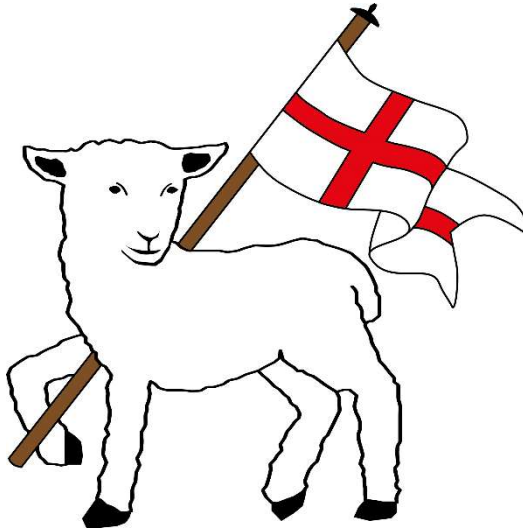


**JUNE 2026**

**The Parish of Kidmore End  
& Sonning Common**

**The Lamb and Flag**



*The parish magazine of*

**St John the Baptist Church, Kidmore End  
*and*  
Christ the King Church, Sonning Common**

**90p**

# CONTACTING THE PARISH, CLERGY AND CHURCH OFFICERS

<b>Benefice Administrator – principal contact for enquiries</b>		
Mrs Jo Winch	Telephone Email	0118 972 1383 rks.benefice@gmail.com
<b>Rector</b>		
Revd James Stickings	Telephone Email	07522 042735 revjstickings@mailbox.org
James normally takes Mondays off		
<b>Associate Priest</b>		
Revd Sarah van der Watt	Telephone Email	07508 898515 revsvdwatt@gmail.com
Sarah is available to contact on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays		
<b>Licensed Lay Minister and PCC Minutes Secretary</b>		
Karen Broadbent	Telephone Email	07837 151196 karenbroadbent@hotmail.com
<b>Churchwarden</b>		
Nick Room	Telephone Email	07973 513883 churchwardennick@gmail.com
<b>Churchwarden</b>		
	Telephone Email	
<b>PCC Secretary</b>		
Peter Blake	Telephone Email	0118 304 3409 kesc.pccsec@gmail.com
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>		
Nick Room	Telephone Email	07973 513883 kesctreasurer2019@gmail.com
<b>Musical Director – St John's</b>		
Frances Brewitt-Taylor	Telephone Email	0118 948 2743 francesbt@hotmail.com

The parish website can be found on <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/166>

# FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends

June heralds the beginning of Ordinary Time, the portion of the Church Year that bridges the Easter and Advent seasons. Ordinary Time is often overlooked, but I think it has an important part to play in the unfolding story of Christian discipleship. For it is during Ordinary Time in particular that we think of spiritual growth.

Spirituality, as I've said in a couple of recent sermons, is a bit of a slippery word. It's often mentioned in the same breath as 'wellness,' and that's fine as far as it goes. It has much to do with the inner life, that part of ourselves which is most ourselves. This is why spirituality involves prayer and, in particular, silent prayer or meditation. What lies beyond (or below) the noise of daily life? If St Paul is right, it's 'Christ in you, the hope of glory.' Where we are most ourselves is also the place where Christ, 'the image of the invisible God,' dwells within us.

At the same time, it's vital that we remember that spirituality has an outward component as well as an inner one. It's not action, or contemplation, it's action and contemplation. We cultivate our inner lives precisely so that we can be of service in our outer lives.

This is why what we do as a Benefice with regard to charity and social justice is so important. The recent charity lunch in aid of CIRDIC (Churches in Reading Drop in Centre) is a case in point – and it was particularly moving to hear about how all the work CIRDIC does with homeless people is motivated by compassion. The list goes on, of course, from support of the Springwater Food Bank to developing relationships with other groups and charities in the local area.

As we continue into Ordinary Time, thinking about our spiritual growth, let's pray for our understanding of the relationship between action and contemplation to be strengthened and deepened.

God bless

**James**

## **THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S ADDRESS TO HIS HOLINESS, POPE LEO XIV DURING HER MEETING WITH THE HOLY FATHER ON 27 APRIL**

*“For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall...” (Eph 2:14).*

Your Holiness,

Thank you for your gracious welcome, and for your prayers and kind wishes at the time of my installation. I am deeply grateful.

It is a joy and a privilege to be received by you, together with this delegation from Lambeth Palace. Last month I journeyed to my installation in Canterbury as a pilgrim, walking in the footsteps of those disciples who came before me. I have come to Rome as a pilgrim, continuing the journey that began in Canterbury. I am very pleased to be accompanied by Archbishop Richard Moth, who serves with me as a President of Churches Together in England. Archbishop Richard's presence reflects our shared ecumenical commitment at home and reminds us that the ecumenical pilgrimage is always one we undertake together – as a fellowship of Christians seeking the unity for which Christ prayed.

We give thanks for the Anglican Centre in Rome, a living fruit of the historic 1966 meeting between Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Michael Ramsey – a moment that marked a profound turning point in relations between our Churches. That encounter continues to bear fruit through ARCIC, IARCCUM, and the many relationships of trust that have grown between our Churches – signs of a shared confidence in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In our world today, we are called to live and preach the Gospel with renewed clarity. In the face of inhuman violence, deep division, and rapid societal change, we must keep telling a more hopeful story: that every human life has infinite value because we are precious children of God; that the human family is called to live as sisters and brothers; that we must therefore work together for the common good – always building bridges, never walls; that the poorest among us are closest to the heart of God; and that the forces of death are overcome by the risen life of Christ. This is the vision of Jesus Christ – it must be where we fix our eyes in the years to come. Your Holiness, you have spoken powerfully about the many injustices in our world today, but you have spoken even more powerfully about hope. Your pilgrimage to Africa was full of life and joy. The world needed this message at this time – thank

you. It reminded us that despite our sufferings, people long for life in all its fullness, and countless people are working each day for this vision of the common good. I look forward to my own journey to Ghana and Cameroon in July, and to being with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the Anglican Communion in the years to come.

Before ordination, I was a nurse, and that experience continues to shape my ministry. God continues to call me to a ministry of being alongside others in their suffering and sadness, and in their healing and joy.

As I begin this ministry, I hope to be a shepherd who loves and cares for the Church, who encourages hospitality despite our differences, who speaks prophetically into our present reality, and who proclaims Christian hope with the confidence that the Gospel of Jesus Christ remains good news for our world today.

In our ecumenical journey, I believe the Holy Spirit is inviting us into a deeper practice of hospitality, not simply as welcome, but as a form of ministry: a willingness to make space for one another as those created in the image of God and called to grow more fully into his likeness.

Already, we receive from one another gifts we cannot generate alone: depth in prayer, courage in witness, perseverance in suffering, and faithfulness in service. In these, our common witness is strengthened.

Your Holiness, I am grateful that we are able to join in prayer this morning. In the years to come, I will remain united with you in prayer: prayer for peace in our world; prayer for justice; and prayer that every person may come to discover the fullness of life that God offers. We are united in prayer because we pray to the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Your Holiness, dear brother in Christ,  
In all this, we are sustained by hope – a hope grounded in Christ himself, who calls us forward, even when the way is not yet fully clear.

May we continue to walk together in that hope, trusting that the one who has begun this good work among us will bring it to completion.

I am mindful, too, of how much His Majesty The King valued his recent visit, especially the shared prayer and spirit of fraternity it embodied. Please be assured of a warm welcome from the Church of England should you honour the United Kingdom with a visit.

With gratitude for your ministry as Bishop of Rome, and for your generous hospitality today, I assure you of my prayers as we journey together towards that unity which is the will of our Lord.

As your sister in Christ, in a spirit of prayer, friendship, and hope, I commend our shared journey into the hands of God.

## **WHERE TO JOIN A SERVICE IN JUNE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>CTK</b>	<b>SJB</b>	<b>All Saints</b>
7 June	09.30 Eucharist	11.15 Sung Eucharist	09.00 Holy Communion 18.30 Evensong
14 June	09.30 Eucharist	11.15 Sung Eucharist	10.30 Sung Eucharist
21 June	09.30 Eucharist	11.15 Sung Eucharist	10.30 Peppard Revels Service
28 June	09.30 Eucharist	18.00 Patronal Festival Benefice Evensong	10.30 Family Communion

Please check the weekly bulletins in case any of the planned arrangements are changed.

## **THE REVEREND HUGH WARWICK RIP**

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.

**Keith Atkinson**

*p.s. A Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate Hugh's life took place at All Saints' Church, Croughton on Thursday 7 May 2026.*

## **TRIBUTE TO MOIRA LAWRIE**

For 25 years, Moira Lawrie has been the Head of the Flower Team at St. John's Church. During that time, Moira and her team of flower arrangers have enhanced St. John's for our regular Sunday services and glorified it during every special festival and occasion.

When Moira took over the running of the Team in 2000, there were 14 names on the list of flower arrangers and two jugs by way of equipment! Moira persuaded Revd. Graham Foulis Brown, the incumbent at the time, to allow her to use the funds generated from doing floral arrangements for wedding and funerals for the purchase of more floral equipment. So, gradually over the years, Moira has added to the containers, pedestals and candle holders to make up the excellent resources the church now holds for every type of flower arrangement and display of candles. The candle holders we have in the windows each Christmas were spotted by Moira in a Fireplace Supply shop many years ago. They were actually designed to stand in fire grates, but Moira identified the potential for them being just right in St. John's windows.

Moira had no formal training in floristry, apart from when she did a course – in 2000 comprising four sessions - in flower arranging. However, it is obvious that she has a natural gift and flair for putting flower combinations together and that she has an excellent eye for colour, as demonstrated in the many wonderful floral displays she has produced over the years.

For some years, Moira's husband, John, was a faithful assistant to her during the many hours spent in creating various displays. I well remember finding Moira up the top of the ladder producing an arrangement around the arch of the church front



door, while John stood patiently on the bottom rung to keep her safe and to pass up the blooms as they were needed!

In previous years, before John's long illness, he and Moira would go to a flower market near Heathrow in order to get the best blooms at the most reasonable prices for special occasions such as weddings. Nowadays, Moira uses Tesco as her main supplier, while Brambles, the florists in Sonning Common, can often provide the more unusual flowers and greenery that might be needed.

St. John's is very fortunate in having Camilla Skinner to take over the reins

from Moira. Camilla is a talented flower arranger, whose mother was trained by Constance Spry.

The current team consists of: Sue Biggs, Stephanie Blake, Elizabeth Chandler, Jane Williams, Lizzie Elliot, Niamh Kendal, Jackie Russell and Nicki Layfield. We wish Camilla and her team well and we look forward to appreciating their displays in the newly decorated, brightly illuminated church.





On behalf of all who attend St. John's, I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Moira for her 25 years of unstinting hard work and artistry in making St. John's so beautiful and welcoming to all who enter.

Shirley Horne

## **THE BISHOP OF OXFORD PAID TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BISHOP RICHARD HARRIES, BARON OF PENTREGARTH WHO DIED ON 29 APRIL**

We received the sad news yesterday of the death of Bishop Richard Harries, who was Bishop of Oxford from 1987 to 2006. Bishop Richard died after a short illness and a few weeks before his 90th birthday.

Bishop Richard will be remembered by very many people across the Diocese for his intelligence and kindness, his good humour and his deep pastoral wisdom. He made a very significant impact beyond the life of the Church in the life of the nation through his ministry in the House of Lords and his writing and broadcasting, particularly on Thought for the Day. He made key contributions to Christian ethics and to interfaith relationships, particularly the relationship between Christianity and Judaism, both in Oxford and more widely.

On retirement Bishop Richard was made a life peer and continued his work in the House of Lords as Lord Harries of Pentregarth. He was one of the very best speakers in the House: always thoughtful, always respected. His speech on assisted dying in September stood out among scores of speeches that day for its clarity and compassion.

As a Diocese, we remain in debt to Richard for his gentle, encouraging leadership, inspiring appointments and skilled stewardship in his long ministry here. Like many others, I am deeply grateful personally for his encouragement and wisdom.

We give thanks for Bishop Richard's life and witness. We pray for his wife Jo and children Mark and Clare and their families. We grieve his passing and we give thanks for the sure hope of resurrection. May Richard rest in peace and rise in glory. Alleluia.

## CLERGY SUPPORT TRUST 371ST FESTIVAL – 12 MAY 2026

I was very fortunate to have attended this wonderful Service at St Paul’s Cathedral. With three cathedral choirs at the Service there was some interesting and excellent music. And the three congregational hymns were very good choices too. Here is a table of the Order of Service.

### Music

Hail Gladdening Light	Phos hilaron trans. by John Keble, music Charles Wood (1866 – 1926)	Combined choirs
Voskresenie Khristovo videvshe	Music Sergei Rachmaninov (1873 – 1943)	St Paul’s Choir
God grant with grace, he us embrace (Ps. 67)	Trans. Matthew Parker (1504 – 1575), music Thomas Tallis (1505 – 1585)	Combined choirs
O nata lux de lumine	Anon 10th century, music Morten Laridsen (b. 1943)	Blackburn Cathedral Choir
Laudate Dominum (Ps 117)	Music – Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)	St Albans Cathedral Choir
Blest pair of Sirens	John Milton (1608 – 1674), music C Hubert H Parry (1848 – 1918)	Combined choirs

### Congregational hymns

At the name of Jesus	Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817 -1877)	Tune <i>Evelyns</i> – William Henry Monk (1823 – 1889)
O thou who camest from above	Words; Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)	Tune <i>Hereford</i> – Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810 – 1876)
I heard the voice of Jesus say	Words: Horatius Bonar (1808 – 1879)	Tune <i>Kingsfold</i> – English folk song arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

## Lessons

Lesson 1	1 Thessalonians 5. 12 - 18	The Revd Paula Hamilton - Chaplain
Lesson 2	John 13. 1 - 17	Marsha de Cordova MP Hon Vice President, Clergy Support Trust and Second Church Estates Commissioner

The words of welcome and blessing were given by the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett. Andrew Carwood MBE, Director of Music conducted the St Paul's Choir, John Robinson conducted the Blackburn Cathedral Choir and William Fox, conducted the St Alban's Choir. James Orford, Organist and Hamish Wagstaff, Organ Scholar played the organ. The sermon, (which can be read on page 12 onwards) was given by the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The final anthem, *Blest pair of Sirens*, was sung by the combined choirs assembled on the dais and conducted by Andrew Carwood. This was a quite outstanding performance. The National Anthem (verses 1 & 2) was sung at the conclusion of the Service.

The procession before the service was a colourful spectacle with the representatives of the City of London, the Masters of the Livery Companies in ceremonial dress, the Bishops, choirs, the Serjeant-at-Arms, the Swordbearer, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lady Mayor of London.

The 372nd Festival will be on 11 May 2027- a once-a-year, unique opportunity to support the Clergy Support Trust (which does so much to help Anglican priests and families) and to be part of an outstanding Festival Service.

Attendance is by ticket (free). St Paul's is a welcoming place of worship. They say that 'Christian Worship has been offered on this site for over 1400 years, and all are welcome to join in with that ongoing tradition, whether you are a person of Christian faith, another faith or no faith at all.'

**Allen Harris**

## **THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY HAS STARTED HER PROGRAMME OF VISITING DIOCESES IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

The Archbishop of Canterbury will make pastoral visits to four dioceses in 2026, to meet with clergy and congregations working and worshipping in parishes, chaplaincies, schools, healthcare settings and church-run projects across the Church of England.

Archbishop Sarah's first visit was to the Diocese of Peterborough from 16-17 May, which included meeting with hospital chaplains at Kettering General Hospital, and presiding at Evensong at Peterborough Cathedral.

During this month, she will visit the Diocese of Rochester; in September, she will visit the Diocese of Leicester to help mark its 100th anniversary, and in October, she will visit the Diocese of Hereford to celebrate its 1,350th anniversary. In February 2027, she will visit the Diocese of Worcester.

Archbishop Sarah said: "As I start this new ministry, I am eager to visit dioceses and parishes across the Church of England to shine a light on where God is at work in local churches and communities.

Before her pastoral visit to the Peterborough Diocese, Archbishop Sarah said, "Visiting Peterborough will be an opportunity to witness God at work in this diocese, from its chaplaincies, and care homes, to its churches and cathedral. I am looking forward to spending time with Bishop Debbie and her teams, seeing first-hand the impact that the church is having in these communities.

"Having walked through Rochester and received such a warm welcome in its churches during my pilgrimage to Canterbury and in Holy Week, it will be a joy to spend more time in June.

"Being invited to celebrate with Bishop Martyn and the Diocese of Leicester for their centenary celebrations in September is a real privilege, marking one hundred years of this diverse diocese.

"I am also looking forward to visiting Hereford, to join with the diocese as they mark 1,350 years of faithful witness."

# THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S SERMON AT THE CLERGY SUPPORT TRUST 371ST FESTIVAL

John 13: 1-17

1 Thessalonians 5: 12 -28

*'Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet.'* (John 13.4-5)



*Photo credit Clergy Support Trust*

On Maundy Thursday it is the tradition for priests in cathedrals and churches around the world to take off our vestments, wrap a towel around our waists, and wash feet. This year I washed the feet of members of the congregation in Canterbury for the first time.

But I have to say in the past I have often struggled to find people wanting to have their feet washed. There are many reasons why people don't want to have their feet washed - it makes them feel

uncomfortable and self-conscious – it means having something done to you – in public – it's exposing.

The disciples' feet would have been hot and dirty after a long day - they needed cleaning and cooling - usually a slave or servant would have done it for them. Watching and experiencing Jesus washing their feet would have been shocking for everyone. Peter's response is not surprising as, effectively, he says to Jesus 'surely you're not going to wash my feet', and, of course, that is the point. It was demeaning - usually the role of the lowest and most unimportant – the slave or the servant.

As Jesus washed the disciples' feet, he took on the role of the servant. We hear that "After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the

table, he said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you?’ That is a question we need to hear Jesus asking us today too. Do we really understand the profound example that Jesus shows us as he washes the disciples’ feet?

Jesus goes on to say, "So if I, your Lord and Teacher, has washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." This is the model we follow on Maundy Thursday. This is the model of servant leadership set by Jesus.

We see this model of servant leadership again, and again, in the ministry of Jesus. Unafraid to touch the untouchables - Jesus touches the leper and enters into the social and spiritual isolation of leprosy. Unafraid to talk to the isolated and unclean - Jesus talks to the Samaritan women at the well offering her living water and risking social impurity. And, unafraid to follow the path of suffering – Jesus offers the ultimate act of service as he is hung on the tree to die.

Jesus himself serves, and he shows us the way to serve. We are called to be a servant people – a foot-washing people. We are called to serve one another and to serve the world as Jesus did. This is how the love of God is shown in the world – through acts of service.

Later in this chapter of John’s Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples a new command saying “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

This is our call as disciples to love and to serve. And as we follow the path of love and service, we are changed by it. As we show the love of God to the world, we ourselves become more and more like Jesus. But this call to love and serve is costly. It is only through the strength and empowering of the Holy Spirit that we can respond to this call to love and serve.

It is this call to love and serve that we see in those around us this evening as we gather to celebrate and give thanks for the Clergy Support Trust. We are gathered here as clergy who are called to serve. We are gathered here as clergy spouses and families who are called to support the family member through service. We are gathered here as those who serve in many other ways in parishes, chaplaincies and cathedrals up and down the country. And we are gathered here as the benefactors,

trustees and staff of the Clergy Support Trust which provides vital support to clergy and their spouses and families.

For all those here who are called to this costly ministry in whatever capacity, we need also to care for ourselves. We cannot keep on giving, loving and serving, if we aren't sometimes on the receiving end – being loved, cared for and served by others. If we are to wash the feet of others, we must also allow our feet to be washed. If we are to sit and listen to others, we must be willing to sit and be listened too. The demands of ministry often feel relentless.

My Christian vocation first led me to become a nurse – then later a priest, then a bishop, and now an archbishop. The theme that has run through all those chapters of my life has been washing feet and serving and caring for others. And so, I believe that I have been called to love and serve in my new role as archbishop by being a shepherd, caring for the flock with calm, compassion and consistency, enabling others to flourish. I can't follow that calling alone – I need those around me to care for me so I too can care for others.

We heard in the final chapter of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, "But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work."

This evening - let's acknowledge those who work hard among us and in the world to follow God's call to love and service – whatever their role.

I give thanks for the work of the Clergy Support Trust. I am hugely grateful for this ministry of service just as I am hugely grateful for the costly ministry offered by clergy in so many different contexts. I also want to acknowledge and give thanks for the often-unrecognised contribution and service of clergy spouses and families.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." Amen

# HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV ENCOURAGED ALL CHRISTIANS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS IN A MESSAGE MARKING THE START OF *THY KINGDOM COME* ON 14 MAY

*Pope Leo has followed his predecessor Pope Francis in giving his public backing to Thy Kingdom Come. This is a message for all.*



*Leo PP. XIV*

*Official free photo - copyright Vatican Media*

Dear brothers and sisters, I am pleased to greet all of you taking part in the *Thy Kingdom Come* ecumenical prayer event and assure you of my closeness.

Each year during the Advent Season, Christians address God with the words, ‘come Emmanuel.’ With great urgency we cry out for the fulfilment of Isaiah’s prophesy for the birth of Emmanuel whose name means ‘God is with us.’

Throughout that season in our psalms and our prayers we repeat this call in ever greater urgency, ‘come, God with us.’ We long for him to save us from our sins and our foolishness, and all that might harm us. We long for him to heal what is broken in us and what is broken in our world. Even though we know that God is almighty and transcendent we are bold enough

to ask him to be truly with us, not distant, but close. We are bold enough to cry out with the prophets all, that you would tear open the heavens and come down.

But it is true that we sometimes stumble and forget about God and our need for him. At the core of our being we know that only he can satisfy our deepest longings and our inner restlessness. Perhaps the most beautiful expression of this may be found in the writings of St Augustine. ‘You have made us for yourself O Lord and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.’

In Jesus, God has indeed come close; he reveals himself in flesh and through his Holy Spirit he is with us now. Now in these weeks of Eastertide, alleluia is our song

in a particular way. We offer praise and thanksgiving for the resurrection of the Lord from the dead. He is still, 'God with us.' At the same time, we learn from the gospels that even those closest to Jesus did not always recognise him in the days following his resurrection. Even Mary Magdalene first thought that the risen Lord was the gardener. And although he was not immediately recognised, he was truly present. And Jesus is still present for when he returns to the Father's side, he did not leave us orphans. He remains with us in the gift of the Holy Spirit. And we encounter him in a variety of ways for he is always to be present in the Church.

Dear friends, Christ is everything for us; with him we find the fullness of life and its meaning. This is not something about which we can keep silent. It is something to proclaim boldly for it is indeed good news and needs to be shared. God is with us, and we who have encountered him are called to tell others about him.

In these days of the *Thy Kingdom Come* novena are an especially fitting time to do so and to pray that others may come to encounter the saving and liberating love of God revealed in Jesus.

Dear brothers and sisters, I would like to conclude by sharing with you some words from my homily in the Basilica on Easter night. The encounter to which we wish to bear witness are the words of faith and the works of charity. We do so by singing the alleluia with our lives that we proclaim with our lips. Just as the women rushed to tell the disciples we too should be desiring to set out to bring to all the good news that Jesus has risen, and, that having risen with him with his power, we too can give life to a new world of peace and unity as a multitude of people. And yet for a single person - for although there are many Christians - Christ is one.

With these thoughts I willingly invoke upon you all God's abundant blessings. And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit come upon you and be with you always. Amen.

## **LUNCH IN AID OF CHURCHES IN READING DROP IN CENTRE – 'CIRDIC'**

There was a very convivial atmosphere in Christ the King on Wednesday 20 May when a lunch was provided to raise funds for CIRDIC, the charity for the homeless based in Berkeley Avenue, Reading.

The idea was the ‘brainchild’ of Jill Pound who gathered a team consisting of herself, Paddy Lunn, Felicity Cooper, Gillian Stickings, Vivian Rex, Laura Pound, Sian Lovett and Elaine Newman to organise the event. The team held various planning meetings, and the result was an excellent cold buffet lunch, based around bread, cheese and fruit, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The tables were laid out in the Christ the King hall and over thirty people attended. Revd. James welcomed us and said a prayer before lunch commenced. At the end of lunch, James introduced Mabel Boyd, manager of CIRDIC for the past 21 years, who gave a talk about CIRDIC and its work.

Mabel told us that in 1990 it was recognised that there was a need for a centre



for the homeless to obtain food, clothing, shelter and the basic necessities of being able to shower, bath, receive medical attention and visit a barber. It is a Christian organisation run by a Board of Directors and a Management Team. There are 70 volunteers who work there and it is open every day except Wednesday and Saturday. It is based in an old church which has had some modernisation in the recent past, including the installation of double glazing and a new heating system. Mabel has a “right hand woman” - Andrea who has worked at the centre for 13 years.

*Mabel and Andrea*

Mabel greets each homeless person at the door each morning and she asks them if they require a shower, bath, the nurse or the barber so that arrangements can be made. Then they are admitted for breakfast and lunch. Sandwiches and cakes are donated by supermarkets. There are about 40-50 homeless who use the centre. A nurse comes in once a week for those who need some medical attention.

Mabel runs a ‘tight ship.’ She attributes her strength to God’s guidance and to her background, growing up during the ‘Troubles’ of Northern Ireland. In her 21 years at the centre, she has never had to call the police, a remarkable feat when one considers how some people come to the centre under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Mabel’s policy is to admit everybody but if anyone should start to make trouble, they are asked to leave.



*Lunch in action*



*Fellowship chatter in action*

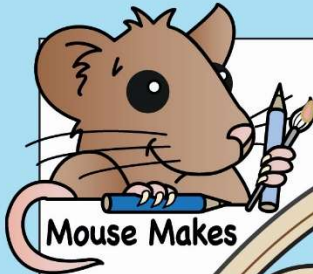
During questions to Mabel after her talk, she was asked what items are most needed at the moment. Mabel said there is always a need for men's spray deodorant and all toiletries, such as shampoo and shower gel. James thanked Mabel for her interesting, informative speech and this was followed by much applause.

The lunch raised £415 before Gift Aid has been added. So, the final total will be in excess of this figure. Our warmest thanks and congratulations to Jill, Paddy and their team for a splendid effort!

**Shirley Horne**

*Ed – thank you to Shirley for the photos too.*




# CENTRE SPOT FOR YOUNGSTERS



"May the grace of the Lord  
**JESUS CHRIST** and the  
love of **GOD** and the  
fellowship of the  
**HOLY SPIRIT** be  
with you all."

*2 Corinthians  
13:14*



 <b>FATHER</b>		
V HIW	O ISD	V UDE
VENLR	JYIAM	TRUTH
SLAEPLG	ACGODJM	THAHSRI
HALDOOR	LROCKUA	OSPOWER
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The tale of  
the  
Salt  
and  
Light



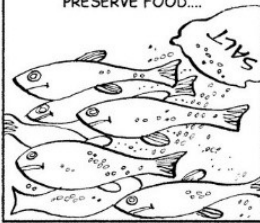
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS




HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A BIT LIKE SALT!




IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED PRESERVE FOOD....



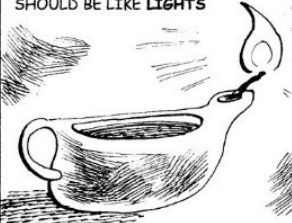
....AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR. IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED




SALT HELPED MAKE LIFE BETTER - WE TOO SHOULD HELP MAKE LIFE BETTER IF WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS!




JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS SHOULD BE LIKE LIGHTS



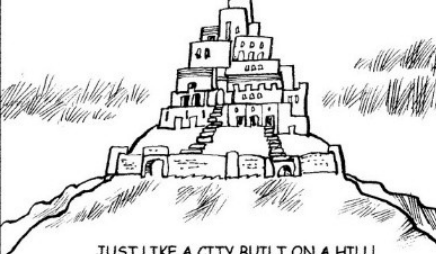
'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS



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## **ARCHBISHOP SARAH PLEDGES SOLIDARITY WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY DURING A VISIT TO THE STERNBERG CENTRE FOR JUDAISM**

The Archbishop visited the headquarters of The Movement for Progressive Judaism in Finchley on 18 May to express her concern and solidarity in the wake of rising antisemitic attacks around the UK, and to witness the vibrant life and work of the Progressive Jewish community at the Sternberg Centre.

Hosted by Rabbi Charley Baginsky and Rabbi Josh Levy, Co-Leads of The Movement for Progressive Judaism, the Archbishop also visited Leo Baeck College – a rabbinical seminary and centre for the training of teachers in Jewish education – and the Akiva Jewish Primary School, where she witnessed the security measures in place to protect children and staff.



*Rabbis Josh Levy and Charley Baginsky with Archbishop Sarah. Photo credit Lambeth Palace.*

During the visit, the Archbishop spent time with Rabbi Charley and Rabbi Josh to hear about the challenges facing their community in the wake of rising antisemitism, and the importance of working together to promote interfaith dialogue and solidarity.

She then visited Leo Baeck College, where she met with and addressed Progressive Jewish clergy and student clergy. The Archbishop also spoke with Rabbi Eleanor Davis of Finchley Reform Synagogue, where an arson attack took place last month.

Later, the Archbishop spent time with pupils and teachers at Akiva Primary, dropping in on several classes to speak with pupils about the friendship between Christian and Jewish communities.

Praising the Sternberg Centre and the wider Jewish community, Archbishop Sarah said: “From charity work and healthcare, to education and the arts, your flourishing community enriches society and embodies the best values of this country.”

Speaking of the ongoing rise in antisemitism in the UK, the Archbishop said: “This is not a problem for the Jewish community to solve alone. It’s on all of us – every single member of our society – to call out antisemitism whenever we see it, and to oppose it without hesitation or qualification.”

Reflecting on the visit, Rabbi Josh and Rabbi Charley said: “We are living through a time when loud voices are trying to deepen divisions between communities, and especially between faith communities.

“To have the Archbishop of Canterbury with us at such a moment was a powerful act of solidarity and care. Her presence meant a great deal at a time of rising antisemitism, and we are grateful for her clear support and willingness to stand with our community.

“Her visit also pointed to a better vision of public life, one in which faith communities and minorities recognise one another’s dignity, stand alongside each other, and work together for the common good.

“We were able to share with her the breadth and depth of our communities across the four nations, and to speak about the faithful and often unseen work they do every day.”

## **CONCERT: LIGHT AND LIFE!**

Our celebrations for the re-opening of St John's church, Kidmore End, are taking shape very well. The concert on Saturday 27 June at 3pm will feature the Nostalgia Brass group, playing well-known favourite folk and jazz songs, the Church Choir

(including extra singers from Goring Chamber Choir) singing cheerful songs from around the world, vocal duets and trios, and, we hope, children from Kidmore End School performing for us. So, this will be an exciting community event. Admission is free, but donations will be welcomed towards the next stage of improvements to St John's Church. Refreshments will be served after the concert; visitors will be able to enjoy the floral tributes on the graves in the churchyard if the weather permits.

Frances Brewitt-Taylor

## **PATRONAL FESTIVAL**

St John's Patronal Festival will be celebrated on Sunday 28 June with a service of Evensong at 6pm. The regular choir will be augmented with singers from Goring Chamber Choir, enabling us to offer music to a high standard for this special occasion, when we celebrate the re-opening of the church for regular worship. All are welcome.

## **WHERE DID THE HYMN, THE GREAT FORERUNNER OF THE MORN COME FROM?**

The words, 'the great forerunner,' will probably leave you in no doubt that this is a hymn about St John the Baptist whose nativity will be observed at Evensong on 28 June at St John's, Church.

The original lyrics were written by the Venerable Bede (673 – 735) with the title *Precursor altus luminis*. These Latin words roughly translate as the forerunner of the high light. Bede was a remarkable theologian, historian, and chronologist. At the age of 7 he was taken to the monastery of St Peter at Monkwearmouth, near Sunderland, Tyne and Wear. The Abbot, St Benedict Biscop had a great influence on his early years. At the age of 19 he was ordained a deacon and ordained a priest at the age of 30. Although he visited Lindisfarne and York, he spent all his life at Monkwearmouth/Jarrow. His famous literary work is *Historia ecclesiastica* completed around 731/732. Comprised in five books it records early British history from the invasions of troops representing Julius Caesar to the arrival of St Augustine in 597. Bede took care to ensure, as best he could, to only record events that were authentic. The work became a very valuable early history of the British Isles.

The translation of Bede's original text was undertaken by John Mason Neale (1816 – 1866) in 1854. Neale's contribution to our collection of hymns through translation of Latin and Greek texts is remarkable. He was born in London to well-educated parents. He was a gifted scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge and was ordained a

Church of England priest in 1842. He was influenced by the Oxford Movement and had sympathies towards Rome. Ill health forced him to take up a role of warden at Sackville College, a retirement home for poor people near East Grinstead. In this somewhat seclusive place he produced a large collection of books and articles, and translations of early hymns. Hymnal editors had to re-arrange some of his translated texts to make them more ‘singable.’ Neale had no qualms about this and in a generous gesture he said that he was delighted that his works could be of use to hymnody. He regarded his works as the ‘property of Christendom.’

This hymn has found its place in many hymnals. The Parish Hymnal provides the tune *Von Himmel Hoch*, a German tune composed by Martin Luther (1483 – 1546) in 1535. When the hymn was included in the 1861 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, the musical editor, William Henry Monk set the hymn to a tune named *Beccles*. Other contemporary hymnals often use the tune *Winchester New*, oddly enough invariably used for another hymn associated with St John the Baptist, *On Jordans’ bank, the Baptist’s cry*.

Allen Harris

## PARISH SHARE AT 30 APRIL 2026

Archdeaconry	Amount paid	Outstanding	% Paid
Berkshire	£ 1,881,979	£ 4,227,511	30.8
Buckingham	£ 1,942,305	£ 5,122,514	27.5
Dorchester	£ 1,928,767	£ 4,463,714	30.2
Oxford	£ 525,126	£ 1,352,225	28.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£ 6,278,177</b>	<b>£15,165,965</b>	<b>29.3</b>

The 2026 Parish Share contributions continue to accumulate. The table above shows how much each of the four archdeaconries have contributed as at 30 April 2026. At this point in 2025 the aggregate contributions were £6,145,150. Henley Deanery has contributed £160,620 which is 23.1% of the allocation. In 2025, at this point, the percentage contribution was 21.6%.

## DATES FOR DIARIES

Date	Event	Where?
Saturday 27 June	'Light and Life' Concert at 15.00	SJB
Sunday 28 June	Patronal Festival Benefice Evensong at 18.00	SJB
Sunday 1 November	Patronal Festival Benefice Eucharist at 10.30	All Saints'
Saturday 21 November	Wine and Song (tbc)	Kidmore End School
Sunday 22 November	Patronal Festival Benefice Eucharist at 09.30	CTK
Saturday 28 November	Benefice 'Quiet Morning' 09.30 – 13.00	CTK
Tuesday 22 December	Parish Carol Service at 19.30	SJB

There may be another carol service at Christ the King during Advent.

## BRIXWORTH HAS A NEW BISHOP



*Photo credit Peterborough Diocese*

The Venerable Dr Alex Hughes, currently Archdeacon of Cambridge has been named as the next Bishop of Brixworth which is in the Diocese of Peterborough. He will be consecrated in July.

Ordained in the Diocese of Oxford in 2000, he has served in parish ministry, diocesan leadership and episcopal support roles across three dioceses. He was parish priest of St Luke's and St Peter's in inner-city Portsmouth before taking up his current role as Archdeacon of Cambridge in 2014.

"I am really drawn to this particular moment in the life of the Diocese of Peterborough," he said. "It is a time of change and possibility - I am excited to be part of shaping what comes next. I am convinced that this vital work is deeply spiritual: it is about clearing paths and building channels for the Spirit to move."

Welcoming Alex to his new role, the Bishop of Peterborough, Debbie Sellin said; "I am delighted to welcome Alex to the Diocese and look forward to working closely with him. His deep sense of God's call was clear throughout the process, and I am grateful to everyone who prayed for us. It will be a joy to get to know him better and to discern together God's will for our life and mission."

Alex is married to Sarah, a psychotherapist, and they have two sons, Thomas and Joseph. A keen musician, Alex finds joy in listening to live music in all its forms, from rock and roll to classical orchestral pieces. An enthusiastic runner, his other favourite mode of transport is his beloved motorbike.

*Ed. The vacancy arose in September 2025 on the retirement of the Rt Revd John Holbrook after 14 years of service to the Peterborough Diocese.*

## **BISHOPS PAY TRIBUTE TO SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY**

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, posted, "Happy birthday, Sir David Attenborough, thank you, for helping us see the wonder of creation, and the responsibility we share to protect it. Many blessings and prayers on this special day."

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, the Church's lead bishop for the environment, said: "Today, I join people across the world in wishing Sir David Attenborough a very happy 100th birthday.

"As a broadcaster, he has done more than anyone to communicate the joy, wonder and fragility of the natural world. His messages about protection, conservation and restoration need to be heard - and acted on - for the good of us all and the care of God's creation. But today, I give thanks for this rare 'Attenboroughus' species, which for decades has inhabited our TV screens and made such welcome evening appearances!"

Sir David Attenborough, born on 8 May 1926 in Isleworth, Middlesex, has become one of the most recognisable voices in broadcasting. A natural historian, writer and presenter, his career has spanned more than eight decades, beginning with the BBC in the early 1950s. He first came to public prominence through the series Zoo Quest in 1954, and more recent landmark wildlife documentaries followed, including Life on Earth, The Living Planet, The Blue Planet, and Planet Earth.

## **DO WE NEED TOTAL DARKNESS TO SLEEP?**

According to followers of ‘The Dutch Method’, it is good to sleep with your curtains open. That way, in the morning your bedroom slowly floods with natural light, which coincides with your circadian rhythm, the internal body clock that regulates your sleep cycle. Natural light also stops the production of melatonin (your sleep hormone) and triggers a natural rise in cortisol. That lets you know that the new day has begun. It is considered a gentle way to wake up.

Nevertheless, others prefer the curtains to be shut, and need pitch black to sleep. Whichever you prefer, here are some tips on sleep and waking up.

- Natural light in the morning is good for you. It is better to go for a walk at the start of each day, rather than to head straight for your phone and computer.
- Melatonin levels decline as we get older, which makes it harder to fall and stay asleep.
- Our body clock can shift to earlier, leaving us sleepier at night, but more awake earlier in the morning.
- As we age, we become more sensitive to disruption during the night, and things like stress, life changes, noise or light can have a bigger impact.
- A good routine before sleep is essential. Aim for bed at the same time, empty your head with a to-do list for tomorrow, clear your thoughts, and relax.

## **TIME TICKING BY IN JUNE**

250 years ago, on 11 June 1776 that the Second Continental Congress appointed John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert R Livingston and Roger Sherman to create the first draft of the Declaration of Independence.

Also 250 years ago, on 11 June, that John Constable, British landscape artist, was born.

150 years ago, on 19 June 1876 that Nigel Gresley, railway engineer, was born. He designed some best-known steam locomotives in Britain, including the Flying Scotsman and Mallard which reached a record steam engine speed of 126mph.

90 years ago, on 14 June 1936 that G K Chesterton died. Novelist, short story writer, journalist, essayist, poet, social/literary critic and theologian, and remembered for his stories about the priest-detective Father Brown.

80 years ago, on 8 June 1946 that the London Victory Celebrations following WW2 took place. Allied forces paraded through London, cheered by crowds that stretched from Buckingham Palace to Regent's Park. Countrywide, an estimated 12 million people joined in various celebrations.

65 years ago, from 4 June to 9 November, that the Berlin Crisis of 1961 took place. It led to Berlin being partitioned into East Berlin and West Berlin, and the erection of the Berlin Wall on 13th August.

Also 65 years ago, on 6 June that Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychologist, died. Founder of analytical psychology.

50 years ago, from 23 June to 27 August, the 1976 British Isles Heat Wave took place. One of the hottest and driest summers on record, it dried up rivers and evaporated reservoirs. Domestic water supplies were rationed, and public standpipes were installed in some areas. September and October both saw very heavy rainfall.

30 years ago, on 4 June 1996 that the Second Severn Crossing was officially opened. The bridge spans the River Severn and links England and Wales via the M4 motorway.

Also 30 years ago, on 15 June 1996 that the centre of Manchester was devastated by an IRA bomb. 200 people were injured and the city centre had to be redeveloped because of the immense amount of damage.

20 years ago, on 18 June 2006 that American bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori became the first woman to be elected as a primate in the Anglican Communion. She became the Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church from November 2006 until 2015.

10 years ago, on 3 June 2016 that Muhammad Ali, American world heavyweight boxer, died. He was regarded as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time.

Also 10 years ago, on 16 June 2016 that Jo Cox, Labour MP for Batley and Spen, was murdered by a far-right extremist. She was 41.

Also 10 years ago, on 23 June 2016 that the UK European Union (EU) membership referendum was held. 52 per cent of voters voted to leave the EU, and 48 per cent voted to remain. The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020.

## **FEED THE BIRDS – BUT THOUGHTFULLY**

If you enjoy feeding the birds, you are not alone. Up to 60% of all households in the UK regularly feed their wild birds, according to surveys from UK Pet Food. It all adds up to an estimated £250 million in sales annually, with roughly 150,000 tonnes of seed being sold. When feeding wild birds, here are some suggestions:

- Keep the feeders clean. The RSPB advises cleaning bird feeders once a week with a mild soap such as washing-up liquid. Do it outside, using brushes that you keep for this job alone.
- The RSPB advises that little and often is best. But keep an eye on those feeders and keep them topped up. When birds are nest-building and raising broods, they need a lot of energy. Feed peanuts in a rigid mesh feeder, so that large piece of nut cannot choke baby birds. Avoid putting out fat in hot weather – it can go rancid.
- Don't feed bread. This can lead to malnutrition. A chick with a stomach full of bread can freeze to death overnight. Garden birds require a protein-rich and high-calorie diet. Ideally, feed a combination of mealworms, seeds, sunflower hearts, dried fruit, peanuts and fat.
- Provide water. Birds need to drink and bathe daily, especially in hot weather. Change the water every day and keep the basin clean.
- Place your feeders near to shrubs, trees and bushes, to provide cover. Blackbirds and robins are ground feeders, whereas tits and sparrows prefer to feed from hanging stations. Use an array of feeders to attract a wide range of birds.

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

2030 moves ever closer. A few comments on EV's.

Real world range will depend on how and where the car is driven, and the temperature. A motorway sprint uses more HV battery energy than non-motorway roads where regenerative braking will return energy to the HV battery. Cold weather reduces the range noticeably as HV batteries work better in warm weather. Many cars are now equipped to take charge from ultra-fast chargers. Home chargers are usually 7kw/hr whereas ultra-fast chargers are 100kw/hr or more. And these machines can now be found increasingly in petrol stations and superstore car parks. Most manufacturers advise that ultra-fast chargers (using DC electricity) should not be used to raise the HV battery higher than 80%. They can add 150 – 200 miles of range in about 25 minutes (when you might be due for a rest break on a long drive!) However, the faster the charge rate, the more electricity costs in £p per kw/hr.

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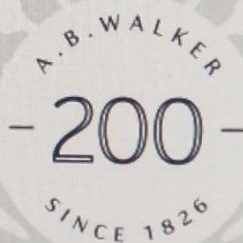
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## **PARISH DIRECTORY**

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Kidmore End & Sonning Common Parochial Church Council is a registered charity. The Charity Commission registration number is 1209778.

# SERVICES AND PRINCIPAL SERVICE LECTIONARY

Date	St John's	Lessons	Christ the King
7 June – First Sunday after Trinity	11.15 Sung Eucharist	Romans 4. 13 – end Matthew 9. 9 – 13 & 18 - 26	09.30 Eucharist
14 June – Third Sunday after Trinity	11.15 Sung Eucharist	Romans 5. 1 – 8 Matthew 9.35 – 10.8	09.30 Eucharist
21 June – Fourth Sunday after Trinity	11.15 Sung Eucharist	Romans 6. 1b – 11 Matthew 10. 24 - 39	09.30 Eucharist
28 June – Nativity of St John the Baptist observed (Fifth Sunday after Trinity)	18.00 Patronal Festival Benefice Evensong	Romans 6. 12 - end Matthew 10. 40 - end	09.30 Eucharist
		Malachi 4. Matthew 11. 2 - 19	

The lessons are those recommended in the Common Worship Lectionary for the Sunday principal service, and in the case of the Evensong service, the lessons are those recommended in Common Worship Second service (Evening Prayer). Lessons may be varied for special services, or at the discretion of the Minister.

## Services at All Saints'

7 June– 09.00 Holy Communion BCP said, 18.30 Evensong

14 June – 10.30 Sung Eucharist

21 June – 10.30 Peppard Revels Service outside the Red Lion

28 June – 10.30 Family Communion