

# Welcome To All Saints' Peppard



News for December 2025

# Who is Who – Contact List

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**Church Website** [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5977](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5977)

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

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## Parish Register

30 <sup>th</sup> October	Funeral	Rodney Hayward
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Baptism	Otto Corrie
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Memorial Service	Peter Durrant
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Baptism	Freya Dale

Dear Friends

One of the things people most frequently say to me at this time of year is, 'You're just starting your busy season, aren't you?' For all of us, it's a congested time of year, with many events, social and family gatherings and (let's not forget!) church services. My prayer for us is that we will be able to experience the peace and joy of Advent in and through all this activity, as we prepare hearts and minds (and tables, too) for the Christmas feast.

It was a great joy to celebrate Karen Broadbent's licensing as a Reader (a Licensed Lay Minister) by the Bishop of Dorchester at the Cathedral at the start of November. As an LLM, Karen will officiate at Evensong, preach in all three churches of the Benefice, and continue to minister amongst us in so many different ways. She is a huge asset to our common life, and I think as there are now three of us (myself as Rector, Sarah as Associate Priest, and Karen as LLM) we are justified in using the term 'Ministry *Team*'!

Have a very happy Christmas when it comes. Until then, may we make these words of Charles Wesley our own:

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.*

God bless

James

## **Christmas Events**

**A candle lit Advent Service will be held on Advent Sunday ,**

**30<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm.**

**All Welcome**

**Carols On the Common** *will once again be taking place on the Common.*

**When** – *On Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December*

**Time** - *5pm.*

**Bring** – *A torch*

We hope to have card readers available as an alternative to cash in the bucket

## **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES: SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 3PM AT CHRIST THE KING.**

The churchwardens of the Benefice are pleased to invite you to a Christmas get together in Christ the King Hall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December to have a bit of a social gathering prior to Christmas.

Please note we encourage you to 'bring & share' finger food, but drinks of various kinds will be served.

Come in your Christmas jumper, party frocks, or whatever, just come to have a jolly time!

*Churchwardens*

## **Autumnal Equinox**

Why does that name, Autumnal Equinox, on September 22<sup>nd</sup> make one feel restless? Change is tricky, especially the passing of summer with its welcome light and warmth, and the beginning of a new Academic Year, which may seem daunting.

But one should realize that the Cycle of the Seasons and the Rhythm of Nature are crucial to our life on this planet. We need to remember that we are dependent on Nature. When God created the world, He felt such joy and so should we in His Marvellous Creation.

So I have decided at last to welcome autumn.

This year there is much to celebrate; bounteous crops of apples, mushrooms, tomatoes, sweet chestnuts and figs, as there were blackberries in the summer. It is Harvest Festival time. Thank God, even though this year's

Harvest has been dreadful. But autumn drilling is well under way now.

One of the pleasures of Autumn is collecting conkers, and what a year this is for them. How we loved collecting them as children and stroking them in our pockets where we kept them for weeks. I have heard that putting conkers on the window-sill deters spiders which leads to another pleasure of autumn, the sight of a cobweb glistening with dew in the morning.

The Henley Show Ploughing Match, which took place last week, is a very special gathering for local farmers, families, friends and dogs, warm-hearted and encouraging. There are still some working shire horses, two of which were working there. The joy of watching a horse-drawn plough as the furrow unfurls like a wave has been a treasured memory all my life, as has the sharp scent of the tilth.

Finally there is the gloriously red Virginia Creeper.

So there is a good deal to be grateful for in Autumn. Thank God.

Valerie Phelps

## **A CHRISTMAS MEMORY**

Recently, when talking about Christmas with a friend, I was reminded of a “perfect” Christmas Picture from the past.... Christmas in the snow of 1981 at the 5pm Family Service.

Someone had left our driveway gate to the Rectory open and knowing it might be forgotten, and the donkeys would escape in the morning, I walked down to close it. I continued along the outside wall and then on through the Lych-gate..... THERE, before me, was the most perfect scene

The large well-lit Christmas tree was sparkling with the heavily fallen snow, parishioners and their excited children, walked down the pathway between snow covered gravestones that stood majestically, lit by a very bright moon. My Husband, the Rector, was standing in front of the Church door welcoming everyone and the Bells rang out across the fields. As I stood for a moment appreciating the scene, I was joined by other members of my family, creating a very loved memory of Christmas.

Anne BS

## Anne Gough

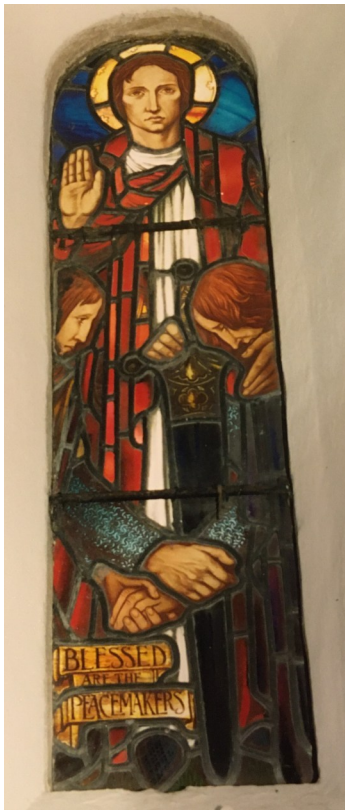
It was so heartwarming for me to see so many people in church on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to celebrate Anne's life. We enjoyed such a happy, loving relationship for the 53 years we were married and our Christian faith helped us in so many ways.

Anne was such a kind and positive person and even in her later years, when things weren't easy, she never once complained. She just carried on always looking for the bright side.

With all my love.

Richard

### My Favourite Window at All Saints



On the right side of the chancel is a window with the words 'Blessed are the Peacemakers'. This window is reputed to have been designed by Alice Meredith Williams who was a sculptor, painter, illustrator and stained glass designer. She was the wife of Morris Meredith Williams who was also a painter and illustrator. He was appointed as a war artist in the first world war. His father was the Reverend Williams who was the rector of All Saints at the time. When Morris went to France she moved to Peppard to be near his family. She volunteered on several farms in the village and worked on her art in the cottage where she lived. Apparently during this time she designed two stained glass windows. Maybe these are the two in the chancel, the second one being St. George and the Dragon on the opposite wall.

The letters exchanged by Morris and Alice are recorded in 'An Artists War: The Art and Letters of Morris and Alice Meredith Williams' by Phyllida Law, a wonderful record of his work. After the war

Morris and Alice worked on private and public memorials of the men, women and animals who died in the 1914-18 war, including the Scottish

National War Memorial and the Paisley Memorial. The seventh Beatitude 'Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall see God' Matthew 5:3 – 12 was referred to by the Archbishop of York in the VE Day Service at Westminster Abbey this year.

In this turbulent world we all pray for peace, but especially at Christmas.

Wendy Taylor

## **Ernest Frederick Flexman (1887 – 1916)**

Ernest Frederick Flexman is a name that will have been heard at All Saints' Church on Remembrance Sunday every year since soon after the First World War. However, to me the reason that it was at Peppard was not obvious.

Some years ago, during a holiday on Orkney, Sandra, Elizabeth and I visited the Scapa Flow Museum at Lyness on Hoy. I had not known then that, in the Royal Naval Cemetery at Lyness, stands this memorial stone to Leading Stoker Flexman.



Flexman was unusual in the parish as the only man to give up his life in World War 1 in the Royal Navy. All the others who made the supreme sacrifice were in the Army. He was a member of the crew of *HMS Hampshire*, an armoured cruiser, which was sunk by a German mine, laid by a U-boat off the west coast of Mainland Orkney on 5th June 1916 with a resulting massive loss of life. Of the 749 on board there were only 12 survivors. Among those who lost their lives were Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, and his staff who were on a diplomatic mission to Russia.

Flexman was born in 1887 in Kentish Town or Hampstead, depending on the source of information\*. His



baptism took place on 28th July 1887 at a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Southwark. The 1891 census indicates residence in Kilburn where his father, Frederick (1859 – 1932), was a dairyman. The 1901 census states that his father was at that time a beer seller. Flexman senior had six children, Ernest Frederick being the second born. Frederick's brother, James John (1877 – 1957) was buried in Henley Cemetery. By the time of his death on 4th April 1932, Frederick senior was living at Dunroamin, Kingwood Common, having moved to Jersey Farm, Kingwood earlier in the 20th century.

\*Mike Willoughby of Woodcote, the local war historian, states Edmonton.

Keith Atkinson

## **Karen's Big Day**



Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November was a very special day for Karen Broadbent. It was when, along with five other candidates and after two years of study and preparation, she became a Licensed Lay Minister in the Church of England at a special service conducted at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, by Bishop Gavin, Bishop of Dorchester.

So who is Karen? 55 year old Karen is a local girl born, in Reading, who has lived in Sonning Common since the age of ten. She attended Sonning Common Primary school. Followed by Chiltern Edge, the Henley College for A levels then the City of

Birmingham University where she qualified as a Librarian. She works as Senior Librarian at the Henley College and is married to Paul. They have two daughters, Anna and Charlotte and two grandsons, Elliot aged four and Alexander almost one. Her parents, Rosemary and David, also live in Sonning Common. Karen is a busy lady who has an amazing ability to pack a lot in to her life and somehow make it all look easy! She is a very involved



grandmother, enjoys singing, music and handicrafts and makes incredible celebration cakes for special occasions.

She was brought up within the United Reformed Church and Congregational Church. Christ the King, Sonning Common, became her church of choice as an adult and young mother, due to it's convenient location and it's relaxed 'in the round' worship space. Over time she gradually became increasingly involved with the church to the point where it was suggested she should train as a Lay Minister and she decided to go for it. I don't know what we would do without her.

Christ the King is part of the Benefice which includes St John's Church, Kidmore End and All Saints' Church, Peppard with Rev James Stickings, Rector and Rev Sarah van der Watt, Associate Priest. Karen is well known and loved at all three churches so members of all three congregations wanted to go to the Cathedral to attend Karen's licensing. We are so grateful to John Pearman, Bus Manager at the FISH Volunteer centre and Frances Woolaway, CEO of the Ways and Means Trust on Peppard Common who both agreed to drive their charity's minibuses to Oxford taking a full load of 32 passengers from all three churches to be there on 1<sup>st</sup> November. So, along with many members of Karen's family we were proud to be part of the service at Oxford Cathedral.

For the future Karen tells me she is looking forward to developing her ministry with children at Sonning Common Primary School and of course we will all continue to enjoy her calm and caring ministry at Christ the King.



Karen says "Training for Ministry is not something I ever thought I would do but the whole experience, whilst challenging at times, has been joyful and inspiring. I look forward with hope to wherever I may be called and am thankful to have so many friends offering support and encouragement".

Sue Nickson

## **VISITS TO BRITISH CATHEDRALS – CHESTER**

We came to Chester, founded as a Roman fortress, back in 1991 in the very early days of our cathedral visits. Chester cathedral building is not the most impressive from the outside but the setting surrounded by several monastic buildings makes up for it. The city also has extensive Roman walls which we walked round.

Without doubt the outstanding features are the choir stalls with their impressive misericords. Dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century they are, according to Patrick Cornack, the finest in England. There are 48 of them showing features of medieval life. We also admired the thirteenth century chapter-house and the abbey refectory with a stone pulpit built into the wall; from here a monk would read during meals

The cloisters are worth wandering through with a new freestanding bell tower, opened in 1975 when the bells from the main cathedral building were moved out.

John Hasler

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# Services for December



Sunday 7th December

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Reader Vera Isiah 11:1-10 Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Sidesmen Eric and Adrienne Chalice Margaret

Sunday 14th December

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Reader Rebecca Isiah 35:1-10 Gospel John Matthew 11:2-11

Sidesmen Paddy and Barbara Chalice Nigel

Sunday 21st December

9.00am Holy Communion

Reader Robert Sidesmen Robert and Henry

10.30am Peppard Praise

Reader Junior Choir Isiah 7:10-16 Gospel Matthew 1:18-end

Sidesmen Elaine and Richard G Chalice Paddy

Christmas Eve

5pm Carols on the Common

Christmas Day

9.00am Holy Communion

11am Carol Service

Sunday 28th December

No Service

