



## Tails from the Rectory

Lockdown had been a quiet time for the vicarage dogs, Basil had an operation on his leg which meant he wasn't feeling quite himself and Archie had to explore the garden on his own as Basil slept a lot in recovery and wasn't in the mood to play. But as the days went on Basil got brighter and more bold, and he was soon joining Archie in the garden for little visits and generally feeling like his old self.

One of the things the boys loved to do was to bark when deliveries arrived at the Rectory. The kitchen window gave them an excellent view of people as they arrived and left. Basil had taught Archie the art of barking at delivery drivers as both welcome and warning. They would rush to the door with Chris to find out what had arrived, always hopeful it would be dog friendly and preferably tasty!

This morning a delivery had arrived and the boys had barked at the window then dashed to the door (Basil as fast as healing leg would allow) to see what treasure had arrived! When Chris brought the parcel in both dogs gave it a very thorough sniffing, "Nothing for you I'm afraid" Chris had said, "this is a Pentecost surprise for the church".

A little later when Basil was resting his leg after all the excitement and Archie was laid keeping him company he asked Basil what Pentecost was? Basil, who had grown very fond of Archie as he really helped in his recovery by bringing him treats and sleeping next to him so he didn't feel too alone, thought for a moment.

"Do you remember Easter?" Basil asked. A large chocolate drop suddenly filled Archie's mind, and then he remembered the story of Jesus coming back to life of Easter morning, so he nodded (even though the chocolate drop kept creeping back into his thoughts in a very distracting way! ) "Well", continued Basil, "Jesus stayed with his disciples for 40 days reminding them of all the things that he had taught them. Then he went back to God, that is called the Ascension when Jesus returns to be with his Father". Archie was listening intently, "That must have been sad for the disciples" Archie pondered out loud. "Well perhaps it was", continued Basil, "but Jesus made the disciples a promise that he would not leave them alone but would send them a very special gift. He promised to send them the Holy Spirit, which is the power of God working in the world to fill them with all the things they would need to be the people of God". Archie's eyes were wide open "wow, did Jesus send the gift with a delivery man?" (he almost barked without thinking!).

"No" said Basil smiling at the thought, "on the day the church calls Pentecost all the disciples experienced a rushing power overtake them, filling them with courage and inspiration, giving the words to say to people about God, even in different languages! Suddenly they realised how they could start to go out into the whole world and speak about God, and explain God as Jesus had. Pentecost was like a launch-pad into a worldwide mission. That was the power of the Holy Spirit flowing into the early church and that same Holy Spirit still flows through the

church and in the world today. So Pentecost is a great celebration."

Archie was quiet for a moment then he looked intently at Basil, "So what is the special food for Pentecost", asked Archie excitedly. Basil thought for a moment but he couldn't think of a special food. "I have heard Chris talk about the fruit of the spirit" he said. They looked at each other, fruit was nowhere near as exciting as chocolate as far as Archie was concerned! "Do you want to go and bark in the garden?" asked Archie after a few moments of trying to get excited about fruit but failing, maybe they dipped it in chocolate? He would need to do some serious research later. "Come on", said Archie to Basil, "Stretching your leg is good for healing and we haven't barked for a good twenty minutes, we don't want to get out of practice!" Basil stood up carefully and with Archie walking at a slower pace by his side they headed out into the garden to see what needed barking at!



## Church calendars for June

Each Sunday at 8.00am BCP Eucharist, and every Wednesday at 10.30am, Holy Communion, both in St Michael's Church

June Services at St Michael's	
6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Family Communion
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Parish Communion
20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Parish Communion
27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Parish Communion

June Services at All Saints Saxtead	
6 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am Morning Prayer
13 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am Holy Communion (BCP)
20 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am Holy Communion (CW)
27 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

## Reflection from the Rectory

The world is beginning to change; in our country restrictions are beginning to ease and it feels as if we can see a new future approaching where we can reintroduce some of the things which enrich our lives as individuals, families and as a church and local community. With the opening of pubs and restaurants we can socialise more easily but we still need to be cautious and be mindful of the guidelines. That said, and in the spirit of Pentecost it is now time for the church to actively re-engage with the world and to find opportunities to speak of the God of love in a world which has been through a global pandemic (mindful and praying for those parts of the world where the virus is still surging). But in our own context we are beginning to look at some new and exciting projects in the life and mission of our faith communities.

In Framlingham new music projects and opportunities for hospitality are all bubbling up. In Saxtead a new memorial garden will soon be a reality to allow people a space to sit, reflect and remember. The work of the Church is, at its heart, to make new disciples. I often think this is best done by people inviting others into our church, confident that when they come in they will be welcomed and find something in our worship which will touch or inspire the weary and fearful heart.

So let us grasp the opportunities for growth and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, build the kingdom of God by making sure our buildings and our worship are welcoming and relevant, warm and inspiring, inclusive and life giving. To do that we all have a part to play, for being the people of God is a community activity not a



lone venture. I am excited at what is possible walking into God's future, I hope you are too, because we are called to walk into it together! Best wishes, *Chris*

## News From Saxtead



**Saxtead Ladies Coffee Morning** resumes on **Wednesday, 9th June at 10.30** in The Old Mill House Pub, and every second Wednesday in the month again as before, with kind thanks to Nick and Ruth Shepherd, our hosts.

**Saxtead Village Picnic** will be held at the pub from **2.30 on Saturday 17th July**: Bring your own hamper - a chance to meet up again at last!

**All Saints Choral Evensong** with the choir from St Michaels, followed by Pimms and nibbles Sunday 18th July 6.30.

**Saxtead Green Bring and Buy Market** - Bring your own table, donate £5 to the church, and all proceeds from your sales are your own. This is a French idea, very popular in Normandy. **Saturday 24th July, 10.00am - 3.00pm**. Set up near the football goal on the green.

**Saxtead Churchyard Memorial Garden** - We are starting the planting this week and need a few lavender plants. If you have any spare, please can you leave them in the porch?  
*Christina.*



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

### Monthly Newsletter June 2021

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St Michael's Framlingham



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