

Welcome  
To All Saints' Peppard

News for March 2026

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

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**Barbara Winnington** As we go to press we hear that, sadly, Barbara Winnington has passed away. A long standing member of the congregation she will be remembered for her lovely smile and her wonderful collection of hats. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bernard.

Dear Friends

One of the great things about Lent is the music. As we draw closer to Holy Week, J.S. Bach's setting of the passion narratives from St Matthew and from St John really come into their own - though of course we can listen to them all throughout the year! Lent hymns, though, are a different matter, as we only hear and sing them during the season.

Some of my favourites: 'Forty days and forty nights' (Hymn 121 in our hymnbook). Without fail, this hymn enters my consciousness as we approach Lent. It has a directness that really speaks to us about temptation, and about the fact that Easter is coming. What's more, we are not spectators but rather participants in the story. Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear, / ever constant by thy side; / that with thee we may appear / at the eternal Eastertide.

And what list of favourite hymns would be complete without one by Charles Wesley? 'Jesu, lover of my soul' (Hymn 128) abounds in powerful imagery, not least that of water: water first as a symbol of turmoil and threat (Jesu, lover of my soul, / let me to thy bosom fly, / while the nearer waters roll, / while the tempest still is high); and then, more importantly, water as the symbol of salvation (let the healing streams abound ... Thou of life the fountain art).

Finally, one by William Cowper (Hymn 131), in which words and music combine to bring a sense of peace and rest: O for a closer walk with God, / a calm and heavenly frame; / a light to shine upon the road / that leads me to the Lamb! The road we are on takes us through forty days in the wilderness, but because God is by our side, we need fear nothing. I hope you continue to have a good Lent, and may the music of this season strengthen our resolve to follow Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

God bless

James

## **World Day of Prayer - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

As many of you may know, the World Day of Prayer is a world wide, ecumenical organisation led by Christian women of all denominations. Each year, all around the globe, we celebrate together on the first Friday in March with a service composed by the women of a different country. This year it is the turn of Nigeria who invite us to join them with the theme: “ I will give you rest; Come” taken from Matthew 11, vv.28 – 30.

You may think of Nigeria as just a large country on the continent of Africa but come and learn more about it's diversity and it's people, especially the women. This year we will be celebrating at 6.30pm at the refurbished Christ the King Church in Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common RG4 9TA The service will be followed by a light supper and much chatter and laughter so please come and join us. If you need a lift to the event please contact one of the committee members. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jane Starkey

### **Stand ye in the ways, .....**

and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein.. Jeremiah 6.16

Many of our All Saints' family did this every year on Rogation Sunday, the one before Ascension Day Rogation from the Latin rogare to ask dates from 747 when the country was divided into parishes. It was important to check and confirm the boundaries, as tithes, taxes and rates, the right to burial turbarry and the cutting of peat all need to be defined.

The procession of villagers, led by the clergy and churchwardens, would walk along the borders of the village stopping at intervals to thump the ground, proclaiming its belonging to them. Each person would carry a willow wand with which to beat the ground at intervals Then the choirboys would be gently swished with the wand so they would remember the boundary. Sometimes the boys were turned upside down to stand on their heads.

In the 80s and 90s our Parish Council instigated by Eddie Brooker, decided to revive the ancient custom of Beating the Bounds in Rotherfield Peppard, always supported by the Rector. Thus on the Sunday before Ascension Day after the Morning Service, we collected by the church and were blessed by the Rector. As our parish is too wide-spread for us to walk all the borders in one go, we worked out a suitable route each year lasting 2 to 3 hours, continuing from the point at

which we finished the year before. We all carried willow wands, but were very restrained in their application.

We were so pleased that Beating the Bounds was so popular in Peppard, with the same families supporting us year after year including children and grandparents. The Henley Standard put a picture of us in every year.

Our long walk was a wonderful way of getting to know people and I remember many conversations and renewed friendships.

I wonder if there could be a revival here.

Valerie Phelps

## **Junior Choir**

The New Junior Choir was started with just five choristers in September 2001 and during the last few years many choristers have come and gone, some staying for twelve or thirteen years and growing up in the choir. We've attended numerous services, nativity plays, festivals and events, presented many medals and awards over the years and welcomed the children of some of our original choristers into the junior choir.

It is hard to keep numbers up in an increasingly secular and changing world, where shops are open on Sundays and many sporting and club events are taking place but being in the choir is fun, instructive and a safe and comforting place to be. Here, too, many lasting friendships are made.

Why not give it a go? The choir director Rebecca Bell is on 0788 922 8551 or email her at [becksyonig@icloud.com](mailto:becksyonig@icloud.com) and come along for a sing! We meet every other Thursday at the Grove in Peppard for choir practice at 6.30pm and on the second, third and fourth Sunday of each month at 10.00am. We also have Sunday Club once a month, a chance to talk about the topic of the day and swap ideas over a coffee.

Being a chorister really is the best training there is.

Rebecca Bell

## **Amusing Moments**

A small boy was playing with a broom in the garden, when his mother called him for his supper. Later on in the evening she noticed that the broom was missing. William will you go outside and fetch the broom please", she asked. Then seeing that he was frightened to go out in the dark and thinking to comfort him she said "Don't be afraid of the dark. The Lord is out there and

will keep you safe.” The little boy went to the door and whispered “Lord, as you are out there already, could you please pass me the broom”.

## **St Bartholomew of Farne**



*SS Forfarshire*

I hope that readers know of the Farne Islands off the coast of Northumberland, famous for their wildlife. I also hope that they are familiar with the story of the heroism of Grace Darling (1815 – 1842). Grace was the daughter of William and Thomasin Darling and her father was the lighthouse keeper on Longstone, one of the Farne Islands. On 7 September, 1838, the *SS Forfarshire* ran aground and broke in two on the rocky island of Big Harcar. William and Grace thought that it was too rough for the lifeboat to set out from Seahouses on the mainland and so they rowed a four man Northumberland coble to the successful rescue of four men and a woman from the wreck.

That incident illustrates the conditions which may exist in an area noted for its saints, especially Aidan and Cuthbert. One of the lesser known saints of the North is Bartholomew of Farne about whom, the following account relates.

Keith Atkinson

**There follows an account taken from *Little-known Saints of the North* by the Revd Canon Kate Tristram:**

**Bartholomew of Farne** was born early in the 12th century near Whitby. His parents, who were Scandinavian, gave him the Viking name of Tostig. But when his young friends laughed at him he changed it to the more acceptable Anglo-Norman name of William. Apparently as a young man he was wild, but then, after receiving visions of Christ and the apostles, he went to Norway to sort himself out. There he was ordained deacon and priest. Many priests in Norway were married but, when a certain Norseman tried to get William to marry his daughter, William fled back to England.

He worked as a parish priest for three years and then became a monk at Durham, taking the name of Bartholomew. He had a further vision in which St. Cuthbert appeared to him and showed him the Island called the Inner Farne. Soon afterwards he became a hermit there, and lived on the Inner Farne for the remaining 42 years of his life. The mother-house at Durham had not yet established the House of Farne as a regular daughter-house with two monks: that came later in 1255. However, when Bartholomew went, there was already a monk there called Aelwin who found his new companion impossible and tried to irritate him into leaving. Bartholomew weathered this, and it was Aelwin who left. For the next 12 years Bartholomew was alone on the Island; then he was joined by the previous Prior of Durham, Thomas, who had been deposed after a row with the Bishop. The two hermits did not get on very well at first, as Thomas was very clean and fastidious, and Bartholomew was not. However they eventually became friends and Bartholomew nursed Thomas through his last illness and death.

Bartholomew was very austere, wearing skins, sleeping leaning up against the rocks, living on bread from his own corn and milk from his own cow. He used to sing psalms all round the Island in a ringing voice. He was cheerful and friendly and had many visitors, including some of the rich and powerful whom he persuaded to change their oppressive ways. In his old age the monks of Lindisfarne cared for him as much as possible. He died in 1193 and was buried in his oratory on the Inner Farne. People said that miracles at his tomb showed that he had reached the heavenly kingdom.

## Visits to British Cathedrals - Southwell

Southwell is an interesting Cathedral, having only been elevated to Cathedral status in 1884 and is still known as a Minster although it is in fact the cathedral for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. So the town is the smallest of English cities ((towns and cathedrals are always cities) and we visited in 2014.

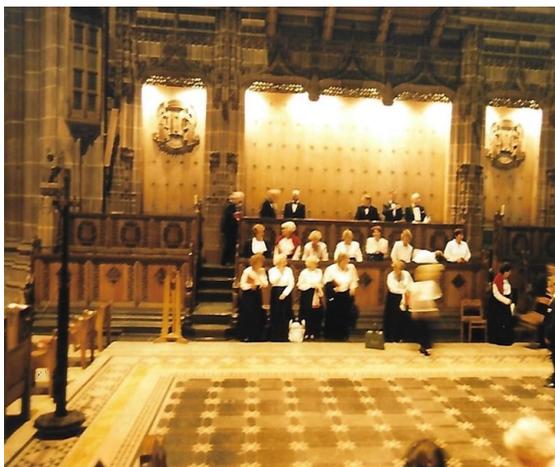
The outside is Norman but it is the interior that really commands one's interest. We were struck by the Norman nave with the great stone pillars and the barrel-vaulted ceiling considered as one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in England. And the early English choir also commands attention with fixed canopied stalls with misericord's.

But the best was yet to come. The chapter house contained some of the best stone carvings of trees and hedgerows in the English countryside. These have been described as the work of artists whose quality was thought to be the best in Europe.

John Hasler

## The Makings of a new Choir Final part –Liverpool

In 1991 the choir spent a long weekend in Liverpool singing services at the Anglican Cathedral and also singing in "Paddy's Wigwam". The Anglican



cathedral presents its own problems not least the vast acoustic. The building is cavernous and this also applies to the chancel as this photograph shows. I took it from my position in the stalls on the South side.

The gap is extremely wide and hearing the singers on the opposite side clearly isn't easy. The problems of size and subsequent acoustic, means that the cathedral insist that only

resident organists who can not only cope with the huge instrument but also the acoustic are allowed to accompany singing.

I mentioned the tower earlier. A trip up is interesting as access to the steps



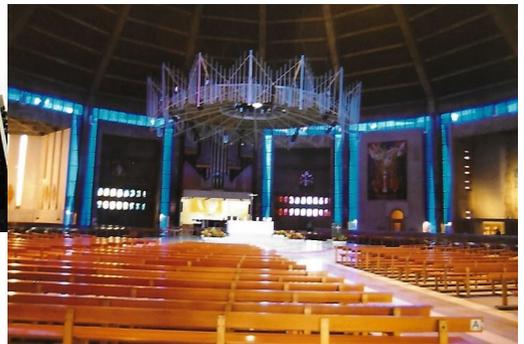
leading to the roof is gained via a small lift. You exit the lift at the foot of a long flight of stone steps with a waist high stone wall between you and a long drop.

This photo was taken on the way down



The view from the top however is worth the climb

As you know the Catholic cathedral is somewhat different! Had the war not intervened it would have looked not unlike the Anglican cathedral in size. In fact the present building is built on top of the foundations of the original design which now form the crypt.



The circular design provides its own challenges for singing but the experience is nevertheless impressive. There were many other interesting visits, not all of which we could participate in due to cost and time. One visit involved flying to Australia, another to Rome where the singers performed in the Sistine Chapel and had a short audience with the Pope. One that I did make was a concert in the Festival Hall. Not the most comfortable choir seats.

The choir has now ceased to exist sadly but the memories live on.

David Butler

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# Services for March

## Sunday 1st March

### 9.00am Holy Communion

Reader Henry Sidesmen Adrienne and Eric

### 6.30pm Evensong

Reader 1 Number 24:1-9 Reader 2 Luke 14:27-33

Sidesmen

## Sunday 8th March

### 10.30am Sung Eucharist

Reader Andrew Exodus 17:1-7 Gospel John 4:5-42

Sidesmen Paddy Chalice Margaret

## Sunday 15th March

### 10.30am Peppard Praise

Reader Junior Choir Exodus 2:1-10 Gospel Luke 2:33-35

Sidesmen Elaine and Richard G Chalice Paddy

## Sunday 22nd March

### 10.30am Family Communion

Reader Liz Ezekiel 37:1-14 Gospel John 11:1-45

Sidesman Sam and Ryan Chalice Nigel

## Sunday 29th March

### 10.30am Benefice Sung Eucharist with Palm Procession

Reader Rebecca Isaiah 50:4-9a Gospel Matthew 27:11-54

Chalice Margaret