

NETWORK

magazine

Saint
Andrew's
Histon



Easter 2024

March edition

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**All welcomed to the
Manor snowdrop walk**



Viewpoint

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



The Revd Nick Romans, Curate

It's hard not to notice the new life around us at this time of year as leaves unfurl and the cherry comes into blossom: the bleat of new lambs in the fields, the birds beginning to gather sticks for nests. The natural world is a bustle of activity.

After the long winter darkness, I love being woken up at this time of year by natural light rather than the alarm clock; I treasure the lighter evenings to be able to enjoy a walk without a torch, or play cricket with my boys. Either subconsciously or intentionally, many of us are preparing for growth at this time of year.

As I bask in the warmth of the budding season and witness new botanical explosions of lime green from seemingly dead twigs, I am reminded of the profound message from Paul the apostle: 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!' (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Spring is a season of renewal, a time when the earth awakens from its winter slumber. This natural transformation mirrors the spiritual metamorphosis described in this letter to the Corinthian Christians by Paul—who described himself as the worst of sinners (actively persecuting followers of Jesus) but whose life was utterly changed when he encountered the risen Jesus.

I wonder if our hunger for renewal and change comes from a deep desire to be known and understood: the longing for an intimate relationship, where we are accepted as we are but with a desire to change for the better.

That's the promise God offers to all through his Son at Easter. The way to become a new creation has been made fully possible at that horrific wooden cross on which the Servant King died. The Easter story speaks of a transaction that took place—the one who was perfectly right with God swapping places with those who chose independence from God. It came at a great cost, but the transaction worked: Jesus beat death—and many witnessed the resurrection.

Paul in 2 Corinthians teaches us that, through Christ, we are not bound by our past mistakes or the burdens we carry. We are liberated from the unbearable chains of self-dependence, and piece by piece (as in a jigsaw) we start to resemble our wonderful King. From such renewal begins a beautiful relationship with Jesus.

May this spring be one when we do not just admire the wonder of the natural world but know the internal relief and delight in being reconciled to him who went to such lengths to demonstrate his love for us.

Nick.

Church Diary and Parish Register

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

March

- Friday 1* *World Day of Prayer: service, 1.45pm, Histon Church
- Sunday 3 *Third Sunday of Lent***
Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, EDGE Sunday
- Monday 4* PCC meeting, 7.30pm, Saint Andrew's Centre
- Wednesday 6* Discovery Bible Study, 11.30am, Impington Church Hall
Prayer Central, 7.30pm, Saint Andrew's Centre
- Sunday 10 *Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday***
Holy Communion, 10.30am EDGE Sunday
Mosaic, 3pm, Saint Andrew's Centre
- Monday 11* Copy deadline for April edition of *Network* magazine
- Wednesday 13* Discovery Bible Study, 11.30am, Impington Church Hall
Prayer Central, 7.30pm on Zoom
- Sunday 17 *Fifth Sunday of Lent***
Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, EDGE Breakfast
Songs of Praise, 3pm, Impington Church (combined choirs)
Inspire, 7pm, Saint Andrew's Centre
- Monday 18* Walking in Faith, 10.30am, from Longstanton Park & Ride
- Wednesday 20* Discovery Bible Study, 11.30am, Impington Church Hall
Prayer Central, 7.30pm, Saint Andrew's Centre
- Friday 22* Publication of April edition of *Network* magazine, 2.30pm, 29 Home Close
- Sunday 24 *Palm Sunday***
Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, EDGE Sunday
- Thursday 28 *Maundy Thursday**
Supper, 7pm, Stable Room; Holy Communion, 8pm in church
- Friday 29 *Good Friday**
*Easter Family Event (Churches Together H&I), 10am–12 noon, The Green
Good Friday service, 10.30am
The Final Hour, 2pm, Impington Church
- Sunday 31 *Easter Sunday British Summer Time begins***
Holy Communion, 10.30am SJ Club, EDGE Sunday
*Easter Egg Hunt and Bouncy Castle, 2–4, 4–6pm, Stable Room

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 (as arranged)
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 office.

Website: standrewshiston.org

To donate towards *Network* magazine costs, please contact the office.

From the Gold Fields



Linnet, Joe and Prabhu after a King's Junior Vocals concert

Linnet Frederick-Prasad, a second-year ordinand at Ridley Hall, is currently on placement at St Andrew's. She writes:

I moved to Cambridge in 2022 with my beloved husband Prabhu, who is a chef at Trinity College, and our son Joe, who is in Year 9 at St Bede's and a member of King's Junior Vocals.

Prabhu and I were born in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), a gold mining area in South India, and raised in devoted Christian families. We both went to Anglo-Indian Catholic schools; every Friday, we had catechism for Christians and a moral science class for non-Christians.

I am a sixth-generation Christian, so the church played a vital role in how we lived and associated with our neighbours of multiple religions. Christ was the centre of our life. On Sundays, we worshipped at our local church and then families got together and cooked meals. During the week, we had regular prayer meetings. Our lifestyle revolved around family, church and work.

My father is a Lutheran priest, and my mum is a biology teacher (now retired). I have two younger siblings: Beatrice works for *Times of India* and is married with two girls under eight; Philip, an accountant for an American bank, is single and lives with our parents. On my father's side my grandad was a civil engineer, my nan was a midwife; my maternal grandfather worked as a miner, and my grandmother looked after the agricultural land.

KGF is a small urban town; everybody knows each other, so we were mindful that if we were up to any naughty acts like skipping college for a movie, our parents would know before we arrived home. So, we had a conservative upbringing, and our schools and community took pride in providing that security and care.

Our town had limited education and employment; people who had no jobs in town daily travelled about sixty miles on trains for work. By the grace of God, Mum was transferred to Bangalore in 2000, the right time for my higher studies. We moved partly for Mum's job and partly for our education. My father still travels to KGF to visit his parish members and to conduct services.

Prabhu moved to Bangalore to continue his apprenticeship in hotel management, and from 2000 he worked on the P&O cruise line, based in Southampton. We married in 2003, but I stayed with my parents to study for a BSc in biotechnology, and Prabhu continued working for P&O Cruises, so typically he had a three-month break after nine months of work. Such a lifestyle is common in India if one is to attain a stable future.

In 2006, I moved to Sheffield to study for a Master's in forensic science, and I regularly went to church to cope with a big change in my life. Prabhu continued working for the cruise line. He joined me in 2007, and we moved from Sheffield to Surrey because of Prabhu's job. From 2008 until 2010, I worked in clinical trials research at Bart's Hospital in London as a research technician.

We worshipped at St Paul's, East Molesey and during our thirteen years in Surrey church became our sanctuary. Apart from work colleagues as friends, we had no one to call family here in the UK. I went to seek God and find solace, and God gave me a family who welcomed us into their life as though I were their sister or a daughter in Christ. Today, I am standing here because God used people around me from the church community to shape our lives for Christ's mission. I was just an immigrant Indian seeking a prosperous life for a few years so we could return home with job experience and be closer to my loved ones.

In February 2010, Joe was born at Kingston Hospital; during my maternity leave, I spent most of my time in church programmes like the Alpha course and prayer retreats, printing pew sheets, on the cleaning rota. My experience in the church since then has allowed me to serve as a Communion assistant and an intercessor, and to assist incumbent priests wherever required, whether to lead services, help move furniture or tidy the church.

From October 2011 until August 2022, I returned to full-time work for the NHS as a Cardiac Technician at Kingston Hospital. Most of my church members were there too, as colleagues, volunteers, and some as patients, so I was again in a community of love, care and service. The hospital chapel was my fortress: every Friday, I ended my fasting prayer by giving thanks for the lives of people who kept me going, and for our creation.

In 2017 I began the process of discernment—was God calling me to ministry? I went with the flow of the church, the vocation advisors and the Diocesan Director of Ordinands in Guildford. They asked me many questions, some needing to be answered in detailed accounts, and recommended books to reflect on the present and the future. Without God, I wouldn't have gone through these processes while working full-time and raising a young family, along with the household work. Other church members played a vital role in holding me and my family to face the world's needs.

I want to end with words that comfort and encourage me through my faith journey: *For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.* (2 Corinthians 4:17–18 NRSV)

Community noticeboard

Feast funding Applications for funding from Histon and Impington Feast for 2024 are now welcome.

Last year, the funds raised by the generous donations made during Feast Week were shared between a range of local good causes. The Feast Committee would now like to be able to support local groups, organisations and charities from the funds raised during the 2024 Feast Week. So, if you need funding, then read the application form on the website carefully and if you meet the criteria then please apply. Applications close at midday on Sunday 10 March. Please note that Feast Week is Saturday 29 June to Sunday 7 July and groups typically receive funding in the autumn.

Further details, including the criteria and form, are on the Feast website (hisimp.com/feast/feast-funding).

Dan Mace, Feast Committee

Archaeology Group The next talk for Histon and Impington Archaeology Group (HIAG) will be on Monday 11 March, 7.30pm, at the Methodist Church and also available by Zoom. Professor Matthew Collins of Cambridge University will be talking about the 'Beasts to Craft Project: biocodicology as a new approach to the study of parchment manuscripts'. The project used a range of biomolecular and imaging methods to unlock the invisible information stored in manuscripts, information which without modern techniques would remain hidden. This has enabled more to be learnt about their context, from livestock rearing to the craft skills used to transform animal skins into parchment.

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.*

*hiarchaeology.wordpress.com/hiag-talk-publicity-2023-2024-programme

Penny English, Chair of HIAG

Garden Club On Tuesday 12 March Dr Twigs Way will give a talk with the title 'Exploring Traditional Wildflower Names', giving us an insight into the origins of traditional wildflower names. Twigs Way's wide interests include the work of botanical artists, and the history of individual flowers and gardens (with a recently published book on the Suburban Garden).

We meet at the Methodist Church rooms at 7.30pm. As usual there will be a raffle, refreshments and a chance to chat.

Please contact Muriel Clements on 232236 for more details.

Marilyn Harvey

**Wildlife awakes
from winter**

Wildlife observers may already have seen butterflies and queen bumblebees out of hibernation in February; in March they will be more abundant. Nothing welcomes spring more than the bright yellow of a brimstone butterfly flying past; and watch out for the delightfully named hairy-footed flower bee (the females are black with orange on their hind legs). And maybe this year could be the first time in living memory that ravens breed here: a pair of birds was recently spotted over Gun's Lane.

Spring is the time to be outside but do come along to the Histon & Impington Green Spaces members' afternoon (non-members welcome): Saturday 16 March, 2pm in the Saint Andrew's Centre. It will be an opportunity to learn more about wildlife across the villages, and importantly to share your interesting observations of our villages' nature network.

Jon Pavey, Chair, Friends Steering Committee

**Engage in the
Afternoon**



How do electric bikes work? How far can they travel? Come along to this month's Engage talk, Introduction to Electric Bikes, given by Stuart Eckersley from Spoke and Motor Electric bikes, to find out the answers to these and other frequently asked questions: Wednesday 20 March, 2–3.30pm.

Stay on for a cuppa and chat with other local residents. Donations towards refreshments and future events are welcomed.

Karen Foster, District Library Assistant

Women's Institute

On Thursday 21 March, 7.30 at the Methodist Church, Pippa Heylings will be giving a talk on Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife, which is the current WI campaign. This will be followed by refreshments and our Annual Meeting. Visitors are most welcome (£5 per meeting).

Ruth Davies, President

**Impington
Music Society**

On Friday 22 March, 7.30pm in IVC's Brackenbury Room, the Music Society presents a piano recital by senior students of Thanea Hodges. She and her husband both teach—and raise funds for many good causes, having founded the Grade-One-a-Thon in 2004.

Mike Lloyd

Choir2000

On Friday 22 and Saturday 23 March at 7.30pm, Choir2000 and our Chamber Orchestra will present a programme of excellent English music at the Baptist Church. There will be a concert version of Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*, famous for the wonderful Dido's Lament, 'When I am laid in Earth'. However, there are also many scenes with exhilarating choruses for witches, sailors and courtiers. The other work is the moving set of six Songs of Farewell by Hubert Parry.

Tickets @ £12 are available from members of the choir, online at www.choir2000.org/tickets or on the door.

Beatrix Bown

Village Society

On Tuesday 26 March, 7.30pm at the Methodist Church, David Duker's subject for the Village Society is 'One of Our Own'.

This is the enthralling story of Victor Howard Ekins, a young Cambridgeshire man who found himself at the epicentre of one of the biggest turning points in recent history: The Battle of Britain. Guided by the diaries that he meticulously kept throughout his wartime experience and that lay unread for over eighty years, David Duker will talk through Victor Howard Ekins' story.

David works to promote the legacy of this remarkable generation and founded the Tally Ho Project CIC, a social enterprise dedicated to sharing the many life-changing lessons that can be found in the past. David is a public speaker, historian, author and life coach.

Historic honour for Village Society



The society has been chosen to host the annual Cambridge Association of Local History (CALH) conference, marking a departure from CALH's usual sole organisation of the event. CALH has been so impressed with the society's accomplishments that it prompted them to join forces with H&IVSoc to create what we hope will be a memorable conference. The theme will revolve around the History and Heritage of Histon and Impington.

H&IVSoc has produced a schedule of completely new talks that will engage both our society members as well as attendees from across Cambridgeshire. The many talks include insights into the eclectic village architecture, Chivers, and Histon Railway Station.

The conference is set to take place at the Baptist Church on Saturday 6 April, 10am–4pm. Discounted tickets at £10 including refreshments are available to members; non-members are also welcome to attend for a ticket price of £15. Booking is available on Eventbrite or via the society website.*

Katherine Mann

*histonandimpingtonvillagesociety.wordpress.com

HI Trees Care Day

In 2021 and 2022 the HI Trees Group planted about 1,200 trees in the field near the Holiday Inn and B1049. On the whole the trees are doing well and should grow into a new woodland. We would like to give them the best possible start, so we're going to hold a tree care event on Sunday 14 April, 10am–3pm. We're inviting the village to come along and give the trees some help.

We think we will need about 100 people—there are a lot of trees! What needs doing? Well, we're asking people to:

1. pull weeds up from immediately around each tree
2. stomp the weeds down in a circle 50cm from the tree
3. put a pile of mulch on this circle.

Do that and then move onto the next tree! We're not asking people to come for the whole time, but perhaps an hour—or even thirty minutes. We'll have a mulch-o-meter to help spur you on!

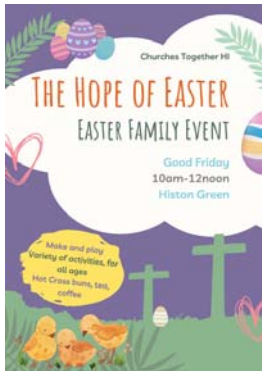
So please come along to the field near the Holiday Inn on Sunday 14 April: all help will be much appreciated.

Dan Mace, HI Trees Action Group

Review & Preview

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

The Hope of Easter



Tim Blake, our Children's Team Leader, tells us about some events for families over the Easter weekend, and gives the dates for the Holiday Club for children in the summer.

The Churches Together in Histon and Impington would like to invite you 'The Hope of Easter', an event for everyone on Good Friday, 29 March, from 10am–12 noon on Histon Green.

This event aims to explore and share the true story and meaning of Easter. We will have five stations on The Green for people to visit, each hosted by one of the village churches.

Across the stations there will be a variety of crafts to make, games to play and things for children of different ages and interests to do and engage with. There will also be hot cross buns and warm drinks to end with. All are most welcome to come along.

Bouncy Castle and Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday afternoon, 31 March, St Andrew's Church is hosting a Bouncy Castle and Easter Egg Hunt based at the Stable Room. We have a bouncy slide and a castle, and there will be crafts and activities as well as the Easter Egg Hunt.

This year, there will be two events running back to back for different ages. From 2pm until 4pm we welcome all with Under 5 year olds; then all 6+ aged children are welcome until 6pm. If you have children in both categories, please choose one, both or a bit of each! To round off each event we will share the Easter story.

Holiday Club

The Churches Together in HI are pleased that another three-day Holiday Club will take place on the mornings of Tuesday 23–Thursday 25 July, 10am–12.30pm. All children who are currently in school from Reception up to Year 6 are invited to join us.

Details of this year's theme will emerge quite soon.

Prayer and aid for Palestinians

This year's service for the World Day of Prayer, involving members of all our village churches, was written some time ago by Palestinian Christian women with the theme, 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'. All are welcome at St Andrew's Histon on Friday 1 March, at 1.45pm, to pray for the Palestinian people who are now suffering in the most terrible of circumstances.

We are grateful to CMJ, the Church's Ministry among Jewish People, for kind permission to reprint an abridged version of a recent account of the practical aid they continue to give to any who are in need in the Holy Land, but especially in these days of increased suffering and hardship. See the following page.

Loving our neighbours in the midst of war



The sky at night—in wartime

CMJ Israel's Mercy Fund has long been delivering humanitarian aid and other assistance, but the war has greatly increased the needs. Here they introduce us to just some of the people they serve.

A Holocaust survivor lost her son in the 7 October massacre. We have been bringing food to her apartment and now stay to sit and weep with her—sometimes the most important thing.

A single mother with four children, including two with special needs, had to flee their home when it was attacked on 7 October and her uncle was killed. However, they must return to their home as there is nowhere else to go and she needs to work. So we are helping pay for a security system so she and her children will feel safe at home. She is extremely grateful.

Another Jewish woman with two children lost her husband, a police officer, in the battle against the terrorists. She must make many decisions about the future while trying to process it all. Our friendly lawyers are helping her with all the legal paperwork she needs to receive government benefits. We are also helping with counselling and other support for her and her children.

Meanwhile, despite the war, our support continues to many Palestinian families in Bethlehem and other West Bank cities. One father is prevented by the war from getting to his job in Israel, and the mother is battling with cancer. Their two children have special needs, but their home is in poor condition; so we're helping with things like food assistance and money to help renovate their home.

Another Palestinian man is very sick. His wife as the sole breadwinner cannot access the houses she cleans in Jerusalem and is very worried about the lack of income. We help with food assistance, and supplies for the household and the children's schooling.

We have long been supporting the Domari Community Centre in Jerusalem. This gypsy minority suffers from poor education and employment, often relying on social welfare systems. We provide food baskets to many families and also assist the Centre leadership with counselling support, connecting them with various aid organisations. We are grateful that some of their young people will now graduate from high school and even attend university, with plans to come back and help younger children with their education.

We continue to pray for healing for these family members and for all those who have been wounded or hurt in the war in Gaza, as well as on Israel's northern border, which the Israel Defense Forces are trying to defend against attacks from Hezbollah.

And, of course, we continue to pray for the peace of God.

For more information about
the Church's Ministry among
Jewish People in Israel
visit cmj-israel.org/

Blockbuster diplomacy



Tim Davies

Tim Davies spent six years living in Myanmar, working with local NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and consulting for the United Nations Development Programme. Tim finally returned to Histon in January, and he has written this article for Network magazine about some of the complexities of the situation in Myanmar which is still under military rule.

While in the summer of 2023 Hollywood witnessed the release of *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer*, in China the blockbuster was *No More Bets*. Despite its fictional nature, the plot revolves around two Chinese individuals enticed abroad by a promising job opportunity, only to find themselves trapped in a slave camp. Subjected to abuse by their handler, they are coerced to commit cyber fraud on online victims. Everyone in Asia knew this film was about the ultra-wealthy mafia-run cities nestled within Myanmar's Shan State along the Chinese border. Initially established for activities like casinos, money laundering, drug trade, human trafficking, and illegal wildlife trade, these cities underwent a transformation during the stringent Covid lockdowns in China. With casino halls, markets, and brothels left vacant, the criminal enterprises pivoted towards global cybercrime. However, orchestrating online scams requires more labour, resulting in the enslavement of over 120,000 individuals according to estimates by the UN.

The popularity of the film, and the number of Chinese victims, meant the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) felt inclined to act. The criminal cities in Myanmar are run in cooperation with the Burmese Military which supports the 'Border Guard Force' armies. Therefore, to initiate a crackdown, the CCP authorized Myanmar's pro-democracy resistance groups along with ethnic armed organizations—thus forming an unexpected coalition—to engage in warfare along its border. On 27 October 2023, a surprise attack was launched on the 'Border Guard Force' armies. By January 4, all scam cities had fallen into the hands of the resistance forces, leading to the extradition of mafia bosses to China and the liberation of hundreds of thousands of enslaved victims.

However, nationally China still supports the Burmese Military. Myanmar plays a crucial role in supplying China with up to 80 per cent of certain rare earths, essential components for iPhones and electric vehicles. The CCP perceives the current state of Myanmar as an impoverished, geopolitically weak neighbour capable of meeting China's raw material needs and safeguarding its extensive infrastructure projects as preferable to one that is naturally pro-US

and under democratic control. However, the resistance movement has a renewed hope and is seeing advances across the country.

Covid, coup and war has ravaged every aspect of Myanmar and seen two million leave the country. As a foreigner I was highly unusual in choosing to stay through the crises. Whilst I valued the projects I was supporting and the impact I had, on reflection I stayed because chaos is interesting. I would rather be interested than comfortable. So the question now is how to live in Histon 'uncomfortably'?



Photo story *Tim (on far right) adds what he happened to be doing on the day of the surprise attack:* It was also on 27 October that I drove with friends from Yangon to southern Shan State for a long weekend. During the 8-hour drive there was no internet signal and intermittent GPS; luckily, I had done the journey many times and knew the way! The Chinese border is only about 150 miles beyond this vantage point.

G&S and brass!



Musicians from the village are performing in two local events.

Gorton Musical Theatre presents Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*: Thursday 29 February–Saturday 2 March, 7.30pm (plus 2.30pm on Saturday) at Gorton Glebe School. Tickets: £15 on the door, £12 in advance online (www.ticketsource.co.uk/gortonmusicaltheatre). Children, £6.

CSD Brass Spring Concert: Sunday 24 March, 3pm at St Luke's, Victoria Road, Cambridge. The popular programme ranges from Elgar's *Severn Suite* to Rodney Newton's *World Tour*. Tickets from the ADC Box Office (300085, www.adcticketing.com): £8; £2 under 18s.