



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Pews News

July 2026

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

From Catherine, our Vicar

Welcome to July!

The last couple of months have flown by for me ... I'm looking forward to finding out how they have been for you. Thank you all so much for your prayers, good wishes, cards and gifts, while I have been off work. I am very grateful for you all. I am recovering slowly, but surely – the lingering effect of the infection that caused the gallbladder inflammation and pain is harder to recover from than the surgery – and I am delighted to be back amongst you. I'm very grateful to Phil Sutton and Stephen Coe and everyone who has stepped in to help out in my absence and I'm grateful for all those who continue to bless us by their ministry, particularly as my recovery is ongoing.

I want to reflect on something very personal this month – I hope you don't mind. I've been reflecting on where I saw (and didn't see) God at work while I was in hospital.

I needed to go north to see my 91-year-old father at the end of April, after he was taken into hospital after a fall and discovered to have pneumonia. Almost as soon as I came home from finding a place in a care home for dad's discharge from hospital, I developed such a bad pain in my stomach that I couldn't sleep. The GP sent me straight to the JR surgical assessment unit, where I was examined and told it was probably gallstones, but they had no ultrasound slots available for four days, so I was sent home with strong pain killers.

On the Monday, I went back in and the ultrasound showed that my gallbladder was very enlarged and inflamed, so I was admitted ready for surgery to remove the gallbladder. Every day that week I was told that I was on the list for emergency surgery and not to eat or drink anything. Every day, after lunch or late afternoon I was told that they couldn't fit me in. During that week, the pain became excruciating and the hospital staff struggled to manage my pain – I couldn't sleep, eat, keep food down or talk. Morphine had little or no effect. The nurses just reassured me cheerfully that after my gallbladder was removed I wouldn't be in any pain, but didn't try to find anything to help manage the pain I was currently in. Finally on the Friday morning, when I couldn't speak or move because of the pain, the chaplain came to visit me for a second time, assuming that I had had the surgery and wanting to find out how I was recovering. She was shocked to see that I was still waiting for surgery and in so much pain. "This is wrong," she said and went to talk to the medical staff. Later that morning the anaesthetist came to visit me and I was finally taken into surgery. The operation was successful and the surgeon called round the next day to say that it was a particularly nasty gallbladder!

I'm still reflecting on that week, which was the hardest week, physically, of my life. The pain was the worst I have ever experienced, despite having given birth to three children and having rheumatoid arthritis, and I felt very vulnerable, unheard and alone. There was a stark contrast between the nurses' blithe reassurances that after the operation I would be pain-free and the chaplain's outrage and intervention on my behalf. But what the nurses said was factually correct – the pain did stop after the op. The problem was not knowing when I would eventually make it to the top of the list and get to theatre, not knowing how long I would have to bear the pain for.

I'm struck by the reassurances of heaven that we have in the bible (John 3.16 and 14.2, Luke 23.43, Revelation 21.1-4 etc). When life is hard it can be very reassuring to know that after death or on the final day we will stand before God's throne of grace, face to face with the God who loves us so much, knowing that finally, justice and mercy will triumph, that there will be peace and no more crying or pain, and that we will be reunited with all God's people who have gone before us.

But it's very important to know that God does not leave us alone until that time, to bear the pains of life alone, without help. He sent his beloved Son, Jesus, to show us how much he loves us, to die the most excruciating death on the Cross, so that we can know there is no pain so great in which God is unwilling to join us ... to bear with us. God also gives us his Holy Spirit to live in us and to connect us to his love and guidance and forgiveness. And we have Jesus at God's right hand, interceding for us (Romans 8.34). We are always on God's mind and in God's heart and God longs for us to reach out in prayer – with our hopes and fears, our outrage, despair and joy, our thanks and requests. When we come to God with all that we are, with everything on our hearts and minds, God meets us with everything that he is ... and that is worship.

It's an understandable prayer that we will not experience the pains of life, but the reality is that pain is part of life. So, my prayer now is that even when we are in pain, of whatever kind, we will know Jesus alongside us, carrying the pain with us and for us, giving us his grace and the peace, strength, healing and assurance of his presence and, ultimately, the promise of heaven. And that we can be God's listening ear, his voice, his hands and feet as we accompany and minister to others in pain, as the chaplain was to me.

God bless you all richly.

Love, Catherine

John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 14.2

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

Luke 23.43

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Revelation 21.1-4

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Romans 8.34

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Fete 2026

This and other photos, with thanks to Peter Rivers.

We'll have more photos in next month's Pews News.





July Services

Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Sun	5 Jul	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Morning Worship 10.30 Children's Church	Speaker – Stephen Coe Speaker – Stephen Coe
Sun	12 Jul	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 All-Age Service	Speaker – Phil Sutton Speaker – Catherine Schneider
Sun	19 Jul	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Morning Worship 10.30 Children's Church	Speaker – Phil Sutton Speaker – Phil Sutton
Sun	26 Jul	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Family Communion 10.30 Children's Church	Speaker – Catherine Schneider Speaker – Catherine Schneider

Regular Events

Weekday	8.00 Morning Prayer on Zoom	
Wednesdays *	11.00 Petypher House Bible Study Group	* 1 st Wednesday in month
Wednesdays **	14.30 Wednesday Afternoon Fellowship	** 1, 15 & 29 Jul
Wednesdays	19.30 Wednesday Fellowship Group	
Thursdays	09.00 KBS Café at the Village Hall, closes 12.00	
Fridays	10.30 Fizzy Coffee	

Special Events

Thu	16 Jul	13.00 Funeral for June Weatherall
Fri	24 Jul	19.00 Film Club – <i>please pre-book</i>
Sat	25 Jul	10.30 Pilgrimage Walk – <i>see details below</i>

June Weatherall

Sadly, our friend June died recently. Her **funeral** will be at Church on **Thursday 16 July at 1pm**.

Events



Village Pilgrimage 25th July 2026

10.30-11am. Gather at St John the Baptist Church, Kingston Bagpuize - introductions and short reflection

11.30am-12 noon. St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield – short reflection

1.15-2.15pm. St Denys' Church, Northmoor - lunch and short reflection

3.45-4.30pm. St Margaret's Church, Longworth – tea and cake, and short reflection

5-5.45pm. Opportunity for refreshments at the *Waggon and Horses*

BBQ at vicarage from 6pm onwards

Everyone welcome! Total length of walk 10 miles - or just walk a section.

Interested non-walkers are welcome to join us for refreshments and reflections.



Please let Revd Catherine Schneider know if you're coming for any part of the walk, and any dietary requirements, on vicar.kbs@gmail.com or 07865 827679.

Remember water, sunscreen and a hat (or raincoat)!

Nick Weldon, Vicar of All Saints, Marcham writes:

We are delighted to extend an invitation to an evening event in July at All Saints Church, Marcham:

The Unseen Realm: a biblical understanding of angels, demons, and the spiritual realm

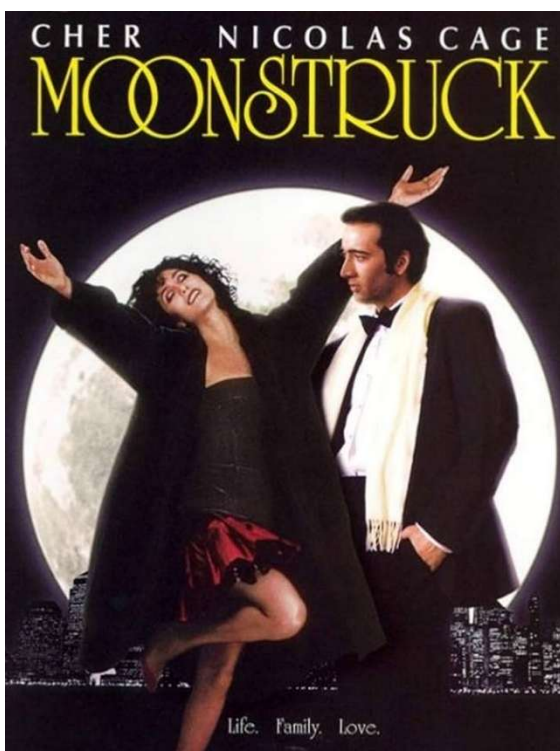
A seminar presentation by the **Revd Phil Rowlandson** (curate at All Saints Marcham)

Thursday 2nd July 7.30-9pm, All Saints Marcham

Phil has been studying the topic at Oak Hill College this term and will be sharing some of his learning. Join us to explore what the Bible teaches about the spiritual forces of good and evil, how that might help us understand stories of supernatural phenomena today, and how Christ's victory over sin and death provides the best lens with which to engage with such things.



Film and Music Night



Our next film will be on **Friday 24th** in the Church Room, 7pm for a 7.15 start. It is **Moonstruck**, a romantic comedy starring Cher and Nicholas Cage. Cher plays Loretta, an Italian widow who finds love through the intervention of the Manhattan moon! With her wedding to a close friend just weeks away, she meets – and falls hopelessly in love with – his younger brother played by Nicholas Cage. What could possibly go wrong? Do join us to find out!

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 01865 820805 and
 Margo 01865 820900 margoevans@mac.com

Memories of the Village Fete – Saturday 27th June



My Journey of Faith

Jenny Carter writes:

Being brought up in a Christian family I can't remember a time when I haven't known that God loves me, has saved me and is always with me, for which I am so very thankful. Over the years, my faith gradually became more personal to me, as I learnt from different people along the way. The youth camp at Lee Abbey was a formative part of my Christian journey, where I was taught more of who Jesus is, first as a camper myself and then seeing the practical outpouring of Jesus' love as part of the team running camp. Lee Abbey camp (now called The Field) was my spiritual home for about 20 summers! It was there that my faith deepened through Bible studies and epilogues as well as through friendships formed with lots of laughter and silliness, as we cheered each other on through the woodsmoke, cooking meals for the camp over an open fire and in wood fired ovens.

Friends at university in Cardiff, having the benefit of good churches with superb Bible teaching and attending conferences like *Word Alive* have helped to deepen my knowledge of the Bible. I have always taken great comfort in many of the Psalms. Those close to me know that I can easily find many things to worry about, every moment, of every day! I love the Psalms which talk of God's sovereign power, of his presence with me and his redeeming love. At pivotal moments of my life, I can remember having words of Psalms on repeat in my head! Psalm 121 "I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from" has always been a favourite. With growing up in South Wales and then living on the border of Wales (being able to see Snowdon on very clear days, from the window of the classroom in which I taught) ... mountains have been an important symbol for me of God's awesome presence and power which I know is with me each day.

Sung worship has always been an important way for me to express my faith – that must be the Welsh genes! I love songs and hymns which express biblical truths and God's promises that I know I can wholly depend on. Being out in nature, I can't help but be thankful for all the blessings that God has given. When holidaying in Cornwall, and walking the coast path with rocky coves, beautiful wildflowers and glistening seas (when the rain clouds have cleared of course), I often find myself singing a well-loved worship song or hymn!

Looking back over my life, I can see God's hand at work, providing for me in so many ways that I wasn't aware of at the time. I believe that he made me and he knows me; he knows what I need. Because of this, I know that I can trust my future in his hands. He is working his purposes out and I just need to be willing to join in. Although I have been a Christian all my life, I am still very much a work-in-progress, a stubborn lumpy ball of clay at the potter's wheel. I am eternally thankful for God's grace and forgiveness, for his patience with me, picking me up and setting me back on the path again so that I can continue on the journey.

It would be great to hear from you about your faith journey. Please speak to the Editor.

Thanks

THANKS to **everyone** who helped with the **Village Fete**, especially the **Committee** who have been on the job for months: **Ian Belloch, Hazel Brennan, Catherine Christensen, Margo Evans, Maria Haywood, Petra Merne, Corrinna Thomson & Bethany Willett.**



THANKS to **Poul Christensen** for wielding his drill, screwdriver and wrench to expertly to

- Install a new **Notice Board**.
- Re-engineer the **Piano Trolley** so that the Piano won't fall off when we wheel it up the aisle. Subsequently it was given a coat of paint.
- Re-install the **Hand Rail** more securely by the Ramp.



Ho Ho

Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.

From "The Ultimate Christmas Cracker" by John Julius Norwich.

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 particular, I would like to receive input from you as to:

Meeting God in the Summer or Meeting God on Holiday

Copy date for August edition is **Sunday 26 July.**