



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

# Newsletter

## September 2017

### HARVEST FESTIVAL APPEAL

As usual, when we celebrate all the good things we have received during our Harvest Festival service, we are invited to give something to others who are not so fortunate.

This year we are encouraged to support Emmaus who run hostels for homeless people.

Emmaus doesn't just offer people a roof over their

heads; it also offers meaningful work as the first step away from homelessness. Residents (known as Companions) collect furniture and other donated items and sell them in Emmaus charity shops. Other Companions repair, repaint and re-upholster donated furniture, learning valuable new skills.

Emmaus aims eventually to become self-sustaining, while giving people the tools with which to return to normal life.



*The Emmaus charity shop in Oxford,*

### Harvest Festival - Sunday October 8 2gether Family Service

#### 25 Years Not Out

This edition of St. Michael's newsletter marks the start of Ken Prideaux-Brune's 26th year as editor.

During this time, he has worked alongside four vicars and overseen the evolution of the magazine to keep it relevant to its readership.

We would like to congratulate him on this achievement and thank him for this contribution to the work of the church.

#### Your old £1 coins

The old round £1 coins cease to be legal tender on October 15. You need to spend them, pay them in to your bank or donate them to charity **before** that date. After October 15 your bank won't take them; you'll have to take them to the Bank of England. So please check your money boxes, look under the bed and make sure you spend them before October 15. And please don't put them in the offertory bag after October 8. The cost of a trip to London rather defeats the object of the exercise!



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(Monday – Friday  
9.30 am – 12.30 pm)

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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.



## COMMENT - Knowledge of the Kingdom

Jesus said to his disciples: “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.” (*Matthew 13:11*). Ralph Morton, Deputy Leader of the Iona Community under George MacLeod, wrote in *The Twelve Together*: “They were expecting some secret that could be passed from one to another, from mouth to ear; some secret that could be told in a whisper that implied ‘I know and you don’t’. ... Jesus never speaks of this knowledge as an individual possession.” I don’t think Jesus meant that he had told them things he had withheld from others; I think he was referring to the experience they had had as a group during their three years with him.

It would appear that in selecting the disciples he deliberately chose as diverse a group of people as he could. Incidentally, the group probably comprised not just men, though the Gospel writers are reluctant to admit it. Mary Magdalene, when she visited the empty tomb on Easter morning, was clearly part of the inner circle and Mark, at the end of his account of the Passion, refers to “many other women” who came to Jerusalem with Jesus.

But leaving that controversy aside there were obvious tensions in the group. Politically the disciples ranged from Simon the Zealot (a group which advocated the violent overthrow of the Roman occupiers) to Matthew the tax collector, the collaborator with the colonisers. Economically they ranged from the sons of Zebedee, the owner of a fishing fleet, to ordinary fishermen. And yet they grew into a close knit fellowship. Ralph Morton goes on to say that the knowledge “was corporate, not individual. ... It was what they knew themselves in their life together; what they knew in sharing their life with Jesus.”

There are groups (cricket clubs, for instance) that achieve fellowship by tacitly agreeing not to talk about politics or religion, not to talk about anything that might be divisive. Yet if we are to try to model the Kingdom we cannot ignore the things that divide us; only by facing them will our prejudices be challenged; only by facing them will we learn from each other. And only as we create a fellowship that recognises our divisions will we gain “knowledge of the secrets of heaven.”

**Ken Prideaux-Brune**

## Remembering Uncle Joseph

### Jo Harrington reports on the Commemoration of the centenary of the start of the Battle of Passchaendale

For my own family, the most meaningful Commemoration - far from celebration - in 2017 is the death at Passchendaele of Uncle Joseph, after whom I was named.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission organised a number of events to mark this First World War centenary, beginning with a ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres and then an open air dramatic and visual account of Third Ypres (the Battle of Passchendaele), projected onto the wall of the great Cloth Hall in the Ypres Market Square.

The next day, July 31, a Service was held at the Tyne Cot cemetery and memorial, just marching distance away. It was to mark exactly 100 years since the start of the "battle of the mud", where British, French and Commonwealth troops had aimed to break out of the Ypres Salient, take control of German held Passchendaele ridge and village and move towards driving the Germans from command of the Belgian coast. After more than 100 days of conflict, however, the gain of only a few miles was short lived and cost dearly. Nearly 12,000 were eventually buried on the steep hillside of Tyne Cot, so named ruefully by the Tynesiders who helped in the assault. Another 35,000 men whose exact place of death is unknown, including Joseph, are recorded on the memorial wall which curves around the hill top with its commanding view of the Flanders countryside.

My sister and I were among the 4,000 winners in the lottery for tickets for the service of Commemoration

held at Tyne Cot. The War Graves Commission laid on bus transport from Ypres for us all, plus 4,000 packed lunches, rain ponchos (not needed!), programmes, small wooden crosses, and seating among the grave stones. We met several visitors wearing Scots kilts, Aussie hats, and some with barely enough chest space to display their family medals, and also two German soldiers representing Bavaria and Prussia. Bands from the Marines, the Guards and Royal Air Force played as they, too, like the soldiers in 1917, climbed the steep hill of Tyne Cot.

Later, it took only two bars of them playing the national anthem, cut short, to get us trustingly on our feet to await for some while the arrival of Prince Charles, William and Kate, the King and Queen of the Belgians and Theresa May, who also had to climb the steep slope. We all stood expectantly, far outnumbered by the thousands of grave stones which seemed similarly to be silently at attention.

In the first part of the Service, remembering some of the voices and names of those who fell, Prince Charles quoted George V who spoke of "this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war". Three young men sang in Welsh, honouring the poet Hedd Wynn, an Australian soldier was quoted saying "No one spoke of the task before us.". A New Zealander had written "My company had gone into action 180 strong and we came out 32 strong." A Lancashire Private wrote home that there were "bits of men all over the place."



Jo, her sister and the wreath to remember Uncle Joseph

Names of the fallen were read out at several points, and the National Youth Choir of Scotland sang a version of McCrae's poem *In Flanders fields the poppies blow*. Later, to Elgar's *Nimrod* melody they sang *Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine*, and flowers were placed at a grave of some German soldiers.

As one, 4,000 joined in response to Laurence Binyon's words, "We will remember them". A tangible two minutes silence was held after the Last Post, only broken by a loud sob from a wheelchair occupant to my right. After Reveille, we relaxed a little as more names were read out, wreaths were laid by the Royals, and the British and Belgian National Anthems were played. Then the Belgian Air Force flew past in Missing Man formation and suddenly it was all over. The Royals vanished round the back of the memorial wall, and we queued yet again for our buses back.

It was a lovely sunny day, ox eye daisies flourished at the road side, the fields had no mud. We felt relieved that due prayer and Commemoration had been offered, and so we just turned our backs on the thousands still left lying there at Tyne Cot. We made our way home, leaving them behind.



## Fun in Halifax

Peter Binns reports on the 2017 Tuesday Club holiday in Halifax



*Halifax Minster, where the group worshipped on the Sunday morning.*

Twenty-five members of the Tuesday Club set out on Friday, July 14, for a six day holiday in Yorkshire. What fun it was going to be! The fifth time!

On Saturday, an expedition to the Wensleydale Creamery at Hawes proved to be something of a gastronomic delight with a great lunch, followed by a demonstration of how the cheese is made. Simple, really (or so it looked). Many members got lost in the shop (not literally) as there were so many things to buy. How we managed in the evening - Yorkshire pudding as a starter, followed by roast beef - I am not sure, but we did. Must be something to do with the air (or was it the aperitifs?)

On Sunday, the Eucharist in Halifax Minster was lovely; we received a great welcome. We sang our heads off (I did anyway!). We welcomed Charles and Helen, whose wedding I

conducted at Brighouse in 1993. In the afternoon, the weather turned splendid and an outing to Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, a stately home in a huge park, allowed us to bask in the sun. It was followed by a splendid meal at La Luna in Halifax, where you can sit out in the arcade and enjoy the quiet atmosphere.

Monday was another beautiful day, this time for a trip to Chatsworth House, Derbyshire. Some of us went in the house, others chilled out in the sun and had a good lunch. I managed to fall asleep on a bench!

Tuesday morning was for many the highlight of all the outings. A trip to East Riddlesden Hall, Keighley, a National Trust property, began with an incredibly friendly welcome and clear explanations. There was an impressive collection of fine furniture and clocks - really interesting, as I am a clock maniac! The hall is in a lovely setting with a lake and the

river nearby. Many people would have liked to stay longer there but we were due for lunch at Skipton Castle, one of the best preserved and most complete medieval castles in England.

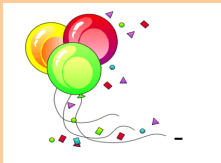
Wednesday morning was spent at leisure in Halifax, with its fine Victorian market and lovely independent department store, magnificent Town Hall and beautiful Minster. Unfortunately, the Piece Hall was not due to re-open after restoration until August 1, Yorkshire Day, an excuse (if we needed one, I don't!) for another visit.

We ended our stay with a splendid lunch in the Mereside Restaurant in Shibden Park, and were joined by Kath and Roy, who was formerly Vicar of Brighouse. We are still great mates! After all these fine meals, I am sure that we have all gained weight. I did. So came to an end our fifth holiday in "God's Own County" and in where for me is the BEST town in the UK!!



*Halifax Town Hall*

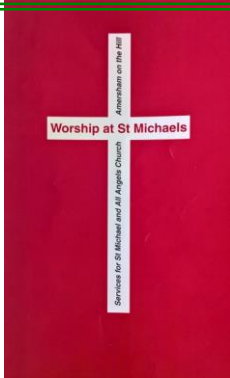
*Photos: Jack Fisher*



## Michaelmas – Our Patronal Festival Sunday October 1

At the 10am service, a sustainable-trade incense will be used. It is designed to have a light smoke that should have little or no respiratory effects on people, and be more suitable for asthma sufferers than other types of incense. The service will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch. Keep an eye out for the notices in church nearer the time where you can sign up to come and indicate what you will bring.

### The Red Service Books



Following the introduction of our new Service sheets for the various seasons of the church's year, we no longer require the red service books that we used for many years. During September, there will be copies in a box in the Narthex. Please feel free to take a copy/copies if you would like a slice of St. Michael's history. Any copies not claimed by the end of September, will be disposed of.

### Wise Choices

The Film Club resumes (under its new name) with **Sully: *Miracle on the Hudson River***.  
Running time – 92 mins.

**Friday September 8  
Wheeler Room  
2 pm – 4 pm**

### Christian Aid Week Success

The total raised in Christian Aid Week this year was **£9,800**, bringing the total raised locally for Christian Aid in the year to July 2017 to a remarkable **£14,000**. Do please support the

**Craft Fair at the Free Church  
Saturday October 28, 10 am – 3 pm**

An opportunity to buy plants, books, homemade cakes and a variety of nearly new goods.

We welcome in Baptism:

Iris Ann Charlesworth  
Max Roger James Beck  
Mia Nirvana Beck  
Dotty Mo Beazley

## Recognising the Human

Hospital chaplaincy is about recognising the human in the other person, according to the Revd Debbie Hodge in her inspiring talk at the AGM of Churches on the Hill Amersham (COTHA). Debbie was a nurse prior to her ordination and is now Chief Officer for the Network for Pastoral, Spiritual and Religious Care in Health. She introduced us to a patient suffering from mental health issues who had spells of violent anger when he had to be kept in isolation for his own safety. But his anger arose out of

fear and rather than ask him what caused his fear she asked him when he felt safe. He replied that he had felt safe when he sat on his granny's knee so she advised the staff that when he showed signs of anger they should simply sit with him and hold his hand.

And she told us about a young woman from New Zealand who had suffered a brain haemorrhage and was brain dead. She was a Maori and so rather than simply turn off life support they contacted her family who were able, via

Skype, to perform the Maori ritual of singing her spirit into the next world as she died.

The hospital chaplaincy team is multi faith and each of them is there for everyone, of whatever faith or none. Debbie told us how moved she had been when a Sikh man, whom she had visited regularly throughout his time in hospital, offered to give her a blessing.

To listen to Debbie as she shared a wonderfully inclusive approach to humanity was a real privilege.



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Amersham-on-the-Hill**

**DIARY**

**September 2017**

**Regular Weekly Activities**

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>8 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
Mondays	9 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.
Tuesdays	9 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.
	10.30 am	Said Eucharist. Lady Chapel
Wednesdays	9 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.
	7.00 – 8.15 pm	Choir Practice
Thursdays	9 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.
Fridays	9 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel
Saturdays	9 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.
Tuesdays.	10 am – 12 noon.	Wheeler Coffee Pot. Wheeler Room.

*The Church is usually open each morning from 9 am for anyone who wishes to meditate or spend time in quiet.*

**Other Activities in September**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept 3</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. Warden: Claire Sinclair (07951 954701)</b>
Tuesday	Sept 5	LUNCH BREAK. Bite size service with Ian Green. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Sept 6	Healing and Wholeness. Lady Chapel. 3, 3.30 and 4.15 pm.
Friday	Sept 8	Wise Choices Film Club. <i>Sully: Miracle on the Hudson River.</i> Wheeler Room. 2 pm – 4 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept 10</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. 2gether: Warden: Hazel Miller (773189)</b>
Tuesday	Sept 12	LUNCH BREAK. Introducing Hauke (Volunteer). Free Church. 1.10 pm
Friday	Sept 15	Tuesday Club outing to Packwood House
Saturday	Sept 16	MESSY CHURCH 11.30 am – 1 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept 17</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. Warden: Alan Jarvis (07586 354341)</b>
Monday	Sept 18	Not One for Lunch. Lady Chapel. 12.45 pm
Tuesday	Sept 19	LUNCH BREAK. Costa Rica and Galapagos. Free Church. 1.10 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept 24</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. Warden: Roland Gillott (722674)</b>
Tuesday	Sept 26	LUNCH BREAK. U3A Singers. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Friday	Sept 29	Pop in and Paint. 10.30 – 11.45 am
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>Michaelmas. Incense at 10 am. service Followed by bring-and-share lunch.</b>

**The Newsletter is published monthly (except January and August).  
The next issue will appear on Sunday October 1. Material for inclusion  
should please be emailed to the Editor on [pbrune@olcs.net](mailto:pbrune@olcs.net) by  
September 19.**

# Children & Families Page


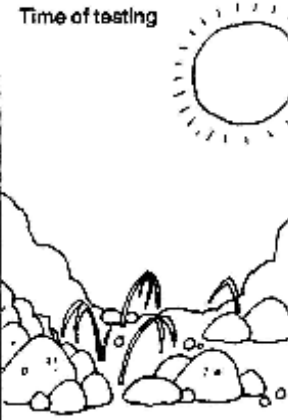

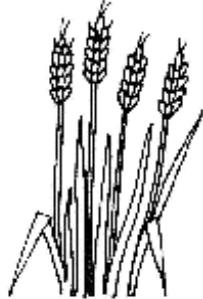
## The sower

## Worksheet

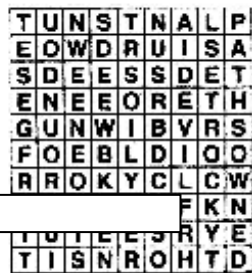
Find this story in Luke 8

The seed is like the word of God



<p><b>The Path</b></p> <p>The message taken away</p> 	<p><b>Rocky Ground</b></p> <p>Time of testing</p> 
<p><b>The weeds and thorns</b></p> <p>Worries and Riches</p> 	<p><b>The Good Soil</b></p> <p>Good Fruit</p> 

### Word search



- BIRDS      PATH      SOIL
- DEVIL     PLANTS    SOWER
- FRUIT     RICHES    THORNS
- GOOD     ROCKY     WEEDS
- GROUND   SEEDS



Which sort of ground are you?



Messy Church returns after the summer break on Saturday September 16, 11.30 am-1 pm. Come and join in the fun!