

# The Bewsborough Parish Post

**A newsletter for the Churches in Barfrestone,  
Coldred, Eythorne & Elvington with Waldershare,  
Shepherdsweil and Whitfield**



# Issue 7



## Soaps

by Revd. Marguerite Mower

I have only just recently found out the origin of ‘soaps’ for those television neighbourhood series. Did you know it came from the sponsoring in the 1930’s of some radio series by Proctor and Gamble, a company that made soap and cleaning products.

I found this bit of information from a possibly unlikely source: an article in the Church Times by a retired Bishop who is an Eastenders fan. Amongst other things he said that the journalists interviewing him after his consecration did not pay much attention when he talked of Jesus and the Church, but pricked up their ears when he said he never missed an episode of Eastenders .

In his article he went back to the time when Dot Cotton, a staunch churchgoer, lost her faith after being mugged. He said the BBC received an amazing number of letters after that, most of which were not from churchgoers. He thought the protesting non-churchgoers fell into a category sometimes called ‘believers not belongers’.

I think I know quite a few people like that, and you probably do too. Many people can feel a loose sense of belonging because they support our fundraising. Can we love them into coming that bit nearer?

The Bishop also made the point that we are in church for God who is present and for people who are absent, and he was probably thinking of people in very wide terms.

Dot Cotton recovered her faith – she said she couldn’t do without it, ‘after the life I’ve had.’



## Malachi 3:1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

## Hebrews 2:14 - 18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the

fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

# Open My Eyes and Let Me See - Sermon

by Derek Bilbrough

You've all heard that saying? "All Good things come all to those who wait." Well with that in mind, let's have a look at 'Simeon's' background. Some things you may, or may not know, Some things, that might surprise you.

'Simeon,' is often identified as one of the Seventy Hebrew scholars that translated the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek! Because of this, Simeon must have been aware of Malachi's prophecy, "The Lord whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple."

We have been told that Simeon had been promised, that 'he would not die,' before he had seen the Messiah. Simeon had spent a long time preparing and waiting for the fulfilment of the prophecy. Not just a 'few' years, or even decades, but centuries. It's said that Simeon was more than 270 years old! And old age had taken its toll on him when he received Jesu' in his arms. It's not surprising then, that in Christian icons, Simeon is portrayed as a bent over old man. Who was also said to be blind!

Let's now consider this. 270 years old. Blind. What could a 270-year-old blind man possibly see?

Does any of this makes sense! Blind men don't see! Or do they?

So, do we agree or disagree with this. And do we ignore Simeon's words, "My eyes have seen your salvation"? If so, we might as well stop here, and go put the kettle on!

Or does this story help us with our own understanding and insight. Of our own experience with God?

The world around us?

And that of life?

For most of us the world is limited to, the physical, and the sensory. We have come to believe that truth and reality are defined by what we know and understand. More often than not it is determined by our five senses, sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell.

The gift of sight, or being blind, just don't go together. It doesn't make sense; they are totally opposites. So, does Simeon have sight, or he is blind, which?

What if he has both at the same time?

What if Simeon 'is blind' and 'he does see'?

At some point we have to admit this makes sense

This admission is the beginning of learning to see this in a new light. While we try to make sense of this, and resolve the difference between seeing and blindness, we are missing the beauty, deeper meaning, and encouragement we receive from this story.

The dispute between Simeon's 'seeing,' and his 'blindness' is 'not' an issue that has to be resolved, Rather, It's a doorway into another realm. It's the doorway into a life with God.

It's another way of 'being,' another way of 'seeing' another way of 'knowing.'

'Seeing' is far more than just sight.



That day in the temple, ‘Simeon’ saw past the physical. Physical sight he would have seen Jesus, as a forty-day old baby. But that’s not what Simeon says that he saw. He says, “my eyes have seen your salvation.”

‘Which is it?’

‘Is it a baby,’ or ‘is it salvation?’

This is not just simply another event that happened in history. The presentation of our Lord happens all the time. The invisible is seen, the intangible is touched, the unspoken is heard, the uneaten is tasted, and the odourless is fragrant.

There are times in each of our lives when we catch a glimpse of what Simeon saw.

Think about the time when you thought to yourself, or maybe even said out loud, “I never want this moment to end.”

Remember the day when you were so absorbed with other people, or so engrossed in something that you were doing, that you lost all track of time. It’s almost like you were living outside time.

Remember the day when you thought, “I just can’t do this anymore.” “It’s too much for me, I can’t go on.” But somehow you did,’ and, you’ve no idea how. It’s those moments you experienced a ‘presence’ greater than the people you were with.

You heard more than the words spoken in conversation.  
You felt more than what you could touch.

You saw more than what was in front of you.

You knew there was more going on than the events of that moment.

Regardless of the circumstances, you somehow experienced all was well. Everything was just-right, perfect, and complete. Nothing was lacking. Your life was more than you had ever known it to be.

These are the moments of ‘Presentation.’

These are the moments when we see salvation.

These are the times when we know that God is there for us.

Remember the line from our first song.

“Open my eyes, let me see”

**Amen.**



## Prayers, prose, poetry and Psalms

The days are getting longer, cold it's true but lengthening  
 The sun, when it shines so brightly is definitely strengthening  
 These last few days are crisp and cold - nice to see the year unfold  
 Good to know that what awaits is surely positive, although untold  
 We wait to see what comes to us- the ugly, bad and good  
 I long to see the primroses and bluebells carpeting our woods.

from Jane Tapsell

### For Prayer this Week

We are thankful for all in our Parish who  
 are regularly in touch with and  
 supporting those in our communities who  
 are isolated or shielding.

We pray for our local care and residential  
 homes who are still struggling with  
 Covid-19 cases.

For our Lent groups and subsequent  
 small groups as we prepare for spiritual  
 journeys together.

This poem is dangerous: it should not be left  
 Within the reach of children, or even adults  
 Who might swallow it whole, with possibly  
 Undesirable side-effects. If you come across  
 An unattended, unidentified poem  
 In a public place, do not attempt to tackle it  
 Yourself. Send it (preferably, in a sealed  
 container)  
 To the nearest centre of learning, where it will  
 be rendered  
 Harmless, by experts. Even the simplest  
 poem  
 May destroy your immunity to human  
 emotions.  
 All poems must carry a government  
 warning. Words  
 Can seriously affect your heart.

**Elma Mitchell**

[from Harvey Richardson's Sunday  
 Prayers]



It doesn't have to be  
 the blue iris, it could be  
 weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones;  
 just pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try  
 to make them elaborate, this isn't  
 a contest but a doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which  
 another voice may speak.

**Mary Oliver**

[submitted by Jenny Groombridge]

Almighty and ever-living God,  
 clothed in majesty,  
 whose beloved Son was this day presented  
 in the Temple,  
 in substance of our flesh:  
 grant that we may be presented to you  
 with pure and clean hearts,  
 by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.  
 Amen.

**The Collect for The Presentation of  
 Christ**

## Hymns and songs used in this Sunday's online services:

- Here I am to Worship
- Great is thy Faithfulness
- Take My Life and Let it Be
- **Shine Jesus Shine**

written by

### **Graham Kendrick**

(born 2 August 1950) is a prolific English Christian singer, songwriter and worship leader. He is the son of Baptist pastor, M. D. Kendrick and grew up in Laindon, Essex and Putney.



He now lives in Tunbridge Wells and

is a member of Holy Trinity with Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells.

Graham Kendrick has been described as a 'father of modern worship music' whose songs are 'crammed full of poetic, divine, biblical truth' that have 'sculpted a view of God that has impacted generations.'

**Shine Jesus Shine**, Graham's best known song was written in 1987 and has proved to be enduringly popular not just in the UK but all round the world. It deposed 'Jerusalem' from the BBC's Songs of Praise Top Ten Hymns survey and consistently appears as one of the top songs in the CCL (Church Copyright Licence) chart both in the UK and USA.

In a recent interview Graham said:

"This song is a prayer for revival. A songwriter can give people words to voice something which is already in their hearts but which they don't have the words or the tune to express, and I think 'Shine Jesus shine' caught a moment when people were beginning to believe once again that an impact could be made on a whole nation."



Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!*

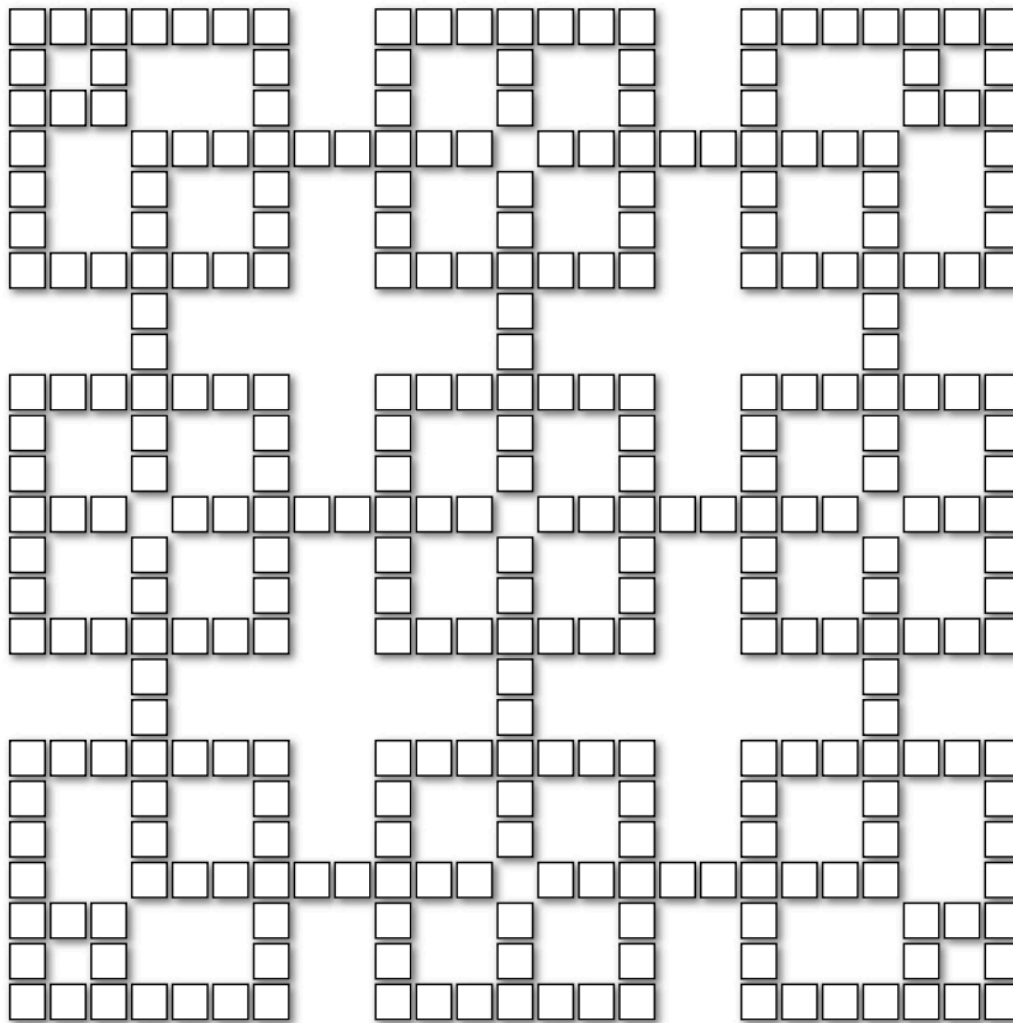
As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!*



# Puzzle Corner

Fit the words into this Bible Fill In Puzzle!



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## 3 LETTERS

AWE  
AXE  
EAR  
ELI  
EVE  
FIG  
GOD  
MAN  
OIL  
PIG  
RAM  
WAR

## 7 LETTERS

AILMENT

ALMONDS  
ANGELIC  
ARCHERS  
BLESSED  
BROTHER  
CRUCIFY  
DAVIDIC  
DEBORAH  
DEMONIC  
DONKEYS  
EPHESUS  
EPHRATH  
FATHERS  
HARPIST  
JEZEBEL  
JUDEANS  
LAZARUS  
LEPROSY

LOCUSTS  
PRAISED  
PRAYERS  
REBEKAH  
REFUTES  
REPROOF  
SAVIOUR  
SERPENT  
SEVENTY  
SINNERS  
SOLDIER  
SOLOMON  
SPIRITS  
STEPHEN  
TIMOTHY  
WIDOWED  
WOUNDED

## 8 LETTERS

HARVESTS  
PROPHECY  
SICKNESS  
TREASURE

## 9 LETTERS

APOCRYPHA  
BETHLEHEM  
BLINDNESS  
CAPERNAUM  
CARPENTER  
MUSICIANS  
PRISCILLA  
PROPHETIC

## Solution from Issue 6

**Across:** 1 Bemoan, 4 Foreknew, 9 Equity, 10 Senators, 12 Detained, 13 Thrice, 15 Heir, 16 Revelation, 19 Messengers, 20 Stir, 23 Ribbon, 25 Tomorrow, 27 Assuaged, 28 Usurer, 29 Numbered, 30 Plates.

**Down:** 1 Breadth, 2 Mountains, 3 Attain, 5 Open, 6 Epaphras, 7 Naomi, 8 Western, 11 Revenge, 14 Reproof, 17 Interpret, 18 Desolate, 19 Murrain, 21 Rewards, 22 Morsel, 24 Bosom, 26 Here.



# Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition  
 Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany  
 (Candlemas)



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

## Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of Jesus being presented in the temple.

You can find it in your Bible in:  
**Luke 2 v 22–40**

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

**The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:**

Malachi 3 v 1-5  
 Psalm 24  
 Hebrews 2 v 14- 18

## A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus being presented in the temple and the people he met there. Thank you for Simeon who reminds us that you keep your promises and that you sent Jesus to be a Saviour for all people.

We pray for all our friends and family who don't yet know you as their Saviour. We pray that they would come to know you as their Saviour and friend.

Amen

## Discussion

### A question for adults to ask children

*Why were Mary and Joseph amazed at what Simeon said?*

Even though Mary and Joseph knew that Jesus was sent from God all they had read in scripture about the Messiah said he was coming to rescue the Jewish people. Simeon revealed God's much bigger plan, Jesus had been sent to be a saviour for all people, Jewish and gentile!

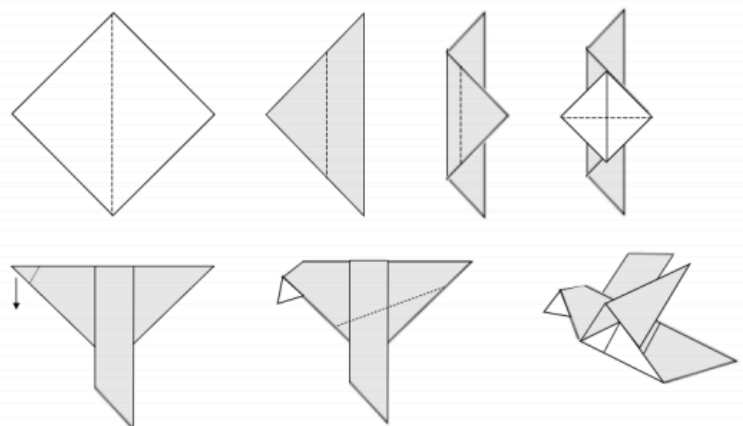
### A question for children to ask adults

*What is something you have always wanted to see?*

"Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he saw the Christ promised by the Lord." God knows the desires of our hearts. This year has seen us miss out on many of the things we wanted to do and see, why not spend some time bringing these things before God in prayer.

## Family Activity 1

In the story Mary and Joseph had to bring an offering to the temple. Use the simple template below to fold your own origami dove or pigeon from a square of paper.



Doves are a symbol of peace and a reminder of God's promises. You could add your own prayers for peace to your dove.

## Bev's Sausage & Onion Plait

by Paula Bilbrough

### Ingredients

- 1 pack Puff Pastry
- 1 lb Skinless Sausages or Sausage Meat
- 3 Hard Boiled Eggs
- 1/2 packet of Stuffing
- 1 Medium Onion
- 1 beaten Egg for glazing

### Method

- Make stuffing (directions on packet).
- Set oven at 180C /350F or Gas Mark 4.
- Dice and fry onion.
- Mix with Sausage and Stuffing.
- Roll out pastry to 12" x 14" rectangle.
- Spread sausage mix length ways down middle of pastry.
- Chop eggs and sprinkle on top.
- With sharp knife cut the pastry diagonally on either side of the filling in 3/4" strips.
- Brush with beaten egg.
- Tuck over ends, then fold alternative strips of pastry over the mixture to create a rough plait.
- Put on a greased baking sheet and brush with the remaining beaten egg.
- Place in oven and bake for approx. 40 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve warm with salad or vegetables





## For and From Around the Parish

### Sunday Morning Worship

Each Sunday morning we have two services that you can join on Zoom, and enjoy the fellowship of those across our worshipping communities as we worship together. We gather together at 9.00am for a service of BCP Morning prayer, and 10.30am for a service of Praise and Worship. Every third week in our 10.30 service we celebrate the Eucharist.

The Zoom meeting room details are the same each week, for both services:

Meeting ID: 858 7103 2095

Passcode: 868162



Don't forget.... If you are unable to join us on Zoom on a Sunday morning our 10.30 services are available on our YouTube channel, so you can worship with us whenever you like!

Simply go to YouTube, type in **Bewsborough Parish** and you can find us. AND DON'T FORGET TO SUBSCRIBE!

### For Lent

Over the coming weeks we will share information and resources that might be helpful during the Lenten period as we embark on our journey through this important time. As we enter this time and look to prepare ourselves spiritually we will offer insights into books, websites, articles, prayers and a variety of sources that we hope will be of support and encouragement.



#### The folks at the Bible Society write:

"The events of the past 12 months have been unprecedented and many of us are feeling a real thirst to connect afresh with the Bible and focus on the life of Jesus. Taking this into account, we wanted to do something a little different to mark the season of Lent this year.

So, we've put our heads together and developed a brand new, 40-day experience called The Lent Encounter. It's completely free – all you have to do is sign up. You'll receive an email each day featuring Bible verses, beautiful and inspiring images, video reflections and practical challenges."

If you would like to sign up here is the link:

<https://biblesociety.cmail19.com/t/r-l-juurhrc-utlkkitryd-j/>

**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR ONE OF OUR LENT GROUPS IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE ALREADY!**

## Candlemas

There will be a quiet service of Compline held on Zoom, at 8.00pm on Tuesday 2nd February as we gather together on the Feast of The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Joining instructions will be sent round by Sean.

If you do not receive the regular distribution emails for services, please contact Sean to request being added to the list.

## Text Giving

We are pleased to announce that our Text Giving service is now up and running!!

For many during these extended periods of lockdown it has been difficult to make regular financial contributions to the life of our Parish and worshipping communities. Well, now it is as easy as sending a text message. All you need to do is to text:



When sending the message GIVEBP substitute the red 'x' with the amount you wish to donate, for example:

**GIVEBP 2      for    £2.00**

**GIVEBP 5      for    £5.00**

**GIVEBP 10     for   £10.00**

You will receive an automated confirmation, which will also enable you to register for Gift Aid if you are a UK Taxpayer. Within 48 hours you will also receive a message asking if you would like to be a regular giver through this scheme.

We hope that this enables anyone who would like to give financially another way of doing so.

## All Sorts of Music

All Sorts of Music - Music School is looking for people whose mental health is being negatively affected by lockdown and who's parents, teachers or friends feel would benefit from a course of free music lessons during this lockdown to give them something new to focus on. Instrument loan also available. Please keep in mind funds are limited for this project so priority will be given to those who could not afford lessons for themselves.

Music is an amazing tool for making people feel happier and a regular weekly lesson with the same teacher adds a bit of routine to this crazy new world!

Anyone interested should message All Sorts of Music directly (all in strictest of confidence) <http://www.allsortsofmusic.co.uk> or 07368 518575



## And finally From deepest, darkest Buckingham.....

*Dear Friends*

*It was with great sadness but much anticipation that we left Shepherdswell on Friday. As we looked around an empty house and then drove away it didn't seem real that we were actually leaving. However, 'time waits for no man (or woman!)' and so we begin our new adventure in Buckinghamshire, at the moment surrounded by far too many unopened boxes.*

*We have been most humbled over recent weeks by all the kind messages and conversations that we have had from many people far and wide. It is only at moments like these that one can truly appreciate the good friends that one has. Perhaps a lesson here not to take friends for granted.*

*We both really appreciate the very generous and most unexpected gift from the Parish and the many messages – Thanks you. Once we find a permanent place to live, we will put the gift to good use.*

*Thank you, whether we have known you for 25 years or 25 days, for your friendship and support in our time together. We shall make the occasional trip back to Shepherdswell and hope to meet up again. Of course, you would always be welcome to visit us should you find yourself in the area.*

*So, while our Christian journeys may begin to diverge, we know that we continue to journey to the same goal. We will meet again (now who sang that?)*

*The Bewsborough Parish and you individually remain in our prayers. May God bless you and the future work of the parish.*

*With love and rainbows*

*Kate and Richard Webster*

### Father Lawrence Smith

It is with great sadness that we need to share the news that Father Lawrence Smith died suddenly at home last week. Please remember his family in your prayers at this incredibly sad and difficult time.

**Please send any articles, ideas, thoughts, reflections, prayers, book reviews, poems, recipes, images or anything that you would like to share with others around the Parish.**

**please email Sean:**

**[rev.sean.sheffield@bewsboroughparish.org](mailto:rev.sean.sheffield@bewsboroughparish.org)**

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