

# HARPSDEN PARISH NEWS

## OCTOBER 2025



**Associate Priest:**

*The Rev'd Pam Gordon (0118 940 6098 or  
0771 425 6272) [revpam.sdh@gmail.com](mailto:revpam.sdh@gmail.com)*

**Associate Priest:**

*The Rev'd Heather Turner (07946 352026)  
[revhwtturner@gmail.com](mailto:revhwtturner@gmail.com)*



## Pam's ponderings for October 2025

1<sup>st</sup> September brought us the meteorological definition for a change of seasons. Now is officially autumn [for us].

This is how the Church of England describes the same time 'Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life'.

As I write in September, I recognise this is a time of creativity and change. It has a special significance in so many ways, for so many people. If that's you – why not sit with this assurance '*Be still and know that I am God*' – whatever is happening.

As a benefice, we are reaching our first year of interregnum during which we have seen change, especially with the rich variety of priests who have supported us with Holy Communion. We have enjoyed a level of continuity and been blessed with creativity of mission and ministry for which we must give thanks ... thanks to God and thanks to those who have responded to give more of their time and talents to our communal life, our witness. We have been blessed.

Last week's Gospel guiding us to right stewardship as '*the children of light*' was a timely reminder that, whatever our differences, we share a focus in Jesus Christ and what is important in His Kingdom. This year has seen us seeking to do so.

Change is coming in my life and how I share that focus, choose what's important to live out my call as a disciple now, after a year without a rector. This is how I introduced that change to the churchwardens, members of the Joint PCC and the lay leadership team.

*After a year of interregnum, my annual review [with Area Dean, spiritual director and professional supervisor] and discussion with churchwardens, I am*

*resuming the ministry I had before the vacancy, focussing on those aspects of my vocation that called me to ordination in 2002.*

I will still be taking services in all 3 churches but a little less frequently than this past year. I will continue as coordinator for the ministry of the lay leaders. My diary will allow for pastoral visits but within a more defined framework. The nitty gritty is that my time will now focus on what a priest is trained and ordained for and the passions of my vocation. In a nutshell, I will be less involved in the busy business, contributing to managerial aspects.

The responsibility of a stipendiary vicar or rector will be exercised with the guidance of the Area Dean by the churchwardens' team until a priest-in-charge is appointed.

During this year I have had the privilege of meeting Leigh at least once almost every week, churchwardens monthly, lay leaders monthly and attending the Joint PCC discussions. My inbox never seemed to empty. I think those meetings have helped us all to learn more about what is involved in trying to offer worship in every church most Sundays, maintain a midweek Communion service plus all the baptisms, weddings and funerals that are requested and still be open to opportunities. That's amazing. From these meetings have come teams of efficiency and competence that draw on that increasing knowledge combined with the interests and skills of members. A year on, I suggest there are more people with greater understanding of life behind the public activities of church life, the intricacies of the Church of England and the 1001 strands that need to come together.

Many hands make light work and we have many hands. In Paul's imagery we also have the feet and eyes and ears etc etc. I pray for God's hand on each and every one of you as you play your unique part in the wonder of being '*children of light*'.

As St Paul encourages the church in Corinth '*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one*

*body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ‘*

**With my blessings for what is to come, with my thanks for all that led us this far, a Kairos time. Pam <><**

## ANNA MINISTRY

### Anna activities and community lunch

It has been decided that as there is either a harvest lunch or tea being arranged by each of the churches, to wait till November for our church community lunch. The date is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of November at 1 pm. A venue has yet to be finally decided but will either be at the Griffen in Caversham or the Bottle and Glass in Binfield Heath. Please let Rev'd Heather know your preference and if you are likely to attend. The venue will be announced in the Benefice newsletter after the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

The Anna tea in December will be different! Mindful of the darker days I am planning to hold a prayer book 1662 Communion service at 2 pm at Dunsden on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December prior to celebrating the forthcoming season of Christmas, with a glass of mulled wine, Christmas cake and mince pies. EVERY ONE is welcome, but I do need to know you are coming for catering purposes please.

Rev'd Heather 07946352026 or [revhwtturner@gmail.com](mailto:revhwtturner@gmail.com)

## SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Wholeness & Healing	Harpsden
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30 am	Holy Communion and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Harvest Morning Praise	Dunsden
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30 am	Harvest Morning Prais and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30 am	Holy Communion and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
	3.00 pm	Harvest 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 3	Shiplake
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden



Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30 am	Sunday School	Harpsden
	10.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Patronal Festival	Dunsden
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden



### **Dunsden Harvest Lunch**

The Dunsden Harvest Lunch will be after the service on Sunday 5th October, 12.30 for 1.00. A two course lunch with a glass of wine and tea and coffee for a suggested donation of £10.00. Tickets and more information [from Yvonne](#).

## Shiplake Harvest Tea

The Shiplake Harvest Bring & Share Tea will be after the 3rd Sunday at 3pm service on Sunday 19th October. Please bring a little something to share that would go with an afternoon tea and join the celebration. In the meantime, [contact Vic](#) for more information.

---

## New Bible Study House Group – The Letter to the Hebrews

Shelagh and I will be hosting a new Bible Study House Group at our home (*The Rise, 19 Rotherfield Road, Henley-on-Thames RG9 1NR*) on the **last Thursday of each month from 2–4pm**, beginning **Thursday 25th September 2025**.

We will be studying the Letter to the **Hebrews together, using *Hebrews: For Everyone Bible Study Guides*** by Tom Wright (ISBN 9780281063796). Tom Wright—also known as N. T. Wright—is one of the world’s leading New Testament scholars and a former Bishop of Durham. He is widely respected for making the Bible accessible and engaging, combining deep scholarship with clear explanation,

There will be **tea, coffee and cake**, and I have already ordered 8 copies of the study guide (priced at £4.99) in case anyone has difficulty obtaining one.

All are very welcome to come and join us as we explore this book of the New Testament and as a result get to know Jesus better.

### Upcoming dates for 2025–26 include:

25 Sept | 30 Oct | 27 Nov | 18 Dec | 29 Jan | 26 Feb | 26 Mar | 30 Apr | 28 May | 25 Jun |  
30 Jul | 27 Aug | 24 Sept

Shelagh and I look forward to welcoming you.



## Choral Evensong at St Margaret's, Harpsden

### Harpsden's Gem

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September Elsie and I attended a special Evensong at St Margaret's. What a powerful experience that was.

Whether you live in the Parish or outside, St Margaret's is a living, thriving, home, to anyone that wants to belong. It is in the community, for the community. Once a week, once a month, or once a year, it does not matter. St Margaret's has been there for hundreds of years and remains the link between the past and the future.

I have attended Evensong many times; at churches, St Paul's Cathedral, and even St George's Chapel, Windsor, but this service was different. The format of the service, led by Rev Heather, was all encompassing. The Choir, under our organist Roger, surrounded us by putting music to the words. Literally, from the very beginning, when the Choir processed from the font to the stalls singing all the way bringing the words to life, and during the service putting music to words that are normally said, drawing us all in, as a single body.

It was a wonderful feeling to belong together, and special thanks must go to Roger and all the Choir for helping make this so memorable – thank you.

*James & Elsie*



## READERS – OCTOBER

5<sup>th</sup> Kester George and Clare Ward  
12<sup>th</sup> David Williams and Patsy Lacey  
19<sup>th</sup> Nick Brown and Valerie Nicholson  
26<sup>th</sup> Benefice Service at Dunsden

## SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR OCTOBER

5<sup>th</sup> Kester and Pippa George  
12<sup>th</sup> Tilden McKean and Brenda Wright  
19<sup>th</sup> Annabel Blackwell and Jo Pavey  
26<sup>th</sup> Benefice Service at Dunsden

## INTERCESSIONS FOR OCTOBER

5<sup>th</sup> Brenda Wright  
12<sup>th</sup> Jane Burt  
19<sup>th</sup> Tilden McKean  
26<sup>th</sup> Benefice Service at Dunsden

## COFFEE ROTA OCTOBER

5<sup>th</sup> Karen Drakeford Lewis  
12<sup>th</sup> Sarah Bevan  
19<sup>th</sup> Sue Wright  
26<sup>th</sup> Benefice Service at Dunsden

# NOTICES

## Interregnum

Following the recent round of interviews, we regret that we were not able to make an appointment, and we will be advertising again in the next month or so. Meanwhile, please do continue to pray for God's provision and guidance for our next Priest in Charge.

Bishop Gavin

## Home visiting, Home Communion

If you are not able to get to church for whatever reason, the Anna team are happy to come to you whether for a visit or to enable you receive the sacrament of the consecrated bread and wine within your home.

Contrary to some people's understanding this doesn't mean you are about to be called heavenwards, it's just impractical for you to try to get to church.

Please do ring Revd Heather: 07946352026 in the first instance.

---

### CHURCH WARDENS

**David Ward**

[ds.ward51@gmail.com](mailto:ds.ward51@gmail.com)

0118 966 1400

07985 027685

**Valerie Nicholson**

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

0118 940 4285

### P.C.C. SECRETARY

**Tilden McKean**

[tilden.mckean@btinternet.com](mailto:tilden.mckean@btinternet.com)

01491 572981

### MAGAZINE EDITOR

**Sue Wright**

[susanpwright@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susanpwright@hotmail.co.uk)

07762 872208

*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/>

# ALIQUANDO

## CHAMBER CHOIR

### *Glorious Melodies*

With professional Soloists & Orchestra

**Saturday 8 November 2025**

St Mary's Church, Henley-on-Thames

7pm - doors open at 6pm



In aid of

Helen & Douglas House

**your local children's hospice**

### Tickets

Reserved £25 - Unreserved £20

[Aliquando.co.uk](http://Aliquando.co.uk) or 01491 578238

Under 16 free

*Aliquando are kindly supported by*



## In celebration of all things melodious

The music has been especially chosen to showcase, not only our professional soloists and orchestra, but some of the most glorious melodies to be found in music through the ages with works such as;

Charpentier's Te Deum, Bach Chorales

Sweelinck - Laudate Dominum

and from opera

The famous duets from Delibes' Lakmé (Flower Duet)

And from Bizet's Les Pêcheurs de Perles (Pearl Fishers)

Also the more contemporary but no less melodious, songs by Elgar, Eric Whitacre, Jenkins and Matthew Coleridge (an exciting new voice in British Choral Music)

## Professional Soloists

Soprano - Meryl Davies

Mezzo Soprano - Rosemary Clifford

Tenor - Alex Haigh

Bass Baritone - Daniel Tate

## Orchestra

Leader - Amanda Sadler

Keyboard - Ian Westley