

## Reflection from the Rectory

In May we will celebrate the feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit empowered the church with vibrant gifts, which allowed it to move forward in all sorts of ways. In May we will have the Church Annual meeting which will be a time to reflect on the past and think about the future. God still calls us into communities to live the values of the Kingdom in every place that he has planted us. I think the APCM taking place near Pentecost is a good fit. As restrictions become less we have that sense of excitement about the opportunities which will open up to us. To be vibrant and growing we need our people to be committed and willing to serve.



Of course many people give of their time and talents already in the life of our churches and for that we are really grateful. It is getting more challenging in lots of places encouraging people to take on positions of leadership, particularly Churchwarden and PCC. These are vitally important roles as we move into the future and the difficulty many churches have in filling them can lead to a lack of confidence in the church family and an over burdening of those who do come forward.

Needing to appoint new officers can make clergy feel a bit like press gang officers. The church needs all of us to use our gifts and talents in the service of God and importantly to do so willingly and with eagerness and

excitement. Leadership has particular challenges of course but I do believe that God equips those who answer his call. That is certainly my experience.

It is now time to walk into the future with purpose, enthusiasm and excitement. Have you considered how best to use your gifts and talents in the service of Christ? How can you help to move us forward and play your part in the leadership of our churches and our benefice? Sandy Rowles has been a lone church warden in Framlingham for some time now. Someone is being called to join her as church warden and share the responsibility – could that be you?

Both our Churches in Framlingham and Saxtead are packed with potential; let's be excited and renew our commitment to service in the power and light of the Spirit this Pentecost! *Chris*

### The Collect for Pentecost Sunday

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### A Prayer of Brother Roger of Taize

Holy Spirit, you dwell within anyone who is going through anguish or inner death, and straight away you offer resurrection. Happy are those who find opening before them the doors of such a new birth. Amen



## St Michael's Church Framlingham with All Saints Saxtead

### Monthly Newsletter

May 2021

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St Michael's Framlingham



@FramlinghamSt



### News from Saxtead

In memory of Prince Philip's immense loyalty and service to our beloved Queen, country and Church, the Rev. Chris Davey sang a beautiful Russian Lament in Saxtead church on Sunday. Reflecting his deep faith and love of nature, Prince Philip wrote the following prayer: "Oh Lord, the creator of the universe and author of the laws of nature, inspire in us thy servants the will to ensure the survival of all the species of animals and plants which you have given to share this planet with us. Help us to understand that we have a responsibility for them, and that having dominion does not mean that you have given us the right to exploit the living world without thought for the consequences. Through him who taught us that Solomon could not compare with the beauty of the flowers of the field. Amen." Lorette Roberts awarded First Prize in the Saxtead Children's Butterfly Competition to Ophelia Howlett. Second Prize was won by Francis Hoare. Thanks to all the children who took part. Nearly 20 children got little baskets of chocolate eggs which hung on our beautiful cherry tree, safely out of reach of visiting dogs and foxes. *Christina Darrell-Brown*  
Email: [cdb1946@icloud.com](mailto:cdb1946@icloud.com)



Ophelia



Francis



### Christian Aid Week – 10 – 15<sup>th</sup> May



This climate crisis hurts us all, but people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people like Rose (above) are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water. When she was a child, Rose remembers how often the rains would fall, giving fruit to the baobab trees and providing plenty of nutritious food to eat. 'When I was a young girl, there was plenty of food,' Rose says. Now, the rains are totally unreliable. The climate crisis has galvanised extreme weather and Rose's community is

feeling the brunt of it. **For months at a time, Rose and her family live with drought.**

A gift from you could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Our new Central Supporter Engagement Team is now in place and ready to help.

Covering the whole of England, the team are there to answer any questions your church or group might have for us.

Whether it's about fundraising, putting on an event, paying in donations, hosting a virtual quiz - or anything else you're doing to **Give Act and Pray** for our global neighbours, we're here to help!

Please get in touch with us any time on [hello@christian-aid.org](mailto:hello@christian-aid.org), or if you'd rather speak to one of the team, give us a ring on: 01925 573 769.

You can use the **Christian Aid Prayer Diary** to pray for the work of Christian Aid. Read the whole Diary on:

[Coreprint PDF \(christianaid.org.uk\)](https://www.christianaid.org.uk)

