

HARPSDEN PARISH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026



Priest-in-Charge:

The Rev'd Jane Wright

Rev.d.sdh@gmail.com 0118 229 0307

Associate Priest:

The Rev'd Pam Gordon (0118 940 6098 or 0771 425 6272) revpam.sdh@gmail.com

Associate Priest:

The Rev'd Heather Turner

(07946 352026) revhwtturner@gmail.com



REFLECTION



‘God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good’. (Genesis 1: 16 - 18)

Human being have always been fascinated by “the heavens” and pondered on the significance of the solar system. When the poetry of the opening chapter of Genesis was written (Sixth century BC), the order of the evolution of the universe was more or less correct - human beings evolved last - and to mortals of a more primitive time the sun and moon were what ordered their days and nights and seasons which in turn ordered their activities - and have done ever since until the invention of electric light. Yet when the normal order of their rising and setting was upset, it was a portent of terrible happenings. For example, when Jesus was crucified: “Darkness came over the whole land for the sun stopped shining”, and the prophet Joel (c 400 BC?) he foresaw God’s judgment in terms of “wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of

smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.” Places like Stonehenge or Maes Howe on Orkney were designed in the days of Pre-History to filter the solstice sunrise on to an altar stone or king’s burial place, testimony to the importance of ‘the two great lights’ in early human thinking.

And so, on 12th August 2026, people all over the northern hemisphere journeyed to vantage points to see the predicted solar eclipse which would have taken our earliest forebears by surprise, and many expressed their wonder at the phenomenon often in quite spiritual terms. It will be another 55 years until such an event takes place again. Or shall we have experienced the great judgment before then... “blood and fire and billows of smoke?”

Pippa Thorneycroft

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.

The last date for 2026 is:

24 Sept

Shelagh and I look forward to welcoming you.

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 2 nd September	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Wholeness & Healing	Harpsden
Sunday 6 th September	9.30 am	Holy Communion & Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Morning Praise	Dunsden
Wednesday 9 th September	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 13 th September	9.30 am	Morning Praise & Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
Wednesday 16 th September	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden

Sunday 20 th September	9.30 am	Holy Communion & Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Dunsden
	3.00 pm	3 rd Sunday at 3	Shiplake
Wednesday 23 rd September	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden
Sunday 27 th September	9.30 am	Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion with Wholeness & Healing	Shiplake
Wednesday 30 th September	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpsden

READERS FOR SEPTEMBER

6th Paul Barrett and Pippa George
 13th Kester George and Patsy Lacey
 20th Tilden McKean and Caroline Fulton
 27th (Service at Dunsden) tba and Josie Peddie

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

6th Brenda Wright
13th Tilden McKean
20th David Williams
27th Service at Shiplake

INTERCESSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

6th Brenda Wright
13th Tilden McKean
20th David Williams
27th Service at Shiplake

COFFEE ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

6th Leonie Brown
13th Julie Griffin
20th Sarah Bevan
27th Service at Shiplake

COMMUNITY LUNCH/ANNA ACTIVITES

Will be at Shiplake in the Ark on the 14th of September, at 2.15 pm for 2.30
All are welcome but do please let Heather know you are coming
revhwtturner@gmail.com Thankyou

Dates to remember

- **Sunday 13th September History Concert 16:00 Harpsden**

St. Margaret's Tuesday Prayer Group



Please see new locations below:

The 1st Tuesday of every month at 2.30pm Join us for Holy Communion at Henley Manor, Mill Lane & a short service of Hymns, Praise & Worship

**The 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays begin at 2pm
& are held at Albert Court, Mill Lane.**

We meet in the main sitting room – please sign in at Reception

On these weeks we begin with readings/reflections before joining together in prayer for the World's needs, our local community and for those on the Benefice prayer list.

Please join us at any of our meetings where you will be most welcome

If you would like us to hold anyone you know in our prayers, please email: jotaylor28@aol.co.uk

With all God's love and blessings

Beasts 🐉, Be-heading 🙄 and Bountiful Baking 🍰🍰🍰,

St. Margaret's annual Patronal Festival arrived in glorious splendour 🎉🍰..... a riot of beasts, be-heading, sinners and saints 😊 - all alongside blissful, bountiful baking 🍰 ✨



How blessed we were to share this joyful time together, with our Benefice Church family, gathered in warmth, laughter & fellowship. After the service, Shelagh's play sprung delightfully into life at the front of the Oratory, with a cast who committed themselves wholeheartedly to their roles, even if their lines and stage directions occasionally wandered off on pilgrimage. 😊😊

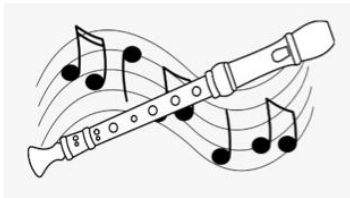
The audience booed, cheered and revelled in every moment as the astonishing Witness and Faith of St. Margaret of Antioch (our beautiful Alice) unfolded before their eyes. 🙌✨ All cast members gave it 'their all' and a special, shining mention goes to Ethan and Daisy (our youngest stars), who delivered both 'special effects' and Angelic presence with absolute perfection 🌟🌟

Huge thanks go to all who served refreshments, set up, packed down, wrangled props, tuned instruments, steadied nerves and conjured the amazing sound and special effects (David & Jonty, we salute you 🙌🙌).

And of course, to our dearest Shelagh - playwright & benevolent producer who readily forgave all blunders and bloopers!! Yet another event to celebrate the wonder, humour, unity and wholeheartedness of our Church family and Benefice. This amazing team effort stitched the whole joyous tapestry together, reminding us once again how blessed we are to belong to this very special community where faith is actively lived 🙌, laughter is shared 😊 and everyone - from angels 😊 to dragons 🐉 - has a part to play 🎉

And last, but *absolutely not least* - to Josie, Christine, and her valiant team of Star Bakers, who ran a magnificent cake sale before and after the play and raised an astonishing **£311. 50** 🙌🙌🙌🌟 A huge, heartfelt well done to our "cellophane queens"👑👑 - both unrivalled in the art of *not squashing the buttercream*. 🎉🎉





**** Save the Date ** for "Historic Harmonies" & Memorable Music through the Ages**

When: Sunday 13th September 🎵

Where: St. Margaret's Church, Harpsden 🏰

What's on: An AMAZING Concert for All Ages ✨🎹🎵

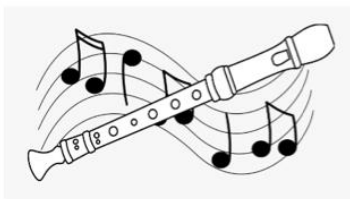
Time: 15.00 to 17.00 - with intervals & refreshments 🍷

Entry: Free 🎉 with donations always welcome ✨

The History Concert will be an ensemble of music, poetry and readings from across the centuries to the present day, with specific links to the artifacts and historic pieces of both art & from the medieval history of our beautiful St. M's 🏰❤️🎉

The afternoon promises to be lots of fun & with plenty of audience participation 😊

Please bring family and friends to enjoy this special event and we very much look forward to seeing you there!! 🎵🎉🏰😊



United Benefice of Shiplake with Dunsden and St. Margaret's of Antioch cum Bolney

[Shiplake with Dunsden and Harpsden - A Church Near You](#)

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



Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

CHURCH WARDENS

David Ward

ds.ward51@gmail.com

07985 027685

Valerie Nicholson

nicholsonvaleriea@gmail.com

07902 545200

P.C.C. SECRETARY

Tilden McKean

tilden.mckean@btinternet.com

01491 572981

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Sue Wright

susanpwright@hotmail.co.uk

07762 872208

Benefice Website:

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/Shiplake-DunsdenHarpsden>

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.

ALICUANDO

~ CHAMBER CHOIR ~

O Sing Noël!

In aid of the Chiltern Centre



Respighi
Laud to the Nativity

Pergolesi
Magnificat

Eccard
Mary's Salutation

Praetorius
*How Brightly Shines
the Morning Star*

Sweelinck
Hodie! Christus Natus Est

Professional Soloists
& Orchestral Ensemble

28 November 2026
St Mary's Church ~ Henley on Thames
7pm - doors open at 6pm

Tickets: Reserved £25 : Unreserved £20
From 01491 578238 ~ aliquando.co.uk

Scan here for tickets



Booking fee applies

