

Forward Move

April 2016



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

The Tuesday morning home group continues to meet on roughly a fortnightly basis; although only once in April – the 19th.

Any new members are very welcome.

Tuesdays at 8.00pm

Lisa Cornell

April 12th and 26th.

Any new members are very welcome.

Wednesdays at 10.00am

Joan Taylor

April 6th and 20th

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 26th April, in The Vicarage.

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.





At a gathering of people from many faith backgrounds in Southall, when I was a vicar there, Cardinal Basil Hume was guest of honour. 'In every religion', he said, 'men and women are sincerely searching after God. In just one religion, God became a man and came searching after us'.

His words spoke to a long-held interest of mine, of our understanding of 'other' faiths. The seeds of this interest were sown many years earlier in the Secondary school I attended in Nairobi. In assembly the headmaster stated that there were at least 22 nationalities represented in the school. In my dormitory of 35 boys I found myself sleeping next to a Muslim boy from the Kenya coast. Further down the dormitory were two Sikh boys with their uncut hair and turbans. It was similar in the classroom.

By the time I was 15, two years later, I had graduated from doing homework in the large common room to sharing a study with a handful of other boys. What a mixture we were! There was me from a missionary background. There was Glen from Canada who said he was an atheist. There was Handa, a Hindu; Dogra, a Sikh; Remedios, a Catholic from Goa, of Portuguese descent. There was Nduru, a black Kenyan who walked with a splint and a stick because he had had polio. And lastly there was a very aggressive Italian who was always getting into fights!

I realised that these boys came from different faith backgrounds, because that is how we had each been brought up. So was one more 'true' than another? This question was too big for me to consider at the time, but the seeds of doubt about my parents' faith were sown.

I pushed the doubts to one side for a few years, but by the time I found myself at Durham University (where I was studying French and German) I could not ignore them any longer. By the end of my first year I was completely uncertain of what to believe. I reached a point of agnosticism.

But I very much wanted to look for answers. The search I embarked on involved comparing the lives of great political leaders and founders of the major world faiths. My conclusion – and obviously each person can only make up their own mind about this – was that one person stood out from them all. That was Christ.

His reputation: he practised what he preached. His repeated claims: he claimed to be divine, to have pre-existed and to have been sent on a special mission to planet earth. His record: having claimed to be God, he is recorded as having done the things God would do if he became human and lived among us, such as revealing his power over the natural world, over sickness and death. And lastly, his resurrection: those who knew him claimed that after death he had been restored to life.

When these four factors were put together, particularly in a book by the late John Stott ('Basic Christianity') I found I was faced with the choice; to turn or not to Christ. I did so, and, as they say, the rest is history!

Immediately upon leaving Durham I had the great privilege of working for two years in the country with perhaps the greatest religious contrasts – India. Later this was followed by being vicar of an equally mixed community, Southall. And my views of people of faith that may be different from mine?

The Apostle Peter has some helpful words in this context. ‘Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect’. (1 Peter 3:15) Readiness, gentleness and respect sum it up admirably!

With love in Christ,



Church news

Our **Annual Church Meeting** is arranged for Sunday 24th April, 11.30am. Two members of the Church Council will be retiring and we would therefore like to welcome two new members. If you are interested in joining, please contact David K or Caroline Howe (howe56@btinternet.com), for further details.

Our **Treasurer, Chris White**, has served us very faithfully and generously for 6 years and would like to pass this responsibility on. We are looking for someone who would be willing to take his place – ideally after the annual church meeting.

Stonework. We reported last month that some masonry had fallen down inside the church near the font. We have not been able to do anything yet towards repairs, as this needs permission from the Chancellor of the Diocese, which is still awaited!

Scaffolding will need to be set up both inside the church and outside, to thoroughly check the large circular window from which the piece of stone descended. Two stonemasons have shown interest, both ready to spring into action as soon as we have the go-ahead! Until that time we have roped off that end of the church. This includes the font. Instead baptisms are being held using a portable font on the chancel step. Watch this space!

Glazed Entrance We have had to put on hold plans for this, until all interior church scaffolding has been removed!

Congratulations to Joan Taylor who has been accepted for “Local Licensed Ministry”! Joan (and others) will be licensed in a service in Rochester Cathedral on May 21st.

David Kitley

The story behind the Hymn – 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven'

*Praise my soul the King of heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting
King.*

*Praise him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his
faithfulness.*

*Fatherlike, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy
flows.*

*Angels in the height, adore Him,
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space;
Praise Him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!*

By Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

This stately poetic paraphrase of Psalm 103 has been included in probably more solemn ceremonies than any other hymn in the English language. It was even chosen by Queen Elizabeth for her wedding to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947.

Henry Lyte had been a brilliant theological student at university in Dublin, with a gift for versifying. After graduation he moved to a tiny and remote parish in County Wexford to serve his curacy. It was here, when he was about 25, that Henry had a religious experience which would transform his life.

A close friend of his, another clergyman, had fallen ill, and was clearly dying. Henry went to visit him. The friend was not as distressed as Henry had imagined he would be. Instead the friend confessed that he had been re-reading the New Testament, with an eye on eternity, and had made a great discovery. There was no need to rely on religious duties and formalities and good deeds to gain peace with God. Instead, we can trust completely in the mercy of Christ and his saving power.

Henry was sophisticated and had been very formal in his ministry. But this encounter with his friend's faith at death's very door, made him reconsider his faith. He wrote later that his dear friend 'who died happy in the thought that there was One who would atone for his delinquencies' made him 'study my Bible and preach in another manner than I had previously done'. And soon after this hymn appeared, in 1834.

Lyte rejoices in the majesty and wonder of the living God, who in turn loves us. He captures the measure of the Psalm in enduring lyrics, which combine time, eternity, God and man all swept up into one embrace. Its last verse summons all of the created order to join in a great act of joyous praise – surely a preview of eternity!

Parish Pump

MOSQUE FRIENDSHIP VISIT – “Oh yes Dave, how did it go?”

Many of us will have visited Mosques on holiday abroad: perhaps to marvel at the architecture or out of innocent curiosity. “All back on the coach in 20 minutes *please!*”

The visit to the Masjid Al-Noor (Mosque of Heavenly Light) in Tunbridge Wells on Palm Sunday afternoon was different in intent. In brief, we wanted, as Christian world citizens, to learn something of the spiritual riches of Islam and to do what little we could to dispel the stereotyping of ordinary Muslims and their possible misperception of ordinary Christians: a friendship visit to ease societal and interfaith tensions, not exacerbate them (sounds a tad pretentious – but is true!).

Our party, of 14 ladies and 9 chaps, was greeted by Imam Yasser Balesaria and taken, shoeless of course, into the Mosque which was previously a pub and deliberately contains little to distract from worship. After a welcome cuppa relaxing in the Men’s Prayer Hall, the Imam spoke eloquently about the Five Pillars of Islam and encouraged us to ask our questions all of which he answered in an informal but informative way acknowledging our different traditions but developing the surprisingly large areas of belief we hold in common.

As we chatted, Muslims began arriving for their Prayers and we were able to remain as observers. Impossible not to be impressed by the sincerity of their devotions and their friendliness when we chatted together afterwards.

An extremely pleasant, constructive and instructive visit resulting from an idea of the Vicar’s Tuesday Morning Discussion Group. Now we hope to be invited to the Mosque’s annual Open Day in the late summer and to try to plan to repay their hospitality in kind.

This was too good simply to tick a box and forget it.



The others were already inside besieging the tea urn!

Dave White

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.

With grateful thanks from everybody!

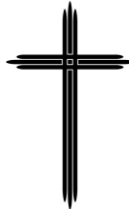
NEW BEGINNINGS IN MARCH



Baptism:

13th Mar

Matilda Jane Margaret, daughter of Katherine and Michael Lea



May God grant you always...
A sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel,
so nothing can harm you.



EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Sunday 3rd April First Sunday after Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Family Service in the Parish Centre
 Crèche available. Coffee and tea afterwards
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 7th April

10.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Coffee and tea in the Parish Centre

Sunday 10th April Second Sunday after Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
 with baptism of Leah Chart
 Youth Group, Sunday Club and Crèche
 Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre



Thursday 14th April

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

Friday 15th April

Deadline for Articles for May issue of Forward Move

Sunday 17rd April Third Sunday after Easter

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 20th April

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



Thursday 21st April

10.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Coffee and tea in the Parish Centre

Sunday 24th April Fourth Sunday after Easter

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
11.30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting,
 followed by lunch in the Parish Centre
6.00-8.00pm Youth Group 'Tramp Supper'



Tuesday 26th April

7.30pm Monthly hour of prayer at the Vicarage

Wednesday 27th April

10.00am St Mary's Monkeys in the Parish Centre
'Lunch Club' Outing to Sussex Country Gardener at Mark Cross

Thursday 28th April



10.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Coffee and tea in the Parish Centre

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Sunday 1st May Fifth Sunday after Easter ROGATION SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Family Service in the Parish Centre
Crèche available. Coffee and tea afterwards
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 4th May

10.00am St Mary's Monkeys in the Parish Centre
7.30pm for 8pm Sevenoaks Counselling Annual Open Meeting in the Parish Centre,
With guest speaker Dr Elizabeth Procter: 'Issues for young people'. What are young
people today grappling with as they grow up?', "How can we assist them and do they
need specialist help?"
All welcome, no need to book.

Thursday 5th May

10.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Coffee and tea in the Parish Centre

Sunday 8th May Sunday after Ascension Day

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

Lunch Club mini Outing to Sussex Country Gardener at Mark Cross is on April 27th.
Lunch is at 12.30. It is up to individual car loads to decide if they want to explore the
Centre before or after lunch, or even both. Looking forward to seeing you all at the
cafe. If any problems please contact Joyce Allen or Maggie Llanwarne.

Joan Taylor



**Sunday 12th June – The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations here
at Kippington**

Free Pimms and teas, bouncy castle, floral tributes, photo competition,
memorabilia from the Queen's reign and much more.



Sevenoaks Counselling

a professional service offered by Christians to the whole community

ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

Wednesday 4th May 2016

7.30pm refreshments

8.00pm start

**St Mary's Church Centre,
Kippington Road, TN13 2LL**

The main subject this year will be:

"Issues for Young People"

Speaker Dr Elizabeth Procter

Elizabeth recently retired as an NHS psychiatrist, specialising in working with adolescents. She will address topics such as:-

'What are young people grappling with today as they grow up?

How can we assist them?

When do they need specialist help?'

Readers and Intercessions Table for April

Sunday 3rd April 1st after Easter and Second Sunday of Easter

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	
10.30am	Family Service	tba and <i>Intercessions</i>	<i>The Lang Family</i>

Sunday 10th April 2nd after Easter and Third Sunday of Easter

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revelation 5:9-14 John 21:1-19	
10.30am	Holy Communion (CW) with Baptism of Leah Chart	John 21:1-19 <i>Intercessions</i>	Alan Chart <i>Laura Daniels</i>

Sunday 17th April 3rd after Easter and Fourth Sunday of Easter

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	
10.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30 <i>Intercessions</i>	Roger Fishwick Sharon Fishwick <i>Cathie Kitley</i>

Sunday 24th April 4th after Easter and Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35 <i>Intercessions</i>	Brenda Ross Len Ross <i>Dorothy Ashpitel</i>



St Mary's, Kempley

This a Norman church probably built on an existing Saxon site. Chronology has dated the building to the early 12th century with the bell tower added some 100-150 years later. Frescos were discovered in 1913 and work to recover these was completed in 1956. The stained glass windows are by Kemp. On the walls you can make out a circular 'tree of life' along with paintings of stories from the Bible. The paintings in the chancel are particularly fine with representations from the Book of Revelations. It is interesting to note that the Bible on the lectern is kept open at that book. Flooding in the area has proved a problem over the years and the 7th Earl of Beauchamp (pronounced Beecham) decided to build a church on higher ground as the population had moved away. This church is now under the auspices of English Heritage, although some members of the local community feel that they do not have their 'fingers on the pulse'!



St Edward's, Kempley

This Grade 2 listed church was designed by Randall Wells and constructed by local craftsmen having been commissioned by the 7th Earl of Beauchamp, the Lord of the Manor (see above). Built in 1903-04, the Earl specified that this church should not have an east window. Instead there are three sculptural reliefs carved by the local carpenter. The west wall is dominated by a diamond shaped window, with a series of individual pivoted panes, which allow a huge amount of light into the church. The doors are all 'coffin-shaped'! There is a double-sided lectern inlaid with mother-of-pearl. The beams are painted with a grapevine motif and a group of huge figures stand on the rood beam. In situ are 5 species of bats which have, you could say, 'right of way'. I did not see any evidence of them but then I did visit in the afternoon.

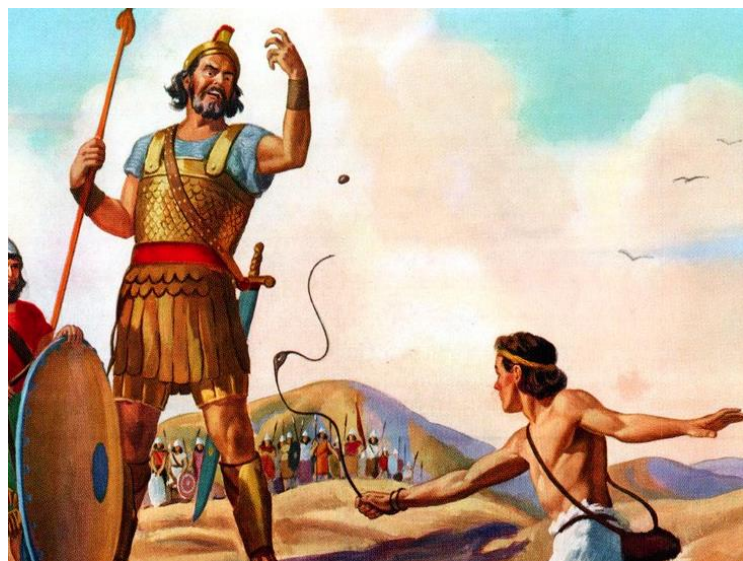
Pat Campbell

The top 10 Bible stories: David and Goliath

Five Smooth Stones!

Parish Pump continues their study of the Bible with this month's *Must Know Story*, about Goliath's defeat by David (1 Samuel 17). It is one of the best known in the Bible. Goliath was nine feet tall, dressed in bronze armour and carrying a sword and spear. However, David was a young shepherd, whose only weapon was a sling and five smooth stones. We won't face somebody like Goliath, but will face other giants in our lives (fear, insecurity, loneliness, failure etc). What five stones can help overcome the giants that we face?

- *Courage*: David was unafraid of Goliath, *'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.'* (32). We need courage to face the giants in our lives.
 - *Confidence*: David's experience as a shepherd gave him confidence in facing Goliath. *'The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.'* (37). We also can be confident in God's help to overcome our problems.
 - *Preparation*: *'Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.'* (40). Like David, are we using the gifts and experience that God has given us in the fight?
 - *Trust*: David didn't trust in his own abilities, *'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty'* (45) Will we put our trust in God alone?
 - *Victory*: *'for the battle is the Lord's'* (47). When we turn our battles over to God, He will give us victory!
- 'That little stone took Goliath by surprise; such a thing had never entered his head before!!'*



David slings a smooth stone at Goliath



PRAYERS TO SHARE

*“O Lord of the empty tomb
The conqueror of gloom
Come to us.*

*O Lord in the upper room
Dispelling fear and doom
Come to us.*

*O Lord in the garden walking
O Lord to Mary talking
Come to us.*

*O Lord on the road to Emmaus
O Lord giving hope to Thomas
Come to us.*

*O Lord appearing on the shore
Giving us life for evermore
Come to us.”*

I have chosen this prayer, slightly adapted from one of David Adam’s books, because this year the month of April begins a few days after Easter Sunday and ends a few days before Ascension Day, and as we go through these weeks this prayer reminds us of the time when, after His Resurrection, Jesus still walked the earth.

We read in the Gospels’ brief accounts of his appearances to his friends and disciples, surprising them, teaching them, blessing them, finally giving them the ‘Great Commission’ – sending them out into the world to “*make disciples of all nations*” and promising “*I am with you always.*” In John’s Gospel we read that Jesus prayed to his Father for his disciples and then “*for those who will believe in me through their message*”, praying for unity – “*to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them.*” So we know that now we, in our turn, can be God’s witnesses as we go about our daily lives. A wise friend said to me the other day, “It is not necessarily what you do or say, it is who you are,” and we have the assurance that Jesus gave, that He is always with us. Here is another of David Adam’s prayers, from his book “Glimpses of Glory”:-

*“Lord, we put our trust in you, and in you is our rest.
We pray for all pilgrim peoples as they journey through this world,
for all seekers, for those that search for truth and integrity.*

*May we and your whole church live as those travelling into your
love and deeper into your presence.
We pray today for places of pilgrimage, and places of special
holiness, for all who act as guides to others on their pilgrimage.
God, as you call us to you
guide us in our journey.”*

D.M.A.

Tracing the Past

We attended a Sevenoaks Historical Society lecture held in St Nicholas Church: 'The Thompson Brothers of Kippington: a Story of the First World War'. The lecturer, Elizabeth Finn of KCC Archives, had been intrigued by a photograph included in a WWI exhibition in Sevenoaks library. It showed three soldiers, and was one of 600 old photographic plates found at 43 London Road (now the Hardware Centre).

The premises had been the studio of Essenhigh Corke, local father and son photographers (there is a grave in St Nicholas churchyard). The plate was labelled 'Thompson', and taking clues from their uniforms, Elizabeth established that the sitters were Sidney, Austen and Piers Thompson, sons of Henry Percy Thompson, vicar of Kippington and his wife Lilian.

The church magazine of the time included a roll of honour of those serving their country and extracts from letters written home. One from Austen describing life in the trenches includes a description of trying to sleep with rats scrambling around and dropping from the roof. One can only imagine his parent's reaction to reading this. Piers served in Egypt where a fellow soldier is the son of another vicar in Sevenoaks – small world. Sidney attended the Beacon School in Riverhead, where Siegfried Sassoon was a fellow pupil. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry. All three brothers thankfully survived the war, quite unusual for the First World War.

Another photograph turned out to be of their sister Vera, who nursed at the Cornwall Hall VAD hospital in The Drive. This lecture was a wonderful example of an archivist discovering a photograph and proceeding to put flesh and bones to bring it back to life.



Ian Campbell

Dear Readers

One particular memory of my Primary School days has stuck in my mind. During a Scripture lesson, one of my friends asked this question: What is faith? Our teacher, after a moment of thought, responded with "Faith is believing and trusting in something you can't see."

We believe and trust that our friends and family love us. We can't see that love, but we believe and trust that it's there. The same is true of God's love for us. We can't see it but we believe and trust that it is there. However, we are guided in our trust and belief because there are many tangible signs of that love. The greatest of these signs is Jesus' death on the cross.

God loves us so unconditionally that He sacrificed His only Son for us. Would you be able to sacrifice one of your children in the belief that it will bring about peace between warring nations? I know I couldn't. Yet, that is exactly what God did for us.

Whether you have doubts about God's existence or whether you don't believe at all, it doesn't matter. Jesus died for you, too. Please do join us in Church one Sunday to say "Thank you".

Sue Shepherd, Editor



God so loved the World
God so loved the World
That He gave His only begotten Son
That whoso believeth
Believeth in Him should not perish
But have everlasting life

For God sent not His Son
Into the World to condemn the World
But that the World through Him might be saved.

God so loved the World
God so loved the World
That He gave His only begotten Son
That whoso believeth
Believeth in Him should not perish
But have everlasting life

*John Stainer
The Crucifixion*

ST. MARY KIPPINGTON



VICAR

Rev'd Canon David Kitley

ORDINAND

Ms Lisa Cornell

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Avril Hunter
Mrs Brenda Ross

TREASURER

Mr Chris White

ORGANIST

Mr Len Ross

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Mrs Joan Taylor

Mrs Sharon Fishwick

SUNDAY CLUB (3-11 years)

Mrs Jean Day

YOUTH GROUP (11 years plus)

Mrs Cathie Kitley

CENTRE MANAGER

Mr Graham Roper
(01732) 460786

OFFICE AT ST. MARY

Sue Shepherd
(01732) 451117
office@stmaryssevenoaks.org

FORWARD MOVE

forwardmove@hotmail.com

CHURCH WEBSITE

www.stmaryssevenoaks.org

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