

HUTTON PARISH LINK



All Saints • St. Peter
Hutton Parish

**AUG-SEP
2026**

RECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the August / September edition of the Hutton Parish Link magazine.

By the time you read this Fr Andy will be back with us following his Sabbatical, (doesn't time fly!) but for this edition of the magazine, prepared in July, I am delighted to offer a warm welcome to all who visit our two churches, follow our services on line and read our magazine



Hopefully during this summer many of us will have the opportunity to take a little time off from our daily routines to maybe go on holiday, visit family and friends or just simply relax a little.

Sunday Services during August continue at All Saints' at 11.15am as usual. At St Peter's we have our usual 9.30am Holy Communion services but with 'All in Family Holy Communion' on alternate Sundays where our young people take part in our worship instead of heading off to their own worship space.

Also in August our young people will be heading off to Satellites Festival in Somerset, from the 6th – 11th August. Please keep them and their leaders (Sarah, Andy, Alice and summer team member Rob Coe) in your prayers. On Sunday 16th August at the 9.30 service we will have the opportunity to hear about their time away as they share their experiences with us - if you are not away on holiday please be sure to come along to support and encourage our young people and their leaders.

Schools are closed for the summer holidays, but as this magazine covers both August and September don't forget that we need also to say welcome back to school, college, university and work come September! With that in mind, and thinking ahead, don't forget our 'Blessing of the Bags' service on the 6th September!

The Christian church follows a seasonal pattern of worship structured around the key events in the life of Jesus Christ, this provides a valuable rhythm to our lives through our celebrations in Church providing variation in words, music and colour. These seasonal patterns are of great comfort and strength in our lives, whether we are young, in full time education, busy working, seeking employment, mostly at home, either alone or caring for others: we all need and benefit from being part of a loving and welcoming community. Here at Hutton Parish, through our accessible worship, welcoming Daily Bread Cafe plus Food Hub and engagement in the local community, the love of Christ is celebrated in all that we seek to be.

If you are new to Hutton we look forward to meeting you at one of our Sunday or mid week services or in the Daily Bread Café.

With every Blessing.



Fr Tony

You can join us on Sunday mornings for our 9.30am on Facebook - or you could come to the buildings and join us in person! Our 9.30am service also includes Children's Church and Sunday Youth in a lively, modern, and sacramental style. Our 11.15 am service is a little quieter, with a traditional, reflective style.

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Dear friends,

As mentioned in my 'Welcome' article by the time you read this Fr Andy will be back with us following his Sabbatical, but for this edition of the magazine, I am delighted to offer a short reflection.

Anyone who has children or who have grandchildren or engage with children will regularly be amazed at how quickly they learn and change, just as Maureen and I were astonished to see how our granddaughter 'Little Ivy' as we used to call her is already preparing for her final year in primary school and her brother Otis is to start school in September! Where did the last nine years go?

I remember clearly, a couple of years ago when Ivy was around 7 years old she casually enquired "Granddad, will you still be alive in 3 years time?" I pondered this question for a moment and replied "I hope so, but there are no guarantees", "Why do you ask?". "Well" replied Ivy, "In 3 years I will be 10 and then I can go on the back of your motorbike!"

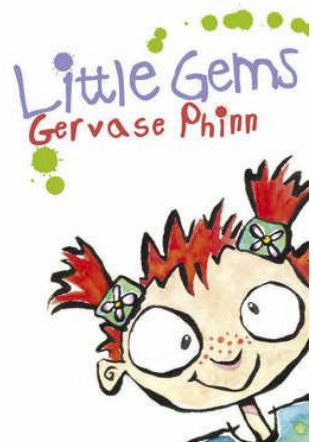
Now I mention this because I have been reading a lovely book 'Little Gems' by Gervase Phinn who is a best selling author and former school inspector in the Yorkshire Dales. He has compiled witty, even hilarious, and some poignant accounts of the things children have said and written. Chapter titles include:

'That's no lady, that's my grandma'

'Mummy what does God stand on?'

'I know the difference between girls and boys!'

The book has made me laugh and cry - sometimes at the same time! This is one of my favourite extracts:



There was a young boy in primary school who spent much time drawing. His teacher asked him about one particular sketch. 'Who is this?' she enquired. 'God' he replied, 'No-one knows what God looks like,' she informed him. 'Well they will when they see this,' he replied!

As I read the book I thought 'Out of the mouths of Babes!', as you may do when a child says something perceptive, surprising or just very funny! I then did a little research and found that when Jesus used the phrase in the gospel according to Mathew chapter 21 it meant something quite different, or did it? Here is the extract leading up to the quote:

Jesus Cleanses the Temple. Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers."

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?"

Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself'?"

Now different versions of the bible use differing translations of words but 'babes' is the equivalent of the above. So what is Jesus quoting and what does he mean? Well, the phrase "out of the mouths of babes," comes from **Psalms 8**, attributed to David who wrote, "Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes". And so Jesus is quoting this verse because the chief priests and scribes criticized the children for calling out praise to Jesus in the temple. The children were a nuisance to these leaders. By quoting this Scripture, Jesus showed that God took seriously the praise of these children. They did what the leaders were unwilling to do: give glory to the longed-for Messiah.

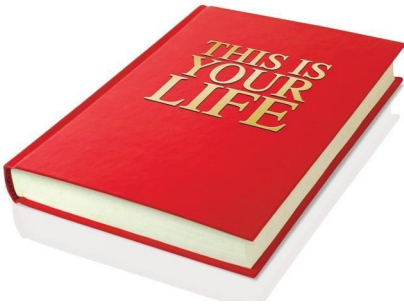
It is worth remembering that Jesus often referred to children in the bible especially when making a point to adults (the so called 'wise') that God asks us to be open and honest in our lives, not calculating and deceitful.

Jesus Thanks His Father - **Matthew 11:25**

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants."

As you ponder this mini Bible Study let me finish with one more 'Out of the mouths of Babes!' moments from Gervase Phinn's book 'Little Gems':

A very young and enthusiastic curate read the parable of 'The Good Samaritan' to the children from a large crimson-covered children's Bible, and explained to his young audience how the story taught us all how to lead better lives. He could see by the fidgeting and turning of heads that it was not having a massive impact, so he decided to finish, but not before posing one final question.



And what would you say to Jesus', he asked, holding high the big red book like some preacher of old, 'if He were to walk into the hall this morning?'

The boy on the front row thought for a moment, then raised his hand and said loudly, 'I'd give 'im that there book, vicar, and I'd say "Jesus Christ - This is your life."

N.B. If you are too young to appreciate the reference, search: 'This is Your Life'

Fr Tony





Following the success of our Year 6 Café pilot last year, we were delighted to welcome another group of young people through our doors this summer. Designed to support young people in building independence as they prepare for the transition to secondary school, the café has once again become a place of friendship, fun and belonging during what can often feel like an uncertain season.

Each week the young people enjoyed a different craft activity, table-top games, and the opportunity to add prayers or thoughts to our prayer wall. More importantly, they found a space where they could relax, laugh, ask questions and simply be themselves.

A huge thank you goes to our fantastic volunteer team who joined in every week, even in the very hot temperatures! From cakes, juice and ice lollies to meaningful conversations and a welcoming atmosphere that made the café such a special place. Sue, Marion, Barry, Linda and Michelle played a key part in making the café what it was. Thank You!

At the final session, every young person completed a feedback form. We were overwhelmed by their responses. Every single one asked for the café to return in September for the first half of the autumn term to help them settle into secondary school. Some of their comments included:

"I love it."

"Thank you."

"This has been a place of safety for me when I was nervous."

These simple words remind us that ministry is often found in the small, faithful acts of welcome, kindness and presence.

In Luke 14, Jesus tells the parable of the great banquet, where the invitation is extended widely and everyone is welcomed to the table. Hospitality is at the heart of God's kingdom. Sharing food, making room for others and creating spaces where people know they are valued are not just good community projects - they are expressions of the Gospel itself. Every sandwich served, every game played, every conversation shared and every prayer offered reflected something of God's generous welcome.



None of this would have been possible without the faithful prayers of our church family. Thank you to everyone who has prayed for the young people, their families and the volunteer team. Your prayers have been a vital part of this ministry.

As we look ahead, we would love to continue with a Year 7 Café in September, but we need more people to help make it possible. You don't need to be an expert in youth work - just someone who is willing to offer a listening ear, a friendly smile and a welcoming presence. If you feel God may be calling you to be part of this ministry, or if you would simply like to find out more, please speak to any member of the team. We'd be delighted to share more about what we've seen God doing through this initiative.

Thank you for helping us create a place where young people know they are welcome, valued and loved.

Blessings

Sarah

Can you help with the Sunday morning Live Stream?

The Audio/Visual Team is recruiting

Full training will be provided

If you are interested please speak to Guy Lee or contact the Office



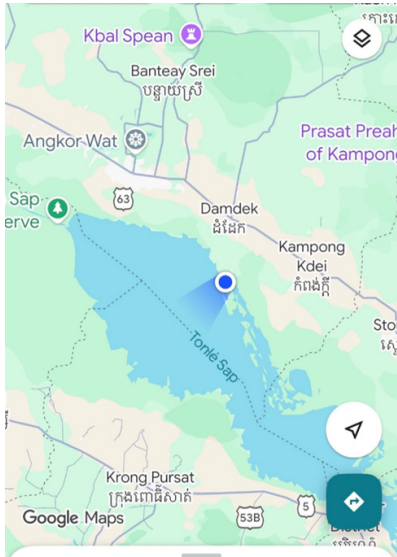


SNAPS!



A Floating Church

In this edition we are featuring a church in Asia visited by Sue and Tim Barfoot. They write:



“On a recent holiday to Cambodia, we visited the floating villages on Tonle Sap which is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia and forms a significant part of the Mekong River system. It was a reminder of the tragic experience of minority groups during the Khmer Rouge regime, but also evidence that God always sustains his people.

Tonle Sap is home to several floating Roman Catholic churches that serve local Vietnamese and Cambodian fishing communities. These communities are extremely poor and live in wooden huts that

are built on stilts so that they don't flood during the wet season - or at least that's the theory.

These unique pontoon-based structures, such as St Joseph's in Prek Toal, pictured on the next page, are anchored to the lake bed with anchor poles and tow ropes to keep the church from drifting. The ropes and poles have to be regularly inspected and maintained. The churches are also relocated to different parts of the lake depending on whether it's the wet or dry season.



SNAPS!

HOLIDAY



So next time you are talking about mending the church fence at All Saints or moving the chairs at St Peter's take a moment to think and pray for the church members on Tonle Sap who are trying to maintain their church whilst it is floating on the lake!"

oooooOOOooooo

Please keep your photos coming. It's fascinating to see and read where fellow parishioners have visited on their travels, whether in this country or in some exotic foreign location.

Email them to me at malcolmofmmwebb@btinternet.com. If you can add a couple of sentences about the church or its surroundings, or your experiences whilst searching for a local church, so much the better!



from the archives

I am sure we all appreciate just how well we are served by our Ministry Team and how fortunate we are to have so many members of that team – our Rector; two Associate Priests; a Parish Deacon, and a Licensed Lay Minister.

But it wasn't always like that, and the following article taken from the Hutton Parish Magazine for September 1981 shows just how different things were in those days, albeit when, admittedly, our congregations tended to be smaller. The article was written by the Rector at the time, Revd Richard Orton, who was the sole Minister for All Saints and St Peters at that time, and it's easy to see how far the church has advanced since then – not least by noting that all his comments about new ministers refer to them as “he”. We need to remember that female Rectors, Priests and Deacons were not allowed until nearly thirteen years after the article was written.

“Some people have remarked at our house group meetings that the parish needs a curate, so perhaps it would be appropriate to give you some idea how things are.

For every available curate there are about four parishes wanting one. That means that they can choose which parish to go to from quite a number. Some parishes are more attractive than others to new curates.

The normal practice is for a man to serve two curacies before getting a parish of his own. He goes to his first curacy straight from college as a Deacon. That means he cannot celebrate Holy Communion though he can take other services and share the pastoral work. After a year he is ordained a Priest. Now he can celebrate Holy Communion. But during his first curacy he is still very much under training and has to give much of his time to study.

After about three years he moves to a second curacy. Here he hopes to widen his experience as much as possible and is probably wanting some sphere of responsibility within the parish where he can work out his own ideas.

During the past year, five men seeking a second curacy have had a look at Hutton and all chose to go somewhere else. Three of the five would, I am sure, have been a great asset here. But one went to a parish consisting of one large village and one small with a church in each and he was offered almost sole charge of the smaller one.



from the

archives

Another one wanted a rather specialised experience working with university students.

Another one who was a bachelor chose to go to a big parish where he would be a member of a large team.

Another one, who was a much older man found a placing in more congenial surroundings.

The fifth, for family reasons, accepted an offer to go to a parish nearer London.

In every case I was disappointed but had to admit that in their shoes I would have chosen to do as they did.

There were two more who didn't even get as far as coming to have a look at Hutton and even that's not the whole story. But we keep trying and hoping. And when we've got one we will need an increase in parish income of about £5,000 to pay a quarter of his salary (the diocese pays the rest), to pay his expenses of office, and to offset the loss we will make through not letting the parsonage any longer.

Yes, I want a curate too, and if we all want one enough we shall work to attract one and to pay one.

That's a very brief summary of how things are as regards getting a curate. As you see, there's a great deal more to it than meets the eye."

The frustration felt by Rev. Orton at the church's inability to secure a curate is palpable.

That article was written 45 years ago, and I wonder whether things have changed much - and if so whether for better or worse - since then. I do know that our neighbours at St Mary's, Shenfield, have had two spells of interregnum (the period between the departure of one Minister and the appointment of his or her replacement) in the past decade, each lasting for a year or so. The disruption caused was considerable on each occasion, so one can get a fair idea of what it would have been like for Rev Orton with little or no 'support staff' to help him out, in ministerial terms.

ROOTED

Our last meeting of the school year was on July 10th at St Peter's. In the glorious/oppressive/lovely/overwhelming heat! (Delete as you feel appropriate!).

We are now having a little break over the summer, but we are encouraging people to meet up in a more informal way e.g. a walk, a coffee, a breakfast or tea and cake etc.

Our new term in September begins in a new way with Rev Lisa leading at our first Friday gathering on the 11th September with a time of communion. A rhythm we hope to continue.

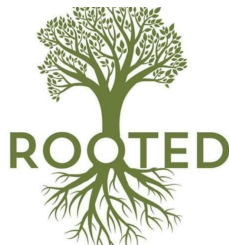
Also, on the 11th we are joining with the 24/7 prayer network and holding 12 hours of prayer in the Chapel at St Peter's from 8am to 8pm. Please do come along for a long a time or short, as you are able, and pray.

At the other extreme, the week before, on 4th September at 7pm. We are meeting with the Mothers Union and holding a Big Knicker Night to raise awareness and provide knickers and other personal garments for Changing Pathways. This evening is open to anyone, so please do come along and invite and bring others, too, bringing something for children or women from the following list:

- Underwear,
- Pyjamas,
- Nighties,
- Dressing gowns,
- Make up,
- Sanitary products,
- Face, eye and sleep masks

The evening will include a chat about the domestic abuse charity, some refreshments and of course the compulsory cake!

Look forward to seeing you some time over the Summer, or at one of our early in September gatherings.



Eve Byles
Ministry Lead
Rooted Community

Gathering women in Hutton around faith, food and friendship.

www.huttonparish.com



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DAILY BREAD CAFE

If you have hearing aids issued by a local NHS audiology service, our friendly trained volunteers can provide this necessary maintenance, and provide information, advice and guidance at

Daily Bread Cafe Brentwood

Hearing Help Essex will be attending on

Tuesday 4th August 2026

Wednesday 7th October 2026

Wednesday 9th December 2026

from

10:00-12:00



FREE TO ATTEND

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Hutton**

**CM13 1JS
United Kingdom**

**Hearing
Help Essex**

Reg. Charity number: 1113498

www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk

info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk

Phone: 01245 496347

Text: 07950 406 173

Supported by the NHS Inequalities Fund

My Favourite Prayer

This month's Favourite Prayer has been supplied by Barry Sansom. Barry writes:

My favourite prayer is John Wesley's Covenant Prayer which he wrote in 1775 to be used as part of an annual service of Covenant Renewal.

John Wesley, an Anglican Priest to the end of his life, emphasised practical holiness and disciplined Christian living. Members of the Methodist Church are invited to renew their Covenant relationship with God each year – usually on the first Sunday of the Calendar Year or alternatively the first Sunday of the Church Year in September.

Whenever saying this prayer (in contemporary language below), I am reminded of God's ongoing faithfulness and my commitment to live a life of obedience and love by following the way of Jesus Christ.

"I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace. Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded; when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; when I have all things, and when I have nothing.

I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and when you choose. Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven.

Amen"

Please let me have your favourite prayer to share with everyone, along with a few words as to why it resonates with you. It might be a prayer taught to you by your parents when you were young, or one that you first came across at a particularly memorable – or difficult – time in your life. It might be solemn or intense, or it might be amusing. One thing is certain: if it means a lot to you, for whatever reason, it will be worth sharing with the rest of us. Email it to me – my contact details are on the back page.



LITTLE FISHES

Two major events took place at Little Fishes this term.



The first was the demise of the bubble machine, which marks the end of each session and is something we took for granted. So, when it stopped working there was much concern and we hurriedly bought a replacement – phew! But this new machine (a dinosaur not a fish this time) sadly didn't perform very well. This caused great consternation amongst the children and adults, so much so that I had grandparents offering to go to the shop and buy another replacement, because their child was so upset. Fortunately, after some intense research and reading of reviews I found a model that produces bubbles on an almost industrial scale. This enabled normal service to resume (although if you stand in the way you get a complete bubble bath!)



Secondly we finished the term with a Summer party, 30 children attended along with their grown-ups. It was such a lovely time, the hall was full of chatter and excitement as they went on a treasure hunt, made crowns and played with friends. Lots of children had dressed up for the

occasion, so much so that one child struggled to fit in her car seat because of the design of her beautiful dress! After a feast fit for royalty, lovingly prepared by the team, it was time to say good-bye.

A mixed time of sadness and excitement for the future. We said farewell to 7 children, most of whom are starting full-time school in September, but we also said good-bye to two grown-ups who have been coming regularly for nearly 4 years and have built friendships themselves. When the families went home, we received lots of appreciative comments and smiley thank-yous from the children.



LITTLE FISHES

This year it has been a joy and privilege to work with such a committed and hard-working team. The love and compassion they have shown to the families as they come through the door has been a real blessing.

My prayer for the summer holidays is that as team members each of us will have time to relax, recharge and draw closer to God. So that we can be ready to reach out to the community again in September.



Some of the team enjoying a celebratory "end-of-year" lunch together

Sue and the Little Fishes Team

YOUTH

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CREATE, PLAY AND
JUST BE.

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9:30AM-12PM (SCHOOL
HOLIDAY)

FOR AGE 11+

- Craft Activities
- Board Games
- Lego
- Conversation

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YOUTH MINISTRY

During the summer term, our youth programme took on a slightly more relaxed pace, giving us the space and opportunity to enjoy time together, welcome new faces and celebrate all that God has been doing among our young people.

One of the highlights was inviting our Year 5 young people to a taster session ahead of starting in September. We explored the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15), thinking about how every single person matters to God and how heaven rejoices whenever someone takes a step towards Him – whether that's coming to church for the first time, joining youth group, or beginning a journey of faith.



We finished our time together with joyful worship, using instruments, flags and ribbons to express our praise and celebrate God's love. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and energy of the young people!



On our last Youth Group session, we enjoyed a “Faithfuls” games night, inspired by the television programme The Traitors. Using an excellent resource from Open Doors, the evening challenged the young people to secretly smuggle Bibles to Christians living in countries where following Jesus can come at a great cost.

Alongside the fun of the game, it helped raise awareness of the persecuted Church in more than 70 countries. It reminded us that, although separated by distance, we are one family in Christ. We spent time praying for our brothers and sisters around the world, asking God to strengthen, protect and encourage them. If you are interested in supporting the work that Open Doors does, please visit their website: www.opendoorsuk.org.

To round off the academic year, we headed to City Bowl for an evening of bowling. It was loud, competitive at times and full of laughter. Most importantly, it was a chance to enjoy one another's company and celebrate another fantastic year together!

Laura Coe

YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who faithfully prays for and supports this vital ministry. Please continue to pray for our young people over the summer holidays as they get ready for new years and new schools.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we're excited to continue to grow our youth ministry. As more young people join us, it is important that each one feels known, welcomed and valued. That's why we are always looking for new volunteers to join our team.



You don't need to run around or have all the answers – just a listening ear, a welcoming heart and a desire to share the hospitality and love of Jesus. Whether you're 18 or 80+, every conversation, every act of kindness and every faithful presence can help a young person encounter Christ and know they belong. If you feel God might be calling you to be part of this amazing ministry, I'd love to have a chat.

Sarah
Youth Ministry Lead

ANSWERS TO OLDEST AND NEWEST CATHEDRALS

Canterbury
Rochester
York
Ripon
Ely
Saint Albans
Chester
Hereford

Guildford
Coventry
Liverpool
Blackburn
Derby
Portsmouth
Leicester
Sheffield

Inevitably there are scholars who come up with different answers to the above by arguing, for instance, that some cathedrals pre-dated some of these but were demolished during the Reformation, or others that building work might have started earlier but wasn't completed until quite recently. But I believe that all in all these are pretty accurate lists.

HIDDEN CHRISTIANS

We are often prompted to thank God for the freedom that we enjoy, being able to follow our faith freely.

Those of you that know me, will know that I am interested in most things Japanese, and I recently watched a television programme with Michael Portillo in which he travelled on Japanese railways. One of the episodes briefly covered the story of the Hidden Christians. (Kakure Kirishitan) and it reminded me of the story which I recount below.

Christianity arrived in Japan in 1549 with Portuguese Jesuit missionaries lead by Francis Xavier. They arrived with Portuguese traders in Nagasaki which is on the western edge of Japan and was a major port providing access to imported silk cloth and other essentials from China. The Chinese refused to trade with the Japanese and so the Portuguese acted as middlemen making a tidy fortune in the process.

At that time, the country was divided into small “Counties” each with a Warlord, a castle and a standing army. There were constant civil wars.

The Jesuits managed to convert several of the Warlords to Christianity and as Christians they were allowed discounts on the goods they purchased from the Portuguese.

However, the Portuguese politicians and traders sought to divide and conquer the Japanese as they had successfully done in the Philippines.

In 1587 missionary activity was banned in Japan. Japanese Christians were forced to recant their faith, or they were executed. To discover who the existing Japanese Christians were, a “Fumi-e”, a small wood or metal plaque, of the Madonna and child, or a Crucifix, would be thrown on the ground and passers-by required to tread on it.



Engraving of the 26 martyrs crucified for their faith

Those that refused were severely punished and if they refused to recant their faith they were executed. In 1597, under the orders of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, twenty-six Catholics, comprising both foreign missionaries and Japanese converts, were arrested subjected to brutal treatment, and marched through villages as a warning to others. On 5 February, they were crucified on Nishizaka Hill in Nagasaki. Unlike traditional crucifixion, they were pierced with lances to hasten death.

Then in 1600 an Englishman called Will Adams arrived in Japan from the East. (If you have watched the film or television programme or read the book SHOGUN, the character John Blackthorn is based on Will Adams). Adams alerted the Shōgun Tokugawa Ieyasu (Chief Warlord) of the deceit of the Portuguese and as a result, in 1614 the Portuguese were expelled from Japan, and Christianity banned throughout the country.

Only Non-Japanese Christians were allowed but carefully monitored. As Will Adams had been sailing under a Dutch flag, the Dutch were invited to take residence on a small island in the Port of Nagasaki but were not allowed onto the mainland without armed escorts.

To avoid the persecution the Japanese Christians moved to the more rugged areas of Nagasaki, the Goto Islands, and Amakusa Islands, to the west of Nagasaki. There they practised their faith in secret. If they were challenged to tread on the Fumi-e they would do so, and on returning home they would burn their sandals, mix the ashes with water, and drink it, as an act of contrition for a necessary sin.

In an interview I saw on NHK, Japanese television, the English presenter was taken to an old Christian graveyard. Hidden in woods on a hillside, the stones laid flat on the ground had no inscriptions. If the authorities had known what they were, the remains would have been dug up and thrown in the sea. Relatives would come to the stones in secret and form a cross from pebbles, that lay scattered around. They would then pray for the soul of the deceased. If someone came by, a sweep of the hand would scatter the pebbles.

The Japanese Christians received support from an unusual source. All Japanese were required to register with a Buddhist temple. In Nagasaki, the Tenpukuji Temple accepted their registration and accepted their statue, originally a Buddhist Goddess “Kannon” the Goddess of Mercy, but known by the Christians as “Maria Kannon”. Zen Buddhism believes that a difference in points of view is not a reason for conflict and so the monks of the temple gave the Christians refuge for over two hundred and fifty years. In the 1970s, the temple was in a bad condition and needed to be rebuilt. Many Catholics came forward to donate substantial sums. Instructions had been passed down through the generations that they should support the temple if it was needed.

HIDDEN CHRISTIANS

In the mid-19th century, the government allowed the construction of the Oura Cathedral in Nagasaki, the oldest Christian church in Japan. Finished in 1865 this was solely for the use of foreign Christians living in Nagasaki. Fr Bernard Petitjean, a French priest brought with him a statue of the Virgin. One month after completion, a party of Japanese women approached him asking numerous questions, and then one asked “Where is the statue of the Virgin Mary?”. No such statue had been seen in Japan for 250 years. Thus, the existence of the Hidden Christians was revealed.



However, the persecution did not cease. Fr Petitjean discovered that in a small district in the Nagasaki area called Urakami, almost all the villagers were Christian. Christianity was still forbidden for the locals. Those rediscovered Hidden Christians were persecuted by the central governments. Between 1869 and 1873, over 3,600 Christians were banished to exile. During their exile, 650 died. After the long-standing ban on Christianity was lifted in 1873, they came back to their home district and decided to construct their own church.

Construction of the original Urakami Church began in 1895. The land was purchased from the village chief where the humiliating interrogations had taken place for two centuries. They thought the place was appropriate considering their memory of the long persecution. It was the largest Christian structure in the Asia Pacific region until being destroyed by the atomic bomb that fell on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, and which detonated in Urakami only 500 m from the church. As the Feast of the Assumption of Mary (August 15) was near, Mass was held on the day and was well attended. The resultant collapse and heatwave cindered and buried all those present in the church.

The surviving Christians salvaged several statues and one bell from the rubble.

Urakami Church was rebuilt in 1959, with just the one original bell. On the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing, an additional bell donated by American Catholics, was also rung.

The Oura Cathedral survived the bombing of Nagasaki but many of the other churches in Nagasaki were destroyed. Approximately 8500 of the 12000 Christians in Nagasaki were killed. However, the churches have been rebuilt and the Christian faith in Japan still thrives.



Len Davies



TEA BREAK

OLDEST AND NEWEST

This month's puzzle is a Wordsearch with a twist. The grid contains the names of the eight oldest and the eight newest Cathedrals in England.

They're all listed below in alphabetical order. You have to find them on the grid but then put them into two lists: what you think are the "Oldest" and "Newest".

The two lists are shown elsewhere in the magazine, but have a go at assessing them as 'old' or 'new' before you look at the answers: you may get a few surprises!

C W M I H L O O P R E V I L O
H H N M Y L E U Y M T H R H G
E C Y O G M Y T E N E E O T T
S K P R X H L W B X T U R U T
T R O I U A E R A S Q E L O P
E O K W Q B I R E F T F S M G
R Y B C T P R H E S M H M S U
G Y L L O Y C E E F E Q U T I
U S A N D O R C T F O N W R L
A N C X R E I T F N P R Q O D
V I K E Q E R I N G A T D P F
A Z B K L T E B P E R C X H O
E O U N D L K V Y H V O C R R
X A R C D I W O V R L O E X D
Y S N A B L A T N I A S C K O

BLACKBURN
DERBY
LEICESTER
ROCHESTER

CANTERBURY
ELY
LIVERPOOL
SAINT ALBANS

CHESTER
GUILDFORD
PORTSMOUTH
SHEFFIELD

COVENTRY
HEREFORD
RIPON
YORK



A FRIENDLY REMINDER

As we gather for worship each Sunday, we recognise that in a lively and welcoming church such as ours, with many children present, there will naturally and occasionally be noise, which is very much part of who we are.

This is simply a gentle reminder for us as adults.

During Holy Communion, our musicians and singers offer music and anthems that have been prayerfully prepared as part of our worship. We kindly ask that, as far as possible, this time is given the same attentiveness that we offer to the prayers, readings, and sermon.

Holy Communion is a sacred moment, and a quieter atmosphere helps others to pray and reflect on what God is doing among us. When a hymn is listed during Communion, please do join in. When other music is offered, we invite you to let it support your prayers quietly and reflectively.

We deeply value the warmth and friendliness of St Peter's and would be grateful if conversations and catch-ups could be saved for your time together following the service during refreshments.

Thank you for your consideration and care for one another.

The Leadership Team

Bible Study

Starting in May 2026, the usual Wednesday evening Bible study has been amalgamating with Everyday Faith to look at the Book of James.

On weeks 1 and 3 we have been studying the Book of James chapter by chapter.

On weeks 2 and 4 we have been using the Book of James and picking up broader themes – through worship and input/teaching from the Bible applicable to everyday living and witness, with discussion, conversation and reflection included.

We aimed to finish the Book of James in 12 weeks, taking us up to the beginning of August when we stop to have a summer break as usual.

For those who have not been able to attend, I have briefly summarised the Book of James as follows:

The letter of James is known by many scholars to be the earliest book in the New Testament (around AD 45-49). It is considered as the most practical, action-oriented book declaring that *"Faith without works is dead"* (**James 2:17, 26**).

This concept raised the debate from Martin Luther as to whether this book should even be included in the New Testament. During the Protestant Reformation, Luther feared James's emphasis on "works" contradicted the Apostle Paul's teaching that Salvation comes by faith alone. However, broader biblical consensus views Paul and James not as contradictions, but as two sides of the same coin: Paul describes the "root" of Salvation, while James describes its fruit (actions).... Just as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:14 "for Christ's love compels us...". So after we have faith through grace, the love of Christ urges us to act in kindness and therefore the "works" are the by-product of faith.

The author of this letter gives us no particular information about himself. He calls himself "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ." (**1:1**). So who is he?

In the New Testament there are at least five people who bear that name.



I will not try to write all the findings as William Barclay (theologian) in his book "The letter of James" has written 30 pages regarding the possibilities of which James it was. Eventually, the majority of theologians and scholars decided that the book of James was written by James, the brother of Jesus – Mary and Joseph's son.

The main themes of the Book of James

Living Faith – James wants believers not only to hear the truth but also to put it into action. He contrasts empty faith (claims without conduct) with faith that works. Commitment to love and to serve others is evidence of true faith. Living out faith makes a difference. It is more than just a statement; it should also result in action.

Trials – In our Christian life there are trials and temptation. Successfully overcoming these adversities produces maturity and strong character. Don't avoid or hate troubles when they come. Pray for wisdom; God will supply all you need to face persecution or adversity. He will give us patience and keep us strong in times of trial. "No temptation/trials have overtaken you except what it is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear/cope. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." (**1 Corinthians 10:13**) (one of my favourite verses)

Law of Love – we are saved by God's gracious mercy and grace, not by keeping the law. But Christ gave us a special command: "Love your neighbour as yourself" (**Matthew 19:19**). We are to love and serve those around us; therefore keeping the Law of Love shows that our faith is vital and real. When we show love to others, we are overcoming our own selfishness.

Wise Speech – Wisdom shows itself in wise speech. God holds us responsible for the results of our destructive words. "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit," (**Proverbs 18:21**) The wisdom of God that helps control the tongue can help control all our actions. Accepting God's wisdom will affect our speech. Our words will convey true humility and lead to peace. Think before we speak and allow God to give us self-control.

Wealth – James taught Christians not to compromise with worldly attitudes about wealth. Because the glory of wealth fades, Christians should store up God's treasures through sincere service. Christians must not show partiality to the wealthy or be prejudiced against the poor. All of us are accountable for how we use what we have. We should not hoard wealth or see it as a security, but be generous towards others. In addition, we should not be impressed by the wealthy nor look down on those who are poor or vulnerable.

When I was writing this article, we had just completed the final chapter. I think many of us find the Book of James very thought-provoking and we agree that James reminds us that true, authentic Christian faith must actively express itself through righteous behaviour and obedience to God. Rather than focusing on abstract or purely intellectual theology, the book serves as a highly practical guide to daily ethical living. It is heavily influenced by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and the Old Testament book of Proverbs.

Tino





The Mothers' Union

150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in

Lighting the way for
generations to come



June was a very special time for Mothers' Union as members from around the UK and the worldwide movement gathered for the 150th anniversary service held at St Paul's Cathedral. Led by the Archbishop of Canterbury it was an awe-inspiring and joy-filled occasion, celebrating our connection as a worldwide fellowship of Christians.



There were opportunities for more connections the following day at the annual gathering in London when we heard from M.U. leaders past and present, and were inspired by a number of Mothers' Union projects from across the UK and the world.



Hutton MU members met the following week for our monthly communion followed by afternoon tea provided by the Daily Bread cafe. Thank you so much to Natalie and Karla from Daily Bread who produced such a wonderful spread that was thoroughly enjoyed by all members present.

We continue to encourage our church family to **'Join Us and Join In'** during our 150th anniversary

year and on **23rd August** the morning service at St Peter's will be a special service reflecting on 150 years of Mothers' Union at home and around the world, and celebrating our founder Mary Sumner. After the service there will be an opportunity to learn more about the work of Mothers' Union in Chelmsford diocesan and around the world. We would love our church family to join us after the service for refreshments including some special 150th celebration cakes.

On 4th September we are excited to be partnering with the Rooted Community for our joint Big Knicker Night event, supporting local refuge provider 'Changing Pathways' and highlighting our **RISE UP** campaign against domestic abuse.

Kathryn Booth

CREATED FROM NOTHING

Why the Doctrine of Creation Still Matters

September is traditionally marked by many churches as the *Season of Creation*, a time when Christians are encouraged to reflect on God as Creator and our responsibility to care for the world He has made. Running from 1 September to 4 October, this season invites us to celebrate the beauty of creation, give thanks for God's generosity, and consider how we can live more faithfully as stewards of His creation. With this in mind, it is worth asking why the Christian doctrine of creation still matters today.



So, what does it mean to say that God created the world “from nothing”? The Christian doctrine of creation *ex nihilo*, meaning “creation out of nothing”, is one of the most important beliefs in Christian theology. Although it may sound abstract, it shapes how Christians understand God, worship, humanity and the world itself.

In the ancient world, many philosophers believed that matter had always existed. Plato suggested that a divine craftsman shaped pre-existing chaos, while Aristotle believed the universe had no beginning. Christian theology challenged these ideas by claiming that God created the universe entirely through His own will, without relying on any existing material.

Around AD180, Theophilus of Antioch argued that if God needed pre-existing matter to create, then God would depend on something outside Himself. Instead, creation *ex nihilo* teaches that God alone is the source of all existence. Everything depends on Him, while He depends on nothing.

This understanding also separates Christianity from many ancient myths. In Mesopotamian stories such as *Enuma Elish*, the world is formed through violence and conflict between rival gods. By contrast, the opening chapter of the Book of Genesis presents creation as peaceful and intentional. God simply speaks, and creation comes into being. This portrays God as sovereign, free and purposeful.

The doctrine of creation *ex nihilo* also reveals important truths about God's relationship with creation. Christianity insists that God is completely distinct from the world, preventing creation itself from becoming an object of worship.

CREATED FROM NOTHING

At the same time, God is not distant or absent. Thinkers such as Augustine of Hippo argued that creation continues to exist only because God continually sustains it. God did not create the world and then abandon it; creation depends on His presence at every moment.

This idea helps Christians understand God as both transcendent and deeply involved in creation. Rowan Williams writes that God is “always active,” continually sustaining the world. Creation is therefore not simply a past event but an ongoing expression of God’s will and love.

The doctrine also shapes Christian worship. If the world exists because of God’s free and loving choice, then creation should inspire gratitude and wonder. Many of the Psalms celebrate God as Creator. Psalms 33 declares, “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made.” Creation points beyond itself to the generosity and goodness of God.

Importantly, creation ex nihilo also has practical implications for how Christians live today. If creation is a gift from God, then humanity has a responsibility to care for it. Humans are created in the image of God (imago Dei), not to exploit the earth selfishly, but to reflect God’s care and stewardship. Environmental responsibility, therefore, becomes part of Christian discipleship. How can we help creation today? Maybe make a conscious effort to recycle where you can? Plant flowers in your garden to help the bees pollinate?



The doctrine also challenges modern cultures of busyness and exhaustion. The biblical idea of Sabbath reminds Christians that creation is not meant for endless productivity. God rested on the seventh day, establishing rhythms of worship, trust and renewal. In a world shaped by consumption and exhaustion, the doctrine of creation ex nihilo reminds Christians that life itself is a gift - sustained every moment by the love of God.

I wonder... If God continues to sustain creation every moment, where might we already see signs of His presence in the world around us?

Sarah Robbshaw



All Saints' new rope guide



All Saints bell ringers are delighted with their rope guide, installed in March by Nicholson's Engineering, a specialist bell company. As the guide is visible in the church, we proposed installing a circular guide, as it looked more elegant than the normal squared off type which can look a bit like scaffolding.

In addition to the guide, we moved the positions of the ropes for the two and the treble, making a much better rope circle which gives much improved sight lines, particularly from the treble.

The way the ropes fall and respond to the ringers is much improved, previously the ropes could 'fly' and become flappy which of course makes the ringing quite a challenge. Members of the clergy and several of the congregation have complimented us on the way it looks, rather as if we have installed a new piece of art!

The cost was £4341 & VAT as we provided local labour to reduce the cost; we had some funds and ran a fund- raising quiz night with an additional £500 provided by a grant from the Essex Association. The initial installation date was early January and if that had gone ahead, we would most likely have been able to reclaim the VAT under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. However, Nicholson's delayed the work until mid- March, by which time the VAT recovery grant had expired so we had to find another £860 from our funds, so we will need to do some retrospective fund raising soon.



Do have a look 'up' when you come into All Saints to view the new installation!

**Beth Johnson,
Tower Captain**



SUMMER FAIR

After the big success of the Summer Fair at All Saints Church last year when we celebrated its 700th anniversary, it was suggested that we do it again this summer. So a small team got together to make plans. We contacted those people who had helped last year and were delighted that if they were able to step up again, many of them did. Publicity was sent out, raffle and tombola prizes requested and cake makers asked to get their baking equipment out for us again.

The date was fixed for Saturday, 13th June. We publicised it far and wide – not least of all in this magazine (although, frustratingly, a printer problem meant that the event actually took place before the magazine was issued!) And as the day drew nearer we watched the weather forecast with trepidation and wondering if we would have enough donations to make it all work. As it turned out, we could not have asked for better weather (not quite as hot as last year) and the donations came in.



We were blessed also that an impressive programme of music and singing was laid on for our entertainment, including Shenfield Operatic Society, All Saints Church bell ringers (hand bells and the tower bells) and contemporary worship by a band and singers from the parish community.

The day was another great success with a variety of stalls, BBQ and refreshments and the church was open to welcome all visitors. It was a joy to see so many people enjoying our beautiful church and its surroundings on such a glorious day.



SUMMER FAIR



This and similar events cannot be so successful without the help of volunteers, donations and, of course, the attendance of people of all ages from the local community and beyond. So a big THANK YOU to you all!!

The event raised around £530 net which will be a great help in maintaining our two churches here in Hutton.

All Saints Summer Fair 2026 Working Group

*Rooted and Hutton Mothers' Union Invite You To....*

THE BIG KNICKER NIGHT

Raising awareness of domestic abuse

REFRESHMENTS DISPLAYS AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

TALK FROM LOCAL REFUGE PROVIDER 'CHANGING PATHWAYS'

**Friday 4th September 2026, From 7pm,
St Peters Church, Hutton**

Free entry to anyone bringing one of the following new and unopened items to donate to clients of Changing Pathways: underwear, pyjamas, nighties, dressing gown, make-up, sanitary products, face masks, eye masks, sleep masks



Volunteers

We couldn't run the café without the amazing volunteers that we have. Over 150 volunteers who give up some time each week to help out.

We had a volunteer appreciation event recently and had some students from Debut academy come in who are at the end of their beauty therapy course and offered us free manicures and pedicures for all our volunteers who wanted this lovely treat. Everyone enjoyed it and said what a luxury it was that they would not otherwise have treated themselves to. For some it was the first time they had experienced a professional manicure or had someone massage their hands or feet. The beauty therapy instructor said how wonderful it was for the girls to experience treating client after client. It was great practice for them for when they will be working in a salon and is definitely something they will be repeating in the Autumn term.



If you would like to be a volunteer and be part of our team please do get in touch. We can cater for most peoples' strengths and limitations. We have a range of different volunteering opportunities for everyone. Take a look at the volunteers we have - and still need - to see if anything fits your availability and skills.

- Evening drivers to collect food from supermarkets, sometimes on a regular basis and often on a more ad hoc basis when they are free and cover is needed.
- Daytime drivers who collect from other stores including Greggs, Lidl and KFC.
- Unpackers of the food in the hub in the evening who then store it in the fridges and freezers.
- Morning, afternoon and weekend volunteers to pack shopping into bags for customers to take home.
- Morning café staff to prepare, serve and clear up in the café.

- Anytime drivers to return the crates to stores.
- Daytime drivers to take cardboard to the recycling centre.
- Evening coordinators to accept the donations on a smartphone.

Any time fundraisers to look at available funding.

- Events coordinator to arrange fundraising events in house.
- Social media guru to promote what we do.
- Shelf fillers and donation sorters any time.

Please contact us on dailybread@huttonparish.com or lisa@huttonparish.com

Estates ministry

As an outreach ministry based on a housing estate there are certain ups and downs and areas that are unique to ministering on estates. The Church of England recognise this and out on regular meets ups for any church or project that are working in this way. These are to support one another, learn best practice and hear what amazing things are going on in Gods kingdom. We were invited to the latest day conference in Chelmsford in June and were asked to share some of what we do at Daily Bread with others across the Chelmsford diocese. We also heard from people running recovery ministries, working with LGBTQI communities and refugees.



Rev. Lisa

Baptisms

7th June - Rose Amelie Lowe

19th July - Niamh Mairead Ryan MacMillan

Weddings

4th June - Richard Bradford and Hazel Reverente

20th June - Rory Tyrrell and Jessica Kallagher

Funerals

3rd June - Daphne Margaret Topham - Funeral at All Saints

17th July - Ian Claydon - Funeral at All Saints

Funeral Arrangements

Should you need to book a funeral for someone, please contact a member of the Ministry Team, and they will arrange for you to be talked through what needs to be dealt with. In normal circumstances this would include funeral arrangements, pastoral care, a visit from a member of the Bereavement Visiting Team, if appropriate, and information about interment of ashes, plaques on the Memorial Wall, Book of Remembrance, and anything else that you would like to know.

Baptisms

Any child or adult who lives in the Parish may be baptised in our churches during an appropriate Sunday service at either All Saints or St Peters church.

For a child, baptism is the beginning of an exciting journey of faith. In choosing to have their child baptised, parents are saying that he or she is precious to them and precious to God. For some parents – or other adults, for that matter – they themselves didn't have the opportunity for whatever reason to be baptised as a child. We want to encourage them to be baptised as adults and to enjoy the same feelings towards God as their children will.

In the first instance please contact the Parish Office. The Parish Administrator will liaise with the Clergy to establish a date suitable to all parties and you will be sent an application form and information leaflets about the baptism itself and the other facilities available for you and/or your child to become involved with, all of which are mentioned elsewhere in this magazine.

Weddings

All information about getting married in our churches can be obtained by contacting the Parish Office by email to weddings@huttonparish.com. Contact details for help with any of these services can be found on the "Useful Contacts" page at the back of the magazine.



SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Date	Day	Time	Service	Church	Preacher
2nd Aug	Trinity 9	9.30	Family Holy Communion	St Peters	Fr Andy
		11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints	Fr Andy
9th Aug	Trinity 10	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Revd Lisa
		11.15	Morning Worship	All Saints	Tino
16th Aug	Trinity 11	9.30	Family Holy Communion	St Peters	Sarah
		11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints	Fr Andy
23rd Aug	Trinity 12	9.30	M.U. Holy Communion*	St Peters	Revd Lisa
		11.15	Holy Communion/Baptism	All Saints	Fr Andy
30th Aug	Trinity 13	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Tim Barfoot
		11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints	Tim Barfoot
6th Sep	Trinity 14	9.30	Holy Communion**	St Peters	Fr Andy
		11.15	Holy Communion**	All Saints	Fr Andy
13th Sep	Trinity 15	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Fr Andy
		11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints	Revd Lisa
20th Sep	Trinity 16	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Eve Byles
		11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints	Eve Byles
27th Sep	Trinity 17	9.30	Holy Communion	St Peters	Fr Andy
		11.15	Morning Worship	All Saints	Tino

* Mary Sumner Sunday

** Blessing of the Bags



PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION OF: HUTTON PARISH LINK

This magazine that you are reading has been produced in its current form since April 2020. It has always been completely free of charge to anyone who wants a copy.

We produce 130 copies of each issue. Some are taken to All Saints for its regular worshippers to pick up, whilst the majority are placed in the foyer of St Peter's where there is naturally a far greater footfall from all the various daily activities and larger congregations.

All copies regularly go, but if you do struggle to get your hands on one, or you know of any local residents who would like one but are unable to get to church, and to whom you would be happy to deliver a copy, please let me know and I'll make sure you get what you need.

I said at the start that the magazine is and will remain free to all who want a copy. But of course there are costs involved in the production – paper, ink and the 'per sheet' rental charge from the company from whom we hire the printer. We need to try to cover some if not all of our production costs, and the best way to achieve that is to sell a small amount of advertising space in the magazine. To that end.....

- **Do you have your own business, or know of someone who does, and would you or they consider advertising in future editions?**
- **Would you be prepared to approach local shops – particularly those where you are well-known – and enquire whether they would be prepared to support us by way of advertising in the magazine?**

We charge £120 (full page) or £70 (half page) per year (six copies) for full colour adverts. All the advertiser has to do is present us with his preferred artwork and we'll do the rest. And the "year" can start at any time – usually from the date of the first edition published after we receive the advertiser's copy.

These rates are incredibly cheap for the amount of exposure that the advertiser will get, but it is not our desire to make a profit, just to cover our costs so that we never have to even consider charging for the magazine.

If you think you can help, or know of someone who might be able to, or just want more information about advertising, please get in touch with me. My contact details are on the back page.

Thank you.

Malcolm





USEFUL CONTACTS



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