



St Michael
and All Angels
Parish Church
of
Amersham-on-the-Hill

Please take one

Newsletter

MAY 2021



Pentecost

Sunday May 23



Pentecost is, in effect, the birthday of the Church, the day the demoralised disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, giving them the strength and courage to spread the message of Jesus throughout the then known world. Their poetic description of the event includes a “rushing, mighty wind” and “tongues of fire” settling on each head. Describing this indescribable event clearly stretched the power of language but what is clear is the extraordinary transformation of the disciples. No longer hiding away, they took the message, not only to the Jewish diaspora, but to the whole of the Gentile world. And ultimately to us. We will be celebrating Pentecost in church at 10 am on Sunday May 23.

Simpatico

We are delighted that Simpatico will once again be holding their annual art exhibition at St Michael's.

**Saturday June 12—Sunday June 27
9.30 am—5.30 pm**

Christian Aid Week May 10—16

You can make your contribution via the Christian Aid Week website or by phoning 020 7623 2269. Or phone 020 7623 2226 for their bank details if you wish to make a bank transfer.



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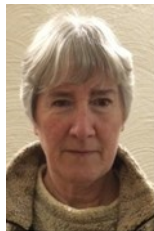
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St Michael's Vision Statement

As a Christian community, we seek to engage with the world around us and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Vicar or the PCC or the official policy of St Michael's Church.

The Newsletter is published monthly (except January and August).

The next issue will appear on Sunday May 30. Material for inclusion should please be emailed to the Editor on pbrune@olcs.net by May 19.



COMMENT

The Merry Month

“Now is the Merry Merry Month of May”, sang Thomas Dekker to the Beloved in his play of 1599 (though he feared the presence of the cuckoo in that relationship).

May has been a month of celebration in many cultures. The Greeks revered the fertility goddess Artemis; for the Romans she was Gaia or Flora. We still talk of celebrating with maypole dancing, and Magdalene College choir (at least pre Covid) used to greet the month of May by singing outdoors in Oxford at sunrise. The early May Bank Holiday (often cold!) marks our hope for summer days and many Europeans still observe May 1 as a day to proclaim the rights of working people. Roman Catholics see May as a month of especially honouring the Virgin Mary.

Even on a practical note, we are cautious about putting seedlings outdoors until the frost is likely to have gone.

So, we are looking at a turning point in the year, with winter sadnesses behind us and the hope of summer warmth to come. We have said our deeply appreciative farewells to the Duke of Edinburgh, and we are remembering with affection the contribution made to our congregation by the priesthood of Pippa Soundy, who died recently. We also look back gratefully to the many friends, “bubbles” and neighbours who have helped us through a difficult time.

Yet now, as the “Merry month of May” begins and we anticipate the fire and enthusiasm granted us at Pentecost (May 23 this year), perhaps this is a re-appraisal opportunity. In what ways are we called to make this a “Merry” month for those whom we encounter? How are we called upon to share our appreciation for the gift of life, whatever personal limitations we might experience? What is the will of God for us in this month of May? A “Merry, happy, cheerful, delightful” month “ suggests Collins dictionary. To whom, enthused by the fire of the Holy Spirit, may we especially bring happiness, delight or good cheer this month? Of course, there will always be metaphorical finger-pinching frost and cuckoos in the nest of any endeavour that we undertake but that shouldn’t stop us, this Merry Month, from being open to the transforming power and flame of the Spirit.

Jo Harrington

Anniversaries

It's 300 Years Since the First Inoculation in England

As the vaccination programme proceeds at pace, giving us hope that the world may return to something like normality we remember Edward Jenner, the father of vaccination, but Lady Mary Wortley Montague, who inoculated her 3-year-old daughter against smallpox in 1721 is much less well-known. Montague was a talented and independent woman. To escape an unwanted, arranged marriage she eloped with Edward Wortley Montague, who in 1716 was appointed the British Ambassador to Turkey. She was an eccentric, a traveller and a talented writer, a minor poet, an essayist and a prolific writer of letters. Her literary reputation chiefly rests on the letters she wrote while in Turkey, first published in 1763.

On their return from Turkey the Montagues settled in Twickenham and Mary became friendly with near-neighbour Alexander Pope. But the relationship soon soured and Pope included a venomous passage about her in his poem *The Dunciad*.

Mary's face bore the scars of smallpox but when she visited the Turkish baths in Istanbul she realised that the Turkish women had unblemished skin. She discovered that inoculation was a common folk practise, carried out, in the words of her latest biographer, Jo Willett, "by illiterate, old Greek and Armenian women". When she returned to England in 1718 she decided that



inoculating her young daughter was a risk worth running though at first she didn't dare do anything. But in 1721 there was a severe smallpox outbreak and she decided she must risk it. She invited senior doctors and aristocratic friends to see how soon after the inoculation her daughter was able to run around happily. She quickly became famous and Princess Caroline, the Princess of Wales, decided that the royal children should be inoculated.

But controversy soon followed. The dose had to be carefully measured – too large a dose could easily result in the death of the patient. In Turkey they knew that people had to isolate for a couple of days after being inoculated. In Britain, the procedure was taken over by ignorant doctors who allowed people to mingle with their friends immediately after being inoculated, with the result that the inoculation led to further infection and the spread of the disease. They also insisted on

Ken Prideaux-Brune
celebrates
Lady Mary Wortley
Montague

accompanying the procedure with purging and bleeding (the go-to cures for every disease for 18th century doctors).

The debate speedily became politicised, with the Whigs in favour of the procedure and the Tories opposed, considering it a violation of the laws of nature. And, of course, the fact that the procedure was proposed by a woman made it all the easier to dismiss. Misogyny was quite openly part of the debate.

Edward Jenner had been inoculated as a child and had found it a singularly grim experience. He felt that there must be a better way. "If he hadn't been inoculated, then I don't think he would have gone on to think about vaccination," says Jo Willett. His eureka moment came when he noticed that milkmaids never seemed to develop smallpox. Cows can develop cowpox, a similar disease to smallpox but one which doesn't infect humans. Jenner reckoned that inoculating with cowpox pus would give humans immunity to smallpox and his procedure was named vaccination, a word derived from *vaccinae*, the Latin word for cows. The word vaccination has since, or course, been applied to all inoculations, whatever the disease.

So, when you receive your jab offer thanks to the memory of Edward Jenner but don't forget that if Lady Mary Wortley Montague had not had the courage to inoculate her daughter 300 years ago vaccination might never have been developed.

A Typical Day At The Foodbank

Diane Rutter describes her job running Chiltern Foodbank

Unlocking at 8 am this morning I stepped into the Centre, put the kettle on, opened my laptop and started reviewing today's requests. Jill usually does this, but after a very long stint throughout lockdown she's having a few well-deserved days off!



Diane and Kizzy packing boxes for delivery

Electronic voucher requests arrive from our many referral partners – each one tells me of a person or household in crisis who don't have the means to feed themselves this week. I print them off, sort them and tell our warehouse manager, Kizzy, how many boxes and what type are needed today. We pack boxes with enough standard store-cupboard foods to last at least three days. This might be for a single person, a couple, a lone parent with children, a homeless person, or a family with varying numbers of adults and children. Some boxes have been packed in readiness, but each day some are tailored to the requirements of the person. Yesterday

one was for lactose-free, gluten-free and dairy-free. Today one is for a lone parent with baby and young children. I phone her to check any special requirements for the baby and am able to give her baby wipes and other toiletries. We add other extras depending on

what we have in stock; today it's hand sanitiser for everyone. Boxes prepared, another volunteer liaises with our volunteer drivers. Today's vouchers are for people in Chesham, Amersham and Prestwood. We also deliver in Wendover and Chalfont St Peter, with help from local churches.

The Foodbank started in Chesham 10 years ago, and has seen an increase in need every year since then. Last financial year we fed 6,963 people, of whom 2,638 were children.

When someone finds they don't have enough food they are usually struggling in other parts of their life too. We advise anyone who needs a food parcel to phone Citizens Advice on a dedicated number (01494 785660). As well as arranging a food voucher, they do a holistic assessment to see what other assistance would help. Sometimes people are also referred to us for a

fuel voucher to help with heating bills, or a hardship grant if they don't have a means of cooking, or if their fridge has broken down and they need to replace it.

Early today one of our drivers brings a van full of goods he's picked up from a local supermarket collection point. It's fantastic that so many supermarkets and local shops encourage customers to add food to our collection boxes. He unloads crates from the van, weighs and stacks them ready for other volunteers to sort. A local councillor pops in during the morning with donations she's collected from friends and neighbours. It's exciting to see what items come in, we check that each is within date, and add them to our stores. Our shelves are looking rather empty at the moment, so the donations are gratefully received! Some items will go out again straight away. Today we are given several Easter eggs – presumably on offer after Easter – so we add them as extra chocolate treats for the families with children. Eventually all the donated food has been put away and all the parcels despatched. We tidy up, lock up and step into the sunshine.

There's a great sense of purpose and camaraderie amongst all our volunteers. And it's lovely when a client rings or emails to say what a difference the food parcel has made to them. Thank you to everyone at St Michael's and in the local community who help to make it all possible.



With the whole nation and Commonwealth we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. One of his lasting legacies will be the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, through which thousands of young people have had what for many has been a life-changing experience. We print a few comments from the D of E website.

When I applied for my current job 20 years ago, my interviewers were more interested in my DofE exploits than anything else.

+ + +

The Scheme changed my life. "The Best Qualification you can ever have.." So right. Bless you Sir for the way you taught the young how to cope with the world and to honour it with such grace.

+ + +

The expeditions where challenging, the blisters and the backbreakingly heavy rucksacks are all still vivid memories today; however the physical and emotional achievements made it all worthwhile...Volunteering at a local old people's home and hearing their stories was amazing and so educational. My residential teaching teenagers how to sail yachts around the Baltic Sea still makes me smile as I remember the fun we all had and the new things we discovered.

A Unique Person

Edmund Eliazadeh pays tribute to his mother Angela who died a year ago.

It is a year now since my mother, Angela Eliazadeh, passed away in April 2020; it feels that just like yesterday! I don't quite know where to begin. Perhaps I can start by saying she was really a true Christian, believing in Christ and mother Mary. She was a strong believer and used to say: "if I have any difficulty, I ask mother Mary, and she will provide me with guidance and answers."

Our mother had 93 years of wonderful life and she was almost perfect, with a lot of love for her family and a passion to serve others and help those in need. A wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, with a golden heart.

Angela, was a scholar in many fields, an excellent cook, a perfect housekeeper with a hands-on character, able to create a fine art work and her presentation was second to none. Above all she was the engine and architect of our family and kept us together.

Our mother was born in Russia and lived there right up to age

eight. After coming back to Iran and doing her secondary school with French missionaries at their boarding school, she could read and write in four languages - Assyrian, Russian,



Persian and French, which was a great achievement for a young Assyrian girl!

She was the eldest of four and at age 20 was married to our father. With this, she started a new chapter in her long living pathway. She had her first child at age 21, and ten years later twin boys came along. She succeeded in her personal

mission by providing for us well and encouraged us to have a good education and become well-mannered children and responsible citizens.

After my father passed away, she moved to England and started a new chapter of her life. Sadly, she was diagnosed with dementia in 2014. Despite this, she lived happily for seven years but the last two years, since her 91st birthday, were a difficult time as she were losing her memory and getting confused.

With the arrival of Covid and lockdown, life was very tough. We were not allowed to visit her in her care home. Sadly, dementia took its toll and she left this life on April 19, 2020. The saddest and hardest thing is that although we did our very best, we were not able, and were not allowed, to spend time with her and be next to her and hold her hand. This might have given a little comfort to all of us. This anxiety will stay in our hearts and minds for ever.



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Amersham-on-the-Hill**

DIARY

MAY 2021

Although the church is now open for Sunday services it is not open for private prayer during the week. We do not think the church should be open unless the session is supervised throughout. At present we feel that this is more than we want to be inviting people to take on. The online audio services which have been running since the beginning of the pandemic were discontinued from the end of April..

Other activities in September

Sunday	May 2	5th Sunday of Easter. Warden: Andy Connor (723561)
Sunday	May 9	6th Sunday of Easter. Warden: Roland Gillott (722674)
Monday	May 10 -)	Christian Aid
Sunday	May 16)	Week
Sunday	May 16	7th Sunday of Easter. Warden: Roger Leslie (726362)
Sunday	May 23	PENTECOST. Warden: (Claire Sinclair (07591 954701)
Sunday	May 30	TRINITY. Warden: Roland Gillott (722674)

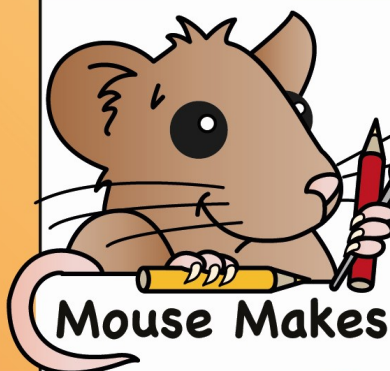
Congratulations to former vicar, Philip Roderick, who has received the Dunstan Award for Spirituality from Lambeth Palace for his outstanding contribution to the development of contemplative prayer. The citation especially references the Quiet Garden movement and Contemplative Fire, both of which he initiated while he was at St Michael's, and so we can take special pleasure in this recognition.

The Rev Pippa Soundy

We are saddened by news of the death of Pippa Soundy, who served her curacy at St Michael's while Diana Glover was vicar. She went on to become Associate Priest to the five churches centred on The Lee, She has most recently been Chaplain and member of the visitor welcoming team at Salisbury Cathedral. She has also been working as a freelance councillor, par-



ticularly in the area of conflict. She had to cope with considerable visual impairment and had been diagnosed with cancer some years ago. We send our condolences to her husband and children.



Mouse Makes

Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.



The Holy Spirit
V S E I L
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit
helps us to
W K N O
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit
H C T S E E A
us about God.

The Holy Spirit
K P E S S A
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit
P H L S E
us to tell others
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit
helps us when we
A Y P R



On the day of PENTECOST
the disciples were gathered
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them?

Acts 2:4

How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6

Which countries
had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was
their reaction?

Acts 2:12-13

Who explained
what was
happening?

What did he say?

Acts 2:14-36

How many
people were
baptised
that day?

Acts 2:41

Change each letter to the
letter before it in the
alphabet and see what
the **Holy Spirit**
produces in us:

KPZ

IVNJMJUZ

TFMG DPOUSPM

GBJUIGVMOFTT

LJEOFTT

QBUJFODF

QFBDF

MPWF

HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

What is the work of the
Holy Spirit? What does He do?
Fill in the missing letters.



TEAC _ ES

COMF _ RTS

REVEA _ S

IN _ OU



TRAN _ FORMS



HEL _ S

GU _ DES

GENEWS

CONV _ CTS

SANC _ IFIES