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# CROSSPIECE



The Parish Magazine of St James's Church, Cambridge

October— November 2021

Issue No.106

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### Words from the Vicarage

Dear Readers,

Recently I visited Coventry and so spent some time discovering the Cathedral there. I had never been before and I found myself profoundly moved by the experience. The cathedral was burnt and largely destroyed by a bombing raid during the Second World War. The day after that happened (literally, the day after) the staff made a commitment not only to rebuild the cathedral but to rebuild relationships with those who are at war with one another.

The special focus of the cathedral's work springs from a history of responding to violence and destruction not with words of revenge or retaliation, but with a desire for reconciliation and shared penitence. Since 1940, the cathedral has been working with others to help establish relationships with Germany in the years immediately following the Second World War. Today, the cathedral's reconciliation priorities are listed as

- Healing the wounds of history
- Learning to live with difference and celebrating diversity
- Building a culture of peace

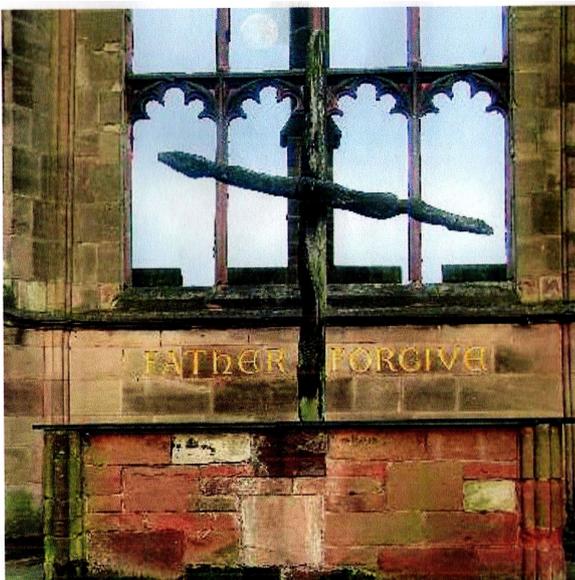
Much of the cathedral's work stems from the core Biblical text "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself (God's-self) through

Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5.18)

As we look towards a season of remembrance, which incorporates All Saints Day (1<sup>st</sup> Nov but celebrated in our church on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct), All Souls' Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Nov), Armistice Day (11<sup>th</sup> Nov) and Remembrance Sunday (14<sup>th</sup> Nov), we might consider how remembering those who have died might also incorporate a commitment to a healing process. When we worship together on Remembrance Sunday it is usual to make a pledge for peace, which is listed in the C of E liturgical resource, *Times and Seasons* as 'Responding in Hope and Commitment'. Part of that commitment is to ask God to receive our fears, to enable us to accept hope, and to give us courage as we try to live out lives of justice and mercy.

I'm not sure how I can live out that commitment – I probably take the easy way out too often – but I wonder if what I witnessed and learnt about at Coventry cathedral might change the way I work with ideas of healing and peace-making? I'm hopeful that it will, and that's a good place to start from.

**Revd Steven Rothwell**



After the bombing the cathedral stonemason, Jock Forbes, saw two charred wooden beams from the roof timbers lying in the shape of a cross and tied them together.

This cross in the sanctuary of the cathedral ruins is a replica of the Charred Cross and has replaced the original in the ruins of the old cathedral on an altar made of rubble. The original is now kept on the stairs linking the cathedral with St Michael's Hall.

### Memorial gift



This beautiful communion set was given to St James Church by the Robertson family in memory of Stan and Joan, who were founder members of the church and who worshipped here faithfully throughout their lives.

This gift of silverware reminds us of the many years that Joan came to the church to clean the existing church silver and keep it sparkling and beautiful. This was a task she undertook unseen in the peace and quiet of an often empty church during a weekday morning.

This gift is a home communion set, which clergy or lay communion ministers can take into people's homes to administer communion to those unable to get to a Eucharistic service in church.

Look out too for the plaque near the church entrance which gives thanks for those who were the nucleus of the newly formed St James Church back in 1955.

### Ecochurch: how do we respond?

The recent surprising summer flooding in northern Europe and China, the heat waves and devastating forest fires in the USA and Canada have brought home to many of us anew the reality of the effects of global warming and climate change.

The COP 26 conference on climate change takes place in Glasgow in the first part of November – can we leave it all to the world’s governments? It is understandable to ask, ‘What can we as individuals do to prevent further world-wide disaster?’ But unless all of us, as individuals, are prepared to change we won’t meet the crisis effectively. The good news is that acting collectively as citizens, as voters, as consumers we can make the necessary changes. Much of the science and technology already exists: what is needed are the will and the action.

One organisation we belong to is St James Church. The Anglican Church as a whole has already committed itself to fighting climate change by urging all its congregations to review what they can do - in their worship, in the management of their buildings and their land, and in their relations with their communities. Churches can set an example, be a ‘beacon’ of good practice, in their neighbourhoods everywhere. One way to implement this process is by recommending that churches adopt a policy promoted by ‘A Rocha’.

‘A Rocha’ (The Rock) is an organisation that sets out to stimulate all churches to take seriously their duty of care for God’s creation. They do this by asking churches to respond to a questionnaire on how each church stands in relation to its use of the resources of the world. This comes in 4 parts, asking us to think about how we express our care in:

- ◆ **Our worship and teaching**
- ◆ **How we manage our buildings**
- ◆ **How we manage our land**
- ◆ **How we interact with our community locally and globally**

Churches can go on to qualify individually for bronze, silver and gold status according to the extent to which they fulfil the targets. Other churches near here are working towards this and we can benefit by contacting other churches in our deanery and seeing how they have put this into practice, especially in small ways that do not involve us any expense.

We have already made progress in terms of our buildings. We have increased the insulation in the nave roof, installed a new and much more efficient boiler, and replaced both our entrances with up-to-date double glazed units. A few windows are already double-glazed and we have started the process of replacing all the remaining windows in the same way. These changes will make the church cheaper to heat, and warm for less fuel, and will reduce our carbon footprint.

This article suggests that we should look carefully at our grounds. In terms of acting as a beacon, the grounds are particularly important. Changes we have made to our building are not obvious: those to our grounds can be noticed by all. One step could be to install water butts on the downspouts for watering the plants when we can. (We have one butt in waiting, courtesy of Pam). Planting in the raised beds could be more sustainable with drought-resistant plants such as herbs that we could use. This is a process in which everyone can be involved. It encourages small decisions at an individual level. We can look and protect. A bee orchid was spotted by our curate in the lawn not long ago.

Moving in this direction fits with many other actions in society and the local community. There are tiny meadows now alongside some roads which used to be mown short. School children especially will have been thinking about ways to sustain our environment and will have many good ideas— rightly so since they will inherit the results of our decisions.

*(Continued on page 5)*

Our PCC have been and will be giving serious consideration to these matters, and if you wish to express an opinion or become actively involved please speak to a PCC member, or to Mary and myself as this is something dear to our hearts.

**Michael and Mary Smale**



To explore the ideas a bit more try the following:

**A Rocha:**

<https://www.arocha.org/en/projects/eco-church/>

and for its Cambridge Centre:  
<https://www.cccw.cam.ac.uk/encounter/creationcare/>

**Talk by Cambridge University climate specialist**

Dr Joanna Depledge given recently at St John's Hills Road

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOKJt0EjIB8>

**Tearfund:**

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign>

**CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology)**

<https://www.cat.org.uk/>

For a **short film on world climate** see:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CRzLtiHILNV/>

**Episcopal Church:**

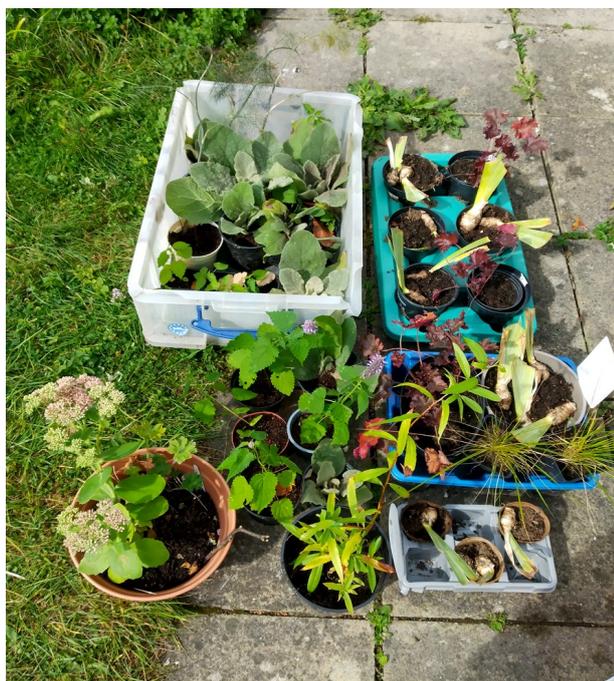
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/>

**We are not alone:**

<https://www.positive.news/environment/rewilding-map-reveals-scale-of-english-project-to-restore-nature/>

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## Good News Gardens



The Church of England has long recognised how useful churchyards and gardens can be in boosting biodiversity and caring for the local environment. I'm sure you may have seen a beautiful old churchyard somewhere, full of wildflowers and buzzing with bees. More recently, especially since the days of the first Covid lockdown, the Church of England's leadership has stressed how the outdoor spaces owned by the church can contribute to community mental health. This might mean providing a beautiful space for people to enjoy as they walk by or through it or sit on a bench to ponder. It might mean providing opportunities for people to garden, either alone or in community on church grounds.

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The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral has provided Morning Prayer online daily, broadcasting deliberately in almost every weather from the cathedral gardens in order to give people shut inside their daily “fix” of nature. These gardens and orchards are home to chickens, turkeys and even pigs, as well as a cheeky cat who regularly dips a paw in the Dean’s milk jug!

However, the Anglican church in Britain currently has no organised gardening ministry. Fortunately, due to a combination of factors, St James has been invited to join **Good News Gardens**, which is not just the gardening branch of the Anglican church in the USA but the agrarian one too, encompassing everything from farms down to private gardens and even window boxes alongside church gardens. We would be the first UK church to join.

The guiding framework for Good News Gardens is **Pray, Plant, Proclaim**. The **Pray** part is about prayerfully considering what needs the garden/farm/window box can meet. Can it combat food poverty by distributing extra food to a food bank? Can it provide habitats for wildlife or nectar for bees or butterflies? Can it address local mental health needs in the ways outlined above? Once those decisions have been made, it’s time to **Plant!** Finally, it’s worth thinking about what **Proclaiming** actually looks like. You may know the old quotation: “Preach the gospel in all the world. If necessary, use words.” Here are some things we could potentially proclaim with the outside space at church.

**God is Creator.** We can proclaim God as creator by caring for his creation. This could mean planting with wildlife in mind, including pollinators, using water wisely and avoiding using chemicals which are poisonous to wildlife. Signage to explain what we are doing such as is used at Nightingale Community garden could be considered. What might this look like in practice? It does not have to mean leaving the current space to rack and ruin to be covered in nettles and brambles although leaving discreet areas where the grass is allowed to grow long and the nettles thrive is one option.

Thankfully we have huge expertise from

the local community garden as to an approach that can look both cared for and attractive as



Bee orchids growing in unmown grass

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well as improving on our biodiversity, reducing our carbon footprint, using water wisely and planting for a warming and more extreme climate. Much of this is down to plant (and compost!) choice. There are very many plants which are not weeds but which look beautiful to humans and equally attractive to bees. A bed of long-flowering perennials can provide months of easy-to-maintain colour and attractive winter structure which provides habitat to hedgehogs and insects. There are lovely ways to fill planters, such as Mediterranean herbs and ornamental grasses, which do not need watering every day, even in hot weather. Leaving seed heads standing into the winter rather than “tidying up” beds in the autumn can provide food for birds without a bird-feeder in sight. Best of all, many of these types of plants have been offered to us for free by the community garden plus volunteer hours and organisation.

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**God is Love;** We can proclaim that God is Love by caring for people. We can do this by creating a place of beauty to contribute to our neighbours' mental health. We can create community around the garden project and offer opportunities to contribute to individuals' mental health both through the act of gardening and through belonging to a team of volunteers. We can do this by addressing climate change and biodiversity in service to future generations and by passing on gardening knowledge to the next generation. We can give hope to parents and grandparents, concerned about the state of the planet they are leaving to their children and grandchildren.

#### **Garden twinning;**

Most people are familiar with the idea of twinning towns in different countries but what is garden twinning? And how is St James involved? The honest answer is that we're figuring this out as we go along. Garden twinning is not an established scheme like town twinning

(as far as we know!) but an idea that grew out of a friendship. Jennie Brandon, who already volunteers at Nightingale Community Garden, was asked by her sister-in-law, Carla, to help redesign the outdoor space at her church in Hither Green, SE London. The space in question was derelict, overgrown and dangerous with soil full of broken glass and rubble from fly-tipping. The area is very urban, impoverished and built-up with few outdoor spaces and a very diverse population. The church building is a huge, Victorian barn with a large community hall behind it. As Jennie and her sister-in-law got to work, members of St James

got to hear about the project and offered plants and advice for the London garden. The youth group which includes Jennie's children, have planned a trip in October to plant 300 bulbs and assorted plants on the site. As Jennie and Carla talked about the guiding principle for the London garden, they realised that two very different churches in two very different communities, nevertheless had very similar concerns. The London congregation were excited to plant for pollinators, harvest water from their enormous roof and create spaces for both peaceful contemplation and meaningful work within the grounds. In

their case, they had identified on their Mission Action Plan that the church premises should support the ten families in their church who regularly attended with autistic children. This made the sensory side of their garden important as well as offering therapeutic gardening opportunities.

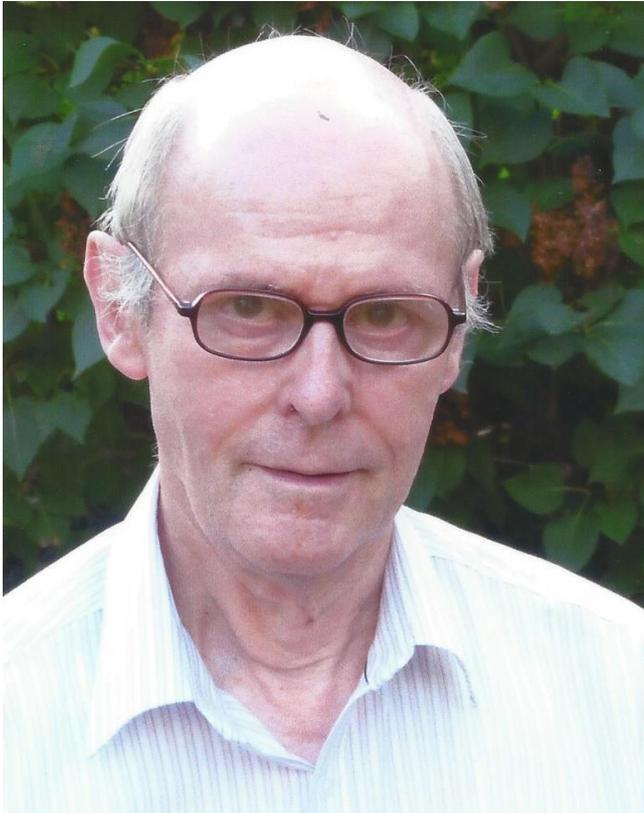
Jennie and Carla initially joked that the London and Cambridge gardens should be twinned but then realised that a more formal plan to do that could provide great blessings to both congregations and this was recently approved by St James PCC. St Swithun's are now also exploring joining Good News Gardens. A church member from the large Jamaican contingent at the London church is creating a Caribbean feast for the youth group visit, giving the youth a chance to broaden their cultural experience as well as get their hands dirty. Members of St James have already started to deliver plants to Jennie's garden, ready to take down to London in October. It's an idea that can be developed as it goes along but, as Humphrey Bogart says at the end of Casablanca, "This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship."



Gardeners Carla and Jennie

## Tribute to Jonathan Pinhey

9th December 1933 — 12 July 2021



Jonathan Pinhey was born on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1933 in Lelant, Cornwall. His mother returned to India, taking Jonathan with her to join his father who was serving with the British Army. Two sisters and a brother were born later.

Jonathan was taught by his mother until the age of nine and then sent to the Tyndale Biscoe School in Kashmir which involved a two-day journey by train across India on his own, looked after by the guard and joined by other boys at intervals. When the war ended he returned to England on a troop ship and joined West Downs prep school, Winchester, which was at the time evacuated to Blair Castle in Perthshire. This was his introduction to the Cairngorms and the start of his enduring love of Scottish mountains.

In 1947 he started at Wellington College where he excelled at Classics and Mathematics as well as athletics. Following two years of

National Service as an officer in the Royal Engineers, when he much enjoyed building bridges, Jonathan went up to Queens' College, Cambridge in 1954 to read Mathematics. He followed this with the Dip. Ed. which he said gave him plenty of time to read books on all subjects. While at Cambridge, he embarked on an expedition to Scotland with members of the mountaineering club. He still reminisced about this decades later: not just the climbing which he enjoyed hugely but the long journey in a Mini with three other men, all well over six foot tall and each with a large rucksack. He also hitchhiked frequently in his youth and took various summer jobs including working for Canadian Railways in Montreal.

In 1956 he met Judith Livie, who was training to teach History and English at Homerton College, on a punting expedition with the Cambridge Pastorate based at Holy Trinity Church. They taught in Leeds before their marriage in Norwich in 1959 and then honeymooned in the Scilly Isles. Julia was born in 1960. After a year's training with the Church Missionary Society (CMS), Jonathan and Judith served in Pakistan where he taught maths at Edwardes College, Peshawar, returning to England by sea two years later with the addition of Nicholas who was born in Pakistan in 1962. Jonathan took teaching jobs in Hurstpierpoint, where Rachel was born in 1965, and Lichfield where he was Head of Maths.

In 1970, Jonathan moved with his family to Cambridge to teach at the Perse School. Given the flatness of the fens, he was always on the lookout for opportunities to visit mountains. He helped to lead adventurous training for the

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Combined Cadet Force in France, Austria, Norway, Wales and Scotland. Camping in the Cairngorms in winter was a particular delight for him as it involved ice axes, crampons and digging snow holes in which to shelter. He also organised cross-country running, always running with the boys (which they appreciated) rather than standing around with a stopwatch, and was involved with the Christian Union.

Jonathan was Secretary of the Cambridge branch of the Mathematical Association for 15 years during a very active period in its history. He also continued his involvement with the CMS through the Cambridge prayer group. For 51 years, Jonathan was a faithful member of St James's Church and served in many ways. He was on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at various times, ran the bookstall and Gift Aid, was part of the team which restarted the magazine (and suggested its name "Crosspiece"), to mention just some of his involvement.

He retired early from teaching in 1989 because of illness but, using his facility for languages, he secured two part-time jobs writing abstracts in English of scientific articles for the Scott Polar Research Institute and The Welding Institute. The former role enabled him to expand his vocabulary in a number of languages, for example Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Icelandic, Greenlandic and Sami.

He was well known for his eccentric and slightly parsimonious approach to life. Returning to his parents' home as a student one term he was spotted transporting his suitcase from the station in a wheelbarrow, having already been home to collect the wheelbarrow and thus avoided paying for a taxi. He also rented his football to his younger brother for a fee. He saw Christmas presents for Judith as an opportunity for invention, one year hanging her new garden seat in a tree as a surprise. Another year he planted a bush in the garden and ran a very

long string from it to a handwritten label placed under the Christmas tree.

He would take us as children on "mystery tours", starting at home, meandering around various streets in the neighbourhood and ending up at home. Family holidays were always arranged near mountains and/or coastal walks and so he passed on his love of walking and adventure. He was always extremely cheerful in the mornings. His method of waking us was to shout loudly "Wakey, wakey! Rise and shine! Feet on the deck!" which generally resulted in recumbent teenagers disappearing further under the bedclothes. This was followed by an enthusiastic rendition of one of his favourite tunes such as "Scotland the Brave", "Sosban fach" (in Welsh) or the Pirate King from *Pirates of Penzance*.

Jonathan's love of learning coupled with his exceptionally retentive memory gave him encyclopaedic knowledge of a very wide range of subjects. The University Library in Cambridge was one of his favourite places, closely followed by secondhand bookshops.

His sense of humour was also well-loved and sometimes a little obscure. He also noted that he was: "As old as Donald Duck and King Kong".

Jonathan retired fully in 2003, and in 2013 he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. It seemed particularly cruel that Alzheimer's gradually robbed him of both his extensive memory and his mathematical knowledge. Judith cared for him at home throughout his years of illness until the last few months of his life when he needed 24-hour care. He died peacefully in Addenbrooke's Hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 after a short, but severe, bout of pneumonia.

**Julia Fletcher**

(Jonathan's daughter)

**Spot the difference:**

The path to St Swithun's church is transformed



**BRASS BAND CONCERT**  
**By the Cottenham Brass Band**  
**in aid of the RNLI**

7.30pm Friday 29 October  
at St John's Church Hills Road

Cost: £10 includes coffee and tea in interval

Tickets @from Geoff Heathcock  
[geoff.heathcock88@gmx.com](mailto:geoff.heathcock88@gmx.com)  
or at 52 Queen Edith's Way

**Contacts at St James's Church****Priest in charge:**

Revd Steve Rothwell 246419  
email: s.rothwell3@btinternet.com

**Curates:**

Revd Anne Strauss  
email: stjamescurate@gmail.com

Revd Rosie Hewitt  
email: rosie.sjww@gmail.com

**Churchwarden:**

Hatty Harris 01223 504720  
Email: harrishatty458@gmail.com

**Pastoral Assistants:**

Rosemary Monk 246421

**Church Office:**

246419, Mon, Wed & Thur 9.15 am - 1.15 pm  
e-mail: stjameschurchcambridge@yahoo.co.uk

**Website:** <http://stjamescambridge.org.uk>

**Safeguarding officer:**

Jill Bradley 07971 013645  
email: happybeadsuk@gmail.com

**Director of Music:** Position vacant

**The Music Group:**

Grae Worster on mgw1@cam.ac.uk and 846295

**Church & Community Activities**

**NB: these may still be suspended.**

**Choir practice:**

Mondays 6.30 – 7.30pm

**Meditation group:** Fridays 1.30-2.00

**Beavers (6-8 yrs):**

16thcmbridgebeavers@gmail.com

**Cubs (8-11 yrs) at QE School:**

Stephen Harrison 07548 765421

**Scouts (10½–14) at QE School:**

16thcambridgescouts@gmail.com

**the butterfly**

these days are low  
these days are slow  
they hang like washing on the line  
the bitter trudge of time  
plods to a night conclusion  
of a day's depressed conclusion

but stay! I see a light!  
flickering, slight  
a breath of happiness subdued  
by a spirit that is no more confused  
the sun's rays gently reach a cloudy skyline  
offering a hand to sadness and to crying

take it! please accept  
the comfort that is meant for you  
you were not born to stew  
in a low and puzzled stupor  
take a pew! a butterfly and not a pupa!  
a fully fledged and glad new concept!

**Linda Appleby**

## Calendar for October and November 2021

Morning Prayer is said in church on Mondays and Fridays at 9.15 am and on Tuesdays and Thursdays via Zoom, also at 9.15 am. Everyone is welcome.

### October

2<sup>nd</sup> 2.00 pm Flower Arranging Workshop for Harvest

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> HARVEST FESTIVAL**

No 8 o'clock Holy Communion

10.00 am All Age Eucharist. Bring your own food and drink if you wish to meet outside afterwards

6<sup>th</sup> 10.15 am Eucharist

#### **10<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist. Consultation with children about youth ministry during the service and with parents after the service

13<sup>th</sup> 10.15 am Eucharist

#### **17<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist  
Garden Twinning trip to Hither Green in London

20<sup>th</sup> 10.15 am Eucharist

#### **24<sup>th</sup> LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** (*local schools on half term holiday*)

No Morning Prayer this week

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

25<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Pumpkin Picnic

27<sup>th</sup> 10.15 am Eucharist

#### **31<sup>st</sup> ALL SAINTS' DAY**

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am All Age Eucharist

### November

2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30 pm All Souls' Service

3<sup>rd</sup> 10.15 am Eucharist

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> PMC Training Weekend

#### **7<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

9<sup>th</sup> 8.00 pm Fabric Committee Meeting via Zoom

10<sup>th</sup> 10.15 am Eucharist

#### **14<sup>th</sup> REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY / 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Act of Remembrance

17<sup>th</sup> 10.15 am Eucharist

18<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm PCC Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> 2.00 pm PCC Away 'Afternoon'

#### **21<sup>st</sup> CHRIST THE KING / Sunday next before Advent**

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

24<sup>th</sup> 10.15 am Eucharist

#### **28<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8.00 am Eucharist

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

### December

1<sup>st</sup> 10.15 am Eucharist

4<sup>th</sup> tba Christmas Event.

Nearer the time look out for posters and details on our website and social media

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**The future of *Crosspiece*:** this is the penultimate issue of *Crosspiece* under the current team of Jennifer Day, Christina Hood and Mary Calladine. We are stepping down after the Christmas issue. If you are concerned that we should continue to have a church magazine or see that our future outreach into our church community and beyond should take a different form, then please share your ideas with the clergy or the current magazine team.