

Upton-cum-Chalvey Extra

News and views from our team churches.

Fr Andrew writes:

A Home with a View

You don't have to spend long in Slough to realise that the traffic can be a daytime nightmare. For a few days this summer we found that there were roadworks at both ends of our street and when the remote lighting sequence also went on the blink everything ground to a halt.

On the site of the former leisure centre, the Montem Square estate of new housing is going up apace with construction workers (and their vehicles) a constant feature. The mound on Montem Lane may be a Saxon burial site. No one seems to know for sure. In any case, from the top there is a view at close quarters of the ice rink. You can also see from afar Windsor Castle. Not though, I imagine, for much longer. The housing at Montem Square will almost certainly obscure the view from the mound.

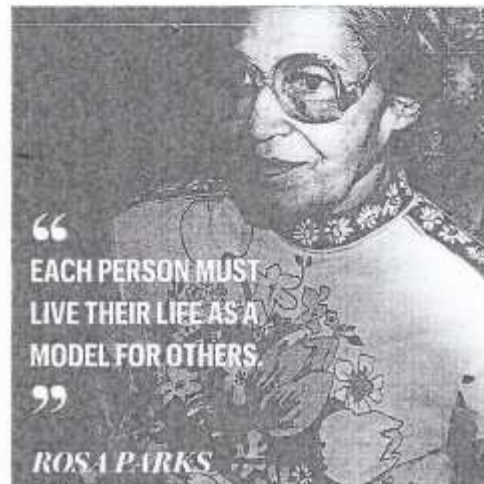
New build isn't just taking place in Slough, of course. Over the country, the new (or not so new) government is looking to build a million and a half homes over the next five years. We can predict this is a change that won't be universally liked. It won't only be the view from the Chalvey mound that will be affected.

In any case, the first homes on the estate should be ready this Autumn. For St Peter's, it's a time to be welcoming new residents as neighbours and a time for us to let them know of our presence and of our prayers. The hundreds of new flats surrounding St Mary's similarly create a new community for us to receive and serve.

Marking Black History Month

Question: What do Muhammed Ali, Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks,

Mary Seacole and Nicholas Winton have in common? Answer: Slough & Eton Business & Enterprise College has six houses and each pupil at the school belongs to one of the houses named after these six distinguished individuals. Do you know their stories? Black History Month, which takes place in October each year is a chance to remember and celebrate the contribution that black people have made to our cultural life together.



Black History Month takes as its theme this year "Reclaiming Narratives." Maybe as you read this, it may prompt you to think what story you have to tell? In our churches, we're invited to reflect and learn from stories. And, of course, Black History Month ends with All Saints' Day (or All Hallows' Day) on 1st November where again, we reclaim our inheritance with all those who would be otherwise forgotten to history.

Nicholas Winton, of course, was white. His story was told in the film 'One Life', released last year, starring Anthony Hopkins. Winton lived in Maidenhead and is remembered for saving the lives of hundreds of Jewish children in World War 2. Whatever our heritage, we each have a story to tell.

St. Mary's, Slough.

Now the holiday season has finished, and term starts our thoughts are with all the young people who are starting a new phase in their lives: starting nursery and school for the first time; changing schools; moving on to university or moving into the workplace. At the very beginning of this adventure, we have been welcoming new members into our toddler group **Start the Week**. We are open every Monday morning 9.30-11.00 am. Everyone is welcome.

New friends have been joining us on **Sunday morning** over the weeks and it is a joy to see our congregation grow and worship together as well as chatting after the service as we get to know each other. We particularly welcome Shelein and Sharon. With Shelein's guidance our Sunday School is coming to life with lessons and craft activity. Sharon as our Cantor has led our singing to enable us to be more confident with the music in our worship and learn new hymns

As we are constantly reminded in shops and television Christmas is fast approaching. We have booked our **Donkey** and "Sally" will be with us on Sunday 15th December at 4.00 pm for our **Town Carol Service**.

Slough Music Service have booked their Carol Concert on Tuesday 3rd December. This event brings together schools from all round the town. It is a fun, lively event and well worth a visit.

Another important date in our calendar is **Remembrance Sunday on 10th November**. There is an act of Remembrance in the Town centre and then they progress to St. Marys for a service at around 11.20am followed by laying of wreaths at the War Memorial.

We have been in negotiations over the past months to share our building with **United Methodist Church**. They have outgrown their present premises and will be using our building from 12 noon to 3.00 pm. We look forward to welcoming their congregation.

After a break the Probation Service have agreed to help us again with gardening, litter picking, etc. The Community Pay Back team work under the guidance of a supervisor and do amazing job and will tackle most work need to get the churchyard in shape. During the last year we must thank and acknowledge the visits we have had from volunteers of Good Gym who have helped us as part of their programme to support local projects whilst on their keep fit regime. They helped clear an amazing amount of litter. The staff of E. Sargeants undertakers (next door) also spent a Saturday morning clearing litter and we are very grateful for their help.

7TH DECEMBER, 2024
12 NOON

Lunchtime Concert Solo Organ

BY MALCOLM STOWELL



Christmas Sparkle

St Mary's Church, Slough, SL1 1PJ

Free entry, donations welcome



Facebook: @StMarysChurchSlough
www.stmarys-slough.org.uk



St Peter, Chalvey.



New Vicar and School Chaplain.

We are pleased to report that our new Vicar Fr Andrew has hit the ground running and has settled well into St Peter's Church life, and also into his role as school Chaplain at Slough & Eton, CofE Business & Enterprise College. Fr Andrew is married to Caroline, and they have two grown up children. For now, Caroline continues to live and work in Manchester as a Methodist Superintendent Minister, spending several days every couple of weeks in Slough before relocating to join Fr Andrew next summer.

Romanian Orthodox Parish

St Peters Church continues to share the building and facilities with the Romanian Orthodox Parish of The Holy Annunciation and St Aidan. This partnership is working well and is providing much needed income to help with ever increasing bills and our contribution to Parish Share.

Church Building and Grounds

The now established footpath installation, along with CCTV security cameras has meant that rough sleepers no longer frequent the grounds which at one time, was a real problem along with drug taking and fly-tipping. The church grounds have undergone a huge transformation with the help and support from the Romanian Orthodox Parish (grass cutting) and Community Payback who attend three/four times a year, to help with grass cutting,

clearing gutters, trimming overgrown trees etc. This extra help has allowed our resident gardener to maintain the flower beds. As a result of everyone's hard work, St Peters achieved a Silver Award from Slough in Bloom 2024 in the category 'Community Project'. The local community have welcomed these improvements and often comment on how safer the area is.

Vestry Project

There is still a desire to extend the vestry, making a larger space for community use. Work is at hand getting information for the Deanery who have asked for some evidence of community groups who will use the extended vestry bearing in mind that there are other halls and facilities already located in the area. Watch this space!

Good News from the Junior Church

St Peter's has always had a well supported Junior church and over the years we have watched them grow into teenagers! We are very proud to announce that three of our young members are leaving to continue their education at university. Jenesis Joseph will be studying Medicine (in Bulgaria), Tyra Coker, Economics and Kevin Johnson, Computer Science. Also moving on is Acksei Sahtish, who is now attending Harrow School. Fr Andrew gave them a blessing and we wish them well in their endeavours.

Fundraising

On 29th June, we held our Summer Fete, raising £830. In July, Revd. Linda led our Parish Quiz Night along with her husband Steve who was the quiz master, as a social event to welcome Fr Andrew. And guess who won the quiz??? Yes, you guessed it right, Fr Andrew and his fellow teammates, Peter and Alan!! At Eton Action Fair 14 Sept, St Peter's stall raised £300. A **big thank you** to everyone who has helped and continue to support our events. We will be holding our Christmas Fair on 23rd November.

St Laurence, Upton.

Visit to St Laurence's Church, Slough
(Sunday 8th September 2024)

As part of Heritage Open Days, I recently visited St Laurence's Church, along with my young daughter and son. . .

. . . Built in the 12th century, St Laurence's is not only the oldest church, but also the oldest building in Slough. An honour, indeed. As we walked through the lychgate (from the Old English meaning corpse- used in medieval times to shelter a coffin while the priest conducted part of the service), we met Allan, the jovial churchwarden. He greeted us with a smile and a question and invited us to sit inside while the others arrived. . . Crikey, these open days must be quite popular, I thought. Inside, a group of ladies, quite advanced in years, momentarily stopped their chatter and looked up in bemusement at the three of us.

. . . Shortly after 15:00, Allan popped his head around the door and invited the group outside. Like a master weaver at work, Allan began with a potted history of the church and its surrounds. He mentioned the discovery of Saxon remains during a recent excavation indicating an even more intriguing, hidden history of the church. We then toured the graveyard as he pointed towards a host of notable burials present. . .

. . . Unfortunately, we didn't have time for tea and cupcakes with the others, so continued the tour with Allan inside the church. . . . At this point, Allan pointed towards Hershel's grave next to the pulpit. A bizarre, theological oddity for someone outside the faith. I looked at the kids and could see endorphins waning, so took them around the back of the church to see Hershel's telescope exhibition.

Alas, we couldn't browse for long. My daughter felt tired and suggested we go home. Though we couldn't leave without thanking with Allan.

'Allan, thanks for the tour!' I beamed.

'And you do realise the jam is gelatine free?'

Allan continued in the next breath. 'Ah, that's great, maybe we can buy a few jars when we next visit?'

We shook hands, and I signed the visitor's book before heading outside.

I squinted at the kids, 'Did you enjoy that?'

'Er...yes, though we could have at least eaten some of those biscuits and cupcakes!' my daughter wailed. 'Yes, maybe next time.'

'Right, I want you both to write an essay on this visit.' Stony silence. I'm still waiting.

In summary, a fascinating trip with generous hosts. Well worth a visit.

Asif Rana, Upton Park
www.nextdoor.co.uk

An invitation to . . .

SANTA'S SPECIAL

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

ST LAURENCE'S

(Upton Court Road, Slough SL3 7LS)

11.00AM – 2.30PM

Food, Cakes, Craft,
Decorations, Gifts,
Raffle and all
the trimmings!

(Parking in Upton Court Road Car Park)