Village Web

March 2024

Easter

God's ultimate gift

The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

Annual District Church Meetings

St Nicholas **ELMDON**
Monday 4 March
7pm in Elmdon Village Hall

St Nicholas **LITTLE CHISHILL**
Thursday 7 March
7pm at Little Chishill Manor

Holy Trinity **HEYDON**
Thursday 14 March
7pm in the Church

St Mary's **STRETHALL**
Sunday 24 March
After the 9am service
In the Church

Holy Trinity, **CHRISHALL**
Monday 25 March
7pm in the Church

Hamlet Church
DUDDENHOE END
Tuesday 26 March
7.30pm in the Church

A chance to find out more about the church locally, support those who look after church life and perhaps even suggest ways to serve our community better. *'Church is so much better when you're there'*

If you would like to vote or be elected but are not currently on the church electoral roll, please contact the church office on 837272

Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held on
TUESDAY 30 APRIL
7pm HOLY TRINITY CHRISHALL

18 March 2024 - final date for submission of articles for the April edition

The Parish of the Icknield Way Villages

March Services

Sunday 3

9.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church **Little Chishill** SG8 8PA
10.45am Family Café Church at **Chrishall Village Hall Chrishall** SG8 8QL
6.00pm **URC** Evening Service led by Revd Sue Fender

Sunday 10

9.00am Holy Communion St Nicholas **Elmdon** CB11 4LT
10.45am Family Worship at Holy Trinity **Heydon** SG8 8PW

Sunday 17

9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity Church **Chrishall** SG8 8QU
9.30am **URC** Morning Service led by Revd Sue Fender
6.00pm Choral Evensong at Hamlet Church **Duddenhoe End** CB11 4XN

Sunday 24

9.00am Holy Communion at St Marys Church **Strethall** CB11 4XJ
10.45am Family Worship with Holy communion at St Swithuns **Great Chishill** SG8 8SS

Friday 29

6.30pm **URC** Good Friday Concert

Sunday 31 Easter Day

9.30am **URC** Easter Day Service led by Revd Sue Fender
10.00am Combined Common Worship with Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church **Chrishall** SG8 8QU

Note: Services subject to change.
Service details, diary events and more at www.icknieldwayparish.blogspot.co.uk

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Wed: Barley *5.45pm, 6.45pm & 8pm

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I look forward to hearing from you!

Happy Easter

It's hard to avoid the grim news from all around the globe which assails us every day, it seems. From wars, rumours of wars, assassinations of political opponents, the crisis of health care and social care services, inept governments, some people preferring not to work or to be a "quiet quitter", our thoughts on climate change and what that might mean for all our futures. The list can go on and on. So how dare I wish you Happy Easter so readily?! Please read on!

Two thousand years ago a small group of men, women and children in the Near East probably felt about the same as many of us today: their hopes and dreams for a wonderful future lay shattered, the promise of glory apparently nothing but empty words. Their king had died the death of a petty criminal, nailed to a cross. That happened on what has become known to us today as Good Friday, although on the face of it there seems little "good" about such an event.

But the Bible tells us the promises of Jesus to his followers were not empty words at all…because on the Sunday he gave them an empty tomb! The despair and crushed hopes of Friday were replaced by insurmountable joy, when they met again their resurrected friend, master and saviour.

And the Bible also tells us how Jesus promises to return to the earth he helped create, to restore it, and us, and to make all things new. That's a promise worth waiting for. So, maybe we are feeling right now what the disciples did on disastrous day, but we can also know that Jesus is alive! It's Friday…….BUT SUNDAY'S COMING!

Have a really Happy Easter…seriously!

Jon Wayper Parish Warden

URC News

Chishill Junior Voices

The URC Chapel will play host, on March 10th at 3pm, to a renowned voice teacher, AND a published composer, who will be offering their musical gifts to the children of Great Chishill and the surrounding villages as part of our Chishill Junior Voices Singing Day! See back cover for further details.

Our children will learn a brand new piece, written for them by Jamie W. Hall, whose published compositions have been performed around the world, broadcast on BBC Radio and on American television, and recorded for CD release.

All participants will be invited to perform this new piece for us all as part of our Easter Day service at the Chapel - of course, the workshop will be open to all, even those who can't make it on Easter Day!

Refreshments will be provided, and a warm welcome offered to any parents who would like to observe or even take part.

This amazing opportunity is free of charge and open to all, so please spread the word and email white.night@btinternet.com to book a place.

Family Service

It was lovely to welcome families to our Evening Family Service. A hot supper was provided beforehand, the idea being it eased the usual Sunday night panic of getting ready for a new week afterwards. I was truly delighted that parents as well as children tucked in and there was such a cosy and cheery atmosphere in the school room. Sue led a perfect service that engaged the youngsters, the oldies and then all as a family. We all left feeling replete in every way. We will arrange another one at a later date.

Film Night

Tuesday 12th March 7.30pm

Please look on Gt Chishill Website for the film showing.

Tess Gent

Thank You

We are extremely thankful to the many retired and visiting clergy that have helped us during this period of interregnum. Baptisms, weddings and funerals, and our normal services, have been able to take place as normal. Special thanks go to The Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop, Rev'd Stephen Bazlinton, Rev'd Andy Colebrooke, Rev'd Stephen Baxter, Rev'd Alex Jeewan, Rev'd John Saxon, Rev'd John Risby, Rev'd Jeremy Trew, Rev'd Alasdair Coles, Rev'd Olivia Coles, Venerable Robin King, Venerable Kate Peacock. We are also hugely thankful to our Parish Churchwaren Jon Wayper and each of the District Churchwardens - Liz Stott, Mel Chandler, Angela Patrick, Sarah Westerhuis, David Wilkinson, Struan Edgar, Ned Tozer, Elaine Knobel-Forbes and Jenny Leitch. All have made a great contribution to the running of our churches. See inside back cover.

Love Actually

Let all you do be done in love: 1 Corinthians 16:14

What a treat! On **Saturday 10 February** we gathered at Chrishall Church to enjoy time together with delicious refreshments followed by a fantastic talk illustrated by clips from the 'Love Actually' film. Our band were fantastic and the assembled throng of readers were absolutely amazing…. We were sent off in good cheer with a tremendous rendition of The Beatles, "Love is all you need'.

We are indebted to our speaker, Olivia Coles, who honoured her commitment to us, despite her son donning an England jersey at Twickenham that very afternoon (England did win!). We learnt about the concept of love languages and the God given gift of love:

We love because he first loved us: 1 John 4:19, as revealed to us by Jesus life and death.

It was interesting to learn we treat each other with our own preferred love language, so we need to be alert to individual preferences to allow our loved ones to feel loved!

The next gathering will be on Wednesday 8 May in the late afternoon/early evening, when we shall have the joy of welcoming

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back the Watoto choir - please look out for more details.

Church is so much better when you're there

If you would like to learn more about the Love Languages, Andrea in the Parish Office can give you a summary pack along with questionnaires to help you work out your preferences.

Lent Course 2024

The parish has chosen to follow The Grace Course as the basis for the Lent Course this year. The course is written by Steve Goss for Freedom In Christ Ministries, based in Reading.

There will be sessions on Wednesday 6, 13 and 20 March at Chrishall Village Hall, beginning at 7.15pmand ending at 9.00pm.

Below is an extract from a review of the course…

"The Grace Course is a straight forward, effective way for churches to help Christians understand God's grace and be motivated by God's love alone, so that they go on to bear much fruit".

There will be the opportunity for watching a DVD, and, of course, the usual refreshments and discussions!

Gordon Crabbe

Au revoir. 6/4/37-28/12/23

Amongst those gathered together in Chrishall Church to give thanks for the full and varied life of dear Gordon were family, friends, 'allotmenteers', colleagues, pupils and fellow school governors. Each discovering something surprising about Gordon.

This warm, friendly, diligent, humorous, loving man was always gentle and delightful. Highly respected in life and now much missed.

Gordon and Margaret shared a conversation for almost 40 years based on love, respect and kindness…not to mention embracing travel!

The Crabbes have been loved and supported by our local community, during the past few years.

In recent weeks, Margaret has deeply appreciated the precious cards, flowers, messages, prayers and offers of help.

The dedicated church team, including Andy Colebrooke and Jon Wayper, created an uplifting Service of Thanksgiving; offering calm reassurance and resolving every problem that arose. From delightful organ playing, beautiful flowers, fitting tributes, welcoming faces at the door to the magnificent spread laid out by Dawn Jaffray, Gordon was honoured and commemorated.

Margaret commented, '*How fortunate I am to live among such warm hearted, friendly and caring people*.' One could almost hear Gordon echoing the same sentiment… .

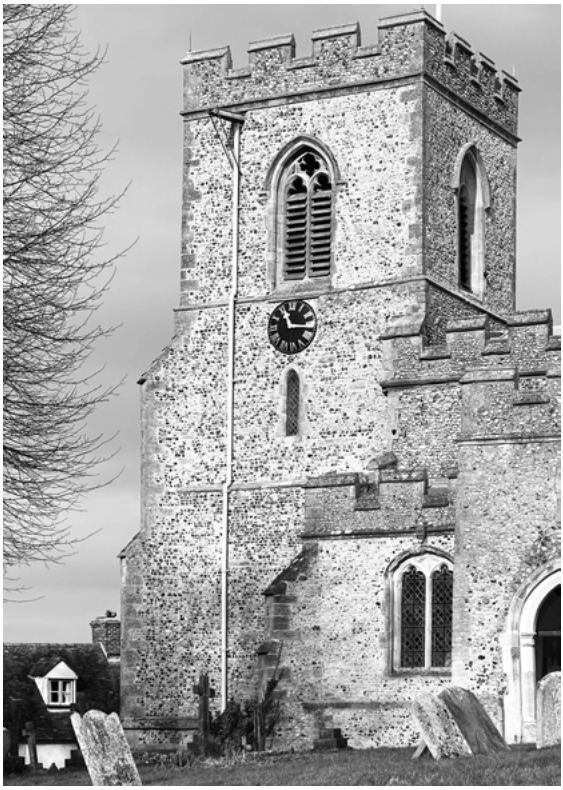
Chariot of fire

These words originate from the story of Elijah in 2 Kings but like so many other Old Testament phrases were irresistible to the literary world. This one became part of William Blake's 1808 poem "And did those feet in ancient time". The poem was retitled "Jerusalem", set to music as a hymn, and Elgar provided the orchestration we know so well.

The phrase is also well known thanks to an engaging 1981 film with the famous scene of the Trinity Great Court run in Cambridge. The challenge is to make the short 339m lap of the court in the correspondingly short time it takes the clock to strike twelve.

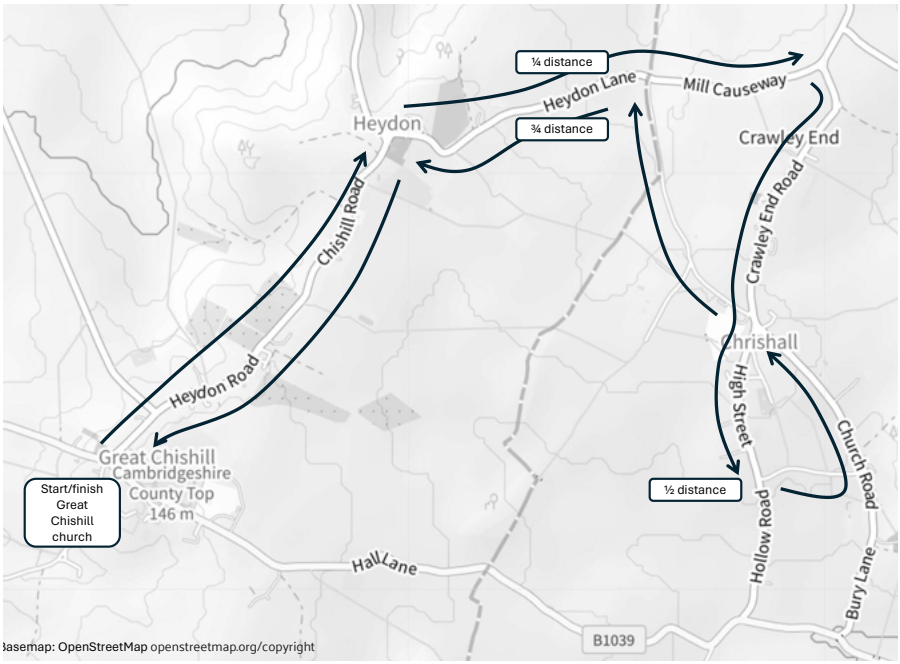
My memory of the scene was triggered by the clock striking the hour as I ran past Great Chishill church.

My run was not so short a distance or time. I was starting a10k loop and for my age and fitness I would be pleased with a time dead on the hour. Could I do my own chase of the clock and get back before it struck again?



In winter, my route goes into Heydon, past the pond, with the quarter distance at the bottom of the hill. Up to Crawley End then right into Chrishall and past the Red Cow. The halfway point is Chalky Lane where I'm getting into "the zone" and feel like I could run all day.

The thing with running – and walking and cycling – is that there are such rewards for the senses. It



was the end of January and the snowdrops were out. I had the delight of the warm sun on my back and the novelty of a sharp shadow under a cloudless sky.

Next, it's back up to the centre of Chrishall and down Abram's Lane to the three-quarter point. The hill up to Heydon definitely knocks me out of the zone and gets me thinking about how much further to go.

I check progress at Heydon but take care. The church clock is running five minutes slow so it would be easy to get a false sense of optimism. Should any of your Heydon friends turn up late you should remember the different time zone!

You may be wondering – did I do it? On this day I did and there's no better feeling than hearing the clock strike after a nice 10k.

Why not plan your own route? Our roads may be quiet but do make it easy for drivers to see you by wearing something bright. This winter route is on road but for drier weather we are blessed with many great off-road routes – thanks to the farmers for keeping our paths and verges so clear.

Alan South

Licensing of our new Rector

As announced last month, the Reverend Dr James Webster has been appointed Rector of the Parish of the Icknield Way Villages. His licensing service will take place on Thursday 23 May 2024 at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Chrishall.

Here is a short bio:

In common with many of Jesus' early followers, I have a passion for fishing. I am married to Debs and we have three wonderful daughters, two equally wonderful sons-in-law and three lively grandchildren.

Having trained originally as a water engineer, I worked in low-income countries in the water and sanitation sector for 25 years, primarily in rural Uganda and Ethiopia with the family through Tearfund, but also in many emergency contexts with other agencies such as Oxfam and the UN.

Having gained a PhD in cultural anthropology related to this work, after a few years lecturing at Cranfield University and running my own consultancy, I was ordained in 2013.

Heydon Films

The last of three films for winter:

Friday 22 March 7.30 for 8.00pm, Mission Hut, 14 Chishill Road; call/e-mail Rollo Barnes, 838309, rb@rollobarnes.com. £5 (inc refreshments) – all to church funds

C'est La Vie (*2017, 117min*): French farce with English sub-titles, for anyone remotely connected with organising a wedding; anything that can go wrong, does so.

Chrishall School Expert Showcase

This term we have trialled a new way of sharing our learning with parents and carers. We have called it an "Expert Showcase" as it allows the children to be the experts in one area of the curriculum and present their learning to visitors.

Albert explained to the parents in his class about how they had made newspaper reports telling the news of an earthquake in Japan and set a quiz for the adults to answer. He enjoyed sharing his work with different adults.

Imogen was explaining her work in computing, where they had been editing photos, and enjoyed demonstrating cropping and adding filters to photos. "I liked that we got to teach the adults about what we have learned this term." she said. It was a great experience to see the children being so confident and to see how well they knew their subjects.

Fiona Dyer Teacher

Looking after your Back

Despite treating all muscle and joint problems, Osteopaths have always found that a large proportion of their patients come in complaining of neck and back pain. We use hands on treatment to decrease muscle tightness and improve movement and also advise patients about what they can change in their life to have a healthier back in the future.

The rise in home working triggered by the pandemic is likely to have added to the huge problem of back pain. For many people a makeshift work station was pulled together out of often unsuitable chairs and desks. This, coupled with the general decrease in activity that can accompany home working, has led to a lot of people attending my practice with the resulting aches and pains. Prolonged sitting, poor posture and inactivity are behaviours that our spines absolutely hate.

To help with good posture make sure you have a well set up work station with a good supportive chair and a screen that's at eye level.

Even perfect posture does not avoid tightness building up if we don't move enough. In order to keep our spines as healthy as possible we need to ensure we take frequent breaks from sitting to move around, walk or stretch. Try setting a timer as a reminder to move every 30-45 minutes.

To keep the supporting muscles of your back strong try to build in regular exercise to your routine.

Find something you enjoy (you are much more likely to stick to it!) and vary what you do to target different muscle groups. Walking, swimming, yoga, pilates, strength training….the list goes on. Just keep moving!
Amanda Maris

Floral Fanatics needing Vases!

If anyone has any flower vases that they no longer use Heydon Holy Trinity would be happy to help you lessen the load on your cupboards! We would very much appreciate your excess china vases, preferably oblong in shape, as they suit the windows and hide the oasis!! Please ring 838605 or email clerk.heydonpc@gmail.com if you have anything you think might suit - collection assured. Thank you, **Angela** - *Clerk to Holy Trinity, Heydon.*

In my life…

We reproduce this inspiring prayer, written by Helen Bennett on the eve of her confirmation in 2016. Helen was invited to share her thoughts and feelings about her decision to be confirmed. These words are a testimony to the strength she gains from the knowledge of the enduring love of our saviour, Christ.

In my life I try to do my best
-that's the Holy Spirit working within me
Sometimes it feels like one big test
-that's human free will working against me
I've truly suffered through sin in the past
-that's what I know now, God has forgiven me
Replaced by enduring love at last
-that's what God always wanted for me
There's still so much to understand
-that's not what God needs from me
I need a light and a helping hand
-that's what Jesus provides for me
I will always be a mother and a wife
-that's what God has made me
But 'The way, the truth and the love
-now that's what Jesus means to me

'*I am always with you, to the very end of the age*' Matthew 28:20

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‘Lines’ Exhibition

Based at Compass Courtyard in near Wendens Ambo, Wightman Gallery and Studio is an independent space founded by artist and curator Annabel Wightman. The gallery showcases long-term collaborations and emerging creative talent through its exhibition programme, while the studio will run a variety of workshops and courses throughout the year.

Annabel Wightman MA, is a ‘Ceramic Artist’ and has recently completed a three year art residency at the Hugo Burge Foundation Creative Spaces in Scotland. She worked amongst some of the UK's leading craftsmen - some of whom will be visiting Compass Courtyard for Wightman Gallery's inaugural art exhibition and opening.

Some of the artists showcasing at our upcoming exhibition 'Lines' are Charlie Poulsen (sculpture and drawing), Gary Anderson (painting) and Pauline Burbidge (textiles).

‘Lines’ Private View: 29th March, 6-9pm. Save the date and please share amongst your friends! Stay tuned for details of our upcoming pottery workshops and courses! To sign up for a newsletter visit www.whitemangallery.com

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Charity Music Night

Have you got anything planned 13 April? Do you like live music? Is indie-rock your thing?

For those of you who don't know, I am Tracey Greeman and I have lived in the village for 30 years now. Since 2010 I have been involved with several charities including Walk the Walk, a breast cancer charity and The Motor Neurone Disease Association. This year's charity fundraiser will be held in Great Chishill Village Hall on 13 April starting at 7pm. There will be a licensed bar and two wonderful bands for only £17.50 of your hard earned money.

Opening the evening we have Darren Stammers 'Mr Coverman and friends' and the evening will be concluded by the amazing band Allergy who have been fabulous supporters of my fundraising events for the last 10 years.

This is a ticketed event but all the information can be found on this link

https://www.facebook.com/share/PqfCie4SyGG5eSWJ/?mibextid=9l3rBW

or directly from me, I look forward to seeing you on 13 April

Tracey

Parish Contacts - *Telephone codes are 01763 unless stated*

Rector: Vacant (Parish currently in interregnum)

Church Office:
Mon, Tues,Thurs and Fri 9am to 1pm - Church Office, Crawley End, Chrishall, Royston, Herts SG8 8QL Tel: 837272 Email: iwp.parishoffice@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Vacant

Parish Church Warden & Authorised Local Preacher: Jon Wayper
Tel: 01799 732045 Email: jwayper@hotmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Fiona Dyer Tel: 07854 602373
Email: iwp.safeguarding@gmail.com

District Wardens:
Chrishall – David Wilkinson 837303
Gt Chishill – Angela Patrick Sutcliffe 837353
Heydon – Mel Chandler 838289
Strethall – Liz Stott 01799 521217
Elmdon – Ned Tozer 838890
Hamlet – Sarah Westerhuis 07739550061
Lt Chishill – Elaine Knobel-Forbes 838781

Children's and Youth Work: Contact office - 837272

Treasurer: Laurence Brett Tel: 838167 Email: laurencebrett@icloud.com

Donations: Barclays Bank – Sort: 20-73-26 Account: 40898023

Tower Bell Ringing: For all towers please contact the church office 837272

Chrishall Primary School: Head Teacher Tracey Bratley Tel: 838592

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Published by the Parish of The Icknield Way Villages
on behalf of the churches in our community

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for being part of our church life

CHISHILL *Junior* VOICES

Singing Day!

For ages 7 – 18

Join us at the URC Chapel on March 10th, from 3 – 4pm, for an amazing opportunity to work with an eminent choir trainer and vocal coach!

Lynette Alcantara will lead a fun singing session for children, focussing on warm ups, games that develop the musical ear, and learning to sing rounds and songs in one and two parts. Afterwards, light refreshments will be provided.

This is open to ANYONE from Great Chishill and the surrounding villages, who would like to take part

Lynette is a professional singer and choir trainer from Cambridge (although originally from Australia). She teaches singers from age 7-80 and everything in between and loves introducing singers to new songs and musical games. She has been singing professionally for thirty-five years and was a staff alto with the BBC Singers between 1993-2017 as well as singing solo in opera and concert across the country and in Australia.

In Cambridge, she is Director of Music at Wolfson College and singing teacher to Choral Scholars at Sidney Sussex, Wolfson and Queens Colleges. Between 2008-2020 she was the singing teacher for the boy choristers of the world-famous Choir of King's College.

She is Director of Music of KJV Community Children's Choir for children aged 7-18 www.kjvchoir.org a children's music charity and choir celebrating its fifteenth year.

After the workshop, Helen, Alison and Jamie will lead rehearsals on March 17th and 24th, leading to an opportunity for the children to sing as part of our special service on Easter Day! This event will be offered by the URC **free of charge,** but donations towards the cost of the workshop will be most gratefully received. **To book your place, email white.night@btinternet.com**

Distributed free by volunteers to all the homes in the Parish of the Icknield Way Villages - Chrishall, Elmdon with Wenden Lofts, Duddenhoe End, Great Chishill, Little Chishill, Heydon and Strethall.