

**JUNE - JULY
2022**

Life.

Let's Celebrate

The Queen's Jubilee

Position Filled!!!

Our New Vicar
Joining CCB This Summer!

Feeling Creative

Let's Have Some
Fun With Flowers



**CHRIST
CHURCH
BEDFORD**

Living to love God and You

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Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of Life. If you would like to contribute something to the next edition, the deadline for submissions for the August/September edition will be 8th July 2022.

Please email: Editor@CCBedford.org

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You can read this edition
online, just go to our website:
CCBedford.org/lifemagazine



A word from our Wardens

Dear Friends,

This feels like a really important time in the life of Christ Church. We have just been able to announce the appointment of David Thomas as the new vicar of our church. On the interview day, there was unanimous conviction among the selection panel that David is the right person to take Christ Church forward into a new chapter. This is the culmination of a process where the whole church has played an important part. From the sharing of our views and vision in the congregational surveys, which enabled us to put together an authentic church profile, to those who were involved on the interview day itself and then to the many that have been praying throughout the whole process that God's will be done. It's been an amazing team effort and we are very grateful for the support and engagement that everyone has given throughout.

David is currently Curate at Hope Church Hounslow in the Diocese of

London. He trained for ministry at Trinity College, Bristol. Prior to ordination he worked for a pharmaceutical & healthcare data company for 11 years. He is married to Vikki and they have two children, Noah age 4, and Grace who will be 2 in August. David's licensing service will be at Christ Church at 7:30pm on Wednesday 20 July, where Bishop Alan will be leading. We would encourage everyone who can to attend this event, to support David and to welcome the people from Hounslow who will be visiting. We are very much looking forward to David taking up his new role and establishing himself as our vicar.

The other change that will happen this summer is that John, Rebecca, Sophie and Daniel will be leaving us, as John completes his curacy and takes up a new role (which, at the time of writing, is still to be confirmed). John and Rebecca have been such a blessing to us at Christ Church, especially in the period since Richard Hibbert departed. John has done a brilliant job at keeping our busy schedule of services running smoothly, as well as leading the pastoral ministry

of the church. It is largely due to John that Christ Church has continued to flourish during the vacancy period. We will miss the whole Bell family very much, but we wish them every blessing in their new position.

As we enter this new season for Christ Church, we can be thankful for the way that God has blessed us with Godly leadership – looking both back and forwards. We are excited about what God has in store for us as a church as David joins us and have a huge sense of anticipation for the coming months and years.



**KAY BERRINGTON &
ANDREW RUSSELL**

JUNE - JULY 2022

FUN WITH FLOWERS

EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVE SIDE

Saturday 11th June 2022

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Christ Church Halls (Cost £5 pp)

DEMONSTRATIONS, RAFFLE,
CONTAINERS PROVIDED.
(BRING YOUR OWN FLOWERS)

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE CONTACT
MARGARET BARON OR
PENNY GILHAM

20 Places Only so DON'T MISS OUT!!!





Celebrate with us!

You are very welcome!

Join us on 5th June after the 10:30am service, to partake in a slice of cake, a cup of tea and maybe even a glass of something bubbly. We want to celebrate the 70 years of service that Queen Elizabeth II has dedicated to the Church and this Country.

God Bless Her Majesty The Queen!



 **CHRIST
CHURCH
BEDFORD**

www.ccbedford.org

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PRUE'S BOBOTIE RECIPE

Serves 6



I'm South African by birth, and the one dish I remember loving all through my childhood is this. It's a sort of cross between a shepherd's pie and moussaka, mildly curried, and is a reflection of South Africa's history of Dutch and Malaysian influences. It is great for a party – unusual enough to surprise people, but not so exotic as to put off the children. It will sit in a warm oven for hours.

Ingredients

- 2 thick slices of white bread
- 150ml milk
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 large onions, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 3cm (1in) piece of ginger, peeled and finely grated
- 1 tbsp mild curry powder
- 1 tsp ground coriander

- ½ tsp ground cumin
- 450g lamb mince
- 1 small dessert apple, grated
- 75g fruit chutney
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- a handful of sultanas
- salt and pepper to season

For the custard

- 2 medium eggs
- 275g Greek yoghurt
- a handful of flaked almonds
- 2 kaffir lime leaves or bay leaves

- 1 Put the bread into a small tray or shallow bowl and pour over the milk. Leave to soak. Heat the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas mark 4.
- 2 Heat half the oil in a large, heavy-based saucepan over a medium-high heat. Add the onions and fry until soft and just golden. Add the garlic, ginger, curry powder, coriander and cumin and cook for a further minute or so. Transfer into a large bowl.
- 3 Wipe the saucepan clean and pour in the remaining oil. Turn the heat up and fry the lamb mince for 5–6 minutes, until golden brown. Press the meat down with a fish slice to encourage it to brown properly. When the meat is browned on all sides, add it to the spiced onions, along with the apple, chutney, Worcestershire sauce, tomato purée and sultanas. Add a little water if it looks too thick. Fork the wet bread into the mixture, season and gently combine. Pile the mixture into a 2-litre ovenproof dish and use the back of a wooden spoon to flatten it.
- 4 Mix the eggs with the yoghurt. Season with salt and pepper, then pour over the mixture. Scatter with the almonds, then place the kaffir leaves on top and bake for about 40–45 minutes, until the custard topping has set and browned. Remove the bobotie from the oven and let it stand for 10 minutes before serving.



HM Government



JUNE - JULY 2022

UNITED



A 23 JULY -
28 JULY
2022

B 29 JULY -
3 AUGUST
2022

at the EAST OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND,
PETERBOROUGH

**BOOK FOR
SUMMER 2022**

new-wine.org/United

NewWine

LIFE MAGAZINE | 8

PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY NOW!!

HOLIDAY @ HOME IS BACK IN BUSINESS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Monday 8th August and Thursday 11th August - An unmissable range of talks, activities and musical items are planned in-house, with lunch provided!

Wednesday 10th August - A Day Out to Cambridge and the world-famous **Fitzwilliam Museum** (close to City Shops and the Cambridge Botanic Gardens), followed by a delicious 2-course Lunch and a stopover at a Cambridge garden centre on the way home!

Contact the office at Christ Church today to book your place. And hurry - it's first come, first served!



DENEUF NEWS

FEB 2022



DEAR FRIENDS

I am really enjoying the richness of my Bible translation consultant training, and would like to share with you a bit about what I've been doing over the last few months.

Monkolé Bible

I thought I had finished my work on the Monkolé Bible, with hard copies distributed to the Monkolé churches in Benin in October 2021.

However, it turns out that there are some software glitches to be sorted out before it can be published online. My translation team didn't have more than basic training in Paratext (our Bible translation software) in Benin, so often when we needed to do something we found some way which worked, and this proved to be sufficient for publishing on paper. But now that we would like it to be available online, the software programme objects to some of the ways we did things, and I need to get them sorted out. This is a good learning experience for the future, where I will probably need to help other teams with Paratext.

**Hilary
Deneufchâtel,
serving with SIM
to bring God's
Word to people in
their own
language.**

*"Your word, Lord,
is eternal; it
stands firm in the
heavens." Psalm
119:89.*

**Written by:
Hilary, (with Marc,
Simon, Benjy and
Eve)**



It is a real encouragement to have heard that many sermons have been preached on the Old Testament in the Monkolé churches since the publication of the Bible.

Checking in Zambia

Earlier this month I had another opportunity to take part in a translation checking session held on Zoom with a consultant in the USA and a translation team in Zambia. This time we were working on the first chapters of John, which was fascinating. Having essentially worked on the Old Testament in Benin, it is good to get experience with the New Testament, and it is also good to practise my Greek language skills! I am very grateful for the generosity and support of this consultant.

Language Study

My main day-to-day focus is Biblical Greek and Hebrew study. It is important that I understand the original version as well as possible when working with translation teams who themselves will have translated from French or English versions.

I love languages and linguistics, and so I am enjoying the challenge of learning two languages at once! But I am particularly motivated by the joy of beginning to be able to read the Bible in the original languages, and knowing how much this will help me in my future work as a translation consultant.



Communication

I am also trying to keep up with supporters and supporting churches, through these letters and through videos about my work which I make for any churches which ask for them. If you would like me to make a virtual visit to your church, don't hesitate to ask!

I am also hoping that I will be able to visit the UK in July to visit some of the churches which have been faithfully supporting us/me for so long. It would be wonderful to be there in person again after having been prevented from doing so by Covid.

Family News

Sadly we didn't manage to travel to the UK at Christmas to be with my mum (Liz Inwood) because of last-minute rule changes (Marc at least wouldn't have been able to cross the border). We then didn't make it to Marc's parents' as planned in the two-week February school holidays since first Benjy, then Eve, then Simon tested positive for Covid. It was just like a very heavy cold for each of them. Despite living in close proximity with them over the holidays, Marc and I managed to not catch it ourselves, for which we are grateful.



Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers. I'm sure that part of the reason I am still so enthusiastic and motivated is because I'm in many people's prayers.


Much love,

Hilary, Marc, Simon, Benjy and Eve

hilary.deneufchatelet@sim.org



”

A woman with dark hair, wearing a light blue and white striped button-down shirt, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is smiling and holding a black handheld microphone to her mouth with her right hand. The background is a blurred indoor setting with large windows and other people seated in the distance. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, orange font.

***SHE SPEAKS
WITH WISDOM,
AND FAITHFUL
INSTRUCTION IS
ON HER TONGUE.***

“

The Next Chapter

Min-Min Peaker

Written by Alan Cottenden

You probably know Min-Min Peaker for her wonderful soprano singing voice, or her worship leading and preaching among us. But did you know she also has a PhD in molecular biology, has worked for Unilever and – for many years – has been running her own management consultancy business? Now – after 25 years at Christ Church – she is about to move on to yet another different role as a non-stipendiary curate down the road at Clapham Parish Church. What will she be doing there, I wondered, and what can she tell us about the journey of faith that is taking her there?

I know that China, Ireland and Scotland each have a place in your story along with England but I'm not sure how it all fits together! Can you explain?



My parents are Chinese but grew up off the mainland: my mother in Singapore; and my father in Malaya. Then, both went to university in Ireland: my mother to Dublin to train in Medicine; and my father to Belfast to study Chemical Engineering. Both Christians, they somehow met in a bible study, got married, had me and soon moved to Edinburgh for my father's job. That's where my brother and I grew up, although I was born in Belfast. My parents always spoke English at home and so I never learned Chinese, which is a shame! When it came to my own university education, I studied biochemistry at Oxford and then moved to Cambridge for a PhD in molecular biology before taking on a position as a scientist at Unilever in Sharnbrook, which is what brought me to Bedford in 1997.

Oxford and Cambridge! Who do you cheer on boat race day?

The dark blues... definitely!

How did you come to faith?

I've known God as my Father for as long as I can remember; he's always been there and I've always spoken to him. When I went to Secondary School I joined the Christian Union and I remember thinking hard about the nature of my faith. "How do I know I'm a Christian?" I remember asking myself. It's interesting how - as you grow up - you have to look at your faith afresh and grow. Anyway, I was baptised - aged 13 - in the Baptist Church that our family belonged to.

You've had an amazingly varied career: how has that played out?

I never really saw myself as a scientist - even though that was my initial role at Unilever. I was much more interested in people and - very helpfully - I was able to switch directions within Unilever, training in management consultancy skills, like team building, facilitating discussion and project planning. After about 5 years at Unilever I left to run my own management consultancy business, although much of my work continued to be with Unilever. I particularly enjoyed work that involved helping people from industry, academia, NGOs

and other contexts to work together, each bringing their own skills and perspectives. I was really grateful for the regular Unilever work because I found that I was not great at marketing my skills to potential clients!

No hint of ordained ministry yet: how does that fit into the story?

Ordained ministry had never crossed my mind until quite recently; in fact, at that stage I was quite sure it wasn't for me. That's one of the reasons I'm so convinced now that that's what I'm called to. But that's jumping ahead! In 2009, I used my management consultancy skills to run a strategic review on my work, to try to identify what really mattered to me and to





invite God to speak to me, giving me direction. I remember a particular day when I fasted and prayed and getting the distinct impression that Motherhood and Music were key words for my next “season”. I can remember feeling frustration because I had no idea how it might play out. I remember saying to God, “That’s not very helpful because it doesn’t move me on: what do you want me to do? I’d captured my thoughts on flip charts and post-it notes. I also had a sheet for issues that were for later consideration, if ever, on which I wrote ‘how to combine work and faith and music’. Then a deep sense fell on me that I’d a heart-felt desire to sing for more people. It was a very powerful experience. “What was to happen to my consultancy business?” I remember wondering. God told me that the ambition of that career was fulfilled, although work would continue, and that I had a new focus.

The next day was Ash Wednesday and, after our communion service, I talked with Richard Hibbert and that eventually led to me enrolling on a two-year, part-time course in theology, music and worship at the London School of Theology while continuing in management consultancy.

But partway in I became pregnant (there’s the Motherhood to go with the Music!) and I interrupted my studies to have first Daniel and then Natalie (in the picture on pg. 18, along with husband, Chris, and me). In God’s providence, in 2015 it was right to finish the course: the children were young enough to be looked after by others but not yet at school, which would have required my studies to fit round school hours.

Is it time to talk about ordained ministry yet?!

Nearly! On 1 October 2016, I went on the first of a three-session course run by the diocese. It’s called Seeking the way and it’s designed to help people discern what God is calling them to do, be it ordained or not. And I went very much on the expectation of not! I’d been provoked to go by the fact that, although I was enjoying my ministry of music-making within and beyond church settings, it didn’t seem

to be going anywhere. I was keen to know what God had for me next. Well, to cut a long story short, over the three sessions, I was increasingly convicted that God was calling me to ordained ministry. At the first session, I remember, we were being told about the maximum allowable ages for ordination which included, "...so if you're 45 and are considering ordained ministry, you'd better use this as a prompt to focus". At that point, I was 45! It got my attention. As a final check, I prayed, "Lord, I think this is what you're calling me to but if I've got it wrong, please would you show me in the next two weeks. Silence. So, there it was and after a discernment and selection process, I was recommended for the 3 year part-time training course with the Eastern Region Ministry Course which I'm just completing.

What will you do at Clapham Parish Church?

I'm not entirely sure! I know I shall be helping with a holiday club in the first week of August and with a Christian summer camp that the church teenagers go to. I'm sure I shall be involved in leading and preaching and pastoral work and being trained by Stephen, the vicar. At the end of my first year in curacy as a deacon, I shall be ordained priest and be able to preside at communion as well as being



able to officiate at weddings and funerals. I shall be there for 3 years after which, I'm not sure. But God has brought me thus far, one step at a time! I love that scripture that records how Mary (the mother of Jesus) "...treasured all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:51), as she watched God working his purposes out and acknowledging that God reveals His plan gradually because it would be too much to know it all at once.

How do Clapham Parish Church and Christ Church compare?

Both are Evangelical and their worship styles are very similar. The Clapham church building is much smaller and much older than Christ Church's. The congregation is also smaller but I would



say the age profiles are rather similar. There are children of similar age to Daniel and Natalie which is great! It will be a longer drive from home (about 30 min) but I think the location is going to work out very well as Daniel – and Natalie, from September – is at Bedford Modern, which is conveniently between home and church for taxiing.

Are you looking forward to it?

Yes! I've a real sense of adventure about it. I'm sure that God is going to use it to continue my "formation", growing me and equipping me for future challenges. I really enjoy "self-discovery" with those wonderful Aha moments when a penny drops and something becomes clear. I'm looking forward to increasingly being able to do naturally, intuitively and in step with the Holy Spirit things that may currently be a clumsy struggle!

I also very much enjoy helping others discover new things about themselves and about God, both individually and in groups. It's a great thrill to see people achieving beyond their expectations. I love to see it!

What memories of Christ Church Bedford will you take with you?

Many! I have particularly fond memories of Richard Hibbert, for his friendship and for encouraging me in my music, worship leading and journey towards ordained ministry. I'm also very grateful to him for where he took our church while he was among us. There have been lots of people who have been a real blessing to me at different stages of my life, as a single, professional; a young married; a mother, and so on. And I've really appreciated the friendship and fellowship of the various house groups I've belonged to. Lovely!

Thank you!
Alan Cottenden

PYRAMID ROCK

A colorful illustration of an Egyptian desert scene. In the background, there are three golden pyramids under a light blue sky. To the left, a tall palm tree stands next to a smaller one. In the foreground, several people are depicted in traditional Egyptian clothing. A man on the left wears a blue nemes and a yellow and black striped kilt, with his arms crossed. Next to him, a woman in a blue nemes and a yellow and black striped kilt is holding a long staff. In the lower right, a group of people, including a child, are visible. The overall style is that of a children's magazine illustration.

**DO YOU ENJOY
INTERACTING
WITH
CHILDREN?**

**ARE YOU
MUSICAL?**

**FANCY A
BIT OF
ACTING?**

**CAN YOU SAVE THE DATE TO BE
PART OF THE HOLIDAY CLUB TEAM?**

**AUGUST 22ND-26TH
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
FROM 9:30AM-12:30**

**IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY OVER THE
HOLIDAY CLUB WEEK, PLEASE CONTACT
RUTH.**

Meals with Jesus



Jesus isn't just for Christmas! We believe that choosing to follow Christ impacts our whole lives and spending time with God is something that we should build into our day to day lives. Over summer, children and families at Christ Church will be encouraged to open the Bible at home, spend time talking with Jesus in prayer, and thinking about his words. As a church family we will have the chance to do the sessions virtually together through **Facebook Watch Parties** as Ruth, Alistair and Claudia host videos which lead families through four sessions from **Meals With Jesus (2021)** by Ed Drew. This initiative intends to be a chance for families to deepen relationships by talking about the stories of Jesus over mealtimes and ultimately for each family member to enrich their faith, whether aged 5 or 50. Families will have the chance to reflect on the sessions they have done at home when we gather for an in person big breakfast. Can you support this family discipleship plan in prayer throughout July and August?

Virtual sessions to do at home : Facebook Watch Parties on Fridays at 6pm

Session Title	Page	FB watch party
Lunch with Levi: The Strangest Party	Page 14	29 th July
Mary and Martha: Only One Thing	Page 52	5 th August
At Home with Zach: Evil in a tree	Page 76	12 th August
Come to the Big Party! What, me?	Page 116	19 th August

**Final Session in Church with
Breakfast:**

***Sunday 4th September
9am in the Main Hall***

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Illustrations by Isobel Lundie



THE MARRIAGE COURSE

"Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking together in the same direction."

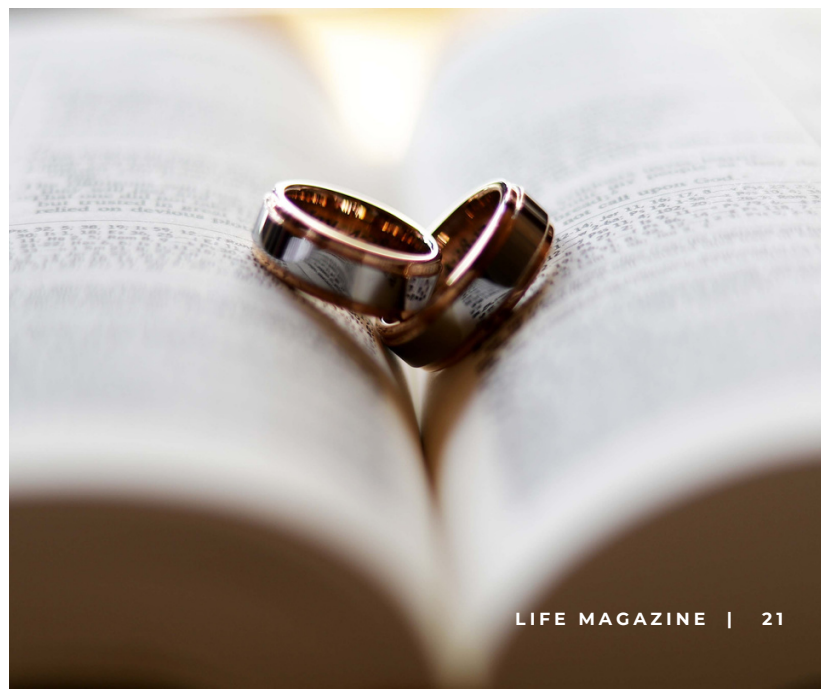
Antoine de St Exupéry

"Love and faithfulness meet together." Psalm 85 vs 10

After years of marriage preparation with couples, as Associate Minister at Holy Trinity Brompton, Nicky Lee with his wife Sila, devised The Marriage Course. Started at HTB in 1996, the course is now run around the world. Together with The Marriage Preparation Course, it is hosted in churches, communities and cafes in 127 different countries and offered in person and online.

Maybe the thought of doing The Marriage Course seems daunting – the sharing of emotions and thoughts

too threatening – but ["There's no counselling, no airing of dirty linen in public, no group therapy – and it seems](#)



to work.”. * While leading the online course at Christ Church Bedford during the past seven weeks, we’ve been struck by the abundance of humour, warmth, honesty and love shown by Nicky and Sila as they guide you through the video sessions. The environment created by the structure of the course is intrinsically safe for private conversations, while the experiences shared by the contributing couples are relatable and engaging.

This is a course, based on Christian principles, for anyone, married or cohabiting, long together or not, of faith or no faith, who wants to invest intentionally in their already strong relationship or are struggling and want to address a specific challenge. We completed The Marriage Course several years ago and have found the recent weeks a great opportunity to revisit the topics and refresh our relationship.

The seven sessions cover the themes of Connection, Communication (including effective listening), Resolving Conflict, the Power of Forgiveness, the Impact of Family (past and present), *Good Sex and Love in Action*, the latter based on *Gary Chapman’s Five Love Languages*.** By the end of the course, you are equipped with a host of essential tools and practical ideas to inspire and strengthen your relationship.

Hosting the course on Zoom, we started each session with a few minutes of





relaxed conversation, before watching the slickly produced video in which Nicky and Sila presented teaching, anecdotes from their real experience, informative insights from experts and many contributions from couples of different ages, nationalities and cultures. Throughout the video, there were breaks for each guest couple to converse privately. There is no group sharing so all the issues discussed can be pertinent to the couple and no one else. Each guest was given a guest journal which summarises the presentations and offers questions to explore areas of life, which, maybe, they have never previously discussed. These times offer a framework and a safe place to express insecurities, and expectations but also to reflect, talk dream, celebrate strengths, affirm each

other and build each other up. Every session concluded by encouraging couples to have a continuing conversation and to plan a date night during the following week. The course requires a weekly investment of time, but we all found the course rewarding and helpful and were grateful for the ongoing conversations it had started.

The Marriage Course is a great tool for planning and equipping ourselves for the journey of marriage, for cultivating a healthy marriage and strengthening or restoring connection. It benefits the couples and our wider society. Please pray for those who have recently completed the course at Christ Church and for wisdom as to how Christ Church can best offer The Marriage Course to our church family and the local community in the future. Look out for the next course to be advertised!

Written By:
Keith and Kathy Priddin

References and Further Reading:

For more information see
<https://themarriagecourse.org/try/the-marriage-course>

*Headline in 'The Guardian', Anna Moore, 28 December 2013

** 'The Five Love Languages: the secret to love that lasts', Gary Chapman, Moody 2015



Sunday Services

9am & 10:30am Morning Worship

7pm Sundays@Seven

Wednesday Service

10am Holy Communion



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Denmark Street, Bedford

