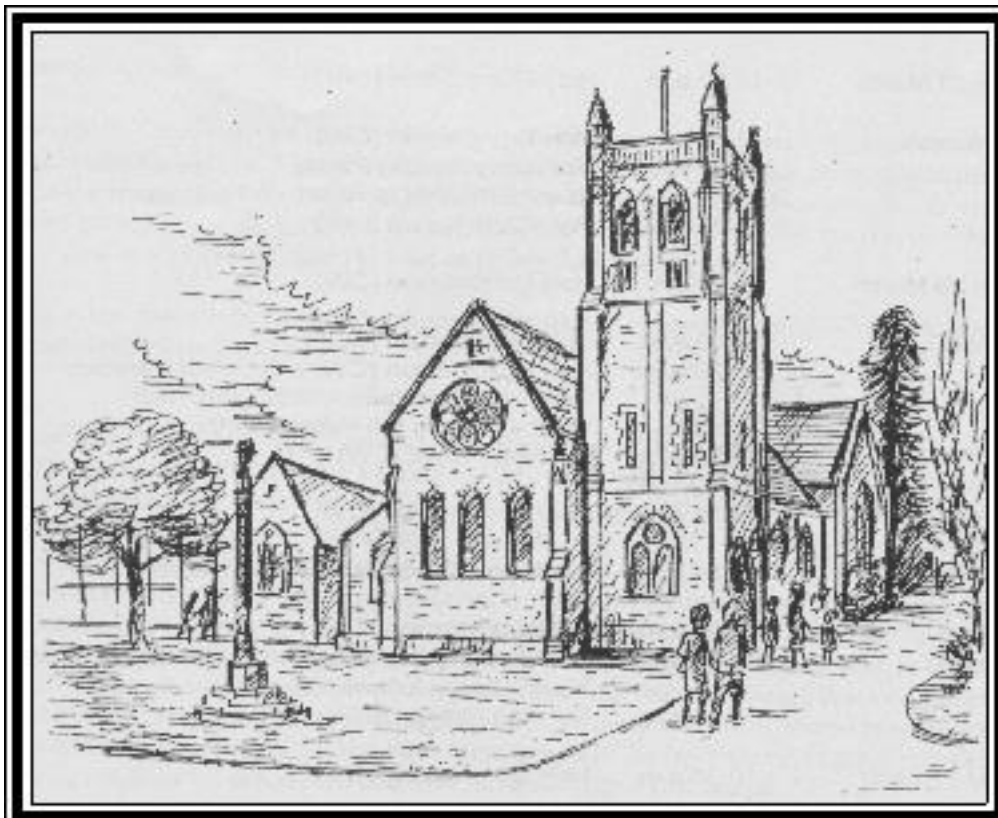


Forward Move

October 2015



Free Parish Magazine for
St Mary Church, Kippington

Please take a copy.

Our mission ...
To be a bridge between God and our community,
sharing the love of Jesus and
growing in worship, welcome and witness

Home groups and prayer opportunities for you to join us

Home Groups:

If you are interested in joining any of the groups listed below, do please phone the designated leader. You are always assured a warm welcome. Please remember that all our groups meet on a fortnightly basis, unless otherwise indicated.



Tuesdays at 10.00am

David Kitley

October 13th
October 20th

We are very much enjoying studying “Living Faithfully”, a course by John Pritchard, recently retired Bishop of Oxford.

Any new members are very welcome.

Tuesdays at 8.00pm

Lisa Cornell

Fortnightly.

Any new members are very welcome.

Wednesdays at 10.00am

Joan Taylor

As discussed during previous meeting.

We would be very pleased to welcome new members, without commitment.

Hour of Prayer at 7.30pm

David Kitley

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th October.

We invite you to join us to pray for our church family, that we may grow in faith and love and be an increasing blessing to our neighbourhood and our town.





I have been inspired once again in my friendship with a Tanzanian Bishop, who joined two hundred of us last week for a conference. The Bishop of Rochester had asked all his clergy to gather for three days together, and my job was to look after Bishop Given, and his superior, the Archbishop of Tanzania.

Bishop Given had the most inauspicious of starts in life... His mother had never really known the love of a father and mother. Born out of wedlock, her mother had been packed off to marry a man far away, so Given's mother was brought up by her grandmother. In childhood she dreamed longingly of one day having an ordinary family of her own.

As a Christian she wanted to marry a man who shared her faith. Somehow she got engaged to someone who got baptised as a Christian in order to become her husband. But he turned out to be an alcoholic who beat her regularly. He beat her when drunk and he beat her because she had difficulty conceiving. She was mocked by women who seemed able to have children 'at the drop of hat'.

After five years she gave birth to a son – in 1966. He was premature; and premature babies were considered to be cursed. The normal practice in rural Tanzania was to leave such infants under the branches of a baobab tree for the dogs, wild animals and vultures to find. In this case the child was taken care of by a nurse who fortunately had access to an incubator. He had no name, so she named him 'Given', a gift.

Life at home continued as before. His mother had a second son, but having only two children was cause for further beatings. There was very little to eat because any money was spent on drink. The boys cried with hunger, often going several days without food. It was a very miserable existence. Their home had only a roof made of mud and sticks which leaked in the rains, the boys huddling in a corner, trying to keep dry. Given held a deep hatred for his father. He lived in extreme poverty, his clothing little more than rags.

At the age of fourteen, a preacher from the 'East African revival movement', something my parents knew of in Uganda many years earlier, came to speak in his home church. It was the evening of October 20th 1980. Given heard the words of Jesus from St Matthew's Gospel 18:28-29; 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest'. He knew he was carrying a heavy burden. How could he forget the time when his father hung him by his feet over a fire? He had been sure he was going to die, but somehow the ropes parted and he had escaped. The preacher said 'some of you here are carrying heavy burdens'. At that meeting Given stepped forward to come to the one who made the offer of rest. 'I decided to give myself to Jesus', he says.

Everything changed. He had never known peace; now he felt a peace, joy and love as never before. 'Jesus changed my life', he says. There was peace instead of bitterness, love for one who felt unlovable. How he forgave his father must be a miracle. He said: 'I came to realise that someone loved me more than anyone – Jesus'.

That night was the beginning of a completely new life for him and his mother. The next day was Sunday; he immediately stood up in church to say how different he felt! Soon he was saying the same in schools.

His pastor noticed a clear talent here, and when the local Bishop came to take a Confirmation Service, Given was introduced to him with the request that funding could be provided for Given to continue schooling. Time passed; he studied theology, gaining a BA in this country, an MA in the USA, and a PhD in New Zealand. He could have earned a comfortable living as a lecturer somewhere. But instead, he responded to the invitation to be a Bishop in Kondoa, one of the poorest parts of Tanzania, where sometimes there is not even enough income from churches to pay him. Hopefully that will change as the churches grow.

I am not sure that I ever seen a prouder mother! It was a special privilege to meet her last November, caring for Given's three children in the home he shares with his wife Lilian.

What shall I say as I finish this letter? **Firstly** it is immensely encouraging to see how Christ's ancient power to heal and save lives is the same today. He still comes to bring release to captives, deliver the oppressed, bring rest to all who come to him.

The **second** observation to make is to notice how education can rescue someone from a life of utter deprivation, and lead them instead to becoming someone very significant for the bettering of their community and the lives of others. When you sponsor a child in the developing world, you have no idea of the potential consequences!

Thirdly, the needs of others may all come much closer to home for us all, with the migrant crisis of this year. The Bible tells us to care for 'foreigners' – 'The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.' (Leviticus 19:34) More such Bible verses available!

With very best wishes to you all, and with love in Christ,

David

The top 10 Bible stories:

Adam and Eve

Parish Pump continues its series of looking at the top ten Must Know Stories. This month features the story of Adam and Eve (Genesis 1-3), reflecting on God's question to Adam: 'Where are you?' (Genesis 3:9).

These chapters remind us that God is our creator. He created Adam and Eve in his image (1:27), to steward the earth and enjoy an intimate relationship with each other and Himself. This remains God's purpose for our lives, despite living in a fallen world, where things have gone wrong.

We also see that God calls us to obey His commands. Adam and Eve were told not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:15-17). This command was for their benefit and protection, so that they could continue to enjoy fellowship of God. The story shows that disobeying this command and eating the fruit brought separation and death. When God questioned Adam and Eve they were hiding in the garden from their loving Father.



God asks us all 'Where are you?', for we all share Adam and Eve's story. The universal condition of humanity is that we have all sinned and are separated from God's love and life. Yet this story points to a second Adam, Jesus Christ, who came to bring us back into relationship with the Father. His death and resurrection enables each of us to know God personally in our lives.

The story is told of an estranged Spanish father and son. Having searched for his son in vain, the father finally puts an ad in a local newspaper. The ad read: 'Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your Father'. On the Saturday, 800 Pacos showed up!

Coffee Rota



Coffee and tea are served after the 10.30am services each Sunday in our church centre, along with drinks and biscuits for the children – and grown-ups! This is a great way for us to get to know one another and to welcome newcomers.

It is staffed by volunteers! Please consider helping, telephoning Caireen with your offers on (01732) 454772.

With grateful thanks from everybody!

NEW BEGINNINGS IN SEPTEMBER Three Baptisms and Two Funerals



Baptisms:

Sept 6th Maya, daughter of Mark and Emma Steggles
Sept 6th James and Genevieve, children of Robert and Karen McDonnell

Funerals:

Sept 28th David Reynolds, aged 65
Sept 29th John Presslie (of Kippington Nursing Home) aged 85

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
You are one with us,
Mary's Son;
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
Pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

Patrick Appleford

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Thursday 1st October

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10.45am Coffee in the Parish Centre

Saturday 3rd October

- 6.00-9.00pm Harvest Supper in the Parish Centre with a performance of 'Jonah Man Jazz'
Tickets from Glynn Hicks on 459604 for a whale of a time!!



Sunday 4th October EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 10.30am HARVEST FESTIVAL Family Service in Church
Our Giving today is going towards the 'L.E.A.D Foundation' in Mpwapwa, Tanzania for a Re-forestation project as written about in September's church magazine.
Crèche available. Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)



Wednesday 7th October

- 10.00am St Mary's Monkeys in the Parish Centre
- 8.30am Coach departs from the Church for the 'Lunch Club' Outing to the Mediaeval Churches of Romney Marsh



Thursday 8th October

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10.45am Coffee in the Parish Centre
- 11.15am Holy Communion at Kippington Nursing Home

Sunday 11th October NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 10.30am Holy Communion (Common worship)
Youth Group, Sunday Club and Crèche
Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre

Wednesday 14th October

- 10.00am St Mary's Monkeys in the Parish Centre

Thursday 15th October

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10.45am Coffee in the Parish Centre

Friday 16th October

- Deadline for articles for November's 'Forward Move'

Sunday 18th October TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
Youth Group, Sunday Club and Crèche
Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre
6.30pm Joint Autumn Service at St John's, Sevenoaks, for all churches in the
'North-West Fellowship' – all welcome!

Wednesday 21st October

- 10.00am St Mary's Monkeys in the Parish Centre

Thursday 22nd October

- 10.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Coffee in the Parish Centre

Saturday 24th October
End of British Summer Time



Sunday 25th October TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Holy Communion (Common worship)
Youth Group, Sunday Club and Crèche
Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 27th September

- 7.30pm Monthly Prayer Hour at the Vicarage

Wednesday 28th October

- 10.00am St Mary's Monkeys in the Parish Centre

Thursday 29th October

- 10.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Coffee in the Parish Centre

Saturday 31st October

- Retirement of the Rt Revd Brian Castle, Bishop of Tonbridge – details to come

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st November ALL SAINTS DAY

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Family Service in the Parish Centre
Crèche available. Coffee afterwards.
6.30pm Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance preceded by tea in the
Parish Centre from 5.00pm

Wednesday 4th November

10.00am St Mary's Monkeys in the Parish Centre

12.30pm 'Lunch Club' with talk by Robin Morrish on
'Fleming & Forsyth, Spy Writers to Thrill'

Thursday 5th November

10.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Coffee in the Parish Centre

Friday 6th November

NSPCC Annual Fair in the Parish Centre

Sunday 8th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Our Giving today will be for **'Help the Heroes'**

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
with the planting of poppies around the War Memorial

We welcome 'Probus' Members and their wives

Please note that our first Holy Communion Service this month will be on the
3rd Sunday – 15th November

A date for your diaries – paper and electronic:

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER - Saturday 23rd January

Enjoy the fun, fellowship, culture and ceremony of this great celebration of the life,
works and spirit of Robert Burns.

A piper and some entertainment have already been booked and the format will be
similar to our previous Burns Supper, with a traditional menu to include Haggis or
venison sausages followed by dessert.

Further details will follow in the November issue of Forward Move but, in the
meantime, please put this date in your diary as this is an event not to be missed.

**HYMN:
The story behind ...
O God, our help in ages past**

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure...

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748) is often called the ‘Father of English hymnody’. Certainly before his hymns came along, congregational singing was a tedious business.

Watts was born in July 1674 in Southampton. (At the time of his birth, his father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was briefly in prison for his non-conformist beliefs.) As a boy, Watts showed outstanding ability with language (learning Greek, Hebrew, Latin and French). He also had an unusual ability for easy rhyming in English. At the age of five, when scolded for giggling in family prayers, it was because he had seen a mouse on the bell-rope, and instantly composed the line: *‘There was a mouse, for want of stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers!’*

Watts’ literary ability, combined with his interest in theology, made him very unhappy with the congregational singing of the day, which focused almost entirely on strict metrical versions of the psalms. One Sunday after church, Isaac complained to his father about this. His father challenged him to write something better. Though only 18, Watts accepted the challenge, and produced his first hymn – which was duly sung the following Sunday.

It was such a success that he wrote new hymn texts every Sunday for the next two years. In all, he went on to write more than 600 hymns. Some of them are still well-loved today: from this one, ‘O God, Our Help in Ages Past’, which is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, to ‘When I Survey the Wondrous Cross’, and the Christmas carol ‘Joy to the World’.

Parish Pump

READERS AND INTERCESSIONS FOR OCTOBER

All Readings at 8am are taken from the Authorised Version, readings at 10.30am, from the New International Version. Copies of both versions available in church.

Sunday 4th October – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Psalm 8 Mark 10:2-16 | |
| 10.30am | Harvest Family Service | To be decided and <i>Intercessions</i> | <i>Youth Group</i> |

Sunday 11th October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---|--|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Psalm 90:1-2, 4, 10, 12-17 Mark 10:17-31 | |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion (CW) | Psalm 90:1-2, 4, 10, 12-17 Mark 10:17-31 <i>Intercessions</i> | Joan Taylor Stephen Swift <i>Cathie Kitley</i> |

Sunday 18th October – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---|---|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Psalm 89:1-9 Mark 10:35-45 | |
| 10.30am | Morning Prayer (BCP) | Psalm 89:1-9 Mark 10:35-45 <i>Intercessions</i> | Sue Shepherd Heather White <i>Laura Daniels</i> |

Sunday 25th October – Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|--|--|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Psalm 34:1-10 Mark 10:46-52 | |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion (CW) | Psalm 34:1-10 Mark 10:46-52 <i>Intercessions</i> | Wendy Young Rich Morrow <i>Irene Rea</i> |



St Stephen's Church, Tonbridge

The painter was in...so we decamped to Tonbridge. On the spur of the moment we decided to visit St Stephen's. The doors were locked. At the third entrance someone was sitting outside with a dog. After finding out we were visitors she found a willing soul in the church office to let us in.

What a revelation! The church was built in 1852 by a local firm of builders called Punnetts. Their family graves can be seen outside the church near the south porch. The inside of the church is vast as the pews have been removed and chairs lined up in their place. However, it is the magnificent windows which take your breath away. They are designed by Burne-Jones and made by Morris & Co, founded by William Morris. Many of the windows have been given in remembrance of members of the Chippindale family from the Quarry Hill area. They illustrate individual stories from the Bible. My favourite is Christ and the woman of Samaria (she drew water from the well for Christ to drink). The windows are amazing with wonderful colours and beautiful artistry. We came away with literature about the church and details of the windows were sent by email, which arrived in our inbox before our return home.

Do visit – though I can't be sure that there will be someone sitting on the doorstep with a dog waiting for you!

Lunch was partaken at Basil's, a High Street quiche and salad bar. I see an opening for something like this in Sevenoaks.



Pat Campbell



PRAYERS TO SHARE

*“Bless O Lord, the plants, the vegetation and the herbs of the field,
that they may grow and increase to fullness and bear much fruit.
And may the fruit of the land remind us of the spiritual fruit we should bear.”*
An old Coptic Prayer from Egypt

As I write, a gusty wind is blowing the rain sideways across the village green, heralding the end of Summer, and so we welcome Autumn and with it, Harvest. In this time for special Thanksgiving here is a verse from a Book of Prayers for Children and Young People:-

*“For all the rich autumnal glories spread –
The flaming pageant of the ripening woods,
The fiery gorse, the heather-purpled hills;
The rustling leaves that fly before the wind
And lie below the hedgerows, whispering;
The meadows silver-white with hoary dew,
The first crisp breath of Winter in the air.
We thank you, Lord.”*

But this year our Harvest Thanksgiving is interwoven with a deep concern for the plight of thousands of people who have nothing. Fleeing in fear from their own countries with few possessions and little idea where the journey will end, they travel on and on, and many find no welcome. It is difficult to know how to pray for this situation. These people are “our neighbours.” Contemplating how small our efforts feel, we lift to God the leaders of the peaceful nations, asking that they may have wisdom, breadth of vision and courage as they search for a peaceful solution. “Lead them Lord” we pray. Here for us all is a prayer about St Luke, whose life is celebrated on 18th October:-

*“Healing God, we thank you for St Luke, the “beloved physician”,
and for his faithful recording of the life of your Son and the birth of
the Church. Continue in us your work of healing, may we never pass
by on the other side, but rather reach out to the poor, the sick and
those on the margins, in the love of Jesus, our Lord, Amen.”*

As we celebrate on Harvest Sunday, singing our thanks and praise to God for all his blessings to us, unfailing and freely given, here is a verse from one of our harvest hymns:-

*“In the just reward of labour, God’s will is done.
In the help we give our neighbours, God’s will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing
In the harvest we are sharing God’s will is done.”*

D.M.A.

Words and their changing meanings

In the children's classic 'Alice in Wonderland,' Humpty Dumpty says, 'When I use a word it means what I want it to mean.' Lewis Carol was pointing out what we all tend to do. Perhaps that is why over time some words change their meaning, or are used in new ways. A few decades ago, before home computers, no-one would have wanted a mouse on their desk. And 'paste' and 'cut' was what we did with glue and scissors.

Sometimes the change in meaning can be extreme. Take, for example, the word 'relict'. In the past this was a legal term for a widow or widower, meaning the one left behind. You often see it on old tombstones. But no-one today would dream of calling a widow a relic!

There is a prayer at the end of Holy Communion, in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer that begins: 'Prevent us O Lord in all our doings with thy most gracious favour...' Are we really asking God to hinder everything we do? Of course not. The earlier meaning was much more positive. We are asking God to 'go before us' (pre-vent us), which is how the modern version of the prayer is worded. The prayer is about guidance rather than protection.

A more subtle example is in the prayer of Intercession in the 1662 Prayer Book Holy Communion. The prayer asks that those in authority should 'truly and indifferently administer justice...' Today the word 'indifferent' means not caring one way or the other – a shocking basis for 'justice'. But when the prayer was written 'indifferent' meant 'without prejudice, unbiased'. That's more like it.

Finally, consider Joseph in the Old Testament. In Genesis Chapter 39, we note that despite all Joseph's misfortunes he always came up smelling of roses. The New English Bible, following the King James Bible, translates it: 'Joseph prospered for the Lord was with him'. But in the first English translation, by John Whitcliffe, in the 15th Century, it reads (modern spelling), 'The Lord was with Joseph and he was a lucky fellow'.

To be lucky today would mean, to be successful, perhaps winning the Lottery. But in Whitcliffe's day to be 'lucky' was to be blessed. Joseph's luck was not that he made a fortune, though he did, but that 'the Lord was with him.' Aren't we 'lucky fellows' too!

*Canon David Williams
Parish Pump*

Church Trail

There is ongoing discussion about declining congregations and the need to recruit. Grow or die, is the gist of it. Tips include getting a properly trained welcome team, keep a track of who's new, visit them early, invite them to a welcome lunch, and if they don't stick around, go back to them, and find out why they stopped coming.

A more leftfield suggestion comes from Dr Christopher Whitby, churchwarden in a Leicestershire village, who believes that congregations need to welcome newcomers with sensitivity to their questions and doubts. In an article in The Church Times entitled 'Smug and weird – no wonder it's a turn-off', he wonders if a strong belief in God, Christ, and/or the Christian message can just as easily put people off as turn them on.

He suggests that the best type of person to engage with a newcomer may be one who is not among the most convinced. Quoting the late Terry Pratchett, "The presence of those seeking the truth is infinitely to be preferred to the presence of those who think they've found it," he wonders if the unsure newcomer may prefer to meet other doubters rather those who waver not at all.

Church services are foreign to those with little experience of them. People may be put off by the creed and the element of praise. "What exactly", the non-churchgoer asks, "Am I giving praise for? All the suffering I read about in my newspaper and see on television? To tell me that God moves in a mysterious way doesn't cut it." We must also decide where in our faith sits the God who commands Saul to destroy the Amalekites, "both man and woman, infant and suckling" (1 Samuel 15.3).

Dr Whitby's idea may seem surprising but in the present climate of falling congregations and closing churches can we afford to ignore it?



Ian Campbell

Dear Readers

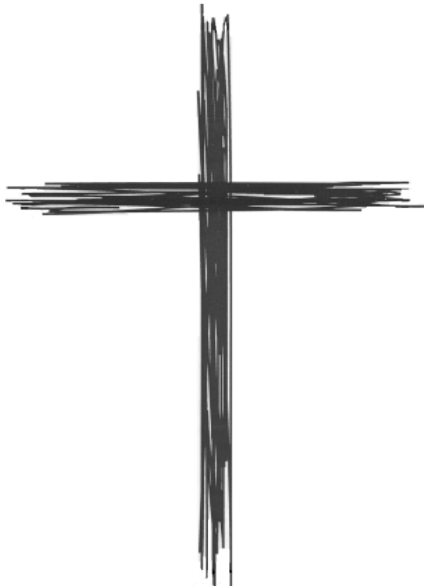
When I opened the back door this morning to hang out the washing, I was astonished to find my garden beautifully decorated with bejewelled spiders' webs. There were at least nine of them, all perfectly formed, all covered in dew drops and sparkling in the sunshine. It was such a stunning sight that I didn't want to break any of them; not to mention the fact that there was a hungry spider in each!

Those spiders must have worked during most of the night to create such intricate designs on such a grand scale – the largest was at least 18 inches across. It got me thinking how hard they have to work to be able to eat. They have to wait for a fly to get it wrong before they can satisfy their hunger. What patience they must have.

That thought makes me feel very humble that all I need to do is open the fridge. The fact we can eat when we are hungry is all down to the hard work of our farming communities. At this time of Harvest, we celebrate their dedication and talent in producing food for us to eat, be it a bacon rasher or a jacket potato.

If you don't normally come to Church, please make a special effort to join us for our Harvest Festival Service, which will be held on Sunday 4th October. It is the perfect opportunity to say "thank you".

Sue Shepherd, Editor



God, whose farm is all creation,
Take the gratitude we give;
Take the finest of our harvest,
Crops we grow that we may live.

Take our ploughing, seeding, reaping,
Hopes and fears of sun and rain,
All our thinking, planning, waiting,
Ripened in this fruit and grain.

All our labour, all our watching,
All our calendar of care
In these crops of your creation,
Take, O God: they are our prayer.

Amen

*Leslie Thomas John Arlott
(1914-1991)*

ST. MARY KIPPINGTON



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Mrs Avril Hunter
Mrs Brenda Ross

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Mrs Joan Taylor

Mrs Sharon Fishwick

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