

INSPIRE

ISSUE 23

JANUARY 2019

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE PARISH OF CAPEL & OCKLEY

What has
come
into being
in him
was life
and the life
was the light
of all people

John 1: 3b-4

Contents:-

- 2 Church contacts
- 3 Rev Liz Writes
- 4 News from the Pews
- 5 Church diary for December
- 6 Junior InSpire
- 7 Letter from the Editor
- 8 Prayers & Reflections
- 10 Christingle and 'Wise Men still seek him'
- 11 Eco Tip of the Month
- 12 'Caring for the Vicar' and 'Celebrating Thenadays'
- 13 All in the Month of
- 14 January's Puzzles
- 15 Holocaust Day, 27 January
- 16 News from the Belfry
- 17 Puzzle Solutions
- 18 Updates on the boundary wall at St Johns, Capel
- 20 An Evening of Classical Jazz Guitar

Colour issue

This month's issue is in colour so that we could show everyone the photos of the boundary wall work at Capel.

Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit.

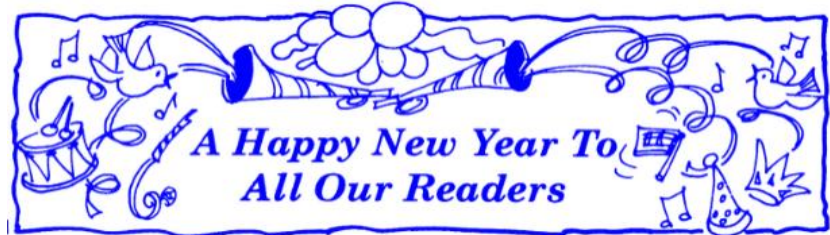
1 Timothy 4:7

Walk by faith www.dayspring.com

This issue is kindly sponsored by

Joy Harman

Thank you to all our Sponsors in 2018 and to those who have sponsored for the coming year. You are helping to keep the magazine FREE to our readers.

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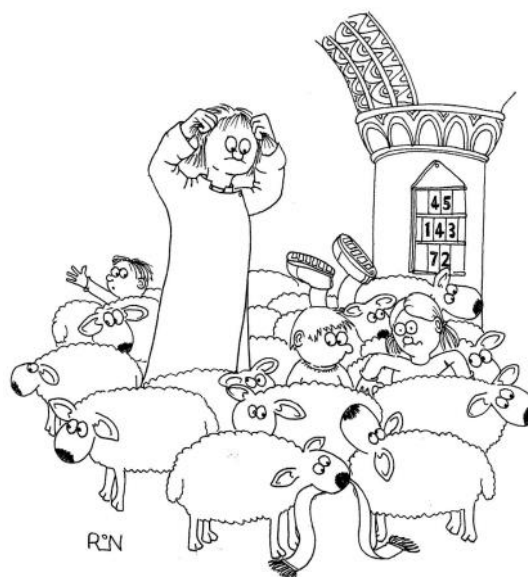
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Rev Liz writes

Dear all,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good Christmas and are now raring to go into 2019?! Oh dear, January is a tough month isn't it. The Spring seems a long way away but at least the nights are already drawing out which is amazing. Light is such a marvellous thing isn't it – we long for it in the darkness of these winter days and in the darkness of some areas of life too. So light is my theme for this month's letter because before Christmas I went on a family trip up to the West End in London to see the Christmas lights. This turned out to be very exciting as I haven't been to see the lights in town for many, many years and I had forgotten just how magical they are. The trip included a visit to Hamley's toy store in Regent Street, which was suitably manic, with Christmas elves singing Jingle bells outside the store and being bombarded by bubble machines as we entered the shop. Never mind we survived even that! There were Christmas lights everywhere – more than I ever remember – but perhaps that's because of LED now? The piece de resistance though were the beautiful Christmas angels that appeared to fly down the whole of Regent Street, their trains and wings covering many metres. They were truly magnificent.



*Pam's sermon illustrations did not
always work out...*

One of the most famous readings we have at our Christmas services is the reading from John's gospel which describes the birth of Christ is the light coming into the world 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it'. Well at the beginning of next month we celebrate Jesus being the light of the world with our annual Christingle Service. This year The Children's Society celebrates 50 years of the Christingle which has grown from the first ever Christingle service in this country at Lincoln Cathedral through to 20 churches holding Christingle services two years later to well over 5,400 churches holding them today and over 1 million people attending. All the money raised goes to the Children's Society who help the most vulnerable children in our communities nationally. The service originates from Germany in 1747 and was performed in local churches all over Moravia when families would gather together at Christmas time. In the first service the children were encouraged to take their Christingle home to re-light and place in their cottage to show the light of Christ to passers-by. Our Christingle takes place on the first Sunday in February which is the feast of Candlemas which is the Presentation of Christ at the Temple. This is when Mary and Joseph take the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem as was customary for Jewish boys. Two faithful people there recognise him as their Lord and greet him with great joy and celebration. Candlemas marks for churches the official end of the Christmas season – we go on longer than twelfth night! So I hope you will join us for our Capel and Ockley Christingle and celebrate that Jesus is the light of the world.

Finally part of the Christmas traditions is pantomime isn't it? After my debut in the summer as a 'Spangle Sister', the mum of a rather interesting singing duo or trio as my character was the drummer - I have rather rashly offered myself up for the Ockley Society's annual pantomime Ali baba and the forty thieves. I have been cast as a spice trader! Hopefully by the time you read this I will know my lines or at least know when I have to say them. So cheer yourself up if you need it and come and see the show – I think it's quite funny but I guess I'm biased!

Have a good January!

With my love and prayers

Rev'd Liz

Children's Society Houseboxes now due in

If you have a Children's Society box at home or work, now is the time to return them to me for their annual count up! I'd be very grateful if you could contact me to arrange to exchange the box to count the contents and I will then return it to you in due course! Thank you to all boxholders for your continued support.



Suzanne Cole

01306 711449 or slc@ansford.me.uk

The Pavilion Café at Ockley



This community cafe is held at the cricket pavilion in Ockley and opens each Wednesday from 9.00 am—12 noon.

Do pop in for delicious homemade cakes, freshly brewed coffee and a range of teas!

NEW FOR 2019!

Ockley Mothers and Toddlers Group are starting a "*Mum to Mum*" market during the usual weekly sessions on

Thursday mornings from 9th January 2019 at
Ockley Village Hall
9.30am-11.30am.

Good quality clothes and toys available for exchange or a small donation to the Group's funds.

FROM THE REGISTERS

We mourn the loss of
Bernadetta Lillian Darsley
(Betty)
1st December 2018

Anthony George Goddard
5th December 2018

George Sawyers
10th December 2018

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

The Church Mission Society (CMS)

The soup lunches and teas raised an excellent £363.60 for The Church Mission Society.

Hampers & Gifts for Christ Church, Brixton

Thank you for your donations to make up the hampers for local families and the presents for our friends at Christchurch in Brixton.

If you enjoy InSpire each month, would you consider sponsoring an issue of InSpire in 2019?

As we start a new year, we are looking for Sponsors InSpire. The current cost of a 24 page issue x 50 copies is £58.00. Occasionally, it is 28 pages and this costs £67.00 for 50 copies.

We would like to keep this magazine free of charge for everyone to enjoy.

If you think you could help, please speak to Debbie von Bergen or Suzanne Cole.

Thank you.

JANUARY 2019

SATURDAY	5TH 9.30 am	PARISH PRAYER Half hour of prayer at St John the Baptist Capel
SUNDAY	6TH 8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	THE EPIPHANY Holy Communion BCP (Capel) Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion (Capel)
SUNDAY	13TH 9.30 am 10.30 am	BAPTISM OF CHRIST Holy Communion at St Margaret's (Ockley) Café Church (Capel)
TUESDAY	15TH	MESSY CHURCH - 3.15pm onwards in the Village Hall
SATURDAY	19TH 9.30 am	PARISH PRAYER Half hour of prayer at St Margaret's Ockley
SUNDAY	20TH 8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	EPIPHANY 3 Holy Communion BCP (Capel) Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion (Capel)
SUNDAY	27TH 9.30 am 6.00 pm	EPIPHANY 4 Joint Parish Communion at St Margaret's (Ockley) SUNDAY SESSION at The Cottage, 97 The Street, Capel

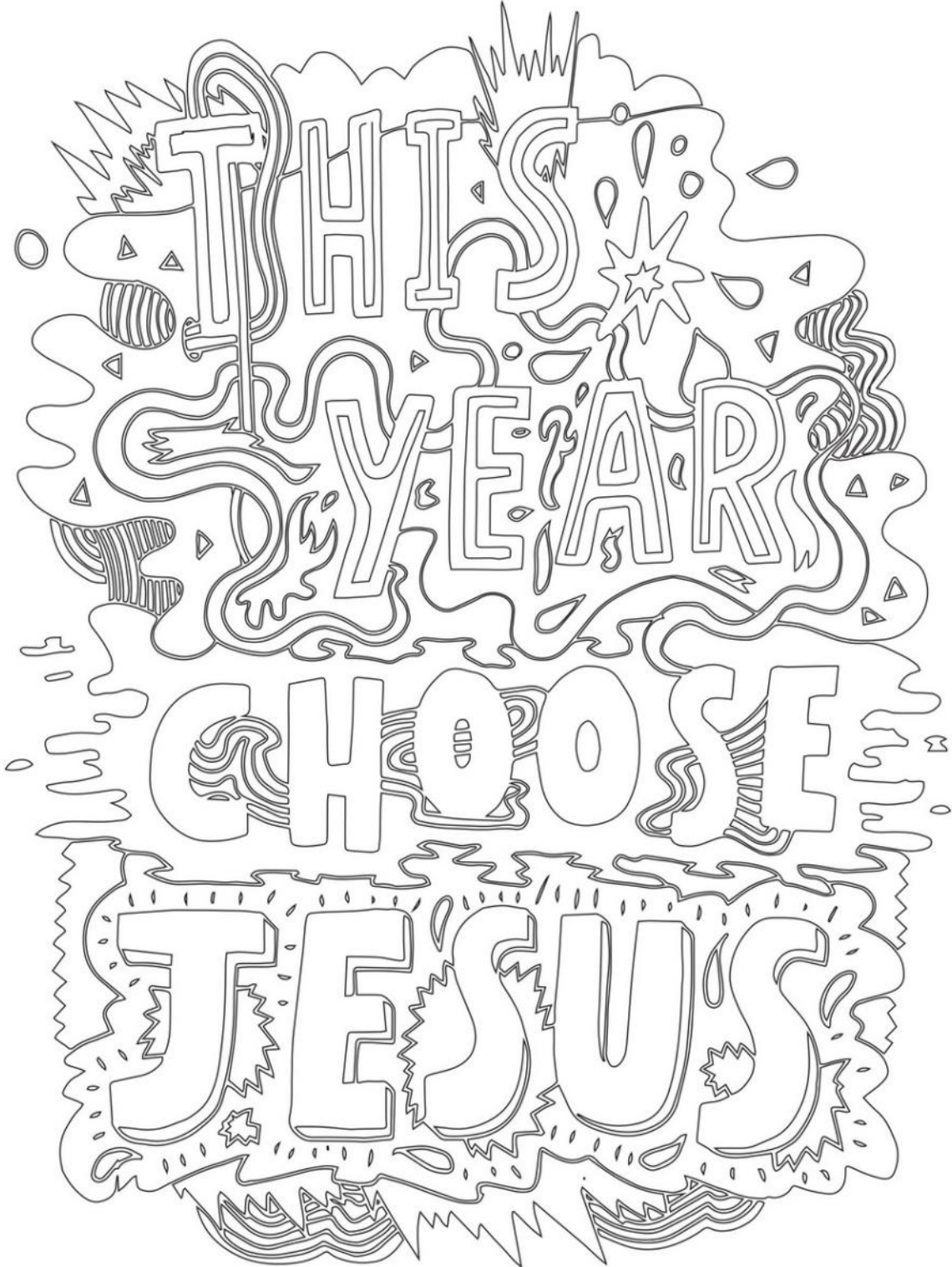
FEBRUARY

SATURDAY	2ND 9.30 am	PARISH PRAYER Half hour of prayer at St John the Baptist Capel
SUNDAY	3RD 8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST – CANDLEMAS Holy Communion BCP (Capel) Matins at St Margaret's Ockley PARISH CHRISTINGLE SERVICE (Capel)



Junior InSpire

A colouring in activity



Available as posters up to A0 size from cpo.org.uk
For more resources visit cpo.org.uk or call us on 01903 263354

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope 2019 brings many blessings your way! I hope that we continue to enjoy the shared fellowship that 2018 brought us as a united Parish and give thanks for all the work that Rev Liz does for us all to ensure that this continues. It's strange how so many things which initially appear to be disheartening can bring about opportunity and with it lasting joy. The changes that must have initially saddened and worried our friends at St Margaret's led to them uniting with us in Capel and it has led to shared fellowship between us all. We have all found new friends and enjoyed worshipping together and LONG MAY IT CONTINUE!

Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit.

1 Timothy 4:7

I'm sure that everyone has had their share of highs and lows in 2018 and that surely makes up a normal life! As we welcome a new year and all the opportunities that brings, I'm sure that we will again find ourselves amidst a mixture of happiness, worries, sadness and much more, but if we keep God and our faith at the heart of it, we can surely face much as we are not alone. I like the following prayer very much and have taken strength from it many times. I also gave a copy to my sons when they faced tough times such as the times when they had important exams coming up at school and university:

“Lord help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I together can't handle”

As we traditionally think of a New Year as new beginnings and a time to make resolutions which we often don't manage to keep, I also like the words of the prayer in the box above. I am the first to admit that I usually vow to get healthier, fitter etc and for a time it works well! However, I do like the words of Timothy above in which he says to 'spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit'. This to me seems a very good resolution to make and one I intend to see if I can stick to! Somehow if I can manage to keep 'spiritually fit', then everything else ought to be that little bit more manageable!

Thinking of a New Year and new hopes if there is anything NEW that you would like to see in InSpire either regularly or just once, please DO let me know! It's important that you tell me anything that you feel would work in InSpire. It's not always right to keep doing the same thing so help me to keep it fresh, interesting and relevant! Thank you!

I wish you all a healthy, happy and peaceful 2019.

*Best wishes,
Suzanne*



New Year Resolution

I always make the same resolution and I have never once broken it: every year I resolve to give something up for Lent and then when Lent comes, I give up my New Year's resolution!

Anon (Source: Parish Pump)



*Look to this day,
For it is life,
The very life of life,
In its brief course lie all
The realities and verities of existence,
The bliss of growth,
The splendour of action,
The glory of power -*

*For yesterday is but a dream,
And tomorrow is only a vision,
But today, well lived,
Makes every yesterday a dream of
happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.*

- Sanskrit Proverb

Dear Lord,

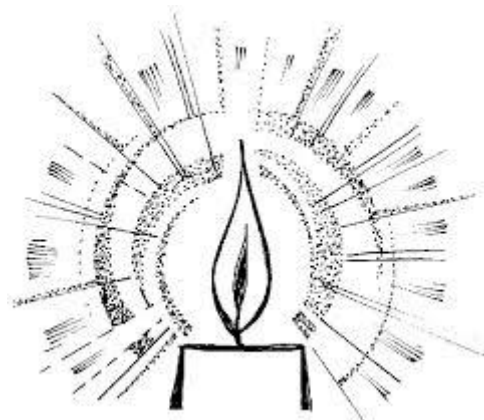
We pray for all who are lonely or unwell. Let us look out for neighbours who may be lonely this Christmas and too proud to ask for our help. We pray for the following who are unwell or recovering - Julia Horrox, Alan Roberts, Edith Steeden and Briony. We especially bring before you our very dear friends Chris and Gwyneth as Chris is currently in hospital and efforts are being made to find him a place in a nursing home. We remember those who have died recently: Tony Goddard, Bernadetta (Betty) Darsley and George Sawyers. We give thanks to God for the many years devoted service that Tony gave to the community of St John the Baptist as Choir Leader and Organist. We also remember other friends who are not able to join us in church currently, including Ron Backhouse, Pat Wombwell, Peter & Mary Ede, Wyn Wright and Joan.

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time. We pray for those who are facing their first New Year without loved ones.

Lastly, we bring before you Lord all those who are known to us personally and all who have requested our prayers in our Parish churches.

Send us out as a light in the world in this Holy season of Goodwill, to live and praise your name.

Amen



News on works carried out at St John the Baptist, Capel During the month of November there were several repair works undertaken to our beautiful church. These consisted of the refurbishment and replacement of the rainwater goods and repairs to areas of the church roof where flashings, tiles, render, etc. had come loose or broken. These works were necessary to help protect the stone fabric of the building and prevent further ingress of water. In addition, a section of the internal ceiling had recently fallen, above the altar. This section of ceiling and similar near-by sections were repaired and strengthened.

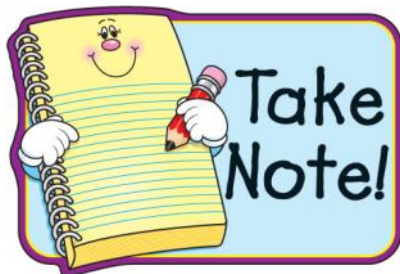
The works were paid for by the Friends of St John the Baptist Church, Capel, who's support is greatly appreciated by the PCC.

Work have also progressed on repairs to the West boundary wall to the church yard. Debbie von Bergen has written an article about this on pages 18 & 19.

St Margaret's Bible Study Group

Held every fortnight on a Thursday at 2.00 pm
at Gill Christie's house:

'Elderslie', Stane Street, Ockley, Surrey RH5 5TD
Phone: 01306 711917 for more details.



T.L.C. Teas @ Ockley Village Hall

TLC meets monthly for a friendly afternoon chat, scrumptious teas and lots of Tender Loving Care.

Normally held on the THIRD Monday of every month from 3.00—4.30 pm in Ockley Village Hall

Our aim is to provide a happy and relaxed atmosphere for those who just want to meet together.

For further details contact: **Judie on 01306 888456 OR emailthoroldfuters@aol.com**

PCC Christmas cards 2018

For the first time the PCC of Capel and Ockley produced a joint Christmas card to go out to the villages of Capel and Ockley. Our thanks go to the many volunteers who have helped to distribute the cards to every dwelling, in time for our December special services.

We managed to get a good deal for the printing: £83.00 in total. Due to the the way leaflets are printed commercially, we could either order 1,000 (not enough) or 2,000, which is a few hundred too many. Rather than throw the leftovers away we decided to use as many as we could by sending them to people with a link to our villages: former ministers and residents, regular visitors etc.

We hope that you approve of this good use of our surplus Christmas cards!

Best wishes,

Dineke van den Bogerd

Christingle

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our annual **Christingle service** on **Sunday 3rd February 2019, 10.30 am at St John the Baptist, Capel**. It is a wonderful family celebration with the church lit with the Christingle candles. We hope you can join us there! All proceeds from the collection at this service go to The Children's Society.

You can support young people by donating to the #Christingle50 campaign, or by attending a local Christingle Service. For more information, visit www.christingle.org.



Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the Magi's search for the King.

Wise Men Still Seek Him

'A cold coming we had of it. Just the worst time of the year. For a journey and such a long journey.' ('Journey of the Magi', T.S. Eliot).

In this poem, T.S. Eliot imagines the journey of the Magi to worship Jesus, as told in Matthew 2. This story is at the heart of our celebration of Epiphany, as we remember the astrologers from the East following a star to find the baby: *'Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.'* (Matthew 2:1,2).

The Magi provide a powerful picture of the journey we make in searching for God in our lives. Like them, it requires time and effort (they travelled for months) and will not always be easy! As they followed the star, so we are called to pursue God's light in our lives.

What does this say to us at the beginning of a New Year? Are we ready to go deeper in our relationship with God? Are we looking for new ways to use our time, treasure and talents for Him? It is a great time to offer these things to Him, and like the Magi, commit ourselves to pursue them. His light, through prayer, worship and his Word, will be our guide on the way.

T.S. Eliot used the imagined journey of the magi to reflect on his own spiritual journey. It reveals the pain and doubts he experienced on his long and troubled journey to find the light of Christ. He describes finding Christ as a *'hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death'*. Are we prepared to make this journey for ourselves?



Eco tip of the month from our Parish Eco team!



Using water efficiently means that we can reduce the amount of water being taking out of our rivers and aquifers, especially as demands are rising. This helps protect our water resources and the wild-life that live there. Here are a few tips for saving water:

- Turn off the faucet while you're brushing your teeth
- Only wash full loads of laundry
- Drink tap water instead of bottled (use a refillable bottle!)
- Scrape rather than rinse dishes before loading into the dishwasher
- Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge as opposed to letting the faucet run until it's cold
- If your toilet doesn't have dual flush, consider putting a brick in the cistern to use less water (most toilets use more than they need to!)

Sutton and East Surrey Water provide free water saving packs to consumers.

Visit www.savewatersavemoney.co.uk,

More tips are available at www.waterwise.org.uk.

For more tips and info go to: <https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/eco-church/>

OR email the team on: ecoteam@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Parking

A man was driving down the street in a panic because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me somewhere to park, I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life." Miraculously, a parking place appeared. The man looked up again and said, 'Never mind. I found one.'



"I must say, I can't wait to see our vicar bunji-jumping off the church tower with the bride and groom!"

Caring for the Vicar The Church of England is looking into ways of giving more support to vicars. You may think here's a nice life: house provided, regular salary, job security – and only one day's work a week! But from my own personal experience I can assure you it's not like that.

In my working life I've had four jobs: teacher, then journalist, then BBC producer and finally vicar. The last was by some distance the most satisfying and rewarding, but also by far the most demanding. Your home is also the office seven days a week. It's true Sunday is the 'public' bit of your work, but while you may be free to pick up the kids from school forget about cosy evenings with the family. The bit of the vicar's work that is public is on Sundays, true. But the really defining part of the job is largely unseen and takes place all through the week.

It was funny coming from an ordinary job to parish ministry. Previously, I had known what I was expected to do, the hours I was required to work and to whom I was answerable. Well vicars are technically 'self-employed', though they are licenced by the bishop and paid by the Church Commissioners. In practice, their work is determined by the local church – its needs, potential, aspirations. The churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council also help to shape the work-load. If all that sounds a bit confusing, yes, it is. Possibly the Church's current research may look into that.

What won't change, I'm sure, is the priestly vocation. It is not a job, even if I've used the word, but a vocation – like nursing, teaching or care-work. It is always hopeless to treat a vocation as a job! Mind you, that is all the more reason for those who shape the work patterns of those 'called' with sensitivity and care. Clergy burn-out is not unknown, and nor is depression which stems from a feeling of failure. So, don't only just *pray* for the vicar. *Show* him or her how much you value them and, where possible, share their burden.

Editor: As a little bit of background to the above article, the General Synod is going to debate a report on 'Care of the Clergy' in February. The draft document sets out some ways of changing the culture of the Church to enable the care and well-being of its clergy to be more fully addressed.

Celebrating Thenadays *'Auld Lang Syne'* was sung over the New Year, especially in Scotland. It should, we are told, 'never be forgotten'. But what is it?

The words actually mean something like 'long time ago' and it is the 'acquaintances' of long ago that we should not forget. In other words, and somewhat to contradict the usual New Year greetings, it calls us to look back. The past, it says, is precious, as are the people who have been part of it for us.

At my age people often use the word 'nowadays'. Usually negatively – 'nowadays there's nothing good on the TV' or 'nowadays people never say thank you'. It's a mind-set that is shaped by the memory of a golden age that probably never existed. Yet there is a truth in there somewhere. If we find 'nowadays' unsettling, why not remember 'Thenadays'? Our past is who we are. Its people have shaped our lives. There is nothing wrong sometimes in looking back and remembering. As the song says, it should be 'brought to mind' – the 'old acquaintances' of our lives.

For me, for instance, that is my father taking me as a six-year-old to watch the steam trains go by. It's my grandparents in their Welsh village. It's old friends and colleagues, some from as long as 70 years ago, with all the laughter and tears we shared. And it's not just happy things like my own family but also the sad loss of loved ones and the feeling of helpless deprivation that follows. All of this is part of my 'Thenadays'. As we wish people a 'Happy New Year' it's not a bad idea to pick up that strange Scots saying and invite them not to forget a human heritage which is ours – people, events, experience. 'Auld Lang Syne' is the totality of our lives as we have lived them. Looking back is often the best way of looking forward...

January

All in the month of JANUARY

It was:

100 years ago, on 5th Jan 1919, that the German Workers' Party was founded by Anton Drexler. In February 1920 it was renamed the National Socialist German Workers' party - better known as the Nazi Party.

90 years ago, on 6th Jan 1929 that Mother Teresa arrived in Calcutta, India to begin working with the poor and sick.

80 years ago, on 26th Jan 1939 that General Franco's forces captured Barcelona as part of the Spanish Civil War.

70 years ago, on 1st Jan 1949 that the British Nationality Act came into effect. It established the status of 'Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies' and granted those citizens the right to enter and live in the United Kingdom.

60 years ago, on 8th Jan 1959 that Charles De Gaulle was inaugurated as President of France.

50 years ago, on 30th Jan 1969 that the Beatles gave their last public performance, on the roof of Apple Studios in London.

40 years ago, on 7th Jan 1979 that Vietnamese troops captured the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh and overthrew Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge government.

30 years ago, on 8th Jan 1989 that the Kegworth air disaster took place. A British Midland Boeing 737 crashed onto the M1 motorway in Leicestershire while attempting an emergency landing at East Midlands Airport. 47 people were killed and 74 injured.

20 years ago, on 1st Jan 1999 that the Euro officially became the new currency in 11 European countries. (Coins and banknotes entered circulation in Jan 2002.)

10 years ago, on 20th Jan 2009 that Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the USA.

HIGH DAYS AND HOLY DAYS IN JANUARY

6 January - Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

It is true that in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

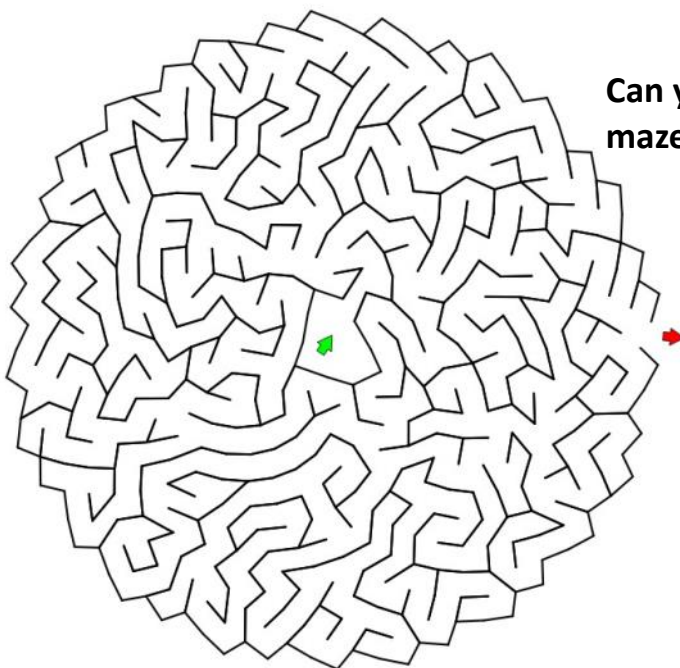
The Magi brought three gifts to Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense was brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial. So you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine; and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They simply worshipped Him through faith in God's promises alone.

magi
three
gifts
gold
frankincense

myrrh
king
worship
God
temple

spice
burial
Jews
divine
sacrifice

die
Gentiles
faith
evidence
promises



Can you find your way out of the maze?



Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January

Editor: The Ven John Barton considers the horrors of genocide....

It is still hard to comprehend history's evidence that 5million-plus Jews were systematically assassinated by last century's Nazi regime. It is a never-to-be-forgotten evil.

A hundred years ago there was another genocide which people don't talk about today. During World War 1, Christian Armenians were driven out of Turkey, subjected to death marches, deprived of food and water, robbed, raped and massacred. 1.5million of them died. Many more were scattered across the world - 18,000 settled in the UK.

Historically, Britain has given homes to other genocide survivors. In the 16th Century, 50,000 Huguenot Protestants arrived here, having escaped persecution in France. You may have come across some of their descendants with French-sounding names like Courtauld, Dolland, Izzard, Portal, Le Bon, Farage, Olivier.

A persistent nightmare is that genocides have been committed not just by primitive savages, but also by some of the best educated, most cultured people. Hitler and his lieutenants had above average IQs. Pol Pot attended top schools in Cambodia before he led the communist Khmer Rouge and the killing of one-quarter of their people. In the last 60 years, 50million people died in forty-three genocides. Over 13,000 Kosovar Albanians were assassinated, and more than 1million displaced from their homes by Yugoslav and Serb neighbours. They, too, will be remembered on Holocaust Memorial Day.

This prayer, expressing both the horror of genocide and the hope of resurrection, is formed from the opening and closing verses of Psalm 102:

Hear my prayer, Lord;
 let my cry for help come to you.
 Do not hide your face from me
 when I am in distress.
 Turn your ear to me;
 when I call, answer me quickly.
 For my days vanish like smoke;
 my bones burn like glowing embers.
 My heart is blighted and withered like grass;
 I forget to eat my food.
 In my distress I groan aloud
 and am reduced to skin and bones ...

... In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
 and the heavens are the work of your hands.
 They will perish, but you remain;
 they will all wear out like a garment.
 Like clothing you will change them
 and they will be discarded.
 But you remain the same,
 and your years will never end.
 The children of your servants will live in your presence;
 their descendants will be established before you.

NEWS FROM THE BELFRY



A

Happy New Year to Everyone!

Many people make resolutions for the New Year, of good intentions to be more active, acquire a new skill, to do something worthwhile for the community or just to get out more and make new friends. If any of this strikes a chord with you, why not consider bell ringing? Learning to ring church bells fulfills all these objectives and more, occurring regularly, for an hour or so a week with instruction and equipment provided free of charge.

We have two new ringers now, recruited as part of the Ringing Remembers Campaign to mark the Armistice Centenary last year. They started learning in June and were capable of ringing in public in time for the Remembrance Service last November. This gives an idea of the time scale involved and the amount of commitment needed. There is a clear path of progression when learning to ring: first, bell handling such that you can ring independently without a helper standing nearby, then bell control to keep the bell striking in the right place. Once these skills are mastered the learner should be ringing in rounds and be able to follow simple call changes, and soon ringing well enough to move onto method ringing.

Plain Hunting is the simplest method to learn, where all the 'working' bells take turns to strike in first place through to fifth by switching places with each other. Many methods are based on the

treble doing this while the other working bells follow more complicated paths, so the learner's first experience of ringing other methods is to Plain Hunt on the treble. After this the aim is to ring 'inside', on a working bell following more varied manoeuvres. There are innumerable methods which follow set patterns, with modifications called touches and it is up to the individual how far they want to progress. There is always something new to learn and this is what keeps people ringing!

Ringing is well within the capabilities of most people and anyone interested in finding out more is welcome to come along and have a go, under supervision, or just to watch. We meet every Wednesday, 7.45 pm to 9.15 pm, alternating between Ockley, first and third week of each month and Capel, second, fourth and fifth.

For more details call Sue on 01306 627168 or email ockleybellringers@btinternet.com



Wordsearch solution (from page

**2019: Is it even possible to make a New Start?**

The Christian faith teaches that a new start is endlessly possible. It is provided by a personal encounter with the risen and living Jesus Christ. He offers us the opportunity and the resources to make a new start, despite all our circumstances or failings.

The Bible records many encouraging examples of people who were able to start again after encountering Jesus. These include a woman caught in adultery who was facing execution by an outraged community, a hated tax collector named Zacchaeus who had been collaborating with the enemy, and Peter, the close friend of Jesus who publicly disowned him.

God's provision of a new start liberates people from the powerful hold that guilt, fear and memories of failure can have over a human. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus have made a way for humans to find God's forgiveness. A Christian is someone who has accepted God's forgiveness and now has the freedom to reject the old habits of bitterness, anger or revenge, like disposing of a 'shabby old coat'. Many Christians experience this as such a new beginning that they describe it as feeling like a different kind of life.

Forgiveness, however, is not the same as perfection. Although many Christians can look back to a specific time at which they made a decision to make a new start as a follower of the way of Jesus Christ, living up to a new way of being is an ongoing struggle. There is a frequent need to revisit and remember the new start. Church services almost always include a point at which worshippers are encouraged to think about recent failures, confess them, and ask for the mercy of God in absolute certainty that He will forgive.

The Bible describes God's promises of mercy as 'new every morning'. It is in the gracious nature of God that mistakes and failures are not a stick to be beaten with, but an opportunity to change into something better.

For more info: www.Christianity.org.uk.

We wish all our donors a very Happy Christmas and a huge thank you for donating to 'The Wall Fund'. Work started this Autumn, with Shawn Williamson our stonemason working under the direction of John Bailey our architect.

The West section of the wall was in a state of collapse as the picture below shows:



Shawn has been able to renovate the wall, using as much of the old stone as possible by cleaning the stone off and turning it round so that its 'clean face' is showing. This, as you can imagine, is a laborious task, each stone needs to be repositioned and then firmed in place using a lime mortar mix.



Shawn is an extremely experienced stonemason and sculptor having worked on such venerable buildings as Carlisle Cathedral and even having one of his sculptures unveiled by the Prince of Wales. He first trained as a banker mason at Weymouth college, one of the UK's major stonemasonry training centres. He then trained with Josefina de Vasconcellos in stone carving, to produce sculptures like the beautiful one shown (Left).

When Shawn was appointed to the task of repairing our wall, he saw an opportunity to involve local volunteers in the work. Tom Stimpson, who lives locally, heard about the project and volunteered and has been helping Shawn over the last few weeks. Tom is a veteran of the Royal Air Force, having served in Iraq and Afghanistan, he suffers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and seizures after a head injury. He trained as a bricklayer and plasterer as part of his rehabilitation programme. He's been using his skills to help other veterans suffering from PTSD. He became an Ambassador (Volunteer) for the charity Help for Heroes and was awarded an MBE whilst in military service. Not content with these accolades he took part in "Creative force" a recent art exhibition organised by Help for Heroes at the Mall Galleries in London exhibiting four pieces.



Tom's training has meant that he has been a huge help to Shawn, but the pair of them are confident that other volunteers would find the work just as engaging. They were joined for a day by Sue Partridge from the local parish and others are showing an interest. Shawn will be back again in Late January to continue the work, and we would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in being involved.

Please do come and have a look at the wonderful work that has been done so far. We do need more donations to continue the renovations not only to cover Shawn's time but the raw materials, such as lime, sharp sand and stone where the old stone is unusable.

£12 would buy a bag of lime for the mortar; or £50 for more stone. In all the project will cost £45,000 - £50,000 of which we have so far raised £12,769 with the Parish Council also giving a generous £7,000 towards the West wall (the most damaged section).

All donations can either be sent by cheque made payable to **Capel PCC** to Debbie von Bergen, PCC treasurer, Capel Lodge, Horsham Road, Capel, Dorking RH5 4PQ, or by bank transfer to Capel PCC Sort code 09-01-53 Account no 89053287.



Exciting News of a forthcoming event!



Cottage Concerts Presents
An evening of
Classical & Jazz Guitar
Andrew Scott



NEW ALBUM
Andrew Scott plays
Laurindo Almeida



With Special Guest
Jazz Guitarist
Bob Cranham

Tickets £10
(Inc. glass of wine or
soft drink)
from

Saturday 23rd February
St. John the Baptist Church
The Street Capel RH5 5JZ
7.30pm

www.capelboxoffice.co.uk
More information - 01306 713349

PosterMyWall.com

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to Suzanne Cole
editor@stjohnthebaptistcapel.org.uk By 20th of each month please.

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