

# Epiphany News

The magazine of Holy Epiphany Church

October/November 2018



**Service of Remembrance**

**Sunday 11 November**

**10am**

**1914-1918**  
**LEST WE FORGET**



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**There is a loop system available in church. Please adjust your hearing aid to the relevant setting**



## Letter from David Thompson

Dear friends,

**As we say goodbye to the summer and begin to welcome the mists and colours of autumn; as the leaves fall from the trees and the days shorten, we are reminded once again of the circle of life and seasons.**

Our diaries, however, no longer seem to be governed by this natural cycle, but by the unhealthy busyness of our lives. We begin to think about Bonfire Night, Christmas preparations and even what holidays we may have next year - 2019 perhaps looms larger than 2018 on our horizon and yet we still have a couple of months to go before the year ends.

In fact, we can be so busy that we forget to stop and be thankful for what God continues to do for us, to be thankful for the world in which we live and maybe even to be thankful for each other. Time passes and we wonder where it went and why we have not managed to do things that we know are important such as visiting family, speaking to friends or relatives or visiting neighbours.



It is sadly true that a second misspent is a second lost; we cannot have it again. Time is precious not because we have a lot to do, but because it is a gift from God; we need to use it wisely. I will not pretend that is easy to regain control of our lives, but I believe that it is essential for each of us to try to be less 'driven' and to find the time and space to spend with God and with those nearest to us.

As it is written in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 verse 1:

**"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens".**

We do need to set aside time for reflection and prayer and at this time of year, as we celebrate harvest festival, it is perhaps a good time to reflect on our role as stewards of the natural world and on our responsibilities to our community. Psalm 24 says, **"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."**

Although God gives us **"all things richly to enjoy,"** (1 Timothy 6 verse 17) nothing is ours. God owns everything but we're responsible for what we do with it. For me, stewardship encompasses such things as whether I am really proactive in recycling waste, careful with resources and mindful of my effect on the natural created world. I see myself as a member of a worldwide community with responsibilities to those who are in need wherever they live. Our personal efforts may sometimes appear to be just a drop in the ocean, but our seas are made up of such drops. Every piece of plastic we recycle, every step we take to reduce waste, every gift we offer to charity or the church and every amount of time we give as a volunteer or friend should be seen as a response to what we have been given by God.

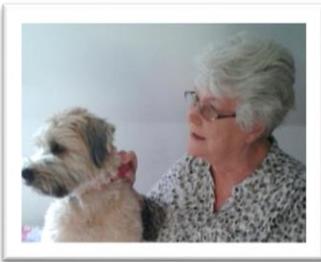
May I challenge us all, as we propel ourselves headlong towards Christmas and beyond, to dedicate a few minutes to thinking about our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation and members of the world community.

God Bless,

## From the Editors

This magazine is free; however, a donation of at least £1.20 a copy would help to offset the costs of printing. Contributions are welcome for consideration for our next edition - by **15 November** please.

**Disclaimer: Views expressed in Epiphany News are those of contributors, not the editors or the ministry team. Editors reserve the right to edit or shorten articles or hold them for a later edition.**



## FaithTime *by Jan Farrow*

**What kind of a shopper are you? Perhaps you are**

**fortunate enough to have someone else to do it, which perhaps gives away how I feel about shopping, or food shopping in particular.**



Are you like the picture above, or do you go round with a carefully prepared list? Maybe you are so clever that you have actually planned the week's meals and therefore know just what you want. Rosie and I have recently chosen a new way of living; some people call it a diet. Whatever you call it, it necessitates our looking at the small print on the back of packets etc. What, for example, is 'Maltodextrin' or 'Annatto'? Is it good for us? Do we really need it? I need a shopping bag to carry the dictionaries alone, never mind the shopping!!

All this has got me thinking. I have been a Christian for a long time now, but how discriminating in my choices have I been? Did I even realise that there are choices or have I just followed along after others, picking up this and that, not bothering to look at the packet as it were? In spiritual terms, what does the discriminating Christian shopper's trolley look like?

As God created each one of us to be a unique individual I doubt we can copy someone else's list. The other bad news is we have to do this kind of shopping for ourselves.

There is a large range of products for sale. Generosity, forgiveness, anger, love, joy, selfishness, tolerance, impatience, independence, kindness, idealism and that's before I've hardly got through the door. They are all shouting, "Buy me." I could argue they all have a part to play in life's journey, even anger has its place, but where do I begin? Do I really need so much? Do I need it at this point in time? Then, of course, the all-important question, "What's the price tag?"

Well, by now you will realise that we can't buy these things; Jesus has already paid the price tag in full, for ever, by his death on the cross. We are a forgiven and freed people. However, that doesn't mean that things like joy, peace, love and generosity just fall miraculously into our laps. No, they are commodities that we need to work for, they are in life's choices. I choose to forgive that person who hurt me. I choose to not be angry (for too long) with those who deliberately cheat and lie to me. I choose to give to those who are less fortunate than me. I choose to follow Jesus. I choose to believe in God. Along the way I may well get tired and pick up selfishness, intolerance, unforgiveness, etc. but I can choose to chuck them out of my trolley at any time.

The question I want to leave you with is this, and it's a question I put to myself also. "What's in the trolley right now? Is it full to overflowing with goodness knows what, or have we carefully worked out and chosen good wholesome nourishing ingredients to help us grow as followers of Jesus?"

Why not make a list right now?

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.**

Galatians 5:22



## Solar power - a visit to Hilfield Friary *by Pauline Wheeler*

**Solar power initiatives are the focus of Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal and here Pauline describes an information-finding visit to an event at Hilfield Friary.**

It was a lovely sunny morning as we journeyed through the beautiful Dorset countryside to the Friary, which is set in 43 acres on the edge of Dorset Downs and overlooking the Blackmore Vale.

The Community House of the Anglican Society of St. Francis was founded in 1920 and would have been more isolated then than it is nowadays. Today solar power is being used in a big way at the Friary, bringing them very much into the 21st century.

Brother Hugh was very enthusiastic about their expansive use of solar energy as he showed us around. Solar panels are making possible the storage of electricity and solar thermal energy is providing hot water. Also, there is a biomass store where wood chip is utilised in producing more energy. Altogether, the Friary is meeting much of its everyday energy requirements including the ability to recharge an electrically-driven car which can be used for local journeys up to a distance of 25 miles.

***With your support this Harvest, Christian Aid can expand their solar energy initiatives across Ethiopia, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Honduras.***



In another part of the world, solar power is making life-enhancing changes for people in Ethiopia, thanks to Christian Aid. By setting up 'Solar Shops' people are able to recharge mobile phones and batteries. This means that they have the power for cooking and supplying light so that they can continue with work or reading when the sun goes down.

## Parish Registers from August and September

***Baptisms – We welcome into the church family:***

**5 August**

Eloise Sandra Grace Bircham

**12 August**

Molly Ann Fletcher

Amelia Rose Laitlaw

Jackson Philip William Lamdin

**2 September**

Enid Frances Blake

**23 September**

Lily Eleanor Scorer

Maddison Ava Myers

Dylan Chase Taylor



***Funerals – We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:***

**4 September**

Jean Kirkpatrick



# What's happening at Epiphany in October and November?

 <p><b>Church Services</b></p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>      <b>7 October</b> (Harvest Festival) <b>and 4 November</b>            9.00am      Breakfast @ 9 – Especially for families with young children            10.00am      Coffee followed by a short, informal Family Service</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>      <b>14 October and 11 November</b> (Service of Remembrance)            10.00am      Holy Communion with Roots for Children and Crèche</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>      <b>21 October and 18 November</b>            9.00am      Holy Communion (said)            10.00am      All age service</p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>      <b>28 October and 25 November</b>            10.00am      Holy Communion with Roots for Children and Crèche</p> <p><b>Wednesday Holy Communion 12.15pm on 10 October and 21 November</b></p> <p><b>**Advance notice – Advent Carol Service on 2 December at 4.30pm**</b></p>
	<p><b>Home Groups</b> – friendly groups, who meet fortnightly to share fellowship, study God's word and pray. New members welcome, please talk to Jan Farrow.</p> <p><u>Monday Evening Group meets at 7.30pm</u>  <b>1 October, 15 October, 5 November, 19 November</b></p> <p><u>Wednesday Morning Group meets at 10.00am</u>  <b>3 October, 17 October, 7 November, 21 November</b></p>
<p><b>PRAYER</b> <i>changes things</i></p>	<p><b>Prayer Meetings</b> in the Jubilee Room – all are welcome</p> <p>Saturday evenings 6 – 7pm – Coffee and Prayer on <b>6 October and 3 November</b></p> <p>Tuesday afternoons 2 – 3pm on <b>9 and 23 October; 13 and 27 November</b></p>
	<p><b>Epiphany Bright Stars</b> – Parent/carer and Toddler Group on Tuesday mornings in <b>term-time</b> at 9.30am in the church and Jubilee Room. <b>Closed in half term 23 October.</b> More information from Jodie Burge on 01202 776270</p>
	<p><b>Messy Church</b> – family fun for parents and children followed by a shared meal. Lots of craft activities, biscuit or cake decorating, Bible stories and buffet tea. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Next meetings <b>21 October and 18 November</b>, 3.00 – 5.00pm.</p> <p>More information from Lynley Wilkes on 01202 823261</p>
	<p><b>Men's Breakfast</b> – full English breakfast and a talk from an invited Christian speaker about their work and faith. 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, 8.00 – 10.00am. Next meetings are on <b>27 October at St Paul's, Throop</b> and <b>24 November at Holy Epiphany.</b> All men welcome.</p> <p>Contact Andy on <b>07484 203076</b> or <a href="mailto:andy.renton56@gmail.com">andy.renton56@gmail.com</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Muscliff Care Home:</b>– Mondays at 2.45pm, monthly</p> <p><b>8 October</b>      <b>12 November (Remembrance)</b></p>
	<p><b>Epiphany Pre school</b> meets Monday - Friday in the church hall during <b>term-time</b> from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Closed during half term. Please check dates with the pre-school staff. Phone 01202 612337 for more information</p>

	<p><b>Tea Cosy</b> – tea and coffee and time for a chat. Mondays in term-time from 9.30am – 12.00 in the Jubilee Room. <b>No meeting on 22 October.</b></p>		<p><b>Choir practice</b> - Please contact Susan Bright for up to date information. See the 'Who's Who' page for contact details.</p>
	<p><b>Lunch Club</b> – social time with coffee at 10.30am followed by games. Lunch served at 1.00pm prepared by 'Crumbs'. A 2 course meal costs £4 and (pre-booked) menu choices are available. Please contact the church office on 01202 612337 to book.</p>		
	<p><b>Pie and a Pint</b> – an opportunity for men to chat and 'put the world to rights'. 7.00pm Wetherspoon's in Winton. <b>Next meetings are on 31 October and 28 November.</b> Contact Alan Hogg on 07963 706907. All men welcome.</p>		
	<p><b>Beavers</b> Jacqui Elena jacqui.elena15@gmail.com <b>Cubs</b> Jan Kingsland 01202 517627 <b>Scouts</b> Simon Blake 07500 901 561</p>		<p><b>Brownies</b> Sam Pattermore 07930 581851 <b>Guides and Rainbows</b> Sandra Coomber 07712 129445</p>

## Service of Remembrance

(with Holy Communion)

**Sunday 11 November**

**10.00am**



### Harvest Festival

**7 October**

Join us for coffee at 10am followed by Family Service

We welcome donations of tinned and packet food for distribution to those who struggle to make ends meet

Service followed by a 'bring and share' lunch



**Christmas Fayre**  
**Holy Epiphany Church**  
**Saturday 17 November**  
**11.00am – 3.00pm**  
Stalls, raffle and an early visit from Father Christmas

## Mustard Seed Relief Mission – showing love in action



We are passionate about the work Mustard Seed do in connection with Christmas shoeboxes for children's orphanages and hospitals in Moldova and the Ukraine. Could you give small toys, hats, gloves or scarves for these children? A leaflet (available from the back of church) explains how to fill a shoebox for a boy or girl for a chosen age group. A donation of £4 towards the cost of transportation would also be appreciated.

Please return wrapped shoeboxes, donations or gifts **no later than Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018**. These can be left at the church or children who go to Epiphany School can take theirs to school and leave it in the library.

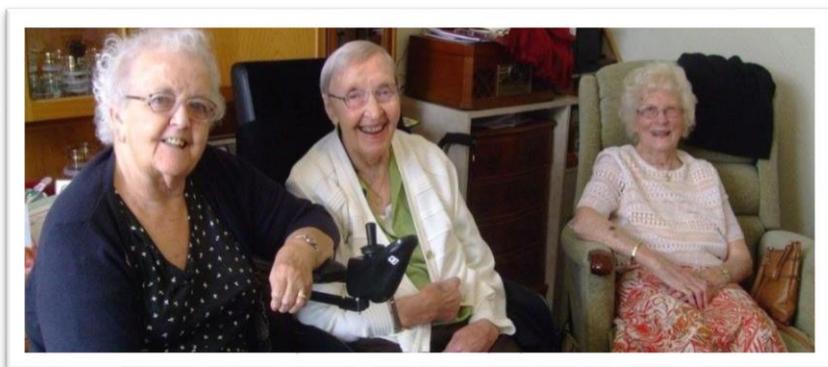


Your kind donations and thoughts are a lifeline of hope to these children. These boxes give them Christian hope and a message that they are loved and valued.

### GOD BLESS AND THANK YOU

Mark Vincent 74 Claremont Avenue - in connection with Holy Epiphany Church  
Contact Mark (01202 255958 or 07788 316749)

## Jean Lilian Kirkpatrick 2 June 1944 – 22 August 2018



*'Jean Kirkpatrick, who sadly passed away on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, was a dear friend to me. We would come along together for the Sunday morning service and also to Tea Cosy on a Monday morning. I will miss her and her friendship very much.'*

*Marjorie Parsons*

*'Jean and Brian made friends with my parents when they became neighbours in 1995. Jean used to attend the United Reformed Church in Throop and when it closed, Joan (my Mum) offered to take Jean to Holy Epiphany. In 2007, Joan had a stroke but Jean carried on coming to Holy Epiphany. In later years, Jean visited Joan at least once a week for coffee and chat for which we are grateful.*

*The photo of Jean, with her friends Joan and Marjorie, was taken last year.'*

*Joanne Davis*

## A Prayer for Remembrance Day

*O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. (by Ana Gobledale)*



You might like to join us at one of the times when we pray together. For dates and times, please see the centre pages of the magazine. Don't worry, you don't have to pray out loud if you don't want to.

## Keswick Christian Convention – by Mary Hogg

**What do you think of when you read the words “Christian Convention”? Maybe not quite like the reality we experience at the Keswick Convention, which happens over 3 weeks every year in July in this lovely Lake District town.**

When we arrive, we go and get a handbook describing each day’s talks and activities – there is something for all ages. You can choose to go to as much or as little as you wish. This year we chose 2 early morning talks by Louise Morse, a lively Welsh cognitive behavioural therapist who works for the Christian charity, The Pilgrim’s Friend Society. She’s written several books about old age and about dementia and she encouraged us all to increase our expectations of what old age can be. In her latest book she wants us to challenge ageist thinking and to understand that God designed old age so that older people would be able to tell others about God’s faithfulness to them in their lives. Ask to borrow my copy if you’re interested. (Morse, L., 2017 ‘What’s old age got to do with it?’ Lion Hudson £8.99.)

Later, fortified with coffee, we listened to mid-morning talks in the big tent.



The speaker our week was Christopher Ash, whose job is helping students study and understand the Bible at Tyndale House, Cambridge. He talked about 5 sections of John’s gospel, based on the theme ‘sent by God’ and finished by reminding us that as Jesus’ disciples we are all sent to tell others about the eternal life He offers.

A new song we learnt still re-echoes in my head. It’s by Matt Papa and verse 1 reminds us of what God’s love and Jesus’ death has done for us:

*“What love could remember  
no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient, all knowing,  
He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.”*

Around 15,000 people come to the Keswick Convention over 3 weeks in the summer. This year was our 13<sup>th</sup> time and we have already booked our accommodation for 2019. Why do we go? We enjoy the thought-provoking Bible talks. We love our B and B with its huge breakfasts – the only thing you need to book, and book early, is where you’ll stay. And yes, the Lake District is a long, long way away, and sometimes wet, but its mountain scenery, lakeside walks and teashops are worth every mile of the journey.

Talk to Alan or Mary Hogg, or Val West, if you’d like to know more.

### Women's Evening

As we prepare for Christmas, come and take some time out on

**8 December from 7.30 – 9.00pm**

for a

### “Mary” Christmas

An evening of drama, food and conversation  
as we hear about Jesus from three women called Mary



## Unsung heroes of the Bible – a widow without a name

What can we learn from her today?

by Lynley Wilkes

**“God works in mysterious ways.” I wonder if you agree? Christians may say this to try to give us some comfort when life just seems to be going downhill. We may have used the phrase ourselves to try to encourage others.**

**But in the midst of a crisis in our lives we may find it hard to accept...**

Life cannot get any worse than when you and your young son are about to eat your last meal. This is how we find the widow of Zarephath (in today's Lebanon), in an Old Testament story from the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC. Resigned to die of starvation, she had no idea of the plans God had for her when she encountered the prophet Elijah.

God's anger with his faithless people in Israel had brought drought to that country. God preserved the life of his prophet, Elijah by sending him to Kerith Ravine and providing water and food for him there. When water from the brook dried up, God sent Elijah off to meet the widow at Zarephath. She recognised Elijah as a man of God, but when he asked for bread and water she had to respond, “As surely as the Lord your God gives, I don't have any bread, only a handful of flour and a little oil. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.” Elijah told her not to be afraid but to make some bread, “The God of Israel says, ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land’”. The widow made her bread and, true to His (God's) word, her flour and oil never ran out.

*The question we might ask is, “Why did God provide food and water for Elijah at Kerith only to take it away and send him to a poor widow with nothing to sustain her life?”*

We may feel at a loss as to what to do next, but God has a way. God sent Elijah to the widow – no longer providing for him at Kerith and sending him out of his way in order feed the widow and her son.

We may wonder what God is doing when he seems to take things from us, but he always has a plan. God cared for this penniless widow and her son enough to provide for her every need - and blessed her with more than she needed. She had faith to walk into an unknown situation; she didn't know who Elijah was but recognised he was a man of God. She gave all she had and put her trust in the Lord.

*Afterwards, Elijah stayed with the widow but her son became sick and died. What IS God doing?*

The widow was at breaking point and blamed Elijah for what had happened. “What do you have against me, man of God?” she asked, “Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?” Even after the miracle of food which didn't run out, her faith weakened as her son was taken from her. Had God given up on her? Elijah pleaded with God to restore the son to life. His prayer was answered and the widow had her son back. Now she knew that even when hope was gone God provides life.

What do we learn from this story? Every day we are dependent on God for our lives. Whether we recognise it or not, God feeds us every day. He doesn't leave us alone, he hears our prayers - even if at times they are answered in a way we never imagined. God may take us to a place where there is no one to help us but Him. If we give our all to God, He promises to sustain us and bless us. Hold on to what God has done for you in the past and don't let your faith be weakened by your current circumstances. What God is about to do may still be a mystery, but he is at work.

***And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth”.*** You'll find this story in 1 Kings 17:1-24

## Faith Stories – Marie Kimber *(interviewed by Jan Farrow)*

**Marie, the only thing I know about you for sure is that you are a farmer's daughter, born and brought up in Devon, and you love to play cards. Tell me a bit more about your early life.**

Yes, I was brought up at Broadclyst, baptised and confirmed. Dad was a sidesman at the church of St. John the Baptist, so we attended the church there and I also sang in the choir. Now I serve as a sidesperson at Holy Epiphany.

Mum didn't want me to learn anything about farming, not even how to milk the cows; she didn't want me to ever work on the farm. I think she thought I would be put upon. I eventually worked in an office as a copy typist.

My brother and I were brought up playing cards. There was no television. It was at home that I learnt to play whist. I have been playing whist now for 80 years, I reckon I can just about play.

**You were married Marie?**

Yes, I fell in love with Ken and we were married for 60 years. We celebrated our diamond wedding. We had many happy years together. He also enjoyed playing cards. He was 102 when he died. We had two sons, Robert and Paul. I now have five grandchildren, four girls and a boy. I am also a great grandmother, you will remember Veronica who was baptised just before Christmas.



**Is family life important to you?**

Very. Friday night is family cards night. I have always been close to the family and encouraged them to come together. Last Friday there were nine of us round the table.

**Now comes the more difficult bit, Marie. Can you tell me about your faith? I know this does not come easy to you.**

I was brought up not to talk about God, I think we assumed that everyone believed. I hope that people who live a life not believing, will eventually understand that God cares for them.

I try my best to live a good life, I say my prayers at night - I say the Lord's Prayer and I go back over the day, thanking God for looking after me.

**Marie, I would say you are a doer; it's difficult to ever find you in at home.**

Yes, my Christianity has been helping other people. I seem to have had a lifetime of raising money for different projects

and charities; that's my practical Christianity. I am still giving people lifts to different groups, Tea Cosy, Lunch Club and to church. I do shopping for people, and am very glad I have my car. I passed my test in 1951. Ken taught me to drive and I passed first time. I delivered the church magazine for 40 years and enjoyed welcoming newcomers to the community.

**Do you have any favourite hymns, Marie?**

Yes, I like harvest hymns especially 'We plough the fields and scatter' - that reminds me of my childhood on the farm. I still continually thank God for the crops; I suppose it's because Dad was a farmer.

**Is there anything else you would like to say, Marie, before you dash off to lunch club?**

I believe God cares for me. I am in good health; I am coming up 92. When the Queen dies of old age I shall be shaking in my shoes.

**Thank you, Marie, so much for talking to me. I love your sense of humour. May God continue to bless you and all you do as you continue your journey of faith.**



### Trusting God

*How do we know we can trust God? Does it just happen? Is it like trusting a friend?*

*On Sundays in Messy Church and Roots children's church we are finding out how people living in Judah, in Old Testament times, learnt to trust God. This is a story from the book of Ruth.*

Ruth didn't grow up in Judah at all. She lived in the country just to the east, Moab, a long time ago in about 1,060BC. People in Moab and in Judah weren't always friends with each other, but Ruth married a man who had come to Moab from Bethlehem in Judah, with his brother and his parents.

But sadly, 10 years later, Ruth's husband, his brother and his father all died. Left with nothing, Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi decided to head back to her hometown. Ruth insisted on going back to Bethlehem with her. She began to worship the God of the Bible. She put her trust in God. Ruth's friendship and care in finding food for Naomi was noticed by a well-off relation, a farmer called Boaz. He married Ruth, and their son, Obed, was the grandfather of David, the country's greatest King.

And many generations later, the New Testament tells us that  
Ruth and Boaz were ancestors of Jesus himself.

*At Messy Church we made biscuits, bread dough, bracelets, baskets, paintings and collages to remind us of the way Ruth and Naomi saw God at work taking care of them and how they were part of God's plan to take care of us and send Jesus, the greatest King of all.*



### Messy Church

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> November  
from 3 – 5 pm in the Church Hall  
all young families are welcome to join in the fun



## Empties Please

We are collecting empty printer and toner cartridges to help reduce waste going to landfill and to raise funds for community projects. If you would like to donate your used cartridges (manufacturer own brand only please) you will find a recycling bin in the corridor leading to the church toilets.

Thank you for your support.