

HARPSDEN PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER 2023



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The view from my kitchen window

With Parry's 'Jerusalem' and the words 'green and pleasant land,' firmly imprinted in my memory, one could easily concur with the sentiments expressed in that famous hymn. Peace and Serenity in all of God's creation.



Unfortunately for many that's far from the reality they are experiencing.... every new day presenting with a challenge of surviving in today's world, whether it be economic or otherwise. I think I am safe in assuming that all who read this newsletter ... truly 'love their neighbour,' in the mind and style of Christ... being affirmed by our Lord's words ... 'Whatever you do in my name you do as for me.'

The congregations of our Benefice are active in a myriad of ways both individually and corporately in attempting to redress the issues that constantly mar life for so many. Jesus said 'I have come that you may have life and that in abundance' ... Bibles and a cross in the pocket were available to all the leavers of year six at Shiplake primary. The RBH prem babies are benefitting from the small nucleus of knitters and providers of balls of wool, making hats and cardigans to keep the babies warm during fragility of those early days of earthly life. Food banks will be benefitting from our Harvest gifts of thankfulness ...drops in that reservoir of God's abiding love ...but even a drop can change reality for the better.

I will never forget working in the Amasango school in Grahamstown ...of a 6ft teenager asking please could he have a clown puppet ...he'd never had something just for himself ... returning the following year I was able to offer him a knitted teddy ...No! Despite his clown being well worn by love he did not want a substitute. I darned and repaired the original. Today, those we are knitting are brightening the lives of refugee children in this country and Romania, who often traumatised by experience, enabling them to cling to something that is wholly theirs.

As I compile this, the harvest season is emerging, gardens are blossoming with flower, fruit and vegetable produce Once again we are truly blessed by God's faithfulness in seed time and harvest, but what of those countries affected by famine or conflict... such is the technological progress of our lives, we cannot be ignorant of others' plight ... I remember even now my children ..in telling them to clear their plates ... they would counter my words ... 'have you ever tried sending gravy in an envelope to Africa!' No! but I have always supported a charity that does just that ...Mary's

meals... (www.marysmeals.org) that enables the children of those parts of God's world that are impoverished to receive a daily meal. It was Jesus that reminded us that, 'the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few.' I am convinced nothing is wrong in enabling others to be envoys of that divine LOVE.

Praying for inspiration of how to finish these thoughts I have been surprised ! Firmly believing in God- incidences, rather than Co-incidences,....should I have therefore been surprised by receiving this quote in an email from an American Colleague ..across the pond as they say...

..'May God grant you enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference in the world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.' --from a Franciscan Blessing.

Need I say more ...only that God is working His purpose outwith a little help from common humanity. May God continue to bless your prayers and actions.
Every blessing

Revd Heather

In memory of Margaret Fish - Blood Cancer Charity

Following a fantastic concert last weekend thanks to Adrian and friends, Jenny Stothard, one of Margaret's friends, has set up a JustGiving page for donations to the chosen charity. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far; if you missed out, click [here](#) to donate.

Many thanks.

Sunday School at Harpsden

We are starting our Sunday School at Harpsden again on Sunday 1st October. Led by Shelagh Stanbridge-Bennett, there will be bible stories, singing and activities from 9.30am on Sundays for children of all ages. To find out more, please email the [Benefice office](#).



WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP



‘ANOTHER’ CHANGE TO PRAYER GROUP

🙏The Prayer Group will revert back to every **TUESDAY**🙏

🙏at St. Margaret's from 2pm – 3.15 pm.🙏

If you would like to join us on a ‘one-off’ or regular basis you would be most welcome 🎉😊

Or, if you would like us to hold someone, or a situation in prayer, please email

jotaylor@aol.co.uk

Tea and Cake served before or afterwards

(or both!!) 🍰 🍰 🍰 🍰 🍰 🍰

One Chapter of Bible Reading 📖 📖 📖

Hymn 🎵 🎵 🎵

Praise and Thanksgiving 🎉 🎉 🎉

Quiet meditation before prayer begins

Prayers for Creation / Peace / Justice / The Church / For Healing

& Personal petitions 🙏 🙏 🙏

Taize chant 🎵 🎵 🎵

Close with the Lord's Prayer or the General Thanksgiving and
The Grace 🙏 🙏 🙏

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Sunday 1 st October	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist	Harpsden
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Lay-Led Morning Praise	Dunsden
Monday 2 nd October	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday 4 th October	10.00 am	Benefice Eucharist with Wholeness & Healing	Harpsden
Sunday 8 th October	9.30 am	Lay-Led Morning Praise	Harpsden
	10.00 am	Service of the Word with Baptism	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Dunsden
Monday 9 th October	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday 11 th October	10.00 am	Benefice Eucharist	Harpsden
Sunday 15 th October	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion	Shiplake
	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Dunsden

	4.00 pm	Tea with God and Benefice Family Service	Shiplake
Monday 16 th October	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday 18 th October	10.00 am	Benefice Eucharist	Harpsden
Sunday 22 nd October	10.00 am	Benefice Eucharist with Baptism	Harpsden
Monday 23 rd October	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday 25 th October	10.00 am	Benefice Eucharist	Harpsden
Sunday 29 th October	8.00 am	CW Eucharist	Shiplake
	9.30 am	Lay-Led Service of the Word	Harpsden
	10.00 am	Service of the Word With Baptism	Shiplake
	11.00 am	Service of the Word	Dunsden

INTERCESSIONS – OCTOBER

1st Shelagh Stanbridge-Bennett
8th Jo Taylor
15th Brenda Wright
22nd Paul Barrett
29th May Mosawi

COFFEE ROTA FOR OCTOBER

1st Florence Phillips
8th Elsie and James Frost
15th Sarah Bevan
22nd Jo Taylor
29th Lyn Goodwin

READERS – OCTOBER

1st Karen Drakeford-Lewis and David Williams
8th Patsy Lacey and James Frost
15th Kester George and Shelagh Stanbridge-Bennett
22nd Paul Barrett and Caroline Fulton
29th Jo Pavey and Brenda Wright

SIDSMENS ROTA FOR OCTOBER

1st Kester and Pippa George
8th Rob and Carol Lewis
15th Karin Henderson and Jo Pavey
22nd James and Elsie Frost
29th Tilden McKean and Brenda Wright

Shiplake Handchimes Choir

Young Ringers Wanted (Ages 7 or above)



musical learning and experiences team work
meet new friends a lot of fun!!!

Fridays 4:30-5:30pm
The Ark, Shiplake Church, RG9 4BS



Register via QRcode or email Helen Lam
imhelen@gmail.com

Half Term Activities



Monday 23rd – Thursday 26th
October
10.30am – 12.30pm
at Shiplake Church RG9 4BS

Christmas and
Hallowe'en themes

Baubles

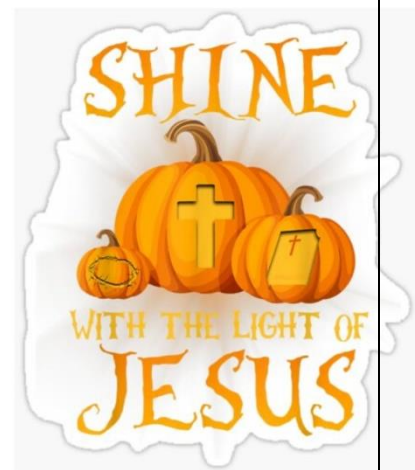
Silk painting

Pumpkin carving

Baking

Crafts

Bells



**Creative activities for
children* and adults**

**Places are limited, please contact Leigh
to book your sessions at
benefice.sdh@gmail.com**

** Children must be accompanied*

Resourced by donations

United Benefice of Shiplake with Dunsden and Harpsden cum Bolney
www.shiplakedunsdenharpsden.org.uk

Help needed please!

We need help please for our Half Term Activities sessions. If you can commit to one or more mornings during the week (Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th October) at Shiplake, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Roles include helping with art & craft (no expertise needed), helping with the food prep activities, reading to children and offering refreshments. If you can bake, cakes will be gratefully accepted (no nuts please) as will any monetary donations to fund the resources.

Contact [Sarah](#) or [Jo](#) for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

Seeking Volunteers

There are a number of opportunities available for supporting your church and local community:

Royal British Legion Poppy Volunteers

Rosemary Jones is seeking help with the door-to-door collections for the Royal British Legion please. If this is something you might enjoy doing, please contact Rosemary by [email](#) or on 0118 948 1517. Many thanks.

Foundation Governor for Shiplake Primary School

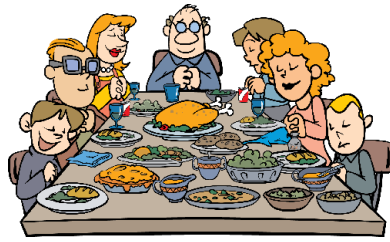
If you are interested in supporting our local Voluntary Aided Church of England School as a Foundation Governor, or want to know more, please speak to Revd Robert or Sarah. It's a hugely fulfilling role.

Sacristan, Chalice Assistant, Churchwarden for Shiplake Church

If any of these roles appeal, or you'd just like to know more, please speak to one of the clergy team.

Expanding our Pastoral Care Team

We are planning to expand our Pastoral Care Team and extend an invitation to anyone who feels called to be a visitor to the housebound, taking Home Communion and/or journeying with people who have been bereaved. If this is of interest, please contact Sarah when she returns from her holiday (9th October) for a discussion about what is involved. Training and mentoring will be offered.



HARPSDEN LUNCH

The Next Harpsden lunch will be at the Maltsters Arms at 12.30 for 1.00 pm on Wednesday 4th October. Please contact Hazel Cooke
Ring Hazel on 01491 575876 or email, hazelcooke01@gmail.com.

CHURCH WARDENS

David Ward

ds.ward51@gmail.com

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07985 027685

Valerie Nicholson

valerieanicholson@gmail.com

0118 940 4285

P.C.C. SECRETARY

Leigh Leadbetter

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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 Churchwarden.

Benefice Website:

<http://www.shiplakedunsdenharpsden.org.uk>

ALIQUANDO CHAMBER CHOIR **This Shining Night**

Praetorius - In dulci Jubilo

Heinrich Schütz - Christmas Story

Buxtehude - Magnificat



In aid of
Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire

Charity 1186548

18 November 2023 - 7pm

St Mary's Church – Henley on Thames

Tickets - reserved £25 - non-reserved £20 - Under 16 free

www.aliquando.co.uk or 01491 578238