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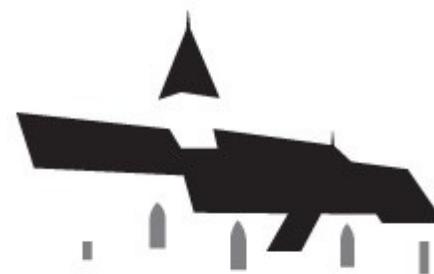
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St. Barts Church Magazine and Village News

Spring 2017



St. Bartholomew's WIGGINTON

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Associate Priest

Rev Michael Eggleton
The Vicarage Wigginton
Tel: 01442 823273

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01494 758594
Mrs. Jo Green
01442 828678

PCC Secretary

Rev. Michael Eggleton
01442823273

Hon. Treasurers

Mike Adams
01442 826512

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Sally Roycroft
01442 822364

Flower Guild

Kathie Mothersole
01442 823869

**Services at
St. Bartholomew's.**

1st. Wednesday of month
9.30am Holy Communion
A mid week said service

Sunday Services
8am Holy Communion BCP
10am Parish Eucharist CW
6pm Evensong BCP

4th. Sunday of the month
Family Service including work
from Messy church

Services during Lent and Easter

Palm Sunday April 9th
*We meet in the car park of the
Greyhound at 9.45am and walk in a
procession holding palms and
crosses to the church for our service
at 10am*

Maundy Thursday
April 13th
*Traditional service for Maundy
Thursday with the washing of feet
and stripping of the Altar*

Good Friday April 14th
*Our Good Friday devotions
including readings, prayer and
hymns and following the Stations of
the Cross at 2pm*

Easter Sunday April 16th
*Easter Day celebration Eucharist for
the whole family with readings,
hymns and prayer and at 11am
Easter Egg hunt in the church
garden*

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Wigginton Café is open in the church room every Tuesday from 2.30pm for teas and delicious cakes. Come along and meet new friends, read a book or just enjoy the afternoon.

Easter Sunday and God's Extravagance

Over the last few weeks at St Mary's the Lent Group has been looking at the Archbishop's book "Dethroning Mammon: Making Money Serve Grace." There is a theme that runs through the book that contrasts what control money can over so many areas of our life on one hand, yet, counter to this, is the pull of the extravagance and abundance of God's love and generosity. Money, even when we have a lot of it, the author suggests can make all of us a bit Scrooge like in that there is never enough, whilst God's extravagant economics suggests a completely different approach to what we have and how we use it. It is a thoughtful book and the discussions in the group have been very interesting as we grapple with the challenges and questions that we are presented with.

One of the things that have struck me as we come to celebrate Easter is that the generosity of God is seen primarily in the self giving of Jesus on Good Friday. In the church services the prayers and readings will pick up on the theme of God holding nothing back but entering into the full complexity, uncertainty and confusion of the world. There are those who are determined to destroy Jesus and those who are prepared to be cajoled into making this happen. The story of Jesus' final days in Jerusalem uncovers a web of power politics, human weakness and violence. The disciples we are told go into hiding, fearful that they will most likely be arrested and be treated in the same way.

The Easter message that the churches will be celebrating is that this is not the end of the story. There is a multitude of themes and reflections that resonate from the story of the resurrection. One that always strikes me when reading or listening to the various accounts is as follows. From the disciples perspective there is a growing realisation that something completely unexpected and astonishing has taken place.

The way they understand the nature of God is being changed and alongside this is a new way of living. Jesus was the victim of anger, compromise and violence. Yet, the resurrection is defined by grace, forgiveness, love, and healing. God does not return like for like. The disciples are called to reflect these spirit shaped gifts into the world. That will be a demanding task, but they preach a message that says the axis of the world has changed and even if it feels hard to grasp, God's extraordinary generosity can be trusted.

(Rev Jonathan Gordon)

800,000 shoeboxes for children in need of Christmas love

Operation Christmas Child last winter collected over 880,000 shoeboxes to send to children in need around the world, thanks to the support of individuals, organisations and churches across the UK.

Operating for 24 years, the project sees volunteers pack a shoebox with gifts. Ranging from school supplies and hygiene items, through to a unique WOW item, they are given to children in need regardless of race, religion, gender or any other characteristic.

April Fool's Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

9th April Palm Sunday: Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches world-wide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

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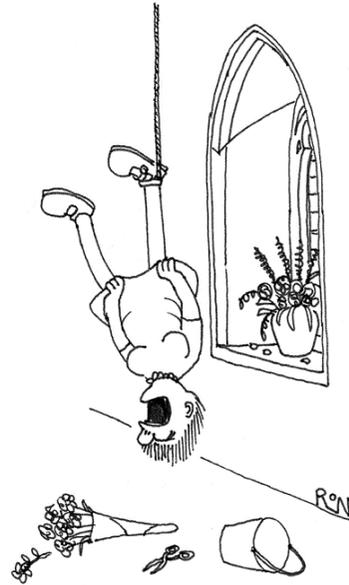
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Mrs Stebbings always did the flowers in the South Window, as Mrs Todger soon learned

Thought on Prayer

Take a moment to listen to the still small voice of God within the bustle of the day which has begun. Find a quiet place where you can enjoy precious moments of peace in God's presence. Sit quietly and listen to the sounds of the world around you, both outside and in the place where you are. Breathe slowly and rest in God's presence.....

From our rising in the morning to our lying down again,
 you are with us every hour of the day,
 our reassurance when storms assail
 and strength when courage fails.
 From our rising in the morning
 to our lying down again, your light illumines
 every step of the way, our comfort
 when darkness falls and peace
 that calms our souls.
 From our rising in the morning
 to our lying down again, you are with us.

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GOOD FRIDAY – 14th. April the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday. The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

EASTER – 16th. April the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!
 The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God. Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.
 Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD,

Here are some useful numbers

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Emergency Services 999

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Herts County Council 0300 1234040
Dacorum Council 01442 228000

Utilities

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NHS Direct 111
Urgent Care Centre 01442 213141
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Hemel Hempstead Hospital 01442 213141
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Medium Grid

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				3	5	2		
3								

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Browse a changing range of fiction and non-fiction titles at Wigginton's bookswap.

Monday - Saturday 9am - 4.30pm

Sunday 12 noon to 2pm

St Bartholomew's Church Room

Open to all villagers

Book.swap is supported by Wigginton Parish Council and St Bartholomew's Church.

The Wigginton Tasting Club takes off

The Wigginton Tasting Club holds regular events to explore wines, spirits and other drinks from around the world.



The tastings are designed to be educational, in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

So whether you're a connoisseur or a complete beginner, there's something for everyone.

We're delighted at how popular the evenings have been so far, as we've already had two sell-out events. The first was a tour of Chile and the second an adventure across central and northern Italy!

We're planning a variety of tastings including gin, Champagne and wine from numerous regions. We will also invite local food suppliers and producers so that you can find out more about pairings and how this opens up a whole new world of flavour!

All profits from The Wigginton Tasting Club will be donated to Wigginton Pre-school and St Bart's Church. So far, around £1000 has been raised.

The next event is a Champagne Masterclass with Lanson to be held at the Village Hall on 7th April. It promises to be a popular evening, so if you would like to join us, or keep up to date on other events, you can follow us on Facebook 'Wigginton Tasting Club' or to be added to our mailing list, please email wiggintontastingclub@gmail.com with your name.

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Crossword Clues

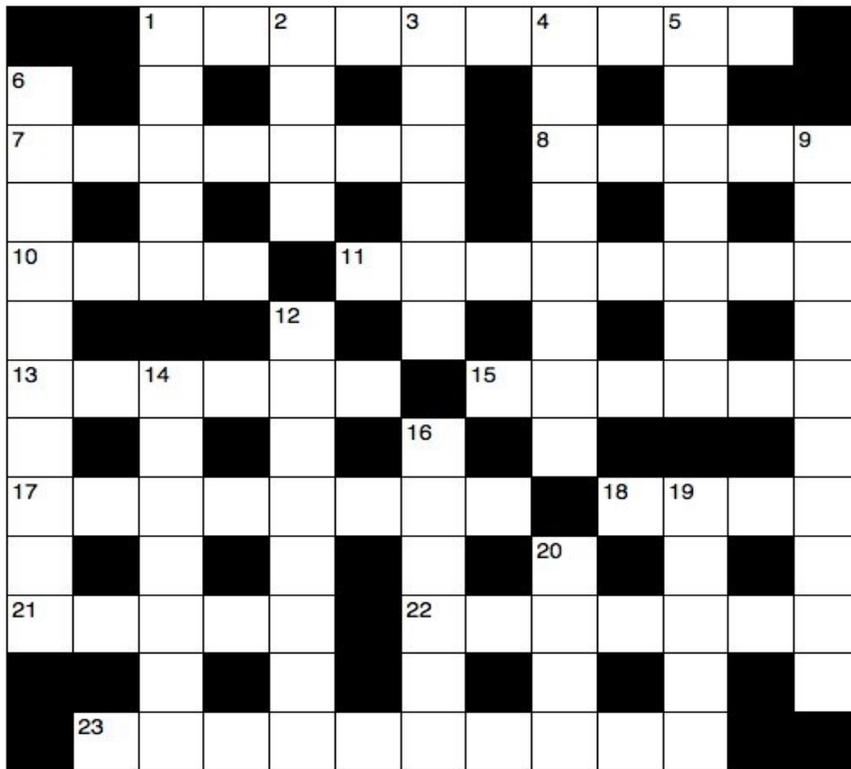
Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
- 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
- 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
- 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
- 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
- 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
- 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
- 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
- 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
- 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
- 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
- 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
- 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)
- 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
- 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
- 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
- 14 See cape (anag.) (7)
- 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
- 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
- 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)

Answers on page 19



First things first

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson on the Atonement. 'So, can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?'

The taxi

The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a department store window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, 'Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!'

The passenger apologized and said he hadn't realized that just a little tap could scare him so much. The driver replied, 'You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years.'

Idea of a community shop well received by the village and our neighbours

The Wigginton Shop will be a purpose built store owned by the community, run by the community, for the benefit of the whole community. As a community store, it will not try to compete with supermarkets or other shops in the surrounding towns, but instead offer the best of local produce and other services. It will establish itself at the heart of our beautiful village, and become a friendly focal point which will provide a social hub for all ages, young and old, to meet, to volunteer, and to learn new skills.

In order to gauge the appetite for this kind of shop we commissioned a survey which was available online and as a paper version. We opened this up to both the residents of the Parish of Wigginton and our neighbouring villages. The results have been beyond expectation, with more than half the village responding and of them, more than three quarters indicated that a store would be important or very important.

While there is a long way to go, our plans are progressing really well and we have had a lot of experts generously giving us their help for free. We are now at the stage where we need to start covering the costs for some professional services, for example, legal searches and architectural designs, so that we can present the shop's vision at a public consultation for our community to come along and discuss the plans (date to be announced).

To cover these costs, on Saturday 11th March we held our first fundraiser (the first of many!) which was a sell out thanks to the generosity and support of our villagers and their friends. It was a quiz night with Wigginton's own quiz maestro Dave Sawyer, and was organised by a host of fabulous volunteers, without whom the event wouldn't have been the success it was.

Our next fundraising event will be an 'auction of promises'. What's that you ask?! It's a promise to offer something - it could be to wash a car, clean, garden, or even help someone to get online. We'll be holding a special event in the village (date to be announced) where all the donations will be auctioned. We'd love to hear from you if you would like to make an offer for us to auction.

To find out more you can follow us on Facebook 'Wigginton Shop' or email wiggintonshop@gmail.com

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The Church Website

Over the past few weeks, the church website has been completely renewed. You can now find all that you need to about the church and also all of the village organisations and clubs.. If you would like your group promoted on the site, please get in touch.

01442 823273

The website address is:

www.stbartholomewschurch.org



EASTER SYMBOLS

At Easter it is all bunnies, eggs and lambs in the shops. Why are they symbols of Easter?

One of the oldest Spring symbols in the world is the egg - it promises new life as in Spring, fluffy yellow chicks are hatched from eggs.



The hare was a symbol of the moon and is connected with Easter because the date of Easter depends upon the full moon. Over time, the hare became a rabbit, because there are more rabbits around than hares!

The lamb represents Jesus and links His death to that of the lamb sacrificed on the first Passover. Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."

EASTER WORDSEARCH

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with Spring and Easter - can you find them all?

D	C	A	G	M	Y	N	N	U	B
A	D	H	A	R	E	T	U	L	I
F	U	B	I	N	A	G	P	O	P
F	C	M	I	C	R	S	G	Y	M
O	K	A	Y	R	K	S	S	E	O
D	P	L	N	E	D	R	A	G	S
I	I	C	R	O	C	U	S	A	S
L	L	B	G	N	I	R	P	S	O
B	U	F	L	O	W	E	R	D	L
U	T	D	U	O	L	C	D	U	B

bird blossom bud
bunny chick cloud crocus
daffodil duck egg flower
garden grass hare lamb lily
spring tulip

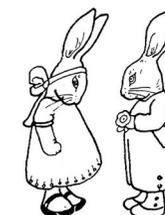


How do baby hens dance?

Chick to chick.

Why does the chicken go to the theatre?

For hentertainment.



Which rabbits were famous bank robbers?
Bunny and Clyde!



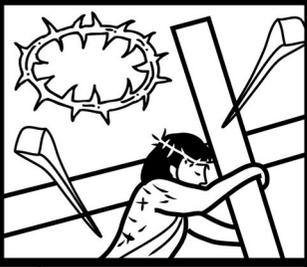
Mouse Makes

Colour in the cross, cut out and glue onto card to make an Easter card.



HAPPY EASTER
✕
JESUS IS ALIVE!

Read the Easter story in Luke 22-24



“God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.”
John 3:16



+ **THE CROSS** +
is a symbol of **DEATH**
It reminds us how God’s Son, Jesus, was put to death by being nailed to a cross.

+ **THE CROSS** +
is a symbol of **LIFE**
It reminds us that Jesus has risen from the dead and is alive with God in heaven.



+ **THE CROSS** +
is a symbol of **LOVE**
It reminds us God loves us so much that through His Son Jesus we can become God’s children too.

+ **THE CROSS** +
is a symbol of **HOPE**
It reminds us that as God’s children we will one day be with God in heaven.

ST BARTHOLOMEW CATHEDRAL OUTING

SAT 17th. June 2017

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

LEAVE WIGGINTON 8.00am

TOUR OF THE CATHEDRAL 11am

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God in the Arts – When David met Goliath

The meeting of David and Goliath is one of the most colourful and dynamic of the Old Testament stories. I like the joke about the teacher asking the children, ‘What does the story of Goliath teach us?’ and a little boy replies, ‘To duck.’

But Goliath thinks he is invincible and has no need to duck. Why should he fear just a shepherd boy? J. John imagines David looking at Goliath, and thinking ‘He is so big and I am so small.’ Then looking again, and thinking, ‘He is so big: how can I miss?’ And so victory goes not to the strong, the proud, the self-confident, but to those who simply trust in the name of the Lord and their own wits. Right asserts itself over might as David conquers and Goliath falls to the ground.



That dramatic moment is caught vividly in this life-sized statue by Bernini sculpted for the garden of Cardinal Borghese in Rome in 1624. 1 Samuel 16 tells how Samuel anoints David, the youngest of Jesse’s sons, who then goes to meet Goliath with only his shepherd’s sling. We can see the pursed lips and the look of serious concentration on David’s face. We sense the intensity of that moment and the latent energy as he prepares to throw the stone. We don’t see Goliath, but he is there in our imagination, for we know that David will be victorious against the heavily armed Philistine.

Perhaps we can read there a message for the Church when it is tempted to rely on the protection of buildings, power structures and dogmatic authority and forget to trust in God’s guidance. Perhaps the message is to each of us as we journey and find ourselves battling against the forces of injustice and darkness that seem so powerful. Then, when we feel weak, we have to learn to trust in God and have faith that He will be with us.

Wigginton Baptist Chapel

Easter Service:

Sunday 16th April - Family Service at 10.30a.m

Other activities at the Chapel include;

'Coffee Corner' on Thursdays from 10.15 - 12.00; chance to have a chat with homemade cakes, tea and coffee. All proceeds to 'Global Care For Children'.

'Jungle Club', held at St. Bartholomew's School on Wednesdays
6pm - 7.15pm during term time for 7 - 11 year olds.
Subs are sent to 'Tearfund'.

A NEW YOUTH CLUB HAS STARTED FOR 11 - 16 yrs.

Fridays 6 - 7pm at the new Cabin in the Chapel grounds;

Games
Movies
Pool table
Computer games
Christian ethos

We warmly invite you to any of our services and activities.

More information can be found at <http://www.wiggintonbaptistchapel.org.uk/welcome.htm>

We wish you a very happy Easter!

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Saturday 9.00 - 11.00 am

(Nurses' Appointments are available every weekday afternoon)

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

Exploring the strange journeys that words take

Ever wondered why we pass news on ‘through the grapevine’, or why it is a shock to ‘let the cat out of the bag’? The origin of hundreds of everyday words and phrases can be found in a vast and fascinating guide called ‘The Etymologicon’*.

Here you can discover many of ‘the strange back alleys and extraordinary and ridiculous journeys that words take,’ to quote the compiler, Mark Forsyth.

Hence, ‘through the grapevine’ began as the ‘grapevine telegraph’, a phrase used in the US Civil War, which described the unofficial, word-of-mouth network used by Confederate soldiers while drinking wine, or by slaves while picking grapes from vines.

‘Let the cat out of the bag’ dates back to medieval markets in Britain, where piglets were sold in bags (a pig in a poke). But a common con was to switch the valuable piglet for a worthless cat or dog: hence buyers were either ‘sold a pup’ or, when they discovered the ruse, ‘let the cat out of the bag’.

To give someone the ‘cold shoulder’ came from the sort of mutton leftovers given to unwelcome house-guests. A ‘hoax’ grew from hocus-pocus, a Protestant taunt of the rite of consecration used in the Roman Mass: *Hoc est corpus meum* (This is my body).

‘Winging it’ comes from actors learning their lines in the wings; ‘in a nutshell’ comes from Pliny, the Roman writer who claimed there was a copy of The Iliad so small it could fit in a nutshell. ‘Average’ comes from an old French term *avarie*, meaning ‘damage done to a ship’. Vessels were often co-owned, and when repairs were done, the owners were expected to pay an equal share, or the average.

Twitter

A man walked into a church and approached the minister. “I need help. I think I’m addicted to Twitter.” The minister looked at him and said gently, “I’m so sorry, I don’t follow you.”



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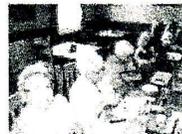
St. Bartholomew's Church, Wigginton

Come and join us for tea, coffee and
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(All proceeds donated to the Church,
School and Pre-School)

WIGGINTON LUNCH CLUB

The Senior citizen's Lunch club now meets at the Greyhound Pub on Mondays. If you would like to join us for Lunch and a chat please contact Marian Penny on 825536.



**St James the Least of All
On the perils of letting the laity
read the lessons**

The Vicarage
St James the Least of All



My dear Curate

It was good to see you last Sunday morning on your own home ground. The Service was interesting – although I have yet to recover from that period of frightful liturgical debauchery you call ‘passing the peace’. Why should I welcome total strangers grabbing my hand and smiling deep into my eyes? One lady would simply not let go – I had to shake her off.

As for the reading of the lessons, I was astonished that you allow members of the congregation (in shirtsleeves, too) to bring their own Bible to the front. It lacks any degree of solemnity and decorum. There should be a lectern Bible, preferably about four feet square in dimensions. And where was a suitable lectern? I admit that having a substantial brass eagle in your church would be like placing Nelson's Column in a Scout tent, but surely something suitable in wood could be found.

We have quite gone with the fashion here at St James the Least of All, and now have members of the laity – even women! – taking our Bible readings. The decision may have been a mistake. Our lectern stands at 6 feet; Miss Peckham stands at five feet. When she is reading, as far as the congregation can see, we have God's Word being proclaimed by a straw hat bearing imitation fruit.

The Major's reading at last Sunday's Evensong was Numbers 22, and his adoption of different voices for the narrator, Balaam and Balak was acceptable, if a little theatrical. But his use of a fourth voice for the ass turned the occasion into pantomime – a point picked up by our choirboys. When the ass asked: ‘was I ever wont to do so unto thee’, the boys chorused ‘Oh yes you did’. (Surely it should have been ‘Oh yes thou didst’).

Mrs Smeed's rendition of the genealogy at the start of Saint Matthew's gospel clearly takes her back to the schoolroom. She sounded as if she is holding a roll call – and if Shealtiel were by any chance missing, she would demand a good explanation.

Idea of a community shop well received by the village and our neighbours

The Wigginton Shop will be a purpose built store owned by the community, run by the community, for the benefit of the whole community. As a community store, it will not try to compete with supermarkets or other shops in the surrounding towns, but instead offer the best of local produce and other services. It will establish itself at the heart of our beautiful village, and become a friendly focal point which will provide a social hub for all ages, young and old, to meet, to volunteer, and to learn new skills.



In order to gauge the appetite for this kind of shop we commissioned a survey which was available online and as a paper version. We opened this up to both the residents of the Parish of Wigginton and our neighbouring villages. The results have been beyond expectation, with more than half the village responding and of them, more than three quarters indicated that a store would be important or very important.

While there is a long way to go, our plans are progressing really well and we have had a lot of experts generously giving us their help for free. We are now at the stage where we need to start covering the costs for some professional services, for example, legal searches and architectural designs, so that we can present the shop's vision at a public consultation for our community to come along and discuss the plans (date to be announced).

To cover these costs, on Saturday 11th March we held our first fundraiser (the first of many!) which was a sell out thanks to the generosity and support of our villagers and their friends. It was a quiz night with Wigginton's own quiz maestro Dave Sawyer, and was organised by a host of fabulous volunteers, without whom the event wouldn't have been the success it was.

Cinema visits are well supported and a group of us enjoyed a visit to Aylesbury's Waterside theatre. March brings two outings - firstly a tour of the Royal Albert Hall and then a visit to The WI Fair at Alexandra Palace. Luton Hoo and Denman College are to follow later in the year.

We were pleased to welcome several new members from the Village and we are sure they will enjoy what we have already planned for our monthly meetings, activities and outings.

We still have room for more and visitors are always welcome to join us on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in The Village Hall at 7.30.

For more information contact Janet Desborough on 01442 825756 or Sue Hexter 01442 82644 or email desborough168@btinternet.com or suehexter@gmail.com

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Wigginton WI

It seems a long time since Santas, Elves, Rudolph, Snowmen and a Turkey took to the stage at our Christmas meeting. They were all treasured members of puppeteer Angela Collins fun show. It was soon “hands on” as members took over the puppets and joined in the traditional Christmas songs. Wine and seasonal nibbles ensured that a successful year ended with a festive feel.

The New Year started with a wow when Wigginton’s own star Gillian Wright was our speaker. A brilliant monologue was followed by recounting her amazing life story from Drama School to directing, teaching and stage appearances. Eight years in Eastenders made her a household name and brought awards for her sensitive character portrayal. She concluded with hilarious tales of Pantomime flying and no one wanted the curtain to fall.

What could be better than Erik Houlihan-Jong bringing Divine Chocolate to our meeting on Valentine’s Day? He gave us a fascinating history of chocolate and then took us through the production from seed in Ghana’s co-operative Fairtrade fields to the delicious end product. Erik then skilfully guided all our five senses (including listening to the snap) to “mindfully savour” Divine Chocolate. An informative and mouth-watering evening - even enjoyed by the non-chocoholics!

Thank you to those of you who supported our Christmas Market which proved very successful. The profits will enable us to continue to book good speakers for our meetings as well as helping to fund some of our educational activities. Believe it or not plans are already being made for 2017’s Market.

The walking group had to cancel their January walk when temperatures plummeted below freezing and we were not sure we would get out of the Village. However 17 of us enjoyed our February walk in Milton Keynes along the canal, Ouzel Valley and Caldecote Lake.

Our next fundraising event will be an 'auction of promises'. What's that you ask?! It's a promise to offer something - it could be to wash a car, clean, garden, or even help someone to get online. We'll be holding a special event in the village (date to be announced) where all the donations will be auctioned. We'd love to hear from you if you would like to make an offer for us to auction.

To find out more you can follow us on Facebook 'Wigginton Shop' or email wiggintonshop@gmail.com

Messy Church celebrates all of those that look after us

Having taken January off as the Christmas and New Year celebrations drew to a close, February's session themed around 'love' got the year off to a great start. We enjoyed putting together a collage that represents all those that look after us or nurture us - cutting out hearts from different materials and adding plenty of glitter and sparkle too.



The children look forward to going into the church itself to sing as well as to enjoy a story and a prayer with either Rev Jonathan or Rev Michael (and if we are lucky, both). It's a great way for them to become accustomed to the building and it's fantastic to see how at home they are there.



The theme of love has moved into the subsequent months as we look forward to Mother's Day. We have also planted some sunflower seeds so the children can water and feed them and see how they grow - of course inevitably we will want to see whose grows the tallest!

The Messy Church group will be planting a small garden to carry on this theme, and we look forward to seeing how green our fingers really are!

Wigginton History and Bates Boatyard

In March we had a great talk from Jeremy Bates of Bates Boatyard in Puttenham At the bottom of the page you will see details of the last two talks and one event to end another successful season from 2016 to 2017

Jeremy Bates has been in the industry of building and repairing wooden canal boats for many years starting at Tooley's yard in Banbury. He worked up and down the canal in yards or on a dock until he came in 1996 to Puttenham where he has been ever since.

He has worked on a wide range of boats from Coal Tar butties, to work on the specialist barges for the National Trust on the Wey Navigation in Surrey and by contrast he has also fully restored one of the RAF's Search and Rescue boats from the Second World War used to rescue downed crew from ditched bombers and fighters. Recently he made an entirely new boat of wood.

So this is how he describes himself and the dry dock at Bulbourne near Tring Summit on the Grand Union Canal opposite the junction with the Wendover Arm

*Although the main wooden canal boat building era ended towards the middle of the last century, **Bates Boatyard** has continued to produce fine quality restorations and new wooden boats, that have an individuality and character unrivalled by the mass production of modern steel hulls*

Welding, carpentry and joinery, engine servicing and repairs, painting, blacking and general boat maintenance are available on site. The dock is also available for hire on a DIY basis.

***The Bulbourne Dry dock** is one of the few truly enclosed dry docks available in the South. It is a solid brick building built over an enlarged lock chamber that was specifically modified for the purpose. It is therefore, very quick to empty by gravity feed into the pounds below, which enables work to commence with minimum interruption. Welding, carpentry and joinery, engine servicing and repairs, painting, blacking and general boat maintenance are available on site. The dock is also available for hire on a DIY basis.*

And finally this is what happens until June for Wigginton History
Wednesday 5th April Tring Reservoirs from an Anglers Perspective
Wednesday 3rd May Lost Forest of Bernwood
Tuesday 6th June Daytime Private visit to The Heritage Park Pitstone Green Museum

If you want more information Richard Tregoning 01442 822702

WIGGINTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Our winter talks have just ended, with a wonderful talk by Ann Bird about "The Historic Rose". We now look forward to the joys of springtime and new growth in our gardens. If this mild weather continues, it might be an early spring. Time will tell.

We hope you are getting ready for the Spring Show. There will be classes available for all the usual spring flowers, plus some baking to look forward to. Please enter if you can. Then in May, we hold our annual fund-raising Plant Sale, when we rely on any labelled plants and garden bric a brac that you are willing to donate. There will also be bargains galore to snap up.

Events coming up:

EVENT	DATE	TIME	VENUE	REMARKS
Spring Show (Saturday)	8 April	am/pm	Village Hall	Watch out for the schedule. Please enter
Plant sale (Saturday)	13 May	Am	St Bartholomew Churchyard and Room	Bring and buy (10 am to noon)
Coach outing	1 July	All day	RHS Gardens Hyde	
Annual Show	9 September	Am/pm	Village Hall	

WANT TO JOIN THE WIGGINTON GARDENERS?

Four informative talks per year (most at no extra cost).
 Two flower shows.
 Plants sale.
 Social night (additional charge).
 Occasional coach trips (additional charge).

All for £3 per year per household !!

Please contact a Committee member or ring 01442 826876.

LUKE RICHARDSON TRIPLE KARTING CHAMPION WINNER 2016 - PRESENTED WITH THE SHENINGTON CLUB KARTING CHAMPION TROPHY

Luke Richardson of Tring School, with professional karting team Protrain was presented with his trophy for winning the Shenington Club 2016 Minimax Karting Championship by Mark Higgins, 3 time British Rally Champion and James Bond stunt driver at the Annual Club Awards Dinner held earlier this week.

The Championship consisted of 9 scoring races over the year with Luke winning an impressive 4 races against some high quality opposition including the British Open Champion. This built upon a strong foundation of success earlier in 2016 that included winning the Rotax Midland Minimax Championship and the Shenington Winter Series Trophy. Moreover, he produced a strong performance in coming 4th in the English Open 2016 with the race being televised and broadcasted throughout Europe. During the season his kart was worked upon by Michael Schumacher's ex-Head Mechanic who believes Luke has great potential for the future also with Protrain Racing Team Principal, Gary Chapman stating that "Luke is a young talented driver. Furthermore, outside the world of karting his success has also been recognized by him gaining a "Highly Commended" in the Rising Star category at the Dacorum Sports Awards.

His performances so far have attracted support from "Train with Brett" of Aylesbury, Steve White of Harrison White FS of Wigginton & Adriano Visconti of A V Accounts Solutions. Luke in 2017 will be competing at the next level in the British Open National SuperOne Championship with all races in the series being televised. Luke is always looking for people to help him in his quest to advance further in motorsport if you would like to assist please contact Paul Richardson 07784 071 874 / pauldaryl@hotmail.com.



St Bartholomew's School News, Spring 2017

Reading is a huge focus for us at the moment. We have just held a read a thon where the children were sponsored for each minute they read over a two week period. I was delighted with the number of children who took part and with the money raised. We will now be able to replace the books that we use to teach the children to read.

We are enjoying Forest school every Wednesday in Tring Park woods. Children have enjoyed the freedom to explore and experience the natural world in all weathers! Our children have made dens, designed decorations, climbed trees and enjoyed toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate.

As always, sport remains a high priority at St. Bartholomew's. We have now joined the Dacorum schools sports partnership. This allows our children to play competitively against many other schools in sports such as table tennis, athletics, football and netball.

We are also extending the opportunities given to our children to take part in performances. Our class 3 children will attend St. Alban's cathedral on March 23rd and will join children from 2 other schools singing with the choristers. The children will put on a performance for parents in the evening and we are very much looking forward to this event.

As I write the children are all arriving at school with their pancakes and pans ready to take part in the pancake racing and tomorrow we will go to church for our Ash Wednesday service in church.

The school is a very happy and exciting place to be and we continue to enjoy taking part in the traditions the school has taken part in for many years.

Sally Roycroft

ACROSS: 1, Priesthood. 7, Replica. 8, Get up. 10, Calf. 11, Governor. 13, See you. 15, Not see. 17, Incident. 18, Sake. 21, NSPCC. 22, Trample. 23, Perishable.

DOWN: 1, Papal. 2, In it. 3, Shalom. 4, Huguenot. 5, Outings. 6, Procession. 9, Perseveres. 12, Mordecai. 14, Escapee. 16, Snatch. 19, Apple. 20, Lamb.

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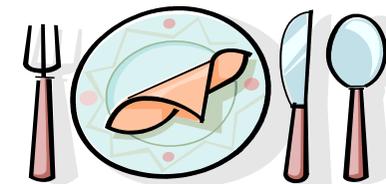
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