

Welcome To All Saints' Peppard



News for November 2025

Who is Who – Contact List

Rector	The Rev'd James Stickings	0752 204 2735
Associate Priest	The Rev'd Sarah van der Watt	
Churchwardens	Paddy Lunn	paddy.lunn24@gmail.com
	Sue Ryan	suejryan@gmail.com
Benefice Office	[Administrator, Jo Winch]	01189721383
		rks.benefice@gmail.com
PCC Secretary	Ian Heriot	idheriot@gmail.com
Organist and Director of Music	David Butler	dbutler380@gmail.com
Junior Choir and Sunday Club	Rebecca Bell	becksyonig@icloud.com
Flower arranging	Ann Butler-Smith	0118 972 1871
Rotherfield Peppard Educational Trust	Sylvia Overbury	01491 628245
	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

22nd September Funeral and Burial Susan Kerr

2nd October Funeral and Burial Anne Margaret Gough

Dear Friends

As I write, the trees are a riot of reds and yellow, and they have been illuminated periodically through the day by a sun high enough in the sky to radiate some very welcome warmth. I wonder if the memory of autumn days such as this can sustain us through the month of November, not known to be the most hospitable one in terms of weather.

November of course features an important event which, though not part of the Church's liturgical calendar as such, yet has an important role in our culture. I am talking about Remembrance. We will be marking this with services beginning at both war memorials in the benefice (at St John's and at All Saints) at 10.45 on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November. (A eucharist will be celebrated at Christ the King before this, at 9.30).

There are many aspects to Remembrance. One that seems particularly apposite at the moment is revivifying the active Christian commitment to peace. Open a newspaper (or, more likely, read the news on the internet) and one will probably come across material which implies or even states directly the inevitability of a wider European conflict in the medium term. From a geopolitical point of view, this may or may not be the case. But it would seem to me to be contrary to the Gospel of Christ to say that war is inevitable and unavoidable. Yes, there will always be conflict and disagreement, and we must be realists enough to admit this. But at the heart of the Christian proclamation is that in Christ all ultimate divisions between human groups are overcome. This is not to say that everyone is 'the same': indeed, the Church is supposed to exemplify a unity-in-diversity in which our differences complement each other and work together, rather like the instrumental parts in a symphony. But even if cultures, nations, languages, races, religions, and other groups are gloriously *different*, they are not, in Christ, *divided*. As St Paul wrote to the Ephesians, Christ 'is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us.'

If this is the case, then Christians need to be at the forefront of building bridges and encouraging dialogue and discussion. War is a situation in which far from being broken down, 'walls of partition' are built up and made higher. The 'other' - the other country, the other religion, the other group - becomes an 'enemy' to be vanquished in a zero-sum game. During war the real unity which Christ achieved becomes obscured. As the light shining in the darkness which, it has the appearance of fragility, even if we know that ultimately it cannot be extinguished by the darkness.

This Remembrance may we commit ourselves to a renewed trust in the unity in Christ of all humankind. And may this knowledge inspire us to pray and work for peace in the midst of a violent world.

God bless

James

Harvest Celebration

With All Saints resplendent with russet autumnal beauty and the foot of the altar loaded with nourishing donations for Springwater Foodbank our Harvest Service was one of thanksgiving, appreciation and praise for the bounty both spiritual and bodily that we are so fortunate to enjoy, thanks to God. Our Service was greatly enhanced by the choir's beautiful anthem "Sing to the Lord of harvest" a Basque tune arranged by Barry Ferguson.

Sunday Club children had an extra special time learning about harvest thanksgiving traditions around the world which differed not only in their focus but also in the times of the year that they are held. The children showed the lovely pictures they drew of this to the congregation at the end of the Service. They were also treated to delicious apple and pear juice from the Junior Choirmistress Rebecca's garden, her own harvest from which she also donated jams and jellies to our Harvest Lunch.

A delicious Harvest Lunch was enjoyed by all in the Parish Room after the Service with a wonderful spread of freshly made bread, generous cheese and

cold meat platters, sausage rolls, quiches and nibbles followed by flavoursome home made apple and pear pies made with fruit kindly donated from parishioners' gardens. It was a very relaxed and beautiful time of sharing and fellowship. With many thanks to Adrienne, Paddy and all the contributors to our marvellous Harvest celebration.

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

On a wet Autumn morning a troop of ladies and one gentleman invaded the church for a Spring clean. Armed with vacuum cleaners and floor washers as well as dusters and polish, they set about cleaning the parts that normally only receive a weekly sweep and dust.

Spiders ran in all directions as bristly brushes chased them out of dark corners and the turning of pew cushions revealed many a tissue, various pencils and a mini toy car. Nick had the job of removing the cobwebs from high up over the nave using the brush with a specially elongated handle. After an hours hard labour a cup of tea or coffee and a (chocolate) biscuit was much enjoyed. Polishing of pews then left a pleasant lavender scent in the air but I think aching arms was another result of this vigorous task.

All in all, a good mornings work which made our lovely church building even more special.

Jane Starkey

Deanery Quiet Day

On Saturday 4th October, a Deanery Quiet Day was held at Christ the King for clergy and lay members of Henley Deanery Synod.

The day started at 9.30am with Eucharist in the church, after which the group, consisting of fourteen people from several parishes around the Deanery, moved into the main hall.

Following a brief introduction, given by James, about the structure of the day, the first session, led by Sarah, focused on Ignatian Contemplation.

Sarah introduced the session by explaining that Ignatian Contemplation is a form of imaginative prayer developed by St Ignatius of Loyola. It involves using the senses to place oneself within a scripture scene, such as one from the Gospels. This could lead to a personal encounter with Jesus and allows for the Holy Spirit to make the Gospel story present in a meaningful and transformative manner, engaging the heart, mind, and emotions. Sarah next read a passage from Matthew's Gospel (Jesus walks on water - Matthew 14:22-33) and invited us to spend some time in silence to imagine ourselves present in the scene, after which we shared our thoughts, questions and experiences.

After a short break for coffee, during which time we were encouraged to remain quiet, we reconvened for the second session of the day.

James introduced us to the concept of Centering Prayer, a practice of contemplative, silent prayer developed in America in the 1970s. Centering prayer involves sitting quietly and comfortably, then selecting a sacred word to focus on, gently returning to it when other thoughts arise. This practice fosters a deeper prayerful relationship with God by consenting to His presence within. After guiding us through the process, we each practised the prayer method for fifteen minutes, after which time we slowly came together again to discuss our experiences.

To finish off the day, we gathered in the coffee room to eat a light lunch of soup and bread together.

I think I can speak for everyone when I say that I found the Quiet Day to be a wonderful occasion: those present were comfortable in each other's company and the whole experience felt deeply spiritual. One participant commented that the times spent in silent prayer and contemplation seemed to fly by! Quiet days provide time for spiritual refreshment, deeper connection with God, peace and clarity and a renewed sense of purpose as well as space for prayer, reflection and community. We know that everyday life can be full of demands and noise; a quiet day provides time to 'simply be'

and to discern God's presence and guidance. If this appeals to you, and you think you would like to participate in a quiet day, do let the ministry team know and a quiet day can be organised for the benefice.

On a practical note, the newly refurbished church was an ideal space for hosting such an event, with room for worship, for gathering in the main hall, and for being seated around a large table to eat together. Several were visiting the church for the first time and expressed their appreciation warmly. I hope that, like me, those taking part in the quiet day left the event refreshed, peaceful and more connected to God.

Karen Broadbent

The Winningtons Celebrate

A recent photograph of the Winningtons taken not long after Barbara celebrated her 90th birthday which followed shortly after Bernard's 100th. That really is something to celebrate!



VISITS TO BRITISH CATHEDRALS – WINCHESTER

We came here in 1998 – a return to the city where two of us lived for 2 years back in the sixties. Many of you will know the story of Wiliam Walker the diver who, in the early 20th century, spent months underground replacing rotten foundations with concrete.

Winchester is the longest Gothic church in Europe although you might not realise it from outside. This the third cathedral on this site; of the two earlier ones, nothing remains. There are many burials here of famous people – including King Canute, William Rufus, William of Wykeham, Jane Austen and Bishop Samuel Wilberforce.

Other treasures include the wall paintings in the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre reckoned by some to be the best in Europe. The east window in the Lady Chapel displays two kneeling queens – Elizabeth, Henry II' wife and Queen Victoria.

Do go if you haven't been

John Hasler

Quis seperabit

In her article on the Rotherfields in the *Parish Magazine* for October, Valerie Phelps mentioned Roland Langton, a churchwarden at All Saints' Church. It occurred to me that very few readers will have known or would remember Roland so here I will attempt to fill that gap.

I first knew Roland as a bass in the choir when I joined it at Epiphany, 1967. He lived with his wife Pam in Dial House, Peppard Common, which is situated between Peppard School and the former Dog Inn on the same side of the main road where there is now a lay-by near the golf course and the start of Dog Lane. Roland had been in the Irish Guards [hence the title *Quis seperabit* which is the motto of the Irish Guards]. I did not know then but discover now that in 1949 "The King had been graciously pleased to approve that Roland

be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Palestine in 1948". The Irish Guards were in Palestine to perform internal security duties. Roland had been awarded the Military Cross in 1946. In 1920, the League of Nations granted Britain the mandate of Palestine. British-controlled Mandatory Palestine existed until the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.

Nearer to the present time, Roland was working in the City of London. He had become involved in the charitable work of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors where their hall lies between Threadneedle Street and Cornhill on a site which it has occupied since the 14th century. It was at this time that Roland introduced us to the work of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy (now the Clergy Support Trust) which holds an annual festival service in St Paul's Cathedral each May. All Saints' PCC supported the Sons of the Clergy with a donation each year.

Keith Atkinson

Anne Gough

Anne had singing lessons with me for years and was always the most lovely and enthusiastic pupil. She used to either power walk or run to her lessons from her house in the village to my home in Blounts Court Road, arriving slightly out of breath but ready for a good sing. Anne worked hard and always thanked me politely for any compliment I paid her. She was an excellent alto and skilled sight reader in the choir for many years, sitting next to Liz in the back row, and she really did love her singing. Together we prepared for her bronze RSCM singing award which she gained around 2005. She was so proud to be asked to attend a service at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, to be presented with her medal

Anne never asked for anything but gave much. She was the kindest person I have ever met and was such fun to be with, telling tales of her dog Chester's exploits and laughing over funny incidents with the church choir (of which there were many!) I looked forward to our Wednesday evenings together.

I was so sorry to hear that she had passed away. The world will be a sadder place without her bright spirit and the joy that she brought to others.

Rebecca Bell

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Services for November

Sunday 2nd November

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Reader Jenny W Ephesians 1.11-23 Gospel Luke 6.20-31

Sidesmen Eric and Adrienne Chalice Nigel

Sunday 9th November

10.50am Remembrance Service

Reader Margaret Mic. 4.1-5 Gospel John 15.12-17

Sidesmen Paddy and Barbara

Sunday 16th November

9.00am Holy Communion

Reader Henry Sidesmen Jane Starkey

10.30am Peppard Praise

Reader Junior Choir 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13 Gospel Luke 21.5-19

Sidesmen Elaine and Richard G Chalice Paddy

Sunday 23rd November

9.30am Benefice Eucharist at Christ the King

Sunday 30th November

11.15 Benefice Eucharist at St John's Kidmore End

6.30pm Candlelit Advent Service