

# HARPSDEN PARISH NEWS

## JUNE 2026



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## Pam's ponderings at Pentecost

We have just celebrated God's gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' promise, recorded in John 14:18 *'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.'*

Within a day I received this email message from 2 different companies I buy from - *We understand that Father's Day can be a sensitive time for some. If you would prefer to not receive Father's Day emails from us, just let us know and we'll take care of it.*

I know Father's Day is not a religious festival like Mothering Sunday but Christians worship God who Jesus described as Abba, Our Father.

The Aramaic root *Abba* is used to address God directly in certain solemn, ancient pre-Christian prayers. Abba suggested a deep, respectful, and personal relationship with the divine. In giving us the Lord's Prayer with its opening call to 'Our Father' we are reminded that, by grace and through Jesus, we are adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.

Throughout the world, as Christian brothers and sisters, we have been praying between Ascension and Pentecost 'Thy Kingdom Come'. The petition is that others may know Jesus, His kingdom and God as creator, divine source of life. Genesis describes men and women, humanity, as is in the image of creator God.

As disciples of Jesus, we are commissioned to share news of God and His Kingdom, not to create a kingdom of God based on our experiences of human behaviour. We worship the perfect parent not a gender based being. We are also commanded to share the gospel in and for every generation which does mean we have to know the society we are seeking to reach out to.

St Paul described many ways he could associate with those around him with an understanding of their situations – he connected as a zealous Jew, an educated Pharisee, a persecutor of Christians, a convert to Christ, a tentmaker and missionary, a Roman citizen and a prisoner, an intellectual capable of debate using Greek philosophical concepts, and knowing what it was to live with 'a thorn in the flesh'. Jesus associated and connected with those around him by living a life of loving self-sacrifice. He showed empathy and compassion with generous grace, acceptance and unconditional love. This was his consistency to all and in all places - always putting God first.

In doing this, Jesus met the needs that underpin the sensitivity that my email message suggests – individuals who mourn their fathers, fathers who mourn their children, men who would love to be fathers, fathers and families estranged, fathers feeling mental pressures especially when stereotyping conflicts with their normal. Not all fathers love football!

**That email both made me sad that it was necessary and yet I am thankful it challenged complacency. It alerted me to the complex needs of all parents, the realities many live with - the changing nature of society.**

**And it is today's society we are called to serve.**

**Let's be culturally different to the tone of the email. Let's not need one day to say thank you to our father figures. Let's meet men and women where they are in life. Let's be confident in how Jesus revealed Our Father's love for each and every one with no gender questions.**

**May every day be one where Abba's presence guides and blesses us.**

**Shalom ~ Pam <><**

### **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:**

25 Jun | 30 Jul | 27 Aug | 24 Sept  
Shelagh and I look forward to welcoming you.

## SERVICES IN JUNE

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Wholeness & Healing	Harpsden
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Baptism and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Morning Praise	Dunsden
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30 am	Morning Praise and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	9.30 am	Holy Communion and Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
	3.00 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 3	Shiplake

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30 am	Sunday School	Harpsden
	10.00 am	St Peter and St Paul Patronal Benefice Holy Communion with Wholeness & Healing	Shiplake

### READERS FOR JUNE

7<sup>th</sup> James Frost and Caroline Fulton  
14<sup>th</sup> Nigel Smith and Pippa Thornycroft  
21<sup>st</sup> Roger Derbyshire and Valerie Nicholson  
28<sup>th</sup> Service at Shiplake

### SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR JUNE

7<sup>th</sup> Tony and Sue Wright  
14<sup>th</sup> Kester and Pippa George  
21<sup>st</sup> Rob and Carol Lewis  
28<sup>th</sup> Service at Shiplake

### INTERCESSIONS FOR JUNE

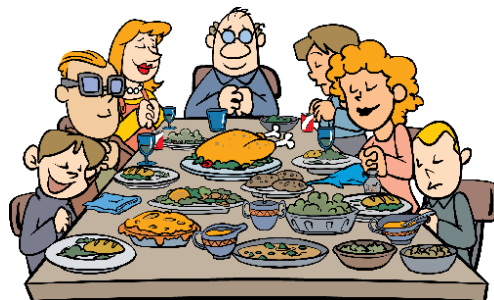
7<sup>th</sup> Pippa Thornycroft  
14<sup>th</sup> Jo Taylor  
21<sup>st</sup> Jane Burt  
28<sup>th</sup> Service at Shiplake

## COFFEE ROTA FOR JUNE

7<sup>th</sup> Sarah Bevan  
14<sup>th</sup> Karen Drakeford-Lewis  
21<sup>st</sup> Leonie Brown  
28<sup>th</sup> Service at Shiplake

## Dates for your diary

- **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** Tower house communion 11am
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- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June** Church community lunch at Henley golf club 1 pm
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- **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June** Lashbrook service at 11.30 and individual communions at 10.30
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- **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June** Anna tea at Dunsden 2-4 pm tea served at 2.30 pm
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- **Sunday 19th July** Harpsden Patronal Concert. A sing-a-long of favourite hymns



## COMMUNITY LUNCH IN JUNE

**The June Community lunch will be at Henley Golf Club on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 1.00 pm.**  
**Please indicate your attendance to Heather (07946 352026) [revhwtturner@gmail.com](mailto:revhwtturner@gmail.com)**

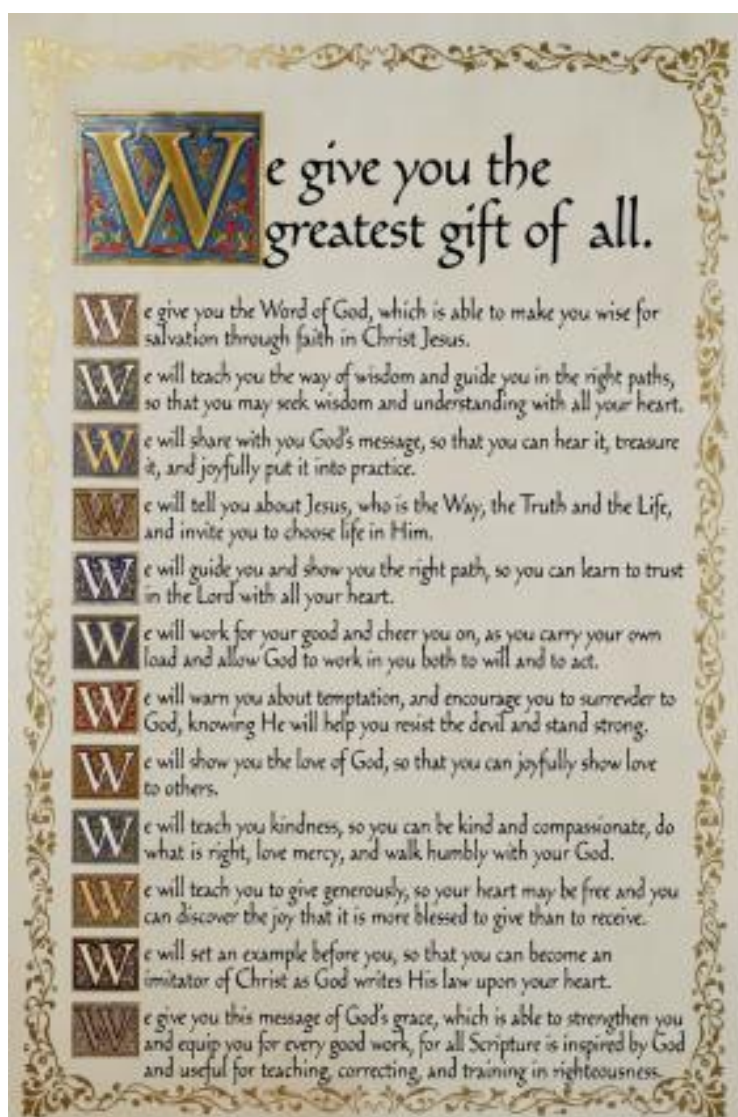
## Beautiful 'Greatest Gift' wall (or standing) picture available for 'pre-order'. 🎉🙏🎁

Shelagh and David have produced this most beautiful "Greatest Gift" picture, which was given to all the Sunday School children on Easter Day 🌟🙏

This is a perfect gift for all young people, of any age, to receive 🙏 Please feel free to order as many as you'd like to make a perfect Christening, Confirmation, Birthday, Christmas, or - "just because I love you/ you're special" Present 🎉🎁🎁

To place your order for this wonderful gift, please contact David Williams at [cafemortalityandcake@gmail.com](mailto:cafemortalityandcake@gmail.com) and either give £10 cash or BACs with your surname as the reference to : **Lloyds Bank sort code 30 80 54 acc 14426668**

Funds raised will go towards Sunday School equipment and future events for children's outreach programs. 🙏🎉😊



## PRAYER BREAKFAST



Please join us for half an hour of prayer for the YMCA, young people and our local community. Followed by tea, coffee, fruit and pastries.

**WHEN:** Every Monday@9:30am

**WHERE:** YMCA Offices

**YMCA**

Here for young people  
Here for communities  
Here for you

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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.*