

# NETWORK

magazine

Saint  
Andrew's  
Histon



Postbox toppers: see  
Review & Preview  
for 'Cover story'



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## Winter 2024

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*February edition*

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## Church Diary and Parish Register

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

### February

#### Sunday 4

#### **Second Sunday before Lent**

Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, EDGE Sunday

Wednesday 7

\*Introduction to Mission-shaped Living, 7.30pm, Saint Andrew's Centre

#### Sunday 11

#### **Sunday next before Lent**

Holy Communion, 10.30am EDGE Sunday

Mosaic, 3pm, Saint Andrew's Centre

Monday 12

Copy deadline for March edition of *Network* magazine

Tuesday 13

PCC Worship Meeting, 7.30pm, Saint Andrew's Centre

Wednesday 14

#### **Ash Wednesday**

Holy Communion, 11.30am, Impington Church

Prayer Central, 7.30pm on Zoom

#### Sunday 18

#### **First Sunday of Lent**

Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, EDGE Breakfast

Inspire, 7pm, Saint Andrew's Centre

Monday 19

Half-term holiday for whole week

Wednesday 21

Prayer Central, 7.30pm, Saint Andrew's Centre

Friday 23

Publication of March edition of *Network* magazine, 2.30pm, 29 Home Close

#### Sunday 25

#### **Second Sunday of Lent**

Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, EDGE Sunday

Wednesday 28

Prayer Central, 7.30pm on Zoom

#### REGULAR WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Tuesday

\*\*Praying for our churches, 9–9.30am, Impington Church

\*\*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

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–12.15pm, Saint Andrew's Centre

Choir practice, 7–8pm, Stable Room (TBC)

Men's sports evening, 6pm, Impington Sports Centre

#### Notes

Sunday services are live streamed from 10.30am, and then available on YouTube.

Contact the church office for more information and links to online events.

\*More details on other pages.

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

For details of weekly groups for children and young people, please contact the church office.

#### Church websites

standrewshiston.org www.standrewscentre.org.uk

#### Service of blessing

A service of blessing for Tabitha Jorden and Louis Schieferdecker, following their wedding in Florida on Sunday 5 November, was held in our church on Saturday 13 January.

If you would like to donate towards *Network* magazine costs, please scan the QR above, or contact the office.

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## Viewpoint

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



Canon James Blandford-Baker

*About five years ago, in an attempt to keep in touch with my pre-vicar self, I decided to learn one of today's most popular computer programming languages: Python. You might think this sounds a bit nerdy, and indeed it is, but I think nerdy is just as good as the opposite and anyway, I've always enjoyed programming since the days of learning Basic at school and Fortran at university. My motivation this time round was especially high: I needed to find a way of reducing the time spent in processing some files on my computer which otherwise took up a half hour here and there every couple of weeks. The program has proved its worth over and over again; I click a button and the whole task is accomplished in a moment. All in all it was a great experience; I learned something new, and made my life a little bit easier.*

*Sadly, though, learning programming languages is rather like learning foreign languages: you need to do a little bit of practice every day otherwise you forget the grammar and the vocab, and it takes ages to do what you want to and you're even more frustrated because you know you knew how to do it but can't remember. So five years on I wanted to extend the original program to automate a bit more of the process and I found I couldn't remember enough Python and needed to relearn what I once knew. I'm not someone who finds that easy; I'd always rather learn a new thing than have to relearn an old one. However, my student son—a computer scientist—was encouraging me, and in the back of my mind I knew I'd got a backstop: he'd sort it out for me if I got stuck.*

*So before Christmas I started on Python again. And actually it all came back quite quickly, and it was a big relief to know the brain still works when you're . . . ahem . . . pushing a significant birthday. And I've loved it, but I also had a couple of times when I duly got a bit stuck or needed some advice. So my son and I had a video call or two and, since 'coding' is really his 'thing', he is always keen to help. And keen to help meant 'happy to hang out with dad for an hour or two'. Together (he did more than me but he's also a very good teacher, so I learned too) we solved the problems and both reflected on what fun times we had had. So my programming had unexpectedly turned into precious time with my son in which we had both enjoyed hanging out together. I really love learning from both my children.*

*I reflected later that so often this is how it is with God—who Christians often describe as their 'Heavenly Father'. Sometimes we just need a reason to hang out with God, to spend time with*

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## Spring is around the corner?

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Cherry plum blossom  
(Photo, Jon Pavey)

Will the relative warmth of the autumn and Christmas period continue as the days lengthen? If so, we will soon see the regular harbingers of spring aplenty. Already the odd plant is in flower and some buds are well developed. At Croft Close Set-aside and elsewhere in the village the white cherry plum blossom will soon adorn hedgerows. Song thrushes have started claiming territories from high song posts, with their characteristic habit of repeating each sung phrase before broadcasting another variation. Robins and dunnocks too are adding to the developing chorus.

Whilst the winter's rainfall has replenished our aquifers, the associated flooding will have been problematic for some species. Long Meadow's moles seem to be most active away from the wetter areas in winter, and this year there have been several areas of standing water, albeit short-lived. However, such wet areas provide opportunities for other species, whether it is the occasional little egret or even a buzzard—a noted devourer of earthworms.

*Jon Pavey, Trustee, Histon & Impington Green Spaces*

### **Help remove invasive trees from the WI Wood**

In recent years the WI Wood, opposite the Community Orchard and Manor Field, has been invaded by evergreen oaks. The Parish Council has been granted permission by the County Council (who own the wood) to remove this alien species, and volunteers are invited to assist with digging or pulling out several hundred saplings on Saturday 10 February, 10.30am–12.30pm.

It is not necessary to register in advance but if you can email [sitemanagers@abbeyfields.online](mailto:sitemanagers@abbeyfields.online) saying you hope to join, it will help with our planning and ensuring volunteers are suitably equipped.

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previous page)*

*him, speak with him and listen to him. Often these times come about when we are needy; I don't think God minds that but he also wants us to spend the good times with him. The Bible describes Jesus as not only seeking his Father's help when in need but intentionally making time for him, often early in the morning—which wasn't quite as bad as it sounds since people went to bed a lot earlier in those days!*

*And the result of this time together? Problems solved, relationships deepened, joy shared. If you would like to spend more time hanging out with God then do. And if you're not sure where to start, do get in touch.*

*James*

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## Review & Preview

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Saint Andrew's Office: 320420 or email [office@standrewshiston.org](mailto:office@standrewshiston.org)

### **Introduction to Mission Shaped Living**

After Jesus rose from the dead, and just before he ascended into heaven, the last thing he asked his disciples to do was to tell other people about him and what it means to live in his way. As followers of Jesus, we want to authentically share Jesus with people; we want to talk about what Jesus has done for us and show how a relationship with him can change lives for the better. Yet as his followers we find this task difficult.

This is why John McGinley has produced his resource Mission-Shaped Living, an eight-session course for small groups—designed to equip the followers of Jesus better to fulfil the task he asked them to do: giving the tools and resources to develop and encourage an outward focus, helping them to reach out to their communities and bless them.

So, during Lent our small groups and others will be using this course by John McGinley whose book, *The Church of Tomorrow*, we studied so helpfully in the autumn. Come along on to the Saint Andrew's Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7 February, with your small group or on your own, for the first session of the course.

*Ruth Chamberlain*

### **Praying with the Palestinian people**

Each year, women from a different country prepare the World Day of Prayer service, which is then celebrated in over 146 countries and islands round the world. The country to prepare the service is chosen seven years in advance. As it happens, this year's service, which is on Friday 1 March, has been written by Palestinian Christian women, and they chose the theme, 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'. Our opportunity to join them in worship and prayer will be at a combined service by all village churches in St Andrew's Histon, at 1.45pm. All, both men and women, are urged to come and pray with us for the Palestinian people, as they seek to 'bear with one another in love' in the most terrible of circumstances.

Please email [djuditha@outlook.com](mailto:djuditha@outlook.com) for further information.

*Judith Adam*

### **Cover story**

Gina Barber and her fellow knitters have once again given us joy with their postbox toppers, including one opposite the Baptist Church with an interpretation of 'a Ukrainian Christmas'.

Five Ukrainian ladies with their children, who have been hosted by village families, joyously opened our carol services at both St Andrew's churches with a Ukrainian welcome song. They also sang the familiar Bell Carol in its original language.





*Claire Kangayan*

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## Claire shares her story

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Anthony Leaver recently met Claire Kangayan over coffee at the Saint Andrew's Centre, to get to know her better and help in sharing something of her faith journey with us.

The conversation seemed to naturally fall into the groups of family, faith and fellowship.

*Family:* Claire studied languages at Durham University—French, German and Russian—before coming to work in Cambridge. It was here that she met and married Fabienne, who is Malaysian (hence the unusual surname!). They have now lived here in Histon for many years and have four children: Mia (18), Joshua and Ben (both 16) and Lucie (14). Children feature a large amount in Claire's life, as she also teaches at Mayfield Primary School.

*Faith:* Claire had some knowledge of Christianity for a long time but it was only through the friendship, support and dedicated prayers of university friends Jess, and Helen—who also came to work in Cambridge—that one day she just realised that she wanted to yield her whole life to Jesus.

Claire came to faith in Jesus whilst at St Andrew the Great in Cambridge. Then, once married, she and Fabienne worshipped at St Barnabas for nine years.

*Fellowship:* Claire and Fabienne have now been part of the church family at St Andrew's Histon for fifteen years. Being part of a home group has been crucial in Claire's desire to walk closely with Jesus—to follow him in her daily life. She has found that the opportunity to gather weekly to read the Bible, to encourage and support one another and to pray together has been invaluable.

Within our church fellowship here, Claire is involved in 'Little Stars', where parents and carers can come to the Saint Andrew's Centre with their babies for coffee, cake, chat, songs and a Jesus-focused 'thought for the day'.

On Sundays she is a member of the 'Welcoming Team', who try to ensure that people of all ages are given a heartfelt welcome to our services and nobody feels left out.

Claire has also enjoyed contributing to the monthly Eco Tips, which appear in the weekly church email: at St Andrew's we are passionate about caring for the environment, for which we have a Christian responsibility.

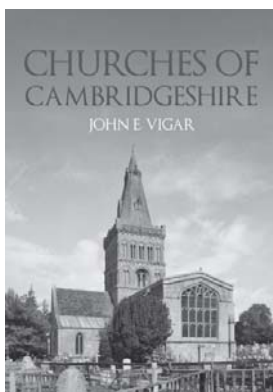
*And for the future?* Claire looks forward to whatever adventures with Jesus lie ahead!

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## Community noticeboard

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### Village Society



Our programme of talks for 2024 gets off to a great start on Tuesday 30 January (7.30pm at the Methodist Church), when the Society is delighted to be welcoming ecclesiastical historian and author John E. Vigar. His talk, about 'Exploring Cambridgeshire Churches', coincides with the recent launch of his illustrated book, *Churches of Cambridgeshire*. This is part of a countrywide series for which John has already written three volumes. Over the past years, his research for the series has led him to visit and record over 13,000 churches in England and Wales.

The talk will explore the architectural development of churches in Cambridgeshire and help suggest what to look for when visiting a church, focusing on the tiny details a casual visitor might miss. John covers every period and type of church, from a simple Saxo-Norman church in Hauxton to late medieval churches, where money was no object, such as at Whittlesey. Former monastic houses are represented by March and Ramsey; there is a rare seventeenth-century church at Guyhirn, and we will discover that All Saints' Cambridge is one of the most important nineteenth-century churches in England. John will of course also take a look at some of our local churches. More information about John and his research can be found at [www.johnevigar.com](http://www.johnevigar.com) and his book is available on Amazon to purchase.

Booking for an in-person or Zoom ticket (members free of charge, non-members £4) can be made via our website\* or call 07956 720023. Please see website for this year's programme of talks, and get in touch as soon as possible to renew your membership for 2024.

*Katherine Mann*

\*[histonandimpingtonvillagesociety.wordpress.com](http://histonandimpingtonvillagesociety.wordpress.com)

### Archaeology Group

Histon and Impington Archaeology Group's next talk is on Monday 12 February, 7.30pm at the Methodist Church and also available by Zoom.

Dr Steve Boreham will be giving a talk on 'Unseen Histon, the geology beneath your feet—the landscape history of the Histon district': an opportunity to find out how geology has impacted the way the landscape of our area has developed.

Talks are free to members of HIAG, or £4 (cash only) on the door for non-members. The Zoom link is sent automatically to members, and non-members can register for it via Eventbrite. More details and the link to our Eventbrite page are on our website below.

*Penny English*

[hiarchaeology.wordpress.com/hiag-talk-publicity-2023-2024-programme](http://hiarchaeology.wordpress.com/hiag-talk-publicity-2023-2024-programme)

**Winter walk at the Manor** Histon Manor's third annual snowdrop walk, by kind invitation of Katherine Mann, is on Saturday 10 February, 10am–3 pm. Entry to the grounds is free this year but any donations will go to East Anglia's Children's Hospices. A ticket (£6, with proceeds towards Holiday at Home) is only needed for those wishing to have tea and a slice of cake in the Manor kitchen. To book tickets visit the website: [www.hihub.info/events/tea-cake-and-winter-walk-at-histon-manor-2/](http://www.hihub.info/events/tea-cake-and-winter-walk-at-histon-manor-2/)

**Garden Club** On Tuesday 13 February, 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Jim Paine will give a talk entitled 'The Secret Life of Plants'.  
How do plants tell the time? How and why they communicate with each other? Jim of the well-known Walnut Tree Garden Centre will tell us about this and other fascinating secrets that plants have.

For further details please contact Muriel Clements (232236).

*Marilyn Harvey*

**Women's Institute** On Thursday 15 February, 7.30–9.30pm at the Methodist Church, Peter Hains gives his second talk on Literary Cambridge—drawing upon the city's rich heritage of authors, playwrights and poets. Visitors are most welcome: £5 per meeting. *Maggie Dunn*

**Impington Music Society** On Friday 16 February, 7.30–9.30pm in the Brackenbury Room at IVC, young musicians from The Stephen Perse Foundation Schools will perform. Individual attendance £10 (18 and under, £5).

*Mike Lloyd*

**Family activities in the Library** On Saturday 17 February, 2–2.45pm, the Library is hosting 'Shake Rattle and Roll: an Interactive Live Music Session for Families'. This is suitable for ages 7 and under, but children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

For booking—essential for this session—please visit the library or email ([BarHill.Referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:BarHill.Referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)). Payment is required when booking to confirm your place: £6 for one child plus adult (0–6 months, free); additional children £2 each; additional adults £4 each. This event is supported by HI Library Friends.

Regular activities for accompanied children continue: Lego Club, Interactive Story Time, and Rhyme-time.

*Karen Foster, District Library Assistant*

**Engage in the afternoon** On Wednesday 21 February, 2–3.30pm at the Library, Jane, a member of the Association of Guild Spinners, Weavers and Dyers, will talk about the art of hand spinning: 'From Fleece to Finish'. There will be an opportunity to try a drop spindle and watch the spinning wheel in action. Feel free to stay on afterwards and chat over refreshments. There is no need to book, though donations towards the Library Service are welcome.

*Karen Foster, District Library Assistant*



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## Sheep saving the land

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*Julius and Harriet learning to spin, in Cumbria*

*Just a year ago two members of St Andrew's, Julius and Harriet Arinaitwe, moved back to Kabale in south-western Uganda to start a social enterprise: raising sheep to restore the catchment of South Kiruruma wetlands. Julius has kindly sent us this update.*

The sheep, which are at the heart of the enterprise, have not arrived from Kenya yet! However, we have settled well in our new home and we are loving it. Not that everything is a bed of roses but, overall, there is plenty to be happy about and thank God for.

The sheep social enterprise is one of the projects I am working on here. The vision for this project is to restore the catchment of South Kiruruma river and improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of local people through raising sheep: if farmer groups can raise wool sheep, they benefit from the wool and the manure, and by growing fodder; they will also help reduce the erosion of the soil and enhance its regeneration. Here are some key developments.

### **Building the infrastructure**

A spacious sheep-pen was constructed way back in May and stocked with three local sheep to help us develop farm routines and gain some experience. In addition, a barn for storing hay was constructed. The number of sheep has increased to eight, through birth and the procurement of some mixed breed merino lambs. They are all doing well so far and if we can look after the merino lambs successfully, then we will be confident about raising the Corriedales as well. The Corriedales are the target breed to drive the social enterprise.



*From left to right:  
workers' accommodation,  
sheep pens,  
barn for hay  
Beyond, steep-sided valley  
prone to soil erosion*

### Preparing the pastures

We have planted strips of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) along the ridges in our crop fields (locally called ‘kati ka’ncingo’) to demonstrate how growing of sheep-fodder can be integrated with normal crop growing activities. The grass is doing well, thus providing the essential service of reducing soil erosion and increasing insect diversity in the garden. It’s ready to harvest and store as silage to feed the Corriedales when they arrive.

In addition, we have cleared three acres of pastureland that will provide additional fodder for the sheep. Alongside this, Harriet is busy growing the food for our extended family.

### Venue for the workshop

We have secured a strategically located building along the Kabale-Katuna highway to Kigali, Rwanda, in which to place the wool processing equipment and furniture. The premises once housed a maize grinding mill and required extensive renovations to get it ready for the wool operations. As these premises are not connected to the national grid, a solar power unit with the capacity to run the sewing/embroidery machines has been installed.

We have not started operations but, thanks to a friend, we have plenty of wool that was shipped from the UK. We are actively searching for an appropriately trained artisan willing to join the enterprise at this stage of setting up. To keep a positive cashflow, I took up a job teaching at Kabale University—hence the need for a worker so early in the project.

### Holding on to the vision

With hindsight, maybe our plans were too ambitious considering our limited experience and resources for this work. Overall, the project is running slower than expected, but this does not change the vision: working with nature, rather than against it, to improve the livelihoods of our people.

*The sheep pen with  
the barn beyond  
Below: the full flock  
(Photos, Julius Arinaitwe)*



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## Raising the school leaving age to 90!

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This term Impington Village College has relaunched its programme of adult education. Principal Victoria Hearn and College staff have been working hard to refresh the programme ready for the centenary of Henry Morris's famous Memorandum, written during 1924, which led to the founding of the Village Colleges across the county. As Cambridgeshire's Chief Education Officer, he aspired to 'raise the school leaving age to 90' and place the College 'as the community centre of the neighbourhood'.

Ms Hearn writes: *We are delighted to be opening our doors again to the community and beginning to relaunch our offer. In line with our ethos as an IB World School, our programme for the spring focuses largely on language learning, with beginners' classes in French, Portuguese, Mandarin and Italian. We will continue to offer pottery, yoga, ballroom dancing, also with creative classes making resin coasters and plaques. In addition to these courses, we will be running heavily subsidised ESOL classes (English for Speakers of other Languages) and functional skills maths classes.*

*Our classes are run by enthusiastic and experienced teachers, and include a unique opportunity within Cambridgeshire for families to join classes together. The programme will be open to 'parent/carers and child' options, where young people aged 14+ accompanied by a parent/carers will be able to enjoy learning new skills for 50 per cent of the full cost.*

Visit [www.impington.cambs.sch.uk/adult-education](http://www.impington.cambs.sch.uk/adult-education) to browse the courses and access the new online booking system.

(Continued from  
back page)

peace and respect in the church, in spite of all the hustle and bustle with crowds making their way around the building. In the pews, people were sitting in prayer, or reading the Bible or speaking in hushed voices to their friends. The welcomers and I had numerous friendly conversations, encouraging our visitors to take a deeper interest in our faith.

The crowds just kept coming until about 17.30. How could this have happened? Well, the Holy Spirit was definitely at work, but more prosaically, somehow our little old fair had got on to an Izmir website called 'What To Do In Izmir Today', as the number one item. However it happened, it felt like a huge blessing to host all these people, mostly young secular Muslims, who definitely loved visiting our Christmas fair and seeing our beautiful church. Without a doubt we would be welcoming some of them back for our well-advertised Christmas services.

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## A bumper turnout in Izmir

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*The Revd James Buxton, previously Chaplain at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, is now Chaplain at St John's Izmir, Turkey—ancient Smyrna. In December he wrote about an amazing event.*

Here in Izmir, the longstanding 'Church Christmas Fair' attracts not only friends from the local churches, but also local folk who love the opportunity to peruse our numerous stalls and have a look inside the church, which is beautifully decorated for Christmas.

Apart from second-hand items, crafts and home produce we have delicious food from around the world, including Iranian soup, Korean dumplings, English cakes and biscuits, and delicious *gozleme* (Turkish pancake with cheese and spinach stuffing).

Early December can be very wet in Izmir. Indeed within a week of the fair there was torrential rain, with high winds and a tidal surge which flooded the shopping district near our church. So we always hope and pray for fair weather. Well, Saturday 2 December was a lovely balmy day, so we were expecting a good turnout when we opened the gate at 10am. We got off to a good start, and at about 11.30 I was pleased to see the queue stretching along the church path. But wait! The queue in fact stretched far further: all the way to the post office (300 yards) and even the bank (400 yards)!

It was certainly a bumper turnout this year. Our church welcomers (who use a 'clicker') counted an astonishing 4,500 visitors. We always make sure there are copies of the New Testament in the entrance for visitors to take. We stopped counting after 350 had been taken. Most importantly, there was a profound atmosphere of

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