



Sedgeberrow



Hampton – Fairfield – Thistledown
Eastwick Park – Charity Crescent



Hinton-on-the-Green

THE HERALD

Ascension Day
Thursday 17 May



‘I am not yet ascended to my Father’
(John 20:17)



The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee is being celebrated over the long weekend of 2nd to 5th June.

There are events in all three parishes on Sunday 3rd:

St Andrew’s is holding a Big Jubilee Lunch after the morning service.
(see page 6)

Sedgeberrow Village Fête is on the Glebe Meadow at 2pm. (see page 5)

There is a Jubilee Street Party in Hinton-on-the-Green.

Prayers ... For the Church of Christ and the Peace of the World

The Lord is my light and salvation

During this month (1st & 14th) we have the Festivals of Philip and James and Matthias, Apostles of our Saviour. Give thanks for their loyalty and service to Jesus and pray that we may all find strength and encouragement in their example. Give thanks to God for the service of Rowan Williams as Archbishop of Canterbury and pray for guidance for everyone with a part in the choice of his successor.

Pray for the mission of our United Benefice that we may support one another in proclaiming the Good News within our communities. Remember too the members of our congregations who read the Scriptures to us at our services and ask for the blessing of the Holy Spirit on the people who will come to be married in our churches, that their lives together may be long, happy and fulfilling.

Pray for the work of the Mothers Union everywhere and especially for the group at Saint Andrew's.

Let's give the tools to help people in poverty out of poverty



Christian Aid Week: 13–19 May

Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

This includes Britain's largest house-to-house

collection – an extraordinary act of witness, demonstrating to our communities that we care about poverty and justice.

This year, Christian Aid Week tells the story of remarkable change taking place in a community in rural Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is one of the hungriest countries in the world. But helped by Christian Aid partner, the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL), some people there have found the tools to move beyond hunger and speak out for the changes they want to see.

Christian Aid currently works with 507 partner organisations in 47 countries around the world. From Sierra Leone to Tajikistan, from Kenya to Bolivia, we are helping communities to make their voices heard and look towards a brighter future.

We believe that poverty is a scandal and that it can be ended. Look out for local events and discover how you can get involved by contacting your Christian Aid Week representative, or by visiting caweek.org



From Mark Binney, Priest in Charge

'Rogation'



Many of you might be wondering the meaning of the different events in the Church of England's calendar year. You may be familiar with Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost, but there are other special Sundays. To help with that I want to introduce 'Rogation', which some of you may know as 'Beat the Bounds'.

The word Rogation comes from the Latin word for ask, and is a request for a blessing upon the crop. Far back in history, moving from Pagan to Christian time, the event of Major Rogation was marked on 25 April by a procession through the fields!

In 470 AD the Rogation evolved from a single event to a three day festival, just preceding Ascension. In preparation for this the faithful flock would fast in the hope of a blessing and a fruitful crop. Rogation was during Spring time, for sowing and planting the crop. Unfortunately for the farmer the priest could not guarantee a good crop.

In more recent times Rogation featured a procession (the church loves a procession!) led by the vicar, the choir and the parishioners, in the process of 'Beating the Bounds'. In other words establishing the boundaries by physically walking round the perimeter of the land, and at the same time praying for the protection of the land in the year to come. Although this is mainly consigned to the history books, there are still a few parishes where this is carried out – some of you may remember doing so in your youth!

Perhaps we need to re-instate this as a means of continuing a tradition whilst educating a new generation to the local history. It is important for children to know how food arrives on their plate, and pray for the continuing work of farmers and those involved in food production. In the church calendar, we often think of Harvest as the main food production festival, but we should also remember and mark Rogation! You cannot have one without the other

Following the announcement of a drought perhaps this year we should be praying for more rain, to prepare the soil and sustain the seedlings. Without it, farmers will have to pay more for water and irrigation systems, and without rain, the harvest will be affected. Farming is more important than ever. We need to grow food if we are to provide for the needs of the world. It does not matter if you live in an urban or rural community.

On the 13th May we will be praying for everybody involved in the farming industry in the Vale of Evesham and asking God for a good crop.

'At the back of our communion service is the bread.
All of God's creation is in it;
Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
and back of flour, the mill;
And back of the mill is the wheat and the shower;
And the sun, and the father's will.'

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Galatians

It's easy to see how religion can be used to control people's lives! Paul's letter to the Galatians has been described as the 'Magna Carta of Christian Liberty', because it emphasizes the freedom that we can know through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul vigorously defends the essential truth that people are justified ('made right with God') by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Our standing with God is not determined by what we do, but by dependence on what God has done by the grace and power of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The date and destination of Paul's letter are disputed. However, there is general agreement about the problem Paul is dealing with in Galatia. When he left the new converts, Jewish-Christians (or Judaizers) advocating ceremonial practices of the Jewish law, including circumcision, in addition to the cross of Christ as a means of salvation. They also undermined Paul's authority as an apostle, by asserting that he had not been trained by Jesus and that his gospel did not agree with the original apostles in Jerusalem.

In response, Paul defends his apostolic authority and presents the true gospel, by emphasising the unique importance of Christ and his cross as God's means of salvation. He argues that 'a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ' (2:16). He employs a variety of arguments, appealing especially to the example of Abraham (3:6-9) and the difference between Hagar and Sarah (4:21-31), interpreted as a contrast between being a 'slave' under the law and 'free' in Christ.

Therefore, a key verse in the letter says, 'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.' (5:1). It is by grace through faith alone that people are justified, and it is by faith alone that they are to live out their new life in the freedom of the Spirit.

Prayers ... For our community

Offer prayers for families everywhere but especially for families within our United Benefice or others for whom you have a special regard: those who find the times hard or whose life together is collapsing. Give thanks for the joys of families who live together in love and offer a special prayer for your own family. Pray too for people who are lonely, those who perhaps once knew the happiness of family life or who perhaps have never experienced it.

Ask God's blessing on the work of the Air Ambulance Service to whom our community owes so much; include in your prayers people who support this service as volunteers or as donors of money. Pray for the shops which serve us locally and make our lives easier. Bring before God the volunteers who care for the Village Hall at Sedgeberrow, the people of Hinton-on-the-Green and members of the Hampton Club.

News from Sedgeberrow

The regular Bingo sessions have now finished until September.

The Coffee Mornings continue to be very popular; the next one is on Thursday 24th May from 10am to 12noon in the Church.

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee there will be a Village Fête in Glebe Meadow (opposite the Pub) on Sunday 3rd June from 2pm to 5pm. Attractions include a Children's Fancy Dress Competition (Jubilee Theme); Best Crown Competition; and, for the Gentlemen, the Best Dressed Queen; Tug of War for teams of about six, plus all the usual Fête Stalls.

17 May - Ascension Day

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven.

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52, 53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2, 3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

We will celebrate Ascension Day on Thursday 17th May with a service at 7am at St Andrew's followed by breakfast at the Vicarage.

Prayers ... For the World

Include in your prayers those regions of the world which are threatened by famine, where drought is common, where agriculture is under-resourced, where political turmoil or warfare keep the people from the land. Pray for organisations striving to bring relief to the victims and for those seeking to promote organised agriculture to bring self-sufficiency where now there is scarcity. Remember especially the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, ask that God's will for peace may be heard where there is conflict, especially for the people of Israel, Jewish and Palestinian alike, that all may come to recognise the rights of those they now regard as enemies.

Hinton-on-the-Green

Petertide at Hinton

When glancing through various old journals in St. Peter's at Hinton, we found that the village used to have a tradition of celebrating its church's own saint's day - St. Peter's Day - on 29th June (a Friday, in 2012). The Hinton PCC is now trying to revive the tradition, and will be holding its Petertide celebration on Sun 24th June. We hope to supplement a special service with a craft fair in the churchyard, refreshments and some "performing arts" entertainment. We are especially looking for:

- local people who might want to contribute (or sell) craft items;
- donations of cakes, bric-a-brac and second-hand books;
- any local artists who would like to exhibit their work in the church;
- volunteers to assist with flower arranging (and donations of garden flowers);
- anyone with the skills to help clean and repair the church's old embroidered banner.

Anyone with anything to offer or suggest, should contact Rosemary Cross on 01386 443240.

Other future services

Hinton is also planning some special services throughout the year:

- a "peace" service;
- a "blessing of the animals" service (bring along your dog, cat, rabbit, ferret, horse - well, maybe not the horse);
- a "youth praise" service.

Our regular schedule now includes some "Songs of Praise" services - anyone wanting to request their own favourite hymns should contact Rosemary Cross on 01386 443240.

Novice Bell-Ringers by Saskia Robson-Davies, aged 13

"I was up at my Granddad's, who listens to The Archers - they were having a conversation about how to get young people within villages involved to carry on bell-ringing for future generations. It got me thinking about our village church, which I had heard might be at risk of being closed, and whether I could get involved in ringing the bells at St. Peter's.

About a week later, whilst talking to my mum, she mentioned that Nick Frost was looking for people to get involved in bell-ringing. When I heard this, I jumped at the opportunity! So a group of five of us, Ben Sidney, Kayley Dore, Sheila Marshall, Clare Davies and I - all learners - started going to the Ringing Teaching Centre at Worcester Cathedral on Monday nights. To get to the teaching centre we had to go up an awful lot of stairs! We were all a bit nervous about starting ringing and I, being the youngest, had to go first. I got the hang of it quite easily and enjoyed myself lots.

We have been doing it now for a number of weeks and on 28th March we tried ringing real bells at our own St. Peter's for the first time. The real bells felt a lot heavier than the Cathedral simulator; we had to pull the rope a lot harder - but we all had a lot of fun!

St Andrew's Big Lunch

On Sunday 3rd June at 12noon, following the morning service, there will be a shared meal, entertainment, games and competitions on the Vicarage lawn and in the Marquee. The event to mark the Queen's Jubilee will be open to the whole community and will include a Fancy Dress Parade, Displays by the 1st Hampton Guides, 'Make a Crown' Competition for all ages and the Best Royal Look-a-like!

Regular Events

Mothers' Union 2nd Tuesday of the month - 2pm Scout & Guide Community Hall	St Andrew's Prayer Group 3rd Tuesday of the month – 6.45pm St Andrew's Church
St Andrew's Church Open Morning 2nd Saturday of the month 10am–noon	Benefice Youth Group Thursdays in term-time - 7pm Hampton Parish Room
St Andrew's Tots Tuesdays in term time - 9-10.30am - Scout & Guide Community Hall	

Bible Readings – May 2012

Sunday 6th	Acts 8.26-40	Sunday 20th	Acts 1.15-17, 21-26
5th Sunday of Easter	1 John 4.7-21 John 15.1-8	7th Sunday of Easter	1 John 5.9-13 John 17.6-19
Sunday 13th	Acts 10.44-48	Sunday 27th	Acts 2.1-21
6th Sunday of Easter	1 John 5.1-6 John 15.9-17	Pentecost	Romans 8.22-27 John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Contributions for the Herald

Contributions for the June edition should be received by 6 May 2012; for the July / August edition by 10 June 2012; and for the September edition by 5 August 2012.

Priest in Charge	The Revd Mark Binney (01386) 446381 mark@hamptonchurch.org.uk The Vicarage, Pershore Road, Evesham WR11 2PQ
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Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers)	Mr John Lynch (01386) 553392 Mrs Elaine Major (01386) 40722
Church Wardens	
St Andrew's Hampton	Mr Michael Hunter (01386) 41490 michael@hamptonchurch.org.uk Mrs Gabrielle Falkiner (01386) 41302 gabrielle@hamptonchurch.org.uk
St Mary the Virgin, Sedgeberrow	Mrs Ann Banks (01386) 881623 Mrs Doreen Hayes (01386) 881965
St Peter's, Hinton-on-the-Green	Mrs Amanda French 07961 935925 Lisa James 07866 654923

St Andrew's CE First School

We are into the Summer Term now and starting to notice big improvements in the weather, which has made Learning Outside the Classroom a little easier to facilitate (although rain, snow and frost never stop us!). Regular lessons beyond the classroom are part of the bespoke St Andrew's curriculum, which has been in development for several years. As well as many off-site visits, we make maximum use of the extensive outdoor facilities that we have at St Andrew's, to enhance and enrich the learning experiences of all our pupils.



Our forest grounds are more accessible and safer now that the 'marsh' area has benefitted from drainage and less rain over the last year. Lighter tree canopies and a fence to mark the forest boundary along the playground have also helped to make this an increasingly popular learning space. In fact, every class in school spends at least one half term learning 'Forest School' skills from our specially trained staff Forest School Leaders. Reception, Year One and Year

Two have planned, weekly sessions during May.

As a 'Green Flag' school, we are particularly keen to ensure that St Andrew's is setting the standard for other ecologically sustainable organisations. Our Eco Team meet regularly to discuss improvements to our practice, measure our recycling, litter, energy and water use and present the data to the school each week. Along with our School Council, Librarians and Huff Puff Play Leaders, the Eco Team are an excellent example of how children at St Andrew's contribute to their community and take responsibility for the society to which they belong.



We are part of a cluster development in Evesham which sees our School Councillors and Eco Teams visiting each other on a termly basis with school staff to share ideas, resources and strengthen our community relationships. We thank Harvington and St Richard's schools for holding the most recent events and look forward to hosting the next one at St Andrew's this term.

We continue to strive to be an outstanding school providing the very best experiences for children, believing that successful learning provides success for life. If you want to find out more about the school please visit. <http://www.st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk/>

Sedgeberrow CE First School



Year 1 now know all about the Great Fire of London and that it started in 1666 in Pudding Lane. They made some pastel drawings of the Great Fire and then made Tudor houses during a DT day with their parents. After all their hard work they recreated the Great Fire of London in the playground (with the fire brigade standing by!)

The Spring Term whizzed away very quickly and ended on a high note with our Key Stage Two production of 'Mama Mia' which was absolutely fabulous and well received by everyone. The children put on a wonderful show with an extremely high standard of acting, singing and dancing and I am very very proud of them and grateful to the staff for all of their hard work. The costumes were amazing as you can see!



The Summer Term promises to be just as busy with new topics, assessments, trips and visits all coming up. We begin the term with a 'Mad Science' assembly which promises to be very exciting! Our Summer Fete takes place on Saturday 19th May, so do note the date as all are welcome. During the week leading up to the fete the children will be undertaking an Olympic themed sponsored activity to raise money for our ICT development and some of our parents will be cycling from the Olympic stadium in London back to the fete to raise money for the same cause. During the second half of the term every class will be learning about the Olympics through their topic work.

This summer we will be having a small extension to the school which is very exciting. Our Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms at the front of the school will be pushed out to make them larger as well as the office. We are looking forward to this as the school is quite large now with 163 pupils – the most we have had on roll for many years. Plans for the extension are available in school if anyone would like to see them and will be displayed in the school hall next term. www.sedgeberrowfirstschool.uk.org

St Andrews Summer Fête – Saturday 14th July

Diamond Jubilee Cake Competition

Continuing the Jubilee theme we are holding a Cake Competition at the fete. The cakes must be Victoria Sponges decorated with a Diamond Jubilee theme. So to give you time to practise (and enjoy a cake you have baked) we are including the recipe this month.

Victoria Sponge

100g/4oz softened Butter

2 medium Eggs

100g/4oz Caster Sugar

100g/4oz Self Raising Flour (sifted)

Method

Grease two 18cm/7” sandwich tins, and line with circles of baking parchment.

Cream butter and sugar together until pale in colour and fluffy in texture.

Beat in the eggs, one at a time, adding a tablespoon of flour with each.

Gently fold in the remaining flour with a metal spoon.

Transfer into prepared tins, and smooth tops with a knife.

Bake in centre of oven at 180°C/160°C (Fan)/Gas 4 for 25 – 30 minutes until well risen, golden brown and slightly springy in the middle.

Leave in tins for 2-3 minutes, then turn out on to a wire cooling rack. Remove paper and leave to cool.

Decorate with a Diamond Jubilee theme. **Good Luck!**

From the Registers – March 2012

Baptisms	11 March	Maisie Grace Boulter	Hampton
	25 March	Kieran McCotter	Hampton
Funerals	15 March	Margaret Thomas	Hampton
	22 March	Isobel Frances Grove	Hampton
	27 March	Pat Baver	Hampton

Prayers ... For those who suffer and for the Communion of Saints

Amongst sick people everywhere pray for those suffering from cancer, for the patients at the Evesham Community Hospital and by name from our Benefice for Maggie Bailey, Pat Bayliss, David Brasher, David Canning, Brenda Clarke, Ray Clarke, Pamela Collins, Pam Eustace, Monica Garston, Harry Green, Ella Hampton, Sarah Hands, Doreen Hayes, Sue Jones, Clifford Lewis, Beryl Lord, Elaine Major, Brian Palmer, Iris Pinkstone, Rosie Rencher, Alan Roberts, Phillippa Shepherd, Celia Sheward, Joan Simpson, Pat Smith and Doug Thompson.

Ask God’s blessing on those who care for them.

Pray for those who have lost their lives through famine, together with any you may know who have passed into eternal life.

Hampton WI

Our speaker for April was Sonia Turner, who trains dogs to appear in films and on television. To the delight of members she brought with her four of the dogs she has trained, including Dodger, better known as Buddy to fans of 'Doc Martin' and Tory, who played Princess Victoria's favourite King Charles Spaniel in 'Young Victoria'. The dogs demonstrated how well they obey both voice and hand commands, each time rewarded with a piece of Frankfurter sausage, and we heard how they are controlled by the trainer who is out of sight of the camera, and about some very amusing incidents on set.



The next meeting will be our Resolutions Meeting. In June David Barrie will take us 'By Steam Train to Darjeeling' and in July we will be given 'An Introduction to Beekeeping' by Keren Green. Forthcoming events to look forward to are a visit to the Elgar Birthplace Museum, followed by lunch, a tea to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, a visit to Kew Gardens and lunch at Kings Court Hotel.

Our meetings are held at the Hampton Guide and Scout Community Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome. Please contact Joyce Davey on 01386 443755 for more information.

Events Update – May 2012

Amendments and additions in **bold**. Unconfirmed and provisional in *italics*.

Church Open Morning	Sat	12 May 10am	Hampton
Christian Aid Week		13 – 19 May	
St Andrew's Prayer Group	Tuesday	15 May 6.45pm	Hampton
Coffee Morning	Thu	24 May 10am	Sedgeberrow
Diamond Jubilee 'Big Lunch'	Sun	3 June noon	Vicarage Garden
Sedgeberrow Diamond Jubilee Fête	Sun	3 June 2pm	Glebe Meadow
Diamond Jubilee Street Party	Sun	3 June	Hinton
Benefice Confirmation Service	Sun	10 June 10am	Hampton
Vale Local Food Festival	Sun	17 June	All Saints Churchyard
St Peter's Day Celebration	Sun	24 June 11am	Hinton on the Green
John Martin Commemoration	Sun	24 June 6.30pm	Hampton
Benefice Party	Sun	1 July 12noon	Vicarage Garden
St Andrew's School Fête	Fri	6 July 6pm	St Andrew's School
St Andrew's Summer Fête	Sat	14 July 2pm	Vicarage Lawn
St Andrew's Harvest Festival	Sun	7 Oct 11am	Hampton
St Andrew's Harvest Supper	Sat	13 Oct 7.30pm	Scout & Guide Hall

The Herald is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month prior to the publication date. Items for inclusion should be received by 1st Sunday of the month prior to the publication date. Articles are submitted on the understanding that they may be edited to fit the available space. This edition of the Herald was edited by Michael Hunter.

Articles can be submitted by email to: editor@hamptonchurch.org.uk or left for The Editor in St Andrew's Church. Large Print editions of the magazine are available on request.

Services for May 2012

	Wednesday 2	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
1st	Sunday 6	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		9am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		11am	Family Service	Hampton
		6.30pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	Hampton
	Wednesday 9	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
2nd	Sunday 13	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		9.30am	Eucharist	Hampton
		11am	Family Communion	Sedgeberrow
		2pm	Baptism	Hampton
		6pm	Songs of Praise	Hinton
	Wednesday 16	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Thursday 17	7am	Ascension Eucharist (followed by Breakfast at the Vicarage)	Hampton
3rd	Sunday 20	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		9am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		11am	Welcome Service	Hampton
	Wednesday 23	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Saturday 26	1pm	Wedding	Hampton
4th	Sunday 27	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		9.30am	Eucharist	Hampton
		11am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		11am	Family Service	Hinton
		1pm	Baptism	Sedgeberrow
		2pm	Baptism	Hampton
	Wednesday 30	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton

Services for June 2012

1st	Sunday 3	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		9am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		11am	Family Service	Hampton
		6.30pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	Hampton
	Wednesday 6	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
2nd	Sunday 10	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Benefice Confirmation Service Bishop David Walker	Hampton