

intouch

NEWSLETTER

Benefice of Clothall, Rushden, Sandon,
Wallington, and Weston



Welcome to this issue of In Touch

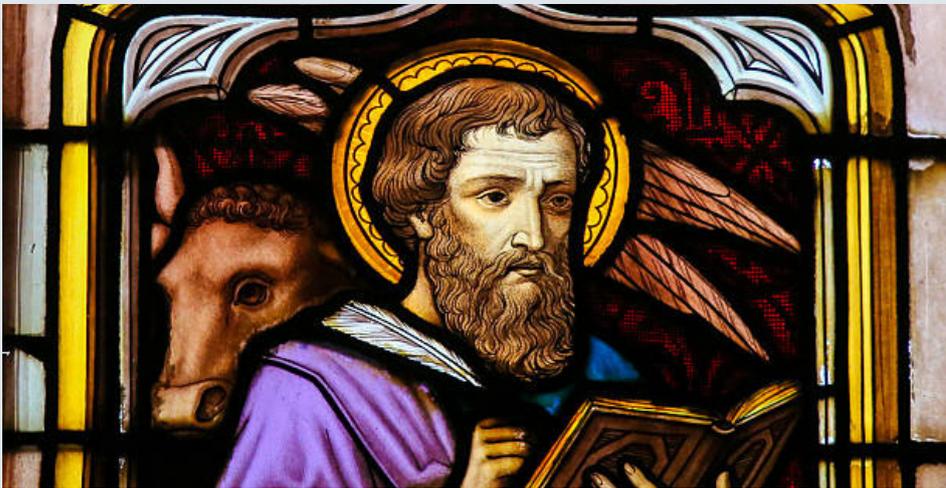
The last few weeks have been very busy as we held the harvest festivals around the benefice, finishing up with a lovely visit to the newly restored barn at Hyde Hall curtesy of Ben and Fiona Cannon. On a wet and windy day, we were snugly enclosed and treated to a potted history of the barn and an update on farming from Ben. We also had the choir with us, which was wonderful, we have all missed singing so much. Roll on the day when we can join in! We had our last wedding of the year at Rushden just before the rules were changed and Helena looked stunning in the autumn sunshine as she and Joe were married. Despite the lockdown we are continuing to worship in the churches and at the weekly zoom service, we are also planning both All Soul's and Remembrance Day services. Don't forget to look at our latest painting explanation from Mike Leverton. Take care out there. **With blessings Fiona**



If you are hoping to go to the Remembrance Day service at Sandon on the 8th November – please contact Maureen Miller to get an allocated seat.

HOLY DAYS

18th October - St Luke the Evangelist linking the sacred and the profane



To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin

Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 242 churches are dedicated to him.



ALL SOULS DAY

1st November -
Holy Trinity, Weston –
All Souls Evensong at 6pm

2nd November -
St Mary the Virgin, Clothall –
All Souls Compline at 6pm

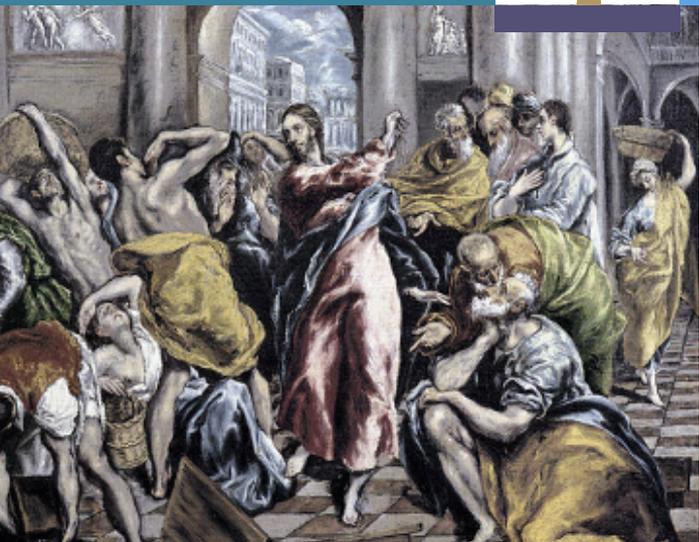
On the 2nd of November we celebrate All Souls, in the Anglican church this is now a service where we meet to remember all those who are dear to us and have died.

It is a chance to reflect on them and the love, support and special times that they gave to us.

We often light candles to reflect the light that they gave during the time that they were with us and the light that shines still in us when we think about them. It is not going to be easy in the current pandemic for people to come to church to attend the services that will be taking place.

However, if you would like a name remembered please contact Janet Gunn for the Weston Service or Sandra Jordan & Revd Fiona for Clothall, Rushden, Sandon and Wallington.

We will see that the names are read out.



El Greco: *Christ Driving the Traders from the Temple* (c.1600)

The irascible Art teacher of my first few years at Senior School was an unhappy man feared by all and loved by none. The only way to acquire from him a grudging sliver of favour was to make the characters in our paintings completely enormous. Inept with brush and paint though I was, I managed within the space of one term to rise from 23rd in class to 2nd by doing just that. Domenikos Theotocopoulos - 'El Greco' (the Greek), would have been at the top of my form. 'No worse fate can befall a figure than that it should be undersized' this argumentative outsider retorted when criticized for his

disproportionately constructed characters. El Greco had moved through Italy before settling in Toledo and the Catholic Church in Spain was the frequently bemused recipient of his genius. Having undergone the shock of the Reformation it was now asked of artists that they leave behind the complacent, superstition loaded imagery of the past. The beautiful and balletic images of the Crucifixion such as Raphael painted were replaced by dramatic creations of gospel immediacy, seizing the minds and hearts of beholders, aiming to inspire faith, penitence and renewed confidence in Catholicism. So Christ, tall and

powerful, painted in El Greco's idiosyncratic cool tones in fluid dynamic brushstrokes, comes swinging through the traders who have turned the Temple into a 'den of thieves'. At first sight all is fear and turmoil, the traders' bodies swaying in recoil as the judgement of Jesus is thrashed into them with startling righteous anger. The strong diagonal made by their arms and bodies points towards a small frieze at top left, which depicts Adam and Eve being driven out of the Garden of Eden. As it was in the beginning, is now.

Conflict always arrests the human eye so we may not notice that the right side of El Greco's painting is very different to the left. Jesus' left hand is held palm down, offering perhaps a blessing to those thoughtfully debating the meaning of what they witness. Above their heads is a frieze of Abraham's intended sacrifice of Isaac, God staying the hand of his servant and rescinding his murderous command. So for the group on this side there is redemption, a withdrawal of severe judgement. The basket of goods gripped desperately by the disarrayed woman on the ground to the left is balanced by another basket containing offerings perhaps, carried with grace by the woman on the right. Towards the Temple she turns to offer the praise which for Christ is the true and only meaning of the house of God.

Joe and Helena Cooper's Wedding

St Mary's, was lucky to host Helena and Joe's wedding this September - even though perhaps it wasn't the larger event they would have initially chosen - they enjoyed a wonderful family gathering (socially distanced of course) and were greeted outside by friends and onlookers from the village to wish them well after the ceremony as they walked home.

It was a glorious sunny day and Helena looked radiant in a beautiful classical dress made by her mother - what an amazing seamstress!

We wish them all the love and happiness for their future together.



A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.*

If you would like to donate to any of our churches in the current crisis - details are below. We would be very grateful in your help to keep our churches going.

Thank you.

PCC OF RUSHDEN

LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845350

SANDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
BARCLAYS BANK: 20-73-26 A/C 53610802

PCC ST MARYS CHURCH WALLINGTON
LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845466

WESTON PCC
BARCLAYS BANK: 20-41-12 A/C 40946850

PCC OF CLOTHALL
LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845245

Ivy – never underestimate its goodness!

Autumn is in full swing but there is at least one plant that is in full bloom. Not spectacular to look at, yet ivy is an important source of nectar for bees, moths, flies and wasps, and while they are not most people's favourite insects, they all play a vital part in Nature's jigsaw.

Ivy produces flowers from September to November. Spherical clusters of greeny-yellow blobs, which on closer inspection have endearing little horns with knobs on! The resulting fruits are dark berries with ridged sections, resembling tiny black footballs each containing five seeds. Poisonous for us, but birds love them.

Ivy is one of the few native climbing plants that can reach a substantial size. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a parasite. Its stems have lots of fibrous, adhesive-covered, roots which cling to buildings, brickwork, trees, telegraph poles, in fact just about anything to help it gain some height. However, when it comes to nourishment, that comes via the roots in the ground. [There's not much nutritional value in a brick.] Although ivy does not normally damage sound buildings or walls, and is rarely a threat to healthy trees, its weight can cause problems.

What a useful plant it can be! Providing shelter, hibernation and nesting sites for birds and insects, its glossy green leaves are happily munched by sheep, goats and deer. These leaves, so familiar, are different shapes according to whether they are on flowering or growing branches. The flowers are surrounded by heart- or spear-shaped leaves, while the rest of the plant has the three- or five-pointed ones we all recognise.

Many legends involve ivy. But has anyone discovered why although mentioned in the first line of the carol 'The Holly and the Ivy', it is absent from the rest of the verses?