



Services This June

1st June

9am, BCP Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 10:30am, The Breakfast Service, School Rooms, Long Buckby 10:30am, Morning Praise, All Saints, West Haddon

4th June

9:30am, Holy Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby

8th June - Pentecost Sunday

9am, Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Watford 10:30am, Morning Praise, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 10:30am, Holy Communion, All Saints, West Haddon 4pm Tea Time Together, St Lawrence, Long Buckby

15th June - Trinity Sunday and Father's Day

9am, Holy Communion, St Michael and All Angels, Winwick 10:30am, Morning Praise, All Saints, West Haddon 10:30am, The Family Service, St Lawrence, Long Buckby

22nd June

9am, Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Watford 10:30am, Holy Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 10:30am, The Family Service, All Saints, West Haddon

29th June - The Feast of St Peter and St Paul 10:30am, Benefice Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Watford

EVERYONE WELCOME!

rening Times across our churches

St Lawrence, Long Buckby Open Monday-Saturday 10am-3pm

St Peter and St Paul, Watford Open Monday-Sunday, 10am-4pm

All Saints, West Haddon Open Monday-Sunday, 9am-4pm

St Michael and All Angels, Winwick Open 24 Hours

The Vicar Writes

June is a month packed with events, stories and saints as we look forward to so many things.

Pentecost is on the 8th June and celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

Trinity Sunday is on the 15th June where we look at Father, Son and Holy Spirit and as we are celebrating 1700 years of the Nicean Creed this year there is plenty to think about in the words of the Creed. 15th June is also Father's day in the calendar so not only can we look to and think about our Father God we can also celebrate those Fathers and Fatherlike figures in our lives.

It's also the the feast of St Alban on the 22nd June, one of the first of the English saints who found a persecuted priest on his doorstep ad sheltered him even before he had come to faith himself. He subsequently became a Christian and was baptised. He was later arrested and sentenced to execution for this faith. The story tells us that at his execution his holiness and serenity converted one of the executioners to the Christian faith on the spot!

Then on the 29th June we have the feast of St Peter and St Paul and as this is a fifth Sunday in the month we are having a Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Peter and St Paul, Watford. It's great to be able to celebrate this feast day in a church named for those two figures.

After all that's done you could then relax at 2pm with the Music on a Summer Afternoon concert being held at St Lawrence, Long Buckby.

Every blessing Versin

Benefice Holy Communion and APCM - 11th May 2025

Thank you to everyone who came to the Benefice Holy Communion and APCM on the 11th May. It was the first time we had gathered all four churches this way and had the APCM as part of the service.

It was a good opportunity to celebrate and look back on 2024 as well as praying and looking forward to 2025. It was also good for those able to make it to gather in the School Rooms after the service to enjoy lunch and some time together.

The APCM reports are still available on the church website if you haven't had the opportunity to have a look.

If anyone has any feedback from the service do let me know by emailing vicar@onechurch4parishes.co.uk

Every blessing, Rev Kevin



Similar I gave my four-year-old grand-da church collection plate. Late sweets, I got suspicious and asl money to God in church that me

I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. "No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there."

A couple who worked at the circus wanted to adopt a child. Social workers had doubts about their suitability, but the couple produced photos of their large motorhome, which was equipped with a beautiful nursery. As for education, not only was there a nanny, but also a full-time tutor to teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills. Finally, the social workers were satisfied and had only one last question. "What age child are you hoping to adopt?" "Oh, we don't mind at all," the couple assured them. "As long as he or she fits in the cannon."

Brixworth Deanery Celebration by Chris Banks



Brixworth Deanery Synod met on 7th May to recognise and celebrate the work of lay volunteers in our churches. We were delighted to welcome almost 100 lay volunteers and provided a light buffet to enable people to socialise and network.

In my role as Deanery Lay Chair, I spoke about my intention to establish a lay network within the Deanery. This would have at least two purposes, firstly to provide an opportunity for people to share relevant skills and knowledge in all aspects of Church life with colleagues in different benefices. Secondly, simply to provide mutual support and encouragement to each other across our normal boundaries. I encouraged people to consider joining the network.

Revd Allison Twigg, in her first meeting as Rural Dean, added her thanks and appreciation to all the lay volunteers. We had asked parishes to send us photographs or short videos of volunteers at work and Revd Kevin Montgomery compiled these contributions into a video which was played more than once during the evening by popular demand.

Archdeacon Richard was our guest speaker. He listed the categories of work performed by the laity from churchwardens to treasurers, administration, those involved in music, cleaning, flower arranging, bellringing, churchyard or church maintenance, serving refreshments, unlocking and locking the building, preparing for services, welcoming, tidying up afterwards and leading worship. Then there was also an expectation that as laity we will share our faith with others in the community. Without this work being done, the church cannot function. He said there were two words he wanted to respond with, and they were 'thank you'

Richard went on to explain that anyone undertaking these duties is performing part of the missional activity of the Church, emphasising the importance of this work. He commented that at times people might not feel valued and that their work is not being noticed, but God always sees what we are doing and He will reward us. He mentioned the references in Scripture to 'thank you, good and faithful servant'. As humans we are not always faithful to God, but he is faithful and unchanging towards us.

He said that many Churches would have used the reading from John 21 last Sunday where Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved him, because of Peter's denial of Jesus after he had been arrested. Peter's response was 'Yes, Lord you know that I love you.' Jesus told him to feed his sheep. Richard said that as volunteers we demonstrate our love for Jesus by responding to his invitation, "follow me."

It was a very enjoyable and worthwhile evening, which affirmed how valuable our volunteers are and how deaneries can provide a supportive environment.

1700 Years of the Nicene Creed - Part 2

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.'

2025 sees the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. We use it at Communion services, but how much notice do we take of the words? In this new series we are looking at what it means to believe in God as Trinity.

We believe: In Greek, the Creed begins 'we believe' (in Latin, 'I believe.'). It was formulated at the time of Arius, who declared that Jesus was the first and greatest of God's creatures, but not the same as God the Father. His teaching proved so damaging that the Emperor Constantine called an ecumenical council in Nicaea (AD 325) to clarify the core beliefs for all Christians.

in one God: We believe in a God who is both one and Trinity: 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one' (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the Old Testament God, who we know through the life and work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are to worship Him alone and not people or things.

the Father, the Almighty: God is both the almighty Creator and loving Father: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name' (Matt 6:9). Although the Father of all that exists, He is specifically Father to those who His children through their faith in Jesus. maker of heaven and earth: God comes before anything that was created, and Creation is His alone: 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty' (Genesis 1:1,2). The implication is that He created 'ex nihilo' ie out of nothing. He is one God who is unchangeable, lacking in nothing and the source of all that exists.

of all that is, seen and unseen: God did not just create the physical universe, but also the spiritual powers: 'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.' (Colossians 1:16). Reality is more than what we can see, smell, taste, touch or measure.

The Creed establishes the 'big picture' of who God is and challenges our commitment to Him. How do these opening words of the Nicene Creed speak to us today?

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

> On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Diocesan Update

by Chris Banks

March was an eventful month in my new role as Diocesan Lay Chair. It was my first time chairing the Diocesan Synod meeting in Kettering with Lothe new Clergy Chair, Revd Allison Twigg, on 22nd March. Bishop Debbie wants the meetings to be much more participative, which meant that one of my first tasks was to reposition the chairs and set out tables so that people could debate the Diocesan Reports in small groups. I hadn't realised that I would be using one of the core skills of churchwardens and repositioning chairs and tables.

A summary of what was discussed at the meeting is available on the Diocesan website using this link <u>Diocesan Synod - Diocese of Peterborough</u>

Bishop Debbie spoke about the year of prayer and her hope that more people will have deepened their prayer life by the end of the year. She also described the challenges of safeguarding and the importance of building a positive culture to mitigate risk and encourage reporting of concerns. After the groups discussed the Diocesan Reports, we also heard from Victoria Kellett (Diocesan Safeguarding Officer) about the Independent Safeguarding audit being carried out by INEQE.

The following weekend I was at St Katherine's Dock in London for two days at the National Conference for Diocesan Lay Chairs with about 30 colleagues from other dioceses. It was a great opportunity to network and to find out how colleagues operate as the role of Diocesan Lay Chair is carried out differently between dioceses.

We spent time discussing Safeguarding with the Bishop of Tewkesbury, Deputy Lead Bishop, and Alex Kubeyinje, National Safeguarding Director. It is such a challenging area for the Church of England, but I was encouraged by the openness of the discussion as we need to improve communication, build more trust and increase scrutiny.

On the second day we met Nick Shepherd, Programme Manager for Living in Love and Fellowship (LLF), to discuss plans to consult with Diocesan Synods on draft proposals which may go to General Synod in 2026 on blessing services for those in same sex relationships.

I enjoyed the opportunities we had to worship as a group and to eat together. We also spoke the financial challenges faced by many of the dioceses. On the positive side, we also shared examples of good practice and some of the successful activities.

In conclusion, there was a general view that we need to strengthen the voice of the laity and encourage the clergy to make more use of the depth and breadth of our experience and our skills mainly gained in the secular world as well as our local communities. It was a very worthwhile experience and I plan to develop stronger connections with my counterparts, especially in the area of looking at best practice.



Light Up The World In Prayer 29th May –8th June 2025

A sample from the Prayer Journal for 2025, download link below, why not pray for five people!

INTRODUCTION

This year marks the tenth anniversary of *Thy Kingdom Come* – a worldwide prayer movement inviting Christians around the world to intentional prayer from Ascension to Pentecost.

Since its launch by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016, Christians from 172 countries and more than 85 different denominations and traditions have taken part in praying for friends and family to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

These days have always been full of expectation and anticipation. As the Lord Jesus ascended, He promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable the disciples to be witnesses.

As they waited for the promise to be fulfilled, they devoted themselves constantly to prayer (Acts 1:14). So, the renewed call across the church is to set these days apart to pray, and for each individual to pray for five people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

Below is space to write the names of five people that you will be praying for throughout <i>Thy Kingdom Com</i> e:
1
2
3
4
5

Thy Kingdom Come always focuses on praying for people to know the love of God in Jesus Christ for themselves.

However, this year, fittingly, the focus is on the very prayer our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, taught His disciples to pray: the Lord's Prayer.

The prayer Jesus taught us transcends the ages, uniting people across different denominations, generations and nations. We believe that now, more than ever, we need to pray '*Thy Kingdom Come*' over our homes, communities, nations, and our world.

We are delighted that this year's Prayer Journal features contributions from a range of voices across different denominations and traditions.

Each day's reflection will focus on a line of the Lord's Prayer and include a time to pause and pray for your five, in keeping with that day's theme.

There is also space each day for your own notes. Did a phrase jump out at you? Did God bring something to your mind as you prayed that day? Make a note so that you can remember what God has been saying to you through your reading and your prayers.

Our hopes and prayers are that this year, we will experience more of God's Kingdom coming 'On earth as it is in heaven': yes, for ourselves, but especially in the lives of those for whom we are praying.

Download prayer resources from: https://thykingdomcome.global

VE Day 80, 8th May 2025



It was good to be part of the remembrance of VE Day at the Long Buckby Beacon Lighting.

Churches across England have played their part in the recent commemorations to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

The commemorations on 8th May provided an opportunity to honour the sacrifices made by those who served in the conflict. They also provided an opportunity to pray for lasting peace, echoing the spirit of unity that defined the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Across the country, thousands of church bells rang out at 6.30pm on VE Day. This echoed the bellringing that swept across the country in 1945, as churches and cathedrals joined in the national joy and thanksgiving.

Thousands of parishes held their own services of commemoration, while people at home lit virtual candles online, in honour of loved ones who had taken part in the war.

The Bishop of St Germans, Hugh Nelson, the lead Bishop for the Armed Forces, said: "The 8oth anniversary of VE Day was a time to remember with deep gratitude the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today."

He went on to say that in this "increasingly dangerous world", it was good "to offer prayers for peace. As we honour the past, so we renew our commitment to building a more peaceful and just world for all."

st lawrence church, long buckby invite you to Music on a Summer Afternoon

Long Buckby Community Band & St Lawrence Singers

FREE TICKET ENTRY REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE SUNDAY 29TH JUNE, 2025 AT 2 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: ST LAWRENCE CHURCH (OPEN 9AM-3PM) LONG BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB THE PEEPHOLE AND AT THE DOOR

> Donations for St Lawrence Church Roof Fund Gratefully Accepted



Pentecost 8th June 2025



Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter. A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit – the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind.
Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

St Peter, 'the Rock'

The two most famous apostles are remembered this month, for they share a feast day. St Peter (d. c. 64AD), originally called Simon, was a married fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. He met Jesus through his brother, Andrew. Jesus gave him the name of Cephas (Peter) which means rock. Peter is always named first in the list of apostles. He was one of the three apostles who were privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the Agony in the Garden.

When Peter made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus recognised it as being the result of a revelation from the Father. He in turn told Peter that he would be the rock on which His Church would be built, that the 'gates of hell' would never prevail against it. Peter and the apostles would have the power of 'binding and loosing', but Peter would be personally given 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. Jesus also forewarned Peter of his betrayal and subsequent strengthening of the other apostles. After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter before the other apostles, and later entrusted him with the mission to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ's flock.

Peter played a big part in the early Church, and he is mentioned many times in the Book of Acts, where in the early chapters he organised the choice of Judas' successor, preached with stirring authority at Pentecost; and was the very first apostle to work a miracle. Peter went on to defend the apostles' right to teach at the Sanhedrin, and to condemn Ananias and Sapphira. It was Peter who first realised that Christianity was also for the Gentiles, after his meeting with Cornelius. Later he took a prominent part in the council at Jerusalem and went on to clash with St Paul at Antioch for hesitating about eating with Gentiles.

Early tradition links Peter with an apostolate and martyrdom at Rome. The New Testament does not tell us either way, but Peter being in Rome would make sense, especially as Peter's first epistle refers to 'Babylon', which was usually identified with Rome. Peter's presence in Rome is mentioned by early church fathers such as Clement of Rome and Irenaeus. Tradition also tells us that Peter suffered under Nero and was crucified head-downwards. There is no conclusive proof either way that St Peter's relics are at the Vatican, but it is significant that Rome is the only city that ever claimed to be Peter's place of death.

St Peter was a major influence on Mark when writing his gospel, and the First Epistle of Peter was very probably his. (Many scholars believe that the Second Epistle was written at a later date.) From very early times Peter was invoked by Christians as a universal saint. He was the heavenly doorkeeper, the patron of the Church and the papacy, a saint both powerful and accessible. In England there were important dedications to Peter from early times: monasteries such as Canterbury, Glastonbury, Malmesbury, Peterborough, Lindisfarne, Whitby, Wearmouth, and especially Westminster. Cathedrals were named after him, too: York, Lichfield, Worcester and Selsey. In all, it has been calculated that 1,129 pre-Reformation churches were dedicated to St Peter, and another 283 to SS Peter and Paul together.

Not too serious





"Well, no, I'm not dressing like this to create common ground with today's youth culture – I've always worn a hoody."





Keith was very strict about confetti in the churchyard





It can be read in the Bible in Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, LK5:17-26 A short story from the Bible

The Pharisees had come to Jesus'home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...



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Double Sudoku!



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HARD

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Bible Crossword



Down

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6-12) (4)
6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)

7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4) 12 Ate (anag.) (3)

14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)

15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)

16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)

17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)

18 'l... asked him the true meaning of all - . - he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things'

(Daniel 7:16) (4,2)

20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)

21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6) 23 Diva (anag.) (4) The Maze

Pentecost Trinity

Jerusalem Disciples Praying ordsearch Tongues Power High Fires Flames Languages Praise Drunk Wine Nine Morning Glory Waiting Place Wind Father Son Holy Spirit Eternal

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS:

:SSOADA

8, Grandchildren. 9, Pro. 10, Marvelled. 11, Strut. 13, Startle. 16, Babysit. 19, Orate. 22, Eucharist. 24,

:NWOQ

ى, Egypt's. 2, Favour. 3, Edomites. 4, Thorns. 5, Blue. 6, Armlet. 7, On edge. 12, Tea. 14, Adoption. 15, Lot. 16, Breach. 17, Become. 18, This So. 20, Armies. 21, Expose. 23, Avid.

Hard Sudoku

Easy Sudoku

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Wordsearch







BAPTISMS

Interested in getting your child baptised?

Whether you call it christening or baptism we are here to welcome you and those being baptised as part of our church family. A baptism service is a special service where those being baptised will be prayed for, where parents and Godparents will make important promises, water is poured over the person being baptised to signify being made clean and often a sign of the cross is made, a candle is given to you in the service to help remind you to "Shine as a light in the world to the Glory of God". It's a special day for not only the person being baptised but all those family, friends and church members who are there to be part of it. Please do contact us and we'd be happy to talk with you about baptism.



WEDDINGS

Have you considered a church wedding?

We are blessed to have wonderful church buildings in our benefice, in beautiful surroundings, where you can have a wonderful wedding as you make promises to God and each other in front of family and friends. Wedding services have declarations, vows, exchanging of rings, blessings and can include your own choice of readings, music and more, they are a joy to be part of. Church weddings are also surprisingly inexpensive and can help you have a very special wedding without breaking the bank. Contact us to find out how you can have your very special day with us.



FUNERALS

We are here for you.

Firstly our sympathies for your loss. We know how hard times like this are and we as the church can be here to support you, not only with the funeral service itself but also afterwards with pastoral support and special services to help you commemorate and remember your loved ones life. We are happy to liaise with you and funeral directors to help you say goodbye to your loved one, services can be tailored to help reflect the life of the deceased so that even in the sadness of loss you can remember the love, the times you had together and look to the hope that a church funeral services gives. Do contact us or ask your funeral director to be in touch with us and let us support you in this difficult time.

CONTACTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE



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St Peter and St Paul. Watford

Church Warden - Ken Brand Tel: 07762 600047 Email: kbrando1@hotmail.com

All Saints, West Haddon

St Michael and All Angels, Winwick

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For further contact details visit our website

Any articles or information for the next monthly newsletter should be submitted by the 20th of this month to hello@onechurch4parishes.co.uk



WE ARE ALSO ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM



FIND US ON THE WEB AT: ONECHURCH4PARISHES.CO.UK

The Diocese of Our parishes are in the Diocese of Peterborough and part of the Church of England. and part of the Church of England.

