



From the Vicarage

I have been around boats all my life and currently have a small boat and enjoy summer trips on the Thames and South Coast. So it is not surprising that I have been watching the BBC series "Saving Lives At Sea". These extraordinarily brave men and women go out in any weather to pull people from certain death when they have got into trouble, often through no fault of their own, at sea.



N T Wright, theologian and ex Bishop of Durham likes to describe the life and ministry of Jesus as God's rescue mission to the world. We were lost, out of our depth, in a sea of confusion and sin, and Christ comes into our world to save us from certain death.

The TV programme will sometimes finish with an interview with the person who was rescued. Their gratitude and admiration for the dedication of the lifeboat crew is evident and many acknowledge that they owe their lives to them.



This is also a shameless excuse for a photo of my boat pulled up on the island of Scarba (happy days!).



Blessings

Revd Mike Bisset

Lighthouse

Join us for our Summer Lighthouses at Hazlemere and Beaconsfield from Monday 26th to Friday 30th July. We are OPEN for applications for child places for Lighthouse. So go to www.lighthousecentral.org to book in.



You can also find there how to donate to the work of Lighthouse Central who will be producing the Lighthouse TV Channel for those who cannot attend in person as well as supporting the local Lighthouses.

Talking of volunteers if you are thinking of signing up for Lighthouse this summer at Beaconsfield or Hazlemere but haven't quite got round to it.... don't delay, sign up today! Volunteer Registration at www.lighthousecentral.org

We'd love to see some older teenagers signing up so if you've finished assessments or University has broken up for the summer please do an amazing thing and give up a week of your holidays to be a volunteer like these three in the picture below - thank you Luke, Mappleby and Noah!



Church Going by Philip Larkin (1922 – 1985)

In his poem 'Church Going', Philip Larkin senses something of the presence of God, although in his typically downbeat style he does not admit to it! I like this poem.

Revd Mike

*Once I am sure there's nothing going on
I step inside, letting the door thud shut.
Another church: matting, seats, and stone,
And little books; sprawlings of flowers, cut
For Sunday, brownish now; some brass and stuff
Up at the holy end; the small neat organ;
And a tense, musty, unignorable silence,
Brewed God knows how long. Hatless, I take off
My cycle-clips in awkward reverence.*

*Move forward, run my hand around the font.
From where I stand, the roof looks almost new -
Cleaned, or restored? Someone would know: I don't.
Mounting the lectern, I peruse a few
Hectoring large-scale verses, and pronounce
'Here endeth' much more loudly than I'd meant.
The echoes snigger briefly. Back at the door
I sign the book, donate an Irish sixpence,
Reflect the place was not worth stopping for.*

*Yet stop I did: in fact I often do,
And always end much at a loss like this,
Wondering what to look for; wondering, too,
When churches will fall completely out of use
What we shall turn them into, if we shall keep
A few cathedrals chronically on show,
Their parchment, plate and pyx in locked cases,
And let the rest rent-free to rain and sheep.
Shall we avoid them as unlucky places?*

*Or, after dark, will dubious women come
To make their children touch a particular stone;
Pick simples for a cancer; or on some
Advised night see walking a dead one?
Power of some sort will go on
In games, in riddles, seemingly at random;
But superstition, like belief, must die,
And what remains when disbelief has gone?
Grass, weedy pavement, brambles, buttress, sky,*

*A shape less recognisable each week,
A purpose more obscure. I wonder who
Will be the last, the very last, to seek
This place for what it was; one of the crew
That tap and jot and know what rood-lofts were?
Some ruin-bibber, randy for antique,
Or Christmas-addict, counting on a whiff
Of gown-and-bands and organ-pipes and myrrh?
Or will he be my representative,*

*Bored, uninformed, knowing the ghostly silt
Dispersed, yet tending to this cross of ground
Through suburb scrub because it held unspilt
So long and equably what since is found
Only in separation - marriage, and birth,
And death, and thoughts of these - for which was built
This special shell? For, though I've no idea
What this accoutred frowsty barn is worth,
It pleases me to stand in silence here;*

*A serious house on serious earth it is,
In whose blent air all our compulsions meet,
Are recognized, and robed as destinies.
And that much never can be obsolete,
Since someone will forever be surprising
A hunger in himself to be more serious,
And gravitating with it to this ground,
Which, he once heard, was proper to grow wise in,
If only that so many dead lie round."*



A Story of two water pots

Long ago and in a faraway place, a water bearer had two large pots. Each was hung on the end of a pole, which he carried across his back. One pot was perfect. The other had a crack in it.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot was only half full. The pot was very sad about his imperfection.

After two years, the pot spoke to the water bearer, saying he was a failure and ashamed that the crack allowed water to leak out all the way back to the house.

The bearer said, "Did you notice that there are flowers only on your side of the path? That's because I have always known about your flaw. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. And every day while we walk back from the stream, you have watered them.

"For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

It is less 'who' we are as 'whose' we are.



Open Gardens

We were delighted that the Open Gardens was able to go ahead on Sunday 6th June and that St Margaret's Church was open with Organ music, courtesy of Deborah Yeates, and flowers by Corrine Summers and her team.



Sir Edward Maufe and Holy Trinity Church, Penn – part two

Edward Maufe was knighted in 1954 for his work for the Imperial War Graves Commission and, in particular, the Runnymede Air Forces Memorial. He was busy completing Guildford Cathedral and working on the restoration of the Inns of Court at this period so perhaps had little time for the detailed concerns of Holy Trinity Penn. The next mention in the parish newsletters does not occur till 1961.

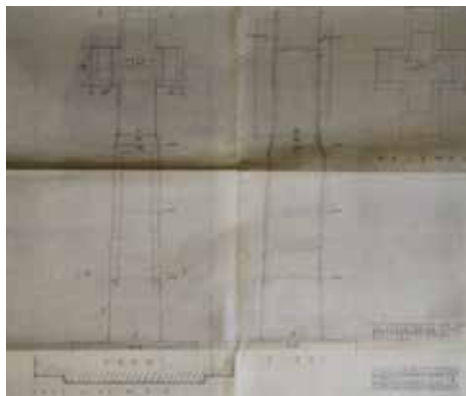
Edward Maufe and his wife Prudence often worked together and so it is not surprising to find Revd Oscar Muspratt recording that he had dedicated the “beautiful new Sanctuary carpet chosen by Lady Maufe to tone with the new kneelers.” The same report notes that plans for the Churchyard extension had been worked out: “For over twelve months an immense amount of careful thought has been given to the intricate task of drafting the scheme for the permanent layout. Sir Edward Maufe has prepared a most attractive ground plan and the sketch of the central cross. These must now be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.” The intention was to make provision for the next hundred years. By September 1963 not only had the Faculty been granted but the appeal for funds had been sufficiently successful to enable Darsie Rawlins, the local, highly regarded sculptor, to start work on the cross that Edward specified was to be carved in Clipsham stone. Maufe’s attention to detail is illustrated by the fact that he personally selected the cherry trees that were planted as a central feature of the churchyard.

Three years later it was proposed to move the organ, installed in 1947 and apparently blocking two windows in the south wall, to an acoustically better position on the west wall of the nave. This turned out to not be physically possible and the only alternative was to commission a new organ donated by a generous anonymous parishioner. This new organ, installed in 1967, was constructed by J.W. Walker & Sons of Ruislip in a case designed by Penelope Adamson RIBA, the architect responsible for the works, in consultation with Edward Maufe. According to Walker’s advertisement in *Musical Opinion*, June 1967, it was Sir Edward Maufe who designed “a magnificent ‘Rays of Glory’ scheme in blue and burnished gold, for the soffits which delicately balance the plain simplicity of the ancient font.” The work required at that time turned out to be more significant than Oscar Muspratt had anticipated as, at the other end of the church, cracks in the east wall required three deep channels to be cut and filled with reinforced concrete and the entire building had to be rewired as bare wires were found in the roof. Although the church had to be closed for five months it had been transformed when it reopened. Not only was there the new organ above the repositioned font but the 14th century Doom painting was installed above the chancel arch for the first time since the reign of Henry VIII.

Maufe’s influence on Penn Church even extended after his death in 1974. A brass plaque records that “three dormer windows proposed by Sir Edward Maufe RA were added in 1988” to bring daylight to the south aisle. He must have suggested the idea to Muspratt many years before as part of the long term plan.

Compared with some of Edward Maufe’s other works such as Guildford Cathedral, the reconstruction of the London Inns of Court, St John’s College, Cambridge or his work for the Imperial (renamed in 1960: Commonwealth) War Graves Commission, Penn church and its churchyard was a very minor exercise for Sir Edward and does not get a mention in Juliet Dunmur’s book. For the parishioners of Penn however, it can be seen that his twenty-year involvement with the Church is very largely responsible for the way it looks today. Appropriately enough, some of his archives concerning Penn Church have ended up in Pennsylvania State University Library, USA, whilst others are held by the RIBA in London.

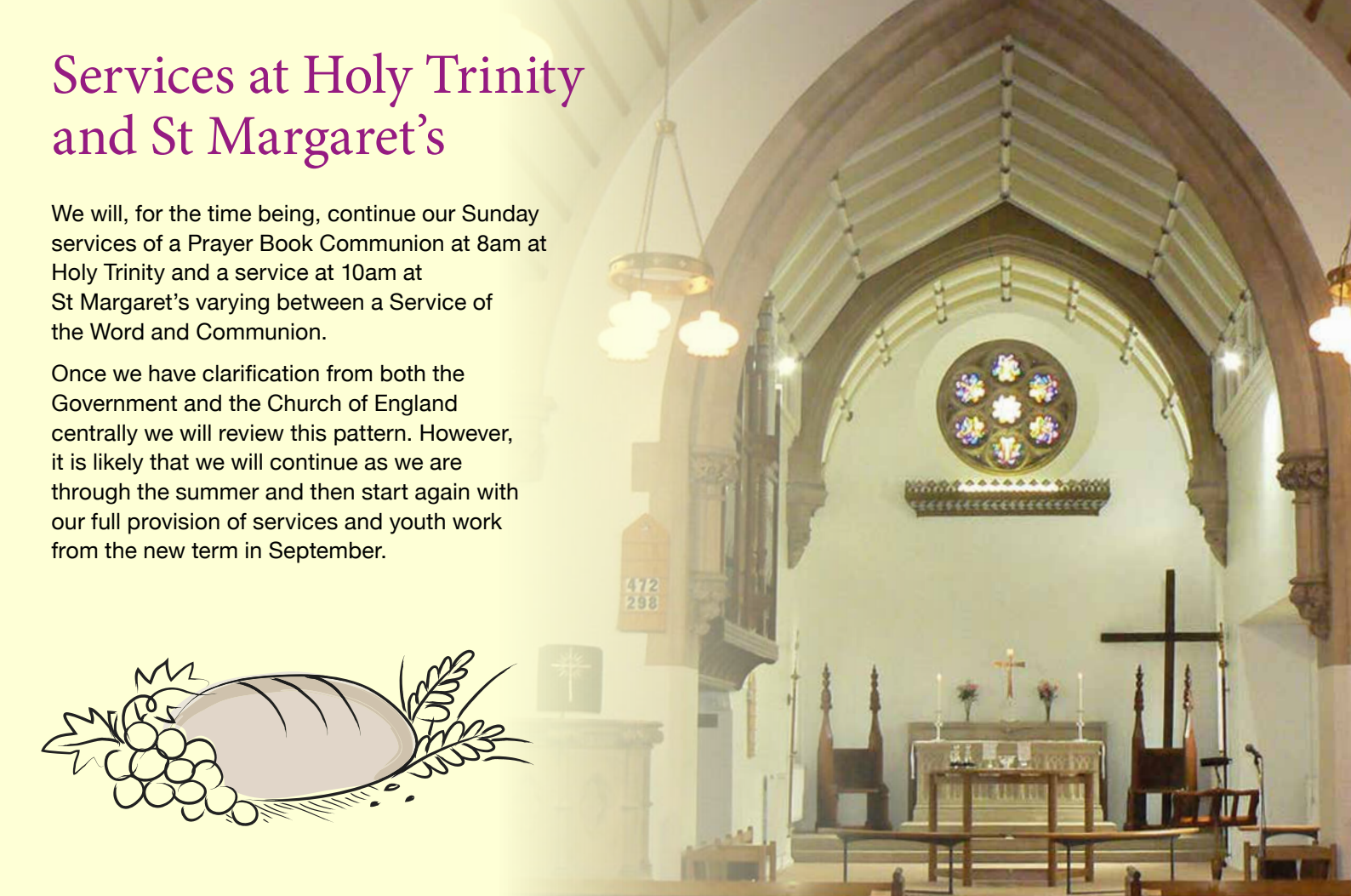
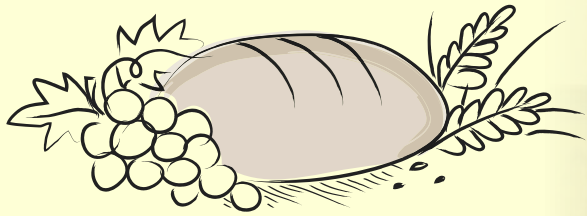
Juliet Dunmur has recently published *Sir Edward Maufe, Architect and Cathedral Builder*, a biography of her grandparents, Edward Maufe and his wife Prudence, which recounts their fascinating lives. (ISBN 978-1-905597-92-5. Available from the author – j.dunmur@gmail.com for £20.00). For anyone wanting to know more about the man behind the sympathetic, organic changes to our church, or with an interest in twentieth century society, architecture, sculpture, design, planning, the impact of Swedish design on taste or how to conceive a church for a ‘deaf and dumb’ congregation, this book is strongly recommended.



Services at Holy Trinity and St Margaret's

We will, for the time being, continue our Sunday services of a Prayer Book Communion at 8am at Holy Trinity and a service at 10am at St Margaret's varying between a Service of the Word and Communion.

Once we have clarification from both the Government and the Church of England centrally we will review this pattern. However, it is likely that we will continue as we are through the summer and then start again with our full provision of services and youth work from the new term in September.



Heritage Open Days

Saturday 11th September and Sunday 12th September 2021

Holy Trinity participates and will be open as follows:

Saturday 11am to 4pm. Tours of the church from 2pm. Refreshments available.

Sunday 1pm to 4pm. From 2pm there will be tours of the church.

From the Registers April 2021 to June 2021

Weddings

Matthew Browne and Suzannah Bisset (Holy Trinity) 12th June
William Freston and Lucy Taylor (Holy Trinity) 26th June

Baptisms

Oscar Appleby (St Margaret's) 23rd May
Jasmine Appleby (St Margaret's) 23rd May
Arthur Sargeant (Holy Trinity) 30th May
Lily Bennet (Holy Trinity) 30th May

Funerals

David Smith (Crematorium) 7th April
Beryl James (Holy Trinity) 18th April
Derrick Burnham (Crematorium) 4th May
Glenis Plumridge (Crematorium) 10th May

And congratulations to Paul and Kathryn Tillbrook who married at Holy Trinity back on 14th March 2020 and who are to feature in the "Berks, Bucks and Oxon wedding Magazine".



If you are thinking about getting married after our long lockdown, why not give Revd Mike a ring on 816700.

Because it is a legal matter, there are residency and connection requirements which we are obliged to follow as they are set in English Law. So...

You can marry in a Church of England church if you can show that one of you:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- was baptised (christened) in the parish concerned or
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish or
- has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

or

That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

or

That one of your parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish.

Who's Who?

Vicar

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Associate Priests

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Revd Graham Summers 814347
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Holy Trinity, Penn

Licensed Lay Minister

Mary Lee 07816 441386

Church Wardens

Paul Ricketts 814402
Oliver Heal 673188

PCC Secretary

Gail Wellings 813254

Parish Administrator

Gail Wellings 813254

Treasurer

John Scurrell 813181

Electoral Roll Officer

Hilary Forbes 816438

Churchyard Guild

Jane White 673980

Parish Archivist

Miles Green 815589

Church Hall Bookings

Gail Wellings 813254

Flower Coordinator

Anna Taylor 815262

Baptism Coordinator

Mary Lee 07816 441386

Bell Tower Captain

Alison Bayley 725686

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Shirley Walsh 813594

Wedding Coordinators

Michael & Alison Bayley 725686

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Hilary Forbes 816438

Parish Office for St Margaret's and Holy Trinity

(Monday-Friday 9.00am-2.00pm)
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St Margaret's, Tylers Green

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Roy Bentham 813897
Kathryn Grudgings 07931 588199

PCC Secretary

Gail Wellings 813254

Parish Administrator

Gail Wellings 813254

Treasurer

Sue Wallace 812879

Electoral Roll Officer

Jean Stables 712138

Parish Rooms Bookings

Mary Coker 812162

Parish Rooms Treasurer

John Daniell 812117

TYGRE Club

Georgina Newton 715311

Flower Coordinator

Sandra Mason 813311

Baptism Coordinator

David Carter 813015

Pastoral Care Coordinator

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Toddler Group

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Remembering Weekend

The Covid pandemic has been a difficult time for most of us with restrictions to our normal activities. A number of us have lost loved ones whether through Covid or some other cause and there hasn't been the opportunity to say proper goodbyes. During the weekend 4th/5th July we will be holding a special Remembering event when there will be an opportunity on the Saturday (10am to 4pm) to come into either Holy Trinity or St Margaret's to light a candle to the memory of a loved one and perhaps sit quietly for a few minutes in prayer. There will also be prayer cards available. On the Sunday we will be holding a Remembering service on The Green in Tylers Green Common (by the Duck Pond) beginning with a cream tea (3pm) prior to a service at 4pm.



We do welcome all of you to attend all or any of our events.

Our service on the Common constitutes a public gathering and we will make every effort to ensure that it complies with all the relevant Covid requirements and restrictions applying at the time.



Dates for the diary

Our annual Pet Service will be held on Sunday 5th September 2021, 3pm at Holy Trinity.

Our Harvest Supper will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 25th September. You can book your place by ringing Gail in the Office.

And our Harvest Festival services will be held on Sunday 3rd October 2021.



Revd Mike and his friend Otter