

Benefice News



Issue 6 – July 2024



News and Reflections from across the Benefice

Reflections from the Rector

In the Bible we are repeatedly introduced to the idea of God as a Shepherd who nurtures and leads his sheep (us!) In the Gospel of John (10:3-5) Jesus tells his disciples that “The one who guards the door opens it for him. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he brings all his sheep out, he goes ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger. They will run away from him because they don’t know his voice.”

Part of the great adventure of faith that being a follower of Jesus is, is growing to know and to recognise the voice of God; to hear his voice speak into our lives today and to know his gentle guidance and wisdom.

God speaks to us today; and he can speak to us in many different ways. I wonder, when was the last time you heard God speak to you? What did God say?

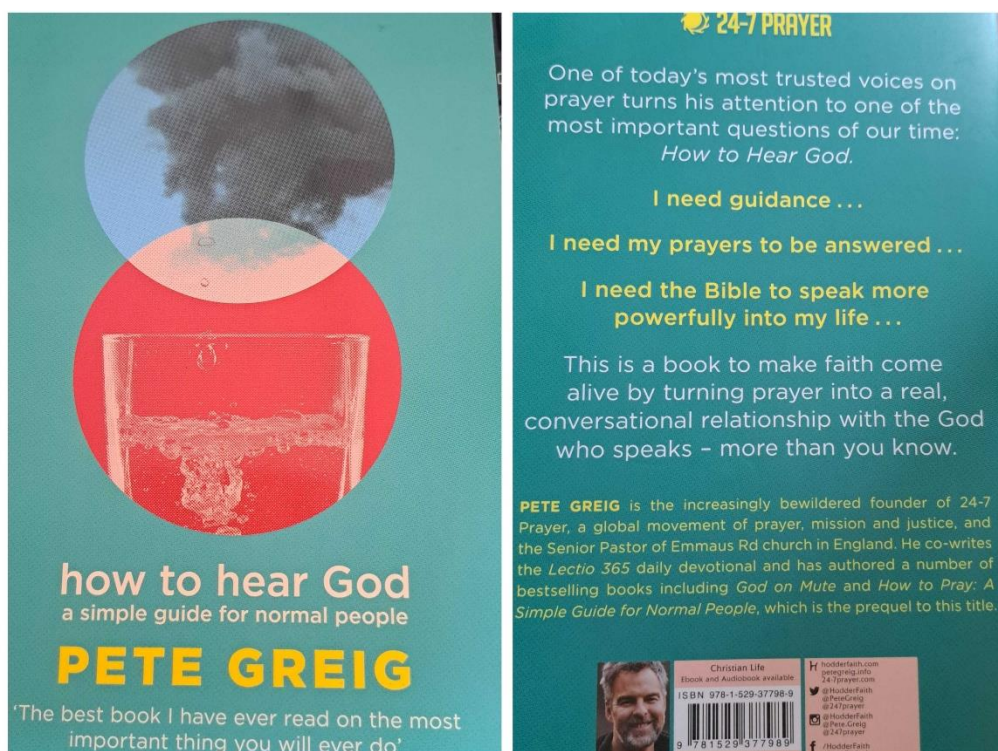
Learning to know God’s voice – and to distinguish it from the many other temptations and voices of this world – is something which takes time and practice as we grow in faith and in our relationship with God, our Good Shepherd and Heavenly Father.

Some of us will be reading a book together over the summer called 'How to Hear God: a simple guide for normal people' by Pete Greig and you would be very welcome to join us!

Over five sessions we'll be exploring how we can better hear the voice of God as we read the Bible, through the prophetic, through dreams and the unconscious, as well as how we can hear God's whisper in community, creation and culture.

We'll be reading set chapters in our own time and then meeting to discuss and explore together on alternate Thursday evenings: **18th July, 1st August, 15th August, 29th August and 12th September.**

This is open to everyone across the Benefice - and beyond - who would like to explore with us what it means to hear God in our day-to-day lives of faith.



If you wish to order book via Church contact Lloyd who will be able to order at a competitive price .

Don't forget to check out the Book shop on Pathway website where you can order Books and more 😊 .

PARISH NEWS

COATES: Holy Trinity

As usual at this time of year we have been busy in the churchyard trying to keep up with the rapid growth of grass and brambles.

We are also taking note of all the animals and plants in the area so that when we go for the next award we have a record.

One recent visitor is Dave the deer.

Our coffee morning on Saturday was successful (£231) despite not having many visitors as we were able to sell one of the water colour prints by David Green which we had been gifted for fund raising purposes.



We still have the other print if anyone is interested.

We are now looking forward to our Rake and Refreshments event which will be held on Saturday 3rd August. Anyone who comes along to help in the graveyard will be provided with refreshments. Even if you can only spare Half an hour we would be pleased to see you.

PONDERSBRIDGE: St Thomas

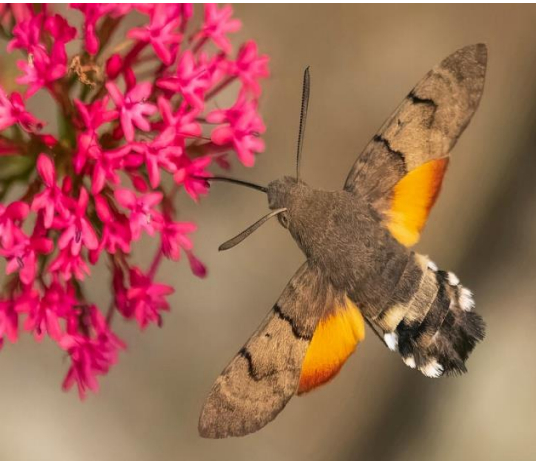
PONDERSBRIDGE: St Thomas - feedback from PCC meeting 16th June 2024 where the following was discussed:

- PCC Code of Conduct
- Ministry within the Parish
- Reflection on our worship – how we might look to develop an occasional service more suitable for families
- DAC visit looking at how we might fix the church floor and structure underneath - we await the written report from the DAC.

St Thomas Churchyard - Pondersbridge



The Churchyard at St Thomas, is now being managed as a haven for both wildlife and humans, with exciting results. This photo is of a Lime Tree Hawk Moth, common but beautiful, found on a tree bark. Whilst the one below is a rarely seen Hummingbird Hawk Moth, a magnificent find, taking nectar from a valerian flower and seen among the butterfly bushes.



The bug hotels are in use, and various discarded bird nesting materials twigs, moss, wool, litter the church steps each day. Areas of common grasses left uncut, are now in flower. Their heads sway in the wind, resembling gentle waves upon the sea, a peaceful tranquillity, which draws your mind away from the tarmac jungle beyond the now mature but finely trimmed privet hedge. Pheasants strut through headstones and jewel encrusted cobwebs as they following the morning sun. Muntjac and Roe

Deer find restful shelter. To end the show the fading evening light brings us the aerobic flight of our nocturnal Bats, just as a Barn Owl silently glides past looking for her next meal. This truly is "GODS ACRE" all for free and for us to enjoy.

"Echoes From The Past" Concert update



Thank you to EVERYONE who supported this great uplifting event. It was good to see so many from the Benefice, past and present, as you helped to raise an amazing £1,200, with all proceeds going to the local branch of (CPSL) MIND.

The occasion enjoyed a full house, an array of homemade refreshments, two encores and a well deserved standing ovation for the group.

Our thanks also go to the Ely Diocese Website, as in response to a write up and Concert Poster seen on Peter Leech's weekly "Ministry Mailing", the band were approached to give concerts at two venues, across the Diocese. Paul, our churchwarden and drummer in the group then provided them with sample recordings, with positive outcomes.

Breakfast Gathering

With numbers increasing each month, we asked why people come to our gathering on a Saturday morning once a month. They have told us – it’s an uplifting and enjoyable morning! Wide choice of hot food; a relaxed atmosphere; it is good just to be able to sit and catch up with old and also make new friends; being served and appreciated by a welcoming band of committed helpers, six in all.

Our next “Breakfast Gathering” is Saturday 27th July serving between 9.00 – 10.00 am. And the consequences of our success are, we may have to consider limiting numbers as 49 people attended in June.

For information or to book a seat you can email carolturner208@btinternet.com or call 01733 844 or Paul on 07720719420.

Church Building

Some of you may know that some structural work is needed at St Thomas’ Church. On 4th June members of the DAC, Heritage and our architect, spent two and half hours, with us, viewing the intriguing structure beneath the floor and puzzling intricacies around the building. They declared it a welcoming, lively, well kept, interesting church, which is worth keeping and are very keen to get it removed from the “At Risk” register. We await the result of those conversations. Equally exciting, we have a village church wedding to look forward to this month.

Summer Break



With school holidays around the corner, we will once again give families in our community the opportunity of a stress free day or two, when we can share in activities, discussions and meals. We use both our church building and the village hall premises, which allows us a greater capacity for providing a variety of events. We look forward to sharing this with you as the year progresses. We chose to drop the Scarecrow Festival this year and to look at alternative interests.

WHITTLESEY: St Andrew



Friends of St. Andrew's Church Whittlesey



Afternoon Tea Saturday 22nd June 2024

All money raised by the "Friends" goes to towards equipment for the Church and the Hall. Thanks to all those who supported this venture.



Afternoon Tea served in St. Andrew's Church.

All homemade cakes served on beautiful vintage china tea service

Members of the Community enjoying tea and a gossip



The Café area in St. Andrew's Church

WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS THE BENEFICE

Boiler Room Zoom Prayers 09.30 Tuesdays & Fridays

Morning Prayers for Pathway Church ,this is to be a regular event were you may pray on your own or join us on Zoom you can do this by going to:

www.pathway-church.co.uk/theboilerroom and clicking on the link to join the video call or using the details here:

Meeting ID: 869 6270 3256

Password: Worship

A short order of service is available at all of the Churches for you to take away and use. We are praying that our community may be Blessed.

Stay curious, try Alpha.



The current Alpha has now come to an end, all those attending fed back they had enjoyed the Alpha experience and felt positive about exploring a life with Christ further.

This Alpha was fully subscribed if you are curious to find out more or know someone who may be interested then speak to one of ministry team about booking for the next one or you can book through Alpha website.

Alpha is a great way to explore Faith and Jesus with others sharing friendship and food in a relaxed environment enabling you to explore Faith without pressure.

Date for diary 21st Sept 2024

Proposed trip to Walsingham, Norfolk to visit The Anglican Shrine of our Lady Of Walsingham were we can attend service and take Holy Water if desired.

This trip would rely on enough drivers willing to Car share we have 2 drivers offering and have a couple of spaces left. I shall confirm timings and details in August newsletter .

I anticipate leaving Whittlesey approx. 9am and returning approx. 5pm there is option to book lunch in the refectory or take picnic . If interested please email belinda.clapperton@pathway-church.co.uk .

www.walsinghamabbey.com - here is website address to view for info sept is a day Pilgrimage there is no cost to attend services and a meal can be booked in the Refectory I shall source menu and costs. I have been before and found the experience spiritual would recommend.



Friends of St. Andrew's Church
Whittlesey

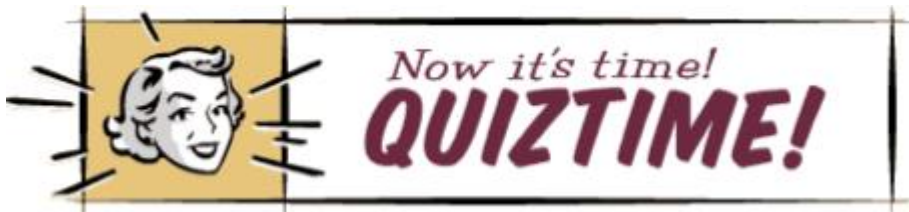


QUIZ NIGHT

AT ST. ANDREW'S HALL

ON SATURDAY 27th July 2024

7.00pm for 7.30pm.start



**CASH PRIZE for WINNING TEAM
RAFFLE**



**BRING YOUR OWN
BANQUET AND BEVERAGES**



**TEAMS OF UP TO 6, TICKETS £5.00 PER PERSON
TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE**

RING LYNN 07767 373264 OR PAT 01733 203152

There is still time to book for next Ride & Stride, the date for the next annual Ride & Stride: **Saturday 14th September 2024** – you don't have to Ride or Stride – do whatever you have the time. We will be opening the churches in support on the day.



To see some of the highlights from the 2023 day, or send your own images and stories from the day please visit the Trust's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CambsHCT/> or email canonannettereed@gmail.com.

For more details about the Trust visit our website where you can become a member and/or take out Gift Membership, go to <https://camhct.uk/>.

Any info or additions for August (yes August !) can you please email me by 20 July Belinda.clapperton@pathway-church.co.uk.

Contact Us

For general enquiries, please contact:

hello@pathway-church.co.uk or (01733) 205337

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Services and Events for July

Sunday 7th Trinity 6	9:30am	Morning Praise	Holy Trinity, Coates
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11am	Sunday Worship w/ Baptism	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	4pm	Messy Church	Queen St Church
	6pm	Evening Praise	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Tuesday 9th	10am-12	Friends of St Andrew's Coffee Morning in the Hall	
Saturday 13th	1pm	Wedding of Jade and Martin	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Sunday 14th Trinity 7	9:30am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Coates
	9:30am	Morning Praise	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11am	Sunday Worship w/ Holy Com.	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	11am	Morning Praise	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Monday 15th	9-11am	Trinity Tots – Teddy Bears Picnic	Holy Trinity, Coates
Wednesday 17th	2pm	Park Lane Leavers Service	St Mary's, Whittlesey
Thursday 18th	6pm	Wedding Rehearsal	St Mary's, Whittlesey
Saturday 20th	2pm	Wedding of Josh and Ashleigh	St Mary's, Whittlesey
Sunday 21st Trinity 8	9:30am	Morning Praise	Holy Trinity, Coates
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11am	Sunday Worship w/ Baptism followed by Bring & Share Lunch	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	6pm	Evening Praise	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Saturday 27th	9am	Pondersbridge Breakfast	Pondersbridge Hall
	7:30pm	St Andrew's Quiz	St Andrew's Hall
Sunday 28th Trinity 9	9:30am	Morning Praise	Holy Trinity, Coates
	9:30am	Morning Praise	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11am	Sunday Worship w/ Baptism	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	11am	Holy Communion	St Thomas, Pondersbridge