

Welcome  
To All Saints' Peppard

News for May 2026

# 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		
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](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5977)

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

### *Editorial Team*

*Adrienne Heriot* [aeheriot@gmail.com](mailto:aeheriot@gmail.com)

*Jane Starkey* [janestarkey99@gmail.com](mailto:janestarkey99@gmail.com)

*Ann Butler-Smith* [abutlersmith@aol.com](mailto:abutlersmith@aol.com)

*Paddy Lunn* [paddy.lunn24@gmail.com](mailto:paddy.lunn24@gmail.com)

*Magazine collated by Liz Atkinson* [eatkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:eatkinson@btinternet.com)

Dear Friends

May is an exciting month for the three churches in our Benefice. At All Saints, we are now using the newly refurbished Parish Room, which is absolutely fantastic. At St John's, the first service back is a Benefice Eucharist, planned for the 31<sup>st</sup> May: do come along and see the results of the renovation, which will include new lighting and redecoration (hopefully we won't need to try out the new heating just yet!). And, of course, we continue to enjoy the refreshed worship and meeting space at Christ the King.

These projects do not happen without the hard work and dedication of many people. In particular I want to single out Ian Heriot, who project-managed the Parish Room project at All Saints, and Nick Room, who did the same for Christ the King and St John's. Without their leadership, these projects would not have happened. Thank you!

Indeed, the running of our churches depends on the generous gifts of time and money from so many people. As St Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth, the church is the body of Christ, and all of us are called to contribute according to the call of God. One of the questions we can ask ourselves is this: 'What is God calling me to be and to do in service to Christ's body and his Good News for all people?'

Earlier this year we had a training session for those interested in reading and leading the intercessions in church. Might God be calling you to this important role? From June we are planning to introduce a short, additional reading to come before the Gospel, so that we will have an Old Testament reading, one from the New Testament, and finally the Gospel. As a result, we need more readers! In tandem with this we are introducing a new layout and a revised Bible version to make reading in church more accessible and, hopefully, less daunting for those who don't have a lot of experience in this ministry. Have a look here: <https://ssra.uk/>. If you feel you could join the list of readers in our churches, please speak with one of the ministry team or churchwardens. Additional training can be provided!

God bless

James

## **Charity Lunch**

Find out about the work of CIRDIC— If you would like to find out more about the work of CIRDIC you are welcome to attend our charity lunch at Christ the King on Wednesday May 20th from 12pm – 2pm. There will be a ploughman’s lunch followed by fruit, tea & coffee and a talk by representatives from CIRDIC. You can book your place through Eventbrite, or booking slips are available at Christ the King and All Saints or phone 01189 722606 or 07711423719. We are encouraging everyone to bring a friend who may not necessarily attend our churches.

## **Good Friday**

This year All Saints’ held a Benefice Service on the afternoon of Good Friday and ten members from the three churches enacted a dramatized version of the Passion and Crucifixion of our Lord.

“Having the Identity of a Servant” was produced by Reformed Worship. At the start of the production five candles were lit and finally the Christ Candle. The choir led the congregation in the singing of five hymns including ““Were you there when they crucified my Lord” and “When I survey the wondrous cross” The final music for reflection, played by David Butler, was an organ solo - J.S. Bach’s Chorale prelude “O Mensch, bewein’ dein’ Sunde gross”, which can be found on You Tube. The story finished with the words “It is finished”. Silence prevailed whilst the Christ candle was extinguished and the choir and congregation left in silence and quiet contemplation

Sarah our Associate Priest and Karen our Lay Minister took active roles in the production and it was pleasing that there was a good congregation.

It is difficult to adequately justify in words the profound feelings which emanated from this solemn service.

Anon

## Exciting Times

The Parish Room, which dates from 1981/2, suffered from a leaking roof for several years. Despite diligent leak hunting and much application of sealants by church volunteers, the leaks persisted causing significant deterioration to the interior. This damage, combined with the rather odd shape and the outdated fixtures and fittings, have presented a rather unattractive prospect for both church functions and use by the wider community. For several years the PCC debated how to better meet the current and future needs of the church. The church architects, Jessop & Cook, investigated many options with indicative cost estimates, including complete demolition. After much deliberation, the PCC decided to retain the existing structure and undertake a major restoration. The objective was to make the best use of the existing building whilst updating the facilities and décor to modern standards.

The first step was renewal of the roof. This was a more extensive and costly task than originally anticipated as the roof deck was found to be rotten, as were several supporting joists. The roofers [Abbey Roofing] decided that, because of the unusual plan, this was the most complex flat roof they had ever renewed [there are about 50 corners to be negotiated!]. The decaying rooflights were also replaced with modern aluminium-framed units to match the other ground floor windows.

The principal elements of the internal restoration are:

- Increasing the useful internal space by removing the part of the “wing” wall on the west side.

- Renewing the electrical system to provide improved lighting and heating.

- Creating a storage room in the old kitchen area [as in the original design].

- Creating a new kitchen in the underused triangular space on the north side.

- Updating the WC to modern standards.

Creating a new flower preparation area and storage for the Flower Guild.

Although the Parish Room is a modern structure it is physically connected to the church, a Grade 2\* listed building. Thus the diocese required a faculty, even for internal works. This was a more protracted process than usual. In addition, a structural engineer's design for a new roof beam was required for approval by SODC Building Control. Both of these approvals had to be obtained before we were able to undertake a competitive tender and select a suitable contractor. Our chosen company, Thames Ceilings, started work on 12<sup>th</sup> January. All the stripping out, rewiring, replumbing and making good has been completed. The exciting stage has now been reached where the new features are being installed. The vision that has been so long in the making is now coming to fruition. We are hopeful of completion by Easter, although one can never be sure when adapting a building that some nasty surprise will not be encountered.....

As an inaugural event we are planning to hold a parish lunch after the APCM on 26<sup>th</sup> April, although hopefully it should be possible to make use of it for coffee before that. Please ensure that the 26<sup>th</sup> April is reserved in your diaries.

At a time when people bemoan the apparent decline of the church and reminisce about the "good old days", it is good to have a substantial new project in the parish to proclaim the future of the church as a welcoming and hospitable community. The rejuvenated Parish Room will provide an excellent resource for the future and enable AISS to project its mission more effectively. Hopefully we will have a much higher level of use, as was the case when it was first built. Apart from meetings, the room will be suitable for gatherings after small weddings, christenings or funerals where the participants are looking for a convenient and inexpensive reception room where catering is possible. It is noteworthy that all three churches in the benefice are engaged in similar initiatives. This is an excellent sign of renewal and is unique in the deanery, possibly in the diocese.

**Ian Heriot**

## Successful Conclusion to major Refurbishment Project

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April following the Annual General Meetings of the PCC, members of the congregation gathered in our lovely newly refurbished Parish Room to enjoy a delicious soup and finger buffet lunch together. This was the first significant event to be held in the Parish Room since its major refurbishment was completed.



Ian Heriot, a longstanding member of the church, masterminded the whole thing as Project Manager “Extraordinaire”. Ian’s extensive role included obtaining Building Regulations Permission and various Faculties. Putting the job out to tender and vetting and appointing a suitable builder. Everything from how many cupboards would be needed, checking Compliance and Regulations for facilities for disabled people, coping with a multitude of Rules and Regulations and trying to fit a quart into a pint pot to satisfy the various wishes of many potential users.

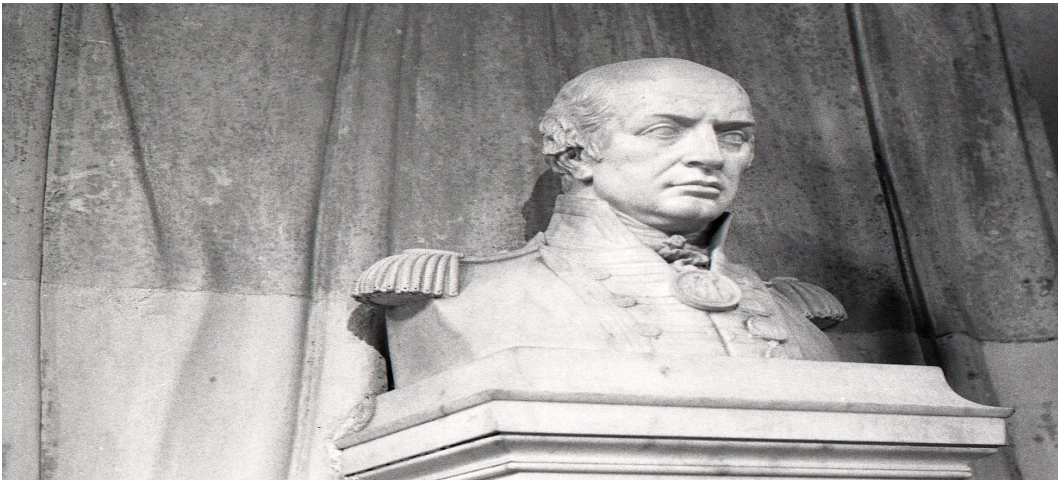
The success of the project is due to Ian’s diligent attention to detail. He visited the site almost daily and often several times a day during the three months when work was in progress establishing a good working relationship with the builders.

It is great to hear the many appreciative and approving comments made about our newly revitalised Parish Room, light, modern and clean fully equipped fitted kitchen, sparkingly tiled new toilet and excellent new lighting.

An enormous vote of thanks to Ian and to all the Buildings Committee too. Our Parish Room is now fit for the future.

Elaine Govett

## **Cuthbert Lord Collingwood (1748 – 1810)**



*Memorial of Collingwood in St Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne*

In the April 2026 edition of the *Parish Magazine*, John Hasler, in his excellent series describing visits to English Anglican cathedrals, reaches Newcastle. John states that he was struck by the number of memorials on the walls but does not mention any by name. Had he done so, he would surely have singled out Cuthbert Collingwood who, after his friend Horatio Nelson was killed, went on to win the Battle of Trafalgar. Every year on Trafalgar Day, a service is held in Newcastle Cathedral to commemorate Collingwood. He was both baptised and married in the cathedral. He was born in Newcastle and attended the Royal Grammar School there. Collingwood Street in Newcastle begins near the cathedral and it is mentioned in the first verse of *Blaydon*

*Races* by Geordie Ridley.

I went to Blaydon Races  
'Twas on the ninth of June  
Eighteen Hundred and Sixty Two  
On a summer's afternoon  
I took the bus from Balmbras  
And she was heavy laden  
Away we went along Collingwood Street  
That's on the Road to Blaydon

Oh me lads, you should've seen us gannin  
Passing the folks along the road  
And all of them were starin'  
All the lads and lasses there  
They all had smilin' faces  
Gannin along the Scotswood Road  
To see the Blaydon Races

At the mouth of the Tyne there stands a wonderful monument, erected by public subscription in 1845 and which shows Collingwood looking over the mouth of the river and out to sea. Collingwood had family members who lived at North Shields.

Much later in his life, Collingwood had a home in Morpeth and when at home he loved to walk his dog, Mr. Bounce, and would take acorns in his pocket to push into the ground, in the hope that when fully grown the oaks would provide for the construction of Royal Navy ships. Although technical advances meant that wooden ships became a thing of the past, the oak trees grew to benefit the Northumberland countryside, especially in the College Valley of the Cheviot Hills where the Collingwood oaks still survive.

Collingwood and Nelson were buried in St Paul's Cathedral.

**Keith Atkinson**

## **A Helping Hand**

Whilst struggling with the large wooden Cross in the churchyard, which was kindly erected by Valentine for Holy week and which the strong wind was trying to blow over, with the usual flint rocks around the base in which we endeavour to plant primroses etc, I heard a voice asking if I needed help!! Startled, I turned quickly, as the Cross landed gracefully on my shoulder. The voice belonged to a lady who, as she explained, had lived in Church Lane as a child and had been passing by on a walk with her dog. Accepting her help. I learned that her name was Enid Smith. She had left the area in the sixties. She had attended the Primary School and regularly came to All Saints with her parents, Now in her seventies, she was visiting relatives in Henley and had decided to have a walk down memory lane, Between us we managed to temporarily stabilize the Cross. (Thankfully Valentine managed to sort it later) However, does anyone remember an Enid Smith?

Ann Butler Smith

## **Barbara Winnington's Funeral 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Our thanks to everyone at All Saints for assisting in making Mum's funeral service such an uplifting celebration of her life. Visitors to the church all commented on how beautiful the church is and what a lovely place it is for a service. All of our extended family who were visiting All Saints were made to feel very welcome. Thank you. Particular thanks go to James and Sarah, who conducted and preached at the service. David Butler opened with a beautiful rendition of Bach's Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring and we were very grateful for the strong voices of the choir and of all the members of village choir who attended Mum's service. Everyone was in fine voice and each of the hymns, The Day Thou Gavest, Lord is Ended; Now Thank We All our God, The King of Love my Shepherd is; He Who would Valiant be, and Mum's final one Praise My Soul the King of Heaven were sung with much passion and strength – just as Mum would have wanted. The church was full and Mum would have been very moved by the beautiful words and recollections Sara and I were told

about Mum by different members of the congregation. Mum loved All Saint's Church, its choir, its singing and above all the opportunity to worship God with like-minded people of faith. She had been attending All Saints continuously since 1975; over 50 years ago and we know it had a very special place in her heart. Thank you again to all who attended Mum's funeral; and who contributed to making it a special service.

William Butler and Sara O' Byrne.

## **The Venerable Bede (673 AD - 735 AD)**



Portrait of Saint Bede ©

*St Bede - also known as the Venerable Bede - is widely regarded as the greatest of all the Anglo-Saxon scholars. He wrote around 40 books mainly dealing with theology and history.*

Bede was probably born in Monkton\*, Durham. Nothing is known of his family background. At the age of seven he was entrusted to the care of Benedict Biscop, who in 674 AD had founded the monastery of St Peter at Wearmouth. In 682 AD, Bede moved to the monastery at Jarrow, where he spent the rest of his life. By the age of 19 he had become a deacon and was promoted to priest at 30.

His scholarship covered a huge range of subjects, including commentaries on the bible, observations of nature, music and poetry. His most famous work,

which is a key source for the understanding of early British history and the arrival of Christianity, is 'Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum' or 'The Ecclesiastical History of the English People' which was completed in 731 AD. It is the first work of history in which the AD system of dating is used.

Bede died in his cell at the monastery on 26 May, 735 AD.

\*Monkton is near and south of Jarrow and Hebburn which are both on the south bank of the River Tyne.

Because the church remembers Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury on 26 May, the patronal festival of *The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735* is held on 27 May.

Churches dedicated to Bede may be found in Newcastle, Leeds, Wolverhampton, Leavening in North Yorkshire, Birmingham, Basingstoke and Clapham (both Anglican and Roman Catholic). Bede College, Durham was established in 1839, primarily for the training of school teachers. Bede's World is situated at Jarrow Hall with an Anglo-Saxon farm, village and Bede Museum.



The Galilee Chapel of Durham Cathedral is the site of Bede's final resting place, having been translated from Jarrow about 1022. His tomb bears the inscription *Hic sunt in fossa Bedae Venerabilis ossa* (Here are buried the bones of the

Venerable Bede). In the photograph below, Bede's tomb is marked by the four candles beyond the prayer desk.

**Compiled by Keith Atkinson**

## **VISITS TO BRITISH CATHEDRALS – BANGOR**

This was our second visit to Wales back in 2013. Bangor is situated at the northwest point of Wales just across from Anglesey and the Menai Strait. We found the cathedral a little hidden away. Apparently the site was chosen originally to avoid the attention of Viking raiders.

Although the original cathedral was built on the site of a sixth century monastery, the present day building was constructed under the supervision of George Gilbert Scott. The original plan had been to have a spire but this never happened as there were concerns about subsidence.

One of the most impressive features was the 'Mostyn Christ' carved in oak and seated on a rock wearing the Crown of Thorns. There were also a number of other wood works including five mice by Robert Thompson and carvings in the choir stalls.

John Hasler

### **The Revd Hugh Warwick**

The Revd Hugh Warwick, non-stipendiary minister of Rotherfield Peppard and Kidmore End & Sonning Common from 2000 to 2008, died on 10 April 2026 at the age of 86. Following his move to live in Croughton, Northamptonshire, Hugh became Hon. Assistant Curate of Aynho and Croughton with Evenley and Farthinghoe and Hinton-in-the-Hedges with Steane.

Coming from a musical family, Hugh's ministry in the Church of England was preceded by a career in music and especially when working as a programme producer for BBC Radio 3.

Photographs which were published in the *Farmer's Weekly* in 1953 show that, at that time, Hugh was a treble in the Choir of All Saints' Church. Hugh's connection with All Saints' Church is a long one.

# **Goods and Services Directory**

**All the basics for your home**– Do you have jobs around the home which you cannot do, you do not want to do, or you do not have time to do? I'm your man. Mr Fix-it Handyman Services.

**0118 972 3004 or 07794 464 273**

**Beacon Flooring** – our family run business offers a friendly, polite, professional service. Our Goring showroom caters for all flooring needs, including carpet, wood, vinyl and Karndean. We also provide a mobile service bringing samples to your door. Free estimates, free fitting on carpets over £150, stair charge may apply. Contact us by phone on **01491 454 095** or at [www.beaconflooring.co.uk](http://www.beaconflooring.co.uk)

**Compass Electrical** – All Domestic/commercial. Internal/external. ELECSA registered and approved. Local and reliable. Please call for a free quotation. **0118 972 3972 or 07737 413 314**

**Computer Problems** – PC outdated, misbehaving, virus infected? Fault diagnosis, maintenance and upgrades, networking, broadband, data recovery and migration, virus cleaning, website development and hosting, mobile phone boosting and much more. Phone Robin, Henry or Angus Piercy at Influential Computers. **01491 680036** [enquiries@influentialcomputers.com](mailto:enquiries@influentialcomputers.com)

**Eldon Tree Surgery (Ian Hogg)** –Comprehensive and professional tree surgery and woodland management. Fully qualified, professional team. £2m insurance, full quotations, tree inspection, 18 years of experience.**0771 416 5840**

**TC Fuller Plumbing and Heating** – All aspects, installations, maintenance, service and repair. Free estimates. No call out charge. Design, supply and Installation – gas heating, bath/shower rooms and plumbing refurbishments. Minor repairs and small jobs. **0118 972 4097 or 07800 914 880**

**Glazing/Glass supply** – Henley Glazing and Window Centre Ltd. Manor Farm, Peppard. Broken window replacement, glass cut to size. Mirrors, table tops and replacement windows. **01491 629 901**

**Farina's Auto Services** – Servicing all makes and models. Tyres, diagnostics, MOT's, brakes, batteries and exhausts. Kidby's Yard, Kennylands Road, Sonning Common. **0118 972 4036**

**Peppard Building Supplies** – Local delivery of all your building and Landscaping needs, paving, topsoil, bark and much, much more. Bishopsland Farm, Peppard Road, Dunsden, Reading RG4 9NR **0118 972 2028**

**K Lock** – Your chimney needs you! Brush and vacuum sweep, wood and solid fuel stove Installation. Clean, reliable Chimney sweep established 1949. **0118 942 9138 or 07860 286 411.**

**Wee-Cott Seating** – Chair caning, upholstery, loose covers, curtains and blinds, replacement cushions, furniture repairs and French polishing. For further details please contact Lizanne Smith. **0118 972 4560**

**Hobbs of Henley Ltd – the best in boating since 1870** – River trips, holiday and day boat hire, passenger vessel charter for parties, moorings, storage and repairs. **01491 572035**  
[www.hobbsofhenley.com](http://www.hobbsofhenley.com)

**Rotherfield Peppard War Memorial Hall** – Available for bookings. Good parking and hiring rates.

For details and further information, please contact the Booking Manager. **0118 972 4751**

**The Pet Barn** – here to help with any and all your pets' needs. New is our K9000 self-service dog wash. No need to book, just turn up! Come and visit us. Plenty of parking and friendly service. Blounts Court Road, Sonning Common (top of Gravel Hill). **0118 924 2747**

**Bishopswood Day Nursery and Pre-school** – Situated in Gallowstree Common we provide morning, afternoon or all day care for children age 6 weeks to 5 years. Happy, caring and stimulating environment. Ofsted approved, grant aided places available. Please contact us for more information. **0118 972 2196**

**Gardiner's Home Care** – Since 1968 Gardiner's have provided reliable and dedicated care workers to help clients to continue living in the comfort and familiarity of their own home.

<https://gardinershomecare.co.uk> **0118 334 7474**

**Kathryn Fell Photography** – specialising in Weddings, Newborn and family portraits in your home or on location such as woodland. Headshots, Branding, Events and food.

[www.Kathrynfellphotography.co.uk](http://www.Kathrynfellphotography.co.uk) **07958 371 770**

**Tomalin & Son Funeral Director and Monumental Mason** – Based in Henley on Thames, we are a local family run independent funeral director committed to providing the highest standard of care and attention to each family. 24 hour availability every day. Golden charter prepaid funeral plans available. **01491 573 370**

## Other service in the Benefice in May

Christ the King, Sonning Common

Sunday 3rd May

9.30 am Eucharist

Sunday 10th May

9.30am Eucharist

Sunday 17th May

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

Sunday 24th May

9.30am Eucharist

# Services for May

Sunday 3rd May

9.00am Holy Communion

Sidesmen Jane

6.30pm Evensong

Reader 1 Tom Zechariah 4:1-10 Reader 2 Liz Revelation 21:1-14

Sidesmen

Sunday 10th May

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Reader Vera Acts 17:22-31 Sidesmen Adrienne Chalice Nigel

Thursday 14th May Ascension Day

7pm Benefice Eucharist

Reader Rebecca Acts 1 1-11 Sidesman Paddy Chalice Margaret

Sunday 17th May

10.30am Peppard Praise

Reader Junior Choir Acts 1:6-14 Sidesmen Elaine and Richard Chalice

Paddy

Sunday 24th May

10.30am Family Communion

Reader Gillian Acts 2 1-21 Sidesmen Sam and Ryan Chalice Nigel

Sunday 31st May

11.15am Benefice Sung Eucharist at St John's Kidmore End