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COOKHAM

The Cookhams Parish Magazine

A community enriched by Christian faith, worship and values



St John the Baptist
COOKHAM DEAN

LIVING FAITH in this issue:

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**FEB
29**

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COOKHAM LEAPS FOR AFRICA

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**Could Cookham
Dean War Memorial
look like this ?**
see page 12

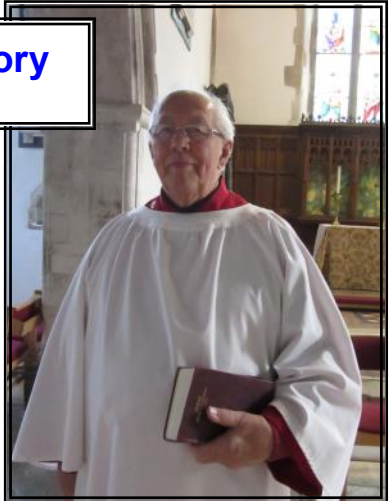


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February 2016

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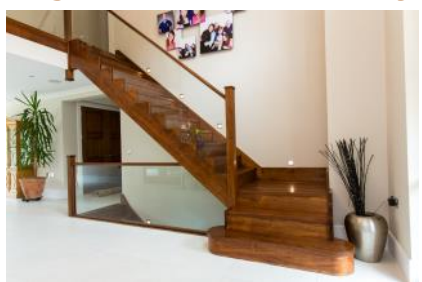
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Fr Nick writes: Feeling tempted? Good!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 10 February, and at Holy Trinity and St John the Baptist, service attenders will be marked with ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality. In words, we are told, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." This reminds us of two things: the finite state of our being, and also, that whenever we do something wrong, we are called to repent and seek forgiveness.

This marks our special relationship with God. There will be many occasions when body and soul make a journey into the wilderness. In our lifetime, we will have plenty of chances to experience a journey that will lead us into and, hopefully, out of life's wilderness. We should view our journeys into the wilderness as times of testing, as times in which God prepares us for something. We may also view the wilderness as a place where our spiritual strength and stamina is nourished.

In particular, life's wilderness experiences test our faith. We are told to resist temptation and our faith is tested to see if we are rooted in God's authority. And as Christians, in the wilderness, we recognise the triumph of Jesus Christ over the power of sin and death – Jesus Christ who in human form experienced times of testing and temptation just like us.

In his play *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Oscar Wilde wrote, "I can resist everything except temptation." I'm also reminded of a cartoon where one character says to another: "How come opportunity knocks only once, but temptation beats down the door every day?" St. Augustine of Hippo knew something about temptation, too. He wrote, "Lord, give me chastity and continence – but not yet."

Temptation is part of everyone's life. The test to overcome temptation toward evil will always be a part of our journey. We may be strengthened by St. Paul's words in 1 Corinthians: "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."

Life for Adam and Eve would have been easy if God had planted only one tree in the Garden of Eden. Why did God give Adam and Eve a choice? It was God's way of testing them, and the choice was simple. Adam and Eve had to choose between God's authority and their own, self-appointed authority. God offered them free will. They could choose freely between life and death. But they made the wrong choice – they chose a life that led to death.

This lesson teaches us that evil and sin have been with us since the beginning of time. And the atrocities that we see in our world today continue to remind us that we struggle with an evil nature and an impulse to oppose God's will. For the contemporary mind, the story of Adam and Eve symbolises the belief that God's authority will overrule any authority we choose to bestow upon ourselves.

So in our wilderness moments, what do we do? How do we prepare ourselves to overcome any inclination toward sinfulness and selfishness? How do we find our way out of the wilderness?

I hope that prayer, fasting and faith might be the features of our journey through Lent. And that they will continue to feature in the rest of our lives. There is nothing wrong with temptation. It's giving in to it that's the problem. So let's think of temptation as being useful. Temptation is not meant to make us sin. It is meant to raise us to a clearer vision of God's eternal goodness. Temptation is not meant to weaken or enfeeble us. It is meant to empower and strengthen us for service. Temptation is not a penalty we receive from a mysterious or mischievous god. It is a privilege we receive from a gracious God to see if we are prepared to tell others the story of God's glory.

Immediately after Jesus came out of the wilderness, he began his ministry. Whenever we emerge from our wilderness experience, we are called to do the same. Finding our way out of the wilderness means that we have finished the test – for the time being. But by keeping our channel to God open, by continually being in conversation with God, we will feel strengthened, encouraged, and ready to face whatever he has in store for us.

Fr Nick

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

If you are old or young, new to the village or lived here for some time, and have a question about any aspect of church or our activities, or if you need help or comfort, please contact one of us:

For Cookham Dean

Sue Peake 488087

For Cookham and Cookham Rise

Val Eckett 524561

or any of the Ministry Team - see page 2

THE COOKHAMS PARISH MAGAZINE



**HOLY
TRINITY
CHURCH**

This magazine is published jointly by the Parochial Church Councils of Holy Trinity, Cookham and St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean
Items for inclusion should be sent to the Editor by 15th of the previous month.

Adverts are published in good faith and we are unable to warrant or endorse any of the products or services offered.



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COOKHAM DEAN**

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The Cookhams Parish Magazine and Pew News are on line!

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHURCH

Everyone, regardless of age, is welcome at all our services.
Here are the special facilities for younger people.

Holy Trinity, Cookham

Junior Praise welcomes young people aged 7 to 11. We meet every Sunday during term time, in the Parish Centre from 10:45 am and then join the congregation in church during the Offertory.

Sunday Club is designed for younger children also meets at the same time and place.

Junior Praise and Sunday Club often combine for Godly Play presentations. On these occasions the children will remain in the Parish Centre for the whole of the Service.

Christine Taylor 628829

Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir

The **Boys' Choir** (for boys aged 7+) sings for a service each Sunday. Practice is on a Wednesday, 6.35 - 7.35pm.

The **Girls' Choir** (for girls aged 10+) sings for two Sunday morning services a month and for other special services. Practice is on a Tuesday, 7.00 - 8.00pm.

Children wishing to join either choir are invited to attend a choir practice during which they are auditioned.

Director of Music - Sara Wood: 01628 522593

Trinity Nippers

Babies and pre-school children meet with their mums, dads or carers on Tuesdays at 10.15 am in Holy Trinity Church, followed by coffee, snacks and play in the Parish Centre.

Contact: Emma Schumaker 07757 313926
or Stella Fairlie 01628 532926

St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean

Junior Choir meets on Fridays from 5.30 - 6.45 for practice and sings at the 9.15 service each Sunday and at evensong on the third Sunday of the month.

David Colthup 529861

"Sunbeams" is open to all ages. We have two groups, one for older children that meets in the Jubilee Vestry, and the other for younger children that goes through to the Vestry following the start of the 9.15 service. Both groups then re-join the service at "The Peace".

Jacque Rollett 486533 and Gerry Thwaites 486628

HOLY TRINITY BABY & TODDLER GROUP



Thursdays, 9.45-11.15am

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Come along for a cuppa, chat,
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with your little one

Email Sarah Rodi or Bethan Beaney
at htctoddlers@hotmail.com


Are you able to help with Holy Trinity Sunday Club and Junior Praise ?

I am trying to recruit a team of leaders and helpers to support our mission to children. At present, the number of children is quite small and they on the whole are quite young however we are unable to provide age appropriate teaching for older children.

We meet from 10:50am in the Parish Centre and aim to join the congregation in Church at the Offertory hymn but we don't always make it. At the moment I am the only leader but able to operate with the support of parents who stay with their children. I use Roots on the Web to support my teaching which gives lots of ideas, activities and games for a wide variety of ages.

If you are interested please contact me on 01628 628829 or christinetaylor590@btinternet.com as soon as possible and I will arrange a meeting where I can give further details and information.

Christine Taylor



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March 13th - Marion
April 17th - Lorna
May 15th - Both!

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THE SHAKERS

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PASTORAL CARE NETWORK

The Pastoral Care Network is very much alive within the community of St John the Baptist.

The aim of this group is to extend care and support without being invasive in any way, to each and every member of our congregation whether they are regular or infrequent attenders at Church.

We will try to recognise signs whether any of our community may welcome some support or just a friendly "ear".

We appreciate the fine line between intrusion and awareness and it is our united wish to respect everyone within our church family.

The Pastoral team are eight in number meeting twice a year and each hold a section of all the church members for special awareness and care.

If you have recently joined our congregation and have a question or would like to know more, please contact,

Sue Peake
01628 488087

PLOUGH SUNDAY

Plough Sunday was celebrated at Cookham Dean on January 10th and our cover picture shows Rev'd Jo blessing the plough from a local farm after the service.

Plough Sunday is an English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year, traditionally held on the Sunday after Epiphany, and has seen some revival over recent years. The celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land. Accordingly, work in the fields did not begin until the day after Plough Sunday: Plough Monday.

Although the nature of farming has changed over the centuries, Plough Sunday is seen as a way of generally celebrating farming and the work of farmers.

Two local farmers read the lesson and gave the sermon during the service.



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Lorna Sykes



Parish Register

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wedding: | Thomas Parks and Clare Wilson |
| Funeral: | Kathleen Langton, aged 96 |
| Interment of Ashes : | Patrick Bell, aged 90 |
| Burial: | Tony Austin, aged 68 |

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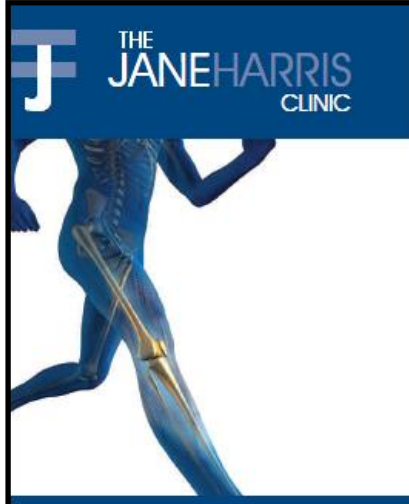
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MUSIC at HOLY TRINITY

Sunday 7th February

11am: **PARISH EUCHARIST**

Cookham Rise School presentation and choir

6.30pm: **CHORAL EVENSONG** (*Boys' & Men's Choir*)

Responses: Ayleward

Psalm: 117 v.1-8 (chant: Kennedy)

Canticles: Purcell (in G minor)

*Anthems: What a friend we have in Jesus – Converse
Rejoice in the Lord alway (Bell Anthem) –
Purcell*

Organ Voluntary: Gavotte – Boyce

Wednesday 10th February **ASH WEDNESDAY**

8pm: **PARISH EUCHARIST with Ashing** (*Senior Boys,
Senior Girls & Men's Choir*)

Communion setting: Darke (in F)

*Anthems: Turn thy face from my sins – Attwood
Miserere (Psalm 51) – Allegri*

Sunday 14th February

11am: **PARISH EUCHARIST** (*Men's Choir*)

*Anthems: An heart that's broken – Dowland
Wash me thoroughly – Wesley*

Organ Voluntary: Air from Suite in D (J.S. Bach)

6.30pm: **SAID EVENING PRAYER** (*Choir holiday – half
term*)

Sunday 21st February

11am: **PARISH EUCHARIST** (*Choir holiday – half term*)

Organ Voluntary: Choral Song – Wesley

6.30pm: **COMPLINE** (*Men's Choir*)

Sunday 28th February

11am: **PARISH EUCHARIST** (*Girls' Choir*)

*Anthems: As the deer pants for the water – Nyrtom
Purify my heart – Doersken
I am the bread of life – Lole*

Organ Voluntary: Te Deum – Charpentier

5pm: **LOOKING FORWARD TO MARRIAGE** (*Boys' &
Men's Choir*)

*Anthems: Jesu, joy of man's desiring – J.S. Bach
A Blessing – Althouse
This little light of mine – Traditional arr. Johnson
The wind beneath my wings – Henley & Silbar*

Organ Voluntary: Wedding March – Mendelssohn

ASH WEDNESDAY (10th February)

During the Eucharist Service (8pm) for Ash Wednesday, the choir will sing Allegri's famous setting of Psalm 51 (Miserere – Have mercy upon me). With its challenging top-C for the trebles/sopranos and its haunting plainchant verses, it is with great pride that the senior boys, the senior girls and the men mark the start of Lent in this special way.

CAROL SERVICE COLLECTIONS

The collections following Holy Trinity's three Carols by Candlelight services (Advent, Christmas Day & Epiphany) amounted to a total of £1345 for Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service. Thank you to all who attended and who gave so generously.

Holy Trinity Ladies Group

December Meeting

Following the format of the last few years we began our December meeting with carols, readings and prayers. Then we got down to the serious business of games and the dreaded quiz. We had a picture round to identify European capital cities, followed by gardening dingbats and then anagrams of classic British foods. As we are a church group our quiz was all about Christmas carols and the wicked quiz master would not allow enough time to sing the whole carol and she collected all the carol sheets before we started. The scores were close but the winners were the Spring Chickens.

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Parish centre at 2:30pm. Visitors and spouses are always welcome. In February Rev. Jeremy Harris will speak about "Another Pilgrimage".

Christine Taylor 628829

Choir Member Retires - a 'baseless' story

This year's Epiphany Carol Service by Candlelight at Holy Trinity Church was the last service before retirement for octogenarian Choirmaster Norman Waite. He joined as a Bass in 1980 and during that time has also served on the PCC and the Deanery synod as well deputising as organist on a few occasions. He first joined a Church Choir way back in 1945 when he lived at Ascot and has therefore accumulated over 70 years as a chorister.

In recognition of this achievement and as a thank you for his contribution to Holy Trinity, a small reception in the Parish Centre was held after Sunday's service where he was presented with retirement gifts from both the Choir and the PCC. In thanking everyone for their kindness he also expressed his gratitude to Sara for being allowed to be part of such a splendid choir and would cherish many past memories including singing as the 'Visiting Choir' in such places as Guildford Cathedral and St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

He said he knows the Choir will 'successfully continue without him but will he successfully continue without them'. That is what he is now about to find out! So as he now moves into his ninth decade, it with a certain sadness that he leaves the Choir but reassures us that he is not leaving Holy Trinity so the friendships he has forged will, we hope, continue for a long time to come.

Our cover picture commemorates Norman's last service in the choir.



Parish Register

Baptisms: Charlotte Lowe, Zachary Dowman,
Sebastian Dowman, Rafferty Dowman

Funerals: Dorothy Payne, aged 105
Ronald Blackall, aged 94
Tony Austin, aged 68

Service of
Thanksgiving: Sheila Haggis

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Come along to the Men's Breakfast on **Saturday 13th February** and enjoy a hearty traditional breakfast, good company and a talk about the initiative at Cookham Rise School to support schools in parts of Africa.



The Breakfast starts at 8:30am and we plan to end before 10am. Join us in the Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Cookham - the cost is only £4- a bargain. If you can make it please email revdavidjoynes@gmail.com so we can judge the food to be bought.

Fr David
revdavidjoynes@gmail.com

OPEN MINDS

The Teenagers' Debating Group

Join us - 'Open Minds': the Teenagers debating Society at Pizza Dreams in Cookham Rise on the third Thursday in the month.

The next meeting is on **18th February** and we begin at 7pm and end by 8:30pm. Come along and enjoy a couple of slices of pizza and a drink and debate the issues around many topical subjects. Please bring your friends along. There is no cost.

If you would like to join us please email Rev'd David at revdavidjoynes@gmail.com. We look forward to your joining us.

Fr David

Nippers Extra

Dates for 2016

15th May
18th September

Time: 3pm Venue: Holy Trinity Church

This is a short family and young child friendly event with action songs and stories followed by homemade cakes in the Parish Centre.

Just turn up on the day or telephone Rev'd Helen on 01628 486744 for more details.

COLIN JACKSON'S FAMOUS QUIZ NIGHT!

Parish Centre, Churchgate, Cookham

Saturday 6 February 2016 at 7.30 for 8pm start

Advance bookings for teams or individuals can be sent to Andy Dr Jackson at andydr@cookham.org or Colin Jackson at colinj@cookham.org

Maximum number of teams is 10. Book early to avoid disappointment!!!

£12 to include a Fish & Chip supper together with a licensed bar

In aid of New Brainstorm School - supporting children in Uganda.

SOLD OUT— THERE WILL BE ANOTHER LATER IN THE YEAR!

The Cookhams - Lent Course 2016

Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG)
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The six sessions are:

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- Our Calling: Telling our story and helping people meet Jesus
- Our Journey: Growing and going deeper as followers of Jesus
- Our Heart: Developing worship that helps the church to grow

8pm - Parish Centre – starting 15th February for 6 Mondays ending 21st March.

Contact Fr. Nick Tel 01628 529183 or Rev'd. Helen 01628 486744 if you would like to join this course.

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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDENOMINATIONAL)

Receive children.

Receive me.

Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement that invites women, from a different part of the world each year, to prepare a worship service through which their hopes and fears for their country may be brought before the whole world in prayer.

On Friday 4 March an estimated 3 million people in over 170 countries and islands will gather to observe the day of prayer, using an order of service written by Christian women in Cuba and translated into over 60 languages and 1000 dialects. In the British Isles alone over 6,000 services will be held. The day begins as the sun rises over the island of Samoa and continues until it sets off the coast of American Samoa, some 35 hours later.



Our local service will be at St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean at 10.00am on Friday 4th March with refreshments afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

The theme 'Receive children. Receive me' reflects St Mark's Gospel, chapter 10 verses 13-16, which is the focus of the service and a reminder that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect.

The Republic of Cuba is the largest Caribbean island, located at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico and called 'the Key to the Gulf'. Politically at odds with the USA, Cuba suffered greatly due to the economic embargo imposed upon it in 1960 but has found strength within itself to move on and overcome many of its problems.

This is not a day of prayer just for women - everyone is welcome to attend the service and for further information and resources, together with details of the services in your area, please see the WWDP website: www.wwdp.org.uk.

Nicky Strachan
Jane Johnson

The Darby Pension Trust

The two Darby brothers died just over 100 years ago, having lived in Cookham and made good money in their business lives. According to their wills, they wished to devote much of it to those people of Cookham who were less financially fortunate than themselves. There is now a committee of Trustees who administer these funds and who can distribute a few hundred pounds each year to those who are in need. Those who would be eligible will be over 50, and probably well over, will have lived or worked in Cookham or close by for 10 years or more, and have very limited spending money available, often little more than the basic pension.

If you know of someone in this situation the Trustees would be pleased to hear from you, and they would ask you to speak in confidence to their Clerk, who is Michael Johnson, 01628 629807, mjohnson@waitrose.com

SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Day 9th February



It's odd, really, that confessing one's sins to God should ever have involved making pancakes. And yet the beginning of Lent brings us both – Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day, and is followed by Ash Wednesday, and so Lent begins.

In centuries gone by, the pancakes were made to use up the milk and eggs before the fasting of Lent. More recently, many readers will have childhood memories of the wonder of watching our mothers break an egg, mix it with milk and flour – and out of that gooey mess, to produce a light and delicious pancake.

These days more and more of us buy pancake mix, or even ready-made pancakes. It seems we prefer the certainty of ending up with pancakes - to the risk of having made nothing BUT a mess of the kitchen.

In many parishes they used to hold pancake races on the day. Why anyone would want to run around a field while holding a pancake is not clear, but in Olney, Bucks, they have held a pancake race almost every year since 1445.

ASH WEDNESDAY - 10th February

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

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Let's get Cookham jumping

MAKE THIS LEAP YEAR MATTER!

Many children in Africa take a leap of faith every day of their lives because life is extremely tough – some are orphans and homeless, and others don't have enough to eat and drink, so often get sick because of poor nutrition, unsafe drinking water and disease. Most do not go to school because they are either too weak to concentrate or are just too busy trying to survive. But now you can make a difference. You're invited to take part in a #Leap4Africa Day on February 29th. Whether you're seven or 70, use your extra day in 2016 to make a difference.

Organised by Cookham's Social Action Committee, in association with Holy Trinity and Cookham Rise Primary Schools, all the schoolchildren will be involved in a sponsored star-jump, and for those a little older, you can join in by jumping, playing hopscotch or leapfrog, or by doing the thrilling Leap of Faith at Longridge, all to raise money to make a difference to children's lives in Africa.

The Longridge Leap of Faith is for adults or anyone over the age of eight, and starts with a climb to a platform at the top of a 13-metre pole. Next, you have to leap to the trapeze as your peers all watch from the ground below. It costs £15 and all participants will receive a certificate to remind them of their Leap of Faith.

All proceeds from any sponsored jump will be donated to New Brainstorm School in Uganda and PFC Ethiopia, whose project is Gende Tesfa School.



These African charities are the two that Cookham's Social Action Committee has decided to support for the next two years, as they were brought to the group's attention by the primary schools.

Through the inspiration of one of their parents, Sarah Parfitt, who ran the marathon for Gende Tesfa School last April, Holy Trinity School has been fundraising for PFC Ethiopia. Together they have raised more than £5,000 so far, and funded a new sports ground, which is currently being built, and the Breakfast Club. In Gende Tesfa, which is located in Dire Dawa in Eastern Ethiopia, one or more family members have been affected by leprosy and it also a very poor community.

The money from the #Leap4Africa Day will be donated to school facilities like the Breakfast Club and better sanitation that benefits the school and the whole Gende Tesfa community.

Journalist and PFC Ethiopia Ambassador Sarah Parfitt says: "I am so excited about our #Leap4Africa Day – we hope that people will really embrace the idea and change children's lives in Ethiopia and Uganda this Leap Year. Please get involved wherever you live, and post your photos and videos on Facebook and Twitter."

Cookham Rise Primary School has formed a partnership with the New Brainstorm School in Kampala Uganda. This is a school with little support and resources to educate children who would otherwise have little access to any education and is only kept afloat by the work of its dedicated staff. Cookham Rise School has already raised money just to keep Brainstorm open, but now they want to fund more permanent facilities.

Deputy Head of Cookham Rise Primary School Mr Rhodes says: "The Saving New Brainstorm School initiative not only gives much-needed help to an underprivileged community in Kampala, the work to support them helps build even greater community links in Cookham. Knowing that our fund-raising efforts would start in earnest in 2016, a Leap Year, it occurred to me that that jumping into action represented a great starting point. A little brainstorming with my colleagues in the Social Action Committee gave rise to Cookham Leaping for Africa with the hope that everyone in the area will find a way of leaping to the aid of the unfortunate in Africa."

Teacher Mrs Peters of Cookham Rise Primary School says: "All the children at Cookham Rise are hugely excited about the Leap of Faith initiative as it will help their friends in Kampala to keep their school and the education they love. In some cases, school is the only family they have. Having raised enough money to help New Brainstorm to buy land for a new site, we hope that this Leap Year will see enough funds raised to start building safe classrooms and sanitation for all the children. Thank you to everyone who gets involved, it really does make a difference."

Over the next two years, the Cookham Social Action Committee want to help support these causes through various fund-raising events and individual donations (see below for more details). Yet as Mrs Peters said, this initiative is not just about fundraising; the children at the local schools are in contact with their fellow pupils in Africa – they have exchanged letters, videos, photos – it is as much about children from both schools learning about each others' cultures.

Sarah Parfitt adds: "Imagine your children not eating each day, having to share a school uniform and dreaming of having a toy. This is the norm for too many children in Gende Tesfa and in other parts of Ethiopia. We can sit back and feel guilty or we can be catalysts for change. Please jump, leap, play hopscotch and have fun with us on February 29th!"

February 29th. Leap4Africa Day. To take part in the Longridge Leap of Faith, it is £15 – with Longridge receiving £5, Gende Tesfa School £5 and the New Brainstorm School £5. You need to register online at: www.longridge.org.uk/events/events-booking/2016-02-29/.

For further information, please contact Andy Draper on asdraper@btinternet.com or 01628 526913.

Details of other events supporting this initiative and media links are on page 27.

Article compiled by Sarah Rodi

MumsAboutCookham.com



Cookham Parish Council

Working together for current and future residents

Council Office, High Road, Cookham Rise SL6 9JF.
Open daily 8.30am - 12.30pm and Tuesday 5.00pm - 7.00pm



Parish Clerk: Anne Osborne **Tel:** 01628 522003 **Email:** cookhamparishcouncil@outlook.com

We are looking forward to a busy and productive 2016!

The specification for the restoration of Cookham Dean War Memorial is almost complete. A final decision is awaited regarding the choice of stone for the new inserts.



The project will see the WW1 names re-instated to the original red colouring which some residents may remember from before the years of weathering took their toll! The picture on the cover gives some indication of how the lettering will look.

The WW2 names will not be picked out in red as they were always in white and the ethos of the project is to restore each feature of the Memorial as it was originally intended. Work will commence in the Spring when weather conditions have improved.

We continue to receive complaints about parking in various parts of Cookham, notably around Maidenhead Road, Station Hill and Hillcrest Avenue. These issues will be a priority for the Parish Council in the coming months as we liaise with RBWM, residents and our Community Warden to investigate strategies for easing the problems.

The impending arrival of Crossrail will affect Cookham in various ways and Parish Councillors are lobbying the Train Operators to ensure that the potential degradation of service for Cookham Commuters is minimised. At present, it appears that two morning through train services will be lost and journey times from Maidenhead to Paddington will increase. Cllr Fiona Hewer is in correspondence with Rt Hon Theresa May MP to seek her support in protecting and maintaining this vital transport link for the Community.

We've had a sinking feeling on the Alfred Major Recreation Ground due to the appearance of a large hole on one of the pitches! This has happened periodically in the past and is a result of weather conditions. The park is formed from gravel on top of chalk which can get washed away after prolonged rain. The area has been cordoned off and will be filled after the ground has settled.

At the time of writing the river levels are rising slowly. The Parish Council are continuing their Flood Preparedness with continued training on operating the Emergency Flood Hub which will be mobilised if the Moor Road is closed. We have a number of residents who have trained as volunteers to help with marshalling pedestrians on The Causeway but we'd be delighted to hear from any more residents who would be interested in helping us in an emergency.

Maidenhead Waterways are currently carrying out extensive clearance work on the small watercourses around Maidenhead. As well as improving general waterflow, they believe that this will also help with the passage of water in a flood



event. At present they are concentrating on Strand Water which has various overgrown areas with weeds and fallen trees blocking the flow.



The work is carried out by volunteers who can participate for as few or as many sessions as they wish. Full instructions and guidance are given and, although working in the actual stream can be wet (waders are provided!) and

energetic, there are also opportunities to work on the bank clearance, or even just checking for wildlife and nesting birds etc.

Anyone interested in helping with this work should contact Maidenhead Waterways at:

contactus@maidenheadwaterways.org. Details will be added to an email list and potential volunteers notified of future clearance dates. Further information can also be obtained from the Parish Council.

As always, the Parish Council is here to maintain and improve facilities and the environment for everyone. Our Councillors, residents themselves, are keen to get involved with local issues, large or small, that will benefit the Community. This year we aim to raise awareness of what we currently do and hope in the future, with positive engagement, to achieve even more for Cookham. We would be delighted to hear your suggestions!

COOKHAM COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

The allotment has been 'bedded down' for most of December and all of January. On January 10th we had a New Year Celebration get together and tea in the Wesley Hall and were delighted that some of the Parish Councillors were able to join us as well as our regular gardeners.

The children made a lovely collage for one of the boards in the hall, a tricky jigsaw puzzle of hedgerow flowers was started, Becky had devised a board game and some people got going on cleaning and sharpening secateurs in preparation for the growing season. We have also met at the hall on the last three Saturdays of January, cleaning tools, deciding what to grow, making bird boxes and generally having fun.

We are back at the allotment every Saturday in February 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and on Tuesdays February 4th and 18th 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Please do come and join us and enjoy the great outdoors, friendship and growing our own food. All are welcome. For further information please contact Becky Pinniger on 01628 526066 or Kathy Rickman on 01628 522797.

Kathy Rickman

Cookham Rise Methodist Church

e-mail crmethodist@gmail.com

tel: 07583 550821

Interim Minister: Deacon Andy Packer: 01753 522977; ex20andy@gmail.com

For hall/church bookings: please contact Kathy Rickman on 01628 522797

Sunday worship during February:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 7 February 10.30 | Mr David Ridley |
| 14 February 10.30 | Mr Neville Walton |
| 6.30 | Agape led by Mrs Connie Jeffery |
| 21 February 10.30 | Mrs Patie Crockett |
| 28 February 10.30 | Rev Graham Hindle. Holy Communion |
| 6.30 | Rest & Reflect led by Mrs Connie Jeffery (see below) |

Please note: evening worship usually takes place at 6.30 on the second and fourth Sundays of the month; the fourth Sunday evening service is a service of alternative worship, when different ways of worshipping are explored. Please note also that our minister, Rev Sonia Hicks, is on sabbatical leave until 2 March 2016.

Other dates:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Thursday 4 February | Ladies Circle 3.15 Wesley Hall |
| Friday 5 February | Echoes of Swing Concert 8.00 – 10.00 p.m. in aid of the Partners for Change project with the community of Gende Tesfa in Ethiopia. Tickets £8.00. |
| Sunday 7 February | Church lunch at 12.30 – for anyone who would like a hot meal. |
| Saturday 20 February | Coffee morning and stalls in aid of the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen |

Regular meetings:

Come & Play for under-fives and their carers: Tues 9.15 – 11.15 and Fri 10.00 – 12.00 (01628 522797);
Rainbow Guides Mon 5.40-6.40 (01628 532279);
Yoga Mon 7.00 – 8.30 pm (07931 995409);
Bump Camp Weds 9.30-10.30 and Fri 1.30-2.30 (07811 868611), crèche available and coffee afterwards;
Boot Camp Thurs 9.30-10.30. and Sun 8.315-9.15 (07811 868611);
Diddydisco Mon 9.30-11.30 (07836 640430);
Wagtails Puppy and Dog Training Thurs 10.30 -12.30 (07793 884594);
Prayer meeting every Wednesday morning at 8.00 a.m. In the church followed by breakfast at Costa.

What's new:

Do you have under-fives (including babies)? Then come along to the Preschool Concerts presented by Concertini in the church. The February dates are Sunday 14 February at 4.00 p.m. and Wednesday 17 February at 11.00 a.m. for about 45 minutes. Cost £7.50 for adults, children free. The children are free to move about and play as they wish. If you have recently had a baby and need to get back into shape there is Bump Camp at 9.30 – 10.30 on a Wednesday and 1.30 – 2.30 on a Friday. There is a free crèche followed by refreshments on a Wednesday. And finally, if you would like a different worship experience in February come along on 28 February at 6.30 to Rest & Reflect – time to relax, rest and meditate.



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Services Calendar for February . . .

HTC = Holy Trinity, Cookham

SJB = St John Baptist, Cookham Dean

February 3rd - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

February 4th - Thursday

HTC 07.30 Holy Communion

February 7th - Sunday next before Lent

HTC 08.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Parish Eucharist
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

18.30 Choral Evensong
Exodus 3:1-6; John 12:27-36a

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

11.00 Matins
Exodus 33:17-end; John 3:1-3

February 8th - Monday

HTC 19.30 Healing Eucharist

February 10th - Ash Wednesday

HTC 20.00 Holy Communion with Ashing

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion with Ashing

February 11th - Thursday

HTC 07.30 Holy Communion

February 14th - 1st Sunday of Lent

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

18:30 Evening Prayer (said)
Jonah 3; Luke 18:9-14

SJB 08.00 Holy Communion

09.15 Parish Eucharist
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

February 17th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

February 18th - Thursday

HTC 07.30 Holy Communion

February 21st - 2nd Sunday of Lent

HTC 08.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Parish Eucharist
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-end

18.30 Compline
Jeremiah 22:1-9, 13-17; Luke 14:27-33

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-end

17.00 A Celebration of Marriage

February 24th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

February 25th - Thursday

HTC 07.30 Holy Communion

February 28th - 3rd Sunday of Lent

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

17:00 A Celebration of Marriage

SJB 08.00 Holy Communion

09.15 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

. . . and for the beginning of March

March 2nd - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

March 3rd - Thursday

HTC 07.30 Holy Communion

March 6th - Mothering Sunday

HTC 08.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Parish Eucharist
Exodus 2:1-10; Luke 2:33-35

18.30 Choral Evensong
*2 Corinthians 5:16-end;
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Exodus 2:1-10; Luke 2:33-35

11.00 Matins
Genesis 37:3-4, 12-end; 1 Peter 2:16-end

EASTER SERVICES 2016

March 25th - GOOD FRIDAY

SJB 10.30 Stations of the Cross for Children

SJB 11.30 Stations of the Cross
Walk of Witness from St Johns to Holy Trinity via the Catholic and Methodist churches - with contemplations at each Station

HTC 14.00 Good Friday Liturgy

March 27th - EASTER DAY

SJB 06.00 Dawn Eucharist

HTC 08.00 Holy Communion

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist

HTC 18.30 Easter Carol Service

Prayer Diary - February 2016

- 1 Brigid; abbess
- 2 Presentation of Christ in the Temple
- 3 Anskar; bishop, missionary
- 4 Gilbert of Sempringham; monk
- 5 Agatha; virgin martyr
- 6 The Martyrs of Japan
- 7 **SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**
- 8 Monday
- 9 Tuesday
- 10 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- 11 Thursday
- 12 Friday
- 13 Saturday
- 14 **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
- 15 Sigfrid; bishop
- 16 Tuesday
- 17 Janani Luwum; bishop, martyr
- 18 Thursday
- 19 Friday
- 20 Saturday
- 21 **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**
- 22 Monday
- 23 Polycarp; bishop, martyr
- 24 Matthias; apostle, martyr
- 25 Thursday
- 26 Friday
- 27 George Herbert; priest
- 28 **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**
- 29 Monday

The sisters at Burnham Abbey
Our baptism ministry
Elizabeth House
Headteachers, teachers and assistants
local businesses
Those who die for their faith
Our Churches
Our healing ministry
Our Ministry Team
For a good and holy Lent
Our homes for the elderly
Our Choirs
Our wedding ministry
Our Churches
Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu
Trinity Nippers
Holy Trinity Ladies' Group
Our Mums and Toddlers group
Local scouts and guides
Our organists
Our Churches
Our local surgery
Our bellringers
Cookham Voluntary Services
the Rendezvous project
Our ministry to young people
the clergy of our deanery
Our Churches
Bishop Andrew and his family



Discover Volunteering in 2016

Mix96 presenters become volunteers for the day through Community Impact Bucks



"We're excited to see what the Mix96 presenters will discover during their volunteering adventures at three of our local charities in Buckinghamshire." – Nick Phillips, CEO, Community Impact Bucks

We're partnering with Mix96 to launch www.volunteeringbucks.org.uk a website designed to get local people excited about volunteering.

Running for 4 weeks from the 11th of January, the campaign will highlight the fantastic volunteering opportunities in Buckinghamshire, and you'll even be able to hear the presenters getting out of the studio and doing some volunteering at three local charities. You can see the full details of what they get up to here: www.mix96.co.uk/volunteering.php

So... here's to a New Year, a New You – and Discovering Volunteering. Try something new in 2016 and make a positive change in your life and your community!

Volunteer Stories: We have a selection of short [interviews](#) with real volunteers sharing what makes volunteering so rewarding for some of the people volunteering in the organisations we're highlighting.

Why is this website needed? Overall, **56%** of Buckinghamshire residents have volunteered in the past year, fewer than in the previous survey **85%** in 2011, a decrease of more than 40%. Sample size: 1000 residents - view [statistic sources](#).

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Hazel Finney at 0300 1111250 or email at hazel@communityimpactbucks.org.uk



THE COOKHAM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No: 257224

"Are you interested in your local area? Do you have spare time and want to volunteer?"

The Cookham Society is looking to co-opt new members onto the committee. In particular we are looking for volunteers to be:-

- Membership secretary (proficiency in using spread sheets required)
- Minute secretary

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Bounce Back 4 Kids



A CHILDREN'S charity in the Thames Valley is asking for support for its community project for children affected by domestic abuse in the home.

Bounce Back 4 Kids (BB4K) is a specialist support programme developed by charity Parents And Children Together (PACT). BB4K uses therapeutic techniques to support children who have been victims or witnesses of domestic abuse.

The 10 week programme works simultaneously with children and their non-perpetrating parent or carer to help them come to terms with family breakdown and take a step towards breaking the cycle of domestic abuse.

During the BB4K programme, both parent and child are able to reflect on how their behaviour is affected by the circumstances they have experienced. BB4K aims to achieve a safer home environment, build strong relationships between parent and child and boost confidence, communications skills, behaviour and anger management.

Children who have participated in BB4K programmes have also shown improved school attendance and educational outcomes.

BB4K Manager Kathryn Warner said: "What is unique about our programme is that we work alongside the parent or carer at the same time.

"The idea is to help the parent understand what we are doing with the children, the impact the abuse has had on the children and how they can change negative messages in the home.

"We have had excellent feedback from parents and teachers who have noticed that children have increased their confidence, improved their behaviour and strengthened their relationships with peers after completing the programme."

It costs an average of £470 for each child or parent to complete the 10-week BB4K programme. If you'd like to make a donation towards BB4K funds please text PACT10 £3 (or any amount you can afford) to 70070. If you'd like to take part in a fundraising activity please email laura.senior@pactcharity.org or visit www.pactcharity.org/donate

If you, or someone you know, is affected by domestic abuse and would like to know more about Bounce Back 4 Kids services please email kathryn.warner@pactcharity.org or visit the website www.bounceback4kids.org



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From sculpture to Shakespeare, from pottery to poetry, the Festival is all about Cookham showcasing, developing or discovering a range of artistic talents.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

Do you have an idea that you would like to see included in the next Festival?

Do you belong to a group that you would like to see perform, an artist you'd like on display?

Can you offer a venue for an event – a barn? A coach-house? A garden?

Do you want to take an active part in the Festival?



Get in touch! Phone 01628 525371, email us at info@cookhamfestival.org.uk or add your suggestion on the Cookham Festival 2017 section of the Cookham.com website.

Alternatively fill in the form below and return to Malcolm Stork, The Fir Trees, Maidenhead Road, Cookham, Berks. SL6 9DF.

Please contact me about the Cookham Festival. My suggestion is:

.....
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the Gallery AT ELIZABETH HOUSE

Colour, pattern and form

A new exhibition opens on Saturday 6th February at the Gallery at Elizabeth House. Pat Shenstone returns to the gallery to present a series of new works offering a mix of paintings with two main themes - architecture and domestic images.

Her architectural work gives us reflections of colour, pattern and form with the architecture of Italian churches offering a visual confusion that sits alongside a modern reworking of spaces with glass. Pat's other subjects are more domestic. Patterned cups and saucers against patterned cloths and large flowers that are painted with an emphasis on shape and pattern are recurring themes in the paintings.

Pat has recently moved from Maidenhead to spend time in a new home in Derbyshire though retaining her local base. Her show opens on 6th February with an opening reception from 12 noon to 3.30pm. It is then open weekdays until 1st April – between 9am and 3pm, with a break each day between noon and 1pm.

The Gallery is on Station Hill, Cookham Rise, SL6 6BS.



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Cookham Christmas Fair, Moor Hall

Thank you to all who supported the Cookham Christmas Fair to support Elizabeth House in November.

We raised an amazing £3,500 – a £1,000 more than last year! The money will go to supporting the members with their activities, our kitchen refurbishment and making the centre a safe and pleasant environment to visit and be in. If you have never visited Elizabeth House, please do pop in!

Miriam Blazey, Manager

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Elizabeth House Talks

The Elizabeth House Talks take place on the second Monday of the month at Bel & The Dragon. The talks showcase the talents of people living in Cookham and its environs and have raised over £1700 since they started in February 2015.

In January Tom Aggar spoke about his challenges and achievements since an accident that resulted in paralysis of his legs. Rowing made its debut appearance at the Beijing Paralympic Games and Tom won the men's single sculls gold medal in the event – just three years after his accident. He's now in training for Rio later this year.

The programme for the next three month:

- 08 February – Alastair McKerlie on John Spedan Lewis and Cookham
- 14 March – Scot McKendrick on Magna Carta: why should we commemorate an 800-year old document?
- 11 April – Judith Diment on Rotary's 30 year programme to eradicate polio

Everyone is welcome. Arrive 6.30 at Bel & The Dragon for Prosecco and canapés and the talks start at 7pm. Tickets are £15 and can be obtained Monday to Friday 9am-3pm from Elizabeth House or reserved by email to

stephaniediggon@hotmail.com

Cookham Voluntary Services



If you would like to volunteer, or would like to know more, please contact Mike Clark on: 01628 530047 or 07740 027357 or at: pefc@tapestryoflife.co.uk

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Alzheimers Dementia Support ('ADS')

**Delivering a greater number of
Services and Support in the Community**

Although 'ADS' was originally formed, 5-years ago, to support the needs of a couple of hundred people (known at that time to be living with Dementia in our community), nowadays it supports in excess of 700 people, living with the disease (their Carers and Families). This LOCAL charity will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 24th March 2016 at 7.00 pm at St. Mark's Crescent Methodist Church Hall, Allenby Road, Maidenhead SL6 5BQ and David Jannetta (the Charity's Chairman) has explained; the 'key' messages he'll be delivering are 'almost' all positive;

The Charity:

- Is continually increasing its services (in number, size and complexity), which allows the 'ADS' team to assist the lives of an ever-growing number of people, in need of skilled and knowledgeable support and guidance;
- Now operates an ever-increasing number of events and activities, all of which are designed and delivered to ensure they bring smiles and laughter to those, 'living with disease';
- Is a volunteer-led organisation and as such, only employs eight skilled and experienced front-line staff, meaning the Charity is able to maintain overheads to extremely low levels thus ensuring that funds raised are used to support the needs of those in our community who need the Charity's assistance.

David explained; "Since our Charity began, a very small team of volunteer Directors has operated it, alongside an extremely dedicated and hard-working team of support volunteers, who aid the delivery of all of our services. However, operating a Charity within the legislative and regulatory environment in which we exist, means we must maintain a 'tight ship' to ensure we deliver all of our legal responsibilities. As a result, and on a 'not so positive' note, we quite simply cannot continue to reach out to an ever-increasing number of people, without gaining additional voluntary assistance from individuals willing and able to 'actively' assist us to do so".

Government, Local Council and NHS cutbacks have meant support services offered by the voluntary sector are in much greater demand and to enable 'ADS' to continue supporting the community needs, David recognises 'the Charity' also has 'needs'. David explained; "We need a number of commercially competent Director's willing to 'walk the walk' through active involvement. "Sharing the workload, going-forward, will ensure 'ADS' can maintain its upward trajectory of supporting more and more local people, their carers and families".

To that end, David is looking forward to welcoming 'new faces' to the Charity's AGM and is hopeful that within the audience, there might be some individuals keen to learn more about the Charity's activities, strategies and philosophies, and who's interest in 'supporting the local cause' may be piqued by what they see and hear during the evening.

Alternatively, he'd appreciate direct contact from any interested parties, in the first instance, by email, on david.jannetta@alzheimersdementiasupport.co.uk

Finally, David said, "There's nothing more rewarding than helping others in need and at 'ADS' we gain lots of 'positive strokes' for our efforts".

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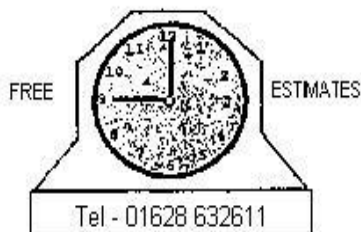
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Leap Year – 29th February

2016 brings us a Leap Year. We need to add this extra day every four years in order to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun. The reason is very simple: our calendar has 365 days, but it actually takes 365.242199 days (a tropical year) to circle once around the Sun. That means we are 'out' by nearly six hours a year. Four times six hours is 24 hours - hence an extra day every four years.

Adding the extra day in February goes back to Julius Caesar in 45 BC. In his Julian Calendar, February was the last month of the year, and 24th February was Leap Year Day.

All in the month of FEBRUARY

500 years ago:- on 18th Feb 1516, Mary I, Queen of England (1553-58) was born. She was also known as Mary Tudor or Bloody Mary.

400 years ago:- on 26th Feb 1616, Galileo was ordered by the Catholic Church to abandon his opinion that the Earth and planets revolve around the Sun (known as the Copernican theory). He was banned from holding the opinion, promoting it, or teaching it.

200 years ago:- on 20th Feb 1816, Rossini's opera 'The Barber of Seville' was performed for the first time, at the Teatro Argentina in Rome, Italy. It was poorly received, but quickly became a huge success.

60 years ago:- on 11th Feb 1956, two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

25 years ago:- on 1st Feb 1991, South Africa President F W de Klerk announced his intention to repeal all apartheid laws.

Also 25 years ago:- on 24th Feb 1991, during the Gulf War/Operation Desert Sabre, the US-led coalition launched a massive ground offensive against Iraqi forces. Kuwait was liberated on 27th Feb, after 208 days of Iraqi occupation, and the war ended at midnight on the 28th Feb.

15 years ago:- on 19th Feb 2001, the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex.

Awareness Week for Eating Disorders 22 – 28 February

Do you suffer from an eating disorder? Or are you close to someone who struggles with one? If so, then you will know the long battle that sufferers can wage with anorexia, bulimia, binge eating and EDNOS (or 'eating disorder not otherwise specified'.)

Eating disorders ruin lives. They ruin relationships. They also ruin careers. They are estimated to cost the UK economy about £15.8billion a year.

This year the annual Eating Disorders Awareness Week will concentrate on eating disorders in the workplace. How can people with eating disorders be best supported by their employer and colleagues? Visit www.b-eat.co.uk for details.



This year a friend at Oxfam House dubbed me "Oxfam's Pearly Queen" and it made me realise that my Oxfam bought costume has created a great amount of interest. I have already worn it on three different Oxfam occasions, as well as at Sainsbury's, and it is being used at a Fashion Show at Reading University. After this it will be available for anyone to borrow for an Oxfam fund raising event. The amount raised this year will exceed when the last few donors have paid up and you can see from the "shopping list" what an enormous difference that could make to so many people in desperate need.

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| School books for 125 children. | £ 1,000 |
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| | £18,005 |

So once again I want to thank you for your loyalty, your generosity and your empathy. One lady at Sainsbury's told me she had supported me every single year since I had been collecting in Maidenhead and I know that some sponsors can claim the same distinction. I am continually humbled by your long standing commitment and by the fact that every year I collect new sponsors who want to support me.

So thank you from the many many people who will benefit from your great kindness. I often write "it's people like you who keep me going" and nothing could be more accurate or nearer the truth.

Thank you.

With all good wishes and much gratitude

Barbara Walmsley



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Holy Trinity CE Primary School

Although Christmas seems a long way off now, I don't feel it can pass without some mention of the exciting events which took place at Holy Trinity School before the holiday. We were delighted to play host to the Posada as it made its journey around the village and be part of Holy Trinity Church's first Advent service at the end of November. The picture below shows some of our pupils in church after the service. Perhaps some of you, during that Sunday service, enjoyed hearing about the work we have done with Partners for Change, Ethiopia of which we are very proud. Retiring collections at the end of our 'Carols with the Choirs' concert and our production of 'Straw and Order', our take on the Nativity story, amounted to £745 which we know Partners for Change will make good use of supporting the villagers of Genda Tesfa. Our Senior Choir was very well received when they went along to Riverside Nursing home to perform some of our favourite carols to the residents and the children also welcomed to chance to sing at the Elizabeth House Christmas Fair. Some of our classes enjoyed trips to the theatre, the Pitt Rivers Museum and a tour of the Sky Studios in London but perhaps the most exciting event was when we were visited by two of Santa's reindeer, Snowy and Blizzard! We had a wonderful day meeting the creatures and learning all about their habitat, anatomy and what they like to eat.

At the start of this new term we were delighted to welcome a new face to the team. Miss Rachel Mill is enjoying teaching Year 4 and everyone has made sure she has been given a very special Holy Trinity welcome! New topics are underway and the children are looking forward to what the year holds. Already Year 3 are busy rehearsing for the Borough's Dance Festival at the beginning of February and our Senior Choir is practising hard for their performance at 'Maidenhead's Got Talent', an annual event held at Taplow Court, organised by Rotary Club. It was a wonderful event last year so we are all looking forward to it!

As always, we appreciate the visits Father Nick and his team make to school. This term, as well as following and learning about the festivals of the church we are going to be exploring the power of prayer. We are proud of the prayer trees in our classrooms which are heavily adorned with prayers we have written and we hope to be adding to these in the weeks to come.



Anna Smith, Head of School
Holy Trinity CE Primary School
School Lane
Cookham



Cookham Dean School

Happy new year to everyone! Christmas celebrations, although now a faded memory, were very successful. The KS1 nativity 'A Midwife Crisis' was excellent and, as is always the case, the children performed with confidence and enjoyment. The production of 'Shine Star Shine' performed by our reception children was equally as wonderful, as was their nativity tableau at St John the Baptist. This again was one of the best. The children as ever performed to an exceptionally high standard whether it was playing the recorder or flute, singing, reading or creating the Nativity tableau. The Christmas message was enhanced by the spirituality created by the four Year 6 children carrying a candle during the opening and closing carols. During the closing carol the children left the church in complete silence – magical! Equally as impressive was our visit to St George's Hall at Windsor Castle. The choir were invited to sing there and they performed in front of one of the biggest Christmas trees I've ever seen! The children were amazing and were not fazed by the enormity of the occasion. They had learnt twelve carols off by heart which they sang with confidence; and our three flautists were equally brilliant. An amazing experience that I am sure will stay in the memory of everyone present.

So what about this term? Our topic for Years 1 – 6 has a mainly geographical focus and we will explore the themes through various subjects including art, science, maths, English and obviously geography. The theme in Year 1 is Bright lights, Big city and the children have already had a visit from the Queen. They also hope to visit her at Windsor Castle later this month! Years 2, 3 and 4 have a watery theme and Year 6 are exploring frozen Kingdoms. They are building an igloo out of 460+ 4 pint plastic milk cartons! Any donations will be gratefully received! The foundations have so far been built. I will let you know how far we have got next month!

Sport plays an important role in our school and we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Sainsbury's Bronze Award. The award is given in recognition of our commitment to the development of competition across the school and within the community. We are currently now working toward the Silver Award.

One of our key achievements during 2015 was the improvement to our site security and we are delighted, thanks to a lot of hard work from a few of our governors and Susan Hunt the school's bursar, to have had the work completed before the end of the year. After a couple of small teething problems we are delighted with the improvement to the security and subsequent safety of our children. A huge thanks to everyone involved.

We do have a vacancy for a lunchtime member of staff which we are struggling to fill so if there is anyone in the community that would like to come and work with us over the lunchtime period please contact the school on the number below and we will be delighted to give you more information.

Finally as usual we are collecting Cash for School vouchers so if you have any that you would like to donate to the school we would be very grateful.



Judith Mackie
Headteacher
Cookham Dean CE Primary School
01628 482734
www.cookhamdean.org

Noah's Ark Pre-school

On the first day of term, following the Christmas holiday, the children arrived full of excitement, keen to be back at Noah's Ark and delighted to see their friends. There were lots of cuddles being given, discussions about presents they had received - no tears, everyone was happy.

Most of the children had seen the DVD of the nativity and concert and couldn't wait to tell the staff that they had been on television! I say with pride what a success the nativity was, the children were amazing. The hall was beautifully decorated, and the stable looked perfect. We received many compliments from the parents and relatives, and I must mention that there were lots of happy tears shed.

On the day of our Christmas party, the highlight was going outside and watching Father Christmas walk across Cookham Dean Common. His "Ho, Ho, Ho" could be clearly heard, and the children were overwhelmed with what was happening. It was absolutely magical.

Much has been planned for the Spring Term, with an emphasis on going out for long walks, bark rubbing, planting and watching things grow. We plan to visit the farm and orchard and of course prepare for Easter. Hopefully we may also have some special visitors if all goes to plan.

We are already looking forward to a visit to Woolley Firs in March. We will be off for a Teddy Bears' Picnic with our teddies in the woods. It has been known for the bears to misbehave and go missing. They are always found however, but it is great fun looking for them.



I can say with all honesty that it is great to be back, although the Christmas break was very much needed. Noah's Ark is really a fun place to be - who would not want to be there?

Happy New Year, Iris Elton

Park House Nursery & Pre-school

After a very busy Christmas and New Year everyone has settled back into nursery and we've welcomed lots of new children.

The babies have been focusing on trains and we used some toy trains in a fun art activity. They put the wheels into paint and then ran them along paper to create lots of colourful lines. We then talked about the different colours we could see. We also took a trip to Cookham train station in our 'kiddibus' to watch the trains coming in and out of the station.

In the Toddler Room they have been very imaginative and have been dressing up in various outfits. We have had policemen, firemen, fairies as well as lots of different animals.

We also have been talking about colours and using colour in our play. We have made colourful play dough and have used cutters to cut out different shapes and then talked about the different shapes we can see around the room.

The Pre-School created a large volcano and made it erupt by mixing vinegar and baking soda together. They have also been focusing on their writing and have been joining dots up to write their names. The Jolly Phonics is developing well and they are now on the fourth book looking at "ai". They have been playing in the water tray, exploring what objects sink and what floats and learning how to pour and measure. We have introduced clocks to the children and explained about different times. The children then created their own clocks by cutting out large circles and sticking on numbers and hands.

We have been putting the finishing touches to our disabled ramp at the front of the building, making wheelchair entry into the nursery foyer, more accessible.

The garden is nearly completed with an all-weather surface and the children are really looking forward to spending even more time outside playing on the pirate ship or in the mud kitchen!

LEAP FOR AFRICA

Events supporting Cookham's Africa initiative:-

February 5th - Echoes of Swing Big Band in Concert

at Cookham Rise Methodist Church, 8-10pm, to raise money for Gende Testa in Ethiopia. Tickets including refreshments £8 for adults, children free. Tickets at the door or from Kathy Rickman on kathy.rickman@talktalk.net or 01628 522797. See page 22.

February 7th, Holy Trinity Church

Cookham Rise Primary School's Head Boy and Head Girl will be making a presentation to the congregation of Holy Trinity Church at 11am about New Brainstorm School and its connection with Cookham Rise Primary.

February 29th, Leap for Africa

See page 11. For press enquiries about Leap4Africa, please contact Sarah Parfitt on sarah_parfitt@mail.com or 07900 411715.

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Cookham Rise School

2016 already? And what does it have in store for you? Certainly, it will be a memorable year for the Queen as she hits her 90th birthday and, as an Olympic year, many of us will spend many hours glued to coverage of the Rio Olympics.

Over at Cookham Rise Primary, the year has started as its predecessor finished: busy!

Mrs Daniels continues to foster strong links between us and Bisham Primary; with Ofsted showing that Bisham's trajectory towards recovery is well and truly on the right course. The growing bond between the two schools is heartening and testimony to the hard work everyone involved has given to the project so far.

Meanwhile, with a new year comes a new range of topics for the children to engage with: our youngest children are voyaging into space, while flight remains a theme – although of the avian kind – in lower Key Stage 2's *Flying High*, while the eldest children are discovering more about our planet in *Frozen Worlds*. A variety of special activities were scheduled to provide each topic with a stunning start, ranging from a visit from a group of (fairly tame) birds of prey, through to a day at the Bracknell ski-slope and ice-rink where children in Years 5 and 6 experienced the conditions of sub-zero environments by learning to ski and ice-skate. Pretty much everyone spent part of the day unceremoniously and unexpectedly on their bottoms but the experience was well worth the occasional humiliation; more often than not because the ensuing hilarity washed away any lingering embarrassment!

As ever, the school is looking outwards to the wider community and the world: our School Council has decided that, for the coming year, the national charity we are supporting is **Barnados**, while our international charity is **Saving New Brainstorm School**. Supporting the former was inspired by the Victorian topic studied by Years 3 and 4 in the run up to Christmas. Such was the impact on our children, they realised just how important it is to help disadvantaged children today. Helping other children – this time overseas – remains our order of the day and we are astounded and humbled to know that others across Cookham are now helping us – and, in particular, Mrs Peters – with our dream of helping New Brainstorm School not only stay open but with new facilities to give children – who are often orphans to AIDS – the best possible start in life.

So, here's to a busy 2016: we're ready for it!



Richard D Rhodes – Deputy Head
Cookham Rise Primary School
01628 520961
www.cookhamriseprimary.org

Cookham Dean WI

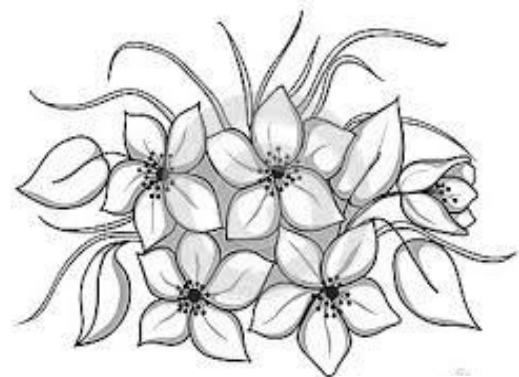
Our President Mrs Joan Burgin opened the January meeting with her very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2016. She went on to say that she had received a thank you note from Stuart Cripps the recipient of a collection, taken at our Christmas luncheon, on behalf of 'Bridge2Aid' - a Charity that works to improve dental health in Africa. This charity has now trained over 300 local health care workers in dental hygiene and simple dental extraction techniques.

Following the everyday business, one of our committee members Mrs Irene Pullin, welcomed our speaker Mr Bill Nightingale to talk to us on 'The Buddy Holly Story in Words and Music'. Buddy Holly was born into a musical family in Texas in 1936 where he learned to play the guitar and sing along with his siblings. His public musical career started off shakily before he was finally spotted by a talent scout when he opened a concert for 'Bill Haley & The Comets'. Following this he was offered a contract with Decca, formed his own band, 'The Crickets', and went on to release the hit single 'That'll Be the Day'. Mr Nightingale sang this for us accompanying himself on the guitar. He followed with another smash hit 'Peggy Sue' and so it continued, playing and singing Buddy Holly's hits one after another; 'Raining in My Heart', 'Heart Beat', 'Rave On' and so on with much toe tapping among his audience as the words came flooding back. Unfortunately, in 1959 Buddy Holly's brilliant and meteoric career came to an abrupt end when during a tour of mid-western United States he chartered a plane to fly to his next show. Soon after take-off the plane crashed killing all on board, Buddy Holly along with 'the Big Bopper', Ritchie Valens and the pilot. Buddy was only twenty three years old but he has left a very influential musical legacy.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and a trip down memory lane.

Estelle Cornwell

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