



The Benefice of Aldermaston and Woolhampton, comprising the parishes of  
Aldermaston, Beenham, Brimpton, Midgham, Wasing and Woolhampton

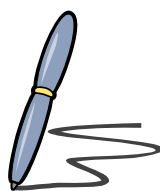
# THE PEW

## September 2023 NEWS





# WHAT'S INSIDE THIS EDITION?



## NEWS PAGES

For this month's letter from our Rector, the Reverend Jane Manley, or news and articles from our churches and communities, Eco Church, food bank or benefice administration.

## SERVICES AND LIFE EVENTS

Weddings, baptisms and funerals, services in the benefice, 'what happens in church', community events.  
Things to do and pictures from past events.

## FOR CHILDREN AGED 0 - 100 +

Competitions, stories. news from our schools and how to get involved - joining in with church doesn't have to be Sunday, and it doesn't have to be 'at church'!



Dear Friends

Last weekend I went along to the 'Medicine Festival' at Wasing. This is the second time I have attended and this year I went with my daughter and grandchildren. For those of you who do not know much about the festival – this is now in its fourth year and attracted 6000 people this year. People from all walks of life and all ages, people who are interested in nature, beautiful music and for many the spiritual element of the weekend. The Estate is transformed into a magnificent, tented village set in the backdrop of the Wasing Woods. It is an entirely alcohol-free affair which allows an atmosphere of peace and calm. The tag of the festival is 'The medicine you seek is seeking you.'

I go to the festival as a committed Christian, but one who wants to respect and understand other faiths and beliefs. There is nothing that I experienced at the festival which goes against what I believe, and I can enter it from a Christian perspective and gain much and learn much.

The festival allows people to express themselves and be themselves, to let go of inhibitions and the emotional baggage we all carry for a few hours or days. The music is beautiful and very calming. I sat and watched a gong meditation session led by a couple of people producing an almost humming sound on large gongs; there were prayer circles allowing you to engage in whatever way you wanted, using elements of nature such as stones, fruits, berries, flowers; there were small groups of people everywhere just quietly chatting or praying together. I was very struck by an embroidered wall hanging being created by an artist – it was magnificent and had taken him three years. This was hanging between two trees in the middle of the woods, and he was quietly sewing whilst people watched. There was beautiful craft on display to buy or simply admire: beadwork which reminded me of my life in Zimbabwe. Each item with a story behind it.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTORY

The afternoon was hot and after exploring the 'city' we sat under a tree sharing a wonderful curry (all the food is vegan and vegetarian) and it was hard to imagine that we were surrounded by 6000 people.

Some come for the day, others had been there all weekend camping. There were people dressed up in magnificent costumes and face paints, some depicting what look like elements of the sea and wind ready to take part in a dance, wonderful tribal headgear, and people in jeans and t-shirts – anything was accepted and embraced.

What came across so strongly to me was the peace of the venue, it is a place to just be yourself, and with a strong connection and respect for nature and each other.

When you walked through the open section of the 'city' at the top of the hill you could see St Nicholas Church nestled there. It was a part of the festival – it was open if people wanted to visit and just sit in the quietness of the church and also embraced the simplicity of the weekend.

I came away thinking – how can we create spaces in our churches to allow people to simply come and be themselves, to connect with God and with his created world, to open themselves, with all the pains and joys of life, and to be still. People are crying out for peace and tranquillity in their busy lives and we need to create spaces that allow them to be still, to listen and to be open. We are also humans who need each other and to try and live in harmony with one another. That was happening at the weekend in Wasing Woods and it can happen in our churches and often does. But we need to be constantly listening to the needs of others and not always trying to hold on to 'the way we have always done things.'

I am currently reading a book by Barbara Brown Taylor, 'Holy Envy: finding God in the faith of others' which gives a small window onto a large subject. It is the story of a Christian minister who changed her pulpit for a classroom teaching Religions of the World. As soon as she recovered from the shock of meeting God in so many different forms, she found something to fall in love with in every tradition she encountered – the beauty and variety of places of worship, the generosity of welcome and hospitality, the wisdom that resonated deeply, the humility learned through being a guest, not the host.





This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine;  
this is my home, the country where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
(Christian hymn by Lloyd Stone)

**with blessings**


**Rev'd Jane**



## News from our communities

*Brimpton Church 100 Club*


*The winner for July was number 27 - Sue Rudling*



heritage **open** days

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September**  
**11:00 to 17:00**

**Aldermaston**




**CREATIVITY  
UNWRAPPED**

**St Mary the Virgin Church**  
Thanks to the PCC, this is a chance to take a leisurely wander around this beautiful local building and learn about the art and artists.

**Officer's Mess, Hinds Head**  
Exhibition showing some of the history of Aldermaston's creativity and its creative residents.

More information on event and locations : <https://group.aldermastonhistory.uk>

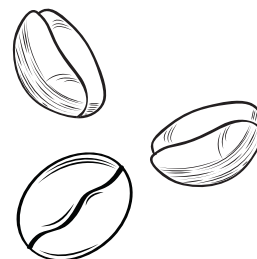
 **ALDERMASTON HISTORY GROUP**

### COFFEE MORNING (SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH) IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN  
10:00 am-11:30 am

WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2023  
WEDNESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2023  
WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023  
WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023

Everyone (including dogs) welcome





# Harvest festival



## **1st October**

9.15am St Matthew's Midgham

10.45am St Peter's, Brimpton

## **8th October**

10.45am St Peter's, Woolhampton

## **15th October**

10.45am St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston

## **22nd October**

11am St Mary's, Beenham



# MIDGHAM

Midgham Café Church  
First Thursday of the month  
September 7th, October 5th  
Join us for tea, cake and a chat  
2.00pm in the church



**Aldermaston & Wasing**

**SHOW**



The Old Mill  
Aldist Est. 1939

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept, 1:30pm**

For further details, see website: **[awshow.org.uk](http://awshow.org.uk)**







# Harvest Festival Service

St Mary's Church, Aldermaston

10.45am - Sunday 15th October

Join us afterwards for a  
Harvest Lunch

12.15pm

Aldermaston Parish Hall

Adults - £10, Children - £5

**Tickets available from:**

**Vicky Curtis** [curtisvicky62@gmail.com](mailto:curtisvicky62@gmail.com)

Booking essential – Dietary requirements catered for.

Tea/coffee and soft drink available.

Bring your own beer or wine

Proceeds towards the maintenance of St Mary's Church



## Aldermaston Coffee Club

In the conservatory area of Hilliers' café.



Drop by for a chat, a chance to meet old friends and to make new ones.

Everyone is welcome, just turn up!

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Any time from 10 until 11.30am

For further details contact: Cynthia Newman 0118 9713525



SAVE THE DATE - Saturday September 9th.

WHY?... It's the annual Sponsored Ride & Stride event!

Come and join us cycling a well-known route round the beautiful countryside with a stop for a picnic lunch!

It is a fun day with a great group of people – if you wish to join us contact Julia for more information.

The sponsorships help keeping St Matthew's and # other local churches open for the community.

julia@emftechnology.co.uk Mobile: 0787 635 2988



# Brimpton



**Saturday 30 September  
12.30pm in Brimpton Village Hall  
Adults: £12. Children under 10: £5  
Includes a soft drink. Bring your own beer or wine**

Proceeds towards heating project in St Peter's Church

**Tickets available from:**

Brenda Scott [mrsbscott@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbscott@btinternet.com)  
Mel Bowring [mebowring@outlook.com](mailto:mebowring@outlook.com)  
Sue Moore [susanmoore50@hotmail.com](mailto:susanmoore50@hotmail.com)  
Patricia Brims [pcbrims@hotmail.com](mailto:pcbrims@hotmail.com)  
Sue Storey 0118 9712251

**St Peter's Church is supporting the  
West Berks Foodbank.**

**Thank you to everyone who contributes  
to the collecting boxes in Brimpton  
Harvest Festival Service  
10.45am on Sunday 1st October**

There will be a retiring collection for the Foodbank  
and donations of food etc will be gratefully received

## **Aldermaston Parish Council - 8th August 2023**

In Open Forum, we were given an update on the status of the skate-board project at the Rec. The Planning Application is nearing completion, and the Application will be submitted by APC on behalf of the community.

Also in Open Forum, the new Owner of 34 The Street attended to hear the reasons for the Parish Council's Objection to his Planning Application 23/01132/HOUSE, which was subsequently Approved by WBC. Although it is a Listed Building within a Conservation Area, we were all surprised that the WBC Conservation Officer had not commented. We explained that our reservations were only to the carport, which was described as "steel and glass" which we felt might be too visible from The Street. The new Owner explained that it was deliberately set back from the road. He was sympathetic to our concerns, recognised the needs of a Conservation Area, and was willing to change his plans. We agreed that the WBC Conservation Officer should be contacted for her views, and that the Parish Council was pleased with the cooperation being shown by the new Owner.

Lastly in Open Forum, a member of the general public expressed concern at the lack of responsiveness from GWR over their charges for the station carpark. We explained that this was not through lack of trying by us, and that our Ward member, Dominic Boeck, had recently become involved. The same member of the general public was affected by a particularly noisy motor-bike that regularly travelled down The Street. As a Parish Council, we shared his concern, especially if the vehicle was illegal, but recommended he got the support of others before progressing.

In Closed session, we had no new Planning Applications to review, but noted that WBC had Approved:

A food preparation and laundry area at Barlows Park, Silchester Road  
An extension to the clubhouse at the same site  
A change in planning conditions for a property at Kestrels Mead

Also on the Planning front we are disappointed with the apparent lack of progress by WBC on the Change of Use at Corbyn, Soke Road

We were pleased to note that WBC had completed the repair to the southern bridge on the cyclepath. We were disappointed, though, to learn that overgrown vegetation had made the northern part of the Village untidy, and will ask the WBC ROW team to address

We spent considerable time discussing traffic issues outside Hilliers Garden Centre. There appears to be two issues here, traffic speed and the visibility of the pedestrian refuge (particularly at night). We agreed not to do anything until WBC have completed their survey

Lastly, work has been completed on the Fountain on The Loosey. We hope you are as pleased with the outcome as we are.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. As usual, your presence is welcomed! For full information on Parish Council matters, please visit our website at [www.aldermaston.co.uk](http://www.aldermaston.co.uk)

**Dave Shirt**  
**tel. 0118 971 2549**  
**[www.awb.org.uk](http://www.awb.org.uk)**



### Parish Council

As the Parish Council will not be meeting until Tuesday 5th September, the agenda is not yet finalised. It will be available 3 days before the meeting on local noticeboards and on our website [www.brimptonparish.org.uk](http://www.brimptonparish.org.uk)

So far there is one planning application on which we have been asked to comment. It is from Grundon Sand & Gravel regarding land at Kennetholme Quarry off Brimpton Road. The application seeks to vary Condition 1 of the planning permission granted by West Berkshire Council in 2019. Full details are available on the WBC planning website, reference number: 23/01740/MINMAJ

I understand the planning application for change of use and minor building alterations to the former Three Horse Shoes has been submitted to West Berkshire Council. As yet it has not been returned to us for comment but I am hoping we will receive it before our September meeting.

Phil Bassil and Christine, the Clerk to the Parish Council, met representatives of Thames Water on site yesterday to discuss the condition of the verges outside the sewage pumping station in Brimpton Road. In view of TW's original response to our complaint this was a major step forward. Whether there will be any more steps forward, or in any other direction, remains to be seen.

Christine is also pursuing Wise Energy about the dead trees and bushes that are supposed to screen the solar farm to the north of the village. The individual we have been dealing with has been on holiday and now the issue appears to have been passed to someone else who is also on holiday. A word to (the) Wise: it is very Unwise to obstruct Christine when she's in pursuit mode.

### Thames Valley Police Open Day - 2nd September

From TVP:

*This summer Thames Valley Police (TVP) will open its doors to the public for the force's Open Day. The event will take place between 10am and 4pm on **Saturday 2nd September** and will be hosted at our training centre in Sulhamstead, near Reading.*

*The Open Day provides a fantastic opportunity for you to get a behind the scenes look at what it takes to police one of the biggest non-metropolitan policing areas in the country.*

*Our Roads Policing Unit, Forensic Investigations Unit, Contact Management team and Major Crime Unit are just a handful of over 40 exhibitors who will be there to showcase their work.*

### Brimpton Harvest Lunch : 30th September

The parish Harvest Lunch will be held at the Village Hall on Saturday 30 September. It starts at 12.30pm and tickets cost £12 for adults and £5 for those below the age of 10. Please bring your own wine or beer. To judge by the turn out last year, this is a "must be there" event. The home cooked food was outstanding. Tickets are available from:

Brenda Scott at [mrsbsscott@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbsscott@btinternet.com); Sue Moore at [susanmoore50@hotmail.com](mailto:susanmoore50@hotmail.com); Mel Bowring [mebowring@outlook.com](mailto:mebowring@outlook.com); Patricia Brims [pcbrims@hotmail.com](mailto:pcbrims@hotmail.com); or telephone Sue Storey on 0118 971 2251.

### Newbury Apple Day : 14th October

I don't usually publicise events in Newbury but this one seems a good cause and as they say, an apple a day ...  
*This year's Newbury Apple Day will be held on **Saturday 14th October**.*

*On the day we'll be in Newbury Market Square 9am - 3.30pm where we'll be juicing apples that might otherwise have gone to waste. Anyone is welcome to bring their surplus apples or just pop along and taste the juice and buy home made cakes and other appley goodies. We'll have an expert on hand too if anyone has an apple tree in their garden they would like to identify.*

*Please get in touch with the organisers via this link if you'd like any more information.*

## Brimpton Parish Update 142 - 18th August 2023

### Dates for Your Diary

**Monday 21st August to Friday 25th August:** 9.30am to 12 noon each day, In the Beginning Holiday Bible Club at the Baptist Church. Details above.

**Saturday 26th August:** Pizza Night at the Village Hall., starting at 7pm. Catch up with friends over a fresh cooked pizza. No tickets needed.

**Tuesday 5st September:** Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm

Wednesday 13th September: Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am.

**Tuesday 19th September:** W.I. Open Evening. Talk by John Baxter on 100 Days in a Box: Life on a Nuclear Submarine If you are not a W.I. Member and would like to attend, please contact [brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk](mailto:brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk)

**Saturday 30th September:** Brimpton Harvest Lunch. Tickets £12, children £5, available from those listed in previous item.

**Tuesday 3rd October:** Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm

**Saturday 7th October:** The 100 Question Quiz at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Maximum 6 people to a team. Book via [jcdolphin@btinternet.com](mailto:jcdolphin@btinternet.com)

**Wednesday 11th October:** Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am.

**Tuesday 7th November:** Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm

**Wednesday 8th November:** Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am.

### Finally

A joint meeting of Aldermaston, Beenham, Brimpton, Padworth and Woolhampton parish councils and Thames Valley Police will take place at the end of September. The catalyst for the meeting was the recent problems caused by the boy racers, some of whom I'm informed come from as far as Basingstoke, as well as more local participants. However, the meeting will cover all aspects of rural policing and the way this has been affected by the recruitment and retention of police officers. I will also be raising the very slow response if you use 101 to report an incident. If you have a particular issue you would like us to discuss with the TVP, please let me know.

Now as this glorious British summer continues I'm going to find my raincoat.

**John Hicks**



# BOOK REVIEW

REV. JANE MANLEY

I love cooking and looking at cookery books so was immediately drawn to this rather unusual cookery book.

Drawing from her favourite works of fiction, Kate Young has compiled over 100 mouthwatering recipes for all meals, from breakfast to puddings. Inspired by classics such as Paddington Bear, the Great Gatsby, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, and Anne of Green Gables, the recipes developed by Kate Young are nostalgic and delicious.

Kate Young is an Australian award-winning food writer and cook. She began writing about food and developing recipes from books while working as a teacher and producer of young people's theatre. Her blog, the Little Library Café, was named Blog of the Year in 2011 by the Guild of Food Writers. This was her first book and was incredibly successful. Revd Jane

Please look for one of the recipes under the Recipe of the month section.

If you have a book that you have read and enjoyed, please do write and tell us all about it.



**The Little Library Cookbook**  
100 recipes from your favourite stories  
**KATE YOUNG**

# West Berks Foodbank

If you're worried about money and struggling to afford essentials, call our free helpline for personalised support

**0808 208 2138**

**Help Through  
Hardship Helpline**



**Free phone service open  
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**

**Closed on public holidays**

**The Help through Hardship helpline  
is a free phone service  
delivered in partnership with  
Trussell Trust and Citizens Advice.**

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service delivered in  
partnership with Trussell  
Trust and Citizens Advice. For  
all other information call:  
07836 500610**

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**If you are in need the foodbank is available 7  
days per week. Food parcels delivered to you.  
Call 01635 760560**

## **URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS**

**Details of items urgently needed and low in stock can be found by visiting  
<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>**

## ***WHEN PEOPLE ARE GOING WITHOUT....***

***IT IS TIME TO GUARANTEE THEIR ESSENTIALS***

## **Drop off locations:**

**Aldermaston and Wasing: The Rectory, Wasing Lane and 19 Swan Drive, The Wharf.**

**Beenham: Inside the gate at Beenham Primary School**

**Brimpton: Inside the porch at St Peter's Church and Georgina Hairdressers**

**Midgham: St Matthew's Church. Open daily between 09:00-15:00**

**Woolhampton: Inside the porch at St Peter's Church**

**[www.awb.org.uk](http://www.awb.org.uk)**



## CLIMATE SABBATH?

I belong to a group run by the Diocese called 'Greenshoots' that focuses on Global Warming and what and how we can all do our bit to help the environment.

A document was recently circulated to the group called 'What If....? By Fionna Brennan-Scott. The opening line said 'Diary of a climate sabbath'. "What if we didn't use electricity, gas or petrol for one day in seven?"

In a recent talk by Bishop Olivia Graham she made the statement, 'It's no longer Global Warming, it's Global Heating'. So perhaps we do need to think about the amount of electricity, gas and petrol we use.

Fionna said the madcap idea would not go away and so had a dry run to see if it was possible. During the week she trained herself not to turn the taps to the 'hot' position and washed her hands and face and rinsed some kitchen implements in cold water. For her the hardest part was washing her face in cold water at night as she associates this as something to wake her up, but fortunately she slept well. From 7 pm on Friday to 7pm on Saturday, she recorded and either did what was necessary to avoid the generation of power, or recorded what she would have to do the following weekend.

**Her list looked like this:**

### **Climate Sabbath**

Kitchen tap on cold  
No TV  
No phone charging - Minimal use  
Unplug fridge - minimal use (Salad)  
Pack but don't run dishwasher  
No driving

### **Planning / Recce**

No kettle boiling - prepare flasks  
Candlelight for bedtime  
Read at bedtime  
Open bathroom window - no fan  
No radio / music (sing, talk, hum)  
No movie night - play games

Perhaps we all need to be conscious of our environment and think of all the things we take for granted that are adding to global warming. I am certainly more conscious of driving and walk when I can but that is not easy living in a village where there is little public transport. As a household we try to turn lights off when we are not in a room. Fionna's list certainly gives us food for thought and a good starting point.

Wouldn't it be great if we could all get into the habit of reducing, re-using and recycling so that it becomes the norm rather than continuing in the fashion we are today. If you have done an up-cycling project recently that you would like to share with us or have any ideas to help stop global warming please send them to [mrsbsscott@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbsscott@btinternet.com)

This is the link if you would like to read the full report  
<https://gwp.church/2023/08/13/what-if-fiona-brennan-scott/>

Good luck and thank you,  
Brenda Scott



# RECIPE FOR SEPTEMBER!

## Baked Beans

From 'The Little Library Cookbook' – see the book review

Ma was busy all day long, cooking things for Christmas. She baked self-rising bread and rye'n'Injun bread, and Swedish crackers, and a huge pan of baked beans with salt pork and molasses.

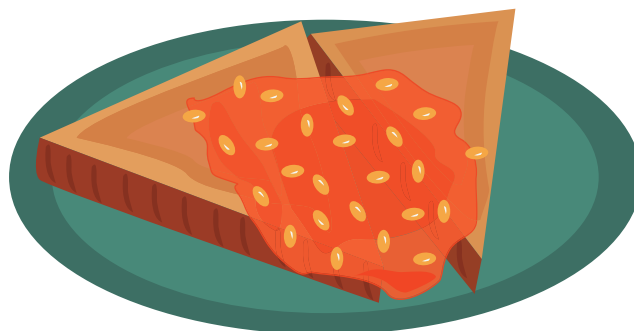
'Little House in the Big Woods', Laura Ingalls Wilder.

**Serves at least 4 for breakfast**

### Ingredients

150g diced pancetta (optional)  
1tbsp vegetable oil (if not using pancetta)  
1 onion, finely diced  
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
2 x 400g tins of chopped tomatoes  
3 sprigs fresh thyme  
1 long red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped  
1 tbsp mustard  
2 tbsp black treacle/molasses  
2 x 400g tins cannellini beans  
Salt and pepper

1. If you're using the pancetta, tip it into the pan and cook until crisp, then set aside, leaving the fat in the pan. If you're not using pancetta, add a tablespoon of oil to the pan and heat through.
2. Add the finely diced onion and cook over a medium heat until soft, ensuring that it doesn't brown. Add the finely chopped garlic and cook for another couple of minutes.
3. Add the tins of tomatoes, leaves from the sprigs of thyme, the chopped chilli, mustard and treacle. Simmer over a low heat for 20 minutes.
4. Strain the tins of cannellini beans and stir these through. If you are using the pancetta, add it back into the pan now. Cook for a further 10 minutes, then taste and season with salt and pepper. Serve on toast.



# SERVICES AND EVENTS

## SERVICES DURING SEPTEMBER 2023 THROUGHOUT THE BENEFICE

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity  
St Mary's, Beenham 9.15am Morning Praise  
St Matthew's, Midgham 9.15am BCP Communion  
St Nicholas, Wasing 10.45am Holy Communion

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September: The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity  
St Mary's, Beenham 9.15am Holy Communion  
St Peter's, Brimpton 9.15am Holy Communion  
St Nicholas, Wasing 10.45am Informal Communion  
St Peter's, Woolhampton 10.45am Morning Prayer

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September: The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity  
St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston 10.45am Morning Praise  
St Mary's, Beenham 9.15am Informal Communion  
St Peter's Brimpton 10.45am Morning Praise  
St Matthew's, Midgham 9.15am Holy Communion  
St Peter's, Woolhampton 10.45am Holy Communion

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September: The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity  
St Peter's, Brimpton 9.15am Holy Communion  
St Matthew's, Midgham 5pm Sung Evensong  
St Peter's, Woolhampton 10.45am Informal Communion

**Everyone is welcome to any of our services.**

**We aim to be entirely inclusive, if there is something you need in order to ensure church is a welcoming and comfortable place for you, please let us know.**

For further details about our churches and services:

The Rev'd Jane Manley 01189 712 891

jmanley.awb@gmail.com

For information about weddings and baptisms:

Michelle Galbraith 07568 184704





# SUNDAY READINGS SEPTEMBER 2023

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Date	First Reading	Gospel	Liturgical Colour
3rd SeptemberTrinity XIII	Romans 12.9-end	Matthew 16.21-end	Green
10th SeptemberTrinity XIV	Romans 13.8-end	Matthew 18.15-20	Green
17th SeptemberTrinity XV	Romans 14.1-12	Matthew 18.21-35	Green
24th SeptemberTrinity XVI	Philippians 1.21-end	Matthew 20.1-16	Green



# Occasional services during July and August 2023

## WEDDINGS

20th July Luke Tester and Jodie Gough at St Nicholas, Wasing  
21st July Alexander Elliott and Katherine Baines at St Nicholas, Wasing  
30th July Giancarlo France and Cristina Vina at St Nicholas, Wasing  
31st July Christopher Whatley and Emma Harwood at St Nicholas, Wasing  
7th August Nicholas Blackwell and Helen Brewis at St Nicholas, Wasing  
8th August Harry Nunn and Emma Rosso at St Nicholas, Wasing

**‘And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love’**

## BAPTISMS

20th August Finley David John Campbell, son of Emily Williams and James Campbell  
at St Peter’s, Woolhampton

**‘Today God has touched you with his love and given you a place among his people’**

## FUNERALS and BURIAL OF ASHES

‘17th August Funeral of Shirley Robinson at St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston

**I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord.**



# FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES



At the beginning of each new academic year, I go into each of our church schools and bless the children, the school, the work they will be doing, the teachers. Each of the children then receives a blessing tag for their school bags, a reminder to them that they are loved and valued.

It is a reminder to each of us of the importance of new beginnings: those going off to further education, starting new schools, starting new jobs, going to school for the first time. All are big milestones in our lives, and we pray that each of our children and young adults will feel excited and valued.

Dear God, you are our Teacher, Creator, and Guide through life's classroom. As we prepare for the beginning of a new school year, we ask your blessings on our children, parents, and teachers.

We thank you for pens and pencils that are held by big and little fingers as they learn to write their names, their thoughts, and their stories. Bless the words that flow from these pens, and bless the ones that write with them.

We thank you for crayons and markers, for all the bright colours in the world around us. May they be used to create beautiful pieces of art that show the wonder of creation and each child's imagination. Bless the art that they create, and the ones who draw and colour with them.

We thank you for calculators and rulers, that help us to add and subtract, multiply and divide as we learn to work with numbers, shapes, and how the world works. Bless the ones who help us understand these things and more.

We thank you for notebooks, folders and handouts that teach us our letters and numbers, and blank pages we can fill with our own thoughts and stories. Bless these things that help keep our thoughts and work together and from getting lost, and bless the ones who fill them with writing and drawings.

We thank you for the books we read, for the books that teach us our history, the books that teach us who we are, and the books that open up magical worlds of possibility. Bless these books and the stories they tell, and bless the ones who read them.

We thank you for our lunch boxes and our school dinners, for the food to help our bodies and minds grow strong and mighty. We know that there are children whose lunch boxes are empty, and we pray that their lunchboxes might be filled with good food from caring people. Bless these lunchboxes and the bodies they feed.

We thank you for our school bags that carry everything we need. Although they may be heavy, may the children that wear them be unburdened. May the children who do not have schoolbags receive the things they need, so that they can get off to a good start this school year. Bless these school bags, and bless the ones who wear them.

We thank you for our teachers, who fill our children's minds with knowledge, who nurture their spirits, and who protect them while in their care. May they receive the support they need and the honour they deserve as they live into their calling to educate this generation. Bless our teachers in their work.

We thank you for our parents, grandparents, and all who care for us in all that they do, and who spend countless hours helping with homework, volunteering in classrooms, and driving us to school. Bless our parents

We thank you for our children, for the blessing that they are to us. Strengthen their bodies, minds and spirits throughout this school year, that their knowledge might grow and their imaginations soar with new thoughts, new achievements, and new dreams. Bless our children in all that they do, work and play.

In the name of Jesus, the Great Teacher, we pray. And all God's children said, Amen.

**The Revd Jane Manley**

# NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH SCHOOLS

## ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the time of writing, we are already in the middle of the school holidays but I wanted to share these comments from the Head, Mrs Higgs, which she sent out to parents and carers at the end of term -

' I have to start by sharing some heartfelt thanks from everyone working at our school. The number of parents and carers who have shared congratulations or taken the time to speak with us about our Ofsted report has been really touching. Thank you also for the kind words, cards and gifts which we are lucky enough to receive at this time of year. Very much appreciated.'

The end of term saw curriculum learning outside the classroom with our Kingfishers class (year 4/5) exploring their geography studies with a trip to Rushall Farm for a river visit, finding out about meanders and the wildlife supported by our local river environments. Our Wrens (year R) extended their seaside topic by meeting some real underwater stars at the Bournemouth Aquarium. Watching the children's expressions as they moved through the underwater tunnel and saw sharks, eels and stingrays close up was magical. The seaside experience was completed by picnicking on the beach, testing out some buckets and spades and having a paddle in the waves.

The children were magnificent in their annual summer production which involved all of our KS2 pupils, Never has the story of the Pied Piper been told so musically and with such a good 'alternative ending'. The audience participation was good, the band of home grown Aldermaston musicians were impressive and every child shone in their roles.

The new school year approaches and we look forward to welcoming the new pupils to the Foundation stage. I am sure they will settle in quickly to school life and become valued members of our school community. We wish them well for the years ahead.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor







At Woolhampton C of E Primary School we pride ourselves in living our Christian **ROCK** values in everything we do. **R** for Respect, **O** for Optimism, **C** for Compassion and **K** for Koinonia. The children articulate these values wonderfully and understand the meaning and relevance of them in their learning.

But what does '**Koinonia**' mean to you? This little used word basically means community and fellowship and, as a Church of England school, this runs through everything the school stands for. Our school prayer reminds us of this...

Dear God,  
Please help us to,  
**R**espect ourselves, others and the world we live in,  
**O**pen our arms and our hearts to our neighbours,  
**C**ome together, learning to be the best we can be,  
**K**now each other and celebrate our differences.  
Amen



Community is so important to our village as the recent Summer Show proved. The Friends of Woolhampton parents ran a stall for the villagers coming to 'show' their home grown produce; traditional activities of hook-a-duck and tin can alley were a hit and the chocolate tombola was a favourite for old and young. Sometimes it is the simple things that bring the most pleasure. Another example of how the community is important to us at Woolhampton C of E Primary School are the volunteers we have coming in regularly to listen to our children read, often resulting in a good 'chat' developing language and conversation skills, again it is the simple things that make a huge difference to the holistic learning experience for all children. Visitors comment on the willingness of our children to talk and share their learning with confidence regardless of age.

Please get in touch with the school if you would like to be part of our community, perhaps offering a skill or subject of interest to share with the children at [office@woolhamptonschool.org.uk](mailto:office@woolhamptonschool.org.uk), we would love to hear from you! If you have a child due to start school or would like to know more about what we offer then look out for our open-day sessions during the Autumn term, specific dates can be found on our website [www.woolhamptonschool.co.uk](http://www.woolhamptonschool.co.uk)

**Nikki Jordan, Chair of Governors**

# CAN YOU HELP ANYONE AT SCHOOL?

## BACK TO SCHOOL Be Kind Bucket List

- Compliment a Classmate
- Hold the Door for Someone
- Sit by Someone New at Lunch
- Invite a Someone to Play that is Playing Alone
- Leave a Kind Note on Someone's Desk or In Their Locker
- Make Friends with a Someone New to School
- Bring Your Teacher a Special Treat Just Because
- Ask Your Teacher How You Can Help Another Student
- Ask to Help Kids in a Younger Classroom
- Draw a Picture for Someone
- Encourage Someone Who is Struggling
- Write Down Reasons Your Proud of Someone and Give it to Them
- Give Someone a High 5