

# FOREST EDGE NEWS

THE PARISHES OF LEAFIELD WITH WYCHWOOD, FINSTOCK WITH FAWLER,  
RAMSDEN AND WILCOTE

July/August 2021

www.forestedgebenefice.co.uk

Issue 274

## Summertime and the living gets easier, cautiously....

The hottest day of the year so far, June 13th, saw Ramsden Gardens open to the public. The usual precautions were in place ( Track and Trace, Social Distancing etc) and, thanks to the efforts of a whole army of helpers, the event was both successful and great fun. 411 people visited the village and around £3,000 was raised for the Church and the Memorial Hall.

Fourteen gardens were open and many villagers decorated their gardens and houses, giving a real festive feel to the day (right and bottom right).

The plant stall alone raised just under £500 and received around 300 donations (below left). Below right you see the High Street with just a few of our many visitors and below left, Holly Deans points out some of the interesting features of her garden. Refreshments on the lawn of Ramsden Farmhouse provided a welcome break( bottom). More pictures on pages 2 and 3.



## Forest Edge Benefice Church Services

July 2021

### Sunday 4th July

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,  
Leaffield

### Sunday 11th July

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,  
Ramsden  
10.30am, Morning Light, non-  
Eucharistic Family Service, Leaffield

### Sunday 18th July

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,  
Leaffield

### Sunday 25th July

\*10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,  
Finstock \*

*\*Please Note: The service at Holy Trinity Church, Finstock, may go ahead if this is permitted by the Government and the National Church.*

August 2021

### Sunday 1st August

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,  
Leaffield

### Sunday 8th August

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,  
Ramsden

PTO



## Church Services continued

### Sunday 15th August

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,  
Finstock  
10.30am, Morning Light, non-  
Eucharistic Family Service, Leaffield

### Sunday 22nd August

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,  
Finstock  
Benefice Service

### Sunday 29th August

10.30am, Holy Communion, BCP,  
Wilcote

### Sunday 5th September

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,  
Leaffield

## From the registers

### WEDDING

Laura Ellen Winter and  
Andrew John Douglas Earnshaw  
22nd May 2021  
St James', Ramsden

### FUNERAL

Eamon Frederick John Bull  
16th June 2021  
St Michael's, Leaffield

## 'Morning Light'

St. Michael's, Leaffield is holding informal,  
lay led, services at 10.30am on some  
Sundays,

There will be 'Morning Light' services on  
the 11th July and the 15th August.  
'Morning Light' is a family friendly  
service of about half an hour.

At the end of every 'Morning Light'  
Service we sing a hymn or song outside the  
West door of St. Michael's.



## Grand Plant and Cake Sale, Leaffield– Thank You!

Thank you all so much for your contributions to the Plant and / or Cake stalls on  
Saturday 5th June and to those who bought said plants and cakes.  
We had an amazing day and in total raised in excess of £650 towards new pew runners  
and heaters for church. Thank you,  
Nicky Salomé-Bentley and Jane Digby



## Ramsden Gardens continued

The teas were provided by a particularly  
patriotic group of villagers, below,  
reminding us all of the fun we had had at  
the last Jubilee celebrations. The stunning  
uniform is modelled by Tony Crowther.  
(Right) Once again Angela Findlater had a



fine selection of books for sale in her  
socially distanced front garden. Umbrellas  
were needed for shade, rather than rain.  
What a welcome change!



A huge 'thank-you' goes to  
everyone who visited or helped  
in any way from opening  
gardens, manning the carpark,  
running the plant or local  
produce stall, making cakes,  
helping produce and distribute  
publicity material or in any one  
of numerous other ways. The  
biggest thanks and  
congratulations however must go  
to Helen Pennant-Rea who  
organised the whole event and  
co-ordinated everything so  
efficiently.



# Project St Michael

At Project St Michael, we are making Leaffield Church a more welcoming place. Currently, we are raising money to make the Church warmer and the congregation more comfortable.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

### Heating

We plan to replace the gas heaters with new electric heaters. These are cleaner and more energy efficient which will provide radiant heat into the central part of the Nave and the Choir.

We aim to install 14 heaters in all. Please consider sponsoring a heater, for a cost of £200.

### Pew Cushions

We know that sitting on a wooden pew for any length of time can be cold and uncomfortable. To fix this, we plan to install pew cushions on the pews in the Nave, each cushion is the full length of the pew. And you can sponsor a pew cushion for only £25

### Arrangements

To sponsor a pew cushion or heater, please make a donation through the website at: <http://projectstmichael.org/Donate.shtml> and press the donate button, or by BACs: Account name 'Project St Michael' Sort code: 08 92 99 Acc. No: 65186684

And email [simonsalomebentley@me.com](mailto:simonsalomebentley@me.com) to let us know and to tell us if you can 'Gift Aid' your donation.

For further information, please contact us by using the email above.



## Ramsden's Rose Competition

One feature of village life which has managed to continue even in the time of covid, is the annual Rose Competition. This year it was held in conjunction with Open Gardens and a fine selection of home-grown Ramsden roses were on display. The entrants' names were kept secret



to avoid any favouritism or lobbying and this year's winner was number 14, which had been entered by Clive Cowen. It is called 'William Shakespeare' and, as you see, is a worthy winner.



## Leaffield Youth Club

Leaffield Youth Club is looking for 2 new leaders and volunteers to help with the running of the group. Training will be provided. Please get in touch with Jo Williams 07891074375.



## Leaffield churchyard (Left)

The churchyard is open for everyone, to walk in, be peaceful, enjoy and visit loved ones. Wildlife areas have been left to encourage the wildlife, with cut paths for all to enjoy. There is a Churchyard Working Group that meets every 2 months. If you would like to participate, please bring your gardening tools, and join in. Families welcome. The next dates are:  
 Saturday 17 July – 10am  
 Saturday 18 September -10am  
 Saturday 20 November – 10am  
 For more information contact Ricard:  
[richard.hamilton@leaffieldparishcouncil.org](mailto:richard.hamilton@leaffieldparishcouncil.org)

## The Vicar writes.....



Some people love using social media. It can be a great way to stay in touch with friends and family, sharing thoughts and experiences when we might be physically separated and perhaps live hundreds of miles apart. The influence these social media platforms provide has been much in discussion over recent years. There is undoubtedly so much harm that can be committed using these platforms. There is also so much good that can be achieved.

I recently heard of a person on TikTok who became a Christian and started talking about her faith online. Very quickly, she amassed an incredible 5.4 million followers, who regularly watched her video messages. But her new-found 'fame' did not make life easy. As her overall number of followers grew, those who posted hateful comments also grew in number. Some of the comments were relatively mild, like "fame changed her". Others seemed to think it was perfectly reasonable to tell her that they had lost all respect for her. They didn't just "unfollow" her. They had to tell her about how they had unfollowed her a long time ago.

Everyone can influence those around us, even if we are not active on social media. Whether we are a friend, a parent, a colleague, or an employer, we can all inspire and encourage others. Whilst the influence of a sister or a brother can be significant, teachers, sports coaches, politicians and those in the police service have a huge influence on many people's lives.

The level of influence will vary, but everyone has influence.

Throughout his life, Jesus influenced those who came to him for help. Sometimes, when people approached Jesus, it was obvious what they needed. When they were paralysed or suffering from leprosy, or were hungry and poor, it must have been obvious what they needed! Or was it? Like his encounter with the blind beggar called Bartimaeus, Jesus would often ask people what they wanted from him. "What do you want me to do for you?", Jesus asked Bartimaeus, who was sitting by the roadside. Jesus wanted to confirm they were asking out of faith and confirm they were not simply testing him or trying to manipulate him.

No one wants to feel they are being ignored. We all want to feel valued. No one wants to feel their lives lack any purpose and they are going unnoticed. Sometimes though, when we feel undervalued, we stop caring about whether our words and actions positively or negatively influence those around us. For those who feel unappreciated, it is sometimes more important to be noticed whatever the consequences and however it might hurt other people.

How those people he met were motivated seemed particularly important to Jesus. He seemed to think it significant for us to try to understand what lies behind our words and actions. "Blessed are the pure in heart", said Jesus, "for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8). Whilst our words and actions may be determined by a jumble of different feelings, trying to understand what drives us as people was important to Jesus.

Did Jesus practice what he preached? Did he think it important to "check in" and ensure his own ministry was always attuned to the will of God?

The Gospels tell us that Jesus would often withdraw to a place where he could be by himself. If this was important for Jesus, shouldn't this be important for us too?

This is the last issue of The Forest Edge News that John Hook will produce as Editor. On behalf of the benefice, I would like to take this opportunity to thank John for all his work over the last ten years. For all the crosswords, John has compiled himself, for all his humour and the many creative articles, thank you. It is all very much appreciated.

With every blessing,

Paul

Rev'd Paul Mansell

Vicar, Forest Edge Benefice

### IN OUR FOUR PARISHES

#### Vicar of the Forest Edge Benefice

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### St Michael and All Angels Open for private Prayer

The Church is open for private individual prayer: 10am – 3pm, Tuesday – Saturday.

For further information please contact Simon Salomé-Bentley on 01993 878000 or  
email [simonsalomebentley@me.com](mailto:simonsalomebentley@me.com)

## Wit and Wisdom

"His mother should have thrown him out and kept the stork." Mae West

"Live.Live.Live! Life's a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death!" Rosalind Russell in 'Auntie Mame'

"Nature, Mr Allnut, is what we are put in this world to rise above." Katherine Hepburn in 'The African Queen'

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." Will Rogers

"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much." Mother Teresa

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." Robin Williams

"Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before The Great Mystery into which we were born." Albert Einstein

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10.10



## Leafield Football

Currently, we have 2 men's teams, a ladies' team and an academy of boys and girls.

We are looking for any 13 – 15 years old who are interested in joining a team: please contact Mike on 07928 722367.

Ladies Football train on Thursdays at 6:15pm. New players welcome for all teams.

For more information call Mike Ody 07928722367 or Jo Williams 07891074375



One of the many illustrations from Hakewill's book. 'Tessellated pavement in the room No 30' ( See article on the right)

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at Cherry Tree Cottage, High Street, Romsden, Chipping Norton, OX7 3AR  
Gate opens at 5.30pm for picnics. Performance starts at 7.30pm

On the 10th July 2021, The Festival Players are bringing to Romsden arguably the Bard's most popular history: *Henry V*.

The play will start at 7.30pm with a 20 minute interval.  
Please come and have a picnic in the garden beforehand. The gate will open at 5.30pm.

Tickets cost £25 per head, and school-age children are free.  
The play is fully sponsored so All ticket proceeds go to the Ashmolean.

Brush up on your Shakespeare trivia, quotes and facts – there may be another quiz sheet to win a bottle of Prosecco.

### BOOKING FORM

Please send completed form to:

Jessica Mannix, Cherry Tree Cottage, High Street, Romsden, Chipping Norton, OX7 3AR

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**HENRY V** \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets (@£25 each) \_\_\_\_\_ Children attending (free) \_\_\_\_\_ £ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to add an additional donation \_\_\_\_\_ £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total £ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Account Number: 29490560**  
**Sort Code: 30-94-72**  
Please use your surname as a reference

Please tick the box if you would like to hear about next year's performance.

Your data will only be used for administrative purposes for this play and will be destroyed immediately afterwards unless you have requested to be notified about next year's performance.

Saturday, 10th July 2021 from 5.30pm

## North Leigh Roman Villa's secrets revealed in guide book

A 200-year-old guide book revealing details of a large and luxurious Roman villa has recently been rediscovered.

It details the North Leigh Roman Villa in Oxfordshire, which had a total of 60 rooms.

The fragile document was found in the Blenheim Palace archive and once belonged to the then Duke of Marlborough.

The ruins of the villa were excavated in 1813, but within a week most of its mosaic floor was pilfered by locals. It was unearthed by architect Henry Hakewill and once included three bath suites, 16 rooms containing mosaics and 11 others with under-floor heating.

Hakewill wrote a guide after the dig was completed, which includes drawings of the villa's long-lost decoration and layout.

Recalling its discovery, Hakewill wrote in the guide: "The pavement was entire, except a small part... but such was the eager curiosity of the country people who, on the Sunday following the discovery, flocked in crowds to the spot, that before any precautions could be adopted the pavement was much injured."

The report was discovered by Blenheim archivist Dr Alexa Frost, who found it "while going through a collection of uncatalogued papers".

"It's complete and it tells a fascinating story of what the site looked like at the time it was first excavated," she said.

She added: "You can faintly make out the words 'His Grace the Duke of Marlborough' on the front of the guide so it's probably his original copy, which may well have been presented to him by Hakewill himself."

Matthew Lee, from North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteers, called the rediscovery "tremendously exciting".

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*“The old order changeth  
yielding place to new And God  
fulfills himself in many ways  
Lest one good custom should  
corrupt the world.”*

That is a short quote from Tennyson’s poem ‘Morte d’ Arthur’ which I love. The words have been on my mind a lot lately as I contemplate the closure of The Forest Edge News. Perhaps there is no need for a ‘church newsletter’ anymore? Is it simply out of date?

If this is indeed the last issue ( and even at this late stage I still live in hope!) then I want to thank so many people for their help and support. Thanks to everyone who has ever sent articles or ideas for articles, photographs or information which I have been able to follow up. Thanks to the regular, loyal group of crossword solvers and those who have done it occasionally. Keith, our printer, who put up with a great deal in terms of my technical knowledge (lack of!) Ian who has looked after the advertisers and the financial side of the newsletter and everyone involved in delivering it. And, of course, thanks to the proof readers, Paul and Brian!

Covid has made a huge difference and over the last year the church has been advising against door to door deliveries. Advertisers (and we thank them too, of course!) have had several months free of charge as readership has fallen. Hopefully this will soon change and if some Knight in shining armour or Angel with a key board does come forward to save the day, we will be back in print before long. I have made mistakes during my time as Editor but I

have really enjoyed the role. In ‘my’ first ever edition I ran a colouring competition. (See left )It did not receive a single entry so there were no more colouring competitions! The old order changeth indeed! **John**



## Concerts in Christchurch Instruments of Time and Truth

To celebrate our return to live performance, we will be running a chamber concert every Thursday evening in the beautiful surroundings of Christ Church Cathedral throughout July and the first half of August.



The series will feature instrumental and vocal music by Bach, Biber, Böhm, Couperin, Mozart, Purcell, Walther, Westhoff and more.

Free tickets are available for every concert for audience members aged 8-25 thanks to the support of the CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust.

Thursday, July 8, 2021 - 20:00  
Thursday, July 15, 2021 - 20:00  
Thursday, July 22, 2021 - 20:00  
Thursday, July 29, 2021 - 20:00  
Thursday, August 5, 2021 - 20:00  
Thursday, August 12, 2021 - 20:00  
Christ Church Cathedral

For more information go to: <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/events/oxfordscathedral/instruments-time-and-truth>

## Bishop of Liverpool calls for gender-neutral marriage canon

THE Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Revd Paul Bayes, has called for a gender-neutral marriage canon in the Church of England and the universal blessing of same-sex unions “as a necessary but not sufficient first step” towards equality in the Church.



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## Crossword Corner

The winner of last month's book token and the first name out of the hat, was Elizabeth Bigwood from Mount Skippett.

Congratulations to her.

This puzzle might well be the last. Who knows? But please send your answers to me as usual: John Hook, The Old Vicarage, Wilcote Lane, Ramsden, OX7 3BA or [johnianrupert@hotmail.com](mailto:johnianrupert@hotmail.com)

The solution to the last puzzle was **Across**

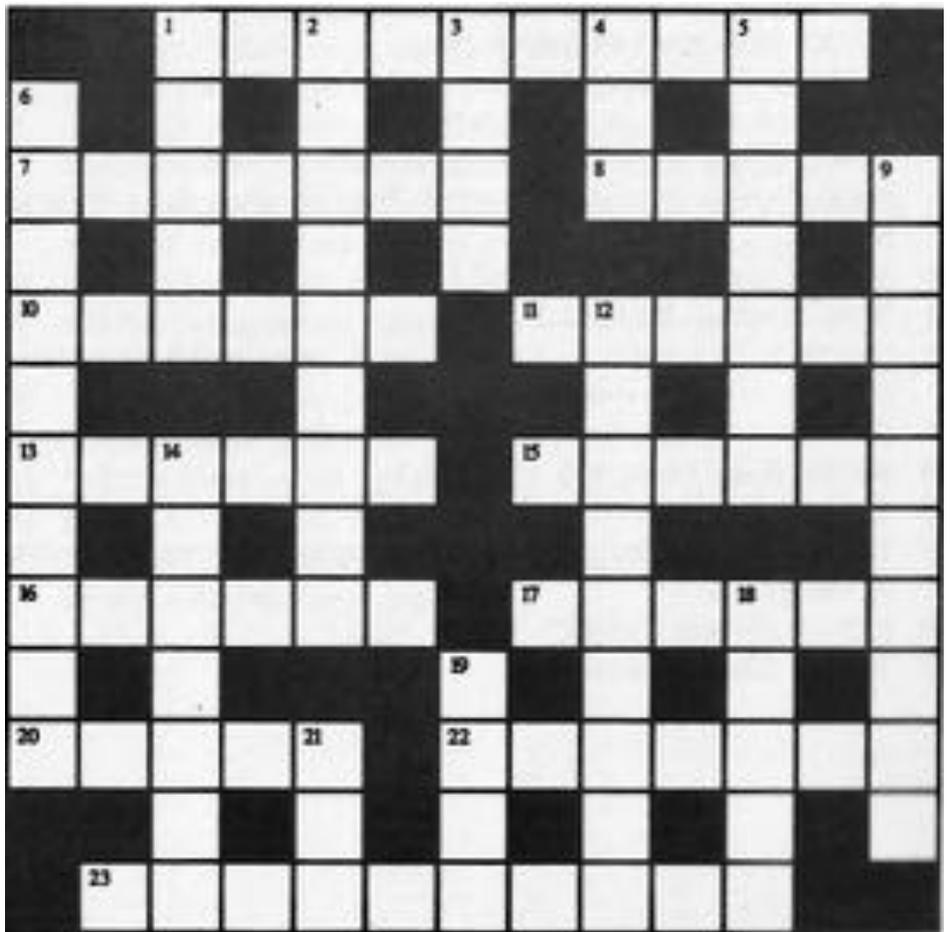
1. Acre 3. Checks 9. Iceland 10. Meant 11. Ewe  
12. Hard Times 13. Annual 14. Bloody 16.  
Rejoicing 19. Fat 21. Hondo 22. Washing 23.  
Motifs 24. Pear **Down** 1. Abide 2. Roedean 4.  
Hematologist 5. Charm 6. Satisfy 7.  
Rachmaninoff 8. Oder 13. Abraham  
15. Offside 17. Janet 18. Iowa 20. Tiger

### Clues Across

1. It might be covered in a veil, this place Evelyn Waugh revisited. (10)  
7. King David wept when his third son was killed in battle. "Would I had died for you, O ....., my son, my son! (2 Samuel 18:33). (7)  
8. Military music for a mad hare? (5)  
10. Either of two spiral-horned antelopes of the African bush (6)  
11. Make of Butter essential to a ship (6)  
13. Valuable possessions (6)  
15. Type of bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (6)  
16. "Glory to God, who ..... to bless" The people of Copenhagen we hear (6)  
17. "Love....." is a popular hymn by Charles Wesley (6)  
20. Cockney wife is from The Netherlands (5)  
22. Fruit which can make you go crazy (7)  
23. A device that partly or wholly eliminates electrical interference. Or perhaps a dictator? (10)

### Clues Down

1. Aah! Gravy (5)  
2. Dirty money "..... gains" (3.6.)  
3. An award for outstanding achievements in television (4)  
4. Poor actor might appear in a sandwich (3)  
5. Isaac's father and Christian name of famous U.S president (7)  
6. An insincere compliment can be like hitting a tennis ball (10)  
9. Bad luck, like parmesan (4.6.)  
12. Trust nine to get source of growth in food for animals and plants (9)  
14. Lap dog whose name, inappropriately, means 'little lion' (7)  
18. HM The Queen follows a pub inside (5)  
19. Being proficient makes you sound like Cain's brother (4)  
21. Trendy body part might be seen in the hedgerow (3)



## The Lord's my shepherd

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son, Timmy, walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence, but yet know that he was safe.

Her neighbour learned about the mother's dilemma and offered to follow the young boy to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

"I'm up early with my toddler anyway; it will be a good way for us to get some exercise as well," said the neighbour. The relieved mother agreed. The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another young boy he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the boys walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally, he said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is."

The friend said, "Well, who is she?"

"That's just Shirley Goodnest," Timmy replied. "And her daughter Marcy."

"Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?"

"Well," Timmy explained. "Every night, my mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, because she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life,' so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!"



