

Welcome To All Saints' Peppard



News for February 2026

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Cover Photo—Peter has his frying pan at the ready and is all set for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race

Parish Register

Dear Friends

This year Lent begins on Wednesday 18 February. To mark the beginning of this important season, the ministry team (Sarah, Karen, and I) will be making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday at Christ the King, starting at 6.30pm. Do come along with some of your favourite toppings to share. Then on Ash Wednesday itself, we will be celebrating a Benefice Eucharist with the imposition of ashes at All Saints, beginning at 7.00pm. We will all have the sign of the cross traced on our foreheads using ash made from the burning of last year's palm crosses - this symbolises our very human sinfulness and mortality. From feasting on Tuesday to fasting on Wednesday - what better way to start Lent?

It's a bit unpopular nowadays to emphasise these two human qualities of sinfulness and mortality. We are tempted to domesticate the former (as in calling a triple chocolate cookie 'sinfully delicious') and to deny the latter (as if we're all going to live forever). But I want to emphasise that there will be little depth to our Easter celebrations if we do not first acknowledge the many ways in which each of us falls short of the love that God has created us to embody. And this is not meant to freeze us in paralysing guilt, but rather to create the space for God's Spirit to work in us. Stirring us up, recalling us, restoring us, the Spirit moves us in the direction of St Paul's mystical words in Romans: 'For none of us lives, and equally none of us dies, for himself alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.' (Romans 14.7-8, *Revised English Bible*)

So, as ever, Lent is a spiritually rich time for those who respond to the invitation. As well as the service on Ash Wednesday (and the pancakes the day before!), can I encourage you to consider joining this year's Lent Study Group. We shall be meeting on five Wednesday evenings in Lent, beginning in the week following Ash Wednesday, at 7.30pm at Christ the King. For inspiration we'll be following *Lentwise* by the renowned author Paula Gooder. We have some copies available at a reduced price of £7.20. If you'd like one, please let me know by email.

God bless - and have a good Lent!

James

Shrove Tuesday on 17 th February is a Christian feast and the following day, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Traditionally people give up a luxury of some kind to remind them of when Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and nights to fast and pray. Rich, tasty foods like butter, eggs and sugar for example, were to be given up. Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them and pancakes are an ideal way to use them up.

The word “shrove” comes from “shriving” which means to listen to someone’s sins and forgive them.

THIS LOVELY CHURCH

I visited All Saints Church on Christmas Eve, en route to my daughter Susan in Sussex, it has become an annual pilgrimage! I lived for very many lovely years in Peppard, brought up our family ...all being Christened, confirmed ... going to the little School, and subsequently being married by our lovely Rector Bob Butler Smith. I helped with the flower arranging and remember dear Elizabeth Brown and her commitment to the Church and the Flower Guild, My family and I were regular worshippers and enjoyed so many events at the Church, and still remember the “Magical” Greek Evenings held on the Rectory lawns

Whilst in the Church I picked up a Parish Magazine and discovered that Ann Butler Smith still lives in the area and is involved in the monthly magazine, So on returning to my home in Lancaster I thought that I would put pen to paper and send a small THANK YOU to all those people who are keeping that lovely little church in such good condition. My visit brought back so many good memories.

Happy New Year to Everyone, and Best Wishes to anyone who might remember me....

Julie Goodman

STARDOM

In early 2008 I had a ‘phone call from Graham (FB) who asked me what I was doing on a certain date (can’t remember which). Consulting my diary I said “nothing”. Well said he how would you like to star in a TV programme?

At the time (unbeknown to me) the BBC were filming a new “comedy” series

in Henley. I put comedy in parenthesis as the programme was more of a dark comedy surrounding a group of friends who through tragic circumstances get thrown together after years apart. It was called Mutual Friends and starred Keeley Hawes and Alexander Armstrong amongst others. The final episode was to include a wedding and the producers had sought permission to use All Saints and Graham had been asked to find an organist.

The answer to Graham was obviously “yes” to which he gave me details of who I would hear from with the parting shot “you will need to negotiate your fee”. I soon heard from one of the production assistants who confirmed the date and my willingness to partake and we duly negotiated my fee. I was asked to be at the church at 8am and she suggested I bring a book with me as the filming would take all day! In the event I “escaped” at 5-30pm.

On the day I duly arrived at around 7-55pm and was told to get into any robes I might wear and stay by the organ. I was also given a ticket to present to the canteen which was situated on Manor Farm and would provide me with lunch. So I got into my cassock and surplice and waited. The vestry was being used by the actresses as a dressing room and filming was going on in the Parish Room. The director was sat at the back of the church watching it all on monitors and giving instructions. Occasionally an assistant would shout “silence” as they started filming. It was on one of these occasions that feeling bored up in the chancel I turned on my ‘phone – a Nokia which duly sang out that little tune they play as it starts up. A frustrated shout of “cut” told me I had interrupted things so I turned it off and scuttled back to the organ.

In church there were lighting rigs and camera stands. A cameraman stood in the pulpit at the wedding scene but that was a long way off as I found out. The opening sequences were of a ruckus between the groom and a “friend” who wanted to disrupt the wedding as he also wanted to marry the bride. It ended with the groom seeming to lock the intruder into the Parish Room whilst he ran into church through the main door, rushing up the aisle shouting GO GO GO to the vicar who looked at me and signalled me to start playing the wedding march.

Filming the parish room sequences took all morning and around 11-30 the actress playing the vicar appeared at my side, introduced herself, asked if I was happy with what was expected and stood in the centre of the aisle waiting for the scene to start. One rehearsal of the scene in we were told they were breaking for lunch and would film the church scenes in the

afternoon. So I made my way to Manor Farm where a double deck bus was parked which had been converted into a café with tables between seats. I queued up at the food stall, got my plate filled with (I think) lasagne, grabbed a sweet and headed for a table. As luck would have it I found someone I knew, the husband of an SCCS alto who seemingly spent his days as an “extra” on films and was here to act as a member of the congregation for the wedding scenes.

Returning to the church I got dressed again and sat patiently at the organ. Eventually the lady playing the vicar came up, stood in the centre of the chancel step and awaited instructions. When the signal was given I sat with bated breath waiting for the moment when the church door burst open and I got my signal. Going well but then CUT! Let's go again! Lost count of the number of times but eventually all went well and filming for the day ceased.

An interesting if boring day – the production assistant who had rung me wasn't wrong! I had spent almost 10 hours at church and when the episode was aired in the autumn my scene took just a couple of minutes. However as the camera followed the bride up the aisle you were able to see me playing, albeit you saw my back!



The programme survived just one series as it didn't attract an audience.

VISITS TO BRITISH CATHEDRALS – OXFORD

It was not until 2019 that we came to visit our own cathedral. Oxford Cathedral is unique in that it is both a diocesan cathedral and is also the chapel for Christ Church, one of the Oxford colleges. This can give rise to

tensions between the two. It is the only cathedral in the world that exists in this way. And it's the smallest British cathedral. Wolsey demolished four of the eight bays of the Norman nave to make way for the college quadrangle ('Tom Quad').

There is much to see. One of its special features are the stained glass windows with one commemorating the murder of Thomas a Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. We noted the wooden watching chamber, the Jacobean pulpit and the stalls in the Latin Chapel. The stone spire is the oldest of all cathedral spires. Other particular features are the Norman columns and the roof of the choir, dating from the fifteenth century.

The cathedral may be small in size but it has much to display.

John Hasler

Memories - Brawn

This brings back wartime memories of a tasty concoction rather than athletic prowess. I can remember a toothsome jelly with pieces of pork and spices in it. To achieve this was no mean feat. First a pig's head was needed. Luckily we lived on a farm and had plenty of help. The rather grisly preparations involved the thorough scrubbing and shaving of the head, cutting off the ears and snout, and chopping the meat. Mercifully I didn't know this then. Nothing was wasted and everything was piled into a cauldron with the pig's trotters, some lean beef, salt, pepper, cayenne and cloves; and boiled for many hours. In those days kitchens were not the glamorous places they may be nowadays. There might be a weakly lamb in a shoe box warming by the range.

We used to hear about Eddie Beloffle. I wondered who he was, but it meant Edible Offal. Thus pigs trotters, brains, hearts and sweetbreads were eaten. Ox tongue and oxtail were favourites. The heavy triangular iron which was heated on the range for ironing had another purpose when cold as it was put on a plate over the cold tongue to press it firmly into shape

Rabbit and hare were popular too. The latter memorably recommended by Mrs. Beeton thus: "First catch your hare" ..

We also had whale meat issued by the government. That seems abhorrent now. Relations would send food parcels from America and Canada. I can still remember chocolate and American pork sausage meat.

To help the war effort the lawns and tennis court were dug up to grow vegetables, endless brussels sprouts and beetroot. The iron fences were

uprooted and lay with their prongs looking like giants' teeth. We were told they would go to be made into Spitfires. This made us feel very patriotic.

Valerie Phelps

St Alkmund and St Werburgh

The January 2026 edition of the *Lamb and Flag*, the parish magazine for Kidmore End and Sonning Common, included a note on the appointment of a new Bishop Suffragan of Grimsby. She will be the present Archdeacon of Bournemouth, the Venerable Jean Burgess. On checking her earlier ministry in *Crockford*, she served her second curacy and then was Priest in Charge of St Alkmund and St Werburgh, Derby. That involved a dedication to two saints about whom I knew nothing!



The former St Werburgh's Church in Derby

The tower of this church dates from 1610. The tower survived flooding in 1698 but a new Queen Anne style church was built, (of which only the chancel now survives), only to be replaced in 1893 by the present building to the designs of Sir Arthur Blomfield RA. Samuel Johnson, the famous man of letters, married Elizabeth Porter here on 9th July 1735.

The building now houses an oriental restaurant.

© Copyright Jerry Evans.

Werburgh (c.650 - 3 February 700) was an Anglo-Saxon princess who became the patron saint of the city of Chester in Cheshire. Her feast day is 3

February. Werburgh was born at [Stone, Staffordshire](#), and was the daughter of King [Wulfhere of Mercia](#) (himself the Christian son of the pagan King [Penda of Mercia](#)) and his wife [Ermenilda](#), who was daughter of the [King of Kent](#). She obtained her father's consent to enter the [Abbey of Ely](#), which had been founded by her great-aunt [Etheldreda](#), the first [Abbess of Ely](#) and former queen of [Northumbria](#), whose fame was widespread. Werburgh was trained at home by [Chad](#) (afterwards Bishop of Lichfield), and by her mother; and by her aunt and grandmother. Werburgh was a [nun](#) for most of her life. During some of her life she was resident in Weeden, Northamptonshire.

Werburgh was instrumental in [convent](#) reform across England. She eventually succeeded her mother Ermenilda, her grandmother [Seaxburh](#), and great-aunt Etheldreda as fourth Abbess of Ely. She died on 3 February 700 and was buried at [Hanbury](#) in Staffordshire.



St Alkmund's Church in Derby

This church on Kedleston Road is a replacement for the church demolished in 1968 to allow construction of the Derby Inner Ring Road.

© Copyright Dave Bevis.

After more than twenty years in exile among the Picts, **Alkmund** returned with an army. As king, he acquired a reputation for being charitable to the poor and orphaned. He was killed about 800, for which King Eardwulf of Northumbria was held responsible. Whatever the exact circumstances, his death was regarded as a martyrdom, and Alkmund as a saint. He was buried

first in Shropshire and then removed to "Northworthy", or modern Derby, because of Viking raids. Miracles were reported at the tomb. In the early 10th century, his remains were translated to Shrewsbury, probably by Æthelflæd, Lady of the Mercians. When St Alkmund's, Shrewsbury became the property of Lilleshall Abbey about 1145, his body was translated back to Derby.

When St Alkmund's Church, Derby was demolished in 1968, traces of several earlier churches were revealed, stretching back to the 9th century. Artefacts found included the stone sarcophagus now in Derby Museum and Art Gallery. Six churches in England are dedicated to him. They are at Derby, Duffield, Shrewsbury, Whitchurch in Shropshire, Aymestrey and Blyborough. His feast day is 19 March.

Majority of text © Wikipedia.

Compiled by Keith Atkinson

The good Saint Bega

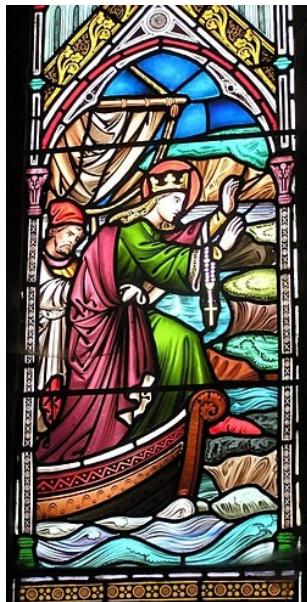
While on holiday in Cumbria several years ago, we visited Mirehouse which is near the eastern shore of Bassenthwaite Lake. Mirehouse is a 17th century house which is still a family home but it and its grounds are open to the public and in 1999 won the award for "Best Heritage Property for Families in the UK".



Mirehouse was built in 1666 by Charles Stanley, 8th Earl of Derby, who sold it in 1688 to his agent, Roger Greg. The Greg family and then their descendants, the Storys owned the estate until 1802 when Thomas Story left

it in his will to John Spedding. The Spedding family, who still own the house, have enlarged the house several times, with the last major changes occurring in the 1960s, when extensive renovation work was carried out, and in the 1980s, when the ground floor and grounds were opened to the public.

It was while we were at Mirehouse that we spotted the Church of St Bega which lies across fields and is even nearer to Bassenthwaite Lake. Sadly time did not allow us to explore further. That has now become a great disappointment.



St Bega's arrival from Ireland in stained glass in St Bees Priory.

The unusual dedication (for southern readers) requires explanation. Bega is a medieval Irish saint of [Northumbria](#), venerated primarily in the town of [St Bees](#). According to her *Life*, she was an Irish princess who fled to Northumbria to escape an arranged marriage to a [Viking](#) prince. She became an [anchoress](#) and was renowned for her piety. Several churches have been dedicated to her in England, and her feast day is still celebrated in St Bees on 7 November.

Compiled by Keith Atkinson

The Makings of a New Choir Pt 2 —Paris and Brussels

This was the first time I had experienced a “moving” congregation. As the service progressed people would leave and others come in. Seemed like a constant refreshing of the congregation. The choir was accompanied by the small choir organ, the big one reserved for the concluding voluntary. Singing in that soaring acoustic was amazing.

At the time of this visit a wartime film was being shot on the bridge behind the cathedral. Lots of actors in period costume were wandering around as we went to see what was going on. There were also German army vehicles and a

police launch in the Seine just below the cathedral. For anyone who lived through the war in Paris these sights would, I suspect, bring back nasty memories.



Not content with one cathedral we also visited Chartres Cathedral and sang there. The stained glass in that building is just stunning. Quite a day that with Mass in the morning in Notre Dame followed by a concert in Chartres Cathedral in the afternoon. We also had plenty of time to wander round the town.



The sharp eyed will recognise David & Hazel Cook.

Ten years later we visited Brussels to sing services in the Cathedral and the National Basilica of the Sacred Heart. This is a vast building on the edge of Brussels. Building started in



1905 but was interrupted by the two wars and only completed in 1969. It is supposedly the fifth largest building of its kind in the World.

The Cathedral is much older going back to the Middle Ages with much subsequent work.



The sermon sticks in my mind, not that I could understand it, but it was very apparent that half way through the preacher seamlessly changed his language from French to Flemish.

At the time of our visit the choir and altar area was undergoing large scale renovation and were curtained off. A temporary freestanding organ was in use, the main organ being screened off from dust and dirt. The organ in this building is interesting with access to the console being, I gather, one of the scariest in the world. The console is fixed high up on a wall amongst the case work and access is via the Triforium and a steep staircase down to the platform with the drop to the choir on full view! There is a staircase like that in the tower of Liverpool Cathedral which gives access to the top but is unenclosed. Going up is fine – it's the trip down where you see the tower chasm.

Rehearsing for this choir involved a trip in to London. Most of our rehearsals were undertaken in a small church in Waterloo. Occasionally we would use a hall near London Zoo and also The Friends Meeting House in Euston – a very large hall.

At the RAH we would arrive around lunchtime on the day of the concert and head through the Artistes Door down into the large changing areas where we could dump our DJ's and head up to the hall to find our seat somewhere around the organ. Air conditioning in the hall was not great and singing in the heat, particularly the summer concert, was not comfortable.

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Services for February

Sunday 1st February

9.00am Holy Communion

Reader Henry Sidesmen Adrienne and Eric

6.30pm Evensong

Reader 1 Rhona Haggai 2:1-9 Reader 2 Jenny John 2:18-22

Sidesmen Henry and Robert

Sunday 8th February

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Reader Nigel Romans 8:18-25 Gospel Matthew 6:25-end

Sidesmen Paddy Chalice Margaret

Sunday 15th February

10.30am Peppard Praise

Reader Junior Choir 2 Peter 1:16-end Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

Sidesmen Elaine and Richard G Chalice Paddy

Ash Wednesday 18th February

7.00pm Sung Eucharist with Ashing

Joel 2: 1-2,12-17 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Sunday 22nd February

10.30am Family Communion

Reader Vera Genesis 2:15-16, 3:1-7 Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Sidesman Sam and Ryan Chalice Nigel