

Vicar's 2p Worth – APCM 2022

The APCM is an important opportunity for us to thank the many volunteers who keep this church running, not only in terms of being solvent but in mission and ministry. The last 12 months have been a time of reflection and getting things back on track. It is going to take time but the signs are encouraging as we begin to bring back activities and even think about the Christmas tree festival this year.

As always, I couldn't do anything without your prayers and trust in the God that sustains us in all things. Alongside that, the support of the wardens Jane and Kate which has been amazing - they work hard and give us their total commitment. Thank you.

The efficient running of the church is again an essential part of keeping the show on the road and I would like to thank Jill for all she does in both organizing the church and me! Thank you.

The church should be a place of welcome and love and that is what we try to be, and my thanks go to my colleagues in the ministry team, Rev Richard, Peter, Ruth, Jill and Alice, thank you. As well as the pastoral ministry of the church we need church officers in the PCC and I would like to thank them for all they do. Thank you to Lytton our Treasurer - not a job that I would ever want because it takes some very special skills and patience. For the church to be relevant in this generation our on line presence is essential and I would like to thank Nigel for all he does with the website, Facebook, filming and so much more. There is no doubt that our services are lifted by the music provided by Rob, Ruth, Carolyn and Colin and the choir led by Carole. A huge thank you to Carron and the Guild for all they do in making the church so beautiful - you make a big difference. I would also like to say thank you to Chris our sacristan and to Roy who looks after the electoral roll for us.

A special thank you to George who is retiring from planned giving after 12 years faithful service - we have been fortunate to have your help over the years.

After being closed for 2 years because of Covid we have now opened up Mums and Tots again and I would like to thank Peter, Margaret, Janet and Rachel for their wonderful help and support. Already we are seeing a good number of Mums and tots and its great having them back.

In church we are now seeing various concerts again which helps our finances and that is welcome. Like many churches, we are trying to increase income after two years loss of income. The church centre helps with income and I would like to thank Liz for all she does to manage the bookings. Liz also manages our Baptisms which is a very important part of our outreach. I would also like to thank the wonderful helpers who help with Bacon Butties, Messy church and Christine who looks after Sunday Voyagers. Its good to see the return of the Family Service and I would encourage you to support this service.

Over the last year we were able to work with other churches in supporting people seeking asylum and in recent weeks we have collected for the Ukraine. It has been good to hold weekly prayer vigils to concentrate our prayers on peace.

On a practical note, the grounds of the church have been looked after this year by Ron, Peter and Jane. Thank you. Carron thank you for helping with Holy Trinity church yard - a big task. As always, the school has been part of our community and my thanks go to Head teacher Christine who has been a big support in re-establishing collective worship and Holy Eucharist in school.

There are some people who don't fit into any particular role but help with everything and one of those people is Nancy - always willing to lend a hand, thank you Nancy.

We have had two difficult years but the amount of positivity is wonderful so thank you for that. Despite the sad loss of members of the parish, and recently Libby, it just showed at her service the fellowship that exists in the church and not only here but with St John's.

And, of course, our thanks go John our Associate Vicar, Richard our Curate who has really risen to the challenges this year.

Well done to those who I am sure I missed it's been a wonderful team effort by everyone through a difficult period.

Your friend

Revd Paul

VOYAGERS

Last Sunday our Voyagers thought about how everyone can follow Jesus.



Above: our Voyagers tell Revd Paul about the figures of the disciples they had made during the morning.

Photo courtesy of Jane Langley



50/50 CLUB

April's winning number was No 30 Sue Chapman. Well done Sue, two in a row!

COME ALONG ON SATURDAY TO OUR FRIENDLY FUND-RAISER!

St Hildeburgh's Guild stages its popular coffee morning, for the first time for three years, *next Saturday, May 21*. This cheerful and friendly occasion with a vibrant array of stalls – cakes, hand-made greetings cards, gifts, plants and raffle – raises cash to pay for St Hildeburgh's floral displays at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Please give donations (or cash!), for the various stalls. Contributions may be given to Guild secretary Joyce Reade or brought to the Church Centre between 6pm-7pm on Friday, May 20.

The stalls include...

HOMEMADE GOODIES – cakes, pies, jam, pickles and any homemade edibles.
TOILETRIES and UNWANTED GIFTS.

ORNAMENTS and COLLECTABLES – Decorative china and glass, curios, valuables and collectibles of any kind.

RAFFLE – Consumables such as wine and chocolates as well as any attractive items suitable for prizes.

PLANTS AND GARDENS – plants, tools, books or equipment. Peter Surrige (632-5507 or 07778-517759) can call and collect from you in advance. Peter will also be available to answer gardening queries.

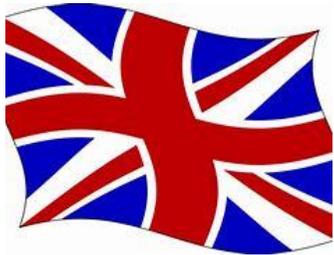
Admission to the coffee morning will cost £2, to include *unlimited* coffee or tea and biscuits, and the event will be...

...in the Church Centre on Saturday, May 21, from 10.30am-12noon.

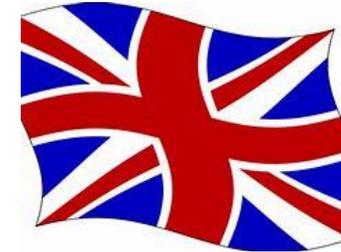
***PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE, COME ALONG, ENJOY YOURSELF
AND SPEND SOME MONEY!***

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration at St Hildeburgh's

A fancy dress celebration BBQ in the church grounds on



Saturday 11 June 2022



11am to 1pm

Burgers, hotdogs and a vegetarian option as well as delicious cakes!

Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own drinks

Fundraising raffle

A prize each for the best fancy dressed adult and child

(Payment is by donation)

So that we have an idea of numbers it would be helpful if you could add your name to the sign-up list at the back of church

FLOWER OF THE WEEK: HAWTHORN 103rd in a series

Text and photographs by Peter Surridge.

The month of May would be all the poorer if hawthorns did not burst into blossom, earning their nickname of “may”. There are some 200 species of hawthorn, botanically named *Crataegus*. Common hawthorn, the familiar hedgerow shrub *Crataegus monogyna* (pictured), when left to itself, grows into a small tree producing numerous sprays of cream flowers with an almond scent, followed by dark red berries in autumn. However, it has been extensively planted to make hedges, originally to contain livestock, for many centuries. The standard way to grow a hedge rapidly in Tudor times was to plant four “quickthorns” (hawthorns) to one bramble. The traditional practice of hedge-laying developed to create and maintain such hedges though most “maintenance” these days seems to be no more than a mechanised short-back-and-sides.

Many hawthorn hybrids are excellent choices for the garden, either as shrubs or small trees. Several garden hybrids come from *Crataegus monogyna* crossed with *Crataegus laevigata*, including the popular Paul's Scarlet which has dark pink double flowers (there's one in Birkenhead Road near the Cottage.) I prefer single-flowered types such as Crimson Cloud (pictured), which has bright red petals with a white centre.

The fruit of hawthorn, called haws, are said to cause stomach upsets if the waxy flesh is eaten but I and others ingested many raw berries in childhood with no ill effects. They are also made into jellies, jams, syrups and wine. The name *Crataegus* is thought to come from the Greek meaning “sharp strength”, an apparent reference to the wood's hardness. Tradition records that hawthorn sprigs were used by the Greeks to ward off witches and, later in Europe, to guard against vampires.

Perhaps the most famous hawthorn in England was the Glastonbury Thorn which, according to legend, sprouted from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea after he thrust it into the ground in the first century AD. The tree was noteworthy because it flowered twice in a year, once in the late spring which is normal, but also bore both foliage and flowers in mild winter weather.

The original tree at Glastonbury Abbey, felled in the 1640s during the English Civil War, has been propagated as *Crataegus monogyna* Biflora. The most venerable hawthorn specimen in Britain is thought to be the Hethel Old Thorn, in the churchyard in the village of Hethel, Norfolk, which is reputed to be more than 700 years old.



Above left: *Crataegus monogyna* in a Hoylake hedgerow.

Above right: Crimson Cloud tree in a small garden.

Left: Crimson Cloud blossom.



**Don't Forget
the Bacon!!**

**Every TUESDAY
from
10.30am to 12.00,
we have our
BACON BUTTY MORNING
in our CHURCH CENTRE
at St Hildeburgh's Church
in HoyLake**

**Bacon Butties (or toast)
a cup of Tea or Coffee
& a great chance to chat**

ALL are Welcome!

NO CHARGE (but donations welcome)

... see you on Tuesday?



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Weekly Beacon

A condensed printed edition of the Weekly Beacon is available at the back of church. If you receive the Weekly Beacon by email, please leave the printed copies for those who do not have internet access.

If you wish to contribute an article or place a notice in the Weekly Beacon please e-mail sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com

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