

Letter from our Priest In Charge, Revd Stephen Gamble

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:4&5

Christianity is diverse, there are thousands of Christian denominations, and within the Anglican denomination there are widely differing understandings of how to best worship, and how to best live as a Christian. People sometimes ask me what Anglican tribe I belong to? High Church or Low church? Evangelical or Anglo Catholic? Liberal or traditional? I usually don't answer. It took me years to accept the idea of being Anglican, and I don't care to narrow my Christianity down any further.



I found Anglicanism acceptable as it understands you to be a Christian first, and an Anglican second and so recognises there are many other valid Christian denominations. Also, Anglicanism endeavours to maintain a wide range of traditions within its borders, it is a 'broad church'.

We have to accommodate a wide variety of ways and understandings, which often means being 'middle of the road' so everyone can feel accommodated. There is also such a thing as 'rural parochial churchmanship', which bears little relation to any of the main urban Anglican traditions. So even if I wanted to be High Church or Low church, Evangelical or Anglo Catholic, Liberal or traditional, I would find myself running against the grain of rural parish ministry.



I much prefer people think for themselves. The Church is about the good news of Jesus, not about supporting one 'ecclesiastical team' or another. We are richer for our varied traditions, let's try to be inspired by them. Although, having said I don't claim any church label as my own, I have at length found one I am willing to identify with. In the 17th century a group of theologians and clerics started to argue that the Church of England should be as inclusive as possible, allowing toleration of dissent, and permitting varied forms of Christian worship. They became known as '**Latitudinarians**', because they wanted people to be given latitude in worship and doctrine. I must remember next time someone asks what kind of Christian I am, if they won't accept plain 'Anglican', then I should declare I am a Latitudinarian, and see what they make of that?

Revd Stephen Gamble

Morcott Church Easter Flowers and Easter Garden

Many thanks to Pat Simmonds, Cindy Ashby, Davina Martin & Pippa Hilton for the beautiful Easter flowers and to Sharon Walker and her grandson Ripley for the magical Easter Garden!



Morcott Church Services in May

Sunday 12th May Morning Worship 11.00 am, led by Sue and Vince Cross

Sunday 26th May Holy Communion 11.00 am.

We look forward to welcoming **Revd James Muggleton** to celebrate and preach at this service
Revd Stephen will be on annual leave that day.

Refreshments will be served after both services, please join us if you can.

Services across the Welland Fosse Benefice in May

Date	Barrowden	South Luffenham	Morcott	Duddington	Tixover
Sunday 5th May <i>Rogation</i>	11.00am Holy Communion (Said) (SG)	6.00pm Evening Worship (AR)		9.30am Holy Communion (SG)	
Thursday 9th May <i>Ascension</i>		7.00pm Benefice Holy Communion (SG)			
Sunday 12th May <i>Easter 7</i>	11.00am Family Morning Worship with Christening (SG)	9.30am Family Holy Communion (SG)	11.00am Morning Worship (SC & VC)		9.30am Holy Communion (SG)
Sunday 19th May <i>Pentecost</i>	11.00am Holy Communion Elastic Band (SG)	9.30am Morning Worship (AR)			5.00pm Rogation Service (SG)
Sunday 26th May <i>Trinity</i>	11.00am Morning Worship (AR & SS)	9.30am Communion by extension (AR)	11.00am Holy Communion (Rev Muggleton)		

Zoom Morning Prayer every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8.30am and Compline on Thursdays at 6.00pm. Please email sally@saltlane.com if you would like a Zoom link.

CANDLES FOR UKRAINE

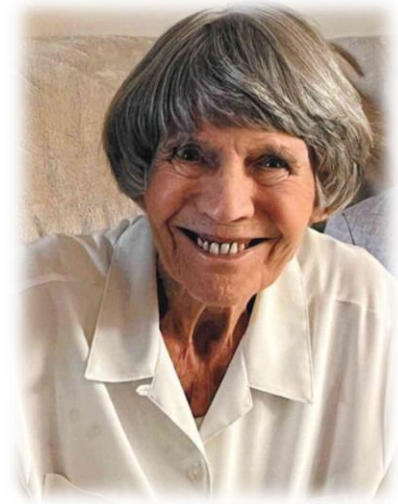
Barrowden Church is collecting unwanted new and used candles for the Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership to recycle and send to Ukraine for heating and lighting.

Drop off in the church porch we will organise the delivery



In Loving Memory of Peggy Ferrier

Reporting from Eric Hazelwood



Peggy died recently on 18 March 2024 at the age of 90. She lived at No. 36 High Street, Morcott and enjoyed good health throughout her life and reasonable health in the last couple of years. This, together with the support of some faithful villagers, enabled her to stay in her home until the end, sadly on her own following husband Bill's death in 2019. She was a faithful member of the Church community and always came early to hear the organ preludes. She always had a lovely smile, although a little reserved, but in personal conversation she was full of wisdom and a 'go to' person for guidance. Morcott Church has been grateful for her unwavering commitment and dependability and she will be sadly missed.

There was a remembrance service held for her in the Church on Friday 19 April 2024 when over 60 were present. She didn't hesitate to lead an active and social life including golf and bridge. The Church congregation was largely made up of all those friends she had made in her active life, reflecting her popularity.

Peggy taught for several years at a private girls' school then spent some time at the Wilfred Pickles School in Tixover.

She married Bill in 1956 and they set up home in Stamford, where Bill was a partner in the well-known garage, Forsyth and Ferrier. They had two children, Andy and Sal. Sal went to live in Canada but sadly died just a few years ago. Peggy had six grandchildren.

Peggy loved golf, walking and playing bridge, through which she made many friends. She was lady captain of the golf club in 1985 and Lady President from 2011 to 2012 and also enjoyed many golfing holidays in France with friends, some of whom still live in Morcott.

The Garden in May

Well! We won't be short of water again this spring. I am writing this when I should be working, but yet again I have been defeated by the rain. The soaked garden is growing at pace now, especially the grass.



The vegetable garden should be filled to the brim with delights. We can start the harvest of any early sowings, lettuces, carrots, broad beans, rhubarb, and herbs.

As an alternative to a herb bed, you could ring the changes and have a fabulous herby hanging basket, which if hung by the back door, filled with your favourite culinary add-ins could be very handy. Any type of hanging basket will do. Rustic woven ones would look especially pretty but a large wire one with a coir lining would work equally well.



Choose herbs that are most useful to you, but leafy herbs will do especially well such as curly leaved parsley, marjoram, chervil, chives, sage, and thyme. Nasturtiums would add a little seasonal edible colour. Hung by the back door, watering regularly shouldn't be too much of a chore.

Early sowings in the greenhouse will now need acclimatizing to cooler temperatures before they can be planted out safely. Ideally these young plants would go into a cold frame, which is left open in the day and shut at night. If, like me, you do not have these structures keep the plants near the coolest part of the greenhouse. Then put out during the day, then return to the greenhouse for overnight protection. This exposure after a couple of weeks will ensure the young vegetables and bedding plants do not go into shock when put out into the beds and borders. The continual movement of these young plants out of the greenhouse will allow you to sow further successions of salad crops peas and spinach.

Now is the time to be pruning the early spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia and the Japanese quince. *Garrya elliptica* and *Viburnums* would benefit from a haircut too. Keep an eye on the climbing plants, especially roses and honeysuckle, and tie in any lush long growth. This ensures this young growth does not get snapped off if the wind gets up. Do keep a close eye on your lilies and fritillaries as the scarlet coloured lily beetles are very busy making babies. These will happily devour the leaves on these beautiful flowering bulbs in no time, leaving their excrement all over the plant as a parting gift.



Happy gardening
Amanda Banfield

Morcott Gardening Club will be hosting **Elaine Portch** on **Thursday 16th May at the Village Hall at 7.30pm**. She will be talking to us about the history and work of the National Garden Scheme and its yellow book. This scheme raises a great deal of money for charities every year through the open gardens scheme. As always, all are welcome including friends and family too. £3 entry which includes a cup of tea or coffee and some very nice biscuits!

A big thank you to those who kindly donated plants, cake or money when attending the NSPCC coffee morning hosted by Charlie at 11 High Street on 5th April. With a plant sale, raffle, coffee and cake, she raised over £500. This was a massive contribution towards her target of £2500 for the NSPCC. She went on to run the London Marathon in 4 hours and 30minutes. We were super proud of her achievement. *Amanda x*

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

SAFARI SUPPER

Saturday 22nd June



Starts at 6.30pm

Come along and join in the most sociable event of the year – meet new people and visit parts of the village you never knew existed!

Come as a couple or pal up with a friend.

The evening will start with a drinks reception at Bob & Aileen Chidgey's house (The Old Bake House, 2 High Street) at **6.30pm** –timings for the evening are pretty crucial so please be prompt. During drinks you will be handed details of the location of your starter, and your evening's perambulations around Morcott will commence. The evening will finish in the village hall for coffee.

To book your tickets please call **Bob Chidgey** on **07748 917412** or e-mail him on bob@mabc.co.uk. Tickets cost £25 a head which includes all food and drink, but you will be credited with a certain amount depending on which course you are cooking. Please let Bob know when booking if you have a preference for which course you cook or if you are happy to let him decide (which will make his life easier!). Each course should include wine / drinks. We suggest 1 bottle for starter / dessert and 2 for main course – but feel free to be as generous as you like!

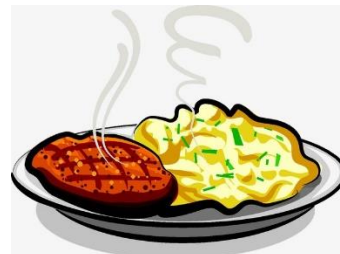
When booking do let Bob know of any dietary requirements you may have, and any mobility or access requirements.

Please note tickets **must** be paid for before the event.

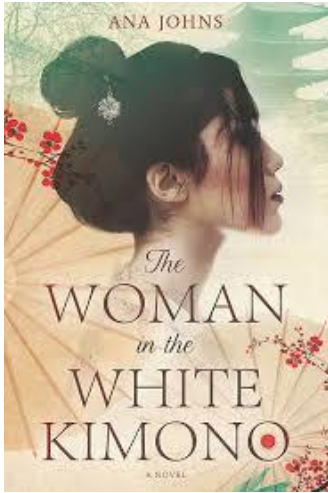
As there is a fair amount of organisation involved in planning the evening could you please make sure that you **have booked your place no later than Saturday 8th June**. We may not be able to include anyone booking after that date.

We look forward to seeing you there.

The Entertainments Committee



MORCOTT BOOK GROUP



The next meeting of the Book Group is on Monday 20th May 7pm at Jane Gilmore's house.

The book for discussion is "The Woman in the White Kimono" by Ana Johns. It is based on the true life story of her father, an American GI who fell in love with a local girl in Japan after the end of World War II. As he was dying Ana found a photo of "the woman in the white kimono" and a letter returned unopened to her father from a Japanese address. The novel is Ana's imaginary tale of the mystery behind the photo and the letter. It gives an unusual insight into the life and customs of people in Japan at that time.

Thoughts for May

Summer is not too far away

Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

By William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.



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If you would like to receive a regular monthly copy of the Morcott Parish News by email, please contact Alison Johnson, Secretary Morcott PCC at: alisonjohnson@aol.com for further details.

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Please contact Alison or Gina by the 25th day of each month with any notifications for the following month's edition of the Morcott Parish News.