

NETWORK

magazine

Saint
Andrew's
Histon



Winter 2023

February edition

Music at the heart
of Histon
Village Society and HIAG
From a Muslim
background
Emily's faith in action
Winter scenes
at Abbey Fields

Abbey Fields
(see back cover)



Viewpoint

St Andrew's Vicarage: Church Street, Histon, Cambridge CB24 9EP (01223 320425)



The Revd Ruth Chamberlain,
Curate

I recently saw a home video from a garden in Derbyshire which starred a two-legged fox. The fox looked as if it was doing rather elegant handstands as it moved around and foraged. Wildlife experts believe it was born with only two legs, because it had survived; an injured animal would not have been able to adapt in the way that this one had. It also benefited from living in an urban environment where it could scavenge on food sources that humans had left behind.

As I pondered how this fox survived and seemed to be thriving, I reflected on how none of us is without some flaw; we all have something wrong with us. I am short sighted and, although as a child and teenager I hated having to wear glasses, I have learnt to love them. My sister had cerebral palsy and was confined to a wheelchair, relying on other people to support her in the basic essentials of life, feeding, dressing etc. Over the years many people offered sympathy to her, my parents and me, and talked about how sad it was. In some ways it was sad—there were many things she was never able to do—but she found her ways of living, giving to others and thriving. She had the most incredible memory for details, particularly dates: she could remember birthdays, anniversaries, and the dates and times of appointments for her fellow residents in the home where she lived. She could also understand those who could not speak easily, and she would often act as their advocate, speaking up for them, when the need arose.

By the grace of God my sister found a way to live her life to the full. Her body may not have been able to do what other people's bodies could, but she was at peace in herself and with her circumstances. This was because she knew Jesus was with her, giving her the strength and resources to live each day.

Through the grace of God in Jesus we can all find a place of peace as we work out who we were created to be. For some this might be turning to God and asking him to change the things that are wrong. It may involve confronting the environment around us, or asking for His forgiveness. Like the two-legged fox, we may find that there are things about ourselves that we cannot change. When this happens, what we can do is turn to Jesus and ask him to help us find peace and contentment as the person that we are rather than the person we, or others, might want us to be.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth".

Please see
foot of page



Church Diary and Parish Register

St Andrew's Office, Church and Centre: 320420, office@standrewshiston.org

February

- Wednesday 1** Choir coffee, 10.30am, Saint Andrew's Café
*Learning and growing evening on prayer, 7.30–8.45pm, Saint Andrew's Centre
- Sunday 5** **Third Sunday before Lent *Septuagesima**
Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, EDGE Sunday
- Monday 6** *Network* magazine typesetting deadline (March edition)
- Sunday 12** **Second Sunday before Lent *Sexagesima**
Holy Communion, 10.30am EDGE Sunday
Mosaic, 3pm, Saint Andrew's Centre
- Monday 13** Half-term holiday for whole week
- Friday 17** *Network* magazine publication, 2.30pm, 29 Home Close
- Sunday 19** **Sunday next before Lent *Quinquagesima**
Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, Edge:Breakfast
Inspire, 7pm, Saint Andrew's Centre
- Monday 20** Walking in Faith, 10.30am from outside the café at Milton Country Park
- Wednesday 22** *Ash Wednesday*
Holy Communion, 11am, Impington Church
- Sunday 26** **First Sunday of Lent *Quadragesima**
Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, EDGE Sunday

REGULAR WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

- Tuesday** **Shooting Stars (for early movers), 9.15–10.15am, Saint Andrew's Centre
**Little Stars (for small babies), 10.30–11.30am, Saint Andrew's Centre
Table Talk, 10.30am, Saint Andrew's Café
Tuesday Fellowship, 2.30pm, Stable Room
Bell ringing practice, 7pm
- Wednesday** Prayer Central, 7.30pm on Zoom (except on 1 February)
- Thursday** **Morning Prayer, 9.30am, Impington Church
**EDGE Café, 3.30pm, Saint Andrew's Café
- Friday** **Job Club, 10–11.30am, Saint Andrew's Centre
**Shine (under 5s), 11am–12 noon, Saint Andrew's Centre
Choir practice, 7pm in church
St Andrew's men's sports evening, Impington Sports Centre

Notes Sunday services are live streamed from 10.30am, and then available on YouTube (search for 'St Andrew's Churches, Histon and Impington'). Contact the church office for more information and links to online events.

*See elsewhere in this edition.

**Generally term-time only. See church website for updates.

For details of weekly groups for children and young people, please contact:

Tim (tim@standrewshiston.org) or Clare (clare@standrewshiston.org).

Church websites standrewshiston.org www.standrewscentre.org.uk

Sundays before Easter The alternative names for Sundays in the Church Diary, relate to the *Book of Common Prayer's* countdown to Easter. The name Quadragesima ('fortieth' in Latin) relates to the forty days of Lent; Quinquagesima (fiftieth) arises from the fifty days inclusive between the Sunday before Lent and Easter; Sexagesima and Septuagesima (sixtieth and seventieth) count back very roughly to the previous Sundays.

To donate towards *Network* magazine costs, please scan QR at top of page, or contact the office.

Music at the heart of Histon

We invited Jason Howard to give us an update on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Music Team, now becoming more established in their new County Hub at the former infant school.

The team at Cambridgeshire Music would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Time has flown by since we had our official opening event in July, and we are thrilled to have welcomed lots of new students through the doors of our County Hub in New School Road for music lessons and ensembles.

At Cambridgeshire Music we are extremely passionate about making high quality music happen all across Cambridgeshire for young people and families and have some very exciting projects coming up this year that will bring music and integrated arts experiences to local people.

Over the next few weeks, Cambridgeshire Music will be announcing our 2023 open days called 'Discover'. The first session will be focusing on percussion instruments and will take place on Sunday 26 February. Students in years 5 to 11 who have an interest in drums or other percussion instruments are invited to come along to our Histon and Impington Centre and discover something new.

Please contact us on mymusic@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for more information about our open days and to find out more about the work we do. We would love to hear from you.



Village Society and HIAG news

The benefits of Village Society membership

Histon and Impington Village Society is welcoming new members and encouraging its 260 established members to renew their memberships for 2023.

The £12 annual membership is great value for money: ten talks and three Newsletters a year, one or two local history bulletins per month, a free annual members' coffee morning, and reduced costs on society trips. As a new addition to member benefits, we also hope to run a couple of free afternoon workshops in 2023, including one on researching family history. Further information will be provided once the speaker has been confirmed.

The committee is also delighted to announce the following new benefits for members. We will continue to approach businesses throughout the year and update you on other benefits secured.

- Longstowe Hall, 20 per cent discount off the £8 ticket price;
- Burwell Museum & Windmill: 10 per cent off the price of a 2023 season ticket;
- Oliver Cromwell's House, Ely: £5 per adult (usual rate £6.50) plus 10 per cent discount in the gift shop.

To join or renew your membership please fill in the form at histonandimpingtonvillagesociety.wordpress.com/membership/ or call 07956 720023.

The society would also like to thank the Saint Andrew's Café for offering a 20 per cent discount on drinks and food to members for the whole of January 2023.

Katherine Mann

Beneath the King's College Choir Stalls

On Monday 27 February a joint talk will be held at 7.30pm by the Village Society and Histon and Impington Archaeology Group (HIAG), at the Methodist Church and via Zoom.

Alison Dickens of Granta Heritage will give a talk entitled 'Beneath the Choir Stalls of King's College, Cambridge'. During the course of a programme of treatment of the timber in the choir stalls in 2001, some fifty sacks of debris and dust were removed. After careful hand sieving 544 items were recovered. Alison, an archaeologist with over thirty years' experience, examines the significance of these objects and the light they shine on people who have used the chapel.

Booking to attend in person or to register for the Zoom link is via Eventbrite. This meeting is open to non-members (£4) who can access the link via the HIAG¹ or Village Society² websites.

¹hiarchaeology.wordpress.com/hiag-talk-publicity-2022-2023-programme

²histonandimpingtonvillagesociety.wordpress.com/talks-programme-2023

From a Muslim background



Gaza baby in for treatment



Gaza baby, soon after

Christ Church in the Old City of Jerusalem is an English-speaking Anglican congregation comprising expatriates serving in Israel or the West Bank, along with local believers—both Jews and Arabs. Since 1809, the Church's Ministry among Jewish People (CMJ, to whom the church belongs) has been reminding Christians of the great spiritual debt they owe to the Jewish people.

From a Muslim background, YS here describes Christ Church's support as he offers aid to sick people from Gaza.

About 19 years ago I came to faith in Jesus, having been visited in a dream. I was a construction worker, but in the dream Jesus told me to leave my old job behind and to begin to work for the Kingdom of God. From that point on I have been working with people in the area, helping them with their physical needs as well as sharing with them about Jesus.

My connection to Christ Church and the ministry of CMJ came through an associate, who runs the Crossroads conferences. Through him I began partnering with Christ Church and I conduct part of my current ministry on the compound with the support of the staff there.

We are a staff of six and do this work completely voluntarily. Our current work focuses on helping the sick in Gaza, mostly children. We bring the sick from Gaza for treatment at Hadassah Ein Kerem, a hospital in Jerusalem, and one of the best in the country. At first we worked with people with heart conditions but now we help people with any diseases. These are very difficult to treat—diseases such as organ cancers, paralysis and various neurological issues—and can require specialised and multiple treatments in Israel. Groups consist of 8–12 people. When we bring these patients from Gaza (along with their families when possible) we connect them with recipients of our other work in Jerusalem and Bethlehem to whom we provide food and clothing.

One of our projects is to host day events for these groups, all of whom are Muslim. We have snacks and music, give out food, and spend time in prayer and talking about Jesus. God always seems to open the doors with these conversations. A recent story we can share happened here at Christ Church, in July, when we hosted a group of cancer patients from Gaza in Israel. Interestingly enough, a group of Muslims from Northern Israel came to volunteer to help pass out the food and gifts that we had prepared for the families. Both groups together had a chance to hear from Pastor David

Pileggi who spoke about why this event was hosted at Christ Church. Afterwards I spoke about the message of the gospel. They were so thrilled that a group of Muslim volunteers from the North wanted to have their photo taken with Pastor David and promised to come back to help in further events.

I often speak about things from the Old Testament and about God's relationship to the Jewish people. This is always surprising for Muslims, especially in a church that is filled with Hebrew inscriptions, but it is a powerful and often unheard of message to those that listen. On one occasion, while at Christ Church, I spoke to another group about the concept of Sacrifice. I was sharing that, in the Temple, it was not allowed to bring a flawed offering. The sacrificial animal had to be without blemish. That is why Jesus, the Messiah, had to be perfect and sinless. This is why it is so important that Jesus never committed sin, otherwise he could not have been our Saviour. While both Jesus and the concept of his 'sinlessness' appears in the Quran, this idea of Jesus being a sacrifice is a foreign concept to Muslims. But we know that one without the other is meaningless.

While I spoke, one of the members of the group stood up and disagreed, 'a sacrifice is a sacrifice no matter if it is blemished or not'. To my surprise the rest of the group turned to the individual and animatedly told him (as only Middle Easterners can do!) that he is mistaken and to sit back down! They went on to say 'Y is correct. A sacrifice must be perfect.' Their receptiveness and openness was amazing. After we finished, a young woman came up to us and asked for prayer. That day a young Messianic couple was assisting me, and together we prayed for her. It was a significant moment as this young woman witnessed firsthand the unity that I and my Messianic brothers and sisters have together through Jesus.

God is also bringing people to faith in Gaza. Six months ago a lady from Gaza, 72 years old, came to faith in Jesus. She had been to Mecca on Hajj four times. For months my team had been in contact with her, helping the family and praying with them. And it was not only her but her three daughters that came to faith as well! One day I had received a phone call from the daughter saying 'My mother wants to speak to you'. The mother came on and immediately said, 'Pray with me. I am ready to accept Jesus as my saviour'.

I ask that readers of this will continue praying for our work. Pray for the bureaucratic process that we undergo to get the patients entrance permission into Israel. Pray that God would give my team strength to keep going with the work that we do. We have seen amazing fruit over the years, and prayerfully hope to see it continue in the years to come.

Y S

Review & Preview

Saint Andrew's Office: 320420 or email office@standrewshiston.org

Learning and growing in prayer

On recent Wednesdays we have had some learning and growing evenings on prayer, focused on helping us listen to God together and as individuals. The importance of prayer is something that we feel the Lord has impressed upon us over the years of the pandemic and most recently it was a theme emerging from our listening process as some of you shared your thoughts with the churchwardens and the PCC.

On 18 January we were thinking about Ignatian patterns of prayer (possibly familiar through the popular Lectio365 app) and especially the Examen—a way of prayerfully reflecting on one's day. On 25 January we used a process called 'Dwelling in the Word' which many of the congregation at Impington have found a really helpful way of listening to God together through the Scriptures.

Finally on 1 February we will be focusing on praying in the power of the Holy Spirit and listening for God's voice speaking to our hearts. Even if you have missed the first two sessions, do join us on this evening. There's no need to book, just turn up at the Saint Andrew's Centre for this session: 7.30–8.45pm.

Golgotha 2022

An exhibition of paintings by Stephen Tromans, 'Golgotha 2022' based on the war in Ukraine and its relationship to the Passion of Christ, will take place in the Lady Chapel at Ely Cathedral for four weeks of Lent from 18 February.

Further information will be given in the next issue but please do contact Stephen (stephen.tromans@39essex.com) if you would like more details.

Church Treasurer

Erin Dickens has served in the role of Treasurer for over four years; her presentation of the accounts and the financial health of the church has always been inspiring as well as clear. Erin's invaluable contribution was acknowledged at the service on 15 January, and Liz Crook was warmly welcomed as her successor.

Return to Uganda

St Andrew's members Julius and Harriet Arinaitwe have now returned to their home area near Kabale in south-west Uganda to begin a fresh enterprise on the land; their desire is to restore the eco-system, improve people's wellbeing and share Christ's love. They hope to help revive the local English congregation, perhaps even to introduce Impington Church's style of Songs of Praise.

Network magazine distribution

We are grateful to Kate Cole for delivering the monthly magazine to Somerset Road for several years; thank you very much to Rody Politt for taking on this round.

Community noticeboard

Impington Music Society

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 10 February, when we will be providing a platform for performance experience to young music students, welcoming Thanea Hodges and her very talented local young pianists. Do come along and enjoy hearing some very special performances.

Meetings are at 7.30pm in the Brackenbury Room, Impington Village College; admission £10 (under 18, £5). *Chris Houghton*

Histon Library: book sale

Histon and Impington Library Friends hold regular book sales on the second Saturday of each month to raise funds for Histon Library. Come along to the Methodist Church on Saturday 11 February to browse a great selection of books for adults and children, all at tiny prices or offer what it's worth to you. Enjoy hot drinks and delicious cakes too.

We accept donations of saleable books on the day.

Cath Pennington

Histon Library: for all ages

Engage talks take place at 2–3.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month, the next being on 15 February.

Rhymetime for children 0–4 continues on 16 February and every third Thursday in the month in term-time, 10–10.30am.

Multisensory Storytime is coming again on Tuesday 21 February, 2.30–3pm. Find out how sensory and tactile elements can make storytelling fun! Listen to interactive stories specially created to be enjoyed by children with additional needs.

All children are welcome (supervised by their adults at all times).

Cath Pennington

Besom hampers



Assembling hampers

Besom delivered 85 Christmas hampers to the people we have supported during the year, including taking hampers to those we were assisting with goods in December. Twelve drivers from our churches, each with a partner or colleague, shared the deliveries and took time where possible for a chat to catch up with the recipients. People from as far afield as Horningsea, Newmarket and Papworth (and many other places in between) joined in with contributing to the hamper enterprise, including goods, bags, finance, shopping, storage, Christmas cards, address list, assembly and delivery.

Besom also worked in December with volunteers from the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign to help provide goods (including hampers) to a couple of refugee families they were supporting.

HI Besom Team

Children's Poetry Reading

On Monday 13 February, 11–11.30am, the Library is delighted to welcome local children's author and poet, Charlie Bown, for a Children's Poetry Reading and Author Talk for age 4–12. We hope you will join us for activities and poetry readings.

Although donations are of course welcome to the Library, this is a free drop-in event. Parents and carers must stay with children.

Garden Club

On Tuesday 14 February Michael Brown will tell us about 'The Language of Flowers' which sounds intriguing, so join us at the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served afterwards when we will have a chance to discuss the talk and any other garden topics.

For further details please contact Richard Ackroyd (236315).

Marilyn Harvey

Women's Institute

On Thursday 16 February, at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Ian Harvey will speak on the subject of 'The challenges of living in Sierra Leone, the eighth poorest country in the world'. As usual visitors would be most welcome to attend this meeting: cost £4.

Maggie Dunn

Hope Again Bereavement Support

Hope Again Bereavement Support's spring meetings will be over six Thursdays, starting on 23 February at 2pm. Further details are on the HI Friends community website (www.hifriends.org.uk under the Wellbeing section) or by phone on 07707 263353.

We meet for six weeks every spring and autumn, with speakers covering relevant topics for the newly bereaved. There is no charge for attendance, and refreshments are provided.

Peter Garside

Late Winter Quiz

HI Friends will be holding their Late Winter Quiz at the Saint Andrew's Centre on Friday 24 February at 7.45pm. Teams of up to eight are welcome at this annual quiz. The cost is £5 per person; please bring your own drink. Please contact info@hifriends.org.uk or call Neil 07502 372852 to reserve a team.

Neil Davies

Choir 2000 news

Choir 2000 are all delighted to report that our Advent Concert collection raised £1,052 for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

We have now started rehearsals for a light-hearted March concert, when we shall perform opera choruses and excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Visit www.Choir2000.org for information about this friendly local choir.

Beatrix Bown

Network Year Book

Thank you to all the local people who joined the regular distributors of the monthly magazine in the great task of delivering Year Books to every home and business in Histon and Impington, a total of some 3,800 copies. I am personally grateful to Val Robson who for the second year organised the entire distribution.

Elizabeth Sadler, Editor

Emily's faith in action



Emily Ward

Last year Histon Emily Ward was asked during a service at St Andrew's how her faith influenced her life beyond church. This was the shape of the interview, now slightly updated by Emily.

Where will you be, this time tomorrow? This time tomorrow I will be at the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge where I currently work part-time as a Healthcare Assistant on the Inpatient Unit.

And when you are not at work? I am a busy mum of three children, two of whom have complex special educational and mental health needs. I spend a lot of my time caring for them, advocating for them, attending meetings and appointments, and I seem to always have a mountain of paperwork needing my attention.

What do you like about your work? I like being part of a really friendly welcoming team, truly supporting each other during difficult shifts. I like coming alongside patients and their relatives at a very difficult time, enabling them to make the very best of every moment they have. I love the very warm, caring atmosphere. It is an incredibly life-affirming place. I like the fact that I have time to spend with my patients, which would be much more of a challenge in an acute hospital setting.

What is a pressure point? As with every healthcare setting, staff are tired and under pressure. The shifts are long, and short term and longer term sickness both seem to be an ever present challenge.

What might God's purpose be for you there right now?

Being a kind and compassionate member of staff is my number one purpose; being Jesus' 'hands and feet' in that setting is a real honour.

I'm also about to take on an extra half day in a new maternity cover role. This job is part of our 'Living Well Services', and I will be working with family members of patients, to help identify and access support for their own needs as carers. This is something I am absolutely passionate about as a parent-carer myself.

How can we pray for you? For those in authority to make wise and compassionate decisions with regard to pay and working conditions for all in the nursing and caring professions; for staff morale in that context; for the challenge of juggling work and home. There are always extra shifts to take on: I need wisdom and to hear God's voice clearly about when to say yes, and when to say no. And please pray for me personally as I start my new role.

Winter scenes at Abbey Fields



The frost and snow, and the bright sunny days that transformed Long Meadow and Croft Close Set-aside in December are already a distant memory. Will we have more before winter is out?

Whatever, many fantastic photographs captured the transient beauty [and we are grateful to Guy Richardson for the selection on this page and the front cover, *Ed*].

For our wildlife it was a tough time: a snipe explored the Brook at Long Meadow whilst many songbirds sought out garden feeders.

As ever, winter is full of surprises and buds are already breaking on the brambles and birds can be heard tuning up for spring. Soon the first cherry plum flowers will appear and then we will know that spring is really on its way.

Jon Pavey, Chair, Friends Steering Committee

