

People and Parish

November 2018



- Lest we forget
- All change
- Poppies

60p or £6 per year



**The Parish Church of St Leonard
Heath and Reach**



Team Rector: Vacant

The Parish of St Leonard, Heath and Reach

www.saintleonardschurch.com

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Office hours: 10.30am—12.30pm Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Little Fishes Mums & Toddlers, Monday 1.30 pm in the hall
Contact: Parish Office

Choir Sundays at 10.15am in Church, Contact: Jane Newman,
01525 237421

SLAP St Leonard's Amateur Players, Contact:
Mrs Nicole Waldoock, 01908 608304

Men's Breakfast Group Termly, Saturdays at 8.30am. Contact Neil Forsyth on
01525 377047

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Magazine Advertising Contact Parish Office 07502 320025

All copy to reach Editor by 15th of the month, please

Thought for the Month



100th Anniversary of the end of The Great War

One word more than any other summarises The Great War and that is the word SACRIFICE. Remembering the sacrifices made in the prevention of the spread of evil. You may be enlightened to know that the word ‘sacrifice’ comes from two Latin words, ‘sacer’ and ‘facio’, which means ‘To make

Holy”. Making personal sacrifice to prevent an evil is a holy thing to do.

Traditionally there were three moral justifications for the taking of human life; 1) A just war. 2) Death penalty. 3) Self-defence.

Whatever is the case for a just war, or the death penalty or self defence arguments in favour of taking human life, my point in this article is from the point of view of the term and use of the word sacrifice. What must be done to prevent the spread of evil.

You may be familiar with the reflection by the German pastor and anti Nazi theologian, Martin Niemoller.

“They came first for the communists and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a communist. Then they came for the socialists and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a socialist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn’t speak up because I was protestant. Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up”.

We are the ones now at this time called upon to protect society from the advance of evil. It seems not much changes from one generation to the next. Criminals, like the Nazis, just get more sophisticated; that does not make them any less dangerous or evil. There is still the abuse of power in all its forms. Primarily the continual slave trade of men, women and children for sex and work and the manipulation of all of us to be passive, deaf, dumb and blind to these abuses.

Many of us grew up with the three wise monkeys: See no evil, hear no evil speak no evil, and they are a good lesson for children.

As adults we must take our hands away from our ears and eyes and mouth to speak up when we witness evil and speak the truth when the mischief of deceit is abroad. **You know the expression ‘charity begins at home’, so too does truth; a West African proverb says, ‘the destruction of society begins in the homes of its people’.**

How will our generation be remembered in 2118?

This year we are honouring the sacrifices made by those who went to war to prevent the spread of evil doers.

Noel McGeeney

Lest we forget

Sunday 11th November marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, The Great War, the War to End All Wars. As regular readers of People and Parish will know, over the past four years we have been remembering those from Heath and Reach who died in this conflict, and we are grateful to Tricia Humber who has spend considerable time collating all the information needed to compile these obituaries. As we will see, sadly the casualties did not stop on the 11th November 1918 and further names will appear over the next months.

The Remembrance Day service at Heath and Reach will this year take a slightly different format:

At 2pm, there will be a parade beginning at the Royal British Legion in Thrift Road and **passing down Thrift Road into Old Linslade Road, up Bird’s Hill to the War Memorial** in the cemetery. Special permission has been obtained to close the roads from 2pm to 3pm to enable this parade to pass safely through the village.

A short service will continue at the War Memorial including a roll of all the names of those inscribed on the Memorial and the service will then continue in **St Leonard’s Church, with music from the Heath Band.**

All are welcome to join the parade, which will include uniformed groups from the village, as well as the service at the memorial and in the church.

The Parish Registers



Baptisms

23rd September

Grace Catherine Elizabeth Beesley

14th October

Alice Evelyn Ward

Funeral

12th September Margaret Rose Sambrook

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The Villager

by Geoff White

By the time you are reading this article, you might have looked at your garden and if there have been no frosts, a few flowers will still be blooming. You have probably visited a garden centre and planned your garden with its Spring blooms rising up from the cold, wet winter. But of all the flowers, the Poppy has become the symbol of hope at this time as we think of the end of the First World War and reflect on the thousands of young men who never survived even the first day.

It was an inspiration when the battlefields of France and Belgium were covered by red poppies and the flower was made famous by the poem 'In Flanders field' written by John McCrae. When first written, it was entitled 'We shall not sleep' in memory of one of the death of one of his young comrades at Ypres. The author threw the poem away but it was recovered later and printed in 'Punch' magazine.

It was a poem to stir the hearts of many and in 1918 Mona Belle Michael, who had come to England from a university in America to help with the war effort, was inspired to write and answer to the poem which was called 'We must keep to that faith'. After her speech at the Y.M.C.A. Conference where she wore red silk poppies on her coat instead of garden flowers, the idea spread worldwide and there began a Poppy Day each year.

Soon, millions were manufactured and the money raised helped to support injured and disabled service men and women and others in time of need through what became the Royal British Legion. Most villages have memorials to those who died serving their country and in Heath and Reach cemetery, thirty nine names are inscribed on the granite monument which was unveiled on 14th August 1920.

In the whole of England and Wales, only 53 parishes did not have any service persons killed in the First World War and these were called 'Thankful' or 'Blessed Parishes' and the nearest one to to heath and Reach is Stoke Hammond. In the whole of France, only one village and no casualties and that was Thierville in Upper Normandy.

Around the memorial in Heath and Reach, wreaths of bright red silk poppies are laid on November 11th and poppies bloom around the base. However, the most poignant reminder must be at the Devon village of Northlew, where, from a total of one hundred and three who left to serve their country, twenty four were killed. In 2014, a local seed merchant planted three hundred million Poppy seeds all along the roadside to Oakhampton, aligned towards Flanders and also towards the railway station from which the enlisted men left for the war. The total poppy line stretches for twenty miles along the Devon hedges.

Wherever you are on November 11th at 11am, wear a poppy and pause to remember those millions who died for you and hundred years ago.

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Remembering World War 1



Over the last four years we have been remembering the men and one woman named on the Heath and Reach War Memorial on or around the 100th anniversary of their deaths. As the guns fell silent, men and women still died here at home, in France and further afield in the Middle East either in battle or as a result of injuries sustained during the conflicts. Whilst we know the resting places for most, including those buried in our village cemetery, there are some who have no known grave and so can only be remembered through the War Memorials here in the UK but also across France, Flanders and Palestine.

The men who gave their lives on the front line came from all walks of life - from farm labourers, gardeners and sand pit workers to teachers, outfitters assistants and telephone engineers, before they joined those already serving as regular soldiers in various regiments including those raised locally in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. The men served in a wide variety of roles and ranks - from Privates in the Infantry and a gunner in the Royal Navy to a Sapper in the Royal Engineers, a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corp (killed by Manfred Von Richthofen The Red Baron) and a Shoeing Smith in the Royal Field Artillery who we remember this month.

Whilst most of the men served in the Somme and the wider European theatre of war, we also remember those who served further afield in often overlooked conflicts such as Palestine. Lastly but by no means least we remember Nora Tompkins, aged just 17 who died as a result of "shock and burns caused by an explosion" whilst working in a local Munitions factory. One of few women to be remembered on a War Memorial, she is buried in Luton General Cemetery.



Please do join with us at St Leonard's on Remembrance Sunday to take time to remember all those who gave their lives that we might live in peace.



"We will remember them"



54648 Shoeing Smith Charles Richard Allder
3rd (Lahore) Division Ammunition Column
Royal Field Artillery

Aged 38 years, he died of his wounds on 4th November 1918
and is buried in the Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel

Charles was the son of Frederick and Sarah Smith agricultural workers from Stewkley. Married to Hilda (Owers) for 12 years and with two children, he was a horse keeper on a farm before the war. His Division was made up of both Indian and British troops, and after initially serving in France, much of it moved to Mesopotamia (now including parts of Syria, Iraq, Iran and Turkey) in late 1915 where they remained for the rest of the war, becoming part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in January 1918 in Palestine with particular responsibility for transporting Ammunition to supply the brigades and batteries on the front lines. As a Shoeing Smith Charles was a blacksmith who would not only shoe horses **but would also have had a wider knowledge and understanding of horses' general health.**

241391 Private Edward Stone
425th Agricultural Labour Company, Labour Corps
Aged 24 years, he died on 13th November 1918
and is buried in Cowley (St Laurence) Churchyard



Edward was the son of Fred and Jane Stone of Heath and Reach and was a sand pit labourer before the Great War. He was married to L. Smith (formerly Stone), of 5, Cowley Cottages, Cowley. Few records exist but the 425th Agricultural Labour Company was formed in Surrey in 1917. These companies were created in the later years of the war to meet the increasing food supply needs for both the population at home in the UK and those serving abroad as imports from allies in Canada and the USA became greatly restricted due to enemy attacks. They were generally made up of men in reserved occupations (Class W reserve) such as farming and those from other parts of the Labour Corp or other Regiments no longer fit enough to serve on the front line, due to injury or illness.



15719 Corporal Robert Sproat
8th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry
Aged 25 years, he died at home in Heath & Reach
on 17th November 1918 and is buried in
Heath & Reach Cemetery

Robert was the son of Matthew and Emily Sproat of Bedlington, Northumberland and was a farm labourer prior to being called up. He was married to Lilian (Whiting) in 1917 and they had one child. The regiment **was originally formed in 1685 and was named Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry)** in 1912. The 8th Battalion served on the Western Front throughout the war initially as part of the 21st Division and then the 37th Division of the New Army, taking part in many of the major battles of the Somme, the Hindenburg Line and the Final Advance in Picardy. We do not know whether Robert died at home as a result of injuries previously sustained in battle or illness.

Lance Corporal Horace Willian Pratt
1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment

Aged 29 years, he died at home in Heath & Reach
in 1925 and is buried in Heath & Reach Cemetery



Horace was the son of Horace and Annie Pratt who lived in Thomas Street. Heath & Reach. Horace was a general labourer before he joined up at the beginning of the war. The regiment served in Europe throughout the war, mainly in France but also for a short period in Italy. He survived being wounded in 1916 and was possibly discharged at the end of hostilities. It is believed that his war records are one of the 2 million **"Burnt Documents" (WO 363) or Service Records which were irretrievably damaged or lost completely as a result of enemy bombing in 1940 during the Second World War.**

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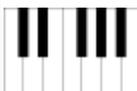
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Mrs Emma Smith

All Change Please!!

Well, the big story at the moment in the Ouzel Valley team is the retirement of Revd Canon Grant Fellows after 15 years of ministry as Rector of All Saints and the Ouzel Valley Team, and a total of 38 years in ministry. Compared to most of you, I have actually known Grant for a relatively short time, having only joined the team a little over a year ago. However, I have benefited from and appreciated Grants support and encouragement during that time.

A change such as this brings two responses. The first tends to be that of review, a reminiscing of all that has happened, the struggles, the challenges and also a celebration of the achievement and triumphs. Many of these reflections will be shared at the many goodbyes over the next few months.

The second response is looking to the future, possibility some apprehension about the process of change, but also thinking about what is needed for the next chapter in the life of All Saints and the Ouzel Valley Team. This looking to the future involves facing **the reality of the challenges ahead, but also seeking God's vision for us, and dreaming some dreams.**

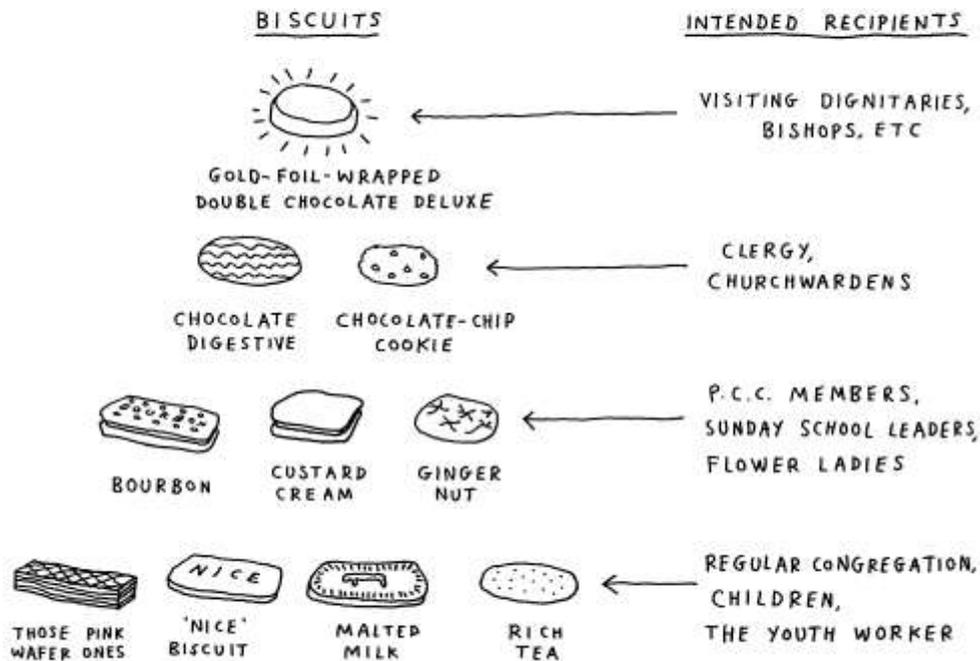
I often think that the time that the disciples had with Jesus was very short and an absolute roller coaster of events that must have been difficult to realise the full significance of at the time. Alongside this, Jesus drip fed the message that he would be **leaving them. The disciples often didn't seem to understand this, or maybe even want to believe it.** When Jesus did leave them it made the disciples review all that had happened. Then, when filled by the Holy Spirit, the disciples were empowered and **envisioned and took over Jesus' mission of demonstrating what God's kingdom is about.**

Don't worry; I am not directly comparing Grant's retirement to Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension!!! However, I would draw out the fact that change can bring a renewed sense of seeking God for a vision for the future and can bring some positive and unforeseen developments. We went through an 18 month vacancy during my curacy. **One of the encouraging things to see during that time was many people's gifting being discovered, utilised and developed.** The vacancy was actually quite a key stage in many **people's ministry, lay and ordained.** It also meant there was a sense of new life even before the new minister arrived.

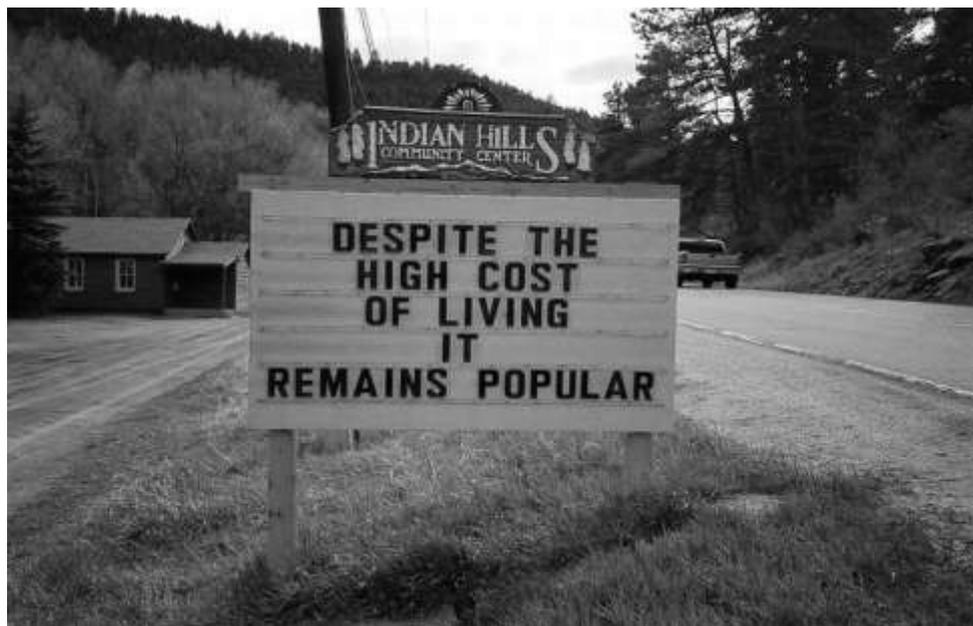
So whilst we can enjoy the reminiscing about Grant's ministry here and journey through the emotional roller coaster of saying goodbye to him, let's take the opportunity to seek God's vision, personally and corporately and be open to God stretching us, developing us during the vacancy. Let's commit to praying for God's guidance for us all including Grant, as we all move into a new chapter of the ministry of All Saints and the Ouzel Valley Team.

Rev Steve Marsh

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HAPPENINGS!

Thursday 11th October
COFFEE MORNING
in the Church Hall
10am-12.00noon



Saturday 24th November
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
in the Church Hall from 1pm

Saturday 1st December
ST NICK'S SUPPER

an informal supper party
7.30pm at Hockliffe Grange

Tickets £12.50. Booking essential - contact Julia Dickens
on 01525 210210 or by e-mail juliaedickens@gmail.com



Saturday 9th March 2019
50/50 AUCTION
in the Church Hall from 1pm

For more information on any of these events,
phone 01525 377047

A Warden's Tale.....

Bede and I have been heartened by the support we have received since sharing our financial concerns for the church. We are particularly grateful to Mike Clarke, who phoned me to offer his DIY experience free of charge. Mike has proved to be invaluable and those little jobs that make such a difference are now being tackled. There **are quite a few jobs on his 'things to do list' and he is also very good at spotting** things that need to be done so I suspect it will be a while before the list starts getting any shorter! Thanks Mike.

Just when we least need it we have had a bit of bad news about our church organ, which has quite a history.

It was built in 1870 by Mr Tom Atterton at a cost of £80 and was first played [on 24th November](#) that year. The organ was originally installed in the nave in the north east corner but was moved to the gallery sometime after 1900. Ours is thought to be the first organ made by Mr Atterton, a small organ builder who is thought to only have made around 60 organs, all in this region.

The decorated pipes of the organ were especially attractive and given to the parish by the builder in memory of his wife Elizabeth who had died suddenly in July 1870. **Mr Atterton lived in the village and was vicar's warden in 1876/77. He regularly maintained** the instrument, tuning it in 1871 for the princely sum of £1-1-0. The bellows were blown by hand and members of the congregation were paid a small annual sum to do so. I bet that made their arms ache! In 1876 the organist was paid £5 per year and this amount had risen to £8 by 1906! Clearly the church had more of a cash flow back then it seems!

In October 1967 the organ was thoroughly cleaned by Mr Crabbe of Leighton Organs. Mr Crabbe reported that the instrument was a typical 1870 organ in fair condition but needed cleaning. The keys were loose, the pedal board was an obsolete compass type and the oboe stop rather poor, being irregular and incomplete. The organ case was extremely dark and showed signs of active woodworm and a new oak case was made to replace it. The front pipes were also repainted in gold. See, told you they had money!

The latest maintenance service has shown that we have a problem. Although not urgent, another unusually hot Summer like we had this year will potentially cause further damage. The result could be that the organ starts to make odd noises whilst being played, which needs to be avoided at all costs (including financial sadly). So....guess what....another project is taking off, applying for grants etc etc. Such fun!!!!

On 29th September we held a lovely animal blessing service. All our furry friends were well behaved and sociable, apart from the hamster, who stayed safely in the cage. Jackie Burke, Leighton Buzzard Hedgehog Rescue gave a presentation about the amazing work she does helping hedgehogs in need and, wherever possible, returning them to the wild. Jackie showed us items she had found attached to sick and distressed hedgehogs. Things like the plastic rings that hold cans of beer together being around a hedgehogs neck, slowly killing them. If we would just snip all the circles open the problem would be sorted and hedgehogs would be a little safer. Jackie is supported in this essential work through donations, which helps her to supply care and food to around 200 hedgehogs every year. We hope our collection contribution helps.

Many of us from St Leonard's went to All Saints on 30th September for Grant Fellows retirement service. The church was full to the brim and the service was the best I have ever personally experienced. It was very moving and the choir were amazing as was the organist....no unexpected noises from their organ! It was all rather magnificent; we had **good old 'bells and smells' which always give me goosebumps and there was laughter** and celebration too. We all wish Grant and Val a long and happy retirement together.

And finally....we had a wonderful surprise after the Family Service on 7th October. We received an anonymous donation of £120 for which we are enormously grateful and extend a huge THANK YOU to whoever sent it to us

God bless

Val Cooper.

Homespun Philosophy

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

The irony of life is that by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

I was always taught to respect my elders but it keeps getting harder to find one.

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer to her first question.

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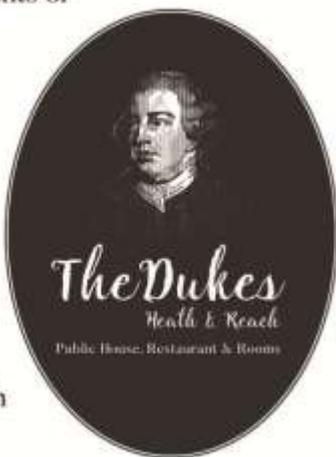
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LOVE, OH LOVE....

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All the wonders love can bring
Give us strength and understanding
Give us all one song to sing

And let there be joy in the world
And let there be no sorrow
And let there be peace on earth
For all the world to see

From the bottom to the top
To the leaders of the land
We all have one heart
Every one of us must lend a hand

We've got to see that

Love, oh love
What a blessed thing...

Say it loud.

.....

Words from a song written and sung by Lionel Richie.

Smith climbs to the top of Mount Sinai to get close enough to God.
Looking up, he asks God, "Lord, what does a million years mean to you?"
The Lord replies, "A minute."
Smith asks, "And what does a million pounds mean to you?"
The Lord replies, "A penny."
Smith asks, "Can I have a penny?"
The Lord replies, "In a minute">

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‘If you think it is for you, it *is* for you’.

St Leonard's Parish Prayer

Living God, you have given us St Leonard
as an example of one who extended himself
to relieve the difficulties of others;
help us to know in our hearts the love you have for us all
so we may reach out in genuine empathy
to those in our community
who feel lonely, isolated, or overwhelmed by grief or loss.
Help us to grow together as a people
united in concern for each other and love for you. Amen



ONYX

ONYX - The dynamic six piece band for your special event, wedding reception, anniversary celebration, dinner dance or corporate function.

Choose your favourite songs from our extensive playlist for those magical moments to make your special occasion simply the best.

ONYX will ensure you and your guests dance all night to celebrated hits from the last five decades.

nicole.waldock@tesco.net

01908 608304

[Facebook.com/on77yx](https://www.facebook.com/on77yx)

St Leonard's Visiting Team

We are a small group who enjoy meeting people and having a chat (maybe over a cup of tea!).

If you or anyone you know is housebound, or might enjoy some company occasionally, please call Kelly on 07502 320025 and she will put us in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Anne Chapman

Rota Reminders



On or For Sun	Coffee (after 11am service)	Cleaning
4th November	J&T Mellodey	
11th November	J Thomas	V Cooper
18th November	S Buttery & E Dickinson	
25th November	A Palmer & L Page	G&M White
2nd December	A Chapman & S Halstead	
9th December	S Darms & A Payne	J Thomas & A Gomersall
16th December	H&R Ramsbotham	
23rd December	J Thomas	R Young & S Darms
30th December	S Buttery & E Dickinson	

Aphorism

A short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation, or a general truth

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tale.
3. **If you don't have a sense of humour, you probably don't have any sense at all.**
4. Seat belts are not as confining as a wheelchair.
5. **A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.**
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job.
8. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
9. **No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.**
10. **Be careful about reading the fine print, there's no way you're going to like it.**
11. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
12. **Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Jaguar than in a Ford.**
13. **Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind and the ones that mind don't matter**
14. **Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.**
15. Business conferences are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
17. and finally.....

Do you realise that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?



Monday to Friday

9am—12pm, 12pm-3pm or 9am—3pm

An independent preschool offering places for children from 2 years old, providing a range of activities to support children's learning through play

Contact Margaret Smithers, Early Years Teacher

Email: hbpreschool@aol.com

Phone: 01525 237172



THE HEATH BAND



Would you like to learn a brass instrument?
Do you already learn and would like to join a group?

Then come and join

THE HEATH TRAINING BAND

At the Heath Barn, Eastern Way, Heath and Reach on
Wednesday evenings (term time only)

Free tuition: 6.45 to 7.45pm - instruments available

Band practice: 7.15 to 7.45pm

For more information contact: info@heath-band.co.uk

www.heath-band.co.uk



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[@heath-band](https://twitter.com/heath-band)

Worship at St Leonard's

4th Nov	4th Sunday before Advent
08.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00am	Family Service
6th Nov	
07.30pm	Holy Communion
11th Nov	3rd Sunday before Advent
	Remembrance Day
08.00am	Holy Communion (Order 1 traditional)
11.00am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
02.45pm	Service of Remembrance
13th Nov	
07.30pm	Holy Communion
18th Nov	2nd Sunday before Advent
08.00am	Holy Communion (Order1 traditional)
11.00am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
20th Nov	
7.30pm	Holy Communion
25th Nov	Christ the King
08.00am	Holy Communion (Order1 traditional)
11.00am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
27th Nov	
7.30pm	Holy Communion