

Chalfont St. Giles
Parish Magazine

May ^{the} **God**
of **Hope**
fill
you **JOY**
with **AND**
ALL *Peace*
As you **Trust** *in Him,*
So that you may *Overflow*
with **Hope** *by the*
POWER
of the **Holy**
Spirit

Romans 15:13

Dec '21—Feb '22

The Parish Church of Chalfont St Giles

in the Benefice of Chalfont St Giles with Seer Green and Jordans

www.chalfontstgilesparishchurch.com

During the interregnum contact the Parish Administrator—details below

Benefice Assistant Priest *	Rev Jenny Tebboth	(07708) 094 532
Benefice Curate *	Rev Paul Henderson	(01494) 764 367
Interim Children & Families Worker *	Janelle Stevenson	(01494) 265908
Benefice Licensed Lay Minister *	Linda West	(01494) 673 821
Church Wardens	Rachel Leonard	(01494) 872791
	Jenny Wilson	(01494) 871275
Deputy Church Warden	Melaine Teahan	(01494) 873 457 * part-time

Parish Administrator

Sylvia Valentine saintgileschurch@gmail.com

Vestry office: (01494) 870 113, admin@stgileschurch.plus.com

The usual two contacts are checked once a week.

As of this printing, plans for a return to office-based work have not been finalised.

See inside back cover for details of other Parish roles

How to Contact the Magazine Team

Put your copy in the post rack at the back of church (in the slot "Magazine Articles")

Email your copy to: stgileschurchmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

Please send diary dates to:

Church - Parish Office at: admin@stgileschurch.plus.com or (01494) 870 113

Secular - stgileschurchmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

Chalfont St Giles Parish Magazine is edited, produced and distributed
entirely by volunteers.

Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the parish magazine, together with a big thank you to the many who have contributed articles to make it yet again, a bumper issue

This is an issue which starts with wonderful news, our new rector Dan Beesley will be joining us on January 27th. The second good news you will find is in the amazing calendar of events leading up to Christmas Day thanks to Janelle Stevenson, her team and Cathy Langdale.

The final good news must be Christmas and its message. This year we will be able to celebrate the coming of Jesus in church with some degree of post COVID normality.

Along with our regular articles we details of a number of events in the New Year, Lent lunches, the Literary festival, then Street Kids Direct, Contemplative prayer and an award to a late member of our congregation.

Finally may I wish all readers a very merry, mindful and peaceful Christmas

Kevin



Selected contents

4	Dan Beesley
	Churchwardens corner
8 –13	What's on
9	The Fawsett Trust
12	Traidcraft
18	Beatitudes cont'd
21	Lent lunches
	Street Kids Direct
23	Mike Greenaway
24	Literary Festival
26	Contemplative prayer
28	Fabric Committee
31	Revd Phipps cont'd

Magazine articles and photos are always welcome and can be emailed to:
stgileschurchmagazine@hotmail.co.uk
or placed in the pigeon hole in church,
or the post box by the Plumb gate.

The next magazine deadline is:
18th February 2022

Cover image by Lauren Stevenson

Wonderful news!

My name is Rev Dan Beesley and I am very excited to become the new rector of Chalfont St Giles with Seer Green and Jordans. We will be moving in the new year and my licencing will be on the 27th of January.

I have been married to Paula for 21 years and we have two

children. Jacob is 14 and Eloisa is 6 years old. Paula is originally from Colombia, we met when we were both in London studying.

We are very much looking forward to enjoying the community and getting to know the area. I run so you will probably see me out regularly around the trails, I passed my motorbike test this summer and love going out for rides. I am also interested in discipleship and how Christians can live their lives fully for God and making videos for YouTube.



We look forward to getting to know you all.

Rev Dan, Paula, Jacob and Eloisa.

Reflections from the Church Wardens

‘There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8’

The words of King Solomon came to mind as I thought back over the last several months and wondered what would be worth sharing in the magazine update. It certainly has been a time of many seasons as we have worked

through the interregnum and continued to gather, worship, and share with each other and the wider community. I have certainly felt God's ultimate authority and His appointment of each moment. We have so much to be grateful for and celebrated our gratitude with the Harvest festivities and giving, followed by Remembrance Day and now we turn our focus to the wonderful time of joy and celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas time.

A huge 'thank you' goes to the many members of the congregation who give of their time and talent to arrange, attend and support the many activities of the Church calendar. You are too many to mention – and I would be terrified at leaving someone out – but you know who you are and we are so humbled and grateful for your endless service. Our clergy and lay ministers also do the most astounding amount of back room (and front room!) work – thank you for your dedication and commitment. Thank you too to the Parish Church Council members and office bearers who oversee the matters of the church – there is much to consider, review and action, we do appreciate all your input.

It is with great excitement that we are now starting to look beyond 2021 into 2022 when we will welcome our new Rector, Dan Beesley and his family to our Benefice. While 2020 included the hardships associated with the global COVID pandemic and 2021 saw us bid a fond farewell to Ian and Julie Brown among other faithful members of our congregation, we stood together and soldiered on. The vacancy committee worked extremely hard to deliver candidates with the final selection of Dan who will be licenced as the Benefice Rector at the end of January. We ask for your prayers as we prepare for this next chapter in our church life.

Rachel and I appreciate all the support and help we receive and would encourage you to be in touch if there are things you'd like to discuss or let us know about.

Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas and the fervent hope that you will be able to get together with family and those you love.

Jenny and Rachel

View from the Vestry

'Tis the season to be jolly! Our new Rector starts work with us in late January, and while it's a HUGE relief, it's also a little alarming. Of course he will want to put his own stamp on his new parish church, and so he should, but quite how he will do this remains to be seen. Does anyone have any memories of how things changed with our previous incumbent?

But also, of course, Christmas. Which always comes as a relief to clergy and Admin alike. By far the busiest time of the church year starts in mid-October, with the preparations for All Souls Day—our church invites everyone, by name, for whom we have provided funeral care, to this service, which this year meant 39 individual letters, in addressed envelopes, with stamps (never have I been so grateful for the Post Office move to self-sticking stamps!), about ten emails and a good number of telephone calls. Plus an Order of Service, and the List of Names.

Then straight on to Remembrance, and then Advent is upon us, and the vast amount of preparation for the extra Christmas services, as well as the usual church services. We are EXTREMELY fortunate to have Janelle on the team, holding up the Children's end.

Come the first week in January, we will all be ready for a little lie-down.

Sylvia

PS Merry Christmas to one and all, and may the new Year bring us not only each others' company, but also a renewed appreciation for it. Instead of cards, our donations this year go to William's Fund, for research into childhood cancer.

Lectionary

Dec	5	Advent 2	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 3:1-6
	12	Advent 3	Zephaniah 3:14-end	Luke 3:7-18
	19	Advent 4	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:39-45
	24	Xmas Eve	(Isaiah 52:7-10)	(John 1:1-14)
		Xmas Day		Luke 2 (1-7), 8-20
	26	Low Sunday	2 Chronicles 24.20-22	Matthew 10.17-22

Jan	2	Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12
	9	Epiphany 1	Isaiah 43:1-7	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
	16	Epiphany 2	Isaiah 62:1-5	John 2:1-11
	23	Epiphany 3	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Luke 4:14-21
	30	Epiphany 4	Malachi 3:1-5	Luke 2:22-40
Feb	6	4th before Lent	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-end)	Luke 5:1-11
	13	3rd before Lent	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Luke 6:17-26
	20	2nd before Lent	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-end	Luke 8:22-25
	27	Next before Lent	Exodus 34:29-end	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

December Services			
5	Advent 2	8	HC BCP (SG)
		10	Holy Communion
		4	Christingle
		06:30	<i>No Evensong</i>
12	Advent 3		
	Toy Service	8	HC BCP
		10	All Age+Baptism
		06:30	HC with healing prayer
19	Advent 4		
		8	HC BCP (SG)
		10	Holy Communion
		06:30	Carol Service
24	Xmas Eve		
		4	Crib Service
		06:30	Xmas Celebration
		11pm	Midnight Service
25	Xmas Day		
		8	HC BCP
		10	Family Holy Communion
26	Low Sunday		
		8	<i>No service</i>
		10	HC BCP
		06:30	<i>No Evensong</i>

May the **God** of *Hope* fill you with
ALL *JOY* As you *Trust* So that you may
Peace **AND** *Overflow*
with Hope by the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit in Him,
Romans 15:13

Masks will be mandatory
for all services for anyone over 11 years old. Thank you.

Saturday, December 4th

7:30pm St. Giles Consort Concert

'O Magnum Mysterium'

Tickets: Cathy Langdale

01494 581 385

Sunday, December 5th

4pm Christingle

Sunday, December 12th

10am Toy Service

*Bring a voucher or new, unwrapped toys for
children 0-16 years old*

Saturday, December 19th

6:30pm Carols by Candlelight

Friday, December 24th Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service

*Children come dressed as angels,
shepherds, kings or animals*

6:30pm Christmas Celebration

11pm Holy Communion

Midnight Service

Saturday, December 25th Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Family Communion Service

Bring your Christmas gifts to show and tell

O Magnum Mysterium

St Giles Consort

Directed by Julian Parkin-Haig



A concert of Christmas music from Renaissance Rome to France and England, including choral masterpieces by Palestrina, Howells and Poulenc.

7.30pm Saturday 4th December 2021

Chalfont St Giles Parish Church

Tickets (£15 - Under 18 free) available online at

www.stgilesconsort.com

or by emailing stgilesconsort@gmail.com

Christingle

5th December, 4pm

Masks Mandatory
Capacity limited to 150



- ❖ An orange to represent God's world
- ❖ A red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- ❖ Sweets and dried fruit to represent the four seasons God created
- ❖ A lit candle because Jesus is the light of the world and hope to people living in darkness



Thanks from the Chalfont St. Giles Parish Church and the Children's Society

Chalfont St. Giles Parish Church

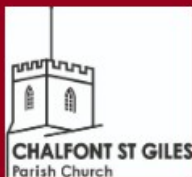
DEC 12TH

Christmas

TOY

Service

*Donate a toy
to make a child smile!*



CSG PARISH CHURCH 10AM

Masks are mandatory for anyone over 11

Donations brought to the Salvation Army
and Saunderton Lodge

**FOR SUGGESTED DONATIONS LOOK ON OUR WEBSITE
OR POSTER IN THE BACK OF CHURCH**

<https://www.chalfontstgilesparishchurch.com/>

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Christmas Eve 4pm

Crib Service

◆ ● ◆ ● ◆ ● ◆
4pm at the Chalfont St. Giles Parish Church
Children come dressed as angels, shepherds,
kings or animals.



Masks are mandatory for the service for
anyone over 11 years of age

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Family at 4

Interactive Family Service

Don't miss out!

Create!

With art activities
fun and games

Celebrate!

With Bible stories,
songs and prayers



Get Together!

3rd Sunday
Term time



January 16th

February 20th

March 20th



Fawsett Trust News – Advent 2021

The Fawsett Trust is a small locally established village charity that seeks to provide some extra comforts at Christmas time to relatively elderly, long time village residents of limited means. This is done in the form of vouchers that are redeemable against purchases in our village shops (but not elsewhere). The Trust is registered with the Charity Commission.

Applicants must be people who are aged at least 70, have lived in Chalfont St Giles for at least 20 years and have a limited income. Application forms are now available from the Coop, Warners Butchers and Village News at Three Households.

The current Trustees are:

The Rector (currently vacant of course), Chairman

Mrs Valerie Bayly Jones, Secretary

Mr Richard Bolton, Treasurer

Mrs Marion Challis-Warren

Mr Gordon Patrick, and

Mrs Mary Phillips

Readers may recall that the Trust was originally established by the Will of Miss Thomasina Elizabeth Fawsett, a resident of Chalfont St Giles, who died in 1905 and is buried in our churchyard, south east of and nearest to the church where her father had been curate for 33 years. Miss Fawsett's original intent was to distribute coal and other useful articles to deserving folk on Christmas Eve. At a later stage, two other local charities merged with the Fawsett Trust – the "Allen Bread Trust" and the "Church House Charities" – and over time the charitable intent changed from giving bread and coal to giving vouchers exchangeable in the village shops in the period leading up to Christmas.

Last year we delivered £2,065 of vouchers to 24 households comprising 31 people, 7 of whom were over 90, and 18 between 80 and 90. We try to chat with the recipients and have found them delighted to receive the vouchers which help with a real need. Almost all the vouchers were used at Christmas 2020, being exchanged for foodstuffs in five of the village shops – the great majority at the Co-Op and Warners Butchers - and we are grateful for the participation of the shops.

In past years some useful investment income was available to help finance the voucher costs but under more recent conditions this has been trivial. To be able to carry on we depend absolutely on donations. Last year we were hugely grateful to the Chalfont St Giles Parish Council and to the Show Committee for one-off supports

but those sources of finance will not be available this time. We acknowledge with thanks the Church's support over many years (£675 last year) and the wonderful support from kind individuals in this difficult year and previously. But, please consider adding your contribution – if you can do so by Gift Aid that will further usefully increase the value we receive by a quarter.

We are currently inviting applications for this December – so '*Now is the time*', please! I should add that we run hand-to-mouth each year. Although we hold a small reserve this is to try to be able to commit to the following year's operation and without reducing the level of vouchers given. Indeed, if the finance permits we would like to consider an increase in the level of vouchers.

If there are any queries I can be contacted by e-mail at richardheatherlea534@gmail.com

Thank you
Richard (Bolton)
Fawsett Trust
Registered Charity #201150

TRAIDCRAFT : LIVING THE BIBLE

IF IT IS GOD'S WILL, GOD'S WILL, WILL BE DONE

WHY FAIR TRADE?

Widening inequality, an increasingly fragile climate... higher levels of poverty than there were two years ago - it's painful to think about. But true hope lives, not in the absence of trouble - but in the understanding of it. Because once you know how bad things are, you can start to make things better and that is what fair trade does; make things better. Please see the truth of the world as it really is and - as far as you are able - take steps to make things better.

Each time you spend, it's a simple vote for the world you would like to see. If something seems too cheap, it's inevitable that someone far down in the supply chain is paying the price. Never underestimate the power of your pound. With your pound you can help farmers and producers and future generations live a better life; with your pound you can help ease global warming, from reductions in deforestation to recyclable packaging every little helps

CHRISTMAS

At time of writing I have Festive biscuits, iced cake, boxes of Dates, Chocolate coins and Chocolate boxes, cards and wrap are also in stock so don't panic just give me a

call to solve those last-minute Christmas presents. If there are goods you would like I can easily order from Traidcraft which takes approximately 4 working days. Traidcraft are marketing a vegan hamper this year so if you are stuck for a gift for the vegan in your life!

CHRISTIAN ADVENT CALENDAR UPDATE

Thank you so much for the donations to our Advent calendar appeal, we have provided 161 calendars (which equals last year's total) to the food bank all of which will be distributed to the children of families currently receiving food parcels in time for the beginning of Advent. The calendars each contained a book on the Christian Christmas story as well as a tasty fair trade chocolate treat for every day during Advent. I am delighted and very proud with our achievement; without you this could not have happened.

OVERSEAS AID

It's been a year since the Government announced its intention to reduce the overseas aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of GDP and despite increasing problems in the world, they have not changed their mind. Clearly, we face significant economic challenges going forward but we remain a wealthy nation and are assured by our political leaders that we will prosper in the future. I have listened to views from both sides of the argument, and I remain of the belief that this will have extremely negative consequences both for our standing in the World and as importantly for those in need who will suffer as a consequence of our government's decision. In my view it is now more important than ever that those of us who are able too should redouble our efforts to buy ethically.

CAFÉ DIRECT This year Café Direct celebrate their 30th anniversary and the impact they have had together improving farmers' lives. Since 1991 Café Direct have made it their mission to improve the livelihoods of smallholder growers and in that time they've given back £30 million to their growers. Of course they couldn't have done any of this without our support and Traidcraft are proud to support their products. Due to financial considerations Traidcraft have reduced their own range of products but they never promote companies whose ethics and standards vary from their own. They promise they will always go the extra mile to ensure anything you purchase from them is a true investment into the future. Their collection showcases the best of the best, they tackle injustice from the bottom up.

Margaret
874511
margaretrydies@btinternet.com

UP THE GARDEN PATH

The autumn colours have been magnificent this year and many of the summer flowers were still showing their colours until some sharp frosts early in November which did for, the dahlias, cosmos and marigolds and hopefully a few slugs and other pests. It has been mild since and the flowers would have been lovely for longer if not for those frosts but then the pests would have grown stronger! This time of year it's good to reflect on what was good, what didn't work and those things that were too much hard work! Certainly our new wild flower/wild life meadow was a joy and so exciting wondering what would flower brightly and what insects would come. I have now cut down the old stems sprinkling the seeds as I go and am digging up any large clumps of grass and any undesirable weeds. On bright days in December and January I love to be out in the garden. It's best to keep off the soil and lawn if it has been wet or frosty but there is always something that can be done from the paths and it is lovely to think that whilst you are doing one job the garden is not growing out of control behind you! Some things to do these months are:

Hard prune Spiraea to ensure a good colour and compact size and shape

The sap of the fig is low at this time of year so a good time to cut back and reshape, removing any unripe figs but leaving those about the size of peas as these will be the fruit next year.

Prune standard roses, buddleia and Lavatera to reduce wind rock. The main pruning of Lavatera will be in March but by reducing the length of the stems the chances of them snapping in a strong wind is reduced.

Continue gathering fallen leaves especially from areas where they could cause plants to rot and provide hiding places for slugs and snails. Why not try making leaf mould, take your gathered leaves and place in double thickness plastic rubbish sacks, add some grass clippings and some water, tie up the bags and store behind the greenhouse or near the compost bins having made some small puncture holes in them. This time next year you will have excellent compost for mulching and top dressing permanent pots.

Prise out perennial weeds and put in the green bin or in a spent commercial compost bag, tie up and leave for a couple of years during which time they will break down to form a fine loam. This is good time to go through any bags from previous years and top up beds which need a bit more soil.

Find a nice warm spot indoors and go through your stock of seeds making a list of what to buy for next season. I also like to put them in order of planting and have dividers in my seed box each one marked with the months. I love doing this as I feel I am getting organised for busier days some way ahead.

Cover bare soil in the vegetable patch with a mulch (last year's leaves, now leaf mould is ideal) or old compost bags as the rain will come and the nutrients will be washed away.

I wish you a good growing year in 2022

Margaret Dykes

Continuing the series from 'A Devotional Commentary on Matthew's Gospel', by Mavis Flower, here we consider the next section of the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew Chapter 5.

The salt of the earth. Matthew chapter 5, verse 13.

"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its savour, its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men."

Matthew's gospel is the gospel of the Kingdom – the good news of the Kingdom. How could the Lord Jesus give us anything but good news? The sermon on the mount does not presuppose the gospel but is the gospel. The teaching of Jesus makes concrete and very substantial the way of living the gospel, which is the way of living under the blessing of divine approval. The attitudes and actions of those who are learning, as disciples, this way of living, become proclamation and praise, proclamation as the salt of the earth, and praise as they glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Those who are the salt of the earth go beyond the merely ethical into a fuller fulfilment of the law and prophets, a deeper entering into the life of Jesus through relationship to Him and His Father and obedience to His will. Through the outworking of His will in their lives, the learners, the disciples, proclaim what is God's will for the whole world, for the people around them who have not yet entered the Kingdom. *They are the light of the world. They are the salt of the earth.*

Salt cannot help being salt. It is salty, it gives flavour to food and is used to preserve food for when food is scarce. That is all it does. It cannot do anything else. Yet without it neither humans or animals can live. But salt may be contaminated; with gypsum or some other substance for commercial reasons. How then can its saltiness be restored? It is good for nothing but to be thrown out onto the street with the other refuse.

Jesus could not have said, for example, 'You are the sugar of the earth.' Salt has a distinctive and necessary function and is irreplaceable and chemically cannot lose its quality. It only loses its saltiness when *mixed* with something else. There is no room for mixture, for compromise for believers. Jesus is emphatic. 'You are the salt of the earth.' He is referring to all believers, but He may especially have had the persecuted in mind as He has just said they are blessed. Those who are the salt of the earth are salt not for themselves, but for the 'seasoning' of others or to prevent 'degeneration' or 'decomposition' setting in. To fulfil this function, they need to be wholly and entirely given up to it, to allow for no distraction or compromise to 'contaminate' them. *To be 'salt for Jesus' is their whole life.*

The light of the world. Matthew chapter 5, verse 14.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.”

The disciples of Jesus are the light of the world. The preferred site for a city to be built is on a hill so that it is easy to fortify, as was Jerusalem. Those who are the light of the world are like this, easily identified and known to all.

No sane householder would light a lamp and then hide it under a pot for storing bread. The whole purpose of the light is that it should give light to all in the house. Without light, we are in darkness, we cannot see. Those who are the light of the world bring enlightenment into the darkness surrounding them. *They point the way to Jesus*, who said, ‘I am the Light of the world’ [John 8:12]. They help us to see Jesus. They are in such close communion with Him that the Light which He is, is *reflected* from them, and this light draws others into that relationship so that the Father is glorified. They are the light of the world.

The law and the prophets. Matthew chapter 5, verses 17-20.

“Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets, I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a jot will pass away from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom, but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

These verses describe the outworking of the righteousness given to these disciples who have entered the Kingdom in their daily living. They begin to give the reasons for the antithetical statements which follow.

Jesus says that the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees is not righteous enough! For they regard the law and the prophets as rules to be obeyed, not as inspiration for obedience. They are concerned with the letter of the law and not with the character of God behind it, that is, the law as the revelation of who God is, and how the lives of those who believe in Him reflect His character. [verse 17]. This is why Jesus says He has not come to abolish or destroy the law and the prophets. How could He, when by doing so, He would impugn the character of God? Revelation is progressive, not partial. We cannot add anything to the character of God, nor can we take anything away from Him, not a jot, the smallest letter in the Greek alphabet (iota, Greek) nor a tittle, (little pen stroke on a letter, Hebrew). Revelation about Him cannot be partial. But we can learn more about Him as it is revealed to us in Jesus.

This is why anyone who lessens or relaxes the commandments of God is *least* in the Kingdom of Heaven, because in effect, he or she is attempting to diminish the character of God. But anyone who follows and teaches the commandments of God will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven because he or she will be extolling and magnifying and rejoicing in the God whose character is thus displayed [verse 19].

In verse 18, Jesus says, 'Truly, I say unto you.' 'Truly' is a translation of the word 'Amen' and is one of the names of Jesus in the Book of the Revelation [Revelation 3:14]. It means 'the divine faithfulness'. It is saying that this is so and cannot be otherwise. It has overtones of Isaiah 65:16 where God is spoken of as the God of truth and 1 Corinthians 10:13, where it is emphasized that God is faithful. When Jesus uses this word, He is putting the divine stamp on what He is saying. Is He stating that He is God? 'Amen, amen, I say to you'. Surely that is not too heavy an emphasis to place on the expression. We know that He is God, but perhaps at this stage of the increasing revelation to the disciples of who He is, these new disciples may not have recognised that in Him. It is certain that the scribes and Pharisees saw in Him only an opposition to the validity of the law, and therefore of their own way of living. No wonder that they conspired to kill Him.

Righteousness consists in seeing who God is and being obedient to Him and His will in all things. The scribes and Pharisees are starting from the wrong end. They are attempting, perhaps struggling, to do His will, but without the comprehension of who He is. So, they end up worshipping the law rather than the giver of the law, which is of course idolatry. Jesus is the fulfilment of the law because He is Jesus, the Messiah, the one who should come, the one for whom they had been waiting down the centuries, but whom the Pharisees and scribes did not recognise when He came.

These difficult verses at the beginning of the main part of the sermon, the preamble as it were, are foundationally important to Matthew, describing as they do the relation of the Mosaic law to the new law, the law of love, as expounded by Jesus when He came as the anointed One, the Messiah. The law of love, which paradoxically is not a new law, but the former one fully realised in Jesus, is being reinterpreted by Him as He goes about His healing ministry, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. This is why it sometimes appears throughout the gospel of Matthew that He is breaking the law, as when He heals on the Sabbath day. Because He is Jesus, we learn not only from what He teaches, but from what He does. Paul rightly interprets the law this way, 'Love is the fulfilling of the law' [Romans 13:5] *because God is love*. [1 John 4:8]. His whole character may be thus summed up. Heaven and earth will one day pass away [verse 15]. Only God will never pass away for He is God and He is eternal and only that which speaks of Him will remain. The dual love commandment, to love God and to love one's neighbour completely

summarise all that Jesus is teaching in this sermon. He who loves his neighbour has fulfilled the law. [Romans 13:8].

When Jesus says that He came not to abolish, but to fulfil the law, He is not advocating that the law should be done away with. How is that possible when it speaks so wonderfully of the character of His Father? But that there is a *continuity* between the Old Covenant and the New, or the Old Testament and the New.

At the time of writing his gospel, the Jewish Christians in Matthew's community had experienced a painful break with the synagogue and all that it stood for in terms of Jewish traditions and way of life. They were also situated outside Israel, in Syria. Matthew's repetition and recall of the words of Jesus and the sense of continuity which they demonstrated must have been of inestimable comfort to them, as they found access to all their history and culture, through Jesus, to God the Father. At the same time, Gentile Christians could also appropriate the Old Testament scriptures to themselves as they began to understand the nature of their heavenly Father through Matthew's writing.

There is a difference of course between moral law and ceremonial law. The moral law, as we have seen, displays the character of God. The ceremonial law, with its symbolism and the significance of its many rituals was also designed to exhibit the character of God, to make it easier to understand *visually* how privileged His people were to have God in their midst, and to have a way to approach Him. But Jesus is saying that there was an even more satisfying way of knowing God, even a way of becoming like Him, becoming perfect even as your Heavenly Father is perfect [verse 48].

And so, we come to consider the antithetical statements of Jesus. '*You have heard that it was said...*' (thesis) '*But I say unto you...*' (antithesis) [Ch 5:21, 28, 34, 38, 43]. And what has been described as the *Golden Rule* which sums them up in 7:12, 'Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them, for this is the law and the prophets.'

A Date for Your Diary

On July 16th next year we will be having a visit from the Moonrakers. This is a group which plays mainly traditional music on a variety of instruments. They have played in church before so you may remember them. The proceeds of the concert will be split between the group and the church. Tickets will be on sale sometime after Easter.

Mission to Seafarers

Thank you for everyone who has bought Advent and Christmas cards and to those who have given donations. I will not know until January what our total donation will be – but "Thank you so much".

Merry Christmas - and please spare a thought for those at sea.

Kathleen

Lent Lunches are back for 2022

Lunches will return on Friday 4th March, and then weekly until Friday 8th April; in the Reading Room from 11:30am to 2pm. Proceeds from the lunches will be shared between Street Kids Direct and the Reading Room.

The lunches are under new management, and you will be hearing from the team over the coming weeks as they begin to seek volunteers and arranging schedules for making soup, plus the support teams to run each of the six weekly events.

If you would like to know more, or volunteer contact

Kathleen Martin on 01494 870704 or at kathleen.martin@talktalk.net

street
kids
direct

Some of you may have met Steve Poulson on one of his previous visits to Chalfont St Giles church. This time he will be with his new wife, Lindsey who works with him in Honduras with the vulnerable children they support. An ex-youth worker from Amersham, Steve has just visited YZone our youth group at one of their Friday meetings.

We have supported Steve and the work of Street Kids

Direct for a couple of years now. During lockdown, when it was illegal to open the children's centre the team were able to provide 7 care packages to each of the 24 desperate families, they work with. These packages contained enough food for an average sized family for two weeks.

It has been much harder for the team to help the children regain lost ground in their development and education but their plan for 2021 was to ensure that each child would be mentored by volunteers from local churches and be part of both a school and a church community; that each child would pass their school year exams and catch up with their peers of the same age and that the children are able to develop healthily in body mind and spirit.

The team were delighted that two of their young people were accepted into The Police Training Academy and Special Forces Battalion.

The coffee shop, Café Alas, is proving to be a successful business and provides a good model for more similar ventures

We will hear more from Lindsey and Steve in January but they are also hosting an open evening in St Michaels and All Angels in Amersham on **7th December 2021 at 7.30pm** and hoping to be joined by one of the young people from Guatemala, Danilo, who will be volunteering with Radio Christmas this year.

Radio Christmas has grown to become one of the largest voluntary events in Amersham and has raised thousands of pounds for the work of Street Kids Direct in Central America. It reaches on average 120 countries a year and had 43,000 listeners

on Christmas Day in 2020.

It is back this year from the 1st-24th December and can be accessed via the Radio Christmas app or if you are in the Chilterns then you will be able to tune into Radio Christmas on 87.7FM from 1st December 2021. If you would like to be involved



presenting, news reading etc. get in touch at <https://radiochristmas.co.uk/how-to-help/get-involved/>

They are transmitting from the tower block of Dr. Challoner's Grammar School in Amersham.

One for the Diary!

We are excited that Steve Poulson and his new wife Lindsey will be with us in church at 10am on Sunday 9th January 2022

Mike Greenaway was well known in the village having lived here for nearly 30 years. Whenever church outreach or fundraising was in action Mike was there in the background persuading and soliciting support. For some years the Coop had donated bread for Rendezvous sessions, mince pies for the Christmas carol service as a result of Mike's overtures. Similarly, Stratton bakery with exceedingly delicious cakes for Rendezvous sessions.

Outside the village Mike was also well known for supporting charities through sponsored walks and rides.

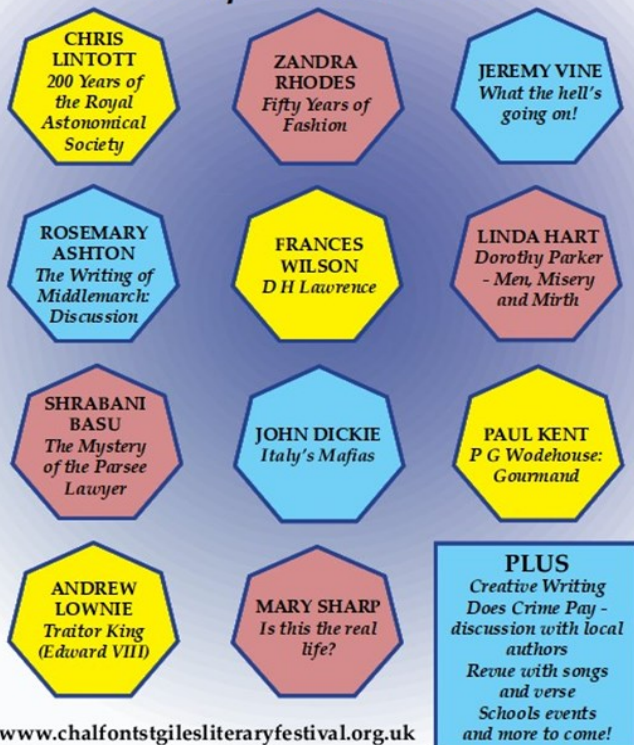
But the above is not the main story!

Mike was with British airways for 36 years. He took early retirement and with Janice moved to Chalfont St Giles where he decided that he wanted to make his contribution to society and the locality. One specific activity he started lasted 27 years. During that time, without fail twice weekly, he carried out voluntary work at the X-ray department of the Chalfont St Peter hospital. There were a number of occasions where road conditions during the winter made it impossible to use the car. That didn't stop Mike – he walked there and back! Recently his dedication was formally recognised in the presentation of a plaque which will soon be permanently on display in the X-ray reception area.



Chalfont St Giles & Jordans Literary Festival 10th-22nd May 2022

We hope to welcome....



www.chalfontstgilesliteraryfestival.org.uk

The 2022 Festival is due to take place between 10th and 22nd May. We hope it will be "live" and look forward to welcoming both you and visitors to events. You can see that we already have an interesting selection of speakers and events planned - and more will be added to our programme when details are agreed.

We should be delighted, however, if you were able to help us in some way as nothing happens without a lot of work and help from local people.

If you would like to help in some way, please contact me on: 01494 870704.

Thank you
Kathleen Martin

Hope in a Hedgehog

*I remember seeing a hedgehog as a child,
I was so excited to see one in the wild!
As I went to stroke it, it curled up in a ball,
My father told me to refrain from touching it at all.
So I gazed in wonder, amazed at what I saw.
It's so sad children don't see hedgehogs anymore.*

It is true. In the 1950s there were an estimated 36.5 million hedgehogs in Britain, today (according to "The State of British Hedgehogs 2018") this is down to around

1.5 million, maybe less. As wildlife numbers have dwindled, so temperatures have risen. My generation reminisces about the deep winter snows of our childhoods... perhaps we look back nostalgically through snow tinted spectacles, but there's no



doubt now that the world is warmer.

In universal terms, and perhaps God's, these changes are rapid, but over a human lifetime we hardly notice. I sometimes wonder if past generations brought back today would be amazed not by the noise of our cities but by the silence of our countryside:

"My grandfather loved to listen to the birds, my father sometimes heard them too. I remember hearing one, at least a couple of times. My son enquired what it sounded like; my grandson didn't know to ask."

Whatever we think of the outcome of COP26 - a breakthrough, more blah blah or something in between - we can be pleased that this year our church took positive steps to care for creation: setting up an Eco Committee and holding a Climate Sunday service, with church members making diverse contributions, all leading to our bronze award. We are now building on these achievements by developing an Eco plan for next year. This will be presented to the PCC and our new rector.

Despite the statistics and the gloom, with our God there is always hope. I purchased a hedgehog house and Prickles appears to be moving in for the winter. One hedgehog will not change the world! But it gives optimism that the bigger things may be possible too. Our Eco plan for 2022 will not just give houses to hedgehogs but contribute towards saving the homes, livelihoods and lives of the most vulnerable of God's children around the world.

*"Again I gaze in wonder, amazed at what I spy,
I pray all children get to see a hedgehog shamby by".*

Keith Wood-Smith

Contemplative prayer



The tradition of silent, or contemplative prayer stretches back to the earliest days of Christianity and even before. The phrase 'Be still and know that I am God' comes from Psalm 46. Jesus often took himself off to a quiet place to pray, and in the fourth century the desert fathers and mothers pursued solitary contemplative lives which were the origin of monastic movements.

In the Eastern orthodox churches the tradition continued but in the West it largely died out after the Reformation, to be rediscovered in the 20th century by individuals such as Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk whose books sold in their millions, and by the revived Celtic communities, for example in Iona. Silent prayer has now become a widespread practice among Christians of all denominations. My own inspiration has been Richard Rohr, founder of CAC (the Centre for Action and Contemplation) based in New Mexico. Father Richard writes a daily meditation available on the internet (www.cac.org) and has a large following.

Here in Chalfont St Giles a small group of us have begun to meet together twice a month for half an hour 'Sitting with God'. It is very simple. We arrive. One of us offers a short introductory prayer or thought and after 30 minutes we have a concluding prayer after which we all leave quietly (having agreed who will close up afterwards!) It can be a powerful experience to sit with other people in a place where so many have prayed for hundreds of years.

As for how to do contemplative prayer, there are no rules. It is helpful to have a word or phrase to which you can gently return when your attention wanders, which it does of course. A few words from Scripture, the 'Jesus prayer' (Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on me) or the ancient Christian prayer word 'Maranatha' are all good. The idea is to open your heart and rest in the presence of God, the ground of our being. There is no need for words as God knows your needs and thoughts. The intention is important. Just be there.

Anyone is most welcome to join us at 6pm on the first or third Tuesday of the month. Just turn up and take a seat in the North aisle. We should love to see some new faces.

Polly Richardson



"Opera Integra has performed several times in the Church since Judith Wright first arranged for them to perform here 20 years ago. But their concert on Saturday 30th October proved to be particularly memorable. Judith was a long-time member of the group and of the

Church; she sadly died after a long fight against cancer a year ago. The concert was dedicated to Judith's memory and was sponsored by her sister and executor Pat Hunt who also provided delicious refreshments in the interval. The first half consisted of a performance of Mascagni's opera *Cavalleria rusticana* (Rustic chivalry) with its well known "Intermezzo" and "Easter Hymn." The second half began with a moving performance of Schubert's hymn to the art of music *An die musik* by Ruth Hansford, a former member of Opera Integra and a great friend of Judith's. The opera theme was then resumed with two party scenes from Verdi operas, first Flora's party scene from *La traviata* followed by the banquet scene from *Macbeth* with its well-known "Brindisi" (Drinking song).

Throughout there was some excellent choral singing by the Opera Integra Chorus and quite outstanding performances from the principle singers who faced challenging roles with ease and commitment. The whole evening had a party atmosphere which drew the very appreciative



audience into the performance. Not surprisingly the question on the lips of many as they left the Church was "when are you coming again?"

Mike Wells, Chair of the Opera Integra Committee expressed the groups pleasure at being able to sing again in Chalfont St Giles – so, watch this space."

Granville Cooper

Fabric Committee Update

The “Fabric Committee” for the parish buildings – what *does* it do?

Well, it’s not (as my nearest and dearest initially imagined) a forum for textiles...set aside visions of soft furnishings and care of reams of gilded cloth. Rather we’re talking fabric as structure – walls, floor, roof, systems; from the Latin *fabrica* “something skilfully produced”. Having endured from four to circa ten centuries, the walls of the Reading Room and Parish Church embody “skills” like no others in the village – hundreds of years of construction, decoration, repair, rebuilding, care and faithful devotions (and sometimes also degrees of neglect, dilapidation, revision, destruction and renewal) are written in the fabric. How this fabric is managed, maintained and adapted is the remit of the Committee.

Recommendations are made back to the Parochial Church Committee (PCC), to keep the buildings for which the Parish Church has responsibility, in good working order and serving as an asset to the village. It’s fascinating work if you are interested in historic buildings and how to keep them alive.

Committee members are volunteers, with time and talents given for free but money for repair and maintenance has to be raised each year from parish giving, donations, bequests, legacies, hiring fees and fundraising, so a canny understanding of what can be DIY (done “in house”, with working parties arranged as needed) and what must be GSI (aka “get someone in”, with relevant expertise, for an appropriate fee) is essential! The experience, practical skills and attention to detail of other Committee members far exceed my own when it comes to creative solutions to maintenance conundrums. My favourite so far in the last two years is the recolouring via re-anodization of a door handle I hadn’t even noticed involving electrical gadgetry I can’t begin to explain.

Anodization aside, there is always something to do when it comes to maintaining any buildings, not just those that are ancient and Listed (Grade 1 for the parish church, Grade 2 for the Reading Room). The SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) have a valuable core maxim: “Stave off decay by daily care”; and the condition today of these buildings is thanks as much down to regular maintenance as it is to grand projects.

The 5-yearly (Quinquennial) inspection identifies a forward programme of repairs and maintenance for the Church, and required rounds of systems testing (alarms, electrics, bells, lighting etc) come regularly throughout the year. On top of this there are unexpected things that crop up that need dealing with (such as heating

system leaks, clearing gutters, slippery steps, worn noticeboards, monitoring of wall cracks, replacement of missing bricks and sadly attempted thefts and wilful damage).



Everything from changing lightbulbs to commissioning a replacement flagpole has featured in this last twelve month's schedule of works. As reported in the previous two magazines, there has been much work to the Reading Room over the year. New coats of limewash have improved its appearance internally and externally, but also allow the walls to "breathe" (impervious emulsion paint

has been removed so moisture can escape and damp is not retained within). Work continues to ensure that the damp problem in the rear walls is addressed, and to identify the source of moisture ingress on the outside, not a straightforward task in such a venerable building. Dating from the 17th century and much amended since, the walls of the Reading Room are made of many different traditional materials (including flint, brick and lime mortar), with layers of modern adaptations and repairs and sometimes inappropriate materials which trap moisture (such as modern emulsion paint and cementitious mortars). Neither are walls completely straight or flush - it appears that rain may be disproportionately striking the wall where an older section juts beyond the roofline or is entering the projecting area as it runs down the wall (or both). Specialist advice has been sought but the team have also rigged up temporary protection to see if this helps keep the wall dry, to inform a more permanent solution. Meanwhile, repairs have been undertaken to the floor in sections of wood block that had lifted, and the blocks re-laid, re-sanded and repolished to sparkling effect.



In the Churchyard, the trees continue to grow and require managing to not outgrow the space available or become dangerous. Several key trees have been surveyed and work either planned or undertaken. These include the yew trees around the lych gate, the apple tree, leylandii, which are overhanging neighbouring pathways and garages, and the pollarding of the willows to reduce strain on the

trunks and weight of the crowns.

On the Church Tower, a new 8m flagpole with lightning conductor is to be commissioned, replacing the existing rotting wooden one with a glass fibre “GRP” (glass reinforced plastic) alternative.

The lighting systems in the Church and Reading Room have been switched over to LEDs, as part of Parish moves to become less impactful on the environment.



A new closer has been fitted to the lych gate, replacing an old worn one with a stronger one to better take the load of the gate.

In the maintenance sheds, an amount of surplus stored timber, previously staging used by the Friends for concerts, has been removed to make space and reduce weight on the rear walls. This has not been wasted. Little Chalfont Primary School have been creating a new “edible garden” since the Spring.

This new outdoor learning area and kitchen garden was in need of materials

for creating raised beds, compost bins and storage. The strong timber pieces were much too good to put in a skip (especially given soaring timber prices!) and proved an ideal opportunity to recycle and re-use. Over a few months, these have been repurposed by families and volunteers at the school to create a strawberry growing pyramid tower and the framework for a small storage shed. Covid isolations have meant the growing hasn’t yet started in earnest but hopefully next year they will create the basis for a fun and fabulous harvest.



Next time you walk past the churchyard or through the doors (and please do!) take some time to consider this special piece of “fabric” at the heart of the village.

Rebecca Tate

Rev. Pownol William Phipps

Rector , Chalfont St Giles 1886 –1901

In the last Magazine we learnt of the appointment and arrival of Pownol Phipps as the Rector of St Giles and of some of the troubles he experienced on arrival. This article continues the story for the next few years after which he presumably gained control and had become accepted by the Parish (he stayed for 15 years!)

On the 25th July 1887 the Bucks Archaeological Society visited Chalfont St. Giles and, with the assistance of Mr. S. Sandars, I prepared a paper on the Parish Church which I read at the meeting, and this was published by the Society in their records for the year. The paper was subsequently expanded into a pamphlet called Chalfont St. Giles Past and Present of which I sold the first edition myself, having it printed at Beverley, and subsequently I sold the book to Messrs. Bentley.

One of the cottages, belonging to the Rector of Chalfont St. Giles, had been lent by him for the purpose of a Village Reading Room and this I had continued. Latterly however, it had been very poorly managed, anyone having been admitted, no order maintained, rowdiness had prevailed, and the room was deeply in debt. I was very anxious to improve this state of things and a meeting was called on the 21st October 1887 to decide whether the room should be continued. I offered to lend the room as usual but in order to insure better management I said I would not lend it vaguely to the Parish, and for a public meeting to elect managers as had been the practice, but I would nominate those to whom I would lend it, and I named my brother, W. Gurney my churchwarden, F. Register the schoolmaster, W. Curtis my tenant, and others of respectability, including several working men. To my surprise Register declined to act saying he would only accept his position from the Parish, and my churchwarden W. Gurney followed him in declining, although he was reminded by my brother that he did accept his Churchwardenship from me. Curtis who had been Treasurer also declined.

As soon as I perceived that their line was I felt that my opportunity for obtaining independence had last come, and I told them I would not lend the room to them at all but would carry out a plan of my own respecting it. Accordingly on the 24th I called a meeting of young men and proposed to start in the Parish a Branch of the Young Men's Friendly Society, the advantages of which I explained, and I promised to lend the room to them to be managed by a Committee of their own.. They accepted my offer. The Society was started, and ever since it has worked most successfully and satisfactorily and has proved a great blessing to the Parish.

The old Committee tried to assert their claim to the furniture, but I took legal opinion, and consulted the persons who had given it, and I found that it did not

belong to the Committee of management, appointed annually, but was vested in me, the Rector of the Trustees. It is only fair to say, however, that they only claimed it that they might themselves give it to the new Committee. Still I could not accept the wrong principle it involved. My brother generously paid off the debt. It was partly in connection with this incident that I now decided to retire from the School Board. I know that this was a strong step to take, especially as the Board had themselves appointed me on the 26th July '86 in succession to my predecessor, Archdeacon Bruber. My reasons however were that a year's experience had shown me that my position on the board was so unsatisfactory and useless as to be absolutely humiliating. My Churchwarden W. Gurney was Chairman, and he had always shown himself unfriendly to me.

At the time of the Vestry when the change in the Parish Charities was to be discussed and it was known that I was to be attached, W. Gurney purposely kept away, and on other Vestry occasions he had spoken disrespectfully of me and shown his intention to assert his superiority and to follow the counsels of a very bitter Political Dissenter named Weston. Weston was an influential member of the Board and it was at his house that preliminary meetings were always held from which of course I was excluded. James Gurney, another member of the Board, used to boast that he had told Weston his heart was as black as his neck. This man Weston was deaf and used his deafness to strengthen his influence by requiring that everything should be repeated to him. Mr. F. Register the schoolmaster had already several times spoken to me very rudely, and as the Board left everything to him, my position was intensely disagreeable, and I felt I had not the health or strength to bear the annoyances to which I was subjected any longer. First, however, I called upon all the gentry of the Parish and asked the opinion of each, and in every case except that of my brother I was urged not to stand for the election which was to be held in November. Thus I retired, and in the serious illness which afterwards befell me I felt most thankful that I had not to face the disgraceful scenes of violence and abuse which accompanied each succeeding election. I think too my spiritual influence has gained by separation from secular contests and freedom from the personal attacks they invariably called forth.

I do not pretend that my example should be followed in other Parishes, or that a better and stronger successor in the Rectory may not re-assume the position with advantage. I had to decide at a time when the Parish was in a very peculiar condition never likely to be re-produced. The Gentry apathetic and, except my brother, unwilling to take part in public affairs - the Gurneys pretending to represent the Church, but in reality acting with the Dissenters for popularity - the whole social condition of the Parish being entirely one of strong Political dissent and I, the conformist minister, as they called me, conscious of ever failing health.

The condition of the Church Sunday School now became of greater importance than ever. When I came it might have been described as one of anarchy. It was under the management of Mr. Richard Matthews, who not only was incapable of controlling the children, but was an object of ridicule to them. Big rough lads dominated the whole place inside and out practising every sort of horse play, and I frequently had to go to the Policeman for assistance. My wife was pelted with stones, and even my brother's under-gardener laughed and refused to help me. I began explaining to the children that I intended to have a quiet school and that all who were not willing to behave promptly would have to leave. I next removed the elder lads into a Bible class which was held at my Reading Room by my brothers governess at first, but subsequently by my wife. I then publicly caned a boy who tried to kick me and who called to the others to help him, and I took no notice of his father's threats. I required all the teachers to come every week to an instruction class, and to write out my notes of a lesson to be given in the morning.

On Sunday afternoons I marched all the children to Church for a children's service when I catechized them on the subject taught in the morning. This procession down the street had been a very troublesome business, as we were insulted and jostled and derided by big lads and men, but gradually with the help of the policeman, and by remonstrances with parents and employers, I overcame these difficulties. But the last step I took was as important as any. I dismissed Mr. Mathews, and I appointed a paid female superintendent who also acted as a Mission woman. I obtained money for this from the grant I had secured from the Palliser Trust by the new Charities scheme. It was not easy to find the right sort of woman at first, but ultimately I appointed a Church Army "Nurse", paying her 12/- a week, with furnished lodgings; and I got proper rooms for her by turning some unsatisfactory tenants out of my Rectory cottage and giving half that house to the Nurse, and half to my gardener. This had additional advantage of giving me a room for meetings and for a Boy's Club in the evenings which proved very attractive and added to the Nurse's influence. To these measures may be attributed the present excellent condition to which we have attained.

Equally important at least were the steps I took to improve the condition of the Church and its services. By the help of my brother, and various gifts, we had the Church properly lighted by excellent hanging lamps, and I improved the Reredos, and gradually in time obtained Altar Frontals, Dossal hangings, and book markers for the seasons.

When I first came I found the chancel used by a number of men, women, lads and boys calling themselves a Choir. I began by getting the women to leave and to sit in the Church. I then asked the men and boys to meet in the Vestry, and thus I prevented their walking in at any time in the service, placing hats and coats conspicuously in the stalls or on the floor, and even bring their children to sit with them, as Mr. Register the schoolmaster did. We then entered and left the church in

procession, and gradually they learnt to practise reverence and lead the worship as well as the hymns.

At last, in spite of the passive opposition of my Churchwarden Mr. W. Gurney, I managed to get them all into surplices, with cassocks for the boys and capes for the men, and they wore these for the first time on Sunday 23rd September 1888 at the Harvest Thanksgiving services. All these changes were received with pleasure by the congregation, nor was any objection ever made even by the Dissenters, except Wm. Worly who objected for a time to wear them as he said they would be wolves in sheep's clothing.

At the same time I introduced the Cathedral Psalter and I got Mr. Blanchett, my former Organist at Slough, to come over and explain it to them, and to gave hints to a young man named Arthur Matthews whom I had appointed organist. He was self taught and gradually improved, and he saved me from what I have always considered the mistaken custom of the Clergyman's wife playing the organ, which had been followed by my two predecessors. People always abuse the organist in Country Churches, and it is better to have a paid man.

I have dwelt at some length upon all that happened in 1887 because I look upon it as the most trying and painful period of my life and the steps I look then have decided all that has happened since in the Parish. I realized at last that I could never expect to be the Parson or Person of the Parish. Dissent was too strongly established and too hostile, and the so-called Church people too weak and indifferent to care to have things otherwise. All I could do was to occupy as strong a defensive position as I could; and to try to keep Church interests safe from treachery within and attack from without until this tyranny was overpast and happier possibilities might arise. Certainly we were most unhappy, feeling the change after our life at Slough, and all the affection we had enjoyed there, and when Miss Brice came and spent 2 weeks inspecting the Parish, and reported that it was the worst she had ever seen, but that in seven years we might hope for a change, our hearts well nigh broke – but she was right!

The year 1888 was a most trying one in climate. The weather was very severe and lasted long, the summer was so cold and wet that hay was still being made and very little wheat was in on the 8th Sept The 11th July was the coldest day in July ever known, and there was snow in places. Fortunately September was fine, but the cold began again in October with snow in the north of England. It was a bad year for me, as I was constantly suffering from dreadful headaches and yet I managed to get about a good deal and to do a good deal, although we had no regular holiday. Chalfont is a peculiarly cold and bleak place in winter, as the North winds blow down the valley from the Chilterns like a funnel, and we felt intensely the dullness and isolation. being cut off from all our friends, far from any railway, having no carriage, and surrounded by uncongenial and almost hostile neighbours.

Our house too had not yet been made as warm and comfortable as in time, and after experience we contrived to make it so by putting in double windows and new fire grates, and improving floors, windows, and locks.

On the night of 5th September the bell of the Parish Church rang to awaken the Parishioners as an incendiary fire had occurred in a house on the corner of the Vache Lane, opposite the Pheasant, recently occupied by Williams the Fly Driver. To ensure success the incendiary had piled a load of straw on the well house opposite and burnt it. My brother and William Gurney were very active and had nearly put it out by the time the Amersham Fire Engine came.

On the 13th September our annual Flower Show was held. This was always the Chief Parish holiday in the year and my brother, as Secretary, had worked it up to great efficiency. This year however he resigned and Mr. C. R. Marchant was made Secretary in his place. A good deal of ill feeling had occurred in consequence of Mr. Weston and Mr. Marchant objecting to Mr. Sandars, W. Gurney, and I having asked Lady Curzon to distribute the Prizes as she did at St Peters, and Mr. Sandars and I had to drive over to Langley and ask her to accept our apologies for having to withdraw our invitation which she had accepted.

On the 19th March 1889 the Bishop of Oxford, Dr. Stubbs, came and held his first Confirmation at our Parish Church. He was tired and stood at the Lectern with his hand over his eyes, swinging his watch in his hand. Thus he did not observe that many of the Candidates were old, and he addressed them all as children. Afterwards, on looking at the cards, he saw his mistake, and asked them to dismiss from their minds what he had said. Some years afterwards he told me that his work was so severe at this time, with the Bishop of Lincoln's trial and beginning his Diocesan work, that he very nearly broke down.

On the 29th April the Churchwardens, Messrs. Robinson and Gurney, and I called a public meeting to consider the state of the North Aisle roof and the bells of the Parish Church. A Committee was appointed, Mr. J. Oldred Scott prepared plans and estimates, and we accepted the tender of Fassnidge of Uxbridge. The Revd. F. E. Robinson, Master of the Diocesan Guild of Bellringers, examined the Bells and by his advice Mr. T. Blackbourn of Salisbury was employed to re-hang them. At the same time a new Lightning Conductor was put up. We paid Fassnidge £304. 19. 3., Blackburn £45. 16. 0., Dixon & Co. for Lightning Conductor £10. 10. 0. The Lightning Conductor was put up 4 March 1890 by Dixon & Corbit, 32 Great Hen St, E.C. and 130 Strand, W.C. Mr. Scott £18, and with other expenses we paid altogether about £400 all of which we obtained by subscriptions.

I had been for some time subject to peculiarly trying attacks from my internal enemy (*Calculus – kidney or gallstones*), and on Sunday 9th March 1 had suffered a good deal, although I managed to get through the usual services. On going to bed that

night, to my intense thankfulness and delight the Calculus passed of itself, without much pain, and I did indeed feel grateful. I had made an appointment with Buckston Browne (*his consultant*) to see him on the following day, and so I was able to announce to him the joyful event. He told me to adhere to his system of diet, and he thought it extremely unlikely that I should ever be troubled by another. This has proved to be the case, and I thank God my headaches have almost entirely ceased, and although older and less active, I consider myself now to be in a far better state of general health. I have never touched wine or spirits, or eaten much butcher's meat since he advised me not.

Written in PWP's diary after he got better(9th March):

I waited patiently for the Lord and He inclined unto me and heard my calling. XL Ps. I He brought me also out of the horrible pit-out of the mire and clay - and set my feet upon the rock and ordered my going,.

I had been very successful at Slough in arranging for a large Friendly Societies service at what they called a Church Parade on a Sunday. At my suggestion the Friendly Societies at and round Chalfont, led by the Odd Fellows, agreed to attend such a service at St Giles Parish Church. This they did for the first time on Sunday 15th June at 3.30. The Bishop of Reading, with his daughter, drove over from Langley and robed in Reading Room, and we entered preceded by Choir and Churchwardens in procession. The Bishop preached one of his good manly sermons, and since then these services have been held in alternate years at both Parishes, Chalfont St Giles and St. Peter, and are always popular.

There are no further references to Chalfont in the remainder of the extract being only details of his extensive social life and significant "religious" engagements. We can therefore assume that finally, after three years, he had now gained control of, and been accepted by, a rebellious parish.. Let's hope that our next incumbent has an easier time!

John Davidge

A Child's Point of View!

The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

**With Christmas entertaining in
mind...some very light-hearted
observations**

There are some people who want to throw their arms round you simply because it is Christmas; there are other people who want to strangle you simply because it is Christmas. – Robert Lynd

Parents are people who bear children, bore teenagers, and board newlyweds. – Anon

Some people use one half their ingenuity to get into debt, and the other half to avoid paying it. – George D Prentice

There are few wild beasts more to be dreaded than a talking man having nothing to say. – Jonathan Swift

The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident. – Charles Lamb

Drive carefully this Christmas. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. – Anon

This magazine is free

Its because we want to be able to share and inform everyone of the work of our church in the village and beyond. We don't want that objective to be constrained by cost.

Feel free to pick up a copy in church, or the Old Post House anytime; and share it with friends

If you like what you read then maybe consider receiving it via our mailing list (contact details foot of inside back cover); still free but if you want to make a donation then payment can be made in three ways:

- **Cheque** by post, in the post box just by the Plumb gate, or in the pigeon hole at the back of church, made out to **CSG Parish Church (marked on back Magazine) and** addressed to:

Treasurer
Chalfont Giles Parish Church
Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4QF

- **BACS details as follows**

Account : PCC of Chalfont St Giles
Sort code : 60-05-50
Account no : 03602796
Ref: Magazine + Your initials

New Church Email Addresses

Some canny church officers have, historically, on the assumption of their duties, generated a separate email address for their new responsibilities.

So, I thought it would be a good idea to make a suite of addresses for office holders, so in the event of a change in personnel, the email address is unchanged, with the advantage that the new office holder then had access, via the officer email address, to the history of the various on-going tasks. (It's something I found of enormous help when I started this job, to be able to go back through the correspondence, to find out how a job was to be done.) So now we have, in use,

csgchurchwarden@gmail.com

csgchurchtreasurer@gmail.com

csgchurchchoir@gmail.com

csgchurchsecretary@gmail.com

csgchurchyzone@gmail.com

csgchurchzoom@gmail.com

csgchurchzoompro@gmail.com

We also have csgchurchrector@gmail.com, should it be required.

The outliers are csgchildrenschurch@gmail.com,
csgrbookings@gmail.com, and saintgileschurch@gmail.com.

Sylvia

Parish Directory

Parochial Church Council

(area code: 01494)

Chair	Tom Boundy	582 765
Hon. Secretary	Richard Bolton	870 534
Hon. Treasurer	John Southworth	581130

Electoral-Roll Officer	Kathleen Martin	870 704
Stewardship Recorder	Chris Neville	873 457
Social-Outreach Team	Pat Searle	871 427
Pastoral-Care Co-ordinator	Margaret Carey	762 341
Sunday School – the Ark Co-ordinator	Kate Southworth	581130
Chatterbox organiser	Janelle Stevenson	870866
Messy Church Co-ordinator	Kate Southworth	265908
YZone (group for 11-15s) Co-ordinator	Jenny Tebbboth	07708 094 532
Church Watching	Tony Ferguson	07769 361 795
Reading-Room Bookings	Kevin Searle	07825 041 971
Church Choir	Cathy Langdale	581 385
Bell-Ringing Master	John Davidge	873 325
Flower Guild	Mavis Roberts	872 809
Traidcraft	Margaret Dykes	874 511
Friends of Chalfont St Giles Parish Church	Claire Long	875 445
Safeguarding Officer	Antonia Lee	876647

Parish Magazine

Editor	Kevin Searle	871427
Email articles:	stgileschurchmagazine@hotmail.co.uk	

