

October 2017 Edition 22

**Jesus said "I am the light of the world."**

## Being with God

A certain vicar was walking around the parish one day and came across a farmer leaning on the gate and admiring his wonderful crop of wheat. The vicar said: "Isn't it wonderful what can be achieved when God and man work together." To which the farmer replied: "You should have seen it when he had it all to himself."

I am writing this on the weekend when we are celebrating harvest festival at St Mary's, when there's lots going on – a time when our church is full of people celebrating harvest with all the young people from the uniformed organizations with their leaders and their friends and families; the forthcoming confirmation service when Bishop Jo will confirm nine members of our church family; and the occasion in one month when we will welcome Theresa as our priest in charge. Just like the farmer and the vicar, a time to thank God for all his blessings and to remind ourselves of just what can be achieved when we work together with God.

*Being with God* is the theme of a new book by Samuel Wells, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields. Our Christian journey is about being with God. It is also about being with each other, just as Jesus was with people wherever and whenever he met them; being with those who were celebrating life; being with those who were troubled and found life difficult; being with those who were searching for some meaning to their life.

During the past eighteen months of the vacancy I have been privileged and immensely thankful to have been part of the family at St Mary's and have seen lots of good things happening which are all signs of what can happen when we work together with God.

Spend some time with God and just think what you can do together.

**John Richardson**

## We Will Remember Them



While returning from a holiday in the Peak District Christine and I detoured to visit the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas near Lichfield in Staffordshire. It already contains over 50,000 trees chosen to match the 300 or so memorials that are spread around the site. Although the arboretum is part of the Royal British Legion there are memorials to civilian organisations as well.

It was officially opened to the public in May 2001 and from the start it was seen as a place of joy where the lives of people would be remembered by living trees that would grow and mature in a world at peace. Although many of the trees are still young, they are rapidly growing into a unique living tribute. Every year sees the dedication of new memorials and special events.

At the heart of the Arboretum is the Armed Forces Memorial, which is a tribute to over 16,000 service personnel who have lost their lives in conflict or as a result of terrorism since the end of the Second World War.



At 11 am on 11<sup>th</sup> November each year the sun shines through two slits in the outer and inner walls of the memorial, casting a shaft of light across a wreath in the centre.

I was particularly struck by the exhibition in the *Children of Far East Prisoners of War* (COFEPOW) hut where the full horrors of the imprisonment and internment of men, women and children by the Japanese are shown in pictures and interviews with survivors.

That was a salutary lesson in man's inhumanity to man that should never be forgotten, but the Arboretum also houses the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness where, at 11am each day, an act of remembrance takes place.

While it will be many decades until the trees rival those at Winkworth,



it is well worth a visit already. The land train tour with its commentary was particularly worthwhile.

**Rod Clarke**

## Church Finances - September 2017

It was about this time last year that I gave some details on how our finances were shaping up. Since then we have had the Annual Report detailing the outcome for 2016. Although the PCC receive a set of accounts monthly to monitor our financial position, I realise that the congregation generally may be interested in how we are doing more regularly than through the Annual Report. Consequently I will try to provide an update on a quarterly basis via The Listening Post.

To the end of September the General Fund has broken even

(income is equal to expenditure). This is compared to a budgeted loss of just under £20,000 for the same period.

There are a number of reasons for this better than expected outcome. Whereas costs are broadly on budget, income is £19,000 better than we expected.

Of this, over £14,000 has resulted from additional planned giving (with one generous donor giving £10,000). Gift day receipts to the end of September contributed £1,645 with a further £510 being received in October. By the end of September hall bookings were

ahead of budget by over £2,000 and wedding income was over £1,000 above expectation. Additionally, fund raising, especially by Richard Crook, has also boosted income.

For the rest of the year, we do have some large costs to cover. These include the redecoration of the vicarage (largely financed by the gift day), the quinquennial inspection, and rewiring to part of

the church. Although the last two were not included in the budget (together they will cost around £9,000), the outcome for the year will be much better than we expected at the start.

If anyone would like to discuss the finances you know where to find me- hiding behind a pillar on the right of the church during the 9:30 service!

**David Eames**

## November Services and Events

<b>Saturday 4</b>	<b>09.00</b>	<b>Men's Breakfast at The Hogsmill Tavern</b>
<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Sung Communion and Children's Groups</b>
<b>Monday 6</b>	<b>19.30</b>	<b>Licensing of Revd Theresa Ricketts</b>
<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.15</b>	<b>Remembrance Parade then Communion</b>
	<b>18.00</b>	<b>Choral Evensong</b>
<b>Wednesday 15</b>	<b>20.30</b>	<b>PCC meeting in Church</b>
<b>Thursday 16</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Thursday Club in Cuddington Hall</b>
<b>Saturday 18</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Women's Group at Rowe Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Café Church followed by Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 26</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Family Communion with Baptism</b>

**Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9 am**

Please send your feedback, photographs and articles to: **Linda Charlton (Editor) [thelisteningpost@cuddingtonparish.org.uk](mailto:thelisteningpost@cuddingtonparish.org.uk) Text 07778 127670**