



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

Please take one

# Newsletter

MARCH 2022



## LENT 2022



### Our Lent Discussion Group

Our Lent course will be based on Nick Fawcett's book *A Chequered Legacy: the good, the bad and the ugly of the Church*. We looked at the good during Advent and in Lent we will be looking at the bad and the ugly.

The course will be on Zoom and you will find the link in the weekly notices. Please contact the office to order a copy of the book.

"I think you will enjoy it," says Peter Binns, "and find it helpful and stimulating."

**Wednesdays March 9 – April 6  
7 pm – 8 pm**

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 (Monday – Friday  
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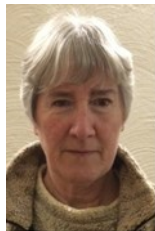
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**St Michael's Vision Statement**

*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 March 28. Material for inclusion should please be emailed to the Editor on [pbrune@olcs.net](mailto:pbrune@olcs.net) by March 18.**



## COMMENT

### Conquering Hate

Last December I watched a television programme in which Daniel Barenboim spoke about the orchestra he leads, an orchestra made up of a mix of Israeli and Palestinian musicians. These people had grown up with no opportunity of meeting each other and viewed each other as simple stereotypes – oppressor/terrorist. Now, they had to align their tempo, their emotions, their feelings, because the orchestra had to be unified if it was to express the true depths of the music they were playing.

I was reminded of a sentence written by a former colleague of mine: “To conquer hate would be to end the strife of all the ages but for men to know one another is not difficult and it is half the battle.” These musicians had come together and had found that they were neither oppressors nor terrorists but fellow musicians with similar hopes and dreams.

In Flanders on Christmas Day in 1914 British and German soldiers came out of their trenches and met each other in no man’s land. They showed each other pictures of their families, exchanged gifts of chocolate or cake, maybe kicked a football around. And they discovered that people they had been taught to believe were evil barbarians were in fact human beings much like themselves. The fighting was no less vicious after that but the top brass on both sides were very worried that fighting morale would be damaged and made sure that there would be no repeat of this fraternisation in future.

Many years ago, I met a lovely old man called Sid Thresher. Every summer through the 1920s and 30s Sid entertained young Germans in his home. In August 1939 he was entertaining two Luftwaffe pilots and towards the end of the month the German embassy had to phone him to say: “War is coming. Can we have our pilots back, please?” Clearly Sid’s gesture, however well meant, was completely futile. And if you or I decided to go behind the stereotype and get to know whoever we see as the dangerous ‘other’ – an asylum seeker, a person of colour, a Russian oligarch – no doubt, too, this would be a completely futile gesture. But if millions of people had the courage to make a futile gesture, perhaps those futile gestures wouldn’t be quite so futile. And maybe, just maybe, we might even begin to conquer hate.

**Ken Prideaux-Brune**

# Introducing...



Amersham Dance Studio is a popular and long-established dance school offering classes in Ballet, Tap, Modern and Progressing Ballet Technique for

boys and girls from the age of three to 19. Our teachers are highly qualified, and we teach the syllabi of the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) for Ballet and the

The Principal, Emma Culmer, introduces Amersham Dance Studio who meet in the Hall on Mondays and Thursdays.

Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) for Modern and Tap.

As well as working towards examinations we have a show every two years at the Elgiva Theatre in Chesham which all the students thoroughly enjoy being part of.

Our classes are fun, friendly, and suitable for all – from students wanting a once-a-week fitness/hobby class to students who wish to take dancing further, attend multiple classes a week and go on to a career in the dance industry.

For further information please visit our website [www.amershamdancestudio.co.uk](http://www.amershamdancestudio.co.uk) or call Emma on 07914 845366. We offer free trial sessions for all classes.

## Cathedral Pass

Members of the Church of England who live in the Oxford Diocese, as we do, are welcome to visit Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford free of charge. However to do so they will need to have a Parishioner Pass.

Oxford's Cathedral is part of an Oxford college, Christ Church. The college receives many visitors wishing to look around the college, and visitors have to buy a ticket for their visit.

A Parishioner Pass may be applied for through the Cathedral website at <[chch.ox.ac.uk/yourcathedral](http://chch.ox.ac.uk/yourcathedral)>. Alternatively there is a form which is part of an insert between pages 12/13 of the January-March 2022 issue of the Diocesan magazine "Pathways", free copies of which are in the Narthex.

Christ Church is located on St Aldates (postcode OX1 1DP), no more than a few minutes walk from the Oxford City Centre. Entry for the Cathedral with a Parishioner Pass is via

Tom Gate in St Aldates.

But if you would like to visit other parts of the College, such as the Great Hall (known as the Hogwarts Hall to Harry Potter fans), you will need to buy a ticket ([chch.ox.ac.uk/visit-us](http://chch.ox.ac.uk/visit-us)).

**Roland Gillott**

He did not say: 'You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be work-weary, you shall not be discomforted.' But he said: 'You shall not be overcome.'

*Julian of Norwich*

# How Things Have Changed

Roland Gillott reflects on the past two extraordinary years

At the beginning of March two years ago, we were beginning to get an idea that something unusual was happening. It was being suggested that we should no longer shake hands for the Peace, and that we should wash our hands frequently. By the end of the month churches were closed and we were confined to our homes, except for carefully defined circumstances, principally shopping for essentials and one hour of exercise per day.

Despite this situation, although there was news in the media of people catching Covid, in my experience it was not so usual to know of someone who was affected. The fear was that catching the disease,



particularly among those of us in the older age group, was likely to lead to a hospital stay and intensive care, with no guarantee of the outcome.

Now it is very usual to hear of people, even in the

older age group, who have tested positive or are suffering from the disease. However, there is no longer the expectation that this will necessarily lead to a hospital stay or intensive care. And life, although not fully back to what was 'normal', is much closer to it than it was.

The reason for the change is the vaccine. A modern miracle! Brought about by the hard work and skill of scientists and technicians, supported by those who swept the laboratory floors and cleaned the surfaces, maintained the buildings, dealt with the administration and later, crucially, the distribution.

Over the last two years, the Covid pandemic will have

been much prayed about. On the face of it, this change of situation through the vaccine has been an answer to those prayers. And that answer has come about through people carrying out their everyday work and sharing the benefit with

the population as a whole.

For those of us who find ourselves with an extension of time compared to how things might have been if we had caught the virus before being vaccinated, the question may be how are we going to use that time? Will we be carrying on as before, trying to get as close as possible to how things were two years ago, or will this extension of time give us cause to think further than that? Are there things which we might be doing differently?

Something which I find difficult to get over is the way technology has helped over the last two years to keep us in touch as a community and continues to do so: that so many people in the congregation have a computer, tablet or mobile phone. As a result, they have been able to receive notices and service materials through network connections, and we have been able to hear their recordings of music, readings, sermons and prayers. And, of course, Zoom has enabled us to get together for gatherings, meetings and courses. If the pandemic had struck five or ten years earlier, we would surely have been in a very different situation.

Although confinement during lockdown was a frustration, particularly the restriction on seeing loved ones, for many of us it helped to protect us until the vaccine became available. As we look back over these last two, unusual, years, we have a lot to be thankful for.

## COTHA Joint Worship in January



At the start of the Churches on the Hill (COTHA) combined service on January 23 (pictured above) we received the devastating news that St John's Methodist Church has decided to close. The last service at St John's will be at 3 pm on Easter Day. St

John's hall will continue to be available for use by local groups for the present.

We send our fraternal greetings to all the members of St John's Methodist Church at this sad time.

### Our Lent Appeal

We are once again invited to support the work of St Anne's Hospital in Liuli, Tanzania, this Lent. This year's contribution will go towards the essential major work on the internal plumbing to bring it up to an acceptable standard. If you wish to contribute please make your gift by bank transfer to: Friends of St Anne's Hospital. Sort code: 52 25 18. Account number: 22627894. Please mark your transfer "St Michael's Appeal". Or alternatively post a cheque to Mrs Madeline Cole, 64 Porteous Crescent, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DH.

### This month's film

Wise Choices Film Club is showing **Frantz**, a drama about a young German woman whose fiancé, Frantz, was killed in WW1. One day at his grave in a small German town she meets a young Frenchman laying flowers and enquires about his business there.

**Friday March 4  
Wheeler Room. 2 pm**



**St Michael and All Angels  
Amersham-on-the-Hill**

**DIARY**

**MARCH 2022**

**Eucharists will be celebrated each week**  
**Sundays 8.30 am and 10 am**  
**Tuesdays 10.30 am**

The church is open for private prayer until 4 pm on weekdays. The votive candle stand has been moved into the Lady Chapel, which has been set aside as a place of quiet.

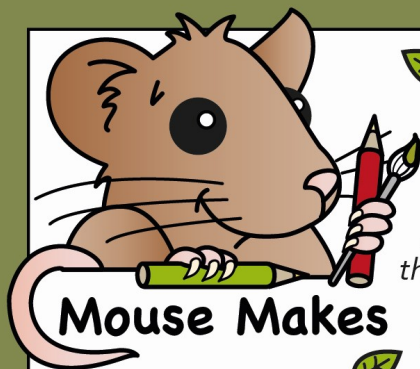
The following link, [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-KJtHzLo0w2CM6RQI\\_50yg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-KJtHzLo0w2CM6RQI_50yg) will access live-streamed services.

**Weekly Activities in the Hall**

Mondays	Mature Movers. 1.45—2.45 pm Dance Studio. Hall. Children from 3+. Afternoon.
Tuesdays	Tuffney Performing Arts Academy. 4.30 pm Yoga classes 6 pm
Wednesdays	Karate Club. Hall. Beginners/Junior 6 —7 pm. Intermediate/Senior 7—8 pm
Thursdays	Dance Studio. Hall. Children from 3+. Afternoon.
Fridays	Stay Steady, Stay Strong.. Hall. 1.30—2.30 pm

**Other activities in March**

Tuesday	Mar	2	<i>No 10.30 am Eucharist</i> LUNCH CLUB. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Mar	3	<b>Ash Wednesday. Eucharists at 10.30 am and 7 pm</b> Nappy Days. 1.30—3 pm
Friday	Mar	4	Pop in and Paint. 10.30 am—12.15 pm Wise Choices Film Club. Frantz. Wheeler Room. 2 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Lent 1. Warden: Hazel Miller (773189)</b>
Tuesday	Mar	8	LUNCH CLUB. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Mar	9	Nappy Days. 1.30—3 pm Lent discussion group. Zoom. 7 pm
Friday	Mar	11	Crafty Cuppa
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Lent 2. Gathered Round. Warden: Alan Bacon (774870)</b>
Tuesday	Mar	15	LUNCH CLUB. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Mar	16	Nappy Days. 1.30—3 pm Lent discussion group. Zoom. 7 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Lent 3. Warden: Roger Leslie (726362)</b>
Tuesday	Mar	22	LUNCH CLUB. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Mar	23	Nappy Days. 1.30—3 pm Lent discussion group. Zoom. 7 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday Warden: Roland Gillott (722674)</b>
Tuesday	Mar	29	LUNCH CLUB. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Mar	30	Nappy Days. 1.30—3 pm Lent discussion group. Zoom. 7 pm



## Mouse Makes

### GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

*"No good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit..."*

*...Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."*

- Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ  
Luke  
6: 27-45

How did Jesus  
say we should  
treat others?

Look up  
Luke 6:31

S	P	E	A	K	A	E	S	D
B	R	O	F	R	U	I	T	E
L	A	F	G	I	V	E	O	H
E	Y	O	O	H	E	A	R	T
S	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R
S	A	G	D	A	B	H	D	E
B	R	I	N	G	O	W	N	E
A	E	V	I	L	O	V	E	V
D	R	E	P	E	N	T	E	K

to everyone  
who asks you  
Luke 6:30

to those that  
hate you  
Luke 6:27

those who  
curse you  
Luke 6:28

for those who  
are cruel to you  
Luke 6:28

and you will be  
forgiven  
Luke 6:37



Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.  
GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED  
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

