

# THE MAG IN JULY

The monthly magazine from Adeyfield Free Church. 2023



**ENTER THROUGH THE  
GARDEN**

## From The Editor.....

Whenever we have an event or a service that takes place either in the worship room or the main hall, we usually put out the message 'Entrance Through The Garden'. The doors that open onto the garden are accessible and near the lower car park. The Garden team work tirelessly to develop a pleasing garden that blesses those using the church centre and the people living above. We are hoping those who walk through it or sit in it will find peace, pleasure and a nearness to God. It was planned to reflect the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

So ....Entrance to what? Not just a space.

Adam and Eve entered into a relationship with God as they entered the Garden of Eden and broke it when they left. Jesus entered into His passion and act of sacrifice and victory through Gethsemane.



There is something about a garden that seems to speak beyond words. When we walk

in a garden or when we work in a garden or just sit there, and when we give Him space and time, God can enter our spirit through the garden in such a beautiful way.

During the teaching at Lee Abbey Linn Button encouraged us to close our eyes and ask God to show us the garden that is our heart, to show us what is growing there and what that means to us. It was an eye opener.

There are many different kinds of garden and each one has a beauty of its own. And when you think about it the whole world is a garden that God has planned and planted. He has made us the gardeners.

I always write this message when I have just begun to edit each month's copy and this month I am hoping that some of you will send in to this edition something of your thoughts about gardens and what they have meant to you beyond horticulture.

*A song I heard recently that really touched my heart with  
so many words of truth. ....Janiel*

## **Graves into Gardens**

I searched the world  
But it couldn't fill me  
Man's empty praise  
And treasures that fade  
Are never enough  
Then You came along  
And put me back together  
And every desire  
Is now satisfied

Here in Your love

*Oh, there's nothing better than You*

*There's nothing better than You*

*Lord, there's nothing.*

*Nothing is better than You*

I'm not afraid  
To show You my weakness  
My failures and flaws  
Lord, You've seen 'em all  
And You still call me friend  
'Cause the God of the mountain  
Is the God of the valley  
There's not a place  
Your mercy and grace  
Won't find me again

*Oh, there's nothing better than You*

*There's nothing better than You*

*Lord, there's nothing,*

*Nothing is better than You*



You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can  
You turn graves into garden  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can  
You're the only one who can

**Song by Brandon Lake and Elevation Worship**

## Bird watching at Lee Abbey – Lynton

Pam and I enjoyed a good week at Lee Abbey, Pam taking the in-house course The Heart of God and myself doing the bird watching.



I say watching, but there was also a lot of listening.

On our first day to the Taw Estuary, we spotted Lesser White Throats, Shell Ducks, a nesting Heron, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and many others. In our debriefing session in the evening we had a list of 50! I seem to be in that “did you see that – oh no it’s gone now!” group. Later that evening we went out to Dunster Forest to hear and see Night Jars, we were standing waiting 9.00 – 10.30 so relieved

I took this picture, so I’m not in it

when we heard them but sorry, we did not see them, got very cold by then, got back at mid-night.

We also visited Exmoor, a lovely woodland setting. Unfortunately, our boat trip had to be cancelled due to choppy seas but, instead we had a good time around the Lee Abbey Estate which is vast and very beautiful, spotting Siskin, Bull Finch, Stonechat and again many others.

I do have to say that I spotted the bird of the week, purely a quirk of fate. I pointed out to our leader a little black and white bird I saw. He was very excited. It seemed it was a Pied Flycatcher, quite rare. Later that evening we sat outside the Abbey to watch the Horseshoe Bats leaving their roost from the cellar.

Andrew Mann, our guide. was amazing with identifying all the different bird calls, and picking each one out. It seemed more about listening, and also the in-house teaching was about listening to God, so it made me very aware how important it is to be listening, not only to what is going on around us, but listening for God to speak and discerning His voice.

“Speak for your servant is listening”

1 Samuel 3 v10

*Pat Gosling*



**The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.**

## When you pray

- + Our children and youth
- + Our need for a youth and children's worker
- + People to join our youth and children's Sunday team
- + Those leaving school and college
- + Students needing summer jobs
- + Parents needing to buy school uniforms and equipment
- + Children facing summer in a violent home
- + Families struggling to feed and clothe themselves
- + Those seeking a safe or peaceful place

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies  
never come to an end. They are new every morning. Great  
is your faithfulness Oh Lord.**



## A message from Gill and Terry

The move from Hemel Hempstead, and from all our friends at AFC, was a difficult one. I have been a member at AFC for over 15 years so it was quite a wrench to move.

We do feel that God was with us and really eased all the negotiations so that everything ran smoothly.

We are now in a little cottage in Ivinghoe until the house we are buying is ready – probably late July. Our permanent address will be

14 Pavis Close,  
Tring  
HP23 4FW.

The cottage is in a complex of other little cottages – all available for rental for short term or long-term use. Many people come here and park caravans or set up tents to camp in the fields all around. We see lots of young people who camp overnight to do their Duke of Edinburgh Awards – they all set off first thing in the morning with back packs on a long hike.

We can see Ivinghoe Beacon from the farm, and the views and walks all around us are spectacular. Millie is enjoying her walks around the farm. Given the chance, she would love to get much closer to all the campers as they BBQ and make delicious smells. We are very blessed.

Do come and visit us if you would like a little trip out of Hemel Hempstead. It is easy to find us –

Straight out of Hemel on the Leighton Buzzard Road  
Turn left at Edlesborough.

Town Farm is about 3 miles along on the right-hand side,  
just after the turn for Ivinghoe Beacon.

We miss you all. We wish for AFC to grow and flourish under the wonderful leadership of Paul – may God bless you.

*With love, Gill & Terry xx*

### **Thanks**

**Many thanks to Pat G and all those who made donations towards the new Psalm plaques in the church garden. Also, thanks to John B who put them in place and all those who helped tidy the garden ready for the Windrush weekend.**

## **God's Gifts**

We are extremely blessed that God gives us good gifts. After all, why would He wish to give us something that would displease us and not bring us pleasure. That is why I feel thankful when I hear bird song, see a beautiful sunset or smell fragrant flowers.

When I attend church on Sunday morning, I like to view the garden and admire how it has grown. That was why I was saddened and hurt to see on leaving church that some beautiful flowers I had admired were lying on the path. Their petals crushed. Their stems broken.

It could not have been attributed to a freak storm. There was no rain. No gust of wind.

The sun had shone beautifully that morning.

They are only flowers you might say ... honestly why is she getting so upset about it.

On a different level does it matter if we walk and trample the grass when there is a path next to it or step on insects ... because little things don't matter???

But ... and there is always a but.....

The garden is a thing of beauty created by God and tended by a dedicated team of volunteers within our church. Hopefully this garden shall grow and welcome people to come and sit, pray and be still with God.

Please help to love and support our church garden so that we might all admire God's gift.

***Submitted by Sandie Brett***

*Sandie has been part of the gardening team since it started and the arch that stands near the bench is a memorial to her husband, Phil, who passed away just over a year ago. If you would like to join the team and help to keep the weeds at bay and add to the garden, let Pam Annison, the Jacksons, the Blastocks, Pat Gosling or Sandie know.*

## The First Rosebud

I woke this morning  
To a steel grey sky.  
The air was empty;  
No sound or sight to break the lifeless time.  
In the early hours  
Of morning light  
Nothing of joy  
That should have been the herald of a late spring day.  
I shuffled to the bathroom  
Rubbing my eyes,  
Stretching my back.  
With no particular expectation.  
But then,  
Through the open window that looks over the garden  
I saw  
Close by the fence,  
Leaning outward and upward  
A small rosebud  
And all the promise of light and life and beauty of summer days  
Smiled up at me from that tiny bud.  
And the whole day had a different prospect.

We are the watchmen on the walls.  
Our joy is to be the first;  
To see the signs of the beauty of His life in the grey of the dawn of each  
day.  
And we say,  
'Look, look, His life is among us.'  
Keep your eyes on the first rosebud that is the firstborn of the abundant  
flowering of the whole plant.  
And we know that soon,  
With burgeoning blooms,  
The fence will be covered,  
The garden will be full of fragrance,  
And His life will never be gone.





G	A	T	D	R	E	L	K	N	I	R	P	S	E	N	T	U	S	C	G
V	F	R	B	M	Y	O	P	A	K	L	E	R	T	S	K	U	S	E	A
U	N	E	M	E	S	A	I	B	U	L	B	S	P	M	A	C	O	N	T
S	Y	E	N	R	T	O	S	E	S	H	E	L	I	R	B	L	I	V	E
P	R	O	E	C	D	A	V	I	Y	B	M	U	T	O	A	I	L	T	W
A	E	F	H	R	E	D	E	N	C	P	O	S	I	W	P	M	E	D	A
D	W	L	E	K	N	A	G	P	W	E	S	D	N	P	O	B	P	H	Y
E	P	I	Y	T	R	A	E	V	L	J	S	Y	B	J	L	E	A	C	K
Y	B	F	H	E	D	G	T	G	R	A	O	S	U	S	L	R	D	N	A
D	G	E	L	O	N	I	A	N	T	O	L	A	S	K	E	T	U	A	F
F	L	O	V	I	K	F	B	R	I	G	B	T	H	U	N	K	L	R	I
T	A	L	O	L	C	K	L	S	H	U	V	W	E	K	A	M	C	B	U
I	B	O	R	D	E	R	E	O	V	C	H	I	S	R	T	J	E	S	K
M	G	V	I	D	W	J	S	D	W	I	L	D	F	L	O	W	E	R	S
T	A	R	K	F	L	O	W	E	B	E	S	W	H	E	R	B	L	I	D
S	U	R	G	S	E	V	A	E	L	U	R	C	J	U	S	P	S	N	U
B	O	P	C	I	P	O	T	T	I	N	G	S	H	E	D	T	A	L	B
F	O	I	N	H	C	K	B	U	C	R	A	N	C	T	O	F	F	L	A
I	N	H	K	E	G	D	E	L	W	O	N	K	C	O	B	H	T	A	P
S	T	R	U	V	E	R	O	W	B	A	L	T	R	I	Y	O	N	W	H

# Mag Wordsearch

ANT-ARCH-BLOSSOM-BORDER-BRANCH-BUDS-  
 BULBS-BUSHES-CLIMBER-EDEN-EVIL-FENCE-  
 FLOWERS-FORK-GATEWAY-GOOD-KNOWLEDGE-  
 LAWN-LEAVES-PATCH-PATH-POLLENATORS-POTTING  
 SHED-ROOTS-SOIL-SPADE-SPRINKLER-TREE OF LIFE-  
 VEGETABLE-WALL-WILD FLOWERS-WORMS

*How do you prevent a summer cold?*

*Catch it in the winter!*



**Many thanks to those who contribute to The Mag.  
 Without contributions from AFC people there will be no Mag.**

**Chill out. Colour these and enter a peaceful half hour.**



# The Mag's Back Page

Contacts .....

Editor ... [pamramannison@gmail.com](mailto:pamramannison@gmail.com)

Church Office ..... [admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk](mailto:admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk)

**DON'T MISS OUR  
SPECIAL SUMMER  
CELEBRATION  
SERVICE AND  
BARBEQUE ON 16<sup>TH</sup>  
JULY. PENNY NEEDS  
HELPERS.**

**Our summer services will soon be in place from  
the end of July through August. Keep your eyes  
and ears open for details coming soon.**

