

Please email any contributions for the next Newsletter on Sunday 25th October to Samantha at the church office by Noon on Tuesday 20th October. Her email address is samantha@csp.church

CALENDAR

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 18th October	8am	Said Eucharist: All Saints Church <i>(Celebrant Fr Sam Frampton)</i>
	10am	Bubble Church: St Peter's Church Hall Arrive from 9.45am for refreshments <i>(Led by Bubble Church Team)</i>
	11am	Sung Eucharist: St Peter's Church <i>(Celebrant Revd Wendy Graham)</i>
	4pm	Evensong: St Paul's Church <i>(Celebrant Revd Wendy Graham)</i>
WEDNESDAY 21st October	10am	Midweek Said Eucharist: Parish Church <i>(Celebrant Revd Wendy Graham)</i>
THURSDAY 22nd October	10am	Please note that LITTLE ANGELS is on a 2 week break and will be back on 5th November.



PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- For the Parish Planned Giving Campaign
- With thanks for nature and the beautiful autumn colours around us.
- For our Bubble Church team as they lead on Sunday.
- For all those suffering in mind, body or spirit.
- For peace and reconciliation around the world.

PLANNED GIVING

HELP US TO REACH A 'WIN-WIN' RESULT!

It was good to see so many people at the All-Parish service to launch the new Campaign and most were able to stay to enjoy the delicious Bring & Share lunch. After the presentations by Michael Baxendine and Caroline Wiggins, there was a lively Q&A session.

As Father Sam stressed, it is never easy asking people to review their giving to the church. But this campaign is not just about the act of giving. There is an additional benefit to the workload of parish volunteers.

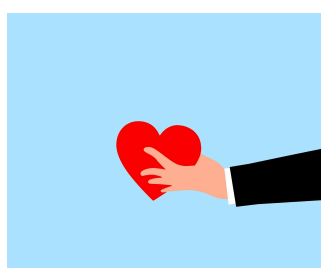
Among the key messages was a plea by Caroline to ease the administrative load that she carries on all our behalf. Every month, Caroline spends several hours calculating the Gift Aid claim for all of our generous donors who also pay tax; this is then submitted and we await the payment from the Government. But there is now a hassle-free way to achieve the same result.

This campaign is also about encouraging existing givers to swap from their existing standing order arrangement to a direct debit as part of the Parish Giving Scheme (a safe and secure system offered by the Church of England). One of the significant benefits of this Scheme is that it automatically calculates the Gift Aid claim and activates the payment to our Parish. Everyone who makes this change is therefore also making a very welcome contribution to our parish administration.

If we can achieve the double-whammy of not only increasing the stability of our parish finances but also reducing our administrative burden, it really will be a “win-win” result.

If you were not able to join us on the launch day, there are plenty of ways to find out more. You can pick up a leaflet at the back of your church and you can always ask for information from Father Sam, either of the churchwardens or Caroline. If you'd prefer, there is always assistance available in the Church Office.

Catriona Porter
Churchwarden



Fr Sam's sermon from 4th October when the Giving Campaign launched.

There's an old story about a vicar preaching on giving. He stood in the pulpit and said, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is that we have all the money we need to do everything God is calling us to do." The congregation looked delighted. "The bad news," he said, "is that it's still in your pockets."

I thought I'd get that joke out of the way early. It seems safer.

Because today we are talking about stewardship. And yes, that means we are going to talk about money. Churches can sometimes be terribly embarrassed about talking about money. We can preach quite happily about sin, death, judgement, forgiveness, sex, politics and eternal life — but mention the standing order and suddenly everybody starts studying their shoes.

And yet Jesus talked about money rather a lot.

Not because Jesus was a fundraiser, but because Jesus knew that money has a peculiar ability to reveal what is going on inside us. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Notice the order. Jesus doesn't say, "Where your heart is, eventually your money might follow." He says that what we do with our treasure actually shapes our hearts. And that is why Christian giving is not primarily about paying the bills.

Of course, bills have to be paid. The lights have to stay on. The roof needs maintaining. Ministry costs money. Our worship, our work with children and families, our pastoral care, our mission in this community — none of it happens magically. And so, I'm not going to pretend that our giving doesn't matter practically. It does.

But if stewardship were only about balancing the church accounts, it would be a rather dull subject for a sermon. Stewardship is actually about something much bigger.

It is about who owns what.

In our first reading, David says: "All things come from you, and of your own have we given you." That is the foundation of Christian stewardship. We give to God only what God has already given to us.

Our money. Our homes. Our abilities. Our opportunities. Our time. Our very lives.

None of them ultimately belongs to us. We are stewards. And perhaps that is the uncomfortable bit. Because we like to think: "I earned this. I worked for this. This is mine." And, of course, there is truth in that. People work incredibly hard for what they have. But the Christian takes one step further back.

Who gave me the life with which I work? Who gave me the gifts I use? Who gave me the world from which all its resources come? Who gave me the people who taught me, loved me, encouraged me and gave me opportunities?

Behind every gift is the Giver.

The recently beatified Archbishop Fulton Sheen once used the wonderful image of a pencil.

A pencil, by itself, cannot write anything. For the pencil to fulfil its purpose, it has to allow itself to be held by another hand. And Sheen's point was that the Christian life is rather like that. We spend so much of our lives trying to write the story ourselves.

We grip tightly. We control. We worry. We accumulate.

And God says: put yourself into my hands.

Let me use you.

Your time. Your abilities. Your resources. Your money.

Let them become instruments of grace.

That is why St Paul says: “God loves a cheerful giver.”

Although I suspect God also accepts standing orders from slightly grumpy ones.

“Cheerful” doesn’t mean we have to grin while filling in a giving form.

The Greek word Paul uses carries the sense of giving freely, gladly, without resentment or compulsion. Christian generosity is not supposed to be extracted from us. It flows from gratitude. And there is an enormous difference between those two things. If I think, “The church wants something from me,” my instinct is to protect what I have. But if I think, “Look what God has given me,” the question changes.

It becomes: What can I give back?

And that brings us to Jesus’ words in the Gospel: “Do not worry about your life.” That sounds beautiful until you try actually doing it.

We worry about mortgages, electricity bills, food, pensions, children, the car making that suspicious noise, and whether the boiler is about to make an expensive theological statement about mortality. And into all of that Jesus says: “Do not worry.” Not because those things do not matter.

But because you matter more. “Look at the birds of the air.” They neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Jesus is inviting us to live from trust rather than fear. And that is where giving becomes deeply spiritual. Because generosity is an act of faith. Every time we give something away, we loosen our grip.

We say: “My security does not ultimately lie in my bank balance.” “My life is not measured by what I possess.” “I trust that God is God, and I am not.”

And that can be wonderfully freeing.

So, today I am asking each of us — myself included — to think seriously and prayerfully about our giving. Not: “What is the smallest amount I can give without feeling guilty?” And not even simply: “What does the church need from me?”

But: “What has God given me, and what would a generous response look like?”

For some, that may mean beginning regular giving for the first time. For others, it may mean reviewing an amount that has remained unchanged for years. For some, circumstances genuinely mean that giving more is impossible at the moment. There should be no shame in that whatsoever. Because generosity is not measured simply by the number of pounds.

Remember the widow and her two small coins. God looks at the heart.

But for all of us, the invitation is the same: Don’t give thoughtlessly. Don’t give grudgingly.

Give prayerfully. Give deliberately. Give Intentionally. Give joyfully.

Because this church is not simply a building we happen to like. It is a place where children are baptised. Where marriages begin. Where the grieving bring those, they love for the final journey. Where bread is broken and the cup is shared. Where people discover that they are loved by God. Where week after week, generation after generation, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in the heart of this community. And we have inherited that gift because generations before us gave.

They gave their money. They gave their time. They gave their skills. They gave themselves. Now it is our turn.

“All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”

Perhaps that is the prayer to take away today. “Lord, everything I have came ultimately from you. So take my life. Take my gifts. Take my time. Take my resources. Take even those things I find difficult to release. Like the pencil in the hand of the writer, let me place myself into your hands. And write something beautiful with me.”

Amen.



Bringing **joy**...**inspiring** success!



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find out
more.

Come and see what
makes our
school so special
and see our
wonderful children
and staff in action.

Open Mornings

Wednesday 14th October
Friday 13th November
at 9:00am



LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP

20th October, 12-30 until 2-00pm. St Peter Church Hall

We are looking forward to our October get together over a pot of Pumpkin Soup. Anyone who would like to join us please let Sheila (01494 871679) know so that we can lay a place for you.



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOLLOWED BY TEA

Our annual Memorial Service will take place this year on All Saint's Day, Sunday 1st November at 3.00pm in the Parish Church, followed by refreshments and a chance to chat in the Church Hall. We have invited the families of those people whose funerals have been held in our Churches during the last three years.

If you would like to remember a loved one or to support those who have been bereaved do please come and join us, all are welcome. Please pick up an invitation in church on Sunday or at the Church Office. Please RSVP by Wednesday 28th October to help with catering.



CHOIR NOTES WITH ANN

'O come let us sing unto the Lord: Let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.' Psalm 95
Venite, exultemus. **1.**

I opened my copy of The Parish Psalter at the first page and was reminded of the 'General Principles and Rules' needed to secure the proper emphasis and rhythm of singing the words by the simplest means:-

Psalms should frequently be read through by singers, intelligently and thoughtfully, to secure unanimity in rhythm before the music is added. Every word must be pronounced clearly with natural emphasis as in deliberate reading and the length and accentuation of each note in the chant must be governed entirely by the words and not vice versa...Breath is to be taken at commas.' **2.**

In the Psalter the Psalms of David follow the canticles, all pointed for chanting and set to chants from the St Nicholas chant book, a treasure trove of church music, always a joy to sing at evensong. Rutter included three psalms, 23, 43 and 100 in his book of European Sacred Songs. 2. Schubert composed his setting of Moses Mendelssohn's German version 'Gott ist mein Hirt' of Psalm 23 in December 1820. Rutter tells us it was written for a soiree in Vienna and this version soon became a popular vocal setting of this much loved Psalm:-

*'The Lord is my shepherd: I shall lack nothing, He feedeth me in pastures green,
He leadeth me beside still waters.'*



Rutter also included Mendelssohn's German setting of Psalm 43 'Judge me, O God, *Richte mich, Gott*' and Heinrich Schutz's 'Sing and be joyful *Jauchzet dem Herren*' setting for Psalm 100. I wonder which three Psalms you would have chosen to include, a difficult choice, but surely it would be Psalm 23 and two others.

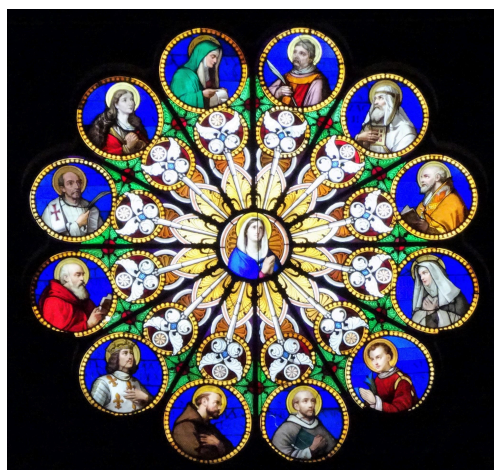
PUZZLES R US: How many Psalms of David are there?

LAST ANSWER: For Mary, Mother of our Lord.

1. The Parish Psalter with Chants pub. 1967

2. European Sacred Music pub. O.U.P. 1996 edited by John Rutter.

COMING UP AT ALL SAINTS!



ALL SAINTS PATRONAL FESTIVAL- 1st NOV

All the church family are warmly invited to All Saints Sung Eucharist Patronal Festival at 11am on Sunday 1st November followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. **There will be no 11am service in the Parish Church.**



VACHE BAROQUE **3pm Sunday 22nd November**

Tickets will go on sale shortly for the All Saints Music Festival concert on Sunday 22nd November at 3 pm given by James Bowman Young Artists from Vache Baroque. Look out for programme details and booking arrangements in the weekly newsletter.

WINE TASTING **at All Saints Church**

A fun Fine Wine Tasting at All Saints with connoisseurs Trevor and Anne Hatton will now take place on Saturday evening, 6th February, neatly sandwiched between Dry January and Lent. All are very welcome!



Saturday 6th February at 7.30 pm



CHALFONT
ST PETER
PARISH
CHURCHES

FAMILY SERVICES OCTOBER 2026

SUN 4 - THE FONT
10AM PARISH HALL

SUN 11 - THE FONT
10AM PARISH HALL

SUN 18 - BUBBLE CHURCH
10AM PARISH HALL
book now at bubblechurch.org

SUN 25 - THE FONT
10AM PARISH CHURCH



restore hope

Fireworks

by the lake

Saturday 7th November
Latimer Park Farm
5.30pm - 7.30pm
in aid of charity

restorehopecharity.org/events/fireworks

COLLECT

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your
Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the
gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son, the light unfailing,
has come from heaven to deliver the world
from the darkness of ignorance:
let these holy mysteries open the eyes of
our understanding
that we may know the way of life,
and walk in it without stumbling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45: 1-7 NRSVA

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one
besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

SECOND READING : 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 NRSV

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22: 15-22 NRSV

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' ²¹ They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

SERVICES & READINGS 25th OCTOBER 2026 - BIBLE SUNDAY

8am - Said Eucharist: All Saints Church

10am - The FONT: Parish Church Hall

11am - Sung Eucharist: Parish Church

4pm - Sung Eucharist: St Paul's Church

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 8-12

SECOND READING: Colossians 3: 12-17

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 24: 30-35