



The Spire Newsletter

**Welcome to our Spring Newsletter
Please forward to friends, anyone
interested in receiving a copy
please forward your email address
to:**

office@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

**150th Anniversary
Our next event is on
27th April
WHIST DRIVE**

**Everyone welcome - we will show you how to play
Sign-up sheet in Centre, see Poster for full details**

Well, here we are with Spring springing into life. New signs of new beginnings are around every corner. Leaves are budding; daffodils, snowdrops, primroses and bluebells are all filling our gardens, parks and embankments with colour. Summer is beginning to feel as if it's just around the corner. And with it the celebration of Easter. That time when a new way of life burst out of a downtrodden people.

Just last Sunday we began our last leg of the journey towards Easter, Palm Sunday. A time when the crowds cheered Jesus into the streets of Jerusalem. A time when people thought, 'This is it! A revolution is beginning, the Roman Empire will be out before we know it.' However, in just a few days, the same crowd will change their minds as Pilate gives them an option between 'Jesus the King of the Jews' and 'Jesus Barabbas', the Jewish extremist who had killed many in the name of liberation from the Roman Empire. And of course, the crowd chose Barabbas and sent Jesus to be killed on the cross. The crowd who saw the hope of freedom a few days before now condemned that hope by voting for violence instead of peace.

So what changed in their hearts? When were the people convinced that Jesus wasn't the king of the Jews? When were the teachings and the miracles not enough for the people oppressed by the Roman Empire?

Well, it appears that it was those behind the scenes who were afraid of change pulled the crowd's admiration away from Jesus. It was the governors and the religious leaders of the time that Jesus challenged and they were afraid. They were afraid of the peace and love that Jesus taught because it meant a new perspective that they didn't want and so with a few whispers here, and a few rumours there, they were able to turn the crowd's opinions and present fears into their minds.

Yet that was always the plan. Jesus was always meant to be lifted high on the cross. A sign of victory for the leaders of Jerusalem, three days later, became a sign of hope for the world. When Jesus rose again on the first Easter Sunday a new life became available, a new way of living was within our grasp. Why? Because Jesus conquered death, Jesus broke its gates and so eternity was available to everyone. Relationship with the divine God became an opportunity. Every person could be truly righteousness.

How? Because Jesus was fully human and fully God. He was the Christ child, the Holy of Holies, the Redeemer of life itself. Because he lived the perfect life, being fully tempted but never once giving into temptation, he became the perfect offering to God for all the times we had turned away from God. And it's that turning away that stops us from having a relationship with God. Jesus made it possible to turn back towards God, giving us the opportunity to live alongside God with nothing in the way and the hope of eternity with the one who loves us more than we know. The one who loves you so much that they gave up heaven for earth, experienced pain and suffering first-hand, and died upon the cross in the hope of relationship with you.

Easter presents us with a choice. Do we choose love and a relationship with our creator God or do we push it away in the fear that it might change us and our perspectives of life?

This Easter let's celebrate the relationship that is offered to us by God.

Happy Easter!

Rev. Phil

'His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity...., thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile [us] to God through the cross.'

Ephesians 2:15b-16

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday

6:00 for 6:30pm

Communion and meal. (Thank you to everyone who has signed up for this - there is only one space left).

Good Friday

2:00 – 4:00pm

Reflections Service. Every 15 mins there will be a Bible reading, a short reflective talk from Phil followed by a few minutes of private prayer/reflection/meditation. Please come in at a time that suits you for as long as you wish.

Easter Sunday

We will be celebrating Jesus's resurrection with a **Sunrise service** at the River Hamble meet at the pontoon at the **River Hamble Country Park** (SO31 1BH) parking at Barnfield.

The service will begin at **6:30am** with coffee and pastries afterwards.

(Don't forget the clocks go forward that day!)

9.30am Easter Day Service in church

150th Anniversary Events

27th April

2 to 4 pm

WHIST DRIVE Come along to this fun afternoon of cards, tea and cakes. Don't worry if you have not played this game, there are plenty of folk to give you guidance.

We look forward to seeing you, please sign up on the sheet in the Centre as spaces are limited.

11th May

Teddy Bear Parachute Jump - details are being finalised, please look out for the posters giving full details



BURNS LUNCH
JANUARY 2024
1st Event of our
150th anniversary





CREAM TEA
FEBRUARY 2024
2nd Event of our
150th anniversary

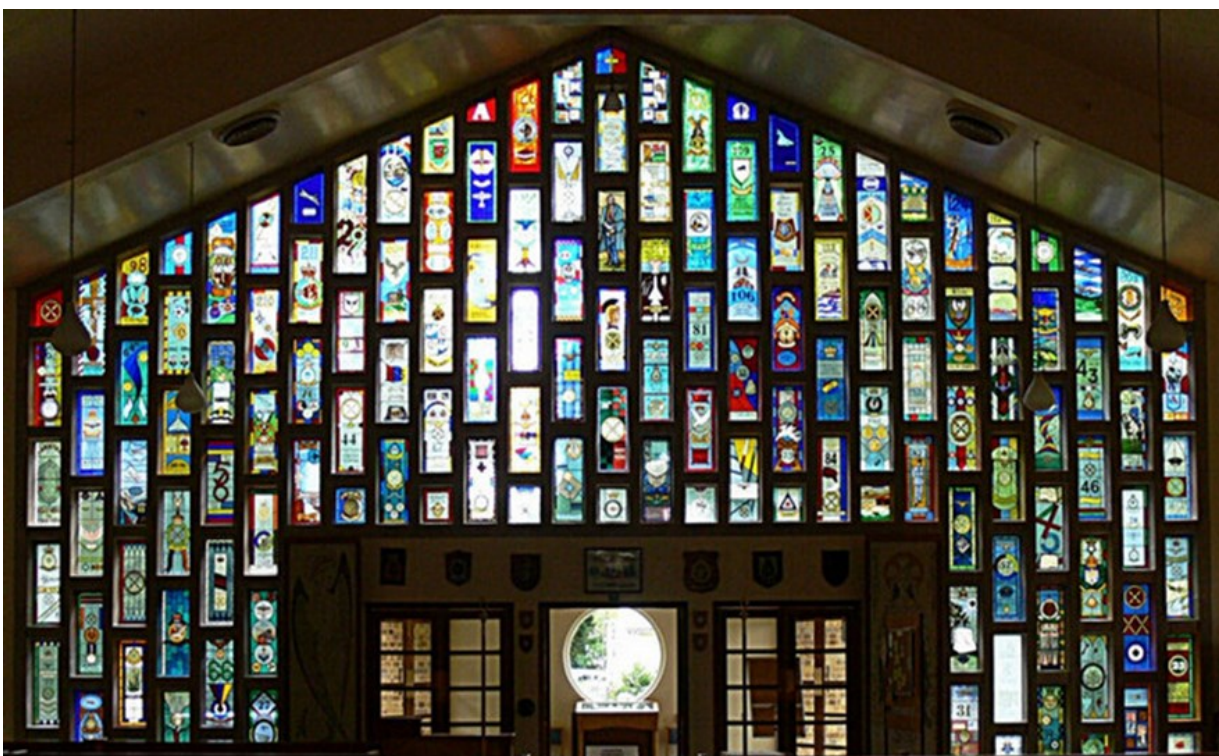
St George's Church RAF Halton

In the last Spire I mentioned, as I often do, that I was an RAF Apprentice and also our reunion had taken us to the National Arboretum Memorial and I showed some pictures of inside the Chapel there. This time I would like to show you St George's Church which is at RAF Halton. When I was there (1956 – 1959) the church was a section in the Workshop's hangar, but burnt down sometime in the 60's/70's I'm not exactly sure. However, a new church, St George's was built.



In 1997 the then RAF C of E Padre at St Georges Church, the Rev Richard Lee, suggested that the Association encourage its members to install stained glass windows in the church to commemorate their time at Halton. The membership was immediately enamoured of this idea and soon windows, depicting Entry numbers, Wing colours, Entry badges, famous (and infamous!) Entry activities and a host of other events were appearing in glorious coloured glass: each telling something of its creator's time at Halton. For example the 2nd Entry shows the tunic and puttees that the early apprentices wore and one of the aircraft types that was in service in 1922. The 76th shows badges of the Commonwealth Air Forces who sent boys to be trained with the Entry and includes a Russian Tank commemorating the Soviet invasion of Hungary which took place during their apprenticeship. The 62nd Entry window depicts the Tornado which swept across the camp during their time at Halton causing much damage to the workshops.

The picture below shows the windows taken from inside the church, it is truly a magnificent sight.





I was in the 83rd Entry and our window is shown on the left.

Features of the window are the Entry badge at the top which was designed by Tony Gassner of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force. The motto "We Their Wings" refers to the Apprenticeship given at trained aircraft technicians. Next is an array of Cap Badges depicting the makeup of the 83rd Entry. The main contingent was the Royal Air Force but members also No1 School of Technical Training which made us highly came from the Royal Rhodesian Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Finally there is the feature of the bagpipes. Part of the daily routine at RAF Halton for all "Trenchard Brats" would be to march to the sound of the pipes and drums when going to their training at schools and workshops.

Julie Cuthbert, a stained glass window specialist from Aylesbury was commissioned to make the window using traditional techniques. It is a fitting memorial to the "Trenchard Brats" who were members of the 83rd Entry. The window is located in Bay 99 and was dedicated on Friday March 30th 2001

If you would like to see all the windows individually, go to: oldhaltonians.co.uk

David Taylor

UNDERHILL ART GROUP

The Art Group meets up on Wednesday mornings and members arrive any time between 9.15 am which is about the time that David opens up, and 10.30 am which is usually around the time that David makes the tea! The group is a very friendly, easy going group that paint, chat and drink tea but at the end of the day produce some extremely good pictures. It may well be considered as a social group that produces art. The level of art produced can be assessed at the Art and Flower Festival taking place in July to celebrate St John's 150 Birthday.

Anyone is welcome to come and join us, there is no level of ability set and nobody is going to criticise the work that you do, but if you want a bit of help there is always someone to do just that.

The cost is currently £5 per head and you only pay if you attend. So come on all you budding artists that have nothing to do on a Wednesday morning, we have paper, pencils, paints and brushes so if you want to give it a try without commitment, do just that!

Should any one require more information on the art group please contact: David Taylor on 02380 404774

TABLE TENNIS

The over 60's table tennis group meets every Tuesday morning from 10am to 12 noon in the upstairs of the Underhill Centre. We have four tables and usually play doubles, sometimes singles and the cost for each session is £2.50.

If you would like to play table tennis please come along and meet us on a Tuesday morning, you would be very welcome.

St John's Church, Hedge End

200 Club

Results of Draw for January, February and March 2024

First Prize	90.00	No	151	Name	David Anderson
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Second Prize	30.00	No	076	Name	Val Cheffy
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Third Prize	15.00	No	083	Name	David Dimmick
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Grand total to the Fabric appeal fund	£34,854.00
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First Prize	90.00	No	199	Name	Dennis White
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Second Prize	30.00	No	235	Name	Gerald Miller
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Third Prize	15.00	No	176	Name	Delia McAdam
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Grand total to the Fabric appeal fund	£34,989.00
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First Prize	90.00	No	364	Name	John Green
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Second Prize	30.00	No	177	Name	Delia McAdam
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Third Prize	15.00	No	157	Name	Kathy Moore
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Grand total to the Fabric appeal fund	£35,124.00
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HEDGE END WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On 27th February Robbie Sprague talked to us about 'Poetry to Amuse' and we had a silent auction.

At our next monthly meeting, on the 26th March, Gordon Lewis will talk us all about real life stories which will provide a humorous insight into how important career decisions are made.

Our monthly meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of the month and starts at 7.30pm but the doors open at 6.45pm. We have a large and friendly group with a lot of different activities. Visitors are always very welcome.

For further information please contact our president: Jill Burrows 01489 782121

Elizabeth Wotton

150th Anniversary Event

TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE JUMP

Saturday 11th May - St. John's Church, Hedge End

Watch out for our Poster giving full details of this fun event

New Music Makers present Medleys and Melodies

Saturday 1st June 2024
KCC Hedge End SO30 4BZ
2:30pm

Tickets available online:

ticketsource.co.uk/new-music-makers

or 01489 781836

Adults: £10.00

U16s £6.00



www.newmusicmakers.com
Reg. Charity: 1146455



You are invited

WHIST DRIVE

St. John's Church
Underhill Centre

Saturday, 27th April

£4 per adult includes tea/cake

2 to 4 pm

To book for this event
please email

150th.anniversary@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

or use sign-up sheet in Centre



St John's
150th Celebrations

APCM

The APCM is open to all, this year it will be held on
Sunday, 28th April 2024 at 11am after the church service.

We look forward to welcoming you

NEXT NEWSLETTER - JUNE

we are always pleased to receive articles for the newsletter