



# Christ Church

Henley-on-Thames

NEWSLETTER FOR  
April and May 2025



## Glyn's message



Dear Friends,

The debate both within and outside the government about the definition of Islamophobia rolls on. Will we end up with what is in effect a blasphemy law, or will the outcome result in peace and harmony between Muslims and others? I'm not really qualified to comment. But as we have now entered into Lent and

are looking ahead to Good Friday and Easter, I do want to point up a real difference between the two religions.

Simply this. The work of Muhammad is rooted in his being honoured, whereas the work of Christ is based on being mocked and crucified. Those facts produce very different reactions to the abuse and scorn of the world.

If Christ had not been insulted, there would be no salvation. His vulnerability, his speaking the truth in defenceless love was (and is!) the way in which God seeks to change hearts, to conquer sin and death. This was predicted in the Old Testament (Psalm 22:7, Isaiah 53:3); when it happened, it was worse than predicted (see Matthew 27:28-30) This was why he came, this was the work he came to do.

This was not the case with Muhammad and most Muslims, on the basis of the Quran, deny that Jesus was crucified - to quote the relevant passage:-

"And concerning their saying, 'We killed the Messiah Jesus son of Mary, Allah's Messenger.' They killed him not, nor crucified, but it appeared so to them. Indeed, those who disagree concerning it are in doubt about it. They have no (true) knowledge about it except that they follow conjecture. Surely, they did not kill him. But Allah did take him up unto Himself. Allah is ever Mighty, Wise." (An-Nisaa` 157-158)

I want to emphasise that this is because they do not believe that God would so dishonour his Messiah. That however is a grave misunderstanding. For Christ, enduring the mockery of the cross was the very essence of his mission. And for a true follower of Christ enduring suffering patiently for the glory of Christ is the essence of obedience. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account" (Matthew 5:11). During his life on earth Jesus was called a bastard (John 8:41),

a drunkard (Matthew 11:19), a blasphemer (Matthew 26:65), a devil (Matthew 10:25); and he promised his followers the same. (Matthew 10:25).

The caricature and mockery of Christ has continued to this day. Martin Scorsese portrayed Jesus in The Last Temptation of Christ as wracked with doubt and beset with sexual lust. The Da Vinci Code (re-hashing tired old heresies) portrays Jesus as a mere mortal who married and fathered children. Barely a year goes by without some new mockery on screen or in a book.

How should his followers respond? On the one hand, we are grieved and angered. On the other hand, we identify with Christ, and embrace his suffering, and rejoice in our afflictions, and say with the apostle Paul that vengeance belongs to the Lord, let us love our enemies and win them with the gospel. If Christ did his work by being insulted, we must do ours likewise. It means that his followers must be willing to "share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" (Philippians 3:10).

with prayers and all good wishes,

Glyn

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The deadline for your contributions to our next newsletter is: **15 May 2025** for the June/July 2025 Newsletter. Please forward to Melinda tel: 07802232207; email: [melinda@melindaswann.com](mailto:melinda@melindaswann.com)

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## Lent talks - The way to the cross

Our Lent talks, followed by the Lent Lunch, have gone very well thus far.

The last two, commencing at 12 noon each time, are:

| Date                 | Theme     | Scripture      | Speaker          |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Sacrifice | Mark 14: 22-31 | Paul Fitzpatrick |
| Apr 10 <sup>th</sup> | Death     | Mark 15: 33-41 | Jeremy Bray      |



## Holy Week and Easter

| Date                   | Event                  | Time    | Place                  |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| March 16 <sup>th</sup> | Palm Sunday Worship    | 10.30am | Christ Church          |
| March 17 <sup>th</sup> | Tenebrae               | 8pm     | Pither Hall            |
| Good Friday            | Joint Churches Service | 12 noon | The Market Square      |
| Easter Day             | Sunrise Service        | 7am     | Mills Meadow Bandstand |
| Easter Day             | Easter Celebration     | 10.30am | Christ Church          |

"Tenebrae" is Latin, meaning shadows. It is an ancient service in which we celebrate the Lord's Supper but also recall the gathering darkness of that last night Jesus spent with his friends.

## Brian Grundy

Our friend Brian Grundy died in February after a short illness.

*Message from David Grundy (Brian's Son):*

On Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 there will be a funeral service at St Mary's Church, Burghfield, to celebrate Dad's life and for the Interment of his ashes. Following the service there will be time to gather in the parish community centre where light refreshments will be provided.

There is ample parking at the church, and facilities are available in the parish centre building which is connected directly to the church.

If you are hoping to attend, please can you send an email to

[davidmgrundy@btinternet.com](mailto:davidmgrundy@btinternet.com)

or

contact me on 07720 289112. It would be lovely to see any of you that can make it.

Location details for Burghfield Church

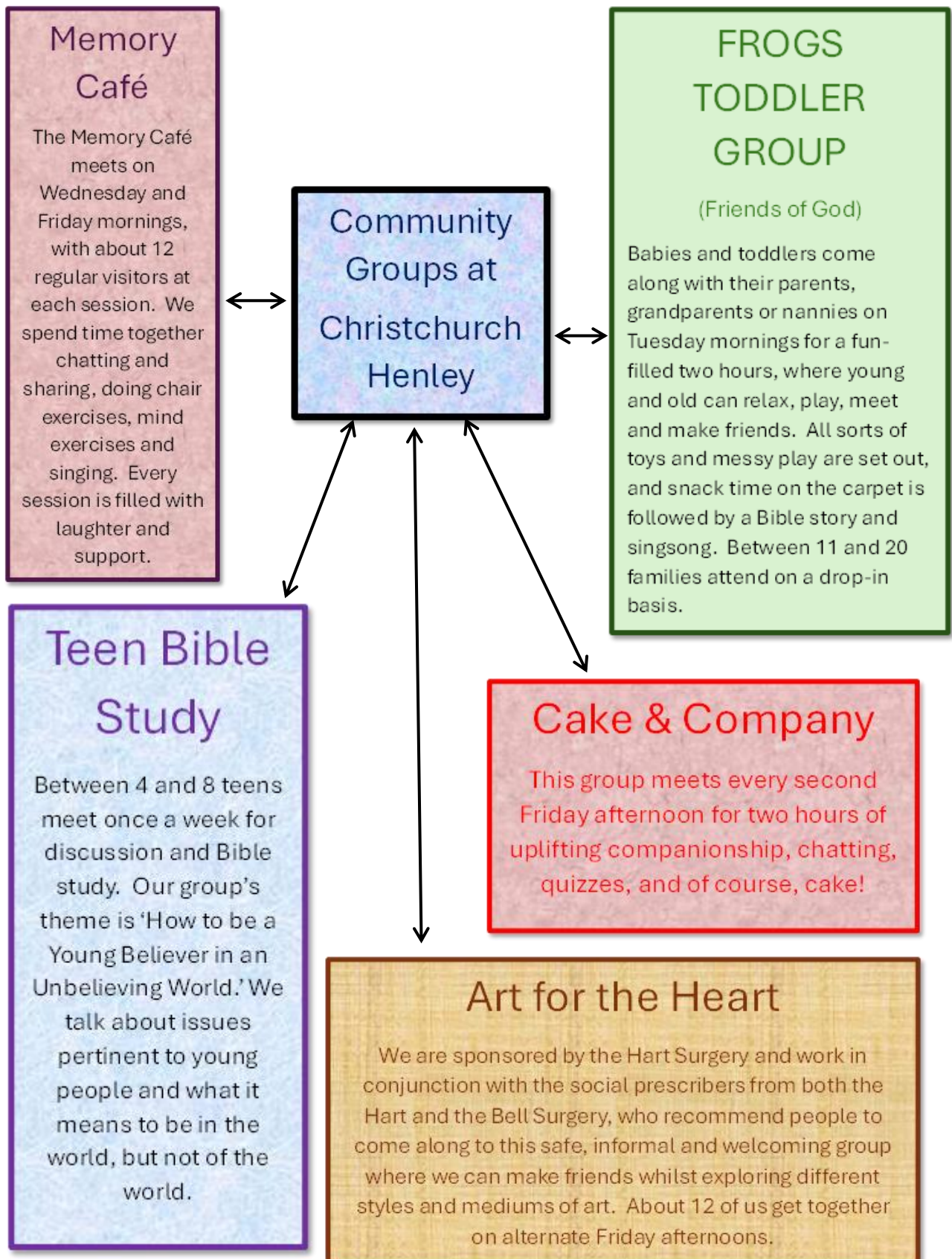
St Mary's Church  
Church Lane  
Burghfield Village  
Berkshire RG30 3TG

St Marys Church website <http://stmarysburghfield.org/>  
<https://goo.gl/maps/C11fo9EPZ666on7c9>



## News from Siobhan

I've created an infographic of the community worker groups, which I lead, so as to keep you abreast of the work being done. Thank you!



## Church Lunch on March 2nd

Forty-two people sat down to lunch for a pre-lent celebration on March 2nd.



The delicious main courses were provided by Cook in Henley, at a generous discount, and the apple crumble and custard was made by our own Doug and Ann Richards. Wine, soft drinks and after Eights completed the meal, so we are sorry if you missed it!

Karen, Helen and Daniel Ricketts and several others helped to make the occasion go with a swing, and the

whole event was masterminded by Lynn Sayer. To add an extra element of fun, there was a Biblical quiz, devised by Beryl Levett, a copy of which you can find elsewhere in this newsletter. Many thanks to her and all involved!



## Bible Quiz a/a by Beryl Levett

1. What are the first three words of the Old Testament? *In the beginning*
2. Name the first five books of the Old Testament? *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*
3. What is the shortest book in the Old Testament? *Obadiah*
4. What did God change Jacob's name to? *Israel*
5. Where will you find The Ten Commandments? *Exodus 10:2-17 & Deuteronomy 5:1-21*

6. When the Israelites conquered Jericho what made the walls fall down? *The priests marched round the walls blowing trumpets. Finally there was a long blast of trumpets, the army gave a great shout & the walls fell down.* Joshua 6:1-23
7. Noah took his wife with him into the ark & who else? *His sons Shem, Ham & Japheth & their wives.* Genesis 7:13
8. "... And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire; & after the fire (Elijah heard) *a still small voice.* 1 Kings 19:12
9. In which Old Testament book will you find the words "For unto us a child is born"? *Isaiah 9:6*
10. How many books make up the New Testament? 27
11. Which gospel begins: "In the beginning was the word"? *John 1:1*
12. What profession is Luke said to have had? *Doctor* (Colossians 4:14 "Luke the beloved physician")
13. Why did Mary & Joseph need to make the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem? *Caesar Augustus ordered a census to that everyone would be accounted for and pay tax.* Luke 2:4-7
14. Name the 3 magi & the gift which each presented to the Christ Child. *Melchior - gold (kingship on earth); Caspar – frankincense (deity); Balthasar – myrrh (death)* from "Bible Gateway" Matthew 2:11
15. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called *the children of God*" Matthew 5:9
16. "I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" To whom was Jesus referring when He spoke these words? *The centurion whose servant Jesus had healed.* Luke 7:9
17. During the Last Supper, what did Jesus say about Peter denying that he knew Him? *"before the rooster crows twice you will deny Me three times"* Mark 14:27-31 "Bible Gateway"
18. Who was the person who went to Pilate & "begged the body of Jesus"? *Jospeh of Arimathea* Luke 23:49-53
19. What happened to Saul of Tarsus on his journey to Damascus? *He was struck down by a bright light & blinded. He heard God's voice & was converted. He became known as Paul.* Acts 9:3 ...
20. In the book of Revelation what are the words of the last verse? *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen"* Revelation 22:21

## Trinity at 4

Kindly note that Trinity at 4's last Sunday with us will be April 6th.



# World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an annual service that the Henley churches share together.



This year it was hosted by Trinity Church. The service had been prepared by Christian women in the Cook Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The service began with the greeting "Kia orana". In the Māori language this means "May you live long, may you live well, may you shine like the sun, may you dance with the waves."

The service was based on the words of Psalm 139. Woven within stories of three women, we were invited to recognise that God created each one of us and we should cherish all aspects of who we are and of those around us. God created us. God knows us. God is with us. A wonderful message to share.



# Christ Church Centre News

- Christ Church Centre is pleased to welcome the “Henley Falaise Leichlingen Twinning Association” on the evening of Friday April 11th 2025. Our cook, Heather Fay, is providing a typically British meal of cottage pie for their French guests.
- We have a new Pilates class which will be held every Monday morning at 11:00am. The class is run by Wendy Davies, Chartered Physiotherapist and Clinical Pilates Instructor, based at The Henley Practise. Wendy’s contact number is 07886 807462.
- The Church clock is now undergoing some remedial work and we hope it will be telling Henley residents the correct time in a few weeks!
- A reminder of our Zumba Latin class held on Thursdays at 11:15 am. Instructor, Adrienn Rollison-Kovari, can be contacted on 07428020113 or email her on [audreyadri@yahoo.com](mailto:audreyadri@yahoo.com) for more details.

Pictures of a recent Lent lunch below:



Please pray for Christians in Ukraine, Sudan, Syria and many other countries worldwide, who are targeted by violent religious persecution.

### **April 2025 Services**

|                      |         |                                     |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am | Morning Worship and Lord's Supper   |
| Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship                     |
| Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Easter Sunday                       |
| Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Sam Brewster |

### **May 2025 Services**

|                      |         |                                      |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am | Morning Worship and Lord's Supper    |
| Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship                      |
| Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship                      |
| Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Linda Jackson |

## **Rotas**

### **ELDERS ROTA**

|        |                          |
|--------|--------------------------|
| 6/4/25 | Lynn S and Jeanne S      |
| 13/4   | Muriel Q and Tom C       |
| 20/4   | Ann R and Tom C          |
| 27/4   | Maureen M and Marjorie C |
| 4/5/25 | David C and Katrina J    |
| 11/5   | Lynn S and Jeanne S      |
| 18/5   | Heather C and Judith C   |
| 25/5   | Ann R and Tom C          |

### **WELCOME ROTA**

|        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| 6/4/25 | Sandy Porter           |
| 13/4   | Sheila Finney          |
| 20/4   | Maureen Carberry       |
| 27/4   | Ann Powell/Janis Kelly |
| 4/5/25 | Jeni Wood              |
| 11/5   | Hilda Glendenning      |
| 18/5   | Nick Fryer             |
| 25/5   | Sue Kendrick           |

### **BIBLE READING ROTA**

|        |                |
|--------|----------------|
| 6/4/25 | Lynn Sayer     |
| 13/4   | Claire Wills   |
| 20/4   | Tom Carberry   |
| 27/4   | Marjorie Court |
| 4/5/25 | Katrina Judge  |
| 11/5   | Ann Powell     |
| 18/5   | Fiona Chapman  |
| 25/5   | Karen Ricketts |

### **COFFEE ROTA**

|        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 6/4/25 | Ann and Doug Richards                |
| 13/4   | Lynn Sayer and Clare Wills           |
| 20/4   | Bob and Suzanne Farquhar             |
| 27/4   | Tom and Maureen Carberry             |
| 4/5/25 | Heather Clark and Jenny George       |
| 11/5   | John and Ann Powell                  |
| 18/5   | Maureen McLaughlin and Fiona Chapman |
| 25/5   | Jeanne Stone and Hanne Pullar        |

### **ORGAN ROTA**

|        |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
| 6/4/25 | Graham Gegg     |
| 13/4   | Brian Gegg      |
| 20/4   | Brian Gegg      |
| 27/4   | Brian Gegg      |
| 4/5/25 | Graham Gegg     |
| 11/5   | Brian Gegg      |
| 18/5   | Jane Rincon     |
| 25/5   | Richard Sedding |





*This Newsletter is produced for everyone to read. **Please share it with other family members and friends***

***Minister***

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