



Ascension - Pentecost - Trinity

Well we are in the Easter Season – celebrating the new life which came through the resurrection, and the message that God never gives up on anyone, even when we most want to give up on ourselves. Jesus came to the very heart of our darkness to show that even there we can find hope. As we hit May this year we have three festivals which tell us how the early church – the very first Christians came to understand what Easter meant. On Ascension Day they help us to understand that there is a life beyond this physical life – that the bridges from one to the other are death and Jesus – death as the experience we need not fear, because Jesus has shown that there is life beyond. Then at Pentecost we are reminded that we are given strength and power to meet the challenges of this life through the Holy Spirit – God with us, not in human form, but present at all times and in all places. And Trinity Sunday tells us that the early church wrestled with how to explain all this in the language of their own day – how our human experience of God relates to God's inner reality. And these truths have been summed up for us in prayers we sometimes barely notice (at one time children had to learn them in school each week) – the prayers for our festivals which we call “collects” – probably because they are prayers to collect our thoughts, rather than as I thought when I was young, an occasion for passing round the collection plate (so when we got to the “third collect” I thought the church was being a bit greedy!). Each collect contains one essential thought about God, and one prayer for life. Together, these thoughts and prayers are a masterclass in theology. They can sound a bit formal and old fashioned, and even in modern form they echo Cranmer's original translation from Latin. So here they are:

Ascension Day

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord
Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Pentecost

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:



Ascension by Tommy Winn



Trinity by Mark Jennings



Unknown



grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy
comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our
Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants
grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the
eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine
majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended
from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Let me know what you think – and if
you have questions I'll try to address
them in my sermons!

Mark

GDPR - St Barnabas and St. Mary's

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) takes effect in May 2018 and replaces the Data Protection Act 1998. It gives more rights and protection to individuals regarding use of how personal data is used. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) considered a report in February as it is the 'data controller' for St Mary's and St Barnabas Churches and decides what personal data should be held, whether on computer or on paper data processing, and how it will be kept and used.

Data collected for one purpose, for example, the Electoral Roll cannot be used for another purpose, say fundraising, without consent of the individual. Only the minimum data should be kept for the particular purpose. The data must be accurate and kept up to date, be stored for no longer than necessary and the storage is to be safe and secure.

PCC will be exempt for certain requirements as it is 'a religious not for profit body' but it must ensure that any processing of the data relates only to members or former members and there is no disclosure to a third party without consent.

Whether or not exemption applies, the PCC will:

- Review the data held, how it is stored and what basis we have for processing it.
Initial thoughts have identified the following data sets: Registers; Electoral Roll; Stewardship data; Family Roll; Rotas.
- Consider whether consent is required from some data subjects.

A Data Privacy Notice has been approved by the PCC and is published in here.

If anyone is concerned about issues arising from this report, please contact Chris Watts at the Parish Office.



C.T.I.T.
(Churches Together
In Thatcham)

Joint Pentecost Service

on the
evening of Sunday May 20th

Tea and Cake from 5.00pm
Service commences at 6.30pm



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DATA PRIVACY NOTICE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's Thatcham

1. Your personal data – what is it?

Personal data relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data. Identification can be by the information alone or in conjunction with any other information in the data controller's possession or likely to come into such possession. The processing of personal data is governed by the General Data Protection Regulation (the "GDPR").

2. Who are we ?

The PCC of St Mary's Thatcham is the data controller (contact details below). This means it decides how your personal data is processed and for what purposes.

3. How do we process your personal data?

The PCC of St Mary's Thatcham complies with its obligations under the "GDPR" by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

We use your personal data for the following purposes: -

- To enable us to provide a voluntary service for the benefit of the public in a particular geographical area as specified in our constitution;
- To administer membership records;
- To fundraise and promote the interests of the charity;
- To manage our employees and volunteers;
- To maintain our own accounts and records (including the processing of gift aid applications);
- To inform you of news, events, activities and services running at St Mary's, St Barnabas or the Diocese;

4. What is the legal basis for processing your personal data?

- Explicit consent of the data subject so that we can keep you informed about news, events, activities and services and process your gift aid donations and keep you informed about diocesan events.
- Processing is necessary for carrying out obligations under employment, social security or social protection law, or a collective agreement;
- Processing is carried out by a not-for-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim provided: -
 - the processing relates only to members or former members (or those who have regular contact with it in connection with those purposes); and
 - there is no disclosure to a third party without consent.

5. Sharing your personal data

Your personal data will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be shared with other members of the church in order to carry out a service to other church members or for purposes connected with the church. We will only share your data with third parties outside of the parish with your consent.

6. How long do we keep your personal data?

We keep data in accordance with the guidance set out in the guide "Keep or Bin: Care of Your Parish Records" which is available from the Church of England website.

Specifically, we retain electoral roll data while it is still current; gift aid declarations and associated paperwork for up to 6 years after the calendar year to which they relate; and parish registers (baptisms, marriages, funerals) permanently. Either on site or on deposit at The Berkshire Record Office.

7. Your rights and your personal data

Unless subject to an exemption under the GDPR, you have the following rights with respect to your personal data: -

- The right to request a copy of your personal data which the PCC holds about you;
- The right to request that the PCC corrects any personal data if it is found to be inaccurate or out of date;
- The right to request your personal data is erased where it is no longer necessary for the PCC to retain such data;
- The right to withdraw your consent to the processing at any time
- The right, where there is a dispute in relation to the accuracy or processing of your personal data, to request a restriction is placed on further processing;
- The right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioners Office.

8. Further processing

If we wish to use your personal data for a new purpose, not covered by this Data Protection Notice, then we will provide you with a new notice explaining this new use prior to commencing the processing and setting out the relevant purposes and processing conditions. Where and whenever necessary, we will seek your prior consent to the new processing.

9. Contact Details

To exercise all relevant rights, queries or complaints please in the first instance contact the Parish Administrator at Parish Office, St Mary's Church, Church Gate, Thatcham RG19 3PN.

This months prayer

Almighty God, creator of all things, seen and unseen, may these humble prayers, be heard by you through all that read them.

Dear Lord and gracious Heavenly Father, your love compels us to come to you. We are mindful that we do not deserve your love and are sorry for anything we have done that has marred your image in us, anything that we have thought or said or done that has offended you, or those you love. Forgive us, we pray, and give us repentant and contrite hearts.

Lord, we all might say and do things we shouldn't and conversely sometimes don't do the things we should – we can't help ourselves. And that's the rub, we really can't help ourselves, which is why we call on you and ask you to help us when we are weak and vulnerable and

tempted by the evil One. Help us to live the life that you have earmarked for us and thank you for the blessed assurance that 'He who is in us is greater than He who is in the world'.

As we celebrate Easter, and the rising of your Son, we also remember Christ's ascension into Heaven and then Pentecost; the sending of Your transforming Spirit into the world.

It's so amazing, so profound and yet so simple;

You are all we need or ever will need. Nothing more, Nothing less, Nothing else.

We pray for our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world, especially for those who cannot openly display their faith for fear of persecution, imprisonment or even death. We pray for your protection and blessing over all who know you as their Saviour. May they be strengthened and renewed by the indwelling of your Spirit.

We pray for the church closer to home, for Churches Together in Thatcham that, unified by your Spirit, they might work to spread the

Good News of Jesus. We pray for revival and a real outpouring that will fire the imagination and mobilise your church as it reaches out beyond the walls of each building.

We continue to pray for the Partnership for Missional Church and the work being undertaken by the Missional Innovation Team. Give wisdom and guidance to all involved and may their efforts provide support to the teenagers where needed as they work with their Partners of Peace.

We pray for the world, for those things that we see and read about; the war in Syria, the famine in Ethiopia, the devastation caused by hurricanes and earthquakes and for those places that still have not received the help and support they were promised.

Lord, sometimes, the troubles of this tiny planet seem insurmountable and we feel completely helpless and hopeless, but then we turn to you and remember that nothing escapes your gaze, nothing is hidden from you and bizarre as it might sound, all



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things happen for a reason.

Remind us often that you are always in control, calm our fears, and take away our doubts.

But we pray, because you call us to.

You are a God of compassion and you have also given us that quality; so we ask that human suffering would be eased and you would bring about change and reconciliation and ultimately peace.

Shine your light into the dark places, and as we are able, help us to make a difference.

Speak to each one of us – you know us all so well so you know what we are capable of– help us to listen to your voice, And when we hear it, help us to respond in faithful service so that when we meet you face to face, we shall not be disqualified from entering your Kingdom and dwelling with you in eternity.

Thank you so very much for all we have, given us through your countless blessings.

Amen

Fostering and adoption in West Berkshire



How churches and Christians can help

Home for Good is a national charity whose vision is a home for every child who needs one. There are children in our community who need a home and a family (I heard of three just this week through my work as a school governor).

Home for Good is a Christian charity, which believes that the church can help to fulfil its vision, by encouraging members to foster or adopt, and also by supporting those who take this step in practical ways or through prayer.

Home for Good has a contract with West Berkshire Council (who says that our councils won't work with Christian organisations?) who heard about the work they were doing in other parts of Berkshire. The Council needs to find more families to foster and adopt, and to keep local children local if possible.

Our local contact is Bethany Hare. Do pray for her. I hope there will be an opportunity for those interested to meet her. There is a plan for a Thatcham meeting in July, but do let me know if you would like to try for something earlier. This is important work, and a crucial way in which we can show commitment to the most vulnerable in our society.

<https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/>



Di and Mat Evans are going on what promises to be another amazing volunteering trip with www.missiondirect.org in July to Zambia.

Can you support the building project fund?

Visit: www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/

Matanddievanszambia for more details or check the Notice Boards



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Shame - Stephen Pattison

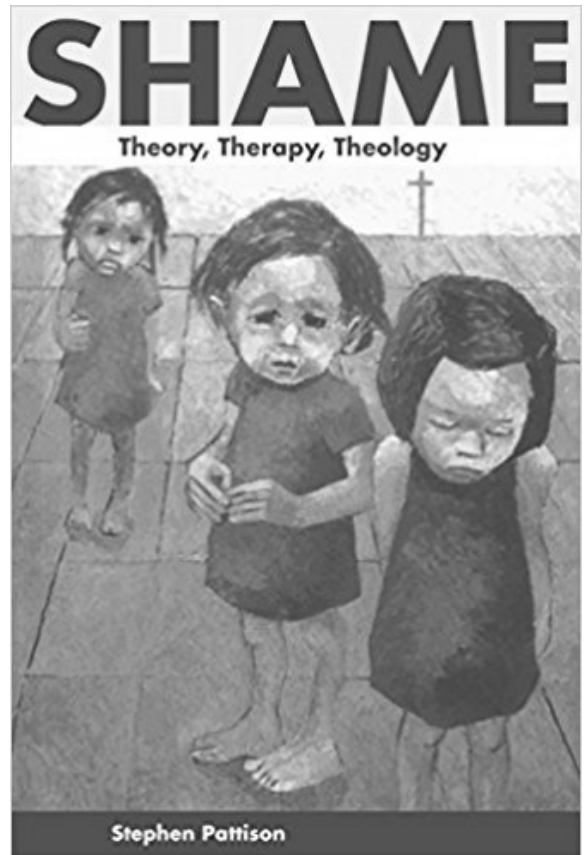
I've mentioned this book a few times recently and some people have been interested, so I thought I'd give it a little more review. It's an academic work published by a professor of pastoral theology, and covers aspects of psychology, philosophy and therapy. It attracted my interest because I have been thinking about the wounds suffered by people abused in childhood, and my reading led me to see some similarities with child refugees. My thought was that the language of sin and the language of healing didn't seem to address what I was seeing. Stephen Pattison's book gives it the name "shame".

The subtitle of the book is "Theory, Therapy, Theology" and it takes in material from a range of disciplines and insights, including secular disciplines. It becomes rapidly apparent that though lots of people use the word, it seems to mean many different things. There is no agreement about what shame actually is. Later on, when theological aspects are under review, we see that there has been very little theological reflection on shame with any depth or insight, and that there has often been confusion between sin and shame, or the assumption that dealing with sin will deal with shame, or that healing is an appropriate category.

When you look under the surface of the Bible, with shame in mind, it is definitely there – right from the beginning with Adam and Eve in the garden naked and not ashamed.

The aspect which drew me in was the talk of shame (chronic shame) as a wound to the whole self, to the inner core of being – and that shame in this sense had the consequence of wanting to run away and hide, of a lie told to ourselves that we are worth nothing. Who in such a state would think themselves worth healing? Who would be prepared to face the judgment implicit in the forgiveness of sin?

Pattison's conclusions are tentative – he knows how thin is the tradition on which he draws, that this is his own reflection. But he is clear that it is a reflection the church needs to own and deepen, rather than mirroring the condition of shame and hiding from discussion of its reality. The book was published in 2000, and I'm not aware of



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West Berks Foodbank Your Donations

The Foodbank has now completed its financial year running from 31st March 2017 to the 1st April 2018 and in that time period we have fed 2768 people (1759 adults, 1009 children). Thatcham Parish has helped to feed some of these people by providing 614.1kg of food and toiletries during this time period and the Foodbank is enormously grateful for your sustained support.

substantial work since – though the IICSA hearings on childhood sexual abuse may put such things in the spotlight.

My own pastoral conclusions include a reflection that there is more shame about than I have been aware of – it seems to be an important aspect of society today, and a thought that I need to be careful and gentle with those I encounter who have an instinct to hide.

It is a book worth reading for those professionally involved with the issue of shame, or anyone with a deep interest in the subject. Unfortunately I don't know of a 'popular' equivalent – let me know if you spot one.

Mark

A Matter of 'Loose' Change

Once upon a time... in 1948... my parents, my sister and I, a babe in arms, moved into a newly built council house on one of the largest such estates in Stanmore, Winchester. The development was on a hill and a very long way from its parish church, Christchurch. A combination of the hill, a family with small children, no car and no tradition of regular churchgoing in my otherwise Christian family meant that I cannot remember any attendance at Christchurch, or indeed any other church, during the 1950s. There was none of the search for loose change from parent or grandparent through which this small child could be trained that giving at church was the norm, the expected behaviour.

The 1960s were no better for such training as I joined the choir (I was given a bike for passing the 11+ and it was either the choir or the scouts) and, then as now, the collecting bag was never introduced into the choir stalls. As a consequence I am not surprised when today's parents and children seem to be totally confused by the presence of a collection plate at the church door.

'Sorry mate, I do not carry any loose change!'

It was not until the 1970s that the concept and necessity of funding the church through a Stewardship Scheme became a part of my life. 'Time, Talent and Money' was the rallying cry.

The alternatives of a generous patron, locally based supportive businesses and interest payment from historic endowments have largely disappeared. Priests, their stipends, housing and pensions now have to be paid for by the parishes — through the Parish Share. In 2018 this is some £90,000 in Thatcham. Maintaining the building, running costs and expenses have also to be met locally.

At the same time the local demands on the church are increasing. Pastoral work with the sick, the dying, the bereaved, the vulnerable, the elderly, the schools, the homeless all current challenges which the church must address.

Our Stewardship Scheme has been a great success. It is local peoples' generosity over many years that has enabled the local church, St Mary's and St Barnabas to grow in



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faith and action.

To continue this success it must attract new stewardship members and encourage realistic and generous levels of giving. If you support your local church and want to be a member of the Stewardship Scheme please speak to me or any of the clergy.

New methods of giving will be added to the existing envelopes and standing orders - ways which are part of the everyday ways of the world. Ways that have proved successful in other parishes of attracting new givers.

Ways that are an effective addition to the traditional collection plate and meet the response...

'Sorry mate, I do not carry any loose change!'

with

'But I do have a card.'

'That'll do nicely.'

While we are at it we should also tackle:

- 'I've always given the same amount since 1990. Why should I change?'
- 'Why do I have to fill in all those forms?'
- 'I want the church when I need it. Not before!'
- 'I like to see the church. I will help – but I don't do God!'
- 'I will give something but I don't want anyone else to know!'
- 'Why is the church always going on about money?'

There will be series of presentations and more publicity over the next few months to bring this message to both congregations and the wider community and the ways we will address the issues.

The first will be on Sunday June 10th at St Mary's. Please respond positively in any way that you can.

Chris Watts

For the Record...

Baptisms

8th Apr Cole Alfred Ackerman
Ebony Mary Lamb
Ava Elizabeth Bark

22nd Apr Lily Louise Byng
Harry George Clothier

Weddings

27th Apr Daniel Barrett &
Daisy Lawrenson

Funerals

5th Apr	Ruby Toft	91
11th Apr	Dawn Cox	56
16th Apr	Enid Jones	91
17th Apr	Shirley Harsant	81



C A M E O

(come and meet each other)

CAMEO is for anyone, lonely, bereaved, lives on their own, or would like to chat...

...every Monday 2pm to 4pm in

St Mary's Church Meeting Room for a chat over a cup of tea and cake.



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Who's Who in the Thatcham Team Ministry

Team Rector

Mark Bennet 867342

Team Vicar - St. Barnabas

Pat Jones 865388

Associate Clergy:

Marion Fontaine 861742

Brenda Harland 865064

Parish Administrator

Ann Watts 862277

The Parish office is open Monday and Friday mornings, 9.30am to 1.00pm, answer phone at other times.

Email: admin.stmarysthatcham@ntlbusiness.com

Churchwardens

Viv Druce 820718

Chris Watts 864567

Glenn Peters 869409

Future copies

Connect is published ten times a year and is available from St. Mary's and St. Barnabas Churches, Thatcham, or by post from the Parish Office, tel. 862277.

Article Deadline

Please give articles for the **June** edition to Steve Rice (860431) or any of the clergy or churchwardens or email julie@dunwell.org by **15th May**.



Services at St. Mary's Church

Sunday Services

Morning Services

8.00 am **Holy Communion**

10.00 am **Parish Communion**

Children's groups on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at 10 am, workshop on 3rd Sundays.

The Parish Communion services on the 1st Sunday of the month is for people of all ages, especially the young, (includes Baptism Welcome).

6.30 pm Evening Services

1st Sunday **Sung Evensong**

2nd Sunday **No service**

3rd Sunday **Healing Service**

Weekday Services

Wednesdays

9.45 am **Holy Communion**

10.30 am **'ABC'** (Adults, Babies, Children)

Every Weekday

9.00 am **Morning Prayer** (In the chapel)



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Inspired by the love of Christ to build God's kingdom



Services at St. Barnabas Church

(meeting in Thatcham Park School)

10.00 am Sunday Services

1st Sunday **Worship Service**

2nd Sunday **Communion**

3rd Sunday **Worship Service**

4th Sunday **Communion**

5th Sunday **Worship Service**

More details from Revd. Brenda Harland 01635 847969
or Revd. Pat Jones 01635 865388

www.stbarnabasthatcham.weebly.com

Serving to Build Community



A Christian aid reflection from Pastor Clement in Haiti to help with our preparations for Christian Aid Week and a lived example of John 15:9-17

John 15:9-17

At 3.30pm on 12 January 2010, Pastor Clément set out from his home in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital city. He was travelling to Gros Morne, a town 160km away in the north of the country, because his mother had died three days earlier. He was returning to the town where she was born for her funeral the next day.

Two hours later, at 5.30pm, he was just 15km from Gros Morne when he heard that there had been a major earthquake in Port-au-Prince. He tried to make contact with his family, but couldn't get through. He was anxious and tired, but, carried along by sadness at his mother's death as well as happy memories of her, he continued his journey.

When he got back to Port-au-Prince, he found his wife and children. They were struggling in truly horrific conditions. The earthquake killed thousands of people, and Pastor Clément's family saw the streets strewn with the bodies of those who could not afford a simple burial – many had even started to decompose where they lay. Fortunately, their own house was still standing, but they were afraid to go in, so they were forced to search for a safe place of shelter.

For two nights they stayed in a temporary camp in the suburbs, before crossing the border to the neighbouring Dominican Republic, to a town called Jimani. There, a local pastor helped Clément to find a house which he could rent for his family.

Clément then went back to Port-au-Prince to help those in desperate need. He coordinated the response of one of Christian Aid's partner organisations, the Social Mission of Haitian Churches, and set up four camps in the grounds of churches. These camps welcomed in those made homeless and vulnerable by the earthquake, and provided urgently-needed shelter for more than 20,000 people.

One evening, Clément returned to the Dominican Republic, feeling completely exhausted. He spent a few minutes with his family, then went out to a nearby town square where many homeless people were forced to wander. It was there that he met Benito, a young Dominican man, who showed Clément his sleeping bag and the corner where he had spent the previous night.

Assuming he had been visiting Haiti when the earthquake hit, Clément asked him how he had managed to survive. To Clément's surprise, Benito told him that he had travelled to Haiti's border to live alongside people displaced by the earthquake. He had wanted to send money to help, like many people around the world. But because his family was poor and he didn't work, he had nothing to give. Benito came to Jimani to be with the Haitians, to sleep alongside them and to share their suffering.

What kind of love does it take to leave the comfort and safety of your own home behind to travel to be with those who are suffering? This is a lived example of a life being laid down, literally beside those considered friends. As we abide in this example and in the love that moved Jesus to dwell among us may that be the inspiration and challenge we need to get involved as much as we can in Christian Aid Week beginning on 13 May.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/weekly-worship-sunday-6-may>



Rob, a Cognitive Hypnotherapist and NLP Practitioner, lives in Thatcham. He trained with the Quest Institute at Regent's College in London. He writes, 'I have vast experience working with many issues including habits & addictions, anxiety, exam nerves, self-esteem, phobias and many others. The first step on a new journey is easier if you have a guide with a good map. I have a good map so call me on 07710 726 424 or email me on info@robdonnellytherapy.com. Further information – www.robdonnellytherapy.com.

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The Church in the Community –

UP, UP AND AWAY!

Sending up our dreams and hopes for the future of our church community

A week ago, a number of people from the congregations of St. Barnabas and St. Mary's gathered for a 'cheese and wine' balloon event.

There were balloons everywhere, on tables, window ledges, a screen, and two banners!

It was a great evening – an opportunity to meet and get to know people we may have just had a nodding acquaintance with before. With light Jazz in the background, the conversation flowed along with the wine and the many varieties of cheese sampled and enjoyed.

Although great as a social event, there was also a reason for the balloons. Later in the evening Revd. Pat called us to order and introduced the 'Balloon Ride'.

In essence:-


One of the tasks the church has been set by the PMC initiative is for us to look critically at our church community. What more can we do in Thatcham? This evening, we are called to challenge ourselves; put aside all obstacles (including financial restraints) and be creative in our thinking for a church for the future.

With this in mind, Jo Harte, a member of the PMC group, led us brilliantly through a virtual hot air balloon ride. It takes place in Thatcham some time in the future. She took us through the journey in detail from arriving in the field and watching the balloon inflate, through take off, rising through the air and floating over the town – encouraging us to look down and note what we see. What is happening in the Town Centre, on the green, in the Church, in the churchyard? She asked us to use our imaginations, letting our minds conjure up a vision of the future of Thatcham with the church at its hub.


Well, she must have done a great job because as soon as the balloon landed there was a frantic scribbling of ideas on 'post it' notes which are now displayed on the balloon banners at the back of St Mary's. These ideas will be used to indicate the general direction we should take in the years ahead.

Viv Druce







Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society
KATS
PERFECT ENTERTAINMENT



CONFUSIONS
By Alan Ayckbourn

26th - 28th July 2018 - 7:30pm
Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall
Box Office: 07955 256645
mandy.cole@kats.org.uk
www.kats.org.uk Tickets £12 - Inc supper

 This amateur production of "Confusions" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD. 

A local charity, **Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society (KATS)**, has been providing Thatcham and the surrounding villages with entertainment for over 50 years. During that time, they have performed plays, musical reviews, murder mysteries and pantomimes. They usually perform at the Kennet School in Thatcham or at the Memorial Hall in Upper Bucklebury and have even performed at St Mary's!

Rehearsals for their productions take place at the Memorial Hall on Mondays and Thursdays and auditions for their productions are open to everyone. Details can always be found on their web-site www.kats.org.uk.

Their next production will be a collection of Alan Ayckbourn's one act plays entitled Confusions!

Meet the mother who spends all her time at home with her small children. How will she react when the neighbours pop in?

Next, we head to a hotel bar to meet Harry, a travelling salesman, selling more than his wares!

Observe two couples dining in a restaurant. What happens between mouthfuls?

Finally, we head to Gosforth's Fete as the village prepares for a fun packed day – will all go according to plan?

Come along and support the local arts!



The Big Community Switch

See if you can pay less for your energy bills and have the chance to win a year's free energy by signing up to the West Berkshire Energy Switch

Its 5 years since West Berkshire Council's switching partner iChoosr began running collective energy switches in the UK, and they are fast approaching one million registrants in the UK. To celebrate, the one millionth UK registrant will win a year's free energy. The winning registrant must go on to switch supplier and this will be up to the value of £1,135 (this is based on the Ofgem average of dual fuel, direct debit and available paper tariffs from the six large suppliers at February 2017).

The West Berkshire Energy Switch is a free to join scheme which gives residents the chance to see if they can make savings on their fuel bills by registering to take part. A one day reverse auction will be held on the 22nd May, where suppliers compete with their best offers, the winning supplier/s then send registrants their personalised offer for consideration.

There is no obligation to switch. Sign up and see if you can save; to register or find out more, visit www.westberks.gov.uk/communityswitch

You will need to have your latest energy bill to hand, as you'll need the details during the registration process.

West Berkshire residents have until midnight on Tuesday 3rd July to register and decide whether to switch. Residents without internet access have until Monday 25th June to contact West Berkshire Council on 01635 503267 to register - remember to have your energy bill or annual statement to hand when you call.