



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Pews News

November 2025

<https://stjb.hubb.church/>

From Catherine, our Vicar

November is all about remembering. We begin with All Saints when we remember the Christian heroes who have gone before us, then All Souls when we remember our loved ones who have died, Bonfire Night ("Remember, remember the Fifth of November ..."), Remembrance Day (the members of the armed forces who have fought for us and given up their lives), through to the festival of Christ the King towards the end of the month.

The Judeo-Christian tradition is full of regular acts of remembrance, from the Passover to Holy Communion. Such acts of remembrance, reminding ourselves of our identity, help us to re-member ourselves, and create the space for God to knit us back together as the community and individuals he created us to be, within the context of God's loving faithfulness down the years.

Alongside this weekly or annual communal remembering, St Ignatius of Loyola (Spanish priest and theologian born around 1491) developed a spiritual exercise which can be done daily by individuals and which has a similar remembering effect: **the Examen**. It is done by thousands (including me) at the end of each day and it involves three main elements

1. Asking God to bring to mind and heart the moment(s) today for which you were most grateful. Spend time thinking about what was said or done in that moment that made it so special. Breathe in the gratitude you feel and receive life again from that moment.
2. Ask God to bring to your heart and mind the moment today for which you were least grateful. When were you least able to receive or give love? Ask yourself what was said or done in that moment that made it so difficult. Sit with whatever you feel without trying to change or fix it in any way. You may wish to breathe deeply and receive God's love for you, just as you are, knowing that God was with you, even in that moment.
3. The third element is your response to the experience of elements 1 and 2 – your gratitude to God for what you have experienced. You may wish to share this with a friend, or to write it down in a journal.

For more background, information and creative ideas about using this resourcing, re-membering prayer I recommend *Sleeping with Bread: Holding what gives you life* by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn and Matthew Linn.

Let's pray:

Loving God, you create us and put us into communities and give us friends and relations. And yet, you know how difficult relationships can be, and also how much it hurts when we lose those we love. As we take the opportunities this month to remember those no longer physically here with us and to dwell on what gives us life and what drains life from us, please re-member us – knit us together again, and remind us again of your goodness to us, every day, and fill our hearts with gratitude afresh. Amen.

Editor's note (taken from Google):

"Re-membering" is a term that, unlike "remembering," emphasizes putting things back together by reconnecting with people and communities, often in a therapeutic context. It suggests intentionally re-establishing a sense of connection and wholeness with significant people, both past and present, and with communities that have been fractured.

Thank You Wendy

As announced in the last Pews News, after five years as Pews News Editor, Wendy is hanging up her editorial quill. Producing the newsletter is quite a bit of work (despite what the advert in the last newsletter said!) and Wendy has undertaken this in her normal calm, patient and unflappable way, producing a valuable monthly resource. Please take the time to thank Wendy for her hard work over the years.

Thanks Wendy !

(Stephen Haywood has kindly picked up the editorial quill! – Catherine)



Well Done Sue

Sue Melling has been making greetings cards and other nice gifts to raise money for various charities for a number of years. Her latest stall at the KBS Café with cards and gifts for Christmas raised £30 for Church funds.

Thanks Sue !

Memorial Service - Remembering with thanks

**Sunday 2nd November 2025
at 9am**

**St John the Baptist Church
Kingston Bagpuize**

**You are invited to a quiet
reflective service with the
opportunity to remember loved
ones who have died and to light
a candle in their memory.**

Everyone most welcome



St John the Baptist Church – November 2025

Sun	2 Nov	9.00	All Souls Memorial Service [1]	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	9 Nov	10.20	Remembrance Sunday [2]	Speaker – Catherine
		11.00	Act of Remembrance	
Sun	16 Nov	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Ian
		10.30	Morning Worship with JAM	Speaker – Ian
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	23 Nov	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Geoff Maughan
		10.30	Family Communion	Speaker – Geoff Maughan
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	30 Nov	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Robin Emmanuel
		10.30	All-Age Advent Service [3]	Speaker – Robin Emmanuel

Regular Events

Wednesdays	20.00	Wednesday Fellowship Group
Thursdays	9.00	KBS Café at the Village Hall

Special Events

Mon	3 Nov	12.30	Village Lunch
Wed	12 Nov	19.30	Talk at All Saints (Marcham) on Nicene Creed
Fri	14 Nov	19.00	Film Club
Mon	17 Nov	08.45	Open the Book at John Blandy School
		19.30	PCC

[1] All Souls Memorial Service

This is a service when we remember with thanks all those we have loved and see no longer. If you have lost loved ones in the past few years, this service is particularly for you. There will be an opportunity to light candles in memory of loved ones who have died.

[2] Village Remembrance Sunday Service

This begins at 10.20am on the Millenium Green and then continues with an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11am. The Oxford Road and the A415 will be closed for the two-minute silence.

There is no 9.00 service.

[3] All-Age Advent Service

This will be in church, with crafts and activities for children. Note: there is no Café Church this fifth Sunday.

Christmas Activities

Sun	7 Dec	10.30	Messy Christingle in Village Hall
Sun	21 Dec	16.00	Carols on lawn at KB House
Wed	24 Dec	16.00	Crib Service
		23.30	Midnight Communion
Thu	25 Dec	10.30	Christmas Day Service – All-age Communion (no 9.00 service)

Information Fair

KBS Cafe, Kingston Bagpuize



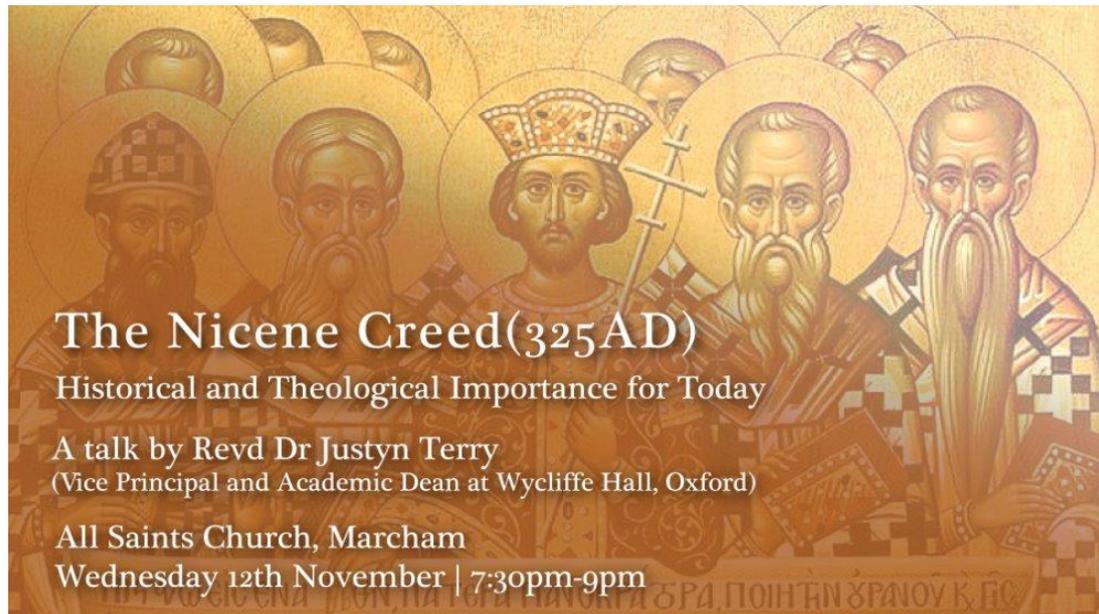
Pop along for free information and advice on a wide range of activities, services and organisations in your community. Meet your local link worker, along with some of our colleagues from our SCAMS and Benefits team, Dementia Oxfordshire, the Home Improvement Agency and Vale community Impact.

When: Thursday 6th November 10am-12noon

Where: KBS Cafe, Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Village Hall,

Talk on Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed is celebrating its 1700th birthday:



The Wednesday Fellowship Group is planning to attend. Please **let Stephen Haywood by Sun 9 Nov** know if you would like to come along.

Film and Music Night

Our next Film Night will be on **Friday 14th November** in the **Church Room** when we will be showing The Royal Opera's **La Fille Du Regiment** by **Gaetano Donizetti** with Natalie Dessay as Marie and Juan Diego Florez as Tonio.

The opera is about Marie, who was abandoned and raised by the French regiment who found her. She falls in love with Tonio, who isn't a member of the regiment, after promising that she would only marry a member of their rank ... and the drama only increases from there, with long lost relatives finding Marie and trying to take her away from the company. Youthful rebellion, family drama, and tender young love—*La Fille du Régiment* revels in both the hilarious mishaps and the heartfelt moments of adolescence.



This is a free evening organised by members of St John the Baptist Church and tea, coffee, chocolates and popcorn will be provided from 7pm with the film beginning at 7.15pm. We have limited capacity in the room, so we do ask you to **let either Peter Beer or Margo Evans know if you will be joining us**. We would hate to have to turn anyone away on the night.

Many thanks – Peter Beer 01865 820805 or Margo Evans 01865 820900 or margoevans@mac.com

October Happenings

A big **THANKS** to everyone who turned out on Sat 18 Oct for the **Church and Church Room Cleaning Morning**. Maria organised the morning, but then, like several others, was ill. Beryl cleaned brass and silver; Corrina, Simon, Steve, Sandra, Peter & Stephen were up and down ladders; Catherine washed floors, Emily, Lydia & Matteo cleaned the loo, while Leon and Andre hoovered and brushed. Half way through, Isobel and Miranda arrived with life-saving cheese scones and doughnuts. It was a long morning and hard work, but the commitment from everyone to do a good job was wonderful – people worked out what needed to be done and got on with it. It was a great team effort. Steve wouldn't stop, finding new areas to clean ... he had to be dragged out of Church creaming and kicking. A brilliant effort from everyone involved. Thank you so much – the Church looks great and we can see out of the windows!



Another October highlight was the **Little Angels Harvest service** in church, when nearly 90 people (over 30 preschool children and over 50 parents and grandparents of children attending the nursery which is beside John Blandy primary school) listened to Poul Christensen talk, with plenty of visual aids, about where our food comes from, and the joys of farming. When asked what he grew he said, "We grow cows for milk!"

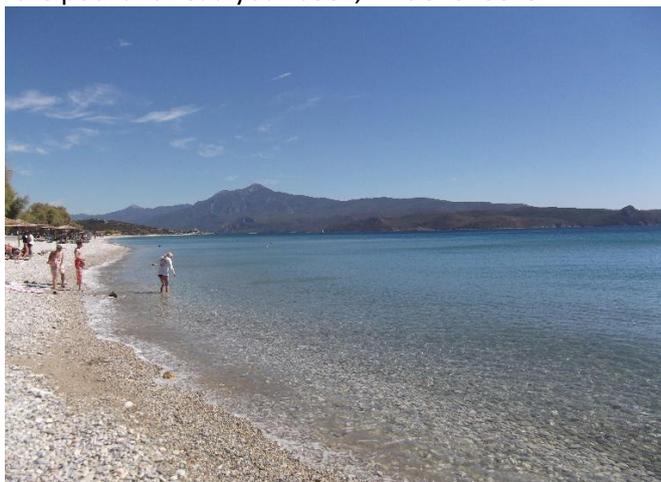
It was a chaotic and enjoyable morning, as the children sang some harvest songs to the tune of nursery rhymes, brought up their foodstuffs for the Abingdon Foodbank to the altar and everyone ate a satsuma, being grateful for its smell, taste and goodness, and thanking God for all our favourite food. Hoping to see some of them again at Christmas!

The Holidays are over ...?

Stephen Haywood writes:

Holidays are over ... or are they? Like me, you are probably feeling sad that the summer holidays are over. The good news is that we are closer to our next holiday – and that is something to which we can look forward.

At the time of writing, Maria and I have just returned from a wonderful holiday in Samos. This was my seventh time there and I enjoyed a fantastic week of dinghy sailing and then a week of walking. Maria has been several times too. The hotel in which we stay is 30 metres from the sea. There are numerous possibilities: dinghy sailing, wind-surfing, kayaking, paddle boarding, walking, tennis, visiting the nearby towns of Pythagorio and Samos Town, trips to Ephesus and Patmos, visiting the mountain villages, wine tasting. And if none of this appeals, you can relax on a lounge by the sea or the pool and read your book, knit or snooze.



What is special about this holiday is that it is run by a Christian company: Richmond Holidays. Richmond took over from a previous company: Master Sun / Master Ski. I was introduced to skiing with Richmond fifteen years ago by Rosemary Jackson (a former pillar of our church). Initially I was not interested. I had heard of other Christian holidays where the guests had a bus ride to the ski lifts, the start of the day was delayed by prayer time and the afternoon consumed by tea, cake and worship time. I wanted to ski ... not mess around. As it was, the Richmond chalet is placed right next to the slopes. And, yes – there is optional prayer time, but that is before breakfast, and the evening worship and tea takes place after skiing. So I decided to give it a go ... and after 13 ski holidays, I haven't looked back. Through these holidays, I have made some fantastic friends ... and I met Maria in 2020 😊



Richmond are a small friendly company. They run a ski chalet in Reberty (Les Menuires) in the Trois Valles. There are of the order of 25 guests there each week. The food is fantastic and the skiing is some of the best in the world. There is a strong Christian ethos and we have always appreciated the evening worship and talks. One finds like-minded people with a range of skiing abilities ... one can always find suitable friendly people with whom one can link up for the day.

The demographics at Samos are slightly different, at least out of the school holidays. Again, a range of friendly, interesting people: married couples, and plenty of singles (unmarried, widowed, divorced). It is a very safe and comfortable environment. There are in the order of 50 guests who make up the vast majority of the occupancy of the charming Greek hotel.



These holidays work well for us; the Samos holiday is particularly easy to set up. We love the activities in which we can engage, but enjoying our holiday with Christian friends and other guests is particularly refreshing. There are other options too: Richmond offer holidays in Madeira, and a different company, Oak Hall, organises a very large range of holidays around the world. Other possibilities include going to a Christian gathering, typically a week long, such as The Keswick Convention, Spring Harvest or New Wine. Alternatively, if you are looking for something a bit quieter, how about a retreat (ask Catherine) or a pilgrimage, such as one of the several organised Camino de Santiago walks (speak to Steve Schneider or Celeste ... see below).

Your next holiday is just a booking away. Why not make it one where you can engage with our Lord and in the company of other lovely Christian folk? Interested? Maria and I would love to talk with you about Richmond.

Link: [Richmond Holidays - Quality Christian Holidays](#)

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

In October, Celeste Loots walked the Portuguese Camino, following the so-called Central Route and the Spiritual Variant. Celeste writes:

My desire to walk the pilgrim route to Santiago arose years ago in Cape Town after watching a short film about the Camino de Francés. The Camino to Santiago de Compostela started in the 9th century after the remains of St James, brother of John, were found and transported to Galicia in Spain, as that was where he was preaching at the end of his life. There are stories and paintings of how his remains were transported and taken by boat from Vilanova de Arousa to Padron, passing three crosses on the estuary reminiscent of the crucifixion of Jesus at Golgotha (see appendix).

We went on this spiritual route via a monastery in Armentiera, where we stayed and went to a beautiful evensong service with the nuns who gave a pilgrims' blessing in eight different languages. Our route started in Porto, Portugal, and progressed up the Central Route through the beautiful towns of Barcelos, where we were told the story about a rooster crowing as predicted to prove the innocence of a man whose life was then saved by St James at the gallows; to Ponte da Lima, which has a beautiful old Roman bridge and tree-lined walkway, followed the next day by a steep ascent to Rubaiés, down to Aqualonga and Valencá overnight, then across the bridge to Spain at Tui, walking onto O' Porrino and enjoying the local tapas and music in the evening. Then another day with a steep ascent to Redondela, with beautiful views of the bay walking towards Pontevedra,



stopping for a long lunch off route at an authentic Spanish restaurant full of local people enjoying life, before moving onto the Spiritual Route. It was very hot in the afternoons, so a quick dip in the sea at Vilanova de Arousa was welcome. After the boat trip to Padron we rejoined the Central Route for a short walk (11km) and stopover at Ruá da Francos before our last day to Santiago, when we started in the dark to make the 12-noon service.



I walked about 200km of the Camino, plus another 60km extra around towns in the evenings in 12 days, which was more doable than I could have imagined, because I was spurred on by my friends and the goal of completing each leg of the journey. We stayed in various hostels and apartments, with a highlight at Casa da Fernanda, where the hosts made a delicious dinner with wine for 18 pilgrims, then the guitar came out, played by yours truly, and we sang and bonded, singing songs from all the countries represented. There were also many morning coffee and breakfast/cake stops, where the crowd for the day congregated, and left with many calls of “Bom Camino” (in Portugal) or “Buen Camino”(in Spain).

A pilgrimage has a number of dimensions other than the hiking: following the sacred path walked by many to revere the disciples of Jesus; finding a deeper spiritual connection with God; working through grief or loss of loved ones or reflecting on the way forward in one’s life. However, I found that I walked more “in the now” daily: listening, seeing and feeling the beauty of my surroundings in nature, the vineyards, old villages, the architecture, beautiful churches and shrines, and making sure to look for the yellow arrows/signs to follow the path; aiming not to rush, but absorb all I could. There were some stops at churches where I experienced a wonderful sense of God’s presence, or a spiritual energy while I prayed or sat in silence. There wasn’t that much time to think about the future, although my friends and I did discuss our reasons for doing the Camino. We spoke to various pilgrims along the way, but not as many as I expected. But there were special moments: hearing a couple praying in sequence while walking; men helping their wives with their sore feet; local people leaving refreshments outside their houses and crossing paths with a young man from Brazil whose parents travelled over to join him for the cathedral service.

I was awed by the Pilgrim's Mass with communion in Santiago Cathedral, shared with hundreds of other pilgrims in a packed church. The final service we attended was in English in a little chapel at the Pilgrim's Credential Office. It was very meaningful and led by a wonderfully eloquent and caring priest, who summed up the whole Camino experience in a way that touched us all. My last day travelling home was very delayed but gave me time to reflect and come to the firm conviction that God will always be with me and where He is, is where I should aim for. As the priest said: "The destination is Jesus, He is the Way!" The Camino was an unforgettable experience that I am thankful to have had the opportunity to do.

Celeste sent several lovely photos and asked me to select some. How was I supposed to do this? So I have included several more at the end of this edition.

Church Wheelie Bins



Frustratingly, we often find that items are in the wrong bins. If we don't get this right, there is the risk of contaminating the whole collection (not just our bins) and rubbish not being disposed of correctly. Please make every effort to put rubbish in the correct bins:

- Green Bin** Recycling, in particular hard plastics, cardboard, clean paper, clean aluminium foil, cans, glass, but not plastic film
- Brown Bin** Dead flowers and greenery only, not paper or plastic film
- Black Bin** Everything else, except food waste
- Green Cady** Food waste



Write an Article for Pews News

The Editor (Stephen) would welcome articles from the congregation which relate to our Church Family or our Christian Faith. If you have something which you think would be suitable, please speak to me (StephenJHaywood@outlook.com). In the meantime, I will be picking on people to contribute.

More Photos from Celeste's Camino

