

The Revd Rich Duncan writes......

Knock, knock

I'm sure you've heard the story of the vicar who was visiting his parishioners one day and reached one house where it seemed obvious someone was home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks on the door and calls of "anyone home?"



Taking out a business card, he wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back and stuck it through the letterbox ("Here I am, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them").

The following Sunday, when the offering was processed up, the vicar found his card had been returned. Added to it was the simple response: "Genesis 3:10". Looking it up, he read, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid!"

Well, at the risk of being labelled an irreverent reverend, I retell that alternative knock-knock joke in order to raise a very earnest question.

Have you ever heard the knock of Jesus Christ on the door of your life?

Many of you obviously have and you welcomed him in long ago. But I also suspect there are some readers of this magazine who have sensed the Lord urging them to open up, yet like Adam in the Garden you've been afraid and have hidden from him.

We all dislike people coming to our door and asking for things, don't we? Perhaps it's our cash in exchange for a new driveway, or some double glazing, or later this month the dreaded question, 'Trick or treat?' So when we hear Jesus knocking, we fear he's just another cold caller on the take.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Jesus is anything but cold: the warmth of his affection for you (yes, you!) is many times greater than your love for that person you most adore. And far from 'on the take', Jesus is wanting to give you the free, undeserved gift of eternal life – full forgiveness and friendship with him forever. Don't get me wrong, inviting Christ in will turn your life upside down. But infinitely for the better!

So, if you've sensed a him tapping, gently but relentlessly, why not make this October the month you finally relent? Maybe you've just been gradually closing yourself off to God of late, or perhaps you've been hiding behind a triple-bolted door for years with the metaphorical chain across and your fingers in your ears. Either way, he is longing to be fully in your life. Wherever you are reading this, you can pray a simple prayer right now: "Lord Jesus, come in."

Revelation 3:20 is a calling card that's 100% worth acting on, and he promises to respond. "Here I am, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them."

PRAISE EVENING

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER, 7.30 PM ST PETER'S CHURCH, BRACKLEY



A TIME OF PRAYER AND SINGING, WITH CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC

Would you like to hear more from St Peter's?

If you would like to receive an update by email from Rich every few weeks, including news and information of upcoming events at St Peter's, you can subscribe to the email list by sending an email to <u>brackleyvicar@gmail.com</u> and ask to receive the bulletin

ALL SOULS SERVICE

SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

3 PM

There will be a memorial book placed by the font from 1st October if anyone wishes to have the name of a loved one read out during the service.

Brackley Foodbank

St.Peter's would like to re-start a collection box for the Brackley Foodbank.

The collection from Tesco now goes to Banbury and not Brackley, and as a result our local foodbank is missing out.





Samaritan's Purse. Shoe Box Appeal. The annual shoe box appeal will be starting soon. Can you please try to help fill a shoe box with toys pens pencils notebook's etc and give a box of joy for Christmas to a small child.

Last year St Peter's collected 47 boxes plus lots of people did online giving. Thank you



Christmas cards and decorations in the shops, Chocolate Advent calendars for sale must mean one thing .

It's still three months to Christmas. However, it's not too early to start our request for the lovely Advent trees that have been displayed each year to be taken out of storage, dusted down and redressed for this year We all enjoy seeing the beautiful trees adorning the window sills and enhancing the beauty of our magnificent Church.

For those new to St Peter's, we ask for 3 ft false trees decorated by schools, playgroups, nurseries, sports teams, Guides, Scouts ,rainbows and any local groups and Church groups.

They can have battery operated lights on them and a label advertising the names of the group.

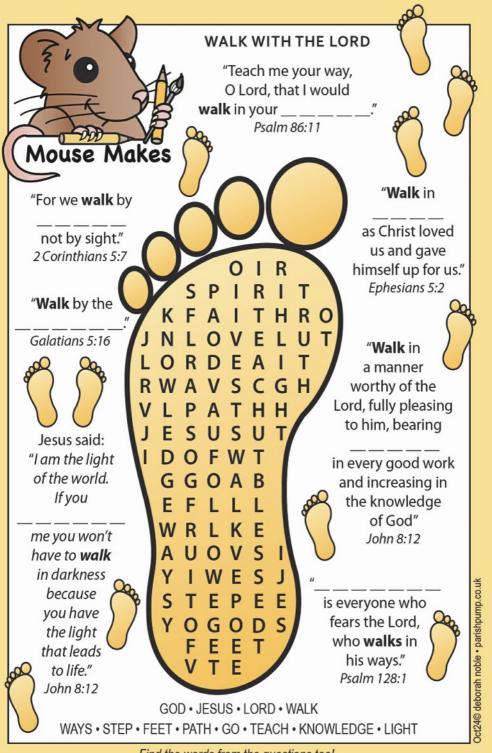
They need to be placed on a window sill on Saturday 30th November between 10-2 and taken away from Church by Saturday 4th January please.

Please would you let me know during November if you are able to display one.. Please pass this information on to friends and groups you are in, or educational establishments in the Town .

Thank you

Caroline 07845 397168





Find the words from the questions too!



A BIG THANK YOU

A big thank you to Pam and Malcolm Taylor who have reluctantly, due to ill health, felt that they can no longer deliver magazines in the Waynflete area of the town. This is a job they have faithfully undertaken since 1984! Well done to them and we send them our good wishes as well as thanks.

This, however, leaves us with a vacancy, so if anyone would like to take on this role, perhaps while walking the dog, please contact Marilyn on 702634 or email marilynisrael2017@gmail.com





The post and the gastropods

You may worry that your letter will be lost in the post, but you probably don't worry that your letter may be eaten by snails.

But perhaps it is time to start. Especially if your letter is being posted in rural Northumberland. It seems some hungry snails there have developed a taste for eating the post. They crawl through the flap of the post box and munch away.

Duncan Hutt, of Northumberland Wildlife Trust, explains that "Snails eat paper because most contains cellulose from the wood pulp, which they can digest and use for energy, and they also get calcium from paper and that's what they need to build their shells. Slugs and snails have a very varied diet." And it might include your letter!

If you wish to donate to St Peter's Church Our bank details are Account Name P C C Brackley Sort code 30-11-08 Account number 00060124 Thank You



Our hedgehogs are in crisis

It is feared that there may be just one million hedgehogs left in Britain. This compares to about 36 million during the 1960s. About 150,000 hedgehogs are killed on our roads every year.

With this in mind, England's first

'hedgehog crossing' road signs have recently been launched in several Borough Councils around the country. The aim is to try and save the species from eventual extinction.

The new sign features a hedgehog with white quills inside a red triangle above a message that reads 'hedgehogs crossing'. The design has been approved by the Department for Transport and it is hoped that the signs will make a big difference in preserving the hedgehog population. The aim is to raise awareness among motorists, to get them to slow down, and also among people using a strimmer in their garden.

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