



Insight

MP
C ♥

Encountering God's Love

Easter 2024

Special points of interest:

- Moulton Festival—Show window into church
- Meet Bishop Rob Munro
- Thank you and Goodbye from the Lambert family
- Youth Weekend Away
- Grandparenting for Faith
- Light up the World
- Knowing You—Pauline Riley

Inside this issue:

Meet Bishop Rob Munro 3

Goodbye from the Lamberts 4

Youth Weekend Away 5

Prayers of Love & Faith 6-9

Grandparenting for Faith 14

Transformative Power of Prayer 15

Knowing You: 18

MOULTON FESTIVAL 2024—A ‘shop window’ into church

I wonder if you have ever walked past a shop, been attracted by what is on offer and gone for a browse.... And you’ve ended up buying something.

Or maybe you’ve gone into a department store to use the loo and ended up coming out with something you didn’t expect to buy?

In my time in Moulton I have come to see our participation in Moulton Festi-



val a bit like that. *It’s one of our ‘shop window’ moments of the year.*

To keep the shopping metaphor going, the ‘footfall’ we have had since the pandemic has been pretty mind blowing: hundreds of people - many of whom wouldn’t normally set foot in a church, entering the building for a cup of tea/

coffee and a piece of cake, getting a warm welcome, being entertained with music and children’s activities...and going a way with a smile on their face and a positive memory of church.

In my time I’m pretty sure no one has actually become a Christian on the day but last year quite a lot of people came in contact with God through the prayer space...and we can trust God that he will use those contacts for



'Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God'

Romans 5:7

his purposes in the future. Having heard a story recently of someone who first came into contact with the church through Heroes Academy 20 years ago...and has just started doing Alpha and regularly attending church, I am very confident that God will use these efforts in his own time.

And this year we'd love to do a bit more of the same and a bit more. As well as the café we're hoping to have story time



for toddlers and kids praise in the church. Outside we're going to have inflatables and



games...and we hope to run an outdoor café too.

And what I'm really excited about is *the evangelistic queue for the loo!*

Yes, you heard me right. Last year we opened

the church centre as toilets for the festival and this year we want to turn that into an opportunity.

We're hoping to have a video display of the church activities.

Groups promoting their activities in the CC foyer ...and...my favourite idea...the Heroes Academy Sketch board in the queue.

Young people coming out to join the dots to make a Bible scene and someone giving one or two sentences about the scene. Shop window stuff.

Who knows what God could do with that.



If that's got your evangelistic juices flowing then do look out for the sign up sheet that will be on the welcome desk shortly after Easter.

We will need:

- Cake bakers
- Tea/coffee servers
- Welcomers
- Games assistants
- Loo cleaners
- Loo queue assistants
- Set up and take down teams
- AV team
- Story readers
- Heroes leaders

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to share the Gospel with the Village and beyond.

NICK ALEXANDER



Meet Bishop Rob Munro

As reported in the weekly email news earlier in the year, Bishop Rob Munro – the Bishop of Ebbsfleet - recently took responsibility for the pastoral and sacramental care of Moulton Parish Church. The appointment needs to be re-confirmed by the new Bishop of Peterborough, Debbie Sellin, however, we thought, in the meantime, it would be good to introduce Bishop Rob to you.



Born in Manchester, Rob was raised as an atheist and converted to Christianity as an 18 year old through the youth ministry of St. Mary's Cheadle the Church he later went on to serve as Rector. After a degree in Maths at Bristol University, he moved to London for two years to study at All Souls College of Applied Theology, while working part-time as a teaching assistant at All Souls school.

He went on to train as a teacher at Manchester University before working as a Maths and PE teacher in Hazel Grove, Greater Manchester.

He later trained for the ministry at Oak Hill Theological College in London and was ordained priest in 1994, serving his title at St John the Baptist, Hartford, in the Diocese of Chester. In 1997, he was appointed Rector of St Wilfrid, Davenham, and in 2003, he followed a calling to his post as Rector of St Mary's Cheadle with St Cuthbert's, where he served as Rector for nearly 20 years. During his time there he completed his doctorate from Reformed Theological Seminary, USA.

He has served on the Church of England's General Synod and is a member of the Dioceses' Commission.

He is married to Sarah. They have three adult children and a dog. He enjoys playing music , reading, playing computer games with the family and more recently wood-carving.



Bishop Rob will be conducting a confirmation service at MPC on 6 October at 6pm. This will be a great opportunity to meet Bishop Rob in person. If you are considering being confirmed, do be in touch with Nick Alexander.

Thank you and Goodbye

Hi Moulton Church,

We just want to say a huge thank you for the amazing send off you gave us on 11 February. It was just such a special day. It really felt like a celebration and we so loved being with you. We find it very sad to say goodbye to you. Thank you so much.



We are so grateful for the comments you wrote in the book that was made for us. That was one of the most special things that we were given.

Thank you too for gifts that were given to us and especially the effort that was put into that day—the lunch and all that went with it, and all that went with the service. We are so, so grateful.

We have really happy memories of the day. A huge thanks for those who have given towards the financial gift. We are so overwhelmed with that and thank you so much.

We miss you all and want to say bye from all of us here in Trowbridge.

Nick, Becca, Ben, Libby & Alfie



Youth Weekend Away

From the 23rd-25th February 2024, 27 youths, 10 leaders and 1 guest speaker ended up at the Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough, for what is becoming our annual Youth Weekend Away!

We love taking young people away, as it gives us so much time to form relationships, experience God together and go deep in our faith in a way that normal youth group doesn't allow us to. We had so much fun this weekend and did so much – including: an early morning walk for T3 (which all of them came on!?), climbing, archery, high ropes, making giant marble runs for Maltesers, making animal noises extremely loudly, eating the most delicious food (thanks Sophia and Helen!), playing football, campfire, doing lots of crafts and colouring (and more).

The main highlight was, however, the sessions on identity. It is so important that we talk about this with our young people – adolescence is the key identity formation phase in a human's life. Our young people are, in the 2020s, exposed to so many different messages and finding it so difficult to find a secure identity. The mental health, suicide (+ideation) and eating disorder statistics are through the roof at the

moment, and that is not just due to more awareness. Young people do not know who or whose they are. In our sessions, we spent time worshipping Jesus in song and split our Bible teaching into 4 parts: Genesis 1 (the original image, totally incredible), Genesis 2-3 (totally broken), Galatians 2 (totally accepted) and 1 John:1-3 (totally restored). Lou Thomas, our guest speaker from my previous church, spoke so powerfully from her testimony on the Saturday evening that I don't think there was a dry eye in the room. I have also never seen so many young people wanting to chat, hug and pray with a guest speaker after. It was so powerful, and freeing for our young people. Some young people were responding in Natalie's prayer spaces for around an hour afterwards.

Thank you so much for your prayers, thank you for your financial support and thank you to our unbelievable team who made this weekend possible in the first place: Laura Whitehead, Mike and Sophia Monk, Helen Minns, Donna Munday, Natalie English, Mark Maryan, Jael Brown, Amy Jenkins and of course Lou Thomas.



Here's some of the stuff the young people said on their feedback forms:

“I am loved and cared for.”

“Moving and real”

“I learnt that I should make my identity based on what I am and not what I do.”

“I have heard some heart touching speeches that are amazing.”

“[The sessions were] deeply thought, Lou was AMAZING.”

Please continue to pray for the follow up from this. Pray for the Holy Spirit's work in the young people's lives; that the young people would continue to grow in their identity in Christ and be transformed by him.

Pete Brown



Prayers of Love and Faith – Latest News

The following helpful summary of the proceedings of the most recent meeting of General Synod appeared recently on the Christian Concern website:

Ben John, a lay member of the Church of England’s General Synod, on the latest developments in the church’s plans to bless same-sex relationships

In the latest debate on the plan for blessing same-sex relationships, the Church of England’s General Synod decided to end the debate and instead voted to move to ‘Next Business.’

The vote, supported by both the liberals, who want the church to bless sinful same-sex relationships, and the evangelicals, who want to preserve the church’s biblical teaching, essentially told the bishops to do more work and come back with something better next time.

What are we to make of this?

The motion being debated was:

‘That this Synod welcome the further work carried out on Living in Love and Faith and the focus on reconciliation and bridge building; and ask that the proposal for a set of commitments through which the whole Church can continue to pursue the implementation of the motions previously passed by Synod on Living in Love and Faith, be brought back to Synod as soon as possible.’

The debate began on Monday evening with the Bishop of Leicester, +Martyn Snow, introducing the motion with a greater emphasis on reconciliation. He pushed for a ‘reset’ of the LLF debate, echoing the vision he and the Bishop of Newcastle (who has subsequently resigned because an evangelical was appointed as a Theological Advisor to the House of Bishops) had proposed in the Church Times: “**Living in love, faith – and reconciliation.**”

‘Love Matters’?

The debate came the day after a debate on the Families Commission report, *Love Matters*. Much has been written on the very serious flaws in the report; for example, Harry Benson of the Marriage Foundation wrote how it was “**a capitulation to our times.**”

An amendment by Synod lay member Dr Julie Maxwell was moved to emphasise the place of marriage **and was rejected.** The amendment was:

“reaffirm the value of marriage, especially when loving, as providing the most stable and permanent environment for bringing up children”

This amendment was accepted by the Bishop of Durham, who was bringing the overall motion about the *Love Matters* report to the Synod.^[1] There were only two speeches in the debate on the amendment; the speech against it raised concerns about how the amendment would make those in broken homes and families feel.

The amendment was voted on by hands, with marginally more opposition than support. It was close enough for the chair to say “I think that is lost.” One Synod member therefore asked for a counted vote, which caused some upset and the Bishop of Manchester, who was against the amendment, shouted “if we’re going to play this game let’s have a counted vote by houses.”

A counted vote by houses means that a vote has to pass by the Bishops, Clergy and Laity separately, not collectively, therefore making it harder to be accepted. You can watch the [vote here](#). When the Chair calls for the counted vote, you can hear the Bishop of Manchester.

When the counted vote by houses took place, the amendment was rejected in every house of the Synod. A majority of Clergy and Laity did not want the Synod to “reaffirm the value of marriage, especially when loving, as providing the most stable and permanent environment for bringing up children”, and the Bishops themselves couldn’t even decide, with 8 votes in favour and 8 against.

This was the backdrop going into the following day’s Living in Love and Faith debate.

Evangelical amendments

In the Living in Love and Faith debate there were a number of evangelical amendments that were proposed, two of which passed. The first replaced ‘welcome’ with ‘note’ and the second inserted after “bridge-building” *‘and welcome the greater emphasis on openness and transparency.’*

Significantly, Ed Shaw’s amendment to insert *“and acknowledge that for many in the Church of England, including members of General Synod, some of the issues raised are not matters on which they can simply agree to disagree”* was rejected. The Bishop of Leicester acknowledged that the amendment was a statement of fact, but did not want it included as it would ‘foster a spirit of despair.’

It was put to the vote and it was rejected by Synod, but only by a slim margin: 47% in favour, 53% against. This exposed the depth of disagreement in the Synod. In a written question ahead of the Synod, the Bishop of Leicester had acknowledged that “There is currently not agreement about what type or level of disagreement we are actually having, which contributes to difficulties in mapping out a way forward.”

Ed Shaw’s amendment sought to help identify the depth of disagreement, but the rejection of the amendment just seemed to prove the point.

Additionally, Rev. Charlie Skrine, Rector at All Souls Langham Place, proposed replacing the proposal that was in the motion with one that asked for *“proposals for a set of commitments together with a settlement based on legally secure structural provision.”*

This is currently the main strategy of the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC), which is trying to find a structural settlement to try and safeguard evangelical Anglicanism within the Church of England. Rev. Canon John Dunnett, the National Director of the CEEC, said [following the debate](#) that “we continue to call for a legal and structural settlement without theological compromise, which we believe is the only way forward.”

Move to next business

Before the final amendment could be debated, Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, a liberal archdeacon, proposed a motion to move to next business. This was overwhelmingly supported when put to the vote as evangelicals supported the motion.

What does this mean?

A move to next business can be interpreted in different ways and it is not entirely clear whether there is an objective way to evaluate it. Unlike, say, a motion that is rejected by a final vote, a move to next business can mean whatever you want it to mean.

Legally, a move to next business means that the question being debated cannot be reconsidered *“in the same form or in a form which is, in the opinion of the Business Committee, substantially similar within the remainder of the lifetime of the Synod, except with the permission of the Business Committee and the general consent of the Synod.”* [Standing Order 33.4.b]

This means, at a minimum, that the ‘set of commitments’ referred to in the original motion and which are **outlined in the paper given to Synod** cannot be brought back to Synod until after the next General Synod elections (in 2026).

This does not, however, mean that Living in Love and Faith cannot be brought back to Synod.

The Church Times **interpreted the move as** “a recognition that that there were many on both sides of the debate who felt that they would be better served by moving on to other discussions, and returning to LLF in July after further work had been done.”

In the CEEC statement, John Dunnett said that:

The decision taken by General Synod to move to next business [before the end of the debate] is demonstrative of widespread dissatisfaction with how the bishops have been progressing the LLF process. The one thing that Synod could largely agree on was that neither side could support the proposals that would emanate from the motion, as tabled at Synod. We believe that GS2346, as presented at Synod, is riddled with confusion and ambiguity, contains proposals we could never support, and outlines inadequate structural provision.

Significantly, the move to next business is also evidence that we cannot ‘square the circle’ in the debate, as currently framed. This issue is not adiaphora – we cannot agree to disagree.

The vote could perhaps be summarised as “we want the Bishop of Leicester to go away and do more work and give us something more substantial [whatever that means] before bringing it to Synod to be voted on.”

You can read a detailed summary of the debate and speeches online.

Where to next?

The Bishop of Leicester has interpreted the debate and the vote to move to next business as meaning that there is a **“clear mandate that the direction of travel is right.”** He has **promised** to work on “firm proposals for a settlement to enable the Church of England to move forward together amid deep differences on question of sexuality and marriage ... over the next few months.”

Commenting on the debate itself, the bishop said “We’ve had an opportunity for an open, thoughtful – and gracious – debate about how we might move forward together as a church in the next stage of the

implementing our decisions on Living in Love and Faith and the work of reconciliation amid our divisions.”

The push now from the CEEC is for a structural settlement, whilst liberals want the introduction of standalone same-sex blessings (which the Synod paper accompanying the debate highlight will be legally difficult to bring in).

Many have lamented that we are stuck in a dead end and that we need something big for liberals and evangelicals to be able to agree on a path forward.

I personally don't mind a dead end.

If we are in a dead end, that means there won't be further liberalisation. The issue is whether we have moved far enough from orthodoxy to warrant serious measures (such as the **alternative spiritual oversight** and **reallocation of funds** advocated by the CEEC).

Personally, yes. I think we do need to make use of these alternatives, but I am struggling to support a path that allows liberals to do what they want to do. I cannot bring myself to support a structural settlement that gives liberals autonomy to pursue gay marriage and who-knows-what.

We are in a tricky situation, because if we hold out and don't have structural separation then evangelicals will just wither – who will ordain ordinands if we do not have separate bishops or structures? What happens when evangelicals retire and bishops replace them with liberals?

These are big questions. Perhaps I am naïve in thinking we can hold out. At a minimum, I am happy that we have pushed back any vote or decision to July. That slows down the decline by at least a few months.

[1] When an amendment is accepted, it means that it goes straight to a debate on the amendment. If an amendment is rejected then 25 synod members need to stand in order for there to be a debate on the amendment. Generally, if the proposer of the motion accepts an amendment it is much more likely to pass when it is voted on.





Summary of Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Saturday 16 September 2023

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 19 June 2023 were approved.

Vicar's Business:

Laura Whitehead has been appointed to the role of Assistant Youth Worker.

Matters Arising:

The car parking Fair Use Policy has been approved.

Policies Review:

The PCC are continuing to review policies.

Finance Update:

A Gift Day is planned for October.

Building Matters:

The church projector and screen has been installed.

Feedback on Church Life:

The adult baptism service was amazing. A daytime homegroup reaching out to older folk started in September. The Youth Walk was well planned. A meeting for Women's Ministry was held in August. The use of thimbles at Communion has been well received.

Lynda Featley
PCC Secretary.

Summary of Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 13 November 2023

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 16 September 2023 were approved.

Matters Arising:

Eco Church-The strimming still needs to be done as this was not possible during the maintenance morning due to the weather. We are looking to install suitable bird feeders. A paper trail will be required before we apply for our next award. The church heating controls have been sorted.

Vicar's Business:

Nick Lambert has accepted a new position in Trowbridge, he is planning to move during February half term.
Logistics of Pete Collins' role need to be reconsidered: working from home part time, upgrading the IT and installation of a post box for administration.
New service leaders are Martyn and Angela Thompson, Laura Whitehead and Rachel Wild.
Anne Stanford has joined the visiting team.
Rachel Menon is to lead a term's teaching and training to support Kathy Morrison and Juliet Storey at the Women's Bible Study.

Policies Review:

The PCC are continuing to review policies.

Finance Update:

The Gift Day raised £13,000.



Building Matters:

Quotes will be requested for the work proposed in the Quinquennial Report.

Feedback on Church Life:

Tots celebrations in the church are very well attended. T3 continues to flourish. Around 20 people regularly attend ReNew Café. The Women's Christmas event was very popular. New people are coming along to Lunch Club.

Summary of Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Sunday 26 November 2023

Following the PCC Meeting on 13 November a further meeting was held to discuss the **Alternative Episcopal Pastoral Oversight: Prayers of Love & Faith**.

The proposal to ratify our February resolution concerning the Prayers of Love and Faith with the qualification that alternative episcopal oversight will be sought through the Church of England Evangelical Council was carried.

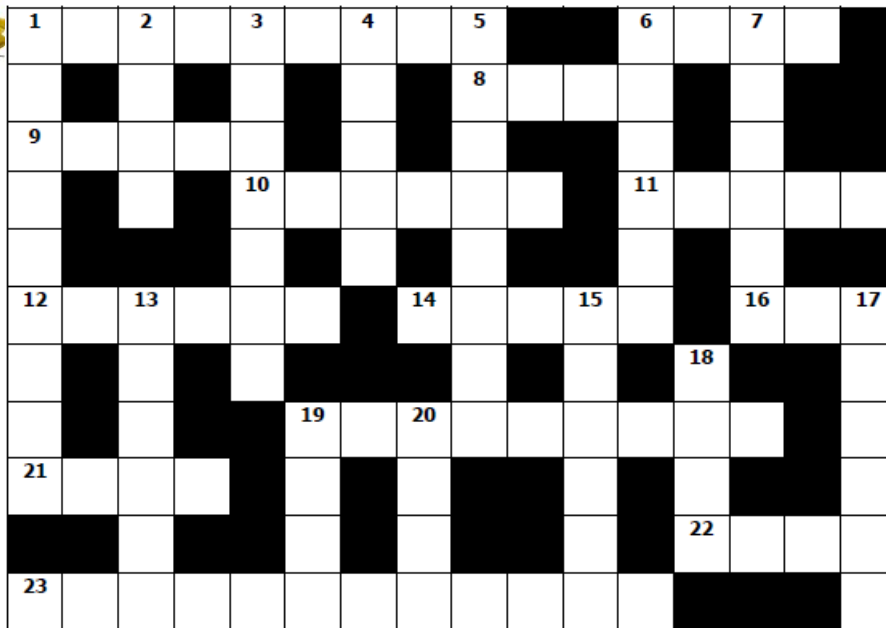
Post meeting addendum

Upon advice from the Bishops of Brixworth and Ebbsfleet, the PCC later resolved to enact our standing resolution to come under the pastoral and sacramental oversight of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet.

Lynda Featley
PCC Secretary.



Easter Crossword



ACROSS

1. It's normal getting thrown out for the likes of adultery (6,3)
6. Sin that might well get you a bit flustered! (4)
8. Cheap seats in this part of a church? On the contrary! (4)
9. An epistle from the New Testament – some felt it useful (5)
10. In order to find the place where Noah's Ark came to rest, Tara ran backwards, but not North (6)
11. Louisa acknowledges hiding Abraham's son (5)
12. Canoeed about to find an official in The Early Church (6)
14. Pieman, oddly, joins the Church of England in order to create absence of war (5)
16. Ark-builder's son seen in The Bahamas (3)
19. Nag Rachel about Gabriel, perhaps (9)
21. Market – two-thirds of it has been cornered by this Evangelist (4)
22. Rachel's sister found ultimately in small Japanese tea booth (4)
23. Ten wet men sat about creating this set of books! (3,9)

DOWN

1. Belief system of immodest Habsburg leader after Reformation (9)
2. Could this Moabite woman be untruthful at heart? Yes, definitely! (4)
3. Strange how David's son appears after Abe and Salome have both had their bottoms pinched! (7)
4. Ian is back at the mountain where Moses received the Tablets of The Law (5)
5. Zena Hart comes from this town in Galilee (8)
6. Endless vile tea upset this member of the priestly tribe of Israel (6)
7. Turn of phrase used for this celestial being (6)
13. Wander about. Find one of Jesus's 'Fishers of Men' (6)
15. Diana leaves Canadian in order to find The Promised Land (6)
17. Sugar and spice and all things nice? No, ham and tar, that's what this little girl is made of! (6)
18. Infernal hot spot along part of The Llangollen Canal! (4)
19. Follower of John in the New Testament (4)
20. Village where the water-into-wine miracle was performed. In the Tuscan Alps? – Yes and no! (4)

Moulton's Wall-Hanging

The Millennium Year of 2000 provided an opportunity for many people and organisations throughout the country to create art works of various kinds. Moulton Parish Church was no exception. I designed the basic form of a wall-hanging—a central cross, which I intended also to represent the empty tomb with yellow light streaming from it. On each side of the cross are eleven panels. Each panel measures 22 x 22 cm (9 x 9 in) and was intended to contain a Christian or Old Testament symbol. My sewing skills are virtually non-existent, being limited to replacing loose buttons (provided I can manage to thread the needle!) so a number of ladies from the church volunteered to make these panels in cross-stitch, applique or tapestry.

We met several times in Vanessa Nunn's house. Being vastly outnumbered I took my role simply to be an onlooker



and to make relevant comments when, and if, called upon to do so. The cross and panels were assembled with light-blue edgings and the completed wall-hanging was first displayed in the Church Centre on 15 October 2000 when the Centre was officially opened.

Originally, the wall-hanging was placed next to the serving hatch, in a position now occupied by the Welcome notice-board, but it was thought that it was too vulnerable to sticky fingers etc and shortly afterwards was moved to its present position on the East wall of the main hall of the Centre, with a plaque underneath giving the names of the ladies who had

prepared the various panels and an appropriate biblical text for each.

Do take the opportunity to look at it and examine the panels when you are next in the Church Centre.

JOHN CUTLER



Grandparenting for Faith

In today's world, our grandchildren face lots of confusing messages. They're told to focus on themselves, listen to their feelings and do what feels right. This can make it hard for them to see what's really important.

But as grandparents, we have a special role. We can help them find their way through the confusion. The Bible warns us about getting caught up in the world's ideas. It tells us to stick to God's truth and not be swayed by popular ideology.

When grandchildren are surrounded by so many distractions, they can feel lost and stressed. However, we can be

there to remind them of the truth and God's wonderful plan for their lives. We can show them what it looks like to live with love, joy, and peace—things that come from God.

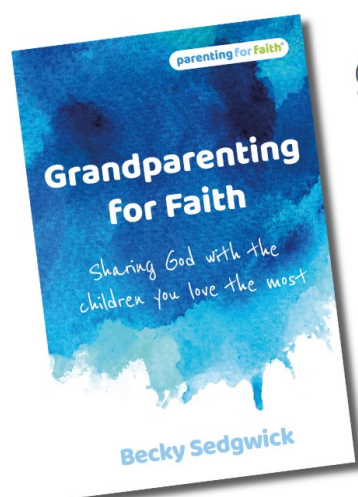
Our actions and words can be like a light shining in the darkness. We can share stories from the Bible and talk about how God helps us in our lives. This way, we can help our grandchildren see the right path to follow.

Being a grandparent is a big responsibility, but it's also a wonderful opportunity. We can help our grandchildren see that there's more to life than just what they see on social media or hear from their friends. Let's be the guiding light that

helps them find their way to God.

We recommend the book "Grandparenting for Faith: Sharing God with the Children You Love the Most" by Becky Sedgwick, February 2024. It is one of the first book of its kind in the UK and it is a valuable resource for grandparents seeking to pass on the torch of faith. Let us embrace our calling to light the way for our grandchildren, trusting that God's light will always prevail in the darkness.

Grandparenting Group



Are you a grandparent?

Whether your grandchildren are being raised in a Christian home or not; nearby or far away; babies or adults - you are a significant spiritual influence in their lives.

This book will show you why, and how you can leverage this influence to help your grandchild meet and know God for themselves.

Available BRFOonline & all good booksellers

Light up the World - The Transformative Power of Prayer



In our journey of faith, prayer stands as a cornerstone, a vital connection to the heart of God. The Bible affirms the importance of prayer in many passages, revealing its transformative power not only for our own lives but also on behalf of others, especially for their salvation.

James 5:16 reminds us of the power and effectiveness of our prayers. They serve as a powerful instrument through which God works to bring those who do not yet know Jesus personally into the life-transforming experience of salvation found only in Him. How incredible is that! Why would we not want to earnestly pray for our family and friends to encounter the life-changing grace of becoming Christians?

Paul's passionate plea in Romans 10:1 echoes this sentiment: "Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God is that they may be saved." Like Paul, may our hearts ache for the salvation of those around us, driving us to fervent intercessory prayer. God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

As in previous years, we are looking forward to a period of 10 days of Prayer from Ascension Day to Pentecost when we can join together praying for God's kingdom to come into the lives of our friends, family, workmates, neighbours and local community.

Thursday 9th May:
Ascension Day Service
7.30pm

Saturday 11th May:
Family Breakfast with
Prayer at 9am

Monday 13 May:
Prayer Walk at 7.00pm

Tuesday 14 May:
Prayer and Praise
7.30pm

Wednesday 15 May:
8am to 8pm Day of
Prayer (sign up for 30
mins)

Thursday 16 May:
Zoom Prayer 7pm

Saturday 18th May:
Prayer Display in
Church during the
Moulton Festival.

Join with us, as much as you can, as we unite in faith, believing that as we pray, God will move mightily in our midst, transforming lives and lighting up the world with His love and grace.

With our love,

The Prayer Team



Favourite Hymns: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



There's a Wideness in God's Mercy was written by Frederick Faber in 1862. Faber was born on 28 June 1814 at Calverley Vicarage in Yorkshire where his grandfather Thomas Faber was the vicar. The family was of Huguenot descent and he was raised as a strict Calvinist. He was educated at Balliol College, Oxford and in 1839 was ordained as an Anglican priest. But at the age of 31 he converted to Roman Catholicism influenced by his friend, John Henry Newman, a famous Catholic priest who later became a Cardinal. Faber formed a community in Birmingham called "*Brothers of the Will of God*". In 1849 he moved to London and established the '*London Oratorians*' in King William Street, Strand. Albert Bailey, hymn scholar, wrote "*Father Faber was the moving and guiding spirit (of the Oratory) as long as he lived, a great preacher and a man of charming*

personality". Faber felt that the Roman Catholic Church lacked a heritage of hymns such as those written by Isaac Watts, John Newton, William Cowper and the Wesleys. He undertook to remedy this and in his lifetime wrote 150 hymns. He wrote these hymns so Catholics could also be hymn singing people.

Faber admired good poetry and became good friends with William Wordsworth (the poet). The two of them would often take long walks together in the Lake District and mountains.

Faber did a great deal of work among the poor and subsequently knew the need to plead with people who felt rejected by society and the judgemental church around them.

In this hymn, he shows them God's welcome for the sinner and 'good' person alike. He points to the suffering of Christ on our behalf. The hymn was originally called "*Come to Jesus*" and was later expanded and retitled "*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*". The themes are taken from Luke 1:50 and the Book of Job 11:7-9. It has the sense that God's sovereign power and understanding are far beyond human ca-

pabilities. All we need to do is have a simple faith that 'rests upon God's word'. It has wonderful lyrics but can be difficult to sing whichever tune it is put to. It is particularly popular during Lent.

Faber never enjoyed good health and developed 'Bright's Disease' (*nephritis*) which was to prove fatal. He died on 26 September 1863 and was originally buried in the cemetery of St Mary's Sydenham which was the Brompton Oratory's Retreat. His remains were re-interred in the Brompton Oratory, London in 1952.

Frederick William Faber was the great uncle of Geoffrey Faber, co-founder of the publishing house that later became 'Faber & Faber' a major publisher of both literary and religious works.

GINA GRAY

Knowing You.....

Pauline Riley



My family: I am from Derbyshire, although I was born in Collingham, near Newark quite by accident at my Gran's. I am the second of 4 girls and had a very carefree childhood. I was married at Codnor Church and then lived in Belper where both my children were born. We moved to South Africa when they were 4 and 2 years old.

My job: I worked as a Conveyancer in South Africa for 32 years, very hectic, hard work but such a good system there. I then went into Property Management, mostly manging many of the Sectional Title Blocks I had been responsible for.

How I came to be at MPC: My husband passed away in 1991 and as it was impossible for my son and son-in-law to get jobs under the new regime they all moved back to the UK in 1999/2000. My sister and family who had followed us to South Africa a few years later, moved to Australia around the same time. In 2002 I realised I was the only one left so packed my bags and moved back to England. I knew not a soul in Northampton where my family had settled so joined many organisations. One of these was Ramblers where I met and walked many miles with Maurice Tebbutt who told me what a super church MPC is. This must have been around 2006 and I have been here ever since.

Favourite Bible Verse: : *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 3:16

Favourite Hymn: *When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died*

How I spend my free time: I love gardening and growing plants from slips. I walk a lot, attend a Home Group, and listen to audio books. I have a very good circle of friends and neighbours so go to coffee morning and supper club.

Currently reading: *Chimp Paradox* by Steve Peters. I used to be an avid reader but I listen to audio books now as my sight is almost gone. I enjoyed the Richard Osman series of books which I had for Christmas. They were very well written and read.

Last film: *The Lion King*

Music I enjoy: I love classical, some opera and Freddie Mercury

If I could time travel: I am very fond of history so would love to go back in time to see what really did go on.

