



Sept 2023

this month includes...

Rector's Journal

Music and Stories

by Jean B

Nature Notes

by Margaret S

Study Group invitation

by Jeremy & Deborah

plus

*Open the Book update
St. Michael and All Angels*

Lessons from Elijah...?

Sunday: Today's theme covers Elijah. Now there's a hero. He saves the poor, comforts the lonely, and confronts the powerful King with a demand for justice. All in all, a godly superstar. And then he goes further and single-handedly takes on 450 enemy-vicars in the service of Baal. Baal was the god brought into Israel by the King's foreign wife, Jezebel. Baal quickly gained popularity with the people (no collections, free love) and so Elijah found himself alone on the mountain-top in a grand final shoot-out with the 450. He is far from gracious and polite; to the extent that he taunts them, winds them up, and, having won the fire-making competition, has them all killed. Elijah would have made a challenging Church of England priest. His sermons were very much to the point and failure to obey was fatal.



Wednesday: I am seated in a barber's chair, and, to my shame and mortification, the barber has to jack me up in the chair so he doesn't have to bend double to reach my head. This last happened when I was about seven, and so, I balefully predict, the extra cushion cannot now be far behind. We then fall into discussing the church, mosques, and Zoroastrian temples. It is all very polite, and very Anglican. We get on to discussing the challenges faced by religions who are struggling with same-sex marriages; and we become even more polite. And after all, this politeness is an aspect of religion that many expect from the church along with kindly clergy, a helpful community, warm welcomes, and all-round goodness. But, what about the Elijah aspect of faith? After his great victory over the prophets of Baal, Elijah finds himself pursued vengefully by Jezebel. He has to flee rapidly and finds himself far from home, all alone, and hiding in a cave. So how kind and caring *see overleaf*



is the Lord? Not very. God sacks him, and appoints Elisha in his place. It is quite brutal. Elijah is humiliated, but he **still obeys**. By contrast, after being humiliated in the barber's chair, I, of course, harboured dark thoughts of lashing out, and that's a very human response. Once again, via Elijah, the Lord reminds us that His ways are not ours. What do we know? God is not polite, **God** deals in a raw and powerful energy that courses through our history, **knows us better than we know ourselves**, and **we need to listen to Him**, especially when we think we know better, especially when we are tempted to flee, especially when a Godly word is replaced by good Anglican manners.

Mark

N.B. Blue Badge holders - disabled parking spaces are now available!



Let Go and Let God

Christine Smith writes: "I came across this poem and thought that others may find it helpful too."

**As children bring their broken toys
with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God,
because He was my friend.
But then, instead of leaving Him
in peace, to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help,
with ways that were my own.
At last, I snatched them back and cried:
'How can You be so slow?'
'My child,' He said, 'what could I do?
You never did let go.'**

The Bible! What value do we put on it?

St. Peter's study group will be considering this theme on **21st September and 19th October**, and to stimulate and inform that discussion we'll start by exploring a little of **how the Bible evolved** into what we know today - including its inconsistencies, contradictions and controversies.

All are welcome, whether you've been to previous study group sessions or not, whether you know a lot or little about the Bible, whether you have views on it or just want to listen. If you're coming on 21st September and could bring a Bible, and would like to share a Bible passage which has particular value to you, that would be lovely. The group will meet at 2.30 at High House 156 Main Street - just ask if you need directions.

Jeremy and Deborah Schofield



image by jcomp on Freepik

29th September:

St. Michael and All Angels

O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order:

mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



**Sunday 24th
September
5pm**

@ St. Peter's

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15.13

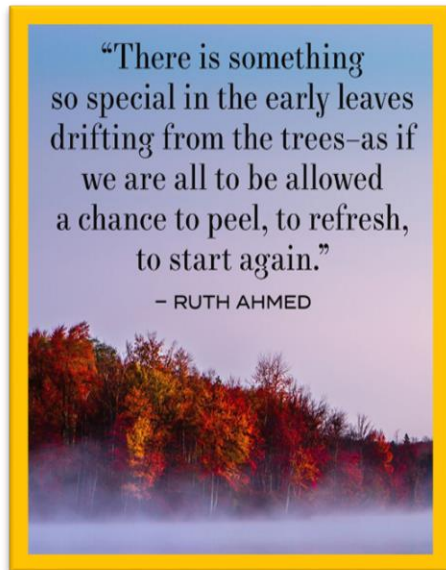
OPEN the BOOK update

You probably already know that a team of volunteers from different churches in Addingham goes into the **Primary School** once each half term to join in their assembly by sharing a Bible Story, using **drama, mime, props and costume**, with themed introduction and concluding prayer. The wording of these sessions follows a script approved for use in all schools. (You'll see what *Open the Book* is like if you're at the 10am service on 10th September, Education Sunday.)



But what you may not realise is what fun it is to be part of this Open the Book team, and how **fulfilling** it is to see the engagement on the children's faces as they follow the story and join in with words, actions or, for some, roles in the drama, learning what is in the Bible in **simple and thought-provoking** ways. It is not a large commitment to rehearse and perform: John directs us how to play the parts, and there are no lines to learn (we use scripts).

It would be great to have some more people join the team, so please think about it and if you feel **this might be for you**, speak with **John or Briony Holdsworth** to find out more.



"There is something so special in the early leaves drifting from the trees—as if we are all to be allowed a chance to peel, to refresh, to start again."

— RUTH AHMED

What if you woke up tomorrow with only what you thanked God for today?



when words fail,
music speaks.

Music and Stories *Jean Bull*

Thank you to Robin for the recent introduction he gave to the Old Testament reading about **Elijah**. As one who cut their

listening and singing in oratorios, I am reminded of what a good job Mendelssohn made of telling this **thumping good story**. From fiery, fiery chariots and a cloud the size

of a man's hand, to angels urging Elijah (**and us**) to be sustained if we cast our burdens upon the Lord. (*Listen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uF6Ct0iPl4*)

Are you captivated by music? Do melodies and harmonies make you feel better about the world? Does music bring you comfort and reassurance? I find that listening to Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* moves me (www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3MHeNt6Yjs), as did Louis Armstrong heard on earphones as we flew over the Grand Canyon, "*What a wonderful world*" (www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TBqhGEU4FA).

Thank you for the music. Who can live without it?

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

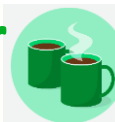
Martin Luther King, Jr.

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

COFFEE MORNING

Friday 29 September

10am @ St. Peter's



Wulfherans

Our annual BBQ was a great success with lots of finely cooked food, much appreciated by all. Many thanks to Liz and Wendy and the committee for organising the event. *Remember, there's no meeting in September.*

Next meeting is Harvest Supper, Tuesday 3rd Oct.



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For up-to-date details of all services and activities, please look at our website, follow us on Facebook or pick up a "What's On" leaflet.

Everyone is welcome and you can also join with St. Peter's online; we livestream many of our services to our Facebook page, so take a look.

You can also follow **C.a.f.e** – children and family events at St. Peter's Addingham

You can watch all St. Peter's Podcasts at
vimeo.com/showcase/10274277

From the Registers

Baptisms

Aug 20 Cody Bingham
Aug 20 Arabella May
McCormack

Wedding

Aug 26 William Baxter
& Alice Carty

Peace point

The global problem with conflict is that it builds human, social, individual and collective energy in totally destructive ways. The solution, which can be intractable, is how to totally channel such energy in constructive directions.

Johan Galtung



No one has ever become poor by giving

Anne Frank

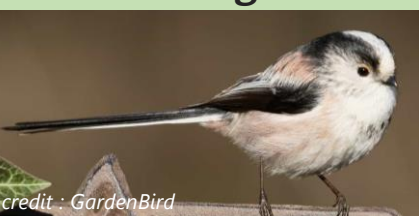
Nature Notes for September *Margaret Spencer*

Butterflies are busy - a little family of **Small Tortoiseshell** were feeding on a **Michaelmas Daisy** recently - quite exciting. The **Magpie** has kept visiting the greenhouse (no doubt in hope of catching a bird or two), and several noisy **Starlings** are splashing in the bird-bath with great joy!



credit - Cynthia Hilsden

As I sat looking out of the window, a **Kestrel** came into view again hovering above the garden - probably hunting for some garden birds to attack, but a lovely sight nevertheless. And walking down the lane towards the canal one afternoon, I came across a **Song Thrush** flying low over the fields - so lovely.



credit - GardenBird

I've been reading an article about **Long-tailed Tits** – they line their nest with up to 2,000 tiny feathers!! which keeps the eggs and chicks warm during cold weather in early Spring - amazing!