

Together



Parish news for the united benefice of Cranford, Grafton Underwood, Twywell and Slipton

October - November 2020

Dear friends,

Only Two Ways to Live (Psalm 1)

I've called this piece, 'Only Two Ways to Live' because that is really what the Psalmist is saying in Psalm 1.

- He describes life for all of us as a journey, and we can be only on one of two ways. Life consists of moving forward. We're not 'parked up' or standing still for life, but we're going somewhere – the question is, 'where'?
- The writer simply, but effectively, highlights some aspects of both "*The way of the righteous*", and what he calls, "*The way of the wicked*" or in some translations, "*The way of the ungodly*." And he points out that both ways of living have consequences. Some people may be offended that the Psalmist refers to all who don't walk in God's ways as, "*the wicked*." You may say, 'I know some people who are not Christians but they are still 'good' people. I would never think of them as 'wicked'!
- So, here is how one Bible scholar explains this 'dilemma'. He writes, "The doom of the wicked, as it is expressed in this Psalm is not primarily a punishment, any more than the happiness of the righteous is a reward. Each (i.e. each position) is presented as the natural outcome of a way of life which has been chosen."

Outcomes of the life of 'the righteous'

- So, this Psalm is saying that the good, righteous, outcomes of a believer's life don't happen because they are 'nice' people, or clever people, or from any other trait of character that they may have. The outcomes of a believer's life are the result of their being fed and watered by "*the law of the Lord*" (i.e. they come from God, not from something that's just inherent in their nature).
- Jesus said, "*I've not come to call the righteous, but sinners...*" So, we're not talking about a 'goody, goody' person, but rather one whose righteousness is a consequence of submitting to the will of God and the Lordship of Christ.
- "*Whatever he does prospers*" doesn't refer to wealth or the accumulation of material things. The 'righteous' person is compared to a tree that is well watered because it is "*planted by streams of water*" (v.3). Notice, it is "*planted*" (i.e. it is deliberately put there and so it grows well and bears fruit). We make sure to plant our trees or shrubs or our flowers in places where they will thrive and 'prosper.'

- So the life of a believer will 'prosper' if we deliberately choose to be in a position where God can bless us. That is a picture of the life of a believer. It 'prosper' because they (deliberately) "*delight in the law of the Lord*", which is a way of saying that they walk in God's ways, and that becomes the source of the fruitfulness of their life.

Outcomes of the life of 'the wicked,' or, 'ungodly'.

- Since those on "*the way of the wicked/ungodly*" have no place for God in their lives, the consequences, or outcomes of their way of living are just the opposite. 'Wickedness' in the Old Testament has a wide range of meanings. It doesn't just mean evil, or very bad. In fact, everyone who does not willingly walk in God's ways is considered as among 'the wicked.' It doesn't mean, therefore, that they are always doing evil acts. It is simply an expression describing a 'way of life' that, by choice, has no place for God; so they are god-less (i.e. God is lacking in their lives).
- You can be a gentle, nice, atheist, or you can be a loud and vociferous atheist, and, at the worst extreme you can be a demonstrably evil atheist. So, wickedness has a broad spectrum as a lifestyle. One, therefore, can be 'very nice', but in the context of God's economy, fall into the category of 'the wicked.'
- Verse 6 says, "*Therefore the wicked/ungodly will not stand in the judgment ...*" That's saying that in the final analysis - the time of judgment, the ungodly will have no grounds on which to stand before God. That is because the only grounds that any of us will be able to stand before God is the righteousness attributed to us by Christ if we believe in Him. One hymn writer puts it in these words, "Clothed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne."

Conclusion: So, as we close these thoughts let us go back to "*The way of the righteous*."

- Because the righteousness of those who believe is a God-given gift, they find "*delight ... in the law of the LORD*."
- Now, whoever heard of anyone taking delight in following rules or laws! But the Psalmist is saying that we will take delight in walking in God's ways because we are then doing His will, which we know is good and perfect. The delight doesn't come from 'keeping laws', even God's laws! For

not even God desires that we keep laws for the sake of keeping laws.

- God, through Isaiah the prophet, castigated the people of Israel for mere 'law keeping'. And Jesus also quoted that same Isaiah passage in Matt.15:8, when speaking to the Jewish religious leaders, "This people honour me with their lips, He said, but their heart is far from me." When the Spirit of God confirms with our spirit that we are a child of God, then that brings a feeling of real peace and joy, and delight!
- So then, back to the statement that we started with, which is what this Psalm is all about; there are only two ways to live, and the question we need to ask ourselves is, 'Which way am I on?'
- I trust that it is the way that can receive blessing from God – what the Psalmist calls, 'the way of the righteous!'

Vernon Forbes
September 2020



All enquiries about Church Services to Churchwardens:

Cranford

Brian Keech ~ 01536 330232

Grafton Underwood

Rog Hatlem ~ 01536 771279

Paul Harris ~ 01536 330567

Twywell

Sean Flanagan ~ 01832 733569

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Slipton

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Parish Representative

Diocesan News

The new normal?

We find ourselves living through extraordinary and demanding times, where many things that might previously have been relied upon to be reasonably stable and secure have suddenly become quite provisional and uncertain – whether that be income and employment, education and future prospects, health and wellbeing, or even what will be able to happen in our church life and worship, week by week.

We have had to become used to lockdown, to greater working and studying at home, to wearing face masks and keeping our social distance, to being restricted as to when we can meet up with our wider family and friends, to conducting worship online and taking part in meetings on Zoom.

Life for us has quite suddenly taken on some of the precariousness and fragility that was familiar to the generations who went before us and who built many of the places of worship that we now cherish. We in the western world, perhaps rather naively, thought that we had moved on from, and escaped, the deprivations and challenges that had afflicted our ancestors (but which remain the characteristics of life to this day in many less developed, stable and privileged parts of the world). We had been encouraged to believe – or, at least, to act – as though we had 'come of age' and were in control of our destiny. Now, however, the bubble has burst, the illusion has been shattered and our human vulnerability has become all too obvious to us and to those around us. Some of us have been ill, many have lost loved ones, and the caring professions have been under immense pressure.

As this has unfolded, online worship seems to have attracted greater numbers than had recently attended face-to-face worship, but whether that will lead to greater numbers of active disciples, we do not yet know.

However, whether or not our numbers have immediately increased, we ourselves have surely been chastened and challenged to recognise afresh our own need of God. We have been starkly reminded of what we really did know all along – that all that is around us is of a transitory nature, and that there is only One in whom to put our faith, and to whom our eternal wellbeing can be entrusted.

I wish you every blessing as we adapt to the evolving nature of the 'new normal', and as we seek to witness afresh to our unchanging and dependable God, and to his love for all people and his desire for them to be in a conscious living relationship with him.

Gordon Steele
Archdeacon of Oakham

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Cranford News

First of all a word of thanks to the Together production and distribution team who quickly swung into action again like a well-oiled machine to bring us the August/September issue after the absence of a June/July issue due to the Covid-19 lockdown. It turned out to be a fuller issue than we thought it might be. The trouble is though that, having caught up with the news last time, we have less to report this time.

Services at St John's are continuing to be held every Sunday at 11 am, mostly Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer with the occasional 'All Age Worship'. Services have been led by either Brian Keech, Sir John Robinson or John Ross with talks/sermons given by Sandra Day, Vernon Forbes or Sir John. In addition to the 'rules' for services referred to in the August/September issue we now also require each congregation member to record their details in a register as they enter the church and to wear a face covering.

Congregations have held up well with us being almost up to capacity as governed by the Covid rules on at least one occasion. Thus far, however, we have not had to turn anyone away!

We are currently planning a Harvest Thanksgiving service to be held in conjunction with the school for Sunday 20th September which will be led by the Reverend Doug Spenceley, former Schools' Chaplain, with his wife, Hannah providing the music. Gifts of produce will be handed over to the Kettering Foodbank.

The Covid-delayed wedding of Ellie King and Fraser Smith, conducted by the Reverend Graham Bell, did indeed take place on the beautifully warm sunny day of 12th September at St John's, with the congregation of 29 just coming within the permitted maximum of 30 and splitting into household groups such that there was just sufficient capacity in the allocated pew positions so as to comply with the social distancing rules. It was very much a village affair with the reception held in the beautifully decorated village hall. We wish them every happiness.

On the same day as Ellie and Fraser's wedding the stewards at St John's welcomed 18 riders and striders taking part in the event to raise funds for the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. In addition, the register at St Andrew's recorded 10 visitors. Thank you to all the stewards who manned the church from 10am to 6pm, greeting the visitors and offering drinks and biscuits. Meanwhile Brian Keech had a most enjoyable day visiting 16 churches on foot. His sponsors' pledges to date total £320 and this is likely to rise further. Thank you to all those who supported this most worthy cause. (The NHCT have pledged £3000 towards the cost of restoring the roof on the south aisle at St John's.)

On the topic of the south aisle roof, a settlement has been reached with the insurance company/loss adjusters regarding the January 2019 theft of the lead and the subsequent damage. A Faculty from the Diocese to carry out the work to replace the lead with 'terne-coated steel' has been applied for and granted, and a contractor selected to carry out the work. However, further grant applications are still pending and the go-ahead to commence the work cannot be given until all the funding is in place.

On 31st July the ashes of Audrey Clarke were buried in John's grave in the presence of John and Audrey's children and grandchildren.

On 6th August Michael Guest died. Immediately prior to his cremation on 21st August, a funeral service was held at St John's conducted by the Reverend Jeremy Safford and, subsequently, on 24th August his ashes were interred in Sybil's grave in St John's churchyard at a ceremony conducted by Ann Burrridge. Michael, of course, had been a stalwart of Cranford church since the time the family lived in the Manor House during the '40s and '50s. He became involved with the choir, which he led for many years as choirmaster, entering them in the annual Peterborough Choir Festival and seriously training them for the event. In addition to being choirmaster he was also secretary to the Parochial Church Council for many years and was eventually made an emeritus member of the PCC. As well as being a tireless worker for the church Michael was very generous, one of his gifts being the funding of the front cover colour pictures on *Together*. Michael was also Treasurer of the Cranford & District Over 60s Club for many years and was made an honorary life member.

Two other stalwarts of our benefice have also been lost to us recently, Colin McCall of Grafton Underwood (and formerly Cranford) died on 28th April and in early August Allen Worsfold from Sipton.

BK/MEK
18/9/20

Cranford and District Over 60s .

Due to the effects of coronavirus there will be no meetings this year. For further details please ring Doreen Mayes on 01832 733961.

Cranford Coffee Club

Due to coronavirus the timetable at the village hall has had to be re-organised to enable cleaning between meetings. We will be meeting between 2pm and 3pm. on 20th October and 10th November. For further information please call Margaret Keevil on 01536 330367.

Please contact me with any forthcoming events to be included in the December 2020/ January 2021 edition by 8th November 2020 at The Dial House, Rectory Hill Cranford NN144AH or email jandg.potter@btconnect.com or phone 01536 330696. Best wishes

Jenny Potter

At Rest

21st August 2020 at St John's followed by cremation at Kettering

Michael William Trevor Guest died 6th August 2020 aged 89 years. Please pray for his sister Rosemary, his god-daughter Hannah, and all his family and friends.

Interment of ashes on 24th August.

31st July 2020

Audrey Eleanor Clarke died 20th March 2020 aged 93 years. Please pray for her sister, Lesley; her children, Mark, Helen; James and Jane, her grandchildren, and for all her family and friends.

Interment of ashes following cremation on 3rd April.

Grafton Underwood News

I hope that you have all coped during the lockdown and are getting used to our “new normal”. After due preparation we opened church during July and August for our congregation between 11 am and 12 each Sunday. We have been having prayers led by different members of the congregation at 11.15am each week and some weeks Brian Crichton has been playing the organ for us to listen to as well, which has been very enjoyable. We will be continuing with this every other Sunday, but from Sunday 13th September we will start morning prayers on the second Sunday each month again following Family Worship on the fourth Sunday. Please note: in order to space the services out FW has been moved from the third to the fourth Sunday for the time being. Hopefully we will return to our normal schedule in due course.

Thank you to those members of the Church congregation that manned the Church for the cyclists for the Ride and Stride this year. Unfortunately we had no cyclists this year from the village, perhaps we can find someone from our new residents, for next year? However, we would like to say a Big thank you to Bridget and Michael who cycled in memory of their dad, Colin McCall, and raised £150.

We will still be doing shoe boxes this year, but as we have not yet started Family Half Hour services, we will collect these at the Family Worship on Sunday 25th October. If you have any items for the boxes, empty shoe boxes or are able to donate postage, these can be given to me at any time before the service. We will not do a Wrap and Pack, but I will pack as many boxes as I can with what I am given — hopefully at least 60. If you are not familiar with Samaritans Purse Shoe boxes please phone me and I will endeavour to explain more.

For those of you who normally help with Cream Teas, I am sorry to tell you that Rosalind Tebbutt who helped us for many years sadly died of cancer during August. Our thoughts and prayers go to her family. Her cheerful presence in our kitchen will be much missed.

As you will all know by now, we are finally going to get ‘Gigaclear’. This was a surprise to the Parish Council as much as anyone else. We had apparently not had any prior notice, but good news eventually for many. Other Parish Council news — Advance notice that the First Responders are coming in January to do first aid

and teach people to use the defibrillator. More information later from Penny Sneddon.

Brook cleaning is ongoing and it is hoped to have another session at the Kettering end of the village this autumn. Everyone is welcome to help.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 18th November.

There will be the usual Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on the Geddington Road at 3pm on Sunday 8th November. WITH SUITABLE SOCIAL DISTANCING! The Parish Council Wreath will be laid by Karen Furze.

Jenny D.

Village Hall News

The Village Hall Committee met on Wednesday 2nd September and jointly decided to keep the hall closed until Spring 2021, due to the Corvid risk. We will take advance bookings from April 2021, but these will be dependant on any future Government Public Health guidelines. We propose, as a committee, to undertake some maintenance and redecoration of the hall in the meantime.

Paul Harris

The Village Hall Committee

Tree warden report

One is very much in favour of renewable energy (well we all have our biases) and following on about my last piece on the airfield planting, I note that they are growing vigorously even if one raises an eyebrow at thinning procedure. And should screen any solar panels from the village.

One also is chasing up a contact on enforcement re. felling trees in the village (Jill and Jem your problem tree is on the list).

I note with sadness that quite a bit of the hedgerow between here and Warkton is Elm and where it has not been cut it has overgrown and been killed by Dutch Elm Disease. Saddened in that 40 years ago roadside hedges came within the remit of the Forestry department but was taken away from it.

Richard D.

Grafton Underwood Service Schedule for October & November 2020		
Sunday 4th October	11.00am	Church open with led prayers at 11.15am
Sunday 11th October	11.00am	MP led by Val
Sunday 18th October	11.00am	Church open with led prayers at 11.15am
Sunday 25th October	11.00am	Family Worship (Shoebox collection)
Sunday 1st November	11.00am	Church open with led prayers at 11.15am
Sunday 8th November	11.00am	Remembrance Day MP led by Ceri-Anne
Sunday 15th November	11.00am	Church open with led prayers at 11.15am
Sunday 22nd November	11.00am	Family Worship
Sunday 29th November	11.00am	Church open with led prayers at 11.15am
Sunday 6th December	11.00am	Church open with led prayers at 11.15am
Sunday 13th December	11.00am	MP

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOEBOXES

We are still doing shoeboxes this year but because of Covid I will be packing them all at home. If anyone has anything to contribute will you please let me have it as soon as possible. Donations towards postage will also be very welcome. It's £5.00 for each box.

If you would like to do a box of your own please do. We will be collecting them together at Family Worship in Grafton church on Sunday 25th October at 11am.

If you do your own box please remember no sweets or toothpaste.

I have envelopes for postage and labels but you can pay online if you go to the Samaritans Purse website and put your barcode in the box or put the money in the top of the box. A note in the top of the box with age and sex would be helpful.

Please phone 330646 or email
r.i.daykin@btinternet.com
if you would like any other information.
Jenny



Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer -
fires in the fall!

As our Church services are now getting back into a regular fortnightly pattern, a special thanks must go to Margaret Ansell and our churchwardens, Sean Flanagan & Michael Hurst, who together have worked tirelessly throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure our church was re-opened at the earliest opportunity and continues to open with a suitable service format and with Covid-19 protection measures in place. By the time this goes to press we will have welcomed back, as our stand-in rector, Rev. Graham Bell and our lay-reader, John Stapleton. We will have seen another positive step towards service normality with Holy Communion having been administered on 13th September – the first since springtime. Unfortunately, we still do not know when we shall be able to include the singing of hymns, although a study has recently revealed that singing softly is no more risky than speaking loudly!

We now start to focus once again on celebrating our rural festivals and, at this time of year, our harvest celebration in particular. This service is scheduled to be held at 11am on 18th October, and will be of a format that meets the relevant government guidelines at that time. We are hopeful that we will be able to serve some simple refreshments afterwards. Please see the church and parish notice boards, or the parish website (www.twywellparishcouncil.co.uk), nearer the time, for updated information on this and other services. As with all Church events, you will be made very welcome if you would like to attend.

We will see our first wedding of the year on 10th October, as Sophie Winfield marries Capt. Thomas Dudley (Coldstream Guards). Sophie is the granddaughter of the late Robin Coulson, who served as our churchwarden for 15 years. Sophie follows in the footsteps of her sister, Hannah, who married at Twywell last year. We wish them a very happy future together.

The closer ties and calendar alignment being made with the Slipton Church community ensured that a good number of the Twywell Church regular congregation were able to attend their own first post-lockdown service of Holy Communion, led by Fr. John Tiernan, on 6th September. We will, no doubt, get the opportunity to welcome our Slipton friends to our services, as we support each other more closely at this difficult time.

The Ride & Stride annual sponsored cycle or walk event occurred on 12th September, with 12 visitors to St. Nicholas. The money raised helps upkeep of churches, chapels and meeting houses. Visitors are registered on arrival to verify their chosen route. Although our church could not be open to the participants this year, we thank John and Carolyn Evans for giving up their time again to greet participants and register their arrival.

With the temporary suspension of the *Together* magazine in the spring, it has been brought to our attention that we omitted to report the passing of former long-term Twywell resident Richard Fellowes, who passed away at his home in Kettering in March. A Twywellian for almost his whole life, Richard enjoyed the countryside around him and loved nothing more

Twywell News

The fruit trees, gardens and hedgerows of our village are hanging heavy with the results of the perfect growing weather we have had this year. What's good for the gardener is good for the arable farmer and the summer weather has also been kind to them, with timely servings of rain in periods of drought concern. After difficulties with autumn cultivation last year (what little that was sown largely rotted in the sodden ground) things improved immeasurably in the spring. The result was a countryside filled with spring cereal which has now largely been harvested. A good example of working practices changing over the centuries can be found at this time: With fields stripped bare, cultivations start again immediately and it is not uncommon to see ploughing (now it's back in vogue) in August. Historically, rural communities would gather in Church, along with a ploughshare, on the first Sunday after Epiphany, in early January, to bless the land and the next season's crops. Field cultivations would then start the following day, Plough Monday. Regular cropping of winter cereals now means a full four month advancement of this activity within the farming year which is quite remarkable.

Along with the honey sunlight and 'mellow fruitfulness' of early autumn comes the first evidence of bonfires and re-ignited wood burners as we ready our gardens for the dormant period ahead and take the chill off the evening air within our houses. Robert Louis Stevenson penned a lovely poem that addressed the transition from summer to autumn perfectly:

In the other gardens
and up the vale,
from the autumn bonfires
see the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over,
and all the summer flowers,
the red fire blazes,
the grey smoke towers!

than his dogs, a round of golf or a days fishing. He will always be especially remembered for being immaculately dressed in his tie and blazer on Christmas Day lunchtimes when he went for a pint. Quiet and perfectly mannered, he was a true country gentleman. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Other news

The Parish Council continues work with the PCC to seek a suitable date and event to launch the National Lottery grant equipment, having seen the Twywell Festival evening event mothballed earlier this year.

Peter Kelly has retired as clerk to the Twywell Parish Council, having worked tirelessly in that role for four years. We thank Peter for all that he has done for the parish and its residents and organisations. We welcome our interim clerk, Mrs Claire Tilley, whose tenure commenced on 14th September 2020. The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th November at 7pm. Enquiries to twywellclerk@gmail.com or www.twywellparishcouncil.co.uk . Please refer to the village notice boards or website for details of whether the meeting will be virtual or in person.

The street light replacement programme is now underway and Twywell Parish Council will commence replacement of phase one, consisting of five lights, in the next few weeks. These low energy lights will

reduce the energy charges, and will, therefore, become self funding over time. Please refer to the parish council website, www.twywellparishcouncil.co.uk for further details.

Police Surgeries return at 1.10 - 1.40pm on Wednesday 4th November, next to the phone box library. Please note this will be an outside surgery.

The community events team is pleased to announce that the Old Friar will host the Pumpkin Carving competition this year on Saturday 31st October at 5pm. We thank Becca for offering the pub facilities for this annual event. Further details from Becca at the *Old Friar* on 01832 732625.

Coffee Mornings continue to be postponed due to government restrictions but will resume as soon as government guidelines permit. The event raises money for the Air Ambulance Service. If you think you might like to host a Coffee Morning once the event resumes, please contact Margaret Ansell at *Greystones*, Lower Street or by telephone on 01832 733144.

And finally ‘A Pause for Thought’

“A garden is a friend you can visit at any time”.

Keep safe and well,

Twywell PCC

st.nicholas.twywell@gmail.com

**Twywell Service Schedule
for October & November 2020**

Sunday 18th October	11.00am	Celebration of Harvest (with RR)
Sunday 25th October	9.15am	MP CW
Sunday 8th November	9.15am	HC CW (trad.) Service of Remembrance
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>		
Sunday 22nd November	9.15am	MP CW

Slipton News

Another sad time in the village with the unexpected passing of Mark Noakes. We have now lost three members of our little community this year and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

The centre-piece of our village, the Samuel Pepys pub, remains closed but we remain hopeful that one day it will reopen and regain its place, together with St John the Baptist church, as our main community asset.

Tony Fraser



**Slipton Service Schedule
for October & November 2020**

Sunday 4th October	11.00am	Eucharist
Sunday 1st November	11.00am	All Saints’ Day Eucharist
Sunday 8th November	tbc	Prayers around the Remembrance Cross
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>		(Details to be confirmed locally)
Sunday 6th December	11.00am	Eucharist

A host of useful information and resources to help you during this time can be found via www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus