



## A successful 'Launch' in Handley

On Saturday 23rd June, St. Mark's Church held a free lunch to 'Mark' the start of a campaign to bring awareness of the Church and building and to raise funds. It was a great success with a good number of people creating a relaxed and jovial atmosphere. There were some very encouraging comments made along the way too.

It has been heralded as a very good start and £760 in total was raised. Councillor Kevin Gillott was in attendance and has promised a grant of £250 for which we are very grateful. Many thanks to all.

## Pets in 'Service'

On Sunday 15th July, St. Mark's held a Pet Service. A good number of people came with a live animal or cuddly toy and a story to tell. Each received a certificate of attendance and enjoyed a relaxed and light-hearted service, led by Celia Kelly. We were able to sit outside with the weather being so warm and a lovely time was had by all.



## Ashover WEA Autumn Courses Exploring Opera

**Weds 10am to 12 noon in The Bassett Rooms**  
**Lecturer: Nicholas Redihough**

We will explore the extraordinary world of Opera. Viewing operas on DVDs, students will be able to discuss their musical and dramatic features and learn how Opera has evolved over 400 hundred years.

## The Sceptred Isle

**Weds 7.30 to 9.30pm in Ashover Parish Hall**  
**Lecturer: Gary Slator**

The 10th and 11th centuries were times of prosperity and high drama, as the British kingdoms struggled to keep the hard-won peace. This course will examine those events, and show how England still came to be invaded twice during the course of the 11th century.

**Courses run for 11 weeks from 19th September with half-term break on 24th October.**

£84.70 per course or free to anyone receiving means-tested benefits or their un-waged dependents.

**01246 590369 Email: sarah\_hillard48@hotmail.com**

## Uppertown Social Centre



**Saturday 18th August - 7pm for 8pm**

**Jam Tams & Barry Coope - Folk**  
£16 inc. supper

*(NB: for this event tickets must be bought in advance)*

**Saturday 15th September - 7pm for 8pm**

**Arthur Doherty Band - Irish & Folk**  
£12 inc. supper

Call Eddie for tickets: **01246 590502 or 07966 154798**

You can view this **amber news** on the **amber churches** website and there are free printed copies in churches and local shops. If you would like a copy delivered, please let us know and we will try to oblige. Send news for inclusion in next month's issue to [info@amberchurches.org](mailto:info@amberchurches.org).



## amber news

For the amber churches of  
**Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington**  
*working and playing together, with God, for people*

**August 2018**

## Church Services in August

### Sunday 5th August

9.15 am Brackenfield Church Holy Communion  
10.45 am Ashover Church Holy Communion

### Sunday 12th August

9.15 am Brackenfield Church Morning Prayer  
9.15 am Wessington Church Holy Communion  
10.45 am Ashover Church Family Service with Baptism  
10.45 am Handley Church Morning Worship

### Sunday 19th August

9.15 am Wessington Church Holy Communion  
10.45 am Ashover Church Holy Communion  
10.45 am Handley Church Holy Communion

### Sunday 26th August

9.15 am Brackenfield Church Holy Communion  
9.15 am Wessington Church Family Service  
10.45 am Ashover Church Holy Communion  
10.45 am Handley Church Morning Worship

## The Village Coffee Shop

1st and 3rd Tuesdays  
10 am - noon  
Ashover Bassett Rooms



**Laura Browne, a classical guitar student from Glasgow Conservatoire, will be playing at The Village Coffee Shop on TUESDAY 7th AUGUST**

## MEMORIES OF LOCAL LIFE

**Saturday 25th August - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm**  
**St Mark's Church, Handley**

An opportunity to come and share your memories, special items, photographs etc. of life from around the local area (particularly those of when St. Mark's was the school), farming life and Woolley Moor Show.

This might lead to a publication.

**Light refreshments available during the day.**

## Contact Information

Rector: The Revd Ralph Lawrence 01246 590246  
The Rectory, Narrowleys Lane, Ashover S45 0AU  
All Saints Church Ashover Warden: Sylvia Dyson 01246 861811  
Holy Trinity Brackenfield Warden: Nigel Rogers 01773 836137  
St Mark's Church Handley Warden: Kath Mosely 01246 590720  
Christ Church Wessington Warden: Rita Buckley 01773 835 633

**[www.amberchurches.org](http://www.amberchurches.org)**

## The Rector Writes ...

Dear Friends,

There are moments in ministry when I feel out of my depth. But I take heart when I read the scriptures because they contain stories about ordinary people who regularly felt the same way. Moses is a good example. He killed a man, an Egyptian slave driver whom he caught abusing one of his countrymen. In a fit of indignation he slew the Egyptian tyrant only to find days later that the very people he tried to rescue were accusing him of over-reaching his authority. Moses panicked and fled into the wilderness where in obscurity he settled down to what he thought was going to be a quiet life.

Moses may have believed he was out of the reach of Egypt's Pharaoh but he soon discovered that he wasn't outside the realm of God. Startled by the strange phenomenon of the unconsumed burning bush he went to investigate. It was then that God, having gained his attention, directed Moses back to Egypt to begin the Exodus of the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt – from slavery to freedom after centuries of captivity.

Moses instantly felt out of his depth. He reminded God that he wasn't a natural public speaker and that the Lord of all creation must have made a mistake. God hadn't. And so began Moses' career as a leader. It was a role that was characterised by humility. And humility is a vital feature of good leadership.

Many years later and we meet another confused would-be leader in the form of Saul of Tarsus. He was a tent maker by trade, also a Pharisee, a member of the Jewish ruling elite and a Roman citizen by birth. Saul had it all as we would say today, power, wealth, prestige and a soaring intellect which helped him to make sense of it all. And then one day he was turned around by a vision of the risen Jesus while he was on his way to Damascus with the intention of destroying the infant Christian church. In a flash he was brought to his knees and in the years that followed he changed from being a murdering envoy to a passionate ambassador for Christ. His ministry was long suffering and marked with humility.

The careers of Moses and Saul were not flawless. Like every human they made their mistakes, and had to deal with the consequences of their errors. But, nevertheless their standing in the histories and relevance of the Judaeo-Christian faiths is colossal.

I think part of their greatness was their humility. And I also think that the growth of their humility was due in part to their readiness to respond to God's adventure.

Humility is one of those words which we sometimes hear glibly spoken – its meaning lost and unabsorbed; deflected by a titter or amusement when said in jest when we never have any intention of allowing it to have any real impact upon us.

But on the occasions when we are truly humbled we sense not a loss of status but a sense of value and worth. Being humbled is not a loss of standing. It is more a state of receiving, and with that exhilaration comes a willingness to accept the loss of self.

By this I mean that momentarily we recognise that we are no longer the most important person occupying an egotistical little world.

True humility is not really a state before other people but the state which is appropriate to have before God. But it can only really be ours when we acknowledge our worth before God who has bestowed upon us the status of dearly loved children. Humility grows when the fear of losing self is gradually replaced by the fullness of Christ – "when perfect love casts out fear." When we no longer have to pretend but learn to trust in the inexhaustible riches of God's love.

Yours sincerely, Ralph



## Ringing Remembers

During World War I it is known that 1400 church bellringers lost their lives; the ringers' national weekly newspaper is remembering every one of them individually on the centenary of their death, and during 2017 a national campaign, Ringing Remembers, was launched to mark the centenary of the Armistice which finally brought an end to the conflict. Funded by HM Government, the aim is to recruit 1400 new ringers nationally and train them to a level where they can take part in the nationwide ringing to mark this centenary and to go on and become long-term ringers. HM Government has requested the nationwide ringing of bells at 12.30 pm on Sunday 11th November, the exact date of the Armistice.

Ashover/Brackenfield ringers are a diverse group of people from all walks of life with an age range from 9 to over 80. We have already recruited 5 new ringers since the start of the Ringing Remembers campaign, whose training continues apace, and we are publicising it further by taking a stall at both the Ashover and Woolley Moor shows. We plan to have a working bell on which you can try your hand, as well as other items of interest. Do visit us and see what we have on offer, and consider taking up the challenge – we would love to meet you!

*Maycee, learning the ropes from Jim Heading, has progressed so well she now rings for church on Sundays.*



## SHOWTIME AGAIN!

### ASHOVER SHOW

Wednesday 8th August from 9 am

For exhibit entry forms and closing dates, see website.

Tickets from Tuck Shop, online or on the gate.

[www.ashovershow.co.uk](http://www.ashovershow.co.uk)

### WOOLLEY MOOR SHOW

Saturday 11th August from 11.45 am

Lancaster bomber fly-past scheduled for 12.30

## From the Registers

### ASHOVER

Weddings:

Natalie Hooper & Samuel Hinchley on 21<sup>st</sup> July

Baptisms:

Mollie Smith - 29<sup>th</sup> July

Funerals:

Mark Durwood. Aged 50. Service held 11<sup>th</sup> July

Margaret Payne. Aged 67. Service held 12<sup>th</sup> July

Mary Bown. Aged 90. Service held 27<sup>th</sup> July

### BRACKENFIELD

Weddings:

Harriet Bacon & Henry Franklin on 21<sup>st</sup> July

### WESSINGTON

Funerals:

Lisa Ferguson Aged 50. Service held 3<sup>rd</sup> July

### HANDLEY

Baptism:

Freddie Maltby. Service held 22<sup>nd</sup> July