



The Window

September
2023



Lancaster Over Ipsden

On Saturday 2 September a Lancaster bomber is due to fly over Ipsden to mark the final route taken by a Stirling bomber 80 years ago. Tragically the bomber crashed in a field near Woodhouse Farm on 20 October 1943, killing all 7 crew.

The Short Stirling Mk III, known as 'Lulu', was part of 90 Squadron based at RAF Tuddenham, Suffolk. It was on an air-frame test flight and apparently heading back towards Suffolk when it crashed.

You can watch the Lancaster fly over Ipsden at 13:59 along what is believed to be Lulu's final ill-fated flight path. The Lancaster is part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and is expected to fly from the direction of Goring and over Ipsden Church, then north easterly across the fields, above Poors Wood and over the field where the Stirling crash landed (called The Hocket). This flight path has been put together based on the recollections of a few eyewitnesses or their descendants, who were children in Ipsden at the time.

Ipsden residents might like to gather to watch the Lancaster from the Mere or alternatively, from the footpath in the field where the crash happened on the south-north footpath from Stone Farm to Woodhouse Farm, with the crash site being the field which the footpath crosses before it enters Wicks woods.

The Lancaster will not fly as low as the Stirling did 80 years ago. There are different theories as to why the Stirling was flying so low that day. What is known is that the plane hit a tree as it
Continued on page 2



This photo (not Lulu) illustrates the size of the plane. No Stirling remains intact today.

Lancaster Over Ipsden (continued)

was descending. Two people, Clifford Lamble (tractor driver), who was noted in Glynne Williams's diary of that day as having arrived first on the scene, and Iris Kemp (a land girl) both received a commendation for brave conduct after the crash. The rear air gunner was still alive when the plane crashed but died soon afterwards.

Later in October 2023 relatives of 5 of the Stirling's crew are gathering to meet one another. They will be joined by a few eyewitnesses of the plane that fateful day or descendants of those known to be there.

The crew members were aged between 21 (the pilot) and 28 (the Navigator) – see below. Four were British, one Canadian, one British Guyanese, and one American who flew with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He left a baby son Bertram, whose widow will be coming to the UK from Canada in October.

The story of the crash and its crew has been lovingly re-created by the relatives of those killed. Most recently over the past year David MacSwayne, nephew of the Flight Engineer Leslie MacSwayne (22) has spent long hours researching, including visiting Ipsden and talking to eyewitnesses, and tracking down the crews' families.

David has kindly agreed to give a talk in Ipsden about the story of Lulu, its crew and what has been learnt from the recent research including conversations with eyewitnesses and Ipsden residents who know some pieces of the story. Further details and date of the talk will be advertised once the arrangements are made. It will be open to all.

If you know more about the Stirling crash in October 1943 do let us know so we can share with David MacSwayne at woodhousefarm.robin@outlook.com

Wallace Edgar Jones
Age 21 R/14494
Pilot
RAFVRB Flight Sergeant



Harold Omond Spence
Age 27 R/154088
Air Bomber
RCAF Flight Sergeant



Terry Edwards
Age 26 1322675
Navigator / Air Gunner
RAFVRB Sergeant



George Arthur Yates
Age 21 149923
Wireless Operator / AG
RAFVRB Sergeant



Leslie Thomas MacSwayne
Age 22 139413
Flight Engineer
RAFVRB Sergeant



Kenneth William Pollitt
Aged 22 R/173896
Air Upper Gunner
RCAF Sergeant



Ervin Eugene Spencer
Age 22 R/177881
Air Tail Gunner
RCAF Flight Sergeant



View from the Vicarage



"Each new day is a blank page in the diary of your life. The secret of success is in turning that diary into the best story you possibly can." Douglas Pagels

Here we are, at the beginning of a new academic year – full of excitement, nerves, expectations, uncertainty, regrets, maybe, and hope. The future lies open before us in new classrooms new schools and universities, and new jobs and apprenticeships. **Believe in new possibilities.**

Many people search for a new beginning. When life goes wrong, when we regret our past, we hope for new circumstances. We may often dream about how we would do things differently if we had life to live again, but we know full well that it is impossible. A new beginning is our only hope, for life moves forward even when we look backwards. It is not what has happened, but what is about to happen that is all-important.

Do you often wonder **"Why does God put up with us?"** From biblical times human beings have turned away from God to embrace gods of our own making, worshipping the ideals of instant pleasure and of building a world that is powered by conflict instead of love. In the Gospel, Jesus compares mankind to stubborn sheep who think their way is better than the shepherd's. The story of the Prodigal Son is most likely the most famous of Jesus' parables, one that even non-believers know. Why? Because we recognize the characters of the parable in our world today, in every generation. We all know someone who wasted their opportunities in life. We all know someone who is judgmental, unforgiving, and resentful of the gifts wasted on those they consider unworthy. Don't we know those stories from our own lives? So again – why does God put up with us? The answer is of course that God is a God of beginnings and not a God of endings.

When the Pharisees ask Jesus, in effect, **"Why do you put up with people who have so fallen in their ways that their very existence offends us?"**, his simple answer is that the God of beginnings rejoices in giving to all the opportunity to start again.

In today's world we need to hear this message that no situation is hopeless because God can and will make everything new (*Revelation 21. 1-5*). The wonderful truth is that with God there is always the opportunity for new beginnings. With God, every day, every moment, is an opportunity to start again. That's why he puts up with us!!

Continued on page 4

View from the Vicarage (Continued)

So, let's not give up on ourselves. We do not have the right to give up on ourselves. And while you are at it, don't give up on others, whoever the 'other' is in your life. Yes, we need to seek forgiveness over and over, for we are human beings prone to turning our backs on God. But the God of new beginnings loves us and is always ready to give us one more chance. So, let us look for the opportunities God puts in our lives to begin again.

C S Lewis said: **"There are better things ahead than any we leave behind."**

Blessings to all,

Canon John

Romey's Reflections

It doesn't matter how many times you've done it before, if you have school age children, the beginning of September always feels like a bit of a scrabble to get everything ready for 'Back to School' time. Any new uniform or sports kit means you spend your evenings sewing on nametapes (well, or writing on names in indelible ink!). If you've left it a bit late, braving the rigours of the shoe department is a battle all its own. And the whole team has to re-educate their inner time clock for the early morning rush.

Our heads may still be full of the space of the lazy, hazy days of summer, (there may even still be sand in the suitcases) but, ready or not, we must change gear as we launch ourselves into the new academic year or get back to the regular pattern of work. There's a different energy in the air, and a different focus to our lives. The start of September feels like a new beginning, and new beginnings are full of possibilities, even when there is a corner of us that feels nervous about what they will bring. Whatever our age, we worry about how we will do: whether people will like us, or we them, whether we will fit in and be seen as successful.

As we step forward with whatever mixture of trepidation and resolve, it helps that nature also has a different energy. The night time begins to feel much cooler and that makes it easier to turn our backs on those heady summer days. But, in contrast to all our human rushing, there's a stillness and a steadiness to nature now.

September is such a golden month: I love seeing the tree trunks blaze with that magical glowing light in the evening, and whatever July and August have given us in terms of sunshine or rain, there's always the promise of an 'Indian Summer'. In September, if we listen to creation, there's almost the sigh of a job well done as heads of corn nod with heaviness and fruit is ripening. A poet calls it, 'all

Continued on page 5

Romey's Reflections (Continued)

'all mildness, soothing loneliness and peace'. (Carlos Wilcox plainly didn't have to spend much time in the shoe department!).

As we get 'back to work' or 'back to school', nature reaps the rewards of the combined efforts of all of creation working together: sunshine and rain, industrious pollinators, birds and animals and our own human husbandry have all played their part, just as God intended.

We place a lot of emphasis on our own individual effort these days, and often feel nervous as a result, but none of us really achieves on our own. How less stressful it is to realise that our successes, and indeed our failures, are not just our own, but the result of the efforts of so many people working together, our teachers, our work-mates, our family and friends, the cleaners, the lollipop man and service engineers, as well as people we will never meet working in far off countries to provide equipment we need. What joy it will be when, one day, we can all sigh together at a job well done.

Blessings to you all, Curate

The Revd. Romey Poston

September Church Services

Date	Ipsden	North Stoke
Sun 3 Sept	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 6 Sept	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Thurs 7 Sept	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sun 10 Sept	10am Service of the Word Zoom Meeting Id 188 513 761 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Wed 13 Sept	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 17 Sept	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 10 Sept	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 24 Sept Trinity 16	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer
Wed 27 Sept	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	

Ipsden Village Lottery Winners

29 July	Peter Bennett
5 August	Wendy Conway
12 August	Shirley Small
19 August	John Blair
26 August	Lottie Rundall
2 Sept	See next issue

Ipsden Village Lottery Tickets

There are still numbers available for the Ipsden Lottery, which helps fund our Village Memorial Hall. A ticket is £1 per week, payable in 10-week blocks, with the winning number worth £25 each week. The winning number is the Saturday night bonus ball number in the National Lottery. If you are interested in joining, please talk to Shirley in the shop to arrange payment and to choose your number. Good luck!

Clare Davis

Dates for Your Diary

Sat 2 September	Lancaster over Ipsden	See pages 1 & 2
Wed 6 September	U3A Wallingford	
Sat 9 September	Woodcote Village Fair	
Wed 13 September	Ipsden Coffee Morning	
Sat 16 September	Cholsey Repair Café	
Sat 16 September	Music at the Barn	See page 8

Distribution of The Window

Any comments or suggestions would be most welcome to ipsden.window@gmail.com Thanks to Rev'd John Blair and the team for continuing to deliver paper copies to homes in Ipsden, Mongewell and North Stoke. The Window is available online as a pdf on the Ipsden village website www.ipsdenvillage.co.uk Some paper copies are held in the shop in Ipsden for individual collection.

**This newsletter is edited, published, printed and distributed by the churches of Ipsden and North Stoke.
Copy deadline for the October issue is 17 September please**

Early Days Round-Up

We've been having lots of fun at Holiday Club, at the nursery. The children have continued to explore the outdoor environment going on walks around the village and visiting the park. We love investigating nature and seeing the changing seasons as we have explored our summer and holiday's theme. We will be making sandwiches to take on a picnic at the end of the summer.

Outside we have been developing skills in co-operation and turn taking with games like The Farmers in his Den and parachute play. The children have been learning about the life cycle and care of plants in the growing garden and have harvested cucumbers, a marrow, parsley, and runner beans this week.

Within nursery we have been making crafts including creating sun-catchers, printing with sea creature sponges, clay and shell decorations and making paper plate dinosaurs to go with our dinosaur week. We love making our own play dough then using it to make our own creations, recently including cupcakes and pancakes. We use a range of tools including cutters, rolling pins and stampers with the dough. This week the children have loved making pizzas. The children have thoroughly enjoyed choosing different toppings, learning about healthy eating, and developing their fine motor skills spreading tomato paste and sprinkling the cheese. We have also been busy icing biscuits.

We will continue the fun with a Sport's themed week, where the children will develop physical skills playing cricket, football, basketball, bats and balls, races and throwing and catching skills with different balls and bean bags. The baby class have enjoyed lots of water play with boats, ducks, and balls, as well as with the hose pipes and sprinklers. They have been out and about having snack on the green, exploring the wooded area and playing at the park. A new ball pit has been great fun for the younger babies, and they continue to enjoy their song bag sessions, joining in actions and words to familiar nursery rhymes and songs.

Our theme when we start the new academic year will be Our-selves, exploring our bodies and food. You can keep up with our news via our Facebook page. Please also see our website www.earlydays-nursery.co.uk for more information.

Tracey Webb

Your Window Needs You!

Thank you to all those who contribute and help to make The Window inclusive to those who dwell or work in Ipsden and North Stoke. We need articles. You might be surprised: what seems mundane and everyday to you may be interesting and new to others. Please send your contributions to ipsden.window@gmail.com

From the Archives

I read Wendy Conway's piece with interest. The hollow tree shown in the picture was always referred to as "The Tree" and was the assembly point for coach trips and the school bus. No-one was ever in any doubt as to what was meant if we said we'd "meet at the tree."

Gillian Kelley



Editor's note: you may recall Wendy Conway's article in last month's issue. If you would like to contribute along the lines that Wendy suggested, please send me your old photographs, along with explanations and perhaps anecdotes, for futures issues of The Window. I look forward to receiving them according to the normal copy deadlines and will

Music at the Barn

At last it's time for our wonderful annual Music at the Barn event! We had to

postpone the event scheduled for July owing to the disappointing weather.

So this year Music at the Barn will take place on Saturday 16 September at Ipsden Farm, The Street, Ipsden, Wallingford, OX10 6AG. Gates open from 6.30pm with music beginning at 7pm. Music is provided by a wide range of local performers to whom you can relax, dance or singalong!

Entry to all is very reasonable at £7.50 per adult on the gate (cash please), and under 16s are free. Bring your own picnic, rugs, tables and chairs but no barbeques or candles please as this is an historic Grade II listed building with consequential legal and insurance requirements.

Dilys Beaumont

