



*The Parish of  
S. Philip & S. James  
Up Hatherley*



# *Parish Magazine*

*September 2025*



*Back to School,  
back to Church.*

*S. Philip and S. James Parish Church,  
Cold Pool Lane, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, GL51 6HX.*

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## *Father's Mark...*

### **BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

For those who have never witnessed it, Benediction (which means blessing) is a short devotion, often following Evensong, Compline, or Holy Hour (a time of silent contemplative personal prayer) in which the consecrated bread of the Eucharist – the Body of Christ – is taken from the place of reservation and exposed on the altar in a Monstrance – an elaborate sun-shaped metal and glass case. Hymns, prayers and incense are offered, and the climax of the service occurs when the officiating priest makes the sign of the cross over the people with the monstrance, accompanied by the ringing of bells. ‘Our Lord Jesus Christ himself, present in the Blessed Sacrament, now gives us His Blessing’.

Benediction flows from our belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and its history is not without controversy in the Church of England! In the decades following the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Oxford Movement, Anglo-Catholic clergy began to reintroduce Benediction to parishes, often poor slum parishes, as part of the renewal of and enrichment of Christian faith and worship. They were often met with fierce opposition, not from parishioners, but from establishment Bishops, and powerful vested protestant interests in society. Priests were often persecuted and harassed with legal action for this, and for other Catholic practices and beliefs.

Father Conrad Noel, the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Vicar of Thaxted in Essex, advertised a Corpus Christi Benediction service as “A Procession of the Divine Outlaw – mere onlookers not welcome!” – the Bishop at the time tried to stop him. This Bishop did not believe in the real presence, and so Fr. Conrad simply said, ‘If the bishop does not believe in the doctrine, he forfeits the right to regulate the worship arising from it!’”

The danger nowadays is not persecution, but apathy – our forefathers fought to bring back to the church so much that is now simply taken for granted, or worse, ignored.



Here are some words about the value of Benediction from the late Fr. John MacQuarrie, sometime Professor of Divinity at Oxford;

*“And just as that first appearing [of Jesus on*

*earth] was like the rising of the sun over a  
darkened world, so today when the Host is lifted  
up either in the Mass itself or in Benediction, it  
is like the rising of the sun upon us and we  
receive the radiance and warmth of God's  
blessing through him whom he has sent...  
This brief time of quiet alone is of inestimable value  
in that crazy hurried world  
in which we all have to live nowadays.*

*The officiating priest makes  
the sign of the cross in blessing over the  
worshippers. Christ, the Light of the world,  
shines upon us, and my comparison with the  
rising sun was appropriate because the  
monstrance is usually fashioned to resemble the  
sun's disc, with rays streaming out in all  
directions. Through Christ, God bestows his  
blessing upon us and all who are willing to  
receive it, just as the sun shines on all,  
bringing light and health"*



*Father Mark*

# Church Calendar *September 2025*

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	S. Giles, Rel.	Victims of torture
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Feria	Media & the Arts
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>S. Gregory the Great, Pp &amp; Dr.</b>	Musicians & Singers
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	Farming & Fishing
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	Interfaith Relations
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	Respect for the earth
<b>SUN 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of the Year</b>	<b>The Parish</b>
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	Babies & Nursing Mothers
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	Refugees
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	The Contemplative life
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	The unemployed
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	The Most Holy Name of Mary	The Angelus
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	S. John Chrysostom, B & Dr.	Constantinople
<b>SUN 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>	<b>Society of the Sacred Cross</b>
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	Courtesy & Compassion
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	Ss Cornelius, Pp & Cyprian, B & Ms.	ENT & North Africa
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	The Homeless
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	Young Children
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	Confirmation Candidates
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	S. Andrew Kim Taegon Pr.	Korean Clergy
<b>SUN 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of the Year</b>	<b>The Parish</b>
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Feria	Accountants
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Feria	Architects
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Our Lady of Walsingham</b>	Pilgrimage
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	Grandparents
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	Victims of Crime
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	S. Vincent de Paul, Pr.	Prisoners & Captives
<b>SUN 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of the Year</b>	<b>The Parish</b>
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>S. Michael &amp; All Angels</b>	Archangels
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	S. Jerome, Pr. & Dr.	Bible Scholars

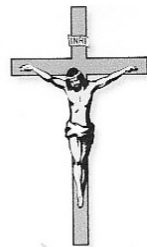
**SUNDAYS:**                      **10:00 Parish Mass**

**WEEKDAYS:**                      **Said Mass on Thursdays at 10:00.**

For times of other services please see the church notice board or visit our parish website.

The church is open daily for Private Prayer.

# *The Years Mind*



*Every day the Church remembers and prays for the souls of those whose anniversary of death falls during the month. Below are those who we remember this month.*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Stephen Fosdike Beard.*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gladys Maude Townsend.*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jeremy Thompson.*
- 4<sup>th</sup> Betty May Aram.*
- 5<sup>th</sup> Kenneth John Holder.*
- 6<sup>th</sup> Beatrice Ellen Williams.*
- 7<sup>th</sup> Joyce Dale*
- 8<sup>th</sup> Edwin William John Richards,  
Harold William Morris.*
- 10<sup>th</sup> Kenneth W.G. Berriman.*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Evelyn Gertrude Petro, Patricia Kathleen Giles.*
- 12<sup>th</sup> Gordon Douglas Battin.*
- 13<sup>th</sup> Neville Dowson, Pamela Margaret Drinkwater.*
- 15<sup>th</sup> Beatrice Joan Lunt, Rose Marshall,  
Henry Boughton.*
- 17<sup>th</sup> Edith Gwenthyn Batt, Joyce Ransome.*
- 18<sup>th</sup> Hendrik Christiaan Kuk, Millicent Maude Parry,  
Bryan William Parratt.*
- 20<sup>th</sup> Ronald Edgar Rowe.*
- 21<sup>st</sup> Margaret Hawkins, Wyndham Green,  
Howard Roy Davis.*
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Francis Elizabeth Campbell Richards,  
Raymond King, Graham Isted.*
- 25<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Perry, Yvonne Burnett.*
- 28<sup>th</sup> Muriel Doris Goodhall, Dorothy Ingram.*
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sheila Meissner, Hilda Alice Elsie Williams.*
- 30<sup>th</sup> Jim McWilliams.*



**Parish Supper Night & Bingo.**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 1900**

in S. Philip & S. James

Church Centre, Hatherley Road.

Meal: £5. Steak Pie & Mash Dinner.

25p per Bingo card.

£1 per strip of Raffle tickets.

**N.B. This event is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday this month not the last.**

For catering purposes please reserve a meal

by **14<sup>th</sup> September** & contacting:

[cw2811sjl@gmail.com](mailto:cw2811sjl@gmail.com)

or telephoning **01242 704837.**





The new year for this monthly parish fundraiser is due at the beginning of November.

If you already have your favourite numbers  
please renew **NOW**.

If you would like to take part in the

**100 Club**

Please contact our Churchwarden, Shirley, either  
at church on a Sunday morning

or via [cw2811sjl@gmail.com](mailto:cw2811sjl@gmail.com),

Please purchase numbers in October, £1 per  
number per month, ready in time for the first  
draw in November.

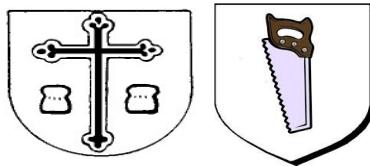
Good luck!



## Parish Logo Polo Shirts



To support mission as well as look good,  
parish polo shirts with our parish logo are now available.



They come in a variety of colours:

Black, White, Sky Blue, Navy, Royal Blue, Sapphire Blue,  
Turquoise Blue, Purple, Khaki, Bottle Green, Kelly Green,  
Solid Grey, Charcoal, Heather Grey, Red, Burgundy, Fuchsia,  
Orange, Yellow, and sizes XS–8XL (XL & Bigger additional  
cost).

Print your name (2 words).

The first order will be made at the end of September,  
the larger the order the better the price.

So please place your requirements in good time.

An order form and further information can be found in the  
church lobby. Any questions please contact Father Mark on  
01242 704837.

*From the Diocese.*

## Connect Blog: Making sense of Generation Alpha



Senior Connector Barrie Voyce, reflects on Generation Alpha.

I've been around youth work a while. I started when I was 18, and with only a few years "in the real world" its been an ongoing journey and career. In fact, I've been doing this longer than I've been a Christian. I'm 50 now (I know, I don't look it – one of the benefits of working with young people!) and I've been in youth ministry for 20 years.

Over the course of that long time, so many things in our world and culture have changed significantly, and one of the

challenges and delights in that has been learning to navigate and change who I am, and how I do ministry, with a changing, shifting culture.

Years ago, a Pioneer Minister in one of our churches asked me “do you have Pioneer Youth Ministers?” – after a moment’s thought, I replied “All Youth Ministry is Pioneer Ministry” Young people are normally at the forefront of cultural change and development. What our children and youth ministers are experiencing now, the rest of the church will be experiencing in 10-25 years time.

To give you an example – I’ve titled this blog “Making sense of Generation Alpha” because, when I was studying for my degree in Theology and Youth Ministry, one of the seminal books was “Making Sense of Generation Y.” That’s Millennials to you and me – back then they were the emerging generation, the ones we were trying to navigate and understand. Some might think we’re still trying to work them out, consider what church might mean for them and how we reimagine church for this new generation. Brace yourself for this bit – Millennials are now in their 30s. Most of the children and youth in our churches are the children of Millennials – that’s 2 generations on from Millennials. So, while the rest of the church is thinking about them – we’re learning about their children!

So, who are Generation Alpha? The [Youthscape Podcast](#) has spent a whole episode on this, and I had the delight of spending an evening online with Alex Drew for the Deep Dive she discusses here exploring this stuff with other practitioners.

I was challenged and inspired by this conversation. It also made me question my own youth ministry – how much of what I’m doing is outdated – focused on Gen Z (or Millennials) and not fit for purpose. I came away with four key learnings and contemplations:

### Tech Savvy BUT managing their usage

No matter what we might believe, all the evidence points towards the fact that young people are using tech less than the previous generation, and indeed less than their parents. The podcast explores the whys and hows of that, but my take away is that as adults we need to stop stressing quite so much, stop pressurising, and encourage young people to self-manage.

### Collaborative and Creative

Young people are craving opportunities to do things together – they are much less competitive. For me that means reducing the sort of icebreakers, games and activities that pitch youth against each other, and finding activities that mean working together. It also means holding plans lightly and allowing the group to shape the direction of a session – trusting them to explore what’s right for them.

### Adventurous and Awe-inspired

The “Quiet Revival” is part of this growing openness to spirituality and faith. Making connections between the Ows Wows and Nows of life isn’t just for our pre-schoolers, but youth too. I’m also aware of the amazing way our church primary schools explore Christian faith with children, and that

we can build on that with youth.

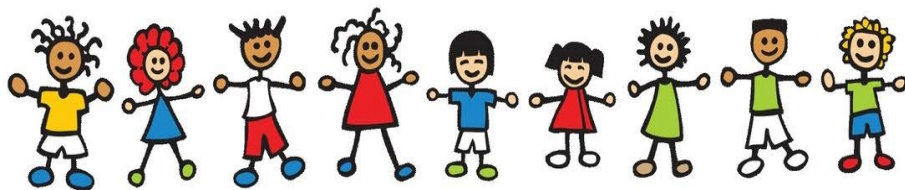
## Kindness is Key

This was the biggest “oh wow” moment for me in the Deep Dive. The value of kindness is so prominent in Generation Alpha, and I see this play out in my church youth group. There is less “banter,” nick names, in-jokes, and ribbing each other. The group are much more likely to want to chat about each others feelings and emotions, and are connected through being caring towards each other. As a natural joker, I’ve needed to adjust my language and approach to be much more sensitive to who these young people are today.

And that’s the main take away – its my job to flex and adjust ministry to fit with who this emerging generation is – not get caught up into the way things were even 5 years ago. Youth Ministers need to be like chameleons – adapting to fit the new surroundings without losing the core of who we, and Jesus, are.

## What next?

We’ll be exploring more about Generation Alpha, including the findings from our own, Diocese of Gloucester research, at our Thriving Church event in January. If you’d like to attend, speak to your Area Dean, or Barrie Voyce.



# 'STARTERS'

Our Sunday morning children's group

meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

at 10:00 in the Church Centre.

Worship & activities before joining  
the adults in Church  
for the rest of the Mass.

Go to our website:

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14268](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14268)

for weekly children's activity sheets.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
WELCOMING YOU.

# Puzzle Time

## The Elizabeth Line

T	L	Y	L	W	N	O	F	E	V	W	E	O	L	Y	A
S	W	I	H	D	R	O	F	T	A	R	T	S	W	F	A
G	A	H	G	I	R	C	T	L	L	E	W	N	A	H	L
R	H	O	I	N	T	O	W	G	G	P	D	R	W	Y	A
M	W	E	S	T	E	A	L	I	N	G	R	K	O	O	N
A	I	D	K	M	E	T	T	A	S	I	P	H	F	F	K
B	S	L	H	A	R	C	A	G	N	I	D	A	E	R	T
B	E	E	W	I	T	N	H	G	E	G	T	D	A	H	W
E	Y	I	V	D	S	S	D	A	T	A	L	P	A	W	Y
Y	A	F	H	E	D	O	E	R	P	S	A	E	O	P	F
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Y	G	I	S	D	E	A	O	C	G	S	L	R	R	S	U
A	E	R	B	U	R	N	H	A	M	S	E	L	D	I	E

Abbeywood	Goodmayes	Reading	Stratford
Bond Street	Hanwell	Romford	Taplow
Burnham	Langley	Sevenkings	Twyford
Farringdon	M Maidenhead	Shenfield	West Ealing
Forestgate	Over	Slough	Whitechapel
Gidea Park	Paddington	Southall	Woolwich



# *Up Hatherley Parish Council*

There is great pleasure in seeing a plan come together – and this is exactly what happened this summer, with the creation of a safe and accessible crossing for residents of Sunnyfield Lane across Cold Pool Lane.



For as long as I can remember, the best way to cross is to cut across the grass triangle and use the crossing where there are dropped kerbs, traffic is easy to see and there is a central refuge. The downside to this is that you get muddy feet at times (not so often in this age of climate change). The other major problem which was drawn to the Parish Council's attention was that it wasn't possible to navigate this safe route on a mobility scooter or with a pram, buggy or wheelchair. There are over 100 households in Sunnyfield Lane and many residents did not have a safe walking route to the bus stop, church or shops.



Peter Worsley, our Vice Chairman produced a sketch plan and kept showing it to anyone who was interested and eventually, with help from Roger Whyborn and the County Council Highways staff, a costed design was drawn up. The Parish Council and County Council agreed to share the funding, tests were carried out to ensure that no cables were at risk and the plan was executed. The path construction coincided with the heatwave, but the workmen started their day early and in a very short time the project was complete.

The bench needs a little tlc, but a neighbour has suggested that we work with some volunteers that are part of the B&Q foundation. When that is done, we will make a small plaque for the bench with the inscription “Peter’s path”.

Sarah Bamford (Chair)

Citizens Advice provides an  
appointment only advice service on  
Thursday morning at the  
Up Hatherley Library.

A blue speech bubble containing the text "citizens advice" in white lowercase letters.

**citizens  
advice**

**Please call 01452 527202 to arrange an  
appointment:**

**Free confidential advice on issues  
including:**

A blue speech bubble containing the text "citizens advice" in white lowercase letters.

**citizens  
advice**

\*Benefits \* Employment  
\*Housing \* Debt \* Family \* Consumer



The winners of the August Draw were

1st Prize = Guy Mewha-Williams

2nd Prize = Jan Flack

3rd Prize = Heather Marlow

The next Draw will be held on  
September 14th 2025

# Gardening News



Dry, dry and yet more dry. Have I really opened every article across the past four months with anguished mutterings about the lack of rain. It really has been quite extraordinary and how things have struggled. I have two Silver Birch trees in the garden, that look so sad, the tops fried and the lower leaves surrendering, indeed there is a confetti drift of fallen leaves wherever you look. The crops have had a real struggle too, with the fruit and grain harvests all looking light. It will change though and as is nature's way, will deliver some surprises and no doubt some bounteous moments. Having made a decision to plant more French beans last month, we are already being rewarded. We now stand on the edge of autumn, and a new season beckons. When the weather does turn there will be plenty to do and garden centres are bursting with offerings for September planting. The winter pansies and violas are about as are autumn Chrysanthemums and these can be planted as spaces are freed up. These autumn Chrysanths have become very popular in recent years, but it is worth getting them early to get the best from them. They don't really enjoy very severe cold, when they are blooming, they are quite spectacular though. Keep an eye open for wallflowers and other over wintering bedding, September is a good month to settle these things, allowing a decent root formation ahead of winter. There are also plenty of bulbs around now, with everything from crocus and snowdrops through to daffodils and tulips all teasing with the promise of a colourful spring. I will once more be committing my money to the tulips, having visited the Dutch Tulip fields in April this year I just have to have more.

On the vegetable plot find space for Spring Cabbage and for Japanese over wintering onion sets (which are great value and deliver early). Its still worth playing with a bit of late salad and if you to extend that grab some seed for Winter Density lettuce.

And finally, If you have managed to hold on to any summer bedding, especially in containers just keep them fed and watered. They could perform for at least another six weeks.

Happy Gardening

Chris Evans

# *Recipe for the Month*

## **Creamy Chicken Risotto**

25gr butter

1 finely chopped small onion

1 small red pepper seeded and diced

2 chicken breasts skinned and boneless cut into cubes

175g aborio rice

295g can chicken soup

75g frozen peas

Salt and Pepper to taste

Melt butter in a deep frying pan, saute the onions and pepper until soft, add the chicken and rice mix until all are coated. Stir in the soup also a can of water, mix well and simmer for 40 mins. Stirring now and then. Add peas and cook for a further 10 minutes and season to taste.

## CHURCH CENTRE HIRE



We are pleased to be able to offer the following availability for the regular hire of our Church Centre:

**Mondays:** from 09:00 – 16:00.

**Thursdays:** from 13:00 – 21:00.

**Fridays:** from 16:00 – 21:00.

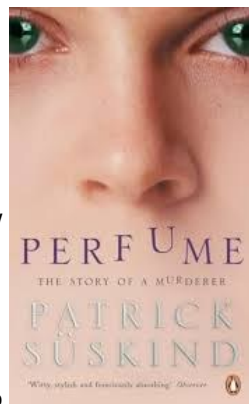
For full details of availability and features please contact Father Mark, Parish Priest, on **01242 704837**.



## **Perfume- the story of a murderer by Patrick Suskind 1985**

This was an unusual choice by the small book group we have formed at work. We meet every two or three months, talk about a book and have a bring and share supper. The supper is almost as important as the book, so we have now named ourselves “the gourmet readers”!

The book which has been translated from German into a multitude of languages (and made into a film) enjoyed a spot in the top 10 in Germany for many years after its publication in 1985. This is the only book by an author, who has given very few interviews and is quite reclusive, but the book is absolutely extraordinary.



It's the story of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, an unloved orphan in eighteenth century France, born with an exceptional sense of smell but with no odour of his own. After a difficult childhood, he becomes an apprentice to the perfumier Baldini, whose business becomes highly lucrative through the exceptional skills of his journeyman Grenouille.

From the very beginning of the book, the book is about smell and I can honestly say that I was surprised at how powerful this was as a description of filthy humanity in eighteenth century Paris – and key as to why the wealthy would have wanted to surround themselves with distracting scents.

It's a very dark tale though, because what Grenouille has the finest nose for is the smell of a virgin and he wants to capture that smell in the most unpleasant and deadly way possible – by murder. He also wants to acquire personal odour and develops a range of scents – some to make him invisible and ordinary – but some to compel people to love him.

It's a surprising tale – not for the faint hearted or sensitive - and with a major twist or two at the end but it is well worth the read.

Sarah Bamford



# *The Church Centre...*



*... is the ideal venue for...  
your children's party, work's conference,  
friends get together & concert performance  
or that extra special occasion ...*

*Wedding breakfast &  
Anniversary celebration*

*With fully equipped kitchen,  
tables & chairs, disabled access  
& outside space.*

*Room for Bouncy Castles, DJs  
& Children's Entertainers.*

*Free car parking*

*For further details telephone*

*01242 704837*



# What's On at our Church Centre

**Mondays:** 18:00-19:00 Balance of Life Pilates.

**Tuesdays:** 09:30-11:30 Child Minders  
Pre-School Group

13:30-16:00 Strength & Balance

**Wednesdays:** 16:15-21:00 Slimming World

**Thursdays:** 09:30-12:30 Jo Jingles Play Group

**Fridays:** 09:30-10:30 Balance of Life Pilates.

For further details of all these activities please see  
the noticeboards in the Centre lobby or contact  
Father Mark on 01242 704837.

## MAINTENANCE OF BURIAL & INTERMENT PLOTS

### What is permitted:

Permanent stone vases are only those authorized and have permission granted, and only fresh flowers (out of their wrappings), or cuttings from shrubs and bushes, may be placed in them.

Grassed interment plots are enclosed by a band of paving. Vases should be placed on this and not on the grass, both to respect other plots and to facilitate the maintenance of the churchyard.

Small spring bulbs may be planted (from **September to October**), under the grass of a grave with minimal disturbance to the turf.

Poppies (or small wooden remembrance crosses) at the time of Remembrance Sunday. To be removed by **30<sup>th</sup> November**.

Christmas wreaths of natural foliage are welcome from mid-December. To be removed by **31<sup>st</sup> January**.

### What is not permitted:

No artificial flowers of any kind. The only exception to this is for poppies on Remembrance Sunday.

No trees, shrubs, or roses are allowed to be planted.

No individual gardens are permitted.

Items not allowed because they are dangerous, interfere with grass cutting, will get damaged or are out of keeping with the churchyard, include such items as:

glass or other breakable or sharp items; chippings or gravel; pictures, portraits or photographs; statues or ornaments; lights (candles, solar or battery); plastic bowls, birdbaths; kerbs, railings or chains; windmills, wind-chimes, cards, animal figures, angels, etc.

The PCC retains the right to remove anything from the churchyard which does not comply with these or other regulations.