been established to ensure the more housebound members of the church are able to participate in the life of the church by prayer. This is their Guild Prayer

God our Loving Father, thank you for calling us to this ministry of prayer for your people, following the example of Simeon and Anna. As members of the body of Christ, here in the 'United benefice of Shiplake and Dunsden with Harpsden cum Bolney' may we so shine with Christ's light, through our words and actions, that others may be drawn to follow Jesus and our churches be transformed into a community of peace and love; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I suggest we do not need to be housebound or of any particular age to offer this prayer.

As I write there is no decision about Robert's successor but our lives as disciples do not depend on that decision. Our prayers depend on obedience to our Lord and, surely, the Anna and Simeon Guild prayer says it all for all of us.

May we be blessed and a blessing as we each serve Our Father and his children.

Pam <><

ANNA MINISTRY

With two of our clientele celebrating becoming a hundred(!) and several with 0 birthdays we celebrated recently a very **happy birthday** tea including birthday cake. Thanks to Valerie and Vic for their help and Rosemary being chauffeur for Phillip.

Our next Anna tea is on the 21st August. We would love to see you but please do let me know if you are coming at least 24 hours before. I was beginning to understand Jesus's predicament when feeding the 5000: on that occasion all were fed and so were this month's Anna Tea participants! But please do let me know your intentions on 07946 352026; thanks.

With September just around the corner, we carried out a straw poll as to where you would like to go for the church community lunch which is relaunching on September 11th. By popular demand, lunch will be at The White Horse on this occasion, but I need to pre book so please contact me by the 1st of September if you are interested in going. Everyone is welcome even if you haven't joined our happy band of pilgrims before. Either ring or email, but be warned I hope to be staying in the Isle of Man and some phone providers consider it a foreign country!! So, email is best. Revhwtturner@gmail.com

Bonded in His love for all, Heather.

"Is it Time for Pimms"?' - always!! 🍹🎉🍷

As our special Benefice church family already know, our Patronal Festivals are always a time of greatest celebration of our dear Lord above and His Saints below 🙏🌟

Last year's St. M's Patronal Festival held a "Hymnathon" which was well attended and much enjoyed 🎉 This Year, Caroline from St. M's choir, suggested "Hymns and Pimms" 🍹, offered alongside soft drinks, which was very warmly welcomed by all those who attended and it was noted by some that "Jo's Pimms" was rather strong 🤔, but made the voices even more joyful in singing God's Praises 🍷🌟🎉🙏

Over 40 singers joined this happy event after a wonderful Patronal Benefice Service and sang from a beautiful list of personal Hymn requests. Each request was coupled with a personal 'story' as to why they had been chosen which brought both laughter and tears - a truly bonding time of the specialness that is 'church family' at its best 🙏❤️

Dear Josie and helpers braved the threatened downpours 🌧️ (which thankfully stayed away) and held a Cake and Book Sale 🌟🍰📖 which, at the time of typing, we know has raised at least £350.00 with the additional Hymnathon and Gift Aid Day Donation's still coming in 🎉

So many have commented on how special our church family is as someone said on the day "this IS St. Margaret's at its Best" and who can ask for more shared Worship; shared Fellowship; shared devotion to ensuring our beloved Churches are open and available to all; shared Love of community, service and Faith, Amen. 🙏🌟❤️😊xx

INTERCESSIONS FOR AUGUST

3rd Brenda Wright
10th Paul Barrett
17th David Williams
24th Service at Dunsden
31st Sunday School

SERVICES IN AUGUST

Sunday 3 rd August	9.30 am	Holy Communion and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Morning Praise	Dunsden
Wednesday 6 th August	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Wholeness & Healing	Harpsden
Sunday 10 th August	9.30 am	Morning Praise and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
Wednesday 13 th August	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 17 th August	9.30 am	Holy Communion and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
	3.00 pm	3 rd Sunday at 3	Shiplake
Wednesday 20 th August	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden

Sunday 24 th August	9.30 am	Sunday School	Harpsden
	10.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion with Wholeness & Healing	Dunsden
Wednesday 27 th August	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 31 st August	9.30 am	Sunday School Morning Praise	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Morning Praise	Dunsden

READERS – AUGUST

3rd Tilden McKean and Caroline Fulton
 10th Tony Wright and Josie Peddie
 17th Paul Barrett and Sue Wright
 24th James Frost and Pippa George
 31st Sunday School

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR AUGUST

3rd Brenda Wright and Tilden McKean
 10th Paul Barrett and Karin Henderson
 17th James and Elsie Frost
 24th Service at Dunsden
 31st Kester and Pippa George

Vic Morgan read the passage below at a recent Prayer Group meeting. Those present were so Impressed they requested it to be put in the Parish Magazine so that more members of the Congregation at St Margaret's could share it.

As you got up, I watched and hoped you would talk to me. Just a few words, such as thanking me for something good in your life yesterday or last week would do.

But I noticed you were busy selecting the right clothes for work. I waited again to hear from you. When you ran around the house collecting papers, I knew there would be a few minutes to stop and say hello, but you never slowed down.

I wanted to tell you that I could help you accomplish more than you ever dreamed possible if you would just spend some of each day with me. At one point, you waited fifteen minutes in a chair with nothing to do. I waited to hear from you.

Then I saw you spring to your feet; I thought you wanted to talk to me, but you ran to the phone and called a friend. I watched as off to work you went and waited patiently all day long to hear from you. With all your activities you were too busy to talk with me.

I noticed at lunch you looked around; maybe you just felt embarrassed to talk to me. You glanced three tables over and noticed some of your friends talking to me before they ate, but you wouldn't.

There was still more time left, and I hoped that we would talk. You went home and had many things to do. After they were done, you turned on the TV; just about anything goes there and you spend many hours watching. I waited as you continued watching TV and ate your meal but again you wouldn't talk to me.

At bedtime you were totally tired. After you said good night to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep. I had so much wanted to be part of your day. We could have had so much fun and accomplished so much together.

I love you so much that I wait every day for a thought, prayer or thanks. Well, maybe tomorrow! I'll be waiting.

Your Friend,

God

-Author Unknown

COFFEE ROTA AUGUST

3rd James and Elsie Frost
10th Jane Burt
17th Jo Taylor
24th Service at Dunsden
31st Hilary Andrews

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Harpsden Parish News is written for and by the people of this parish, and contributions are always welcome. However, the views expressed therein are those of the writers and are not necessarily shared by the Rector, the Editor and Churchwardens.

Benefice Website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/27-442AP/>