



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Pews News

August 2026

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

From Catherine, our Vicar

An Attitude of Gratitude

We've got to that time of year when we see crops in the fields ripening and being harvested, and all the "grown in UK" fruit available in the shops – those delicious strawberries and raspberries and plums. The fruit on my apple tree isn't ready yet, but harvest is a long season, celebrated right into October. I wonder what produce you are particularly enjoying?

Being thankful is a basic human attribute, capable of improving our mental and heart health, but sometimes we need reminding to practice this "attitude of gratitude". Harvest is a good time to check in with ourselves about what we appreciate in our lives and so often take for granted – the food and clean water we have, the roof over our head, the support of our family and friends, the skills and abilities we have. We can take that a step further and consider to whom we are thankful: the farmers and shop workers, who ensure we have the food we need; the parents who gave us life; our loved ones; teachers at school; the people in our lives who have nurtured us, believed in us and fostered our gifts and who care for us. And, ultimately, for all these things, we offer our thanks and praise to God, who creates and sustains this world that he loves so much; who is intimately invested in us and all our cares, hopes and dreams; who is interested in us; and whose care we experience directly sometimes, and often through the kindness of the people around us, as well as through the beauty and richness of the natural world, depleted though it is by humanity, yet capable of God's redemption. And having been grateful for what we have, we can look around at how we can support those who need our help. This season, I encourage you to celebrate and give thanks for the good things we have been given, and to pass on that goodness.

Love, Catherine

Prayer

Faithful, loving God, at harvest time I pause to remember your goodness. Thank you for the beauty of your creation, the kindness of others, and the hope you give me in every season of my life. Help me to hold onto that gratitude, even during hard times, and to share that hope with other people. Amen

All-Age Harvest Celebration

Our All-Age Harvest Celebration on the **Millennium Green** is on **Sunday 30th August at 10.30**. This will be followed by games, and a **bring-your-own picnic** together. You are warmly invited to come and join us as we celebrate and give thanks. Bring a **rug or chair**. Please invite friends and family too!





August Services

Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Sun	2 Aug	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Morning Worship 10.30 Children's Church	Speaker – Stephen Haywood Speaker – Stephen Haywood
Sun	9 Aug	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 All-Age Service	Speaker – Phil Sutton Speaker – Catherine Schneider
Sun	16 Aug	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Morning Worship [1]	Speaker – Catherine Schneider Speaker – Catherine Schneider
Sun	23 Aug	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Village Communion 10.30 Children's Church	Speaker – Phil Sutton Speaker – Phil Sutton
Sun	30 Aug	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 All-Age Harvest Celebration [2]	Speaker – Stephen Coe 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	** 12 Aug
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

Sat	1 Aug	09.00 Churchyard Gardening – <i>see details below</i>
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[1] No Children's Church on 16 Aug.

[2] **All-Age Harvest Celebration** on the Millennium Green – *see details above*

Fete 2026

Despite hot weather, we estimate 1400 people came and we raised more money than last year ... we are still waiting for dust to settle, so that we can understand the income more precisely.

Well done and Thank you to everyone who helped on the Friday and Saturday, as well as in the run up in the months before.



CHURCHYARD GARDENING MORNING

Saturday 1st August, 9am - 12noon

It may be dry and hot, but it is a great time to tidy up the flowerbeds, clear around the church entrances and keep the weeds off the dry-stone walls.

Do please put this date in your diary now

Whether you are up for some gentle weeding and trimming of the lavender, or a good bit of yanking the ivy and nettles from the entrance way, there will be jobs that all can do.

Many hands will make light work, and we will enjoy refreshments and fellowship at the same time.

***Please pop along for as much as you can manage
& bring your gardening gloves, secateurs, forks
and loppers***

Many Thanks

Simon Dando & Maria Haywood, Fabric Team

Film & Music Night

Margo Evans writes:

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. We have had a waiting list for the last few months, as we have limited capacity, but it is great to see a full Church Room. We are having a break in August but we will be back on September 11th with another Film. Enjoy the summer and keep cool if you can.

KBS Café

Caroline Ashby writes:



The KBS Café takes place every Thursday morning from 9 to 12am at the Southmoor Village Hall.

It is a place to meet friends and make new friends. Everyone is welcomed and if they don't know anyone they are introduced to others in the Café, who always make newcomers feel at home. It is a place to relax and chat and if anyone has problems, they would like to discuss in private there is always someone ready to listen and help if they can.

This is a community café run by St John the Baptist Church, so prices are reasonable. We serve

- Tea – normal and decaf, as well as herbal teas
- Coffee – normal and decaf, as well as cappuccino
- Hot chocolate
- Squash
- Homemade cheese scones, cakes – normal and gluten-free

Our age range is from 0 to 100+ and everyone is welcome. Our aim is to make this café a friendly and welcoming place where people can relax and be themselves.

We are friends you haven't yet met 😊

For more information, please speak to the Café Managers: Caroline Ashby and Ruth Hastings ... or Stephen Haywood.

Extra Help for Children's Work

Catherine writes:

We currently offer **Children's Church** three Sundays each month, so families with young children are welcome and have activities tailored for them every week, with our **All-Age service**, too. Children's Church is greatly appreciated by the families who come and is a great time of fun and learning. The aim is to have each Children's Church leader or helper on duty one Sunday each month, except over the summer, when we have a break. However, some of our current Children's Church team are juggling demanding jobs and childcare alongside leading or helping at Children's Church, and they cannot always commit to one Sunday a month. It's important not to overload our ministry teams, so to support our Children's Church team, we are looking for one or two people to come alongside our existing team and help or lead one Sunday each month. No experience is necessary and training (including safeguarding training) is provided. You would start with a gentle helping role, and then as you grow in confidence, you could offer some input into the leadership of the session if you would like. Please speak to me or Leon, if this is something God is nudging you towards. We are required to follow good safeguarding practice, so if you are doing this for the first time we would ask for two referees and we would apply for a DBS certificate for you.

Similarly, we would be grateful for some extra help with **Messy Church**. This year we are having three Messy Church sessions over the year: we had one on Palm Sunday, we will have another "Messy Church"-type event at Harvest at the end of August and a third (Messy Christingle) on 6th December. The commitment is occasional but greatly valued, and training and support is provided, as with Children's Church. If you would like to be involved with these fun and friendly events open to everyone in the village please let me know.

More details for both of these activities are in the adverts at the end of this edition of Pews News.



Archiving our Church History

As a church, we generate various documents which need to be kept. These include record of services, baptisms, marriages, funerals, as well as documents pertaining to the activities of the PCC. To look after these safely, documents are taken to the **Royal Berkshire Archives in Reading**.

On Tuesday 21st July, our Churchwarden, Maria, took several boxes of books and folders, some of which have entries dating back to 1800. The Archives will store the documents, digitising the births, marriages and deaths to facilitate people tracing their families.

Here is Maria with the Senior Archivist in Reading, Ellie Thorne.

Walking with God on the Camino de Santiago

Emily Bisset writes:

The Camino de Santiago de Compostela – The Way of St James – is steeped in tradition, covered in prayer, and trodden by thousands across the centuries. This 780 km journey, once forgotten, has experienced a revival over the last 30-40 years. Now, thousands tread its paths every year, following its iconic yellow sign posts for all kinds of reasons, searching for all kinds of answers.

Around ten years ago, I found myself walking and serving on a part of the Camino, in Galicia. I had signed up to join a small group put together by *24-7 Prayer*, an organisation I'd got to know while at university, and led by a formidable pair: Aitor, a Spaniard and Senior Leader in the Spanish division of *24/7 Prayer*, and Miguel, a Mexican, who at the time was Director of the Alpha Course in Spain.



So, I flew to Spain, alone, to meet an international group of strangers at Santiago airport before getting a taxi up to the hilltop town of O'Cebreiro to begin our walk. Though I arrived knowing no one, I quickly slotted into our multilingual team of volunteers. We were going to spend four days walking part of the Camino, followed by a week volunteering in one of the Camino's albergues (hostels), La Fuente del Peregrino (the pilgrim's spring) – more on La Fuente another time.

As a French and Italian speaker (and Spanish and Romanian sort-of speaker) and as someone who has lived abroad several times, walking alongside these pilgrims from across Europe (and the world) was what I would call "my jam". I listened to anecdotes, asked questions, and skipped small-talk to hear life stories, and switched languages more often than I stopped walking. Miguel and Aitor led us on devotions based on the Lord's Prayer as we set off each morning, and we reflected each day on how we had seen God move. I loved the team I was in and I loved being there. I knew it was the right thing for me at the right time.

But on my third day on the Camino, I found myself facing a challenge. The ache had set in, my feet were sore, and my legs felt like they were made of stone. But that wasn't my biggest challenge. On that day, Miguel and Aitor had asked us to spend the day walking individually, and to try to remain silent, meditating on John 10: 4, "When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice." I had signed up for a spiritual journey; after all it was organised by an international prayer organisation. But I felt uncomfortable about the call to silence, afraid to miss out on all of the riches of conversation on the Camino. I set off our hostel in Sarria somewhat grumpily, in the darkness of the cool morning hours, resenting our task for the day.

As the day progressed it grew into the most meaningful of the trip. As I walked, still allowing myself the odd “Buen Camino” (have a good walk) and to briefly explain that I was walking in silence, God began to speak. First, meditating on the verse from John 10, I felt God saying to me that knowing his voice and listening to him takes the pressure off.

As on the other says walking the Camino, I often followed the person in front of me, and so did not have to worry about the twists and turns of the route; with God I had someone to follow, who knows me well, whom I can trust. He would show me where to go in life; I did not need to worry as I so often did.

Then, when, despite my aching limbs, I found myself naturally trying to keep up with those around me, I felt God gently urging me to walk at my own pace; not just on the Camino but in life. At the time I was walking, in my late twenties, it felt like everyone around me was ahead of me: friends were getting married, buying houses, being promoted. Deep in my soul, I felt afraid of being left behind, that I wasn’t “doing it right”, that I needed to run and strive and hang on by my fingertips to try and keep up.

As God spoke to me, what I received was a profound invitation to slow down, to notice what was going on in my body and my life, and to be where I was. Continuing in my Camino, winding through the lush, green Galician countryside, I allowed the people with whom I had silently been competing to overtake me. At first it felt uncomfortable to watch them pass as I hobbled along, but then it felt freeing: it was not a race, life is not a race.

Finally, I saw God provide, in and through me:

As I started to get thirsty, another pilgrim ... unprompted ... showed me somewhere where I could fill my water bottle. As I started to get hungry, someone passed with a bag of apples and offered me one. Nearing the end of the day, I passed a French lady in her 80s, who had been walking the Camino for almost three months from France. She was accompanied by a group of Spanish teenagers, who were trying to explain a song they were singing to her. Both she and they looked baffled and frustrated. I felt a nudge from God to break from my silence momentarily to attempt to help to translate for them. My Spanish was very much at a baby-stage, but pulling together my knowledge of French and Italian and making guesses at the Spanish they were speaking, I managed to get across the meaning to this lady. They were all delighted, and I felt privileged to have been able to be a vessel.

God knew what I needed: what I needed, in those exact moments. And He provided with abundance; there was more than enough. I arrived at Portomarin in the early afternoon, crossing the majestic river, exhausted but deeply joyful. My silence for the day had not changed God; He was and is always working, providing, speaking. But it had given me the gift of noticing and receiving. It was beautiful and rich and deep. It remains perhaps one of the most profound days of my life.



The KBS Pilgrimage

With photos from the Pews News Photographer and Peter Rivers, Stephen Haywood writes:



For several years, **Celeste Loots** had wanted to take us on a pilgrimage walk. She'd organised shorter walks in the past, but wanted something longer, deeper, special. So she teamed up with Pilgrim-par-excellence, **Steve Schneider**, and Steve was on friendly terms with a vicar who could provide extra spiritual input. Everything was set ...

On Saturday 25th July, 18 of us plus one dog met. In our own church, **Catherine** led us in some words of preparation, as we addressed the one who leads us through life:

We have come to seek you.

To listen to you.

To travel with you.

To worship you.

With the dust of life's journey on our feet and the checklist of daily tasks still teeming in our mind, we come to settle ourselves in your presence and honour you above all else.

We set off, each with a small bottle of water and a squirrel bar, trusting in the Lord's provision. Having successfully crossed the A420, we walked to our first stop at **St Nicholas, Fyfield**. Here we were welcomed by our friend **Alyson Grove**, with water and life-saving coffee. We viewed the Memento Mori of John Golafre – a stone skeleton (*see left*). Steve observed that the chap needed more pies. The Pews News Reporter, close to starvation knew how Golafre felt and may have ended up looking the same had it not been for his squirrel bar. **Catherine** spoke again, reminding us that we are a travelling people, followers of the Way. We do not walk through life alone, but with Jesus' reassurance that "I am with you always."





Refreshed, we walked down to the river, and crossed the Rainbow Bridge, making our way across dried-out fields to **St Denys', Northmoor**. There we were greeted by a picnic provided by Vicky Saywell ... a spread not far short of the *Feeding of the 5000*. As well as a lovely assortment of fresh sandwiches, there was quiche, crisps, fruit, and four (yes four!) different types of homemade cake. Indeed the Lord did provide ... he gave us **Vicky!** **Steve Schneider** led us in an Ignatian Meditation, based on another famous walk ... along the Road to Emmaus. Steve encouraged us to shut our eyes and imagine we were walking with Cleopas and encountering the Risen Lord.



Eleven of us set off for Longworth, walking past the Rose Revived and Maybush – alas no time for quick drink. We walked along the river and then over Harrowdown Hill. Exhausted, our weary walkers were revived with drinks and cake provided by friends at **St Margaret's, Longworth**. **Talisker MacLeod** reminded us that the Church is a source of stability in the life of communities and that in Jesus' presence, we are "Loved & held. There is nowhere else we need to be." We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Finally, five determined travellers (Steve S, Corrinna, Maggie, Andre and one other) hobbled back to KBS. Steve clearly had not had enough exercise, so he ran from the pub back to the Vicarage for his next assignment.

Back at the Vicarage, people gathered – the weary ... and the not-so-weary. Having earlier experienced the *Feeding of the 5000*, this was the follow-up: the *Feeding of the 4000*. With the freshness of an eager puppy, **Steve** joined **Poul Christensen** at the BBQ while salads and other goodies miraculously appeared. At least 34 members of the congregation enjoyed a relaxed evening together with great food and good company.



So now a BIG THANKS to:

- Celeste, Steve and Catherine for planning a wonder pilgrimage.
- Friends at Fyfield, Northmoor & Longworth for their welcome and refreshments.
- Catherine, Steve & Talisker for inspiring us.
- Vicky for an amazing picnic.
- All the walkers for providing good company.
- Catherine & Steve for their hospitality at the Vicarage.
- Everyone who brought scrumptious food to the BBQ and to Poul for slaving over a hot grill.



Ho Ho

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement on Friday.

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

At the end of the Fete, Hazel refused to leave her water-hole.



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 23 August.**

Sunday School – Children’s Church

We’d love more Children’s Church Helpers:

Leaders and helpers

At St John the Baptist, KBS, everyone is welcome - including children and young people of all ages. We are further developing (and hoping to increase) activities for children which will make them feel safe and loved and will complement and enhance the faith development which takes place at home. We are a church seeking to know Jesus more and more and to become more Christlike, sharing our faith through fun and friendship, and that is also our aim for Children's church.

We are committed to protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults and follow the Church of England Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance.

Responsibility

Reverend Catherine Schneider has responsibility for appointing the leaders and helpers.

Role Description

The Children’s Church Leader will organise and oversee the session. It will be held three times a month at present, though it may run more often depending on volunteers. It is held during the Sunday Service in the Church Room. Leaders are encouraged to use online resources, for example those from Diddy Disciples which is very helpful in providing ideas and a good time saver. [Diddy Disciples | Sharon Moughtin-Mumby](#)

Traditionally the group has been for primary school aged children, but younger children can come with a parent. This has been a popular addition.

The Sunday School Helper will assist the leader which could include bringing a craft or game to the session.

Volunteers may also help with other events such as Messy Church or Christmas events if they are willing.

Leaders and helpers will be aware of and follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy. They will complete the required safeguarding training and hold the appropriate level of DBS. They will follow the code for safer working practice which can be found in the volunteers’ pack.

Once a volunteer has been appointed to a role, training will be provided and there will be a preliminary review after 3-6 months (depending on the role) and then annual reviews. Volunteers are invited to share ideas about how we might develop areas of ministry.

Person Specifications

The volunteer will have good interpersonal skills, be friendly and approachable and be able to safely manage the children’s activities. They will have completed Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training and be available Sunday mornings at least alternate months (helpers). They will have some previous experience with children and if possible, experience of children’s work. They will have a Christian faith.

Leaders will be available monthly or more often if possible.

Parish Role: Messy Church Helper

We'd love more Messy Church Helpers:

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to immediately raise this with your Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or Assistant DSA.

Those who work with children, young people and/or adults who are vulnerable should have a commitment to:

- Treat individuals with respect
- Recognise and respect their abilities and potential for development
- Working in ways that meet and develop the personal, spiritual, social and pastoral needs
- Promote their rights to make their own decisions and choices, unless it is unsafe
- Ensure their welfare and safety
- The promotion of social justice, social responsibility and respect for others
- Confidentiality, never passing on personal information, except to the person you are responsible to, unless there are safeguarding issues of concern which **must always** be reported to the person named above or to the Police or Social Services in an emergency.

Role	Messy Church Helper
Responsible to	Rev Catherine Schneider
Key Responsibilities of the Role (tasks to be undertaken)	
As a volunteer: • Be timely • Set up craft materials • Set up food and drink • Create space for children and adults to talk, both formally and informally • Be aware of any health and safety matters that may affect the group and take appropriate action • Be responsible for one activity/group • Help clear away at the end of the session • Attend quarterly team planning meetings • Work under the leadership and supervision of the activity co-ordinator • Read the parish's safeguarding policy and know how to respond to, report and record any concerns you may have about a child • Read and implement any other PCC policies or guidelines relevant to your work with children • Undertake diocesan safeguarding training every three years	
Any arrangements for induction, training & support	
• Safeguarding training every three years • Attend a session of training with Messy Church Leader • Meet with other Messy Church helpers to plan sessions together • Attend one-to-one meeting with Messy Church Leader for review	

Any practical arrangements relevant to the role (e.g. process for paying expenses, times role should be carried out, provision of equipment)

- Receipts for resources to be submitted to Treasurer via Messy Church Leader for reimbursement
- Messy Church may be in the Village Hall at 10.30am (on 5th Sundays) or on the Millennium Green in the summer.

Role to be reviewed

Initially after 3-6 months and then annually

The role is eligible for a criminal record (DBS) check which is renewable every three years

Yes

Safeguarding Training Level

Basic and Foundation

Level of criminal record (DBS) check which is required for this role

Enhanced – child workforce