

### Remembering Valerie See

Val was known to many people in our benefice and had served as church warden at Great Paxton for over 20 years before moving to Little Paxton 9 years ago. She was a very kind person who along with others organised many social and church events. She had a strong faith and loving family. Her funeral service will take place at Great Paxton Church on Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm.

### Regular dates:

- Tots, Babies, and Carers Group meets every Wednesday in term time in Little Paxton Church at 11.00am to 12.30pm. £1.00 per child.
- Drop in coffee morning at Little Paxton Church every Friday morning, 10.30am – 12noon.

### Thank you!

A sincere thank you to everyone from our villages and beyond who came to the All Souls Service on October 31<sup>st</sup> at Little Paxton. The collection raised a magnificent £255.00 for the work of the Sue Ryder St John's Hospice. Sarah Ashton, the Fundraising Operations Officer, wrote a warm letter of acknowledgement for the donation, which will go towards supporting people with a variety of conditions and their carers.

### Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday Great Paxton

Commencing at 10.30am on the village green with a procession to the churchyard memorial for a traditional service of Remembrance at 10.40am.

### Little Paxton.

3.00pm a Service of Remembrance in church

### Southoe with friends from Diddington.

5.00pm a Service of Remembrance in church

- On Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> villagers from Diddington will gather in church to hear the names of those from the village who died read out and a two-minute silence will be kept.



If you don't already receive this "Keeping in Touch" leaflet by email and would like a regular email to be sent to you with this and links to the YouTube services, please do contact Anita: [ajlbailey@aol.com](mailto:ajlbailey@aol.com)

Follow us on Facebook@ ThePaxtonsBenefice for updates most days on life around our four churches.

Our Benefice website is: <https://www.thepaxtonsbefice.org>

Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### The Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe "Keeping in Touch" Edition 83 The Third Sunday before Advent



A firework picture from the Tots and Carers Group at Little Paxton.

Remember, Remember The Fifth of November  
Gunpowder, treason and plot.  
I see no reason why Gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot.

Greetings Everyone,

I do hope you are all keeping well and cheerful and if you have been poorly that you are feeling a lot better now. I certainly always remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November because my son Mike was born on that day, and I can still recall the fireworks banging and fizzing near to the hospital where he arrived with quite a lot of noise in the maternity suite!

For over 400 years 5<sup>th</sup> November has been remembered as a famous date which very nearly caused much more than a lot of noise; some of the most high-ranking people in England could have lost their lives in a massive explosion in the House of Lords in London. You might think it had nothing to do with religion, but the Gun Powder Plot was bound up with the intense religious divides of the day. You can read more of the background to the events of November 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> 1605 on Page 3.

Thank goodness in so many respects we live in a far more tolerant world.

There are still countries where groups of various faith traditions are still intolerant of one another. But great strides have been made not least in the UK between people of different Christian denominations to work together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. I'm sure Ursula Hill from Great Paxton, who is a member of Buckden Towers RC Church, won't mind me saying how much fun we have presenting You Tube videos together.

Whatever your Christian background, you will always find a warm welcome at our church services and events. After all, Jesus once prayed, as recorded in John Chapter 17, that his followers might all be one in him.

This comes with love and prayers, Annette

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### Today's Reading: Mark 1 v 14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. 'As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

For The Word of The Lord:

**All: Thanks Be to God**

### A Prayer for The Third Sunday before Advent.

God of peace,  
Whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom of God had come  
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:  
Look with compassion on the anguish of the world,  
and by your healing power  
make whole both people and nations;  
Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### Annette reflects on the events of November 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> in London.

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1605: during the day, a search was made of the buildings in and around Parliament. But why? Due to plague which had stalked the country earlier in the year, the Opening of Parliament had been delayed until November but there were rumours of plots and danger to King James 1 and his ministers. It had been hoped that James would end the persecution of Roman Catholics after 45 years of them being hounded by Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup>.

But disappointment was rife amongst Catholics and a major plot was hatched to take out not just the king but his family and senior judges and bishops. The plotters also planned to kidnap the king's daughter Elizabeth and install her as Queen. The master mind behind the plot was a well to do man called Robert Catesby. He gathered faithful followers who like him wanted to re-establish Roman Catholicism in England.

Much planning took place during 1604 and the plotters managed to get access to the under croft, directly beneath the House of Lords.

It was here that one of Catesby's Group, Guy Fawkes, smuggled in barrel loads of gunpowder. But word of the plot came to the king and the search of both houses of Parliament, above and below, began.

Late at night on November 4<sup>th</sup> Guy Fawkes was found amongst firewood in the under croft which hid the barrels of gunpowder. He named himself as John Johnson and it was obvious what his intentions were as he had matches with him. He was arrested and when word got to the other plotters, they fled out of London. Guy Fawkes insisted that he acted alone and would not name his fellow conspirators until forced to through torture. All of them were captured and eventually killed.

It's a dramatic story and one which perhaps many who let off fireworks and light bonfires today don't connect with now. The tradition of marking November 5<sup>th</sup> with the ringing of church bells and bonfires started soon after the plot's discovery and fireworks were included in some of the earliest celebrations. In Britain we now variously call it Bonfire or Fireworks night or Guy Fawkes night.

I do like our old customs to be remembered but, if I had a wish, it would be that the remembering of the plot and the fireworks parties were kept to one or two nights and were communal affairs. With fireworks being let off over several days, animals and some humans can get very stressed.

Of course, even today, acts of terrorism have been and can still be very real not just in this country but across the world. Our thanks to those who carry out daily vigilance on behalf of us all to keep us safe. We can also be so grateful that unlike 400 years ago, the UK is a far more tolerant place to live in and people of many religious persuasions live side by side.

Let's use this weekend to give thanks for all those who keep us safe and for the dedicated work of those who make up today's Houses of Parliament. We may not like all of the policies that our MP's devise, but I like to think the vast majority have our welfare at heart.

### You may not know that the old rhyme has another verse:

*Three score barrels of powder below  
Poor old England to overthrow  
By God's providence he was catch'd  
With a dark lantern and a burning match.  
Holler boys, holler boys let the bells ring  
Holler boys, holler boys God Save The King!*