

# The Messenger

## March 2017



This magazine comes with the best wishes of  
Princes Risborough Methodist Church

# Princes Risborough Methodist Church

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Material for the April Messenger to the sub-editor, Peter  
Willett, by Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at the latest please.

*This Church is proud to be a member of 'Churches Together  
in Risborough associated with the Baptist Church, Elim  
Pentecostal Church, St. Dunstan's Church, St. Mary's Parish  
Church and St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church.*

# *From the Manse*

Dear Friends,

The 1<sup>st</sup> March is Ash Wednesday and is the beginning of Lent. During Lent, we traditionally reflect on Jesus' ministry journey as it leads us up to Easter and the Cross. When I was studying for a service I recalled the words of the song *"May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day, by his love and power controlling all I do or say."* I wonder as we reflect on those words how much control we really do give to Jesus, and whether some of the answer to that lies in our minds, rather than the mind of Christ.

The service was based on Colossians 3:12 *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."* What does it mean to clothe yourself? I think it has a lot to do with our mental attitude and our relationship to God. When you clothe yourself in a suit or smart clothes you feel smart, you act smart, in a sense the clothes you wear help to define you. If you wear a uniform for work I believe you may find a mental change – you become the fireman or the nurse or the shop assistant. And when you remove it you go back to how you were.

Paul in Colossians 3:12 says much the same about our spiritual attitudes. If you wake in the morning and get dressed in kindness, then you will be kind. If you deliberately set out at the beginning of your day to be kind then you will be, if you set out deliberately to be compassionate you will be. Paul encourages us, as his listeners, to change the way we act by beginning each new day by following Jesus' example with the inference that in time these things will become second nature to us. We will indeed become compassionate, kind, humble, gentle and patient. By putting on these spiritual clothes they will become a habit for us (it's no coincidence that a monk's clothing is called a habit). And best of all we will have the mind of Jesus our saviour and will be letting him have control of all we do or say. This is what comes from having a true relationship with Jesus and I pray that during this period of Lent you may experience what it means to have a true and living relationship with Christ.

Grace and peace to you.

***Keith.***

**J**unior Church &  
**Crèche** – We meet on 5<sup>th</sup>  
and 26<sup>th</sup> March, the 19<sup>th</sup> being  
our Family Service for the  
Church Anniversary.

- Fran McMullan.



The next date is Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>  
March 6-8pm here when 11-17  
year olds enjoy various  
activities. The 'God Slot' is led  
by local churches and Ryan, St.  
Mary's Church youth worker. If  
you have ideas for an activity  
please tell Fran McMullan on  
274853. You don't need to attend  
but ideas are welcome.

**H**appy birthday to  
**Sarah Haydon** who  
will be 16 years old on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> & **Adam Judd** who will  
be 15 years old on 8<sup>th</sup> March

**J**oin in? ... *"Well, well"*  
said the old gentleman to  
some boys who were playing  
cricket. *"I wish I could join your  
game, but I'm too old."* *"Not at all"*  
replied one of the boys politely.  
*"In fact, we need you. Our ball has  
just gone through that window.  
You could go and ask for it back".*

## **L**ighthouse 2017.

A reminder of items  
needed for this year's  
Lighthouse Week. Donations  
may be stored at Church.

- Old tights/pop socks
- Socks (*for puppets*)
- Large plastic yoghurt  
pots (*to share out paints*)
- Wallpaper (*table covers so  
the pattern doesn't matter*)
- Buttons
- Used birthday or special  
occasion cards
- Small plastic plant pots

### *The 'First Ever' Lighthouse Conference 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 ...*

Around 50 Committee members  
representing 10 Lighthouses  
came together for the first ever  
Lighthouse Conference.

It was an incredible day of  
fellowship and sharing of ideas,  
inspiration and amazing  
testimonies of children and  
helpers coming to faith and  
being healed. God has taken  
Lighthouse and imparted His  
vision in the hearts of Christians  
from denominations across  
Bucks and Oxon and now has  
shown that He wants to  
populate our whole nation with  
Lighthouses. The creation of  
Lighthouse Central to facilitate

other communities to start a Lighthouse is in direct response to God's call to take His vision to communities across the nation.

Our Key note speaker was Rev. Mark Griffiths, who is the Senior Minister of Warfield Church, Berkshire. He is author of 7 books and speaks nationally and internationally on church growth and child evangelism. His PhD is published under the title, *"One Generation from Extinction."* He spoke of the word 'family' having two Hebrew terms in the bible. The first Bah'-yith meaning household or immediate family and Mishpachah (pronounced Mish-pah-khaw) which means a bond of kinship that joins people together into a tribe or clan. He explained about Robert Raike who opened his first Sunday School in July 1780 and within just 8 years he had reached over 300,000 children with the story of Jesus.

The blueprint for Sunday Schools was much the same as Lighthouse today and follows the biblical pattern of teaching the immediate family who then spread it to their community. This link is largely lost in our nation and Mark said he believed Lighthouse was the repair kit that this nation needed to bring back the link between

the family and community knowing Jesus.

Mark told us that in most families now there is a 3 generation gap who have no knowledge of the Jesus Story but he believes it only takes something like Lighthouse propagated across our nation to restore knowledge of Jesus in just one generation. Each Lighthouse then shared their triumphs and challenges. Ideas for good practice were exchanged.

One leader shared the story of when she encountered a homeless man during Street Angels duty. He hugged her and told her that he had attended Lighthouse as a child and remembered all the teaching. Another adult said the only good thing about their childhood was Lighthouse.

These recollections demonstrate why we must continue to support Lighthouse and all it does for our community.

*Elaine Hassall, Lighthouse Committee*



**Remember to watch out for Jamie Carter's new Lighthouse Quiz**

**Sheets which are due out very soon! £1 each.**

## Lighthouse Fundraising Quiz

**Date** – Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**Time** – 7:30 pm (prompt start)

**Venue** – St Mary's Church,  
Princes Risborough

**Cost** - £5, bring your own drinks  
(*no red wine as it stains the Church floor*) and nibbles

**Tables of 8** (*individuals may be accommodated*)

**Raffle and Heads and Tails game**

To book a table please contact  
Jamie Carter on 01844 273286.  
Booking essential.

Offers of raffle or any other prizes would be gratefully appreciated. Please contact Jamie or Fran McMullan.

**Share ...** There are only two things a child will share willingly – communicable diseases and his Mother's age.

**Film Night at St.  
Dunstan's Church**  
Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> March.

## It's Michael -

At the 3Generate event for young Methodists held in November, Michael Pryke, from Stamford in Lincolnshire, was elected as the Methodist Youth President Designate.

Michael is keen for young people to participate in the life of the church, taking up roles that suit their gifts and to develop new styles of worship. He says; *"I'm deeply honoured to have been chosen to take up this role and I'd like to thank all the people who helped and supported me with the election. Young people need to be a voice of change. We are not just what is next, we are now and our voice counts."*

Michael will begin his role in September 2017, taking over from Tim Annan.

## Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection after the service on 5<sup>th</sup> March for our charity 'One Can Trust'.

## Cakes/Plants/Odds & Ends ...

No date yet but please bear in mind that our annual stall will be held after Morning Service sometime in April.



## On 26<sup>th</sup> March!

### *Also Mothering Sunday.*

It seems only yesterday we were changing clocks and mourning the end of British Summer Time. Well, get ready to have a new spring in your step as Daylight Saving Time begins.

While clocks going forward means that we're soon to be out of the coldness of winter, it can take a little time to adjust to the change in time. Will you experience any of these things as the clocks go forward?

You've been excited about the extra hour of sleep and now you've realised that you were mistaken and you actually lose an hour in the morning. You decide to change all your clocks in advance to keep on top of things... Inevitably, you rely on Google to find out which devices change time automatically...but you forget about the clock on the oven. You tell yourself you'll get around to changing it soon, but let's face it, it will stay that way until the clocks go back again.

# Mothering Sunday Mothers' Day

26<sup>th</sup> March

A special day and as every year this magazine emphasises the obvious – that the best gift a Mother can receive is quite simply, time. That's it!

Someone once pithily summed up the recipe for motherhood as *"excellent time management skills, the hide of an ox and frequent bouts of guilt"*. Because guilt has now become the must-have accessory for many mothers today. This is not confined to the big decisions about how you parent – whether to work or not, have children early or late. No, even whether you drank half a glass of wine in pregnancy or allowed your child an illicit extra hour of TV is now something that is magnified out of all sense of proportion.

This is nothing to do with the supposed gulf between mothers who work outside the home and those who stay at home. Both sides condemn. Mums are under pressure. A friend was badly caught out this way. Very busy before a school cake stall, she nicked a trick from Allison Pearson's novel *'I Don't Know How She Does It'*, (a highly recommended read!) and drizzled icing on some authentic looking shop-bought cakes to

pass them off as her own. It was only on checking the discarded label, which said "may contain nuts" – a dead giveaway. She then had to scrawl the message on her Tupperware box.

*Happy Mothering Sunday 2017!*

## Things my Mother taught me

**Logic:** "Because I said so, that's why."

**Appreciate A Job Well Done:** "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I've just finished cleaning!"

**Religion:** "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

**Time Travel:** "If you don't do it I'll knock you into the middle of next week!"

**Foresight:** "Wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

**Irony:** "Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."

**The Science of Osmosis:** "Close your mouth and eat your meal!"

**Contortionism:** Look at the dirt on the back of your neck!"

**Stamina:** "You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is finished."

**Weather:** "It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."

**Solve Physics Problems:** "If I yelled because I saw a meteor coming toward you; would you listen then?"

**Hypocrisy :** "If I've told you once, I've told you a million times - Don't Exaggerate!!!"

**The Circle Of Life:** "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

**Envy:** "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have great parents like you!"

**Logic :** "If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you can't come shopping with me."

**Medicine :** "If you keep crossing your eyes, they're going to stay that way."

**Humour :** "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

**Anticipation :** "Just wait until your father gets home."

**Justice :** "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you, then you'll see what it's like."

## Self Denial

Thank you very much to all who contributed towards the total of £49. 00 (to which some Gift Aid is to be added) received in the Self Denial envelopes during January last. Your continued support for The Methodist Church Fund for World Missions is appreciated.

**M**mm... There is no revenge so complete and effective as forgiveness.



# Women's World Day of Prayer



**Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 11am**

This year the service will be held at the Baptist Church here in Princes Risborough. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards and everyone is encouraged to stay behind to share fellowship on this special day.

Through this World Day of Prayer, women around the world affirm their faith in Jesus Christ, share hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, opportunities and needs, affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world. Despite the name, everyone irrespective of age or gender is very welcome to attend the service.

## Why pray?

**When life lets you down** and people prove unreliable, and everyday anxieties dominate and tensions are high – don't worry yourself into depression.....**Pray.**

**When money becomes a problem**, the lack of it or the love of it, and work is arduous or unavailable, and the bills keep coming and prices keep rising – don't despair of a solution.....**Pray.**

**When disaster and crisis are all around**, and peace between nations or neighbours seems unachievable and flood or famine, earthquake or explosives cause devastation – don't give up hope.....**Pray.**

**When health is fragile** – your own or others' – and the burden of care is heavy and the possibility of a cure is only a dream; or someone dies and leaves an empty void and the predominance of sorrow and suffering overwhelms – don't believe that all is lost.....**Pray.**  
 Pray because God is listening.  
 Pray because God understands.  
 Pray because God cares.  
 Pray because God is great enough to carry us through all we have to endure.

Pray because talking with God eventually brings that sense of the wholeness of God surrounding us and comforting and settling us, as a parent holds a child with loving arms and gives the reassurance of caring.  
**Pray. God is waiting to hear you.**



The next Christian Aid Lunch is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the Baptist Church.

### **Count Your Blessings Calendar 2017**

This Lent we're sharing the story of Michael, who had to flee his home when soldiers raided his village in South Sudan. Thanks to generous churches and people like you, we helped him get back on his feet and gave him hope for the future.

Please journey with your global neighbours like Michael this Lent by following our *Count Your Blessings Lent calendar 2017*. Full details are given on the Christian Aid website. And why not hold a Lent Lunch or a Shrove Tuesday event? Every pound you raise will transform lives and bring closer a world where everybody has a safe place to call home.

Michael's story: When soldiers started murdering and looting in his village, Michael had to flee to the swamps with his family. That would be frightening for anybody, but for Michael it was even more traumatic – because

his eyesight is very poor, he had to be guided through the water to safety.

When Michael returned home, he found that everything he owned had been stolen or destroyed. But our local partner organisation was there. We gave Michael new fishing hooks so he could feed his family. Now he's teaching them how to catch fish, so that if the worst of times comes again, they'll have skills to support themselves. Michael has more rebuilding to do, but we've given him the helping hand he needs to thrive, not just survive, in the years to come.

### **Christian Aid Clothes Show**

Chinnor Christian Aid group is hosting this event on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May in the Chinnor Village Hall.

They seek donations of top quality 'as new' items – day and evening wear, special occasion outfits. Designer labels/items with price label/tag still attached will be particularly appreciated. Shoes, accessories and coat-hangers, particularly plastic or wooden, also welcome. Ladies', men's and children's clothing all accepted as long as they are in good condition. All items collected. Please contact Jackie on 01844 355953 or 07973 740338 or Lyn on 01844 352888

## A challenging time

Are you one of those people who has carried into 2017 an understandable degree of apprehension about the future?

During this year, the momentous political decisions of 2016 will be played out. We will begin to see more clearly what Brexit means. We wait to see how the new USA President will impact international relations. And above all, we will be praying that the various opposing factions of this troubled world will find the reserves of courage and grace to pass through a process of forgiveness and reconciliation towards a lasting peace, with justice and goodwill for all people.

As followers of Christ we are ambassadors, not spectators who stand apart from these world events. We are called and commissioned by Christ to be salt and light in the midst of it all. What the world needs above all else is not to be preached at, but to be transformed by the love of God in Jesus Christ. This starts with us modelling what it is to live, speak and act in the world as Jesus did. We are anointed, empowered and inspired by the same Spirit of God who continues to give and sustain all life.

You may recall the words of King George VI in 1940 when he addressed the war-ravaged people of that generation. He quoted the words of Minnie Louise Haskins, which are equally pertinent to our own generation: *I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way."*

In these testing times, may we more powerfully encounter God, more completely be equipped as God's people, and more effectively play our part in extending God's kingdom.

**Excuses ...** During his rounds a Vicar asked a man he met if he'd ever attended his local Church. When the man shuddered, the Vicar asked what he had against the Church.

"Plenty", said the man, *"The first time I went they threw water all over my head, the second time they tied me to a woman I've had to support ever since and the next time no doubt they'll throw dirt on me."*

## Fairtrade Fortnight

27<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March

Thanks to our supporters, our February stall took £54. The next one will be after the service on 5<sup>th</sup> March during Fairtrade fortnight and uses the theme **'Put Fairtrade into your break'**.

As a Fairtrade Circuit and Church we are encouraged to support fairly-traded products throughout the year, but to especially look out for opportunities during this fortnight.

I know that the Traidcraft goods on the stall at church once a month don't always suit our taste if we like a particular tea, coffee, or brand of juicy raisins, but many are excellent quality. As you know there are also many Fairtrade products in our supermarkets now, which are very favourably priced and there will no doubt be promotions and offers over the fortnight. So share some Fairtrade snacks and drinks with your colleagues, friends and neighbours to put Fairtrade into YOUR break.

When visiting a National Trust property remember that they are also committed to serving Fairtrade tea and coffee and have other products too.

- Judith Gerrard.

## United Services -

Everyone is welcome to our joint services which begin at 6pm. They are usually held on the second Sunday of the month and each of the three Churches involved take turns to host. There will be no United Service in August. These services are a great way of joining together in worship.

- **12<sup>th</sup> March at St. Mary's Church**
- **9<sup>th</sup> April (*Palm Sunday*) at the Baptist Church**
- **14<sup>th</sup> May/CTR *Christian Aid Service* - at St. Mary's Church**
- **11<sup>th</sup> June at our Methodist Church**
- **9<sup>th</sup> July at the Baptist Church**
- **10<sup>th</sup> September at our Methodist Church**
- **8<sup>th</sup> October at St. Mary's Church**
- **12<sup>th</sup> November at the Baptist Church**

**T**ransport - If you require transport to or from any of the Sunday services or other groups please speak to a Steward who will do what they can to help.

## S·A·L·T

### *Sharing & Learning*

#### *Together*

This group will meet on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30 for Bible Study and fellowship.

We usually meet at the home of Maureen Judd. New members are welcome and for more information please speak with Maureen, Victoria Haydon or Joe Needham.

## Ellel Ministries

[www.ellel.org](http://www.ellel.org)

You are referred to the article in the Circuit magazine about these teaching sessions run by the Cuddington Methodist Church. Three sessions are planned – 25<sup>th</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> September in the Clare Foundation Centre in Saunderton. Please contact Colin Watts for details.

## Adam and Eve ...

They had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married and she didn't have to hear about the way his Mother cooked.



[www.easyfundraising.co.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)

Easy Fundraising does exactly what it says – it raises funds for a good cause (e.g. Princes Risborough Methodist Church) with minimal extra effort required on your part. Because eight members of this church have registered with [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and done some internet shopping using that website as a link to our favourite retailers' websites, the church has received £415.29 in donations (a small % of the value of the purchases) from those retailers over the past 4½ years.

That is money which the church would not have received if we had just gone direct to the retailers' websites, and it has not cost those eight members anything – they have paid the same amount to the retailer as they would have done if they had gone direct to the retailers' websites. If you are wondering what has the church done with this extra money, I would just draw your attention to the fact that over the same period £560 from church funds has been donated to the World Mission and Mission in Britain Funds –

whether we could have given quite so much without the £415 from easyfundraising is questionable.

If you (or other family members if you don't do internet shopping) would like to join the eight of us currently registered, then go to

**[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)** and register – selecting Princes Risborough Methodist Church as the cause you support. Then all you need to remember is that when you want to do online shopping you first of all log on to the easyfundraising website, and then find the retailer you want – Amazon, M&S, Staples, Majestic, John Lewis etc. (there are '000s to choose from) – click on the retailer and it takes you into their website. Do your shopping as normal, and a small % of what you spend (prices are the same as if you had gone directly to the retailer's website so no additional cost is incurred by you) is given by the retailer to easyfundraising who will then pass it on to the church each quarter. I have used it when buying supplies (such as paper towels) for the church

Information on your online shopping remains confidential – only known by the retailer and yourself. Easy fundraising will know where you have shopped, but have no information on what

you purchased, and as the church's contact with easyfundraising, I do not get any information on where you shop, what you bought or how much you spent – all I know is how much has been raised for the church. Please contact me if you require further information.

- Joe Needham

## What's new?

### *Advice from AD55*

The budget should be balanced.  
The Treasury should be refilled.  
Public debt should be reduced.  
The arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled.  
The assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome become bankrupt.  
People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance. (Cicero)

## *Infallible weather forecasting*



## Whitechapel Mission

*Vic and Noreen Baker write –*

We were delighted to host this event at our home in January.

The event raised over £200 for The Whitechapel Mission in their work of caring for the homeless people in London. We are continually reminded by TV that so many millions of people in this world do not have a roof over their heads, which makes us so privileged and indeed humbled. It was our joy to be able to share our modest home with friends from church in order to help The Whitechapel Mission. Raising money for deserving causes is always worthwhile.

As a Church we still collect clothes and toiletries for Whitechapel which are stored at the Church in preparation for the next collection or delivery.

At the tea there were other benefits and blessings. Those of fellowship one with another and enjoying that time spent together. As hosts it was possible to take the odd minute to just stand and observe the scene. We saw people scattered around and indeed moving around engage in animated conversation and laughter

creating a wonderful atmosphere of friends enjoying themselves. This kind of fellowship is so important when many people lead busy lives and others because of age or infirmity are limited in what they can do; it brings people together.



There would have been no fun, no enjoyment and no happy laughter if the event had not been supported in various ways by members and friends from Princes Risborough Methodist Church. So to everyone thank you most sincerely.

- Noreen and Vic Baker

## Tuesday Fellowship

Our January meeting was held at the home of Sheila Hunnisett where we indulged in a couple of quizzes and enjoyed a lot of friendly chat and a delicious tea. Thank you Sheila for hosting us.

Our next meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Church at 2pm will be our AGM when we look back over the past year and look forward to the next year. New members are always welcome to join us. - Pam Scott.

## You're the 7<sup>th</sup>!

*"Hello my friend, what's up with you then?"* said the Vicar to an old, shabbily-dressed man who was sitting on a seat by the village pond, trying to catch something.

The man replied, *"I'm fed up."*

The vicar said, *"Come and join me for a drink."*

As they were sitting at the bar in the local pub the Vicar asked the man, *"How many have you caught today?"* He replied, *"You're the seventh."*

## St. Patrick's Day

17<sup>th</sup> March

It's named after St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It's a day off from work in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Newfoundland and Labrador. The most important tradition is to wear green. Green is the national colour of Ireland, due to the grassy landscape of the island and shamrock traditionally attributed to St. Patrick.

### St. Patrick's Day Groaners!

**Q :** Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

**A :** Ordinary rocks are too heavy!

**Q :** Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

**A :** Because they're always a little short!

**Q :** How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?

**A :** He's Dublin with laughter!

**Quiz ...** at the Princes Risborough Baptist Church on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm (*prompt start*). Cost £12/ Ploughman's Supper with Dessert/Tables of 8, but individuals can be accommodated Booking is essential – ring Jamie Carter on 01844 27328



## Olivet to Calvary

By J. H. Maunders

An act of worship led by the Rev. Helen Kirk for Choir and Congregation recalling some incidents in the last days of the Saviour's life on earth.

Presented by the Circuit Choir, Tring Parish Church Choir and friends from other churches and choirs directed by Cliff Brown.

Aylesbury Methodist Church on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 6pm and repeated at Sts. Peter & Paul, Tring, on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm. Refreshments will be served after the service.



The Royal School of Church Music will lead a reflective candlelit service of Plainchant and Taize music for the start of Lent.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
**St. Mary's Parish Church,**  
**Princes Risborough.**

Rehearsal for singers at 2.30pm.  
 Rehearsal for congregation at 3.30pm, Booking form for choirs and singers only, from: [stuartlhking@gmail.com](mailto:stuartlhking@gmail.com)

The Service, led by the Rev. Nancy Wallace begins at 4pm. Tea and cake will be served and everyone is welcome

## Princes Risborough Music Society

This a friendly group of about 60 members. Rehearsals are at the Risborough Secondary School on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. New members are welcome. Please ring 01844 344083

On Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in St. Lawrence Church, West Wycombe, there will be a Tea Concert of Easter music including "*The Saviour*" by William Lloyd Webber and works by J. S. Bach

Summer Concerts are on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7.30pm at the Longwick Village Hall. We will perform a concert version of "*The Gypsy Baron*" by Johann Strauss. Tickets from The Risborough Cook Shop, Art and Office, Information Centre or online. Tickets are at £12. The Community Bus will run. Enquiries on 07941963097.

## Smile -

**Small boy:** "*Please, Sir, my Dad says you are a Doctor of music.*"

**Famous pianist:** "*That's right, little man.*"

**Small boy:** "*Then I wonder, can you mend my trumpet?*"

## Church Forum -

The Church Forum is on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm at the Church. Agendas and Reports will be circulated prior to the meeting. Please try to attend this meeting when, among other things, we must appoint a new Church Treasurer and a new Messenger editor.

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### *This won't happen at the Church Forum!*

*"Since the former secretary had left the area and the former Minutes of the meeting could not be found, it was moved, seconded and carried, that the Minutes of the last meeting be adopted as they would have been read had they been found'.*

## Not in Church!

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring.

"It has to STOP," he insisted. The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?"

The clergyman explained, 'Well, it's not just me, it's bothering the whole congregation."

## Bereavement Drop In

This group offers a welcome to those struggling with grief. We share together, drink tea or coffee, talk about experiences or just listen. Many find comfort in talking about their loved ones with others who know what they are going through. We meet on the second Monday of the month to avoid Bank Holidays in the Chapter House at the back of St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, between 3 and 4 o'clock. Everyone is welcome, of any faith, or no faith at all. Further details from Rose Williams 01844 274225.

## Bledlow-cum-Saunderton

Bill Bendyshe Brown will give a talk on the history of this local parish on **Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March** in the Bledlow Village Hall from 7pm-10.30pm. Learn about the Archaeological History and Geological past from 4000 BC to Doomsday. Tickets cost £15. There will be a Bar with snacks & nibbles and a Raffle. This is a fundraising event for improvements to the Village Hall. For tickets or donations contact: Arlinda Chaplin on 01844 274393  
steveandarlinda@hotmail.co.uk

# Church Anniversary

*11am Service followed by  
Lunch 19<sup>th</sup> March*

We look forward to our Church Anniversary celebration when the preacher will be our former Minister, David Jenkins, at the later time of 11am.

Following the service we will enjoy a happy fellowship at the lunch which will begin around 12.30 when we have rearranged the chairs to suit.

Soup and quiches with salad will be served, followed by a selection of puddings. There is a list in the church porch for you to sign up if you would like to come, and also volunteer to prepare a dish if you wish (*expenses will be paid*) or wash up afterwards. Everyone is welcome even if you haven't been to the service first. Tickets for the lunch are £5 for adults, £2.50 for children.

Any profit will go to Home Missions. This is the way our Church contributes to this fund so that we don't need to have a separate appeal.

# Bridget Royle 1922-2017

A number of our church members attended Bridget's cremation on 1<sup>st</sup> February. Her daughter, Sue Webb, asked me to thank our Methodist community for all the love, friendship and care her Mother experienced here. I have permission to include part of the tribute here. - *Peter Willett*.

Bridget saw much change in her long, full and well-lived life; from first going to school by pony and cart and writing on a slate, to travelling to New Zealand, touring India and learning how to send emails.

However life became difficult when her father died when she was 14, leaving her and her mother destitute; living in an isolated cottage with no running water or electricity. She was attending Grammar School, but her grandmother wanted her to leave and learn to farm geese, but she saw learning as a passport to fulfilment and to security, so she continued her education, eventually reading Classics and Theology at Reading University. She became a teacher, helping to lead two of the most forward thinking schools in Leicestershire, which was a melting pot of new educational ideas.

She had a huge appreciation of family, perhaps because of her own childhood experiences. Having married, she loved the large Webb family, considering them 'very special people', and Ruth and Sue always had to be on their best behaviour when visiting their relations in order to be good enough! After the death of her first husband, Bridget was amazed and delighted to be absorbed so completely by the Royle family when she married Gerald.

Bridget was a great one for causes; nuclear power, saving whales; and as a member of Amnesty International, writing to an American African on death row, and to a Turkish political prisoner. She and Gerald were both active in local Labour politics. Many charitable donations have been cancelled recently; testimony to her commitment to making a difference in the world.

Her faith was always important to her, being fascinated by religious ideas, and becoming caught up in the questioning and upheaval in the churches in the 60s and 70s, finally choosing the Quakers as her spiritual home, loving their acceptance of different perspectives, their commitment to a better world and the idea that God existed within all living things. Latterly

she was drawn into the Methodist fold, again for its practical concern for others and its friendship.

Bridget endured tough times; nursing two husbands through final illnesses, one in her 40s and the other in her 80s. She also cared for her own mother for 20 years, but the last 3 years had been hard, not only for her, but also for those who loved her. The family is beholden to everyone for the love shown towards Bridget and her wider family; and for the kind and respectful care she received at Swarthmore Quaker Home, the essence of Quakerism in action.

*"Bridget; Auntie, Great-aunt, Granny, Great-Granny, Super-Gran, and Mummy; you have brought joy and curiosity to so many people. Your spirit will live on in the natural world around us."*

- Sue

## **R.O.P.E.**

### **Relief for Oppressed People Everywhere**

Please pass used postage stamps (*with a border of 1/4 "*) to Judith Gerrard for this charity

## **A**nn Pape 1941 - 2017

Ann and Chris Pape and family were very active at Princes Risborough from the early 1970's to the early 1990's when Chris trained and became a Methodist Minister and they moved away from the area.

Ann and Chris, with their children Simon and Rosie, came to Princes Risborough in 1973 and joined a small but faithful group of worshippers at our Methodist Church. The building was still at that time rather Victorian in its furnishings with a balcony, wooden pews etc. and there was a regular Sunday morning and evening service.

Ann and Chris were both local preachers, so soon became known around the circuit, as well as working in many roles for the church here, and supporting the newly formed interchurch movement among the churches of different denominations in the town. Chris always said that Ann was a much better preacher than he was as she could preach a sermon without notes, once she had thought it out.

When Peter Mortlock became our Minister soon afterwards, there was already a link between his wife Margaret and the Papes

from University days.

Peter persuaded the church to modernise the building and have a regular morning service for families, and Ann and Chris were strong advocates of the first updating of the church building and changes to the worship. Regular morning services were introduced and combined with the existing Sunday School. Ann particularly led brilliant family services, always at the right level for the children as well as the adults. We couldn't help becoming aware that she supported Leicester City either.

The changes encouraged some younger families to join, leading to a lively congregation. Ann and Chris supported the idea of buying the terraced house next door to the church (with a large garden behind the church) when it came on the market, and then reselling it without the garden so that we acquired the land we now have. I think we all had to take a risk by putting in a contribution for the purchase, so it's a good job it worked out. House prices were going up at the time so we sold the house without much garden for the same price as we had bought it!

Although a full time Maths teacher in High Wycombe and later Aylesbury, Ann continued

with a lot of midweek church activities, especially helping Chris with hosting and leading house groups, inter church discussion groups during Lent (enabling us to really get to know our fellow Christians), and many other roles including acting as a church steward.

When Chris decided to train for the ministry in 1992, Ann became a circuit steward. Then in 1993 they moved away to Yorkshire for Chris's appointment at Pontefract, and although Ann had many craft hobbies, including needlework (tapestry), woodwork and photography, she continued with voluntary work at an advice centre. Ann made the kneelers still at the front of our church under the communion table, one to her own design. She was a woman of many and varied talents.

When Chris became seriously ill and died in 2000, Ann decided to base herself at Leighton Buzzard, where again she became involved in many valuable voluntary projects. At her funeral her friend Elizabeth said she chose the Methodist Church at Leighton Buzzard because there was youth work to be done and she thought they would welcome a stropky local preacher.

She very much enjoyed being near to Rosie and Ian and their two children Georgia and Christopher, while still seeing Simon and Maggie who are based in Derbyshire.

## Update for the Princes Centre

We recently enjoyed a visit by Mrs. C. R. Soames, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. She evidently enjoyed her visit and praised the care given by our staff saying that the whole experience was uplifting.

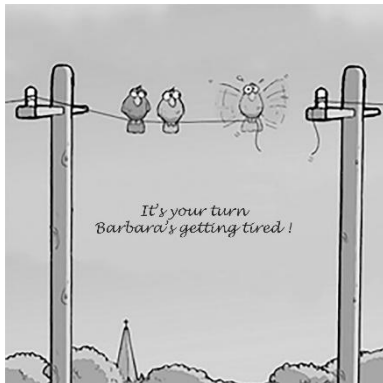
The recent Quiz evening raised £500 and we are grateful to all who helped and supported us. The next Quiz is on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Please contact Kim, the Manager, to book.

The Rev. David Williams, one of our trustees, is attempting a sponsored climb up Mount Kilimanjaro. It is not too late to support him *[and thus the Centre]* by either donating directly to our 'general' donations link - [mydonate.bt.com/charities/the-princesrisboroughcentreLtd](https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/the-princesrisboroughcentreLtd) *[see a box to assign your donation to David's climb]* or signing a sponsor form.

We are grateful for generous donations from the P.R.

Horticultural Society, Longwick Evening Women's Institute and Bledlow Charities towards the end of last year and a number of contributions through 'My Donate'. We also appreciate donations from Banjovi Revival and the Black Dog Bands, and all donations from individuals, some of which are extremely generous. To book a hall or offer support in any way please ring the manager, Kim, 01844 34510.

## From the Editor ...



In my last Messenger I'd like to thank all those who have been supportive to me over the years. Peter Willett, the sub-editor, will produce the April Messenger after which a new Editor is sought. Marilyn Dore has proof read the copy wonderfully for some time and I am grateful to her. Peter Willett joined the proof reading ranks quite recently but both agree that two proof readers are useful. Volunteers? Barbara Drake deserves special thanks for the

endless stream of humorous contributions over the years. We all need a 'smile' and Barbara has kept them coming. After putting their heads together Marilyn and Peter have given us the following offering, perhaps hinting that this is how earlier copies of the Messenger would appear if I worked alone!



*"I wood like two thank my proof readers four there thyme inn finding spelling mistakes and sin-tax errors, witch have bean maid. Weather ewe agree with me, ore knot, eye think they have done a grate job in this roll. However, they are not infallible, sew if ewe fined a spelling mistake in this magazine, please let me no; they must have mist won or too".*

## Crafty Sew & Sews

- We meet each Tuesday in St. Dunstan's Church Hall 1.30 to 4.p.m. Join us and learn new skills and share knowledge. Bring your own work - Cross Stitch/Tapestry/Knitting etc. £1 per session. Organisers: Janet East TEL 345028 Pam Scott TEL 346857.

# Evangelism isn't for me!

The term evangelism is usually associated with one type of outreach and this might be one of the reasons why we are weary about it, Tamala Caesar (of Premier Christian Media) shares three reasons why we are reluctant about evangelising and why it's more than street evangelism.

## First, someone else will do it.

Most of us think this when it comes to evangelism. It's not our gifting, we don't feel 'called' to it and it's purely for those who have been given clear instruction to do it. (*"He said to them, go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."* Mark 16:15)

## Second, fear of rejection and embarrassment.

We've all seen the challenges that street fundraisers face trying to engage with the public and we see evangelism in the same way. Fear of rejection, being ignored and the embarrassment that can occur when sharing the Good News with strangers can be an off-putting factor. (*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not*

*be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9)

## Third, I'm not perfect myself and I don't want to look like a hypocrite.

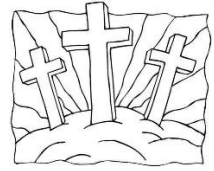
We must remember that we are sinners saved by grace and it's not through our doing that we have salvation, but it's through Jesus' decision to pay for our penalties. No one is perfect and it was in our imperfect state that Christ died on the cross for us. (*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."* Ephesians 2:8)

One of the most powerful things is to share (with wisdom) our imperfection, testimony and journey with those who are experiencing what we have gone through. We are living proof that it is because of Christ that we can endure challenges.

Evangelism doesn't always mean standing with a megaphone in a busy shopping area declaring God's truths. It can simply mean encouraging our next door neighbour, purchasing a Biblical resource for a loved one's birthday or praying with a stranger. If we are willing to be available for God, He will use us.



**E**aster - We are now in the holy period of Lent  
and look ahead to Easter celebrations on  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April.



(Did you hear about the man who commented  
“Why is it every time I come to church you sing ‘Christ  
the Lord is risen today’?”).

## **W**hich Way But Which!

*Submitted by Deacon Di Blackden, but written by a 14 year old.*

Today was the absolute worst day ever  
And don't try to convince me that  
There's something good in every day  
Because, when you take a closer look,  
This world is a pretty evil place.  
Even if  
Some goodness does shine through once in a while  
Satisfaction and happiness don't last  
And it's not true that  
It's all in the mind and heart  
Because  
True happiness can be obtained  
Only if one's surroundings are good  
It's not true that good exists  
I'm sure you can agree that  
The reality creates my attitude.  
It's all beyond my control  
And you'll never in a million years hear me say that  
Today was a good day.

**NOW READ FROM BOTTOM TO TOP FOR A WHOLE  
NEW MEANING!**

## *March Diary*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> : Christian Aid Lunch at the Baptist Church
- 3<sup>rd</sup> : Women's World Day of Prayer 11am in the Baptist Church
- 4<sup>th</sup> : Royal School of Church Music at 4pm at St. Mary's Parish Church
- 4<sup>th</sup> : Film Night at St. Dunstan's Church
- 5<sup>th</sup> : Junior Church with Crèche
- 5<sup>th</sup> : Retiring collection after Morning Service for '*One Can Trust*'
- 7<sup>th</sup> : Church Forum meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> : SALT group meet
- 12<sup>th</sup> : United Service at St. Mary's Parish Church 6pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> : **11am** Church Anniversary Service led by Rev. David Jenkins
- 19<sup>th</sup> : Church Anniversary lunch after Morning Service
- 19<sup>th</sup> : Music Society Concert in St. Lawrence Church, West Wycombe
- 21<sup>st</sup> : Tuesday Fellowship at the Church at 2pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> : SALT group meet
- 25<sup>th</sup> : Historical Talk on Bledlow-cum-Saunderton 7.30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> : Ellet teaching course
- 26<sup>th</sup> : Quiz at the Risborough Baptist Church - 7.30pm.
- 26<sup>th</sup> : Clocks go forward one hour
- 26<sup>th</sup> : Mothering Sunday
- 26<sup>th</sup> : Junior Church with Crèche

### **Forward dates:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Olivet to Calvary at AMC at 6pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> April - Olivet to Calvary at Tring at 6.30pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Lighthouse Quiz at St. Mary's Church at 7.30pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> May - Chinnor Clothes Show for Christian Aid

\*\*\*\*\*

**Late contribution:** Please save the date and support the Horsenden Plant Sale at Manor Farm, Horsenden on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 10am-12noon. Tea and coffee will be served throughout and there will be a cake stall and a raffle. All proceeds go to the church."

## *March Rotas*

### **Stewards' Rotas :**

5<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M. Judd – Tel: 344935  
 12<sup>th</sup> : Mr. M. Pullen – Tel: 343188  
 19<sup>th</sup> : Miss M. Dore - Tel: 345537  
 26<sup>th</sup> : Mrs. J. Gerrard – Tel: 01494449732

### **Welcoming Stewards :**

5<sup>th</sup> : The Trout family  
 12<sup>th</sup> : Mr. and Mrs. V. Baker  
 19<sup>th</sup> : Mrs. F. Shephard and Mr. J. Needham  
 26<sup>th</sup> : Mr. and Mrs. D. Robbins

### **Bible Readers :**

5<sup>th</sup> : Mr. and Mrs. N. Trout  
 12<sup>th</sup> : Mr. and Mrs. V. Baker (am)  
 19<sup>th</sup> : Mrs. F. Shephard and Mr. J. Needham  
 26<sup>th</sup> : Mr. and Mrs. D. Robbins

### **Church duties :** (Saturdays)

	<u>Cleaning</u>	<u>Grass Cutting/Garden Tidying</u>
4 <sup>th</sup> :	Miss M. Dore	Mr. B. McCleery
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. and Mrs. N. Trout	
18 <sup>th</sup> :	Y.D.A. Mrs. and Mrs. D. Stevens	
25 <sup>th</sup> :	Mr. and Mrs. G. Hudson	

### **Church flowers :**

5 <sup>th</sup> : Miss P. Scott	12 <sup>th</sup> : Mrs. D. Robbins
19 <sup>th</sup> : Tuesday Fellowship	26 <sup>th</sup> : Mrs. M. Judd

### **Refreshments :**

5 <sup>th</sup> : Mrs. C. Palmer	12 <sup>th</sup> : Mr. J. Needham
19 <sup>th</sup> : Mrs. M. Stevens	26 <sup>th</sup> : Mrs. B. Oates

*You Are Invited to  
Worship With Us!*



*March 2017*

5<sup>th</sup> : 10am Mr. Arthur Sara  
Holy Communion Service

12<sup>th</sup> : 10am Mr. Terry Stewart  
6pm United Service at St. Mary's Parish  
Church

19<sup>th</sup> : 11am Rev. David Jenkins  
Church Anniversary Service  
followed by lunch

26<sup>th</sup> : 10am Rev. Irena Byron

*Join us for refreshments after Morning Service*