

Wingrave Methodist Church

News Not in the Pews

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On Sunday 4th October there will be a Harvest Festival service at the Parish Church, starting at 9.30am

Our service at 10am on Sunday 11th October will be led by Rev Donna Broadbent-Kelly and will include a celebration of Holy Communion

Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival celebrations this year will be somewhat curtailed to comply with the current Government regulations on infection limitation, but the pupils from Wingrave School will still be bringing their harvest gifts to the Parish Church in "class bubbles", and the service on Sunday will be followed by an auction of fresh produce.

Wingrave Methodist Church has celebrated Harvest Festival for many decades, as illustrated by the following article from the Bucks Herald of 20 September 1935. Hopefully there will be a socially spaced crowded congregation and a goodly display of vegetables and fruit on Sunday, but that the electric light won't fail!

WINGRAVE Harvest Festival. There were crowded congregations on Sunday in the Methodist Church, when the harvest festival services were conducted by the Rev. D. Gilbert, pastor of Stotfold Baptist Church. His eloquent and seasonable sermon will long be remembered those present. The afternoon service consisted of a musical programme, very ably rendered by Mrs. L. Faulkner and Mr. S. Bliss, of Stewkley. The Rev. D. Gilbert addressed the young people on a series of small objects, emphasising the need of thankfulness for the common every-day things of life. The church was tastefully decorated with corn and choice flowers, and a goodly display of vegetables, fruit, and other edible commodities occupied a central position in front the pulpit. The services were continued on Monday, when the quarterly meeting took place, followed by a public tea. A public thanksgiving meeting was addressed by the Rev. D. Gilbert and the Rev. E.R. Bishop. Mr. G. Bliss (Stewkley) presided and gave a short speech. Following the meeting a sale of the produce took place. Mr G Bignell was salesman, and good prices were obtained. The failure of the electric light caused some inconvenience during the sale, but torches and candles were soon available, and everything proceeded satisfactorily. The collections and proceeds are for the Trust funds.

Circuit Prayers



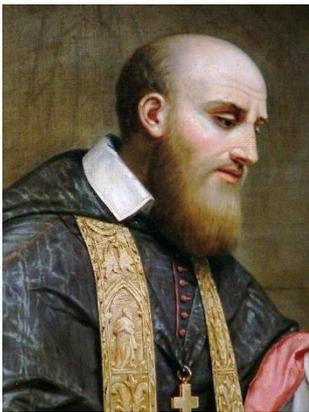
Peter Honeyball writes: This Sunday 4 October, it is the turn of our Preachers to be the focus of our Circuit Prayers. As David says below, these are strange times for all of us, both those in the pew and those in the pulpit. In the midst of this pandemic, some preachers are struggling with new emotions and experiences as they seek to come to terms with a different world, a world that is full of the unknown. Please hold all our preachers in your prayers, pray for them before the service, and support them with prayer in the service. Thank God for the worship we enjoy together in whatever format, for together we worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus!

David Neville writes: Our preachers are now beginning to take services again but in very different circumstances. Please pray that we and our congregations may really feel God's spirit with us as we worship very differently. It does feel strange to start with but together we can begin to feel our fellowship develop once more. God Bless you all.

And from Keith Wallace (senior Circuit Steward): A note of the preaching of Francis de Sales which I used in my devotions;

“Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear; rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God, whose you are, will deliver you out of them. He has kept you hitherto, - do you but hold fast to His dear hand, and He will lead you safely through all things; and, when you cannot stand, He will bear you in his arms. Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today, will take care of you tomorrow, and every day.

Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.”



This prayer particularly resonates with me during these troubled times. De Sales was a Bishop of Geneva during the Reformation in the 16th and early 17th. centuries, who lived through tumultuous social and religious upheaval in Europe and was noted for his deep faith and gentle approach to the religious divisions around him at that time. What he preached over four hundred years ago has resonance in these uncertain times we live in today. It has echoes of Philippians 4, v. 6 & 7 and Matthew 6, v.25-34 for me, but it is the gentle nature of his message which particularly impressed me and which is encapsulated in one of his sayings;

“Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength “
And his urging;

“ Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.”

Autumn Church Council Meeting

The autumn Church Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th October. It will be conducted via Zoom and an agenda, together with joining instructions, will be published in NNITP. Please make a note in your diary

Our minister is Rev Donna-marie Broadbent-Kelly, 01525 240589, rev.donnabk@gmail.com

“News not in the Pews” is usually published weekly for, by and on behalf of the members of Wingrave Methodist Church. Contributions and enquiries to Jane and Andrew Muir (windmillandrew@btinternet.com)