

HARPSDEN PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2026



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Endings and beginnings

At the time of writing, it is just two weeks since my licensing as your new Priest in Charge. What a fortnight it's been though! Alan and I have received a wonderfully warm welcome from everyone. You made us feel at home straight away and we are so grateful.

Throughout the vacancy, and since our arrival, we realise how much has been happening here, both behind the scenes and in terms of services and events. A huge thank you for all you've been doing, and to Revd's Pam, Heather and other clergy for their ministry during this time. Also, for the help and support you've given us, not to mention the peal of bells in Shiplake on our first weekend, the music, flowers, hospitality and warmth of your welcome at the licensing service, and the cards, gifts and introductions we have received. We really are delighted to be here.

We feel fortunate to have moved from the edge of the Cotswolds, where I've been Rector of the Barton Benefice since 2018, to this beautiful area on the edge of the Chilterns. Prior to 2018 we lived in Suffolk where Alan was a hospice chaplain and I combined ministry with piano teaching.

Moving house and starting a new chapter is quite an experience. Anyone who has ever done it will know what I mean by that. Not only are there the practicalities to deal with, but also a need to leave behind what is familiar and begin again. This is why I've headed this piece: *Endings and Beginnings*.

Times like this remind me of Psalm 121 which is a favourite of mine and includes this verse:

The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

As a child, I remember singing this in the church choir (not that I ever had much of a voice and still don't!) It seemed to my 10-year-old logic that the Psalmist had got it the wrong way around. How is it possible to go out before we have come in, I mused? However, this verse has often resonated with me in adult life, especially in terms of vocation where 'going out' from one situation is necessary before 'coming in' to another.

This month begins with Holy Week and Easter when we journey with our Lord through the final days of his earthly life. This too has 'going out' and 'coming in' at its core. His death on Good Friday took him from this life, but Easter celebrates that life restored through his resurrection.

On a personal note, Easter with its message of new beginning is a wonderful time to begin our ministry here, and we're looking forward to sharing this new chapter with you all.

With our thanks and every blessing,
Jane.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has shared a prayer for the Middle East



'Let us pray for God's mercy and protection for all the people of the Middle East.

'Please pray especially for Archbishop Hosam and the whole Episcopal/Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, including the Diocese of Iran.

'Anglican churches are caught up in this conflict in countries across the region. As they continue to follow Christ's call to be peacemakers, may they be strengthened in the face of yet more trial.

'Around the Anglican Communion, let us hear and join this call to urgent prayer. May God protect the innocent from this violence and destruction, and may all parties uphold international law and return to negotiations.

'And for our Anglican sisters and brothers across the region: may God's peace continue to guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.'

Archbishop Sarah Mullally

New Bible Study House Group – The Letter to the Hebrews

Shelagh and I will be hosting a new Bible Study House Group at our home (*The Rise, 19 Rotherfield Road, Henley-on-Thames RG9 1NR*) on the **last Thursday of each month from 2–4pm**, beginning **Thursday 25th September 2025**.

We will be studying the Letter to the **Hebrews together, using *Hebrews: For Everyone Bible Study Guides*** by Tom Wright (ISBN 9780281063796). Tom Wright—also known as N. T. Wright—is one of the world’s leading New Testament scholars and a former Bishop of Durham. He is widely respected for making the Bible accessible and engaging, combining deep scholarship with clear explanation,

There will be **tea, coffee and cake**, and I have already ordered 8 copies of the study guide (priced at £4.99) in case anyone has difficulty obtaining one.

All are very welcome to come and join us as we explore this book of the New Testament and as a result get to know Jesus better.

Upcoming dates for 2026 include:

30 Apr | 28 May | 25 Jun | 30 Jul | 27 Aug | 24 Sept

Shelagh and I look forward to welcoming you.

Home visiting, Home Communion

If you are not able to get to church for whatever reason, the Anna team are happy to come to you whether for a visit or to enable you to receive the sacrament of the consecrated bread and wine within your home.

Contrary to some people’s understanding this doesn’t mean you are about to be called heavenwards, it’s just impractical for you to try to get to church.

Please do ring Revd Heather: 07946352026 in the first instance.

SERVICES IN APRIL

Wednesday 1 st April	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Wholeness & Healing	Harpsden
	4.00 pm	Taize	Harpsden
Thursday 2 nd April	11.00 am	Maundy Thursday Chrism Mass	Christ Church Oxford
	4.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion And Stripping the Altar	Dunsden
	9.00 – 10.00 pm	Vigil Hour	
Friday 3 rd April	10.00 – 11.30 am	Good Friday Children's Activities and Stripping the Altar	Harpsden
	12.00 – 1.00 pm	Good Friday 3 hours at the Cross Meditation	Dunsden
	1.00 – 2.00 pm	Good Friday 3 hours at the Cross Meditation	Harpsden
	2.00 – 3.00 pm	Good Friday 3 hours at the Cross Meditation	Shiplake
Sunday 5 th April	9.30 am	Easter Holy Communion and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Easter Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Easter Holy Communion	Dunsden

Wednesday 8 th April	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 12 th April	9.30 am	Morning Praise and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
Wednesday 15 th April	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 19 th April	9.30 am	Holy Communion and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
	3.00 pm	3 rd Sunday at 3	Shiplake
Wednesday 22 nd April	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 26 th April	9.30 am	Sunday School	Harpsden
	10.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion with Wholeness & Healing	Shiplake
Wednesday 29 th April	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden

Revd Jane

Jane and Alan say:

"We're so grateful for the warm welcome we have received since arriving in the benefice. For personal messages and gifts, last Saturday's peal on Shiplake's bells, and for the wonderful licensing service and hospitality on Monday evening, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone.

For information, Jane's email address will be revd.sdh@gmail.com. She only has limited access to this until internet and telephone have been connected at the Rectory later this month."

From Pam

Thank you, Benefice, for such beautiful bouquets and a generous gift.

I hope you know how privileged I feel to have been able to support during the interregnum and the many ways this experience has brought me joy. I have seen such love in action.

It is thanks to you that I have felt so blessed.

May God's extravagant love and grace continue to build His Kingdom with us, through us and in us.

Shalom ~ Pam<><



From Heather ... having now returned from the Isle of Man.

Thank you for expressing your appreciation of my ministry ...as I remarked at the time we are all part of the royal priesthood ...bridge builders to God's created world ...so thank you too for the part you individually and corporately played ..and I am sure will continued to play under the auspices of Revd Jane and Alan ..we are all blessed by their presence and ministry with us now. Bonded in His love. Heather

READERS FOR APRIL

5th David Williams and Clare Ward
12th James Frost and Josie Peddie
19th Tilden McKean and Karen Drakeford-Lewis
26th David Ward and Jo Pavey

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR APRIL

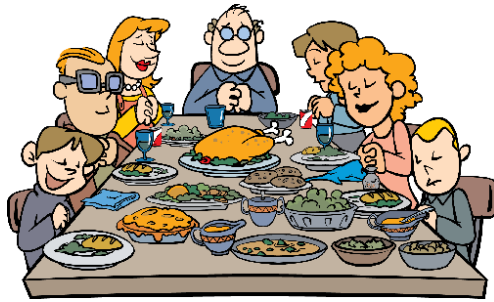
5th Tony and Sue Wright
12th Rob and Carol Lewis
19th James and Elsie Frost
26th Service at Shiplake

INTERCESSIONS FOR APRIL

5th Pippa Thomeycroft
12th Jo Taylor
19th Jane Burt
26th tbc

COFFEE ROTA FOR APRIL

5th Karen Drakeford-Lewis
12th Hilary Andrews
19th Sue Wright
26th Service at Shiplake



COMMUNITY LUNCH

30th April, Shiplake Meadows 1pm

Menu

Chicken pot pie with roasted vegetables
Quiche onion, spinach, tomato, bacon pie (could be made without bacon if so desired)

BlackBerry and apple crumbles or chocolate cheesecake

Tea or coffee

£20

please book by 16th April

ANNA TEA

16th April at 2.30 pm

Free to all that attend thanks to a very generous donation.

However, there is a charity box if you so wish to donate.

Please book by 8th April

Please contact Revd Heather to book for these occasions

revhwturner@gmail.com or 07946352026 thank you.

“Coffee, Cakes and Chatter”

Please join us, by the kind invitation of our wonderful neighbour Anna, for a Coffee Morning Extraordinaire to raise funds for the upkeep of Harpsden Cemetery



- When** Thursday 23rd April from 10.30a.m to 12.30pm
- Where** The Barn (name?) by St. Margaret's Church
- Tickets** £10 per person to include hot drinks with savoury & sweet treats
- RSVP** Please see Jane, Josie, Karen or Jo T to add your name to the guest list

We look forward to seeing you there!!

Dates for your diary

- **Friday 3rd April** Good Friday service - Henley Manor
- **Tuesday 7th April** Easter service - Henley Manor
- **Thursday 16th April** Anna Tea 14:30 *See above for details*
- **Thursday 23rd April** Harpsden fundraiser. *See above for details*
- **Thursday 30th April** Community Lunch. Shiplake Meadows 13:00 *See above for details.*
- **Sunday 3rd May** Harpsden APCM
- **Monday 11th May** SwD PCC 10am The Ark
- **Sunday 31st May** SwD APCM
- **Sunday 19th July** Harpsden Patronal Concert. A sing-a-long of favourite hymns

CHURCH WARDENS

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Harpsden Parish News is written for and by the people of this parish, and contributions are always welcome. However, the views expressed therein are those of the writers and are not necessarily shared by the Rector, the Editor and Churchwardens.

Benefice Website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/27-442AP/>

ALIQUANDO

~ CHAMBER CHOIR ~

Serenade to Spring

With music by

Handel - Billy Joel - Whitacre - Lauridsen - Britten - Dickau

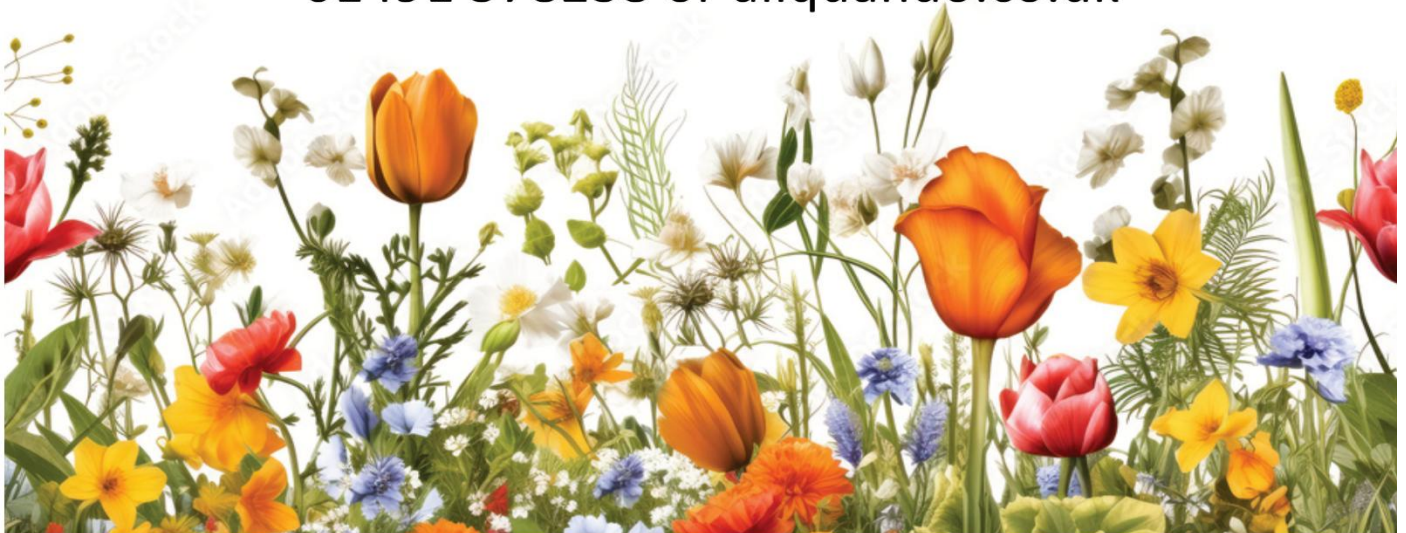
Saturday 16 May

The Christ Church Centre, Henley

7pm - doors open at 6pm

Adult Tickets £18 (Children Free)

01491 578238 or aliquando.co.uk



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