

Dates for the Diary

10th March 2024 – Baptism Service at St. Nicholas. Please pray for child Amelia-Mae and her family.

16th March 2024 – Quiz Night in aid of Langley Burrell Heritage Trail accessible toilet. Ploughman's supper included, with bar & raffle available. 6.45 to 10pm (doors open at 6.00pm) St. Pauls Church Hall. £ 10 per person teams of up to 6. Tickets only – Contact Hazel on 07766 254872 or hazeloneill2@gmail.com

23rd March 2024 – Easter Messy Church at St. Pauls.

23rd March 2024 – Alpha Away Day.

A Prayer for Parishes in a time of Transition

Dear Lord, our God and Father,
in this time of transition
give us the eyes to see Your presence in our lives, ears to listen to Your will,
lips to speak Your words,
and hands to do Your work.
Grant us grace and go before us,
as we seek Your Holy Spirit's counsel,
as we live in community during this time,
and as we prepare for the arrival of a new priest in our midst.
We pray this through Jesus Christ,
and for the sake of His Kingdom,
in sure and certain hope of
Your promises to us.

Alpha Course

23rd March Alpha Away Day; pray for the Holy Spirit to move in people's lives and for the arrangements to come together well.

Contact Details

We are in a period of interregnum, contact James in the office
Facebook@harnishchurch

Some of our Lay Ministers

Judith Eckersley Tel:443317 juditheckersley1@gmail.com

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or Dick Wood Tel: 655413 dickwood@talk21.com

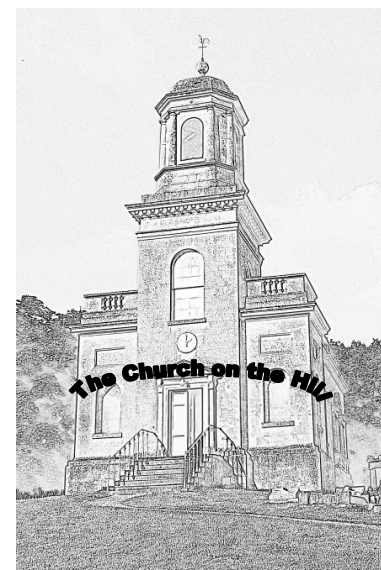
Greenways Group of Churches

St. Nicholas News March 2024

The Rt Rev Maurice Wood (1916-2007)

Bishop Maurice Wood prayer seems appropriate for Hardenhuish:

"Make us like a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden; so that men and women and children may find Christ as the light of the world, and his church as the family of the redeemed, and eternal life as the gift of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord"



Sunday	3rd March	3.30pm	Afternoon Praise
Sunday	10th March	3.30pm	Mothering Sunday Afternoon Praise with communion
Sunday	17th March	3.30pm	Afternoon Praise
Sunday	24th March	3.30pm	Palm Sunday Afternoon Praise
Friday	29th March	12.00	At the Cross Joint Service at St. Peters
Sunday	31st March	10.30am	Joint Praise Communion with SPLB

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Ministry Musings

‘Time and tide wait for no man.’ How often do we ruefully agree with that proverb? Personally, I often seem to be ‘playing catch up’, rushing to complete something by a given time! But how much we rely on time. It sees us through life, prompting us to be ready for good and bad events. We have named our days, months, and seasons so we can keep track of time, and even small children measure time by counting how many sleeps they will have before something special happens. Over the centuries people have designed and made thousands of types of clocks, ‘time pieces’ to measure time. Also over the years poets, philosophers and others have written about the precious commodity which is time, and it’s something we can save, spend and waste! Most of us, however, really ‘value’ time!

It’s reassuring to remember that God isn’t constrained by time – well not time as we know it anyway! In the bible we can find many references to time and its passing, for example in Psalm 84 (verse 10) the Psalmist wistfully comments: ‘Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.’ The story of Creation is marked by ‘days’, and much of the biblical narrative covers the passing of time.

This all set me thinking about God’s timing. How did He decide when to send His Son into the world? Why did Jesus wait roughly 30 years before embarking on His mission to recruit disciples and start teaching them His Way? Of course it’s not for me to see into the mind of God, sufficient to note that all the constituents were in place ready for the birth of His Son into the world.

Apart from St Luke’s telling of His prolonged time in the temple talking with the teachers and priests, the bible tells us nothing about Jesus’ childhood and younger adulthood. Scholars have woven together stories of an apprenticeship with His father, Joseph, as a skilled carpenter (or more likely house builder). Jesus had brothers and sisters, but as the eldest boy in the family it’s usually agreed that he took on Joseph’s business when he died. There are hints that Jesus was well versed in Scripture with the role of Rabbi in the Jewish synagogues. So it seems that He had a fairly ordinary life, growing up as part of a family, and supporting His widowed mother, Mary.

As we read in the gospels of His ministry it’s easy to imagine that He had a fairly wide experience of agricultural techniques and the skills required for those who earned their living by fishing.

All these life experiences were surely preparing Him to be the Light of the World, the One who had come to earth to make His Father God known to the people, and to pay the price for their sins. It took just three years for Him to complete His ministry. During those three years He called together a band of disciples and taught them about the Way, the Truth and Life in God’s presence. It took just three days for Him to accomplish the ultimate act of redemption and demonstrate God’s power over death.

Perhaps as we face the troubles of the world we can look to a future assured by the constant presence of our God. In a few short weeks we shall celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord. Let’s cling to the hope of that glorious happening, confident in the presence of our faithful, unchanging, loving God.

As I wrote these musings a hymn by Isaac Watts came to mind, words which have comforted and upheld many generations over the years. I hope they bring you comfort and reassurance too.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Wishing you a happy Easter, and God's blessings always.

Barbara

A Prayer for the King

Father of mercies,
grant to Charles our King
comfort and sure confidence in you,
and keep him in perpetual peace and safety,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.