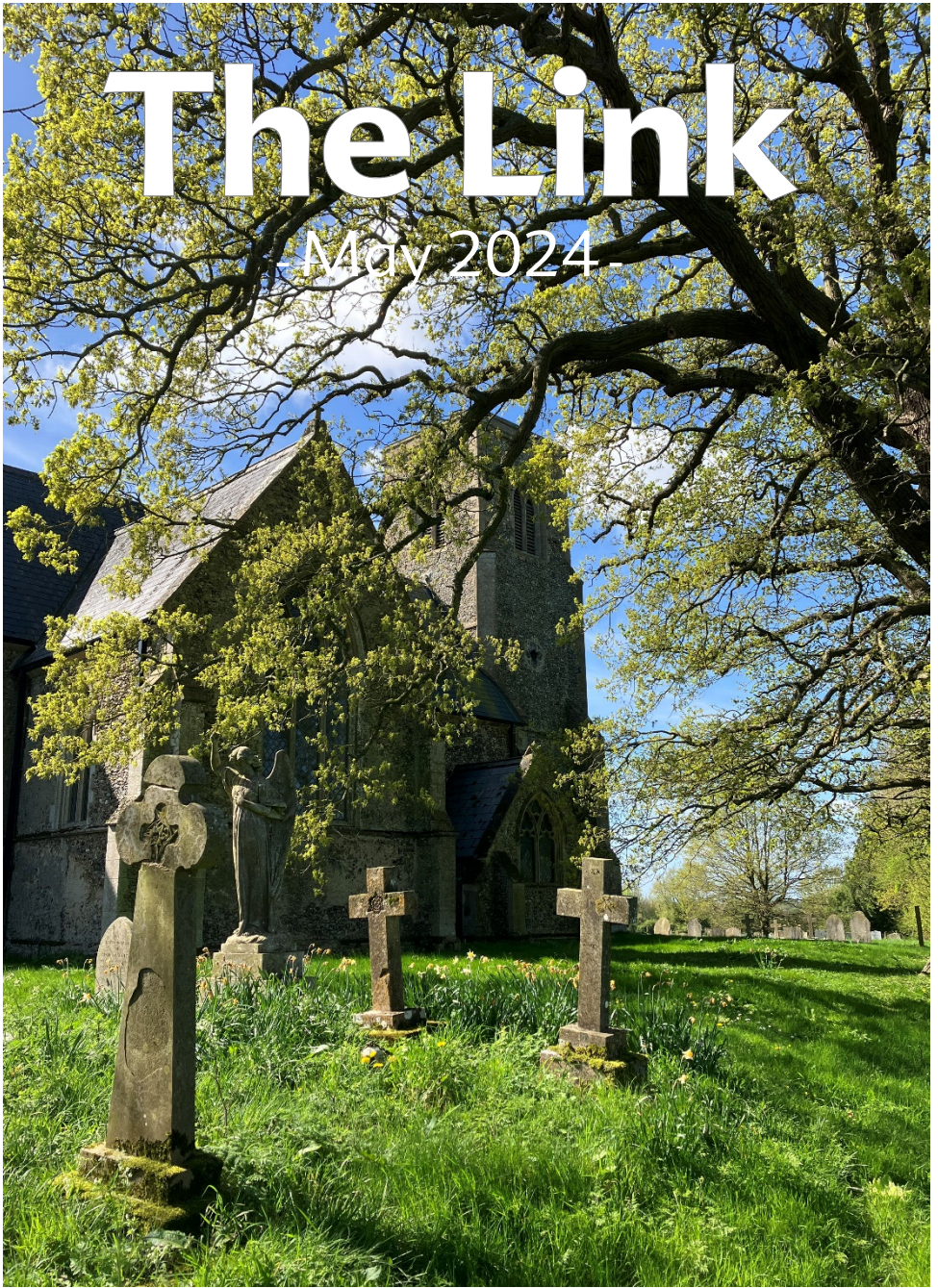


The Link

May 2024



ST MARY'S ATTLEBOROUGH
& ALL SAINTS' BESTHORPE

70p

Cogitations

In January this year Kew Gardens announced that 74 new plants and 15 new fungi had been discovered in 2023. Amongst them was a fern that grows underground in Borneo. The only clue to its existence is ordinary-looking leaves at ground level. Digging down into the soil, the plant revealed bright red fruit and flowers. In the highlands of Angola botanists and others discovered a pair of trees living almost entirely underground. Only the white or yellow flowers were visible above the sandy soil. It is reassuring to know that humanity has still not found everything that is part of God's creation.

The awe and wonder of new discoveries are not within the grasp of most people as we cope with the busyness of our ordinary lives. Our preoccupation with the task in front of us means that we often fail to see clearly everything that is around us. William Henry Davies (1871-1940) began his poem *Leisure* with these words, "What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare". How many of us can honestly say that we take a little time out of each and every day to closely observe and appreciate the world around us?

A recent spell of enforced inactivity gave me the opportunity to really notice the emergence of spring flowers and blossom. It seemed a very short time between seeing bare tree branches, followed by small tight buds, then the trees were full of pink and white blossom. After the austerity of Lent the floral arrangements in our churches were a reminder that the beauty of creation does not have to remain outside our buildings.

By the time you read this the Easter eggs will have been eaten, even if hot cross buns are available all year round and, for some, Easter is already a distant memory. For Christians, however, the Easter season continues until the festival of Pentecost with its celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed on all Christ's disciples.

As we watch nature's unfurling in the warmth of spring may this be a time to reawaken and strengthen our faith. How we do that is part of our individuality and our circumstances. It may be that we will decide to come to church more regularly, or to come back after a long absence. For others, it could be the decision to attend a service that is not part of our 'usual' attendance, we may also re-evaluate our financial stewardship, or volunteer our services to the church in some capacity. Whatever we decide to do, God will notice because nothing is ever hidden from Him.

Above all, we need to remind ourselves that it is acceptable to stand and stare for a while, as long as we remember that our belief and hope in the Risen Christ is not something to keep hidden for years like those newly-discovered plants and fungi.

Brenda

May 2024

Dates for your diary

Wed 1		St Philip and St James, Apostles
	5pm	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church & online</i>
Thu 2	9.30-11am	Drop-in & Play <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10am	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	11-12noon	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Fri 3	12.30pm	St Mary's Community Lunch <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	7-9pm	Choir practice <i>in the Church Hall</i>
Sat 4	10am-11.30am	Coffee and Chat with stalls for The Children's Society <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10-11.30am	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in the Church Hall Link</i>
	10am-1pm	Artisan Craft Market <i>in the churchyard</i>
	7.30pm	Concert by the Sheringham Shanty Men <i>in All Saints' Church, Besthorpe</i>
Sun 5		The Sixth Sunday of Easter
	8am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	10am	Parish Eucharist <i>in St Mary's Church and online</i> <i>with Sunday Club in the Church Hall</i>
	11.30am	Holy Communion <i>in All Saints' Besthorpe</i>
	3pm	Holy Baptism of Esmae-Rosé Germyn Newton Douglas-Badamie <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	4pm	Holy Baptism of Leo Grist, Amber & Nathan Bunting <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Mon 6		May Bank Holiday
Tue 7	3.30-4.30pm	AMPVoices <i>in the Church Hall</i>
Wed 8	11am	Royal British Legion VE Day service <i>at the Poppy Memorial</i>
Thu 9		Ascension Day
	9.30-11am	Drop-in & Play <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10am	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i>

	11-12noon	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	7.30pm	Sung Eucharist for the Deanery <i>in St Mary's Church & online</i>
Fri 10	2pm	Mothers' Union meeting <i>in the Church Hall</i> with Dick Barham speaking on Norfolk Churches
	7-9pm	Choir practice <i>in the Church Hall</i>
Sat 11	10-11.30am	Coffee & Chat with stalls for Ugandan orphans and families <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10-11.30am	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in the Church Hall Link</i>
	7.30pm	Waveney Choir 'Songs from the Shows' <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Sun 12		The Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday after Ascension Day <i>Christian Aid Week begins</i>
	8am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	10am	Parish Eucharist <i>in St Mary's Church and online</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Mon 13	7.30-9pm	Bible Study <i>in the Upper Room</i>
Tue 14		St Matthias, Apostle
	3.30-4.30pm	AMPVoices <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	5pm	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church & online</i>
	7.30pm	Attleborough PCC meeting <i>in the Church Hall</i> <i>and on zoom</i>
Thu 16	9am	Green Stall <i>in the Churchyard</i>
	9.30-11am	Drop-in & Play <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10am	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	11-12noon	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Fri 17	10am	Attleborough Town Lands Charity trustees' meeting <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	12.30pm	St Mary's Community Lunch <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	7-9pm	Choir practice <i>in the Church Hall</i>

Sat 18	9.45am	Messy Church planning meeting <i>in the Upper Room</i>
	10-11.30am	Christian Aid Coffee Morning <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10-11.30am	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in the Church Hall Link</i>

Sun 19

Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

	8am	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	10am	Parish Eucharist <i>in St Mary's Church and online with Sunday Club in the Church Hall</i>
	11.30am	Holy Communion <i>in All Saints' Besthorpe</i>
	3.30pm	Cavick String Quartet <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Mon 20	7.30-9pm	Bible Study <i>in the Church Hall</i>
Tue 21	3.30-4.30pm	AMPVoices <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	7.30pm	Adult Messy Church <i>in the Church Hall</i>
Wed 22	3.30-5pm	Christian Aid committee meeting <i>in the Upper Room</i>
	7.30pm	Fete planning meeting <i>on zoom</i>
Thu 23	9.30-11am	Drop-in & Play <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10am	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	11-12noon	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Fri 24		Schools close for half term
	1.30pm	Magazine collation <i>in the Upper Room</i>
	7-9pm	Choir practice <i>in the Church Hall</i>
Sat 25	10-11.30am	Coffee & Chat with stalls for Millie's trip to Borneo <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10-11.30am	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in the Church Hall Link</i>

Sun 26

Trinity Sunday

	8am	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	10am	Parish Eucharist <i>in St Mary's Church and online</i>
	3pm	Holy Baptism of Arlo Xavier Holmes <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	4pm	Holy Baptism of Archie Edward Hobbs <i>in St Mary's Church</i>

	6.30pm	Choral Evensong <i>in St Mary's Church and online</i>
Mon 27		Bank Holiday
Thu 30		Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)
	10am	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	11-12noon	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Fri 31		Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth
	12.30pm	St Mary's Community Lunch <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	5pm	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church and online</i>

Morning Prayer is said daily Monday to Saturday at 9am on Zoom
Evening Prayer is said daily Monday to Saturday at 5pm on Zoom

Donation to the Bishop's Lent Appeal

A total of £61.57 was collected over the five Lent Group meetings which was money donated for refreshments. This amount has been sent to the Norwich Diocese which will be put towards funds to provide water tanks for Ordinands' Homes at Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea.

Magazine Subscriptions

If your magazine is delivered to you, the annual subscription of £7 falls due in May/June. Please have the cash ready when your distributor calls to collect it. Cheques are acceptable and should be made out to Attleborough PCC.

The Truth of the Ascension

'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18,19). God's way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.' (Teresa of Avila).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Editor: This year we commemorate the Ascension on Thursday 9th May with services at St. Mary's Church at 10am and 7.30pm. All welcome.

Monthly Artisan Markets

St Mary's hosted its first Artisan market of 2024 on the 6th April. The windy weather wasn't going to stop us. New and returning stall holders were welcomed and soon set up their pitches. The churchyard was bustling. It was lovely to see all the visitors who were able to purchase a wide range of homemade products, gifts, bakes, fruit and vegetables which were on offer, as well as enjoying the beautiful Church and its surroundings. This month we will be welcoming even more artisan stall holders so please join us on Saturday 4th May from 10am until 1pm.

Looking ahead and at the Artisan market on Saturday 1st June we will also be having a grand valuation day and the AMP flower festival in the Church. More details explaining the day can be found within this magazine.

Stop Press!!! There's still time to book an artisan pitch at any of our markets, so if you or you know of anyone that makes, brews, bakes, paints or crafts products, and would like a pitch, please contact the Parish Office.

Susan Wilson

Please support stalls at Coffee & Chat
in aid of

The Children's Society

on Saturday 4 May

from 10-11.30am in the Church Hall

* Cakes, tombola, raffle, books, bric-a-brac *

*We would also be grateful if any house boxes
could be returned by that weekend*



All Saints' Church Besthorpe
Saturday 4th May 2024

7.30pm

Tickets £10

including refreshments

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 **ALL SAINTS'**
BESTHORPE

Christian Aid Week 12 -18 May

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Christian Aid lunch is postponed until August.

We look forward to welcoming **David Griffith** to talk to us about the work of Christian Aid during the 10am Service on **Sunday 12th May**

We shall also be holding our annual Christian Aid Week **coffee morning** on Saturday **18th May** with cakes and savouries on sale, and a raffle.



Help to change lives!

Christian Aid Week Donation Envelopes

This edition of The Link contains a **Christian Aid Week donation envelope**. Please donate what you can, Gift Aid it if you are a UK taxpayer and return it to St Mary's Church office (opening hours 10:00 – 12:00 Monday – Friday) or hand it in at the 8:00 or 10:00 Sunday service.

Donation envelopes will also be available in church near the entrance.

Your donation, no matter how small, will help to change lives.

Visit All Saints' Church

All Saints' Church Besthorpe will be open for visitors on the First Sunday of the month during the summer from 2pm to 4pm. We look forward to welcoming you. One of the congregation will be there to show you around.



CHRISTIAN AID
COFFEE MORNING
SAT 18th MAY

10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL

TEA/COFFEE & CAKES

RAFFLE

BRING & BUY CAKE STALL

Please come along!
Make us some cakes if you can!

Christian Aid Week begins on
Sunday 12th May



Messiah – Discipleship – Kingdom of God

You are invited to our Bible Study Group beginning on

Monday 13th May 2024

7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

The Upper Room

St Mary's Church Hall

Attleborough

For six weeks, we shall be exploring the Gospel of Saint Mark to learn more about Jesus, how he fulfilled Old Testament hopes and promises, how he calls us to follow him and how we can help to bring in the kingdom of God.

For further information telephone Jane Minchin on 07359 203127 or email

janelminchin@gmail.com

Recipe for May - Clafoutis

This easy French recipe cooks any stoned fruit in a sweet batter.

If you like you can put the fruit and batter into a shortcrust pastry case. Pre-cook this for about 8 minutes.

1 lb plums /cherries / damsons / **apricots** (are best)

10 fl.oz milk

4 eggs

4 oz sugar

Pinch of salt

4 oz flour

1.5 oz melted butter

1 oz icing sugar



Stone the fruit and place in the pastry shell or dish.

Liquidise all the remaining ingredients except the icing sugar.

Pour the batter over the fruit and bake for 30 minutes @ 375 degrees

Sift the icing sugar over the top of the dish.

This can be served hot or slightly cooled with whipped cream.

C'est délicieux!

Concerts in May

We have two concerts coming up in May. The Waveney Choir perform a selection of music from the shows on Saturday 11 May at 7.30pm, and the Cavick string quartet perform a programme including music by Haydn, Elgar and Beethoven on Sunday 19 May at 3.30pm. Both concerts are free admission with a retiring collection in aid of the Attleborough Music Project. Sponsorship by Heat Different. Full details of all the concerts coming up this summer are available on the church website:

www.attleboroughchurch.org.uk/concerts

The rewilding plan turning churchyards into ‘living sanctuaries’

How can we encourage new life in our churchyards this year?

The Bishop of Norwich, the Right Revd Graham Usher, recently called for “land action plans” to be developed to encourage and enhance biodiversity across the estates owned by the C of E. The bishop urged that churchyards should be rewilded to become “places for the living, not just the dead”.

With the C of E responsible for around 17,500 acres of churchyard alone (notwithstanding a further 70,000 acres of agricultural land owned by dioceses which is known as glebe land and is largely leased to tenant farmers), such a concerted push could have a dramatic impact on enhancing Britain’s biodiversity.

There is another reason that churchyards have the potential to be such an oasis of wildlife across the country. As consecrated ground, they have been largely spared the ravages of industrial farming and development which has decimated Britain’s flora and fauna elsewhere. Ancient trees have been left to grow and the earth left undisturbed for centuries.

Several national schemes exist to support the rewilding ambitions of church congregations. A charity called Caring For God’s Acre provides an action pack for those considering rewilding consecrated ground, while since 2016 the Christian charity A Rocha UK has offered an “eco church” accreditation.

Editor: St. Mary’s was awarded the Bronze Eco Church Award in October 2023 and is now working towards the Silver Award. Find out more:-
www.attleboroughchurch.org.uk/eco-church.html



The Green Sale

Last August (2023) as part of our eco church work we started a Green Sale. This consists of any items that people have finished with, or in some cases brand new unwanted items and even lovely items made by our talented makers.



The sale is held once a month on Thursday mornings (in the churchyard) and to date sales have been very successful. Jigsaw puzzles, books, items of clothing (especially for children) have been very successful. All sorts of items have sold, some kitchenware and garden items too. The money raised to date is £304.55. We will use the money for green issues in the church and although it may not buy solar panels ... every little helps!

In addition, we are keen to get the message across that just because we no longer have use for something it doesn't have to go to waste (landfill).

Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far and any donations in future can be left in the Parish Office.

There won't be a sale in June or July (so we don't clash with the fete) but look out for future dates.

Marion Dawe

Mothers' Union



The MU stalls at Coffee & Chat for AFIA on 6 April raised the grand total of £312. Thank you for all the wonderful support and donations.

Mary Dark

Summer Fete – Saturday 6th July 2024 – 10am until 2pm

There are two months to go until our Summer Fete and preparations are going well. We already have 14 confirmed external artisan stallholders. There is still availability for artisan pitches, so if you know of anyone who would like a pitch, please contact the Parish Office.

We will be having the full array of our own manned stalls and traditional fete games, as well as a BBQ, refreshments and an ice cream van. Thank you to everyone who will be manning a stall again this year.

Here's just a reminder of all the items we are collecting for the fete and accepting into the Parish Office after 1st June 2024: -

*Plants, Children's Clothes, Toys and Games, Jigsaws, Books,
Bric-a-Brac, Sweets, Chocolate, Cakes,
Garden produce, Preserves, Bottles of any kind,
Tombola and Raffle prizes and items for the new "Goodies in a
basket stall" such as sweets/chocolate, biscuits, tea, coffee,
soft drinks, wine, beer, cleaning materials, pens, pencils, paper
or toiletries etc.*

We are needing an extra pair of hands with the bric-a-brac stall this year, this will involve helping with setting up the stall on the day as well as manning it. In addition, it would be really helpful to have a few people available throughout the day who would be willing to spend an hour or so on different stalls to allow others to have a rest and enjoy the fete themselves. If you can help on any stall, please contact the Parish Office or speak with myself.

The next fete preparation meeting will be on 22 May at 7.30pm via Zoom, please contact the Parish Office for the meeting link. We would love to see you there and hear your ideas on how to make this year's fete a successful fundraiser for the Church.

Thank you for your continued support.
Wilson

Susan

Molly Cake

Diabetic fruit cake

250 g stoned dates, roughly chopped
300ml water
85 g SR flour
85 g SR wholemeal flour
1 tsp mixed spice
500g mixed dried fruit
50g ground almonds
80ml orange juice



Put dates and water into pan and bring to boil. Remove from heat and set aside.

Sieve the white flour and spice into a bowl. Add the wholemeal flour, mixed fruit and almonds and stir to combine.

Stir in the wet date mixture and the orange juice. Mix well.

Spoon into greased loaf tin and bake on 170C/gas 3 for about 45 minutes, or until knife comes out clean.

Turn out onto a wire rack and cool.

Serve with a nice cup o' tea!!



The procession had taken the scenic route

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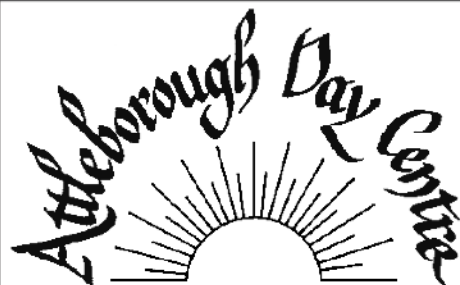
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Activities for Children at St Mary's

Sunday Club meets alternate Sundays during term time at the 10am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's. See the diary page to find out which dates.

Messy Church meets roughly every two months on a Saturday morning. We always have coffee and pastries, biscuits and squash. We do a choice of crafts, junk models and colouring. We conclude the session with songs and a Bible Story.

Drop-in & Play in the Church Hall on Thursday mornings during school term time from 9.15am to 11.00am. There are toys and crafts for pre-school children, coffee and cake in a sociable atmosphere, and a welcome for everyone of any age. You can stay for the whole morning or just drop-in for a little bit. There is no charge to come in or for the refreshments.





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Come along for hot sausage or bacon rolls, cereals, toast or fruit. Everyone is welcome!

All donations towards Christian Aid.
(Contactless donations possible)

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

7 April	Freya Ava Pryke	Aged 6 months
14 April	Noah Christopher Wright	Aged 7½ months

Funerals

25 March	Andrew Cecil Hensley	Aged 66 years
3 April	Terence Owen Tye	Aged 89 years
17 April	Melvyn George Hurn	Aged 66 years
23 April	Paul Charles Ingram	Aged 81 years
25 April	Peter George Maple	Aged 88 years

Correction to last month's 'From the Registers'

We apologise for the error made in last month's magazine and print the correct entry below:

15 March	Edgar Alan (Eddie) Thompson	Aged 95 years
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Material for the June *Link*

Please email material for the June *Link* magazine to attleboroughchurch@btinternet.com **by Sunday 12 May at the latest**, thank you.

Results of the APCMs and Election of Churchwardens

At the annual meetings held at St Mary's on Tuesday 16 April 2024 David Bartington, Christine Beales and Steve Taylor were elected as churchwardens for the coming year, and Chris MacKinnon, Emma Neve, Cherry Saunders and Susan Wilson were elected as PCC members to stand for three years.

The annual meetings were held at All Saints' Besthorpe on Thursday 18 April. After 45 years Ken Clabburn stepped down as churchwarden and was warmly thanked by all present for his long and dedicated service to the church. Kevin Brown was re-elected as churchwarden and is joined by Mick Walpole.

We thank all those who give of their time so freely in support of our churches.

Pippa Greenfinger's Gardening Tips

May can be an unpredictable month. Sometimes hot when we are tricked into thinking the summer has arrived, other times a night frost catches us out and we lose some precious plants. Be aware of the weather forecast and have horticultural fleece ready to pop over your newly planted out babies. Equally if we have a hot spell remember to keep pots and tubs watered.



Generally, the more tender vegetables and flowers can now go into their permanent place. Beans and non-hardy flowers such as Zinnias and dahlias but keep a wary eye on plants for pests, especially caterpillars and slugs.

Grass benefits from a 'weed and feed' application now but do it just before rain is due, to water it in. Always look at the instructions on the pack. Personally, I like a few daisies in my grass! Food for bees and insects. Time to start cutting the grass, probably at least every two weeks, to keep it looking good.

Tie in and support climbers and herbaceous plants. Make sure that spring flowering bulbs are all dead headed so that seeds do not develop and weaken the chance of flowers for next year.

If you are growing tomatoes, marrows or cucumbers outdoors this is a good time to cover the soil where they will be planted with black plastic or fabric, weighed down to stop it blowing away, to warm the ground for a few days. When flowers appear on early potato plants give them a huge amount of water as this increases the crop. Also remove the flowers and seed pods which also increases the yield.

Time to look forward to summer.

Pippa Greenfinger

All in the month of May

It was:

200 years ago, on 7th May 1824 that the first performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 took place in Vienna. It is regarded as Beethoven's greatest work and is one of the most-performed symphonies in the world.

150 years ago, on 9th May 1874 that Howard Carter, British archaeologist and Egyptologist, was born. He discovered the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun in 1922.

100 years ago, on 4th May 1924 that the British children's writer E. Nesbit (Edith Nesbit) died. Best known for *The Railway Children*.

90 years ago, on 25th May 1934 that the British composer, Gustav Holst, died. Best known for *The Planets*.

Also **90** years ago, on 28th May 1934 that the first Glyndebourne opera festival was held, in East Sussex.

70 years ago, on 6th May 1954 that Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in under four minutes (3 minutes, 59.4 seconds), in Oxford.

Also **70** years ago, on 29th May 1954 that Diane Leather became the first woman to run a mile in under five minutes (4 minutes, 59.6 seconds), in Birmingham.

40 years ago, on 19th May 1984 that John Betjeman, British poet, writer, and broadcaster died. He was Poet Laureate 1972-1984.

30 years ago, on 6th May 1994 that the Channel Tunnel linking England and France was officially opened.

Also **30** years ago, on 10th May 1994 that Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president, after more than 300 years of white rule.

Saint of the month

20th May - Alcuin of York, Abbot of Tours, a teacher of genius

Here is a saint for all primary school teachers who have a passion to help children learn to read and write.

Alcuin was born near York in about 735. His family were of noble stock, and they sent him to York Cathedral School, which had the best teachers in the land. They soon realised that Alcuin had a genius for learning, and within a few years he had become master of the school himself. Under his guidance, the fame of the school grew, with more pupils and an ever-increasing library.

In 781 Alcuin visited Rome, where he met Charlemagne, then King of the Franks, who persuaded him to move to Aachen and become master of the palace school – in effect his minister of education.

Alcuin did a magnificent job – he went on to establish a primary school in every town and village, and because the teachers were the clergy, he saw to it that their own literacy and education were improved. But Alcuin did much more – he set up scriptoria for the copying and preservation of ancient manuscripts, for which we owe him the survival of many classical authors. He is also credited with inventing cursive script – or as we know it, ‘joined-up writing’ – as an aid to speedier copying.

Alcuin also revised the Latin liturgy, wrote nine biblical commentaries, revised the Vulgate Bible, and supported the orthodox doctrine of the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son.

By 796, Alcuin was over 60 and ready to retire. Charlemagne appointed him Abbot of St Martin’s at Tours, and here, in his declining years, he built up a model monastic school as he had done at York and Aachen. He died in May 804, but his influence lives on today, and affects hundreds of millions of us – all of us, in fact, who use joined-up writing!

Start your search!!

Gather all the things you thought may be valuable or even completely worthless – you may get a great surprise.

Our Grand Valuation Day on Saturday 1st June from 10am to 3pm

For just £3.00 per item – our Valuers from Keys Auctioneers at Aylsham will give you guidance and some interesting anecdotes of their experiences.

All proceeds to AMP (Attleborough Music Project).

Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall.

Crossword answers:

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



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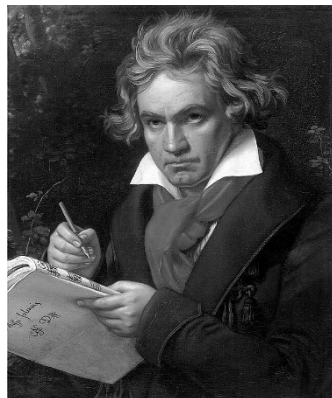
at 3pm

ALL WELCOME

**More information from Cliff or Jackie Amos
01953 455553**

Remembering Beethoven's Greatest Symphony

Two hundred years ago, on 7th May 1824, the first performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No 9 took place in Vienna. It is regarded as Beethoven's greatest work and is one of the most-performed symphonies in the world.



This last of his symphonies is known for its revolutionary structure and majestic emotion, and it is all the more remarkable because it was completed when the composer had gone profoundly deaf. Indeed, although Beethoven stood as conductor for the first performance, the musicians and singers were in fact guided by a separate musical director.

At the close Beethoven did not even hear the hugely enthusiastic response of the audience and had to be turned round by the young contralto so that he could witness it.

The complex ninth symphony, completed over many years with multiple changes, is in fact part symphony and part oratorio – a device that mystified some of the less adventurous critics of the time, who regarded his iconoclastic style as a little too rock-and-roll.

The key final movement is a magnificent setting of Friedrich Schiller's famous poem, *An die Freude* (*Ode to Joy*), which celebrates brotherhood and freedom and has been used to mark many notable occasions. The most striking of these was perhaps the concert on Christmas Day 1989 in Berlin, shortly after the Berlin Wall came down. It was led by American conductor Leonard Bernstein, using musicians from East and West Berlin. For this one occasion the word *Freude* (joy) was replaced by *Freiheit* (freedom).

Beethoven's music to *An die Freude* is used as the European Union Anthem – but without the words.

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And for more information, either call 01603 619731 or go to their website.

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers to help in the café for a morning or afternoon, on a rota basis, perhaps once a fortnight or once a month. No experience necessary!

But most importantly, we look forward to welcoming you at **REVELATION!**

The staff and trustees

Supporting people in trouble

Brothers and sisters, ... Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. (Galatians 6 1-3)

I am always interfering, in situations where I should not. Sorry, but I do. It is probably because of the job I do, that I want to fix things. Christians naturally want to help others. Churches are loving communities, and we want to do the best for each other.

Sometimes supporting others can be difficult. Some people are easy to help. They know what the problem is and what help they need.

Others are very demanding and always need help. They go from person to person asking for support and do not always follow advice. Then there are those who would never ask for help. They battle on and get exhausted and struggle on their own.

Probably the best helper is the person who can listen and not judge and guide the burdened to find their own answers. Often the person who is best at helping others is the one who has experienced life's ups and downs themselves. We can support others by:

Listening and keeping confidences.

Looking out for someone to make sure they are ok.

Respecting their choices even if we do not agree.

And, best of all, praying to know what to say and when to be quiet.

St Paul reminds us that we should bear each other's burdens, and no-one is expected to carry some things by themselves. The law of Christ that Paul was referring to was the New Commandment Jesus gave... that we love one another.

So, I will carry on trying and sometimes failing to fix things. You never know, I might make things better one day!

David Pickup, a solicitor

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: the Stabat Mater

May is traditionally the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus. When we read of Mary in the Gospels, we sense the heartache and trial of much of her life: a teenage mother giving birth in a stable, fleeing with her new-born baby and Joseph to Egypt, losing the child Jesus while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, following her son on His ministry but always in the background, and there at the foot of the cross as her son is crucified. It is then Mary must have thought back to that occasion in the temple when Simeon took her child and told her that a sword would pierce her own soul.

That sense of heartache and the sorrow it brings is poignantly expressed in a beautiful poem of the Middle Ages called *Stabat Mater*, which pictures Mary at Calvary and that sword of desolation and sadness that pierces her soul. We are not sure who wrote this poem. It is ascribed to Jacopone da Todi, who became a Franciscan friar on the death of his wife in the 13th century. The contemplation of Mary’s sorrows in the *Stabat Mater* has inspired many composers, and there are wonderful settings by Palestrina, Rossini, Dvorak, Verdi and Poulenc.

This month let’s focus on a very simple setting, but one that captures those searing pangs of sorrow at the heart of the poem. It is by Antonio Vivaldi, who was born in Venice in 1678. In 1703 he was ordained a priest, but by then he had made his name as a skilled violinist and composer. He continued to compose throughout his life: a vast amount that includes some 40 operas (though only 18 survive), 400 concertos, and over 100 choral works. In 1730 Charles de Brosses described him as ‘an old man with a prodigious fury for composition.’ For much of his life Vivaldi was music director of the Ospedale della Pietà, a music school for girls. Then in 1740 he left Venice hoping for preferment in Vienna. That was not to be, and his final days were marked by poverty and neglect, and in 1741 burial in a pauper’s grave.

Most of us know Vivaldi through the brilliance and colour of ‘The Four Seasons’ and his setting of the Gloria. The tone is more restrained in his setting of the *Stabat Mater*. There is a very fine CD recording entitled

'Vespers of Sorrow' where the work is linked to a sonata, a psalm setting and the Magnificat for an imagined celebration of our Lady's feast.

The Stabat Mater is a long poem and Vivaldi restricted himself to setting eight verses for contralto and strings: the solo voice standing for Mary as she sings of the despair and agony as the mother of Jesus. The opening verse, 'At the cross her station keeping' captures the intensity of emotion with the throbbing rhythms of the accompaniment – that mood recurs throughout the work. And then with the verse, 'Eja Mater, fons amoris' (O thou Mother! Fount of love!) the violins and viola accompany without any bass instruments. It is a pivotal point in the work as the solo voice cries out 'Mater' across the heights and depths of the music, leading into the prayer that the love of Mary will touch all human hearts. The final verse set by Vivaldi begins 'Make me feel as thou hast felt,' and so Mary stands for all mothers who have lost loved ones: perhaps sons killed in Afghanistan, perhaps daughters dying through disease.

Mary's love for Jesus, her son, touches the hearts of them and of all parents. Hers was a protective, sacrificial love that led her to the foot of the cross, where Jesus gave His mother and John, the beloved disciple, into the care of each other. The sacrificial love of a mother mirrored in the sacrificial offering of her son in death.

Julian of Norwich meditated on this motherly love in her Revelations. In chapter 60 she wrote, 'A mother's caring is the closest, nearest and surest for it is the truest...As we know, our own mother bore us only into pain and dying. But our true mother Jesus, who is all love, bears us into joy and endless living. Blessed may he be!' So, the protective care of mother Mary cries out to us in Vivaldi's setting of the Stabat Mater. The closing lines of that poem look to Christ's maternal love like Mother Julian:

'Christ when Thee shall call me hence,
Be my mother, my defence,
Be thy Cross of victory.'

The Revd Michael Burgess



Crossword Clues

Across

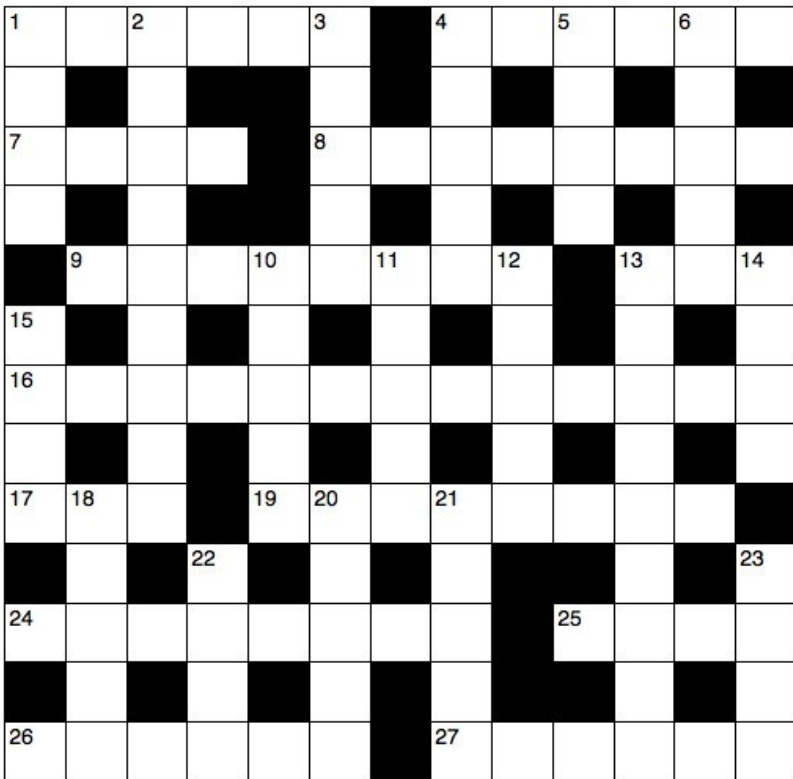
- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

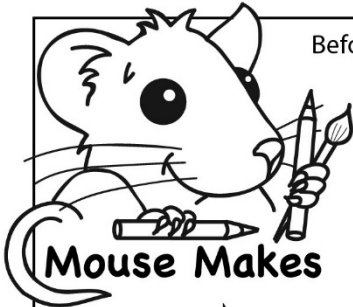
Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)

- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)


Answers on page 24



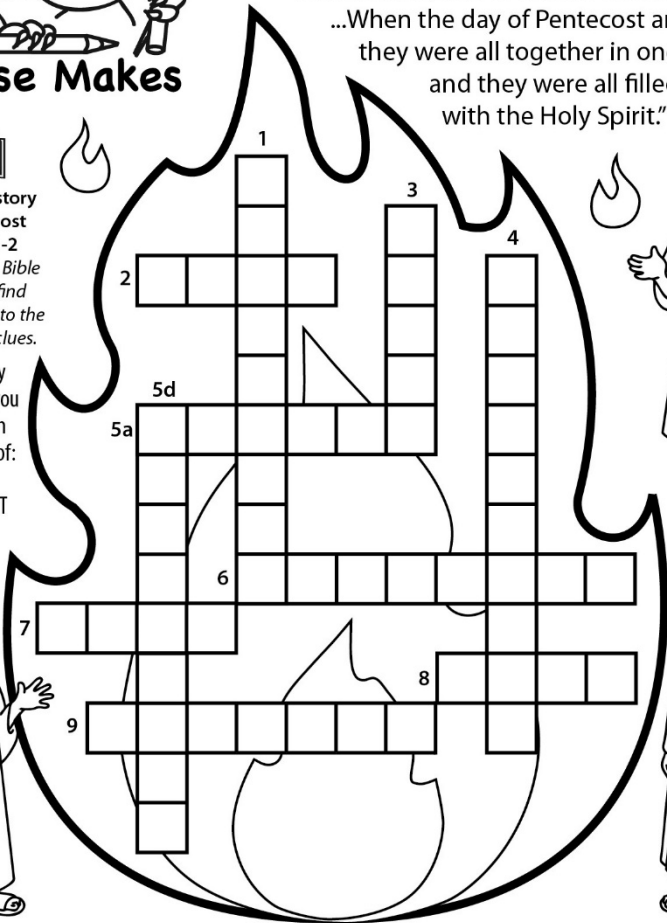


Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...

...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."


READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
**DAY OF
 PENTECOST**



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*
- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*



Benefice Directory

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Join us for Worship

Services at **St Mary's Attleborough** every Sunday at 8am, 10am and 6.30pm

Services at **All Saints' Besthorpe** on 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 11.30am

Midweek Communion on Thursdays at 10am at St Mary's

Monday to Saturday online - 9am Morning Prayer, 5pm Evening Prayer

Sunday in detail:

St Mary's

8am and 10am - Holy Communion
6.30pm - Evening Prayer
Choral Evensong on the last Sunday of the month.

All Saints'

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays - Holy Communion



Contact us

The Parish Office *Open Monday to Friday 10am-12 noon*

Pat Buttolph - Administrator

01953 454977

St Mary's Church Office, Church Street, Attleborough, NR17 2AH

- attleboroughchurch@btinternet.com

Revd Matthew Jackson - Rector

07480 063759

The Rectory, 4 The Southacre, Attleborough, NR17 2QB

- therectory@me.com

Revd Andrew Slater - Assistant Priest

07706 728812

The Battle, 110 Norwich Road, Attleborough, NR17 2JY

- joannaandandrewslater@gmail.com

Revd Richard Washington - Curate

01953 453719

39 Cedar Drive, Attleborough, NR17 2EX

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