

Issue 1/2016

PARISH

NEWS

**The magazine of
Beeston Parish Church**



February / March 2016

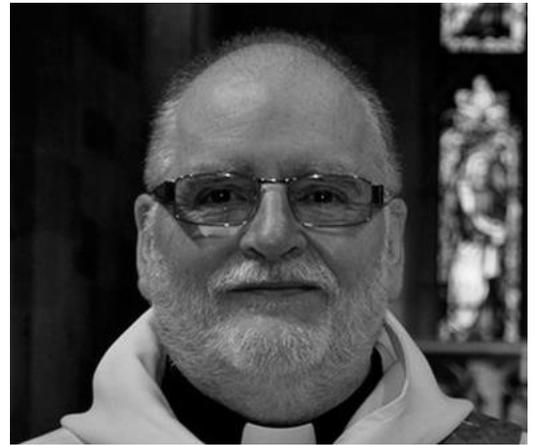
Donations of 30p or more please

FATHER ROB WRITES...

*So this is Christmas
And what have you done
Another year over*

And a new one just begun – so wrote John Lennon.

He is, to me, similar to Marmite; you either like him or dislike him – there doesn't seem to be a neutral point. I think that he produced some really great lyrics which, if listened to, really do have a story to tell; yes, I fall into the 'like' camp.



So this is Christmas and what have you done?

We've put up decorations and lights, trimmed a Christmas tree (as I write there are 14 miserable-looking specimens still in church), we've sung carols, listened to the nativity stories again and maybe even felt festive despite the unseasonal weather. Maybe had a Christmas dinner or two. We may have contacted acquaintances with the obligatory Christmas card with a message along the lines of *A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year*, but what about the next two lines in this verse?

Let's hope it's a good one, without any fear.

In the last few weeks before Christmas here in Europe people were again fearful because of the terror attacks, everywhere was on a heightened security alert. People avoided large public events because of the fear of them being a target. The 'peace and goodwill to all men' associated with Christmas seems to have vanished with every news bulletin. The hope that this year will be a 'good' one seems even more unsure than last year.

So here we are '*a new one just begun*' year that is, but how do we move forward without fear, without the darkness of the worldwide news dragging us down?

When all the decorations from Christmas have been put away we have to, as Joan Chittister in her book 'In Search of Belief' puts it, return to the Crib of Life to start over.

As we remember looking to the crib at the 'helpless babe' lying there, remember the words from the carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' – '*the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight*'. Christ is our hope for both the present and the future "*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*" (John 1: 3-5)

He is the light that will help dispel the darkness.

The world he came to was a dark, oppressed place. He grew up firstly as a refugee, then as a person living under occupation. He spoke out against injustice and was finally put to death, but the darkness of this world did not destroy him.

The world today is full of darkness and, if we let it, fear. It is right to be concerned about the state of the world; as has been said the planet has shrunk, we are more like a global village. Everything is so critically linked that one action impacts many thousands, be it terror attack, earthquake, climate change, war. We cannot live in fear, we have to look to Christ, and we have to let the light of his love shine in our lives so that we can shine as a light to others. Even the dimmest of light can be seen in the darkness, therefore let us go into this year firmly fixed on the light before us, fearlessly. That will help to make it a good year and Happy New Year.

Pax et Bonum

Father Rob

PARISH NEWS

NEXT EDITION – APRIL / MAY 2016

Contributions to philip.sherratt7@googlemail.com, or in person at church

Deadline for Contributions: Sunday 13th March

Publication Date: Sunday 27th March

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

13 December	Kris Atsu Griffiths
13 December	Keith Etse Griffiths
13 December	Benjamin Abe Goldstein
17 January	Zoe Catherine Radice Smith
17 January	Xavier Ethan Craig



Rest in Peace

Beryl Down
Doris Hilda Wolsey
Mick Briggs
Margery Christina Cooper



OUT WITH THE OLD YEAR, QUIETLY, IN WITH THE NEW YEAR – FOOD, DRINK AND A QUIZ?

At our last meeting in 2015 we celebrated Christmas with carols and readings from the Bible, followed by mince pies and tea. Everyone enjoys this meeting, being a perfect way to end our year.

Our New Year always starts with lunch and for the first time we met in The Star Public House. There were a few hiccups as a couple of people arrived without booking so extra dishes had to be hurriedly brought out of the kitchen but it all sorted itself out and everyone enjoyed their meals, which was important. It was quite a noisy lunch, everyone enjoying it even more trying to answer the questions on Chris's Quiz. If the staff at The Star thought that because it was a Mothers Union lunch it would be peaceful and sedate, they had another thing coming!

Happy Birthday to Mothers' Union!

2016 will see the world's largest lay-Christian membership charity, Mothers' Union, mark 140 years of faithful outreach to families of all faiths and none. Since 1876, when Mary Sumner first brought together parents in her own Hampshire parish to build their confidence in bringing up their children, it has grown to an organisation of over four million women – and men – in over 80 countries of the world.

Why celebrate the 140th, rather than wait for 150th? In the first book of Samuel he marks an unlooked for victory against the mighty Philistines by erecting a stone, naming it "Ebenezer" meaning "stone of help" as a permanent reminder of the leading and guidance of God - "Thus far has the Lord helped us".

Over the past 140 years, Mothers' Union has faced, and will continue to face, many challenges. Family life is under increasing pressure and the call on charitable resources is higher today than ever before. But we can look at how we are meeting these challenges and say, like Samuel, "Thus far has the Lord helped us."

Special anniversary services and celebration events are planned during the year, including a celebration service in Winchester Cathedral on 22nd September, returning full circle to where Mothers' Union was founded.

Alongside worship and thanksgiving, the charity aims to help over 500,000 people through its practical action work during the year. To meet this challenge it has set a fundraising target of £1,400,000 to support its work and outreach in the UK and overseas. To find out how you can help Mothers' Union celebrate 140 years of faith in action contact our office on 020 7222 5533 or email communications@mothersunion.org.

Mothering Sunday

You may think this article is rather early but think about it for when the time arrives.

2007 saw the first Make a Mother's Day launch – an ethical gift catalogue with cards for mum, grandmother, or anyone really, to receive a Mothering Sunday card knowing that the family had also given to a cause dear to their heart – Mothers' Union. The gifts, then as now, covered a broad price range from a £5 mosquito net to £100 to support a community trainer.

Many people have lost their mothers and they find Mothering Sunday extremely difficult. So the idea of an "in memory card" was born. Over the years this simple ministry has not only brought comfort to many hundreds of families, but has also raised additional funds for the charity.

That first year we were aiming to raise £30,000, so you can imagine our excitement when it raised over £50,000! It was so satisfying to see the way members had taken the initiative to their hearts and publicised the campaign so widely.

This year will mark the tenth time we – you the member – have raised valuable funds for Mothers' Union by promoting our Make a Mother's Day ethical giving. Not only do the gifts and cards raise vital funds for the work, but the provision of resources to churches for services and children's ministry enable a wider understanding of the work of Mothers' Union. To date thousands of lives have been transformed – so the message is that this is a Mothering Sunday gift which truly makes a difference. Since its inception over £1 million has been raised through this campaign – a staggering result. Yet even more staggering is the thousands of lives it has not only touched but outright changed for the better.

And yet we know that more can be done. There are people in churches who have not yet heard of Make a Mother's Day. Mums who haven't yet had one of the beautiful cards designed uniquely for Mothers' Union. We need your help to make this, our 10th MAMD in our 140th year, one which really gives us cause to celebrate and enables our membership to put their faith into action wherever there are families in need.



MY PARISH CHURCH

I love my parish church, I love its every nook
It fills my heart with pleasure everywhere I look
I feel a sense of wonder admiring what I see
In this ancient place is where I like to be

I love the stained-glass windows with colours bold and bright
Depicting the Apostles in their robes of white
The varied shades of green, the vibrant reds and blues
As sunshine casts reflections between the rows of pews

I love to hear the bells ringing from the tower
Beckoning us to church just before the hour
On a Sunday morning we hear the organ play
As we enter church on our Christian way

I love to sing the hymns, traditional and new
And ponder on the words so meaningful and true
Sincere and heartfelt sermons and singing at its best
And when I leave the church each week my spirit feels refreshed

I love to come to church on Sundays through the year
And sitting in my favourite pew feel my place is here
To me this church is special in so many ways
This is the church for me until I end my days

Elizabeth Hopkin

AS USUAL, LOVE TRIUMPHED IN THE END

On Tuesday, 5th January about 40 members of our congregation made their way to Nottingham Playhouse to see this season's pantomime, Dick Whittington. As usual the team of dancers opened the evening with a spirited display of their take on Morris Dancing and then we met Dick, his brother Jack and his mother (the dame). Soon we met Alice Fitzwarren and her mother. We booed King Rat and fell in love with Dick's cat. The forgetful fairy, who continually mixed up pantomime characters, completed the cast. We followed the exploits of Dick and Alice as they were shipwrecked and landed on a desert island but the bells of London called Dick back, love triumphed and they lived happily ever after.

It was a very enjoyable evening and our thanks go to the volunteer drivers and especially Angie and Mark Cooper for organising everything including the lifts.

SA

PROMISE PROGRAMME 2015

The Promise Programme in November and December last – in which people were asked to review their Planned Giving to Beeston Parish Church – was successful in securing additional income which will total **£8,504** in **2016** and will reduce the Budgeted deficit from **£10,252** to **£1,778**.

The Gift Aid tax reclaim from HMRC on behalf of the 31 donors who pay tax will add a further **£1,932** in **2017**.

This was another excellent response in difficult financial times and our grateful thanks go to each and every one who increased their giving, joined Planned Giving for the first time or made a one-off donation. We must also thank those people who maintained their existing giving.

The responses to the packs sent out were:

	Packs sent	Replies	Increases/Donations	No change
Existing donors	99	70	34	36
Electoral Roll	37	6	2	4
Welcome Card	10	2	0	2
Unaddressed	10	4	4	0

Your Finance Group has continued to control and minimise expenditure but a deficit remains, albeit much reduced.

There is little or no scope for any further reduction in expenditure and because we know from experience that our income from Planned Giving will progressively reduce during 2016 – in the last two years we have lost the giving of twenty people totalling over £9,000 – the only way the deficit can be reduced is by continuing to increase our income which comes mainly from Planned Giving, the Offering Plate, fundraising events and, not least of all, legacies.

With the inevitable reduction in Planned Giving and the unpredictability of legacy income it is clear we do need more fundraising events and any suggestions will be welcome and should be made known to a member of the Parochial Church Council.

Any other queries on finance should be referred to a member of the Finance Group: Kaye Ford, Pat Atkins, Michael Gillie, Mark Cooper or Bryan Spencer.

THE CALENDAR

Regular weekday services and activities are not included – see back page for details

FEBRUARY 2016	
Tuesday 2 nd	9.30am ABC2
Thursday 4 th	7.15pm PCC Meeting 7.30pm Friendship Group Meeting
Sunday 7 th Next before Lent	8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm CW Evening Prayer
Tuesday 9 th	9.30am ABC2
Wednesday 10 th Ash Wednesday	10am Said Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes 7.30pm Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes (incense used)
Thursday 11 th	Mothers' Union Meeting – see page 4
Sunday 14 th 1 st of Lent	8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer
Thursday 18 th	7.30pm Friendship Group Meeting
Sunday 21 st 2 nd of Lent	8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Taizé Service
Tuesday 23 rd	9.30am ABC2
Saturday 27 th	3pm Messy Church
Sunday 28 th 3 rd of Lent	8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 12.15pm Holy Baptism 6.30pm Silent Adoration

MARCH 2016

Tuesday 1 st	9.30am ABC2
Thursday 3 rd	7.30pm Friendship Group Meeting
Friday 4 th	11am Women's World Day of Prayer service <i>at Beeston Methodist Church, Chilwell Road</i>
Sunday 6 th 4 th of Lent Mothering Sunday	8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm CW Evening Prayer
Tuesday 8 th	9.30am ABC2
Thursday 10 th	Mothers' Union Meeting – see page 4 7.15pm PCC Meeting (preceded by Bible Study/reflection)
Sunday 13 th 5 th of Lent	8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer
Tuesday 15 th	9.30am ABC2
Thursday 17 th	7.30pm Friendship Group Meeting
Saturday 19 th	3pm Messy Church
Sunday 20 th Palm Sunday	8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist with Distribution of Palms and Dramatic Reading of the Passion Story 12.15pm Holy Baptism 6.30pm Taizé Service
Full details of Holy Week services overleaf	
Tuesday 22 nd	9.30am ABC2
Sunday 27 th Easter Day	10am Sung Festival Eucharist 6.30pm Choral Evensong
Tuesday 29 th	9.30am ABC2

HOLY WEEK 2016

Sunday 20 th March Palm Sunday	8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist with Distribution of Palms & Dramatic Reading of the Passion Story 6.30pm Taizé Service
Monday 21 st March	7.30pm Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 22 nd March	1.00pm Eucharist 7.30pm Reflections on Gethsemane – words and music for Holy Week
Wednesday 23 rd March	10.00am Eucharist 7.30pm Renewal of Ministries and Blessing of Oils <i>at Southwell Minster. All welcome</i>
Thursday 24 th March Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper & Watch of the Passion until midnight (NOTE: Incense will be used)
Friday 25 th March Good Friday	11.00am Walk of Witness – starting at Broadgate Park 12noon Church open for quiet prayer 2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday 26 th March Holy Saturday	7.30pm Vigil of Readings, Lighting of the Easter Fire and the first Mass of Easter (NOTE: Incense will be used)
Sunday 27 th March Easter Day	10.00am Parish Festival Eucharist 6.30pm Choral Evensong

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2016

Receive Children, Receive Me

Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement that invites women, from a different part of the world each year, to prepare a worship service through which their hopes and fears for their country may be brought before the whole world in prayer.

On Friday 4th March an estimated three million people in over 170 countries and islands will gather to observe the day of prayer, using an order of service written by Christian women in Cuba and translated into over 60 languages and 1000 dialects. In the British Isles alone over 6000 services will be held. The day begins as the sun rises over the island of Samoa and continues until it sets off the coast of American Samoa, some 35 hours later.

The theme 'Receive Children. Receive Me' reflects St. Mark's Gospel, chapter 10 verses 13 – 16, which is the focus of the service and a reminder that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect.

The Republic of Cuba is the largest Caribbean island, located at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico and called 'the Key to the Gulf'. Politically at odds with the USA, Cuba suffered greatly due to the economic embargo imposed upon it in 1960 but has found strength within itself to move on and overcome many of its problems.

The service for our area will be at the Methodist Church, Chilwell Road, Beeston, on Friday 4th March. Tea and coffee will be available from 10.30am and the service itself will begin at 11.00am. Parking is available nearby and the tram goes past the church.



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March 2016

The service for this area will be at the

Methodist Church, Chilwell Road, Beeston.

This year's service has been written by the women of Cuba and the theme is:

Receive Children, Receive Me

Everyone is welcome.

Do join us!

SOUNDS FAMILIAR

Do you realise how many sayings we use today have their origins in the Bible?

The Wisdom of Solomon (1 Kings 2-11)

After David, Solomon is probably the most famous of the Bible's Israelite kings. He was the last king to rule over both Israel and Judah and he is credited with building the first temple in Jerusalem. He was also legendary for his wealth. Islamic scholars revere him as the prophet Sulaiman, controller of the winds, and he featured in H. Rider Haggard's adventure stories 'King Solomon's Mines' written in 1885.

However, Solomon is probably best remembered for his wisdom. In the first book of Kings we read '*He was wiser than all men and his fame was in all nations round about*'. Among his admirers was the Queen of Sheba (thought to be modern day Lebanon). She was so impressed by all she had heard about him that she travelled all the way from her kingdom with four and a half tons of gold to meet him.

Solomon's most famous moment of wisdom came when he judged a case between two women who lived in the same house and had given birth at the same time. One woman's child died and it was alleged that she then stole the other woman's baby claiming it as her own and leaving the dead baby in its place. Solomon called for his sword and made as if to cut the living baby in half. Immediately the real mother gave up her claim on the child preferring to give it away rather than see it killed. Solomon then knew the identity of the real mother and the baby was handed back to her. You can read this story in 1 Kings 3 vv16-28. The Queen of Sheba's visit is recorded in chapter 10 and the building of the Temple is recorded in chapters 5-7.

To have the patience of Job (Job 1-3, also James 5v11)

This phrase is a quotation from the epistle of St. James and refers to the story of Job, whose faith was famously tested by God in the Old Testament. Job endured disease, the loss of his crops and herds, even the deaths of his sons and daughters, without ever cursing his creator. '*The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away*' he says philosophically, '*Blessed be the name of the Lord!*'

Job's story is one of the first Biblical passages to touch on the problem of evil and it has troubled theologians since the first days of Christianity. Why, if the world has been created by an omnipotent and benevolent deity, is it so full of pain and suffering? Over the years Christians have attributed evil to the abuse of human free will or to the corrupting influence of Adam and Eve's original sin when they ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

Give up the ghost (Job 14 v10, also Mark 15 v37 and Acts 12 v23)

This phrase is first mentioned in the book of Job but the Acts of the Apostles gives a grisly account of the death of King Herod Agrippa who had been persecuting the disciples after Jesus' death. The Bible tells us '*the angel of the Lord struck Herod down because he did not give honour to God. He was eaten by worms and died*'. Some versions tell us he '*gave up the ghost*'. Later writers identified this disease as *morbus pedicularis*. Sufferers were eaten by lice growing in ulcers beneath the skin and they died in excruciating agony.

However the most famous Biblical use of the phrase is in the dramatic description of the last moments of Jesus on the Cross. Mark's Gospel tells us that, after hours of suffering, Jesus '*cried out with a loud voice, gave up the ghost and the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom*'.

In this context the word ghost is a translation of the Greek psyche, meaning simply the soul or the spirit and not, as in modern English, something spooky.

Today, the phrase 'to give up the ghost' is often used as a poetic way of saying someone has died. It is also sometimes used in a jocular fashion to describe the 'death' of a machine or appliance.

Escape by the skin of one's teeth (Job 19 v20)

This is one of several proverbs which owe their origin to the colourful language of the book of Job. The tormented hero, Job, is complaining about his woes. He says that he has become so emaciated that '*my bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth*'. The proverbial meaning is that he has missed death by a tiny margin – as narrow as the (non-existent) skin on his teeth. However, Biblical scholars have argued endlessly about what the phrase originally signified. Some argue a literal interpretation that Satan kept Job's mouth – the skin of his gums, jaws and lips – healthy to encourage him to blaspheme against God. What do you think?

A Behemoth (Job 40 vv15-24)

The behemoth is a mysterious creature mentioned in the book of Job. With bones '*like bars of iron*' and a '*tail like a cedar*' this mighty beast was said to be able to suck the whole River Jordan into its mouth. Biblical scholars have long debated whether the behemoth is a mythical creature or just an exaggerated description of an ordinary animal such as a hippopotamus.

But whatever the original behemoth may have been, the name has become a metaphor for anything that reaches a spectacular size. This figurative use is first recorded in a pamphlet of 1593, written by Gabriel Harvey as part of his vicious literary feud with a certain Thomas Nashe. Nashe, according to Harvey, was a '*Behemoth of conceit*' but a '*shrimp in wit, a periwinkle in art, a dandipot in industry and a dodkin in value*'.

HIDDEN WORD PUZZLE

All the words in this puzzle are on the theme of Lent and Holy Week. Words can be straightforward, back-to-front, vertically or diagonally across the rectangle, but all are in straight lines. Some letters are used more than once. The remaining letters spell out the first line of a well-known hymn.

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

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Ash Wednesday | Forty Nights | Lent | Passover |
| Bethany | Gethsemane | Martha | Satan |
| Betrayal | Holy Week | Mary | Thirty Pieces of Silver |
| Bread | Jesus | Maundy Thursday | Three Temptations |
| Donkey | Judas Iscariot | Mount of Olives | Temple |
| Fasting | Kiss | Palm Sunday | Wilderness |
| Forty Days | Last Supper | Passion Sunday | Wine |

Last issue's hidden message:

'Happy Christmas Everybody'

PARISH CHURCH CONTACTS

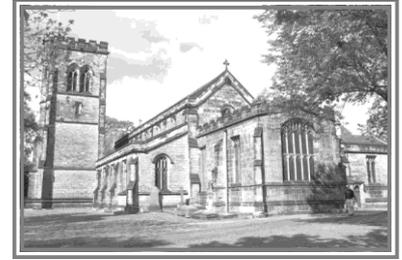
ABC2	Diane Stevenson	9253562
Choir	Chris Warren	07507 493410
Sunday School	Sheila Allton	9255770
Bellringers	Al Smith / Bridget Eickhoff	
	beeston@southwelldg.org.uk	
Brownies	Louise Lee	9176846
Guides	Kaye Ford	9167806
Rainbows	Louise Lee	9176846
Friendship Group	Jeanette Simons	9223815
Julian Prayer Group	Sandie Cutts	9257474
Mothers' Union	Pat Atkins	9256327
Finance: Treasurer	Kaye Ford	9167806
Planned Giving	Bryan Spencer	9732236
Parish News	Phil Sherratt	07946 973055
<i>Contributions to:</i>	philip.sherratt7@googlemail.com	

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

NHS Direct Line (24 hours, 7 days)	0845 4647
Police Station	9430999
Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Citizens Advice Bureau, Council Offices, Foster Ave.	0844 4994194
Library, Foster Avenue	9255168
Methodist Church	9431164
Church of the Assumption	9228145
Bramcote Leisure Centre	9173000
Broxtowe Borough Council, Foster Ave	9177777

For other information about services and community groups in Beeston please refer to the Help Directory in the Public Library

The Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Beeston



www.beestonparishchurch.co.uk

Vicar: Father Wayne Plimmer

☎ 9254571

Curate: Father Rob Wiggins

☎ 07906664263

(Thurs only)

Church Office/Admin Assistant:

Kathryn Weller

beeston.parish@gmail.com

☎ 9225638

Reader: Sally Beazley

☎ 9221226

Church Wardens:

Pat Atkins

☎ 9256327

Ray Stevenson

☎ 9253562

WEEKLY SERVICES:

Sunday:

8.00am Said Eucharist

9.45am Sunday School meets in church

10.00am Sung Eucharist

6.30pm Evening Worship

See calendar for more details

Mon-Weds:

7.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday:

1.00pm Eucharist

Wednesday:

10.00am Eucharist

Thursday:

9.00am Morning Prayer

Monday to Friday 11.30am – 1.30pm:

Church open for Private Prayer

Thursday 10am – 12noon:

Coffee Stop – Church Open

Tea, coffee and biscuits available