



## This Month

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## Bee Active

At our Harvest Service last month, Nick spoke about bees and their importance in providing the food that we eat. Bees are essential for pollinating crops and other plants and it's estimated that they play a key role in providing at least a third of the food that we eat, if not more. What is worrying though is the decline in the numbers of bees since the start of this century – since 2010 alone, the bee population has reduced by 45% in the UK, and this is thought to be mostly due to the use of pesticides. Two species of bee have become extinct in the UK since the start of the 21st century and several more are now endangered.

Here are some facts about bees and why they are so important to us:

- Bees pollinate 80% of flowering plants on Earth and 70 of the top 100 human food crops.

- One single bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers each day.
- 1 in 3 bites of food we eat is derived from plants pollinated by bees.
- Almonds are completely dependent on bee pollination; avocados, apples, and cherries are over 90% dependent on bee pollination and cucumbers, kiwis, and melon are majorly dependent on bee pollination.

A threat to the bees is a threat to our own existence. It can be tempting, when faced with a huge problem like this, to bury our own heads in the sand. After all, what difference can just one person make? And whilst, on our own, it may seem we make very little difference, if we all stopped to play our part in helping the bees we could make a massive difference.

Here are some ways in which we can help



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the bees (taken from the information sheet which was made available after the Harvest service):

use pesticides, including on your lawn – bees may forage or nest in lawns.

**Action you can take about habitat loss:**

- Ask your council not to mow wildflower verges, and request that your friends and relatives do the same. Councils manage large areas of land and can make a positive contribution. For example, they can manage hedgerows sympathetically, and create pollinator gardens. Public pressure makes a difference.
- Think of your garden as a feeding station and safe-haven for bees.
- Make your garden bee-friendly, and include wildflowers in your garden.
- Plant hedgerows – some local wildlife and council groups will even give away native hedgerow species to encourage this. Plant hawthorne, prunus, ribes, honeysuckle, berberis and holly.
- Provide hollow canes for solitary bees and upturned plant pots beneath sheds for bumblebees to consider making a nest in. Don't

**Action you can take about pesticides:**

- Please don't use pesticides in your garden. Support organic wherever you can, or better still, grow your own organic food if possible, even on a small scale.
- We need to change our attitudes towards insect species and realise that most are beneficial or harmless. It seems we put much at risk for the sake of a few "pests" – the role and habits of which we may not fully understand, and in many cases, environmentally friendly alternatives are available.
- Please help raise awareness that most insect species are beneficial or harmless.
- Ask your local council and golf course not to use pesticides.
- Get involved! Campaign for changes to the system and bans of harmful pesticides by signing petitions, sharing with friends, writing to politicians and so on.

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## Action you can take about climate change:

- A difficult one, other than being considerate in using the Earth's resources as best you can.
- However, with regard to gardening, there are some things you can do to provide for bees in difficult conditions (within reason!) For example, if you live in a drought area, take this into account in your choice of plants and provide shallow water and damp mud for bees.

For more ideas and information go to <http://www.buzzaboutbees.net>

*Louise George*

## Are we in our death throes

Is the Church dying? Perhaps not yet in spite of its apparently suicidal wishes!

In a recent sermon Nick reminded us that we in the Church have either to change or die. Jackie Fowler hinted at the same thing in

her valedictory sermon at Christ Church.

At Easter, I listened to a Methodist Minister telling of one chapel that he once urged to change. It stoutly refused. It believed that more of the same would refill the empty pews. It didn't. It emptied and closed! In our own circuit/district a similar history has played out. Harrow Bessborough Road, Harrow Welldon Crescent and Ruislip Common (Methodist) and Kenton URC have all shut their doors and some other ministers have warned their congregations of impending crises. But complacency still hangs in the air. "We're alright" can be heard said. Even if that is a long term view it shows scant regard for the whole Church and betrays an inward-looking philosophy.

We are all in the whole Church.

In many churches huge efforts are put into keeping things (those being the things we already do!) going. We apparently don't ask

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ourselves if the 'things' are worth keeping going and/or are relevant to the world outside our walls. And the world outside our walls ignores us. We insist on pursuing quaintly old-fashioned programmes and then wonder why young people leave us as soon as they get the chance. We all know that many ministers and lay preachers (including bishops) are LGBT people but we don't admit it openly. Then we wonder why honest people despair of us.

We say we believe things we don't believe and then we wonder why people with integrity desert us even if we can get them through our doors. Do we expect people to believe that Jesus of Nazareth was born to a virgin, walked on water, multiplied loaves and talked on a mountaintop with Moses and Elijah? When given an opportunity to enter into dialogue about what we do believe we opt out. For example, when Brunel invited the people of Uxbridge to debate whether there is a God, more than

300 hundred, mostly young, people turned up. The only Christians to be heard were a noisy group of evangelicals who quickly turned everyone off. We say we are inclusive and welcoming, but all over the country people find churches cold, unwelcoming and dominated by elderly cliques.

One book I have enjoyed reading is "How to be a bad Christian...and a better human being". it is written by Dave Tomlinson now vicar of St Luke's Holloway but originally the founder of 'Holy Joe's', a church in a pub in Clapham for disaffected churchgoers. It's rich in humanity, asks probing questions and is great fun and easy to read. (Uxbridge Library would get you a copy or to buy it's £8.99 (published by Hodder & Stoughton)). Perhaps it could be the basis of a Christ Church conversation? There are chapters called 'change what you can', 'never mind heaven, what about now?' and 'knock down the walls' among others. Churches are bad at learning from each other. Surely

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it's time to open ourselves up and move on? The alternative is the death throes perhaps!

*Howard Cooper*

## **My Life After School - Part 1**

Continuing from the article on my childhood, I started at King & Hutchings as an errand-boy at 7/6d per week on 1st January 1935. A week then was from 7.00 am to 5.00 pm each day with a one hour break, plus 7.00 am to 12 noon on a Saturday. My job was to deliver parcels to local customers, plus keep the printing room supplied with paper and take it away when printed.

As I explained in my article, Uxbridge had a voluntary fire brigade. A loud hooter. blew when there was a fire and boys always used to cycle to the fire station, then follow the fire engines. As I was on a bike, I continued to do this, but soon

got found out. James Hutchings read the riot act and transferred me to being a van boy in the London van. The van driver was Eddie Howe, he lived in one of the cottages in Whitehall Road, backing on to the railway in the cutting. This was opposite the Cowley Brick Public House.

I got to know London very well during the two years I was on the job. I was transferred to the paper warehouse in 1937, a very boring job counting out thousands of sheets of paper.

During this time I continued to experiment with wireless (radio), as I was able to buy a variety of components, also Jack Cox who also experimented with radio, used to give me pieces of equipment as well. With the help of Miss Humphreys of the library, keeping me supplied with the latest books on the subject, I was able to advance and ended up building short wave equipment, which allowed me

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to get American stations which was a rarity in those days. I maintained an interest in all things technical and hoped one day to get a job in some technical industry.

In 1938 I volunteered to become an Air Raid precautionary type, there were no names then. The office was a hut in Belmont Road, just above St Margaret's Hall. This carried on until February 1939, when I joined the Territorial Army; we went on two weeks camp at Hythe in the June and I was called up in August. I was then in the Army until I was demobbed in April 1946.

For most of my life until I joined the army, I had a great feeling of inferiority, having left school at 14 with not too good a record. I was not taught what I wanted to know, i.e. things technical, so had to teach myself. When learning gunnery, I soon found that I was not so dumb and soon became a sergeant and I

retained that rank throughout my army career.

*Syd Wilson*

## **Churches Prayer Diary**

w/c 2nd October - North Hillingdon Methodist

w/c 9th October - Northwood Methodist

w/c 16th October - Pinner Methodist

w/c 23rd October - Ruislip Methodist

w/c 30th October - Ruislip Manor Methodist

## **Look-In**

Please help us to produce an interesting newsletter by handing in news items or articles to the office, or sending them by email to Louise George ([publicity@christchurchuxbridge.org.uk](mailto:publicity@christchurchuxbridge.org.uk)). The next issue of Look-In will be the November issue and the deadline for articles for this is Friday 28th October.

## Church Calendar

All events are at Christ Church unless indicated by an X in the final column

Day/ Date	Event	Group	
<b>October</b>			
<b>Sat 1</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee		
	Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre Day	<b>BB</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Tue 4</b>	Tuesday Club	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Thu 6</b>	Craft Group	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Sat 8</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee		
	Quiz Supper	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Sun 9</b>	Sunday lunch		
	<b>Company Church Parade – Enrolment</b>	<b>GB/BB</b>	
<b>Tue 11</b>	Tuesday Club	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Thu 13</b>	Pop-in	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Sat 15</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee		
	Battalion 5 a Side Football Tournament	<b>BB</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Tue 18</b>	Tuesday Club		
<b>Thu 20</b>	Craft Group	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Fri 21</b>	Gym Night	<b>BB</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Fri 21 – Sun 23</b>	Church Fellowship Weekend	<b>Church</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Sat 22</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee		
<b>Tue 25</b>	Tuesday Club	<b>Church</b>	
	Worship Planning Group	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Thu 27</b>	Pop-in	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Sat 29</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee		
<b>November</b>			
<b>Tue 1</b>	Tuesday Club	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Thu 3</b>	Craft Group	<b>Church</b>	
<b>Sat 5</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee		

# WHO'S

Christ Church  
Redford Way  
Uxbridge  
UB8 1SZ  
01895 258956

Registered charity  
no. 1139255

Minister:  
Rev'd Nicholas  
Skelding

Administrator  
Martin Vowles  
01895 258956

### Contacts via office for:

Brigades:  
Girls' -  
Stephanie Marr  
Boys' -  
Paul Edgeworth

Junior Church  
Club -  
Jenny Peet

Tuesday Club -  
Wendy Pollard

Prayer Tree -  
Val Bailey  
Rosemary Moere

# WHO!

## October Services

(All services are 11am unless stated otherwise)

- 2nd Rev'd Nick Skelding (Holy Communion)
- 9th Rev'd Nick Skelding (All Age Worship - Brigade enrolment)
- 16th Mr Ken Pearce (member of Christ Church)
- 23rd Rev'd Dr Jonathan Hustler (Methodist minister, Connexional team)
- 20th Christ Church Worship Group

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OH MAN ... THIS SACKCLOTH TOTALLY FIT  
ME THE LAST TIME I WORE IT

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**Counselling and support are offered by:**

**Communicare Counselling Service**

**01895 256056**

**Samaritans**

**01895 253355**

**Hillingdon MIND**

**01895 271559**