

free of charge - please take a copy!

Issue 45

December 2020

inspire

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley

**Wishing all our Readers a very
Happy Christmas
and wishing you all a blessed 2021**

Page

3	Rev Liz writes
4	The Tree of Hope
5	Services & Events for December
6	Covid guidelines for Services and In Celebration of some Stars!
7	The Advent Trail 2020
8	News from the Pews
9	Comfort & Joy Christmas campaign
10	Junior InSpire
14	Thoughts on Christmas 2020
16	Prayer Diary for December
18	Traidcraft
19	Letter from the Editor
20	NEW! The 2020 Quiz
21	Cartoon
22	In praise of the Christmas card and Children's Christmas carols
23	Do we have an addition to busy lives?
24	Beethoven—250 years on
25	Stamps & used cartridges appeal
26	High Days & Holy Days and Things to make you Smile
28	Church Times: Joe Biden's Faith
29	How to Save Christmas this year
31	Edith Cavell's Letter given to Norwich Cathedral
32	C. S. Lewis: My Guardian and Friend
34	Charity Focus: Be Me Project
35	Rabbi Lord Sacks remembered
36	Puzzle Pages
38	Quiz answers
39	Puzzle solutions
40	Seasons Greetings to all our readers



The Virgin

Behold the Virgin approaching near,
And the Christ so young upon her
breast,
Angels low-bowing before them here,
And the King of life saying, 'Tis best'.

Old Celtic prayer

Inspire is available to download from the church website:-
www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine/

You can either sign up to receive Inspire each month OR download individual issues.

This issue is sponsored by

The Capel Church Teas

&

Liz & Tim Wombwell

(in memory of Pat Wombwell)

Their joint sponsorship this month has enabled us to
bring you a larger edition in full colour and print more copies!
We thank them both for their generosity.

Church Contacts:-

Vicar - Rev Liz Richardson The Vicarage, High Lea, 54 The Street,
Capel. vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk 01306 711260

Parish Pastoral Assistant: Sylvie Beckett 07711 849338

Safeguarding Officer: Leigh Smith 07732 825908
leighdesouza@yahoo.com

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor: Jackie Broadfoot
07918 559387
jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk

Churchwardens churchwardens@capel-church.org.uk
Norman Ede 01306 713247 & Joy Harman 01306 711482

Treasurers:

Capel Debbie von Bergen 07774 784008
treasurer@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Ockley Helen Burt helenmb0909@gmail.com
01306 711671

Capel Organist & Choir Anthea Smallwood 01306 711883
Ockley Organist Andrew Collings 01403 265794

Weekly Sheets Editors Suzanne Cole (contact details below)
& Debbie von Bergen (07774 784008)

InSpire Editor editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk
Suzanne Cole 01306 711449

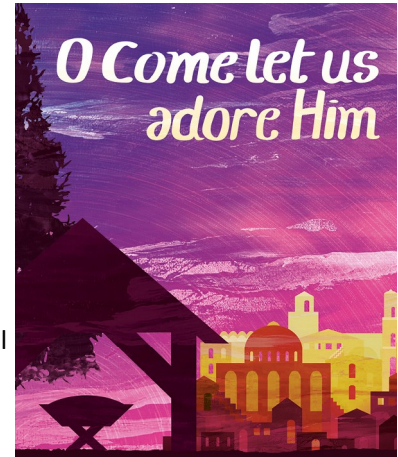
Church website:
www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Webmaster: webmaster@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Parish Eco Team ecoteam@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Dear all,

There is a lot of talk and of course concern as to whether the country can 'have a Christmas' this year, or even about 'saving Christmas'! I understand what is meant here but it still seems quite strange when the whole point of Christmas in the first place is that Jesus was born over 2000 years ago in order to save us, the human race! It may be a different sort of Christmas perhaps depending on how high the Covid rate is in our particular area and I hope by the time you are reading this we will be out or shortly out of this second lockdown. Someone wrote to me recently expressing their wish that the church would speak out about how Christmas is not about consumerism and indulgence but about being kind to each other every day, all the year round which need not happen on the 25th December. Well said of course, dear correspondent and I am pretty sure we would on the whole agree with this sentiment.



Kindness is the key thing isn't it and I am sure we all hope that we will be able to find ways of expressing that act of love this Christmas and all the rest of the year. In fact I think as a community and as a nation there has been unbridled acts of kindness and compassion in this most difficult and unprecedented of years. Yet of course we all need cheering up amid the winter gloom and many are putting up decorations and getting organised extra early. With that in mind we have organised an Advent Trail around the village on certain days in December (See page 7 for full poster!). Sally Wyborn and I have been putting our heads together on this and each blaming the other for the idea when approaching likely 'hosts'! Anyway we have some great things organised so do look out for a leaflet advertising where and when Advent events will be happening. All are designed with social distancing and safety in mind ensuring that people can 'flow around' in comfort and a huge thank you to all our hosts in advance!

So at church last month after Remembrance Sunday outside, services have not been allowed to take place but we are looking forward to resuming again on Sunday 6th December unless there are still restrictions in place. The day before the lovely annual community Christmas trees will be decorated and the lights will be switched on - can't wait! The Christmas lights will be very cheery especially this year! We are also placing a rather special Christmas tree in church this year called the Tree of Hope. We have always had a special prayer tree inside in the Christmas season, but this year we thought it would be lovely if people wished to pop into church and hang a tag on the tree with your hopes and or prayers. Its one of those lovely silver birch lit trees so it will stand out from everything else! Our special Christmas services; Nine Lessons and Carols, the Crib service on Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day services will again we hope be able to take place with all hygiene and social distancing measures provided. In order that we may take necessary arrangements and precautions for these much loved occasions we are asking that if you can, to sign a service list in church with your intention to attend. Of course not everyone may take up their place so if you haven't signed up for attending a service, don't fear, still come along and we will find somewhere for you to be safely seated! We hope this assurance helps.

We know that this Christmas will be difficult for many this year with the worry of unemployment, reduced wages, sickness, loneliness and all the other emotions which become heightened at this time of the year. If you or you know anyone who is in need we may be able to help and especially with regard to food supplies. I am an agent for the Dorking Foodbank in that I can issue vouchers. I will also be holding extra food parcels for those who need them in the run up to Christmas so do contact me in the first instance on 01306 711260. Incidentally the food bank will always give food to those in need even if they don't have a voucher. It is a wonderful scheme, sadly so much needed and especially at the moment so do reassure anyone that they are so welcome to make use of this great resource.

Continued on page 4

This last year has certainly been the year of online resources for churches, many still providing online worship each week. We will be providing an online service of worship for Christmas for those who cannot be with us in person so do check the parish website capelandockleychurch.org.uk for further details of this. It will be online from Christmas Day onwards. The national church has once again published lots of Advent and Christmas resources with their campaign 'Comfort and Joy' following St Paul's words to 'rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep' (Romans 12.15). We have lots of lovely booklets to give out to everyone with some daily reflections on the twelve days of Christmas featuring many well known Christian thinkers and writers. You can also find them online at www.churchofengland.org as well as much else!

Finally I would like to pay tribute to Pam Cuthbertson and Barbara Grundy along with their team of volunteers who have worked so tirelessly to bring us our community news each month in what is fondly known as the yellow magazine, a real constant over so many years! Thank you all so much! As you know this is the last issue of this current format but all being well you will find posted through your letterbox a continuation of the Capel and Beare Green magazine in a somewhat different style so we are grateful to Pam and Barbara et al and the new team who will carry on the baton of community and village news!

I do hope to see many of you this month and may we all bring comfort, joy and kindness to one another as we once again welcome the birth of the Christ child, who came to bring good tidings, to save us from ourselves and the tendency to consume and indulge given half a chance. So have a lovely Christmas, quiet or otherwise, keep safe and I pray all your hopes will be fulfilled.

With my love and prayers

Revd Liz

Revd Liz Richardson liz@hostmyserver.co.uk 01306 711260
Vicar St John the Baptist Capel and St Margaret's Ockley

Tree of Hope

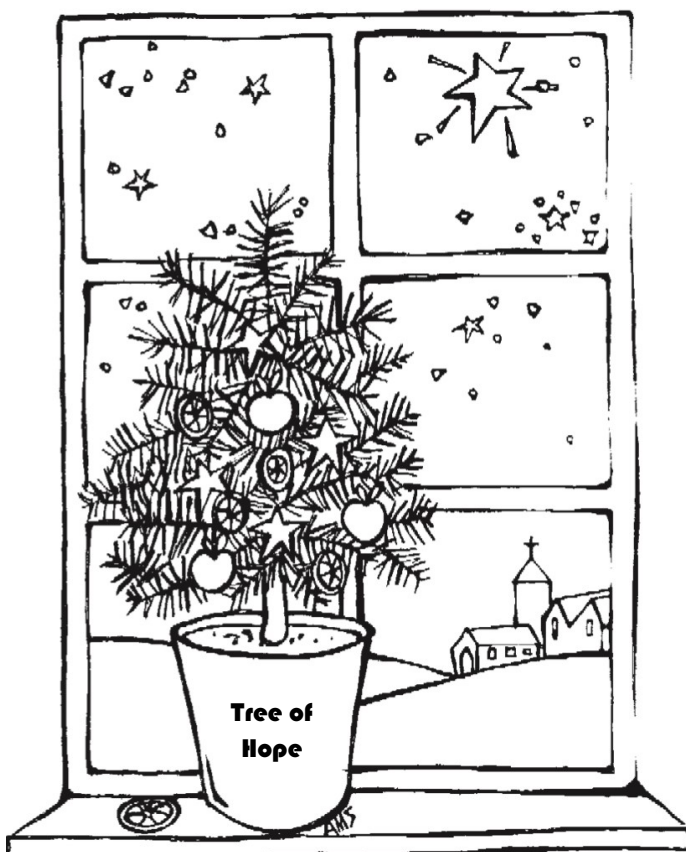
This year, we will have a new 'Tree of Hope' in St John the Baptist, Capel. You are warmly invited to come into church and hang a tag with your hopes and prayers on the branches. There will be tags for you to write on, ready to hang (together with pens and sanitising wipes to clean pens before and after use!).

The last year has been such a challenging year for everyone and we are encouraging everyone to come into church and share their hopes and prayers with us and to put before God.

The tree will be highlighted in the local magazine and advertised to those who take part in the tree decorating and other events.

Do spread the word and COME IN AND SHARE YOUR HOPES AND PRAYERS FOR 2021.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.



Please note that the format of the services may change from week to week.

DECEMBER

SATURDAY 5th

Community Christmas tree decorating and switch on of lights-
Socially distanced - please follow published guidelines

SUNDAY 6th

9.30 am

10.30 am

Please note:

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service of Matins at St Margaret's Ockley

Family Communion at St John the Baptist Capel

Church Teas have been CANCELLED for this date.

THURSDAY 10th & SATURDAY 12th

ADVENT TRAIL EVENTS

See local info for details (see poster page 7)

SUNDAY 13th

9.30 am

10.30 am

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Family Communion at St Margaret's Ockley

Café Church at The Crown

6.30 pm

ADVENT TRAIL EVENTS - See local info for details

THURSDAY 16th ADVENT

6.30 pm

TRAIL EVENTS - see local info for details but...

Nativity tableau in The Vicarage front garden!

SATURDAY 19th

6.30 pm

ADVENT TRAIL EVENTS

See local info for details

SUNDAY 20th

9.30 am

10.30 am

6.00 pm

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service of Matins at St Margaret's Ockley

Family Communion at St John the Baptist Capel

*Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (St John's)

THURSDAY 24th

4.00 pm * (see below)

11.00 pm * (see below)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Crib service at St John the Baptist Capel - sign up sheet required

'Midnight Communion' at St John the Baptist Capel

FRIDAY 25th

9.30 am * (see below)

10.30 am * (see below)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Day service at St Margaret's Ockley

Christmas Day Holy Communion at St John the Baptist Capel

Website: Online: A special service to celebrate Christmas in our churches

*** To help us with keeping people safe, to give us an idea of numbers, please sign appropriate service list inside churches or church porches registering your intention to attend but all comers welcome!**

SUNDAY 27th

10.30 am

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Parish Service at St John the Baptist Capel

Website: Online: All Age service from Guildford Diocese Livestream: GuildfordCathedral-LiveserviceofHolyEucharist

Please see capelandockleychurch.org.uk for further details of online services

Please see page 6 for full Guidelines for Parish services

We are following a more basic pattern of services at the current time and we would request that you note the following guidelines below so that we fulfil government guidelines for your safety:-

- Only 2 people to sit in each pew that is open (or one household and room for a single person)
Every other pew will be cordoned off
- Hand sanitiser which will be by the door to be used when you enter and leave.
- Masks must be worn in church (unless exempt), where there may be other people present, remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.
- No refreshments are currently served but do feel free to bring a water bottle with you.
- We are advised to ask you not to spend too long in the church building after the service as it has to be cleaned and sanitised.
- At Capel the toilet will be open and disinfectant available for you to wipe all surfaces after usage.
- We cannot sing as a congregation but there is music from our organists, choir, musicians, a small group of singers and/or recorded music as appropriate.
- The service will be printed on a sheet given to you as you enter the church along with the weekly newsheet. Please take both home with you.
- No collection will be taken but we ask that you leave your donation on the plate. OR for those who have a smart phone, an alternative way to give is to download the Givt app and use that to donate instead of cash. *Any queries on Givt - please speak to Dineke , Debbie or Helen.* Thank you.
- Holy Communion is given in one kind (wafer) and all necessary hygiene precautions are taken.

Please also note that St John's is open during the week and at weekends but St Margaret's is only open at weekends. For all the latest information and updates please visit our parish website www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Thanks to the following ... In Celebration of those who have gone the extra mile this year!

To Rev Liz for keeping us all informed and for all her pastoral work during this very difficult year that was due to give her a much needed Sabbatical. We hope and pray another opportunity to do so will come very soon!

To the Churchwardens at both churches for their many duties and responsibilities and for locking and unlocking the churches for us amongst many other things!

To the Bellringers ... for ringing the bells at various occasions this year including Remembrance Sunday and for the whole of this second Lockdown as a call to prayer at 6pm every evening! Our thanks to them for their commitment. *Joy would like to extend her sincere thanks to them for locking up every evening too!*

To our Treasurers Debbie & Helen for their continued dedication and hard work for our Parish in a particularly challenging year.

To **John Ashwood**, outgoing Secretary of the PCC for his recent years of service to the PCC and to **Margaret Zandona** who has just taken on the role. We thank them both for their hard work on our behalf.

To **Andrew Forsyth, Chris Coke, Norman Ede and Chris Rumbold** who do much to ensure the churchyard is kept neat and tidy!

To **those that clean the churches**—thank you!

To **those who deliver the weekly sheets** to Parishioners who do not access to them online—thank you!

To those who have adapted this year and produced online services for us ... **Bob, Dik, Dineke and Claire** ... our thanks to you all too!

For **Dik's continued work on our Parish website** keeping us all informed and connected in challenging times.

For those **who have been operating the 'Parish Angels' scheme** and continue to do so.

And for anyone else that I have neglected ... thank you! The Editor



Advent Trail around Capel

Capel is coming alive in December. In the weeks leading up to Christmas a variety of entertainment has been meticulously planned, by kind neighbours, in our great community, for you and your family to enjoy. Please come and join in. By foot or by car. All free, but voluntary donations to various Charities would be kind.

The programme for this exciting time is below.

5th December **Saturday from 9am** tree decorating in churchyard. **5pm** countdown to switch on. Accompanied by choral society carol singing.

10th December **Thursday between 6pm – 7pm** scavenger hunt, round illuminated recreation path. Start and finish in Village hall car park.
6-30pm big switch on of Mortimer road, house lights.

12th December **Saturday between 6-30pm and 7-30pm** The Street entertainment. Visit Fran's fairy grotto no 184 The Street, to be photographed by professional photographer. Listen and amaze at the W.I. singers number at 156. Mulled wine and mince pies on offer. At Brockholt 44 The Street, Follow the stepping stone path to receive refreshment. At 30 The Street be astounded at the fantastic Christmas show

13th December **Sunday midday** meet at the Crown for a visit from Father Christmas on his carriage. Perhaps sample a glass of mulled wine opposite at Chestnut house.
Singing by the Choral Society.

16th December **Wednesday from 6-30 – 7-30pm** not only will there be a beautiful nativity scene at the Vicarage 54 The Street, but refreshments as well.
Listen and watch jiving to "trad" music at Yew tree cottage.
The circus comes to 12 The Street. more refreshments available.

19th December **Saturday 6-30pm -7-30pm** corner Coles Lane the three D's will be performing . and offering hot chocolate and cookies.
Watch out for Mr Patel's big give away.

Vicarage lane on Carter's garage forecourt live animals, also mulled wine on offer.
Further down the lane at Brackenfell enjoy another circus act. Also, refreshment.
At the end of the lane visit Lou and Tracey's sherry and cookie and shortbread bar.

24th December **Thursday 6pm Christmas eve.** church nativity service
You must bring you own drinking vessel to all events, Suggest masks torch/ lantern, hand sanitizer.
Warm Christmassy clothes.

Please observe social distancing, if there is a crowd at venue please come back later.
Wishing you a very Happy Christmas.

Weekly Sheets Editor

Would you like to do the weekly newsheets?
Currently, Debbie von Bergen and I do alternate weeks. I will be finishing at the end of December so someone could have a fresh start for 2021!

Any more info, please either speak to Rev Liz , myself or Debbie von Bergen.

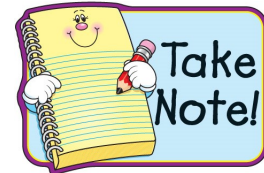
Thank you

Suzanne Cole

(Contact details for us all are on page 2)

Please keep your used stamps and Printer Cartridges!

Stamps & Printer Cartridges Please keep collecting stamps for RNIB via our churches and now you can recycle Printer cartridges too - see Debbie von Bergen's note on page 17.



SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

'The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.'

If you have any concerns contact our Safeguarding Officer Leigh Smith 07732825908 leighdesouza@yahoo.com or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

This notice will appear each month in InSpire and the contact details for our Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor Jackie Broadfoot will be published in our weekly pew sheets as well as in the Church Contacts on page 2 of each issue of InSpire.

INFORMATION: COVID-19 SELF ISOLATION

Coronavirus Parish Angels are here to help

If you have a NEW persistent cough, high fever or are short of breath, you are advised to self-isolate.

Call a number below, and if that is busy call another.

For the Capel & Coldharbour area CALL

0739 596 3129

For Beare Green, South Holmwood & Mid Holmwood CALL

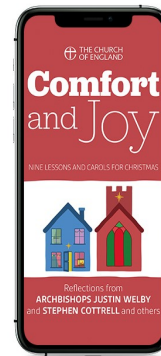
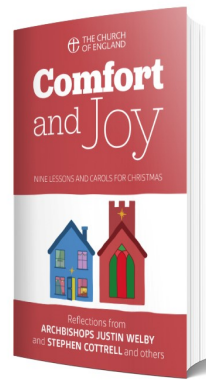
0739 490 8229

HOW THIS WORKS:

Give your name, phone number, address and your request. If you want us to collect a prescription, add your date of birth. We will pass your request on to a local helper who will arrange delivery to your doorstep - whilst retaining a social distance.

Capel Parish Council working with local communities and churches

HELP is at the end of a phone.



The Parish of Capel & Ockley is pleased to be taking part in the 'Comfort & Joy' campaign and materials will be available in church!

A foreward on the Comfort & Joy campaign by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

'Christmas this year will feel different. The family gatherings may well be smaller. For at least some of us, we may be joining in the familiar carols online rather than in church. But it will still be - as always - a time to care for one another and to be together. It will be a time to look back on a year when so much has changed. To remember those who have died, to support those who have lost jobs, to be thankful for all who have cared for the sick and the vulnerable. What has not changed is the story and the meaning of Jesus' birth, God is with us. With us in the mess as in the good, in the disappointment and the difficulty, in sorrow and in celebration.'

With these thoughts in mind the national churches 2020 Christmas campaign offers us another inspiring little booklet to accompany your journey through the Christmas season. It begins on Christmas Day and like a traditional church carol service offers us nine lessons and carols, and with the help of a variety of contributors, an opportunity to hear again the story and reflect on its meaning in this time of challenge.

Comfort and Joy booklets will be available in churches to take so make sure you pick up your free copy!

Sign up for free Advent and Christmas reflections

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-action/living-out-our-faith/advent-and-christmas/comfort-and-joy>

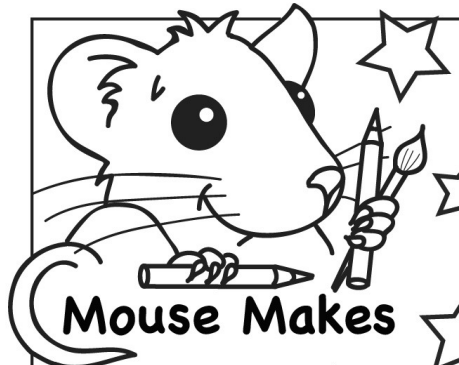
And if you do not have internet access, there is another option!

Daily Hope

Daily Hope is a free phone number (0800 804 8044) offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. We are delighted that the Comfort and Joy reflections, services and some of the music will also be available throughout Advent and Christmas. This will enable as many people as possible to access the content we are developing.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/preparing-advent-christmas-2020-comfort-and-joy>





Mouse Makes

"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...
Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased".
from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!
Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

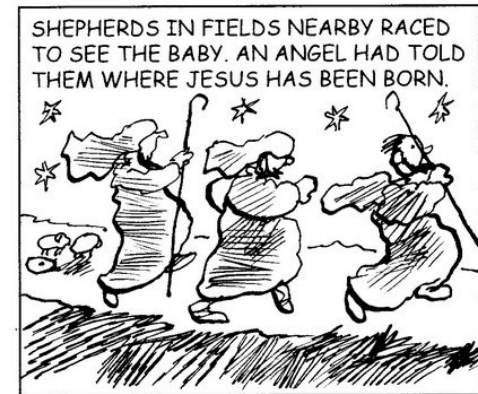
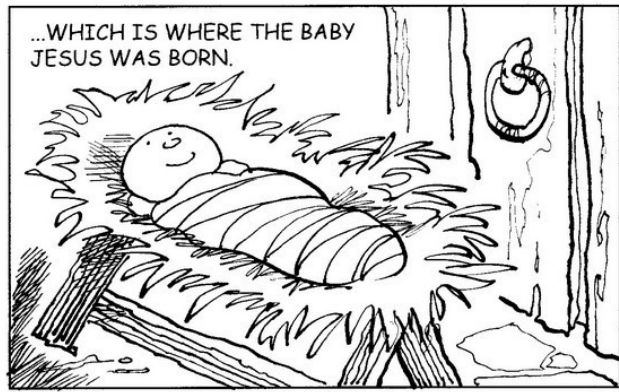
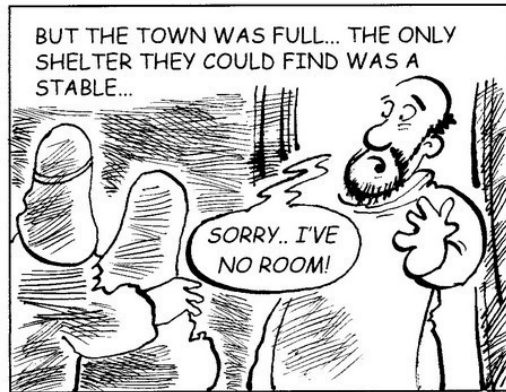


A picture to colour for Christmas. Colour in one star each day as you count down to Christmas!

Dec20 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk



The First Christmas



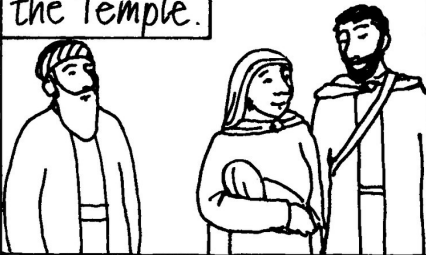
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 2 verses 22-38

God promised the Jews that when times were bad, He would send a Leader to save them. He told Simeon it would happen in his lifetime.

God told Simeon to go to the Temple.



He saw a couple with a baby.

Mary and Joseph had come to give their offerings for their first-born, Jesus, and for childbirth.



Simeon held Jesus and praised God.



I can now die in peace because You have kept Your promise.



I have seen the one You have sent to save Your people and all the world!



Mary and Joseph were amazed! Simeon blessed them, but said..



This child will show what people are really like inside and this will mean pain for you as well.



Anna the prophet was also in the Temple.

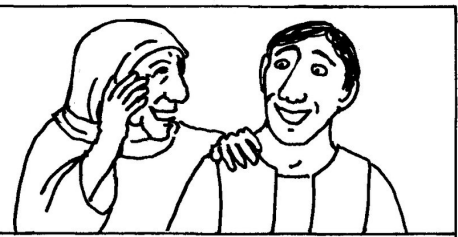


Her family was from the north of Israel and she was very old.



She spent every day praying in the Temple.

When she saw Jesus she praised God.



Anna spoke about Jesus to everyone who was waiting for God's Saviour.

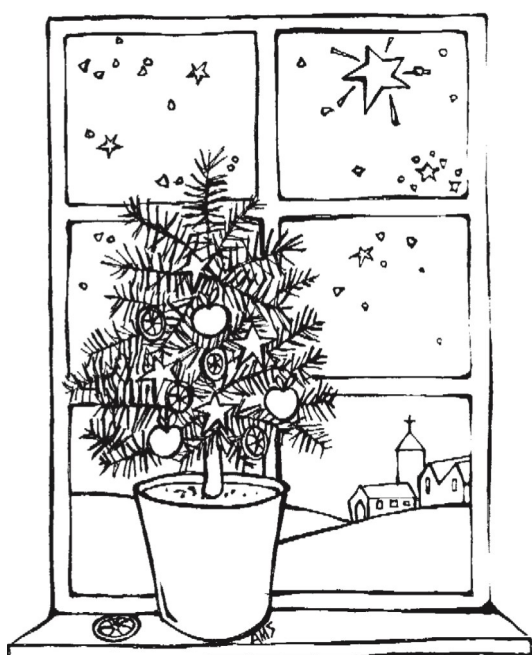
f	q	z	u	c	s	d	k	w	v	o	n	o
j	f	t	m	d	n	r	t	g	o	d	c	l
p	r	o	p	h	e	t	h	a	f	r	v	f
p	r	a	y	i	n	g	n	s	f	i	l	q
l	w	a	i	t	i	n	g	a	e	s	j	d
a	i	t	i	b	a	b	y	v	r	r	e	n
l	n	f	t	s	m	u	y	i	i	a	s	b
n	s	j	e	v	e	r	y	o	n	e	u	o
d	i	o	m	t	a	d	h	u	g	l	s	p
a	d	s	p	m	i	u	p	r	s	d	i	e
n	e	e	l	f	a	m	i	l	y	c	t	a
n	u	p	e	o	p	l	e	a	d	e	r	c
a	j	h	p	i	n	c	o	u	p	l	e	e

Temple
praised
peace
Jesus
Anna
Israel

baby
offerings
inside
everyone
people
Saviour

Anna
prophet
couple
God
Joseph
leader

family
lifetime
Mary
praying
waiting
world



A very happy Christmas to our younger readers!

We hope you enjoy your school holidays and time with your families!

The Story is still the same!

by Canon Paul Hardingham

'Christmas may look different, but the story is still the same!' That's the message for Christmas in 2020. Coronavirus will make our celebrations this year look very different from usual. However, the message of the baby born in Bethlehem is still relevant!

In one nativity play, the highlight was to illuminate Jesus, with a light in the manger, when all the other lights were turned off. At the appropriate time, all the lights went out, including the manger one. The silence was broken when one of the shepherds loudly whispered: 'Hey, you turned off Jesus.' Of course, nobody can turn off Jesus this Christmas!

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of this baby brings great joy and good news for everyone! As the king of the universe, He has come as our Saviour. In an uncertain world, He offers joy and hope, because He holds this pandemic in His hands. This is a real cause for joy!

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace amid the anxieties over our current circumstances. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine bring peace to our lives today? Jesus established peace with God through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace for our lives brings God's peace amid the huge uncertainties we face. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'



Ever wondered Where did Christmas stockings come from?

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

'Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

This promise to King Ahaz in 8th century BC, Judah is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus at the first Christmas: 'God with Us' (Matthew 1:23). Ahaz faced the military threat of Syria invading Israel, but Isaiah tells him not to panic. He can trust God, who is in control of the nation.

For us, Coronavirus brings deep uncertainty as we come to another New Year. We live with the threat from the virus, economic uncertainty, separation from family and friends, the loss of loved ones and the anxiety that isolation brings. Yet the message of Immanuel brings hope, as it did for Ahaz! Christmas changes everything forever! God has declared in Christ that He is with us and for us, not absent from or against us. His love is larger than our sin, fears or guilt: 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (Romans 8:31).

As we prepare for the most unusual Christmas ever, let's not forget:

God with us means that He is on my side and by my side. In the uncertainties of life I am never alone. God with us means that everything will work out according to His plan. My life isn't just a series of meaningless occasions or mistakes.

God with us means that even when others show they are not there for me, God is.

God with us means when circumstances change, He will give me the strength I need.

God is with me: He isn't far away, but has made the journey into my world. Here is the hope for the future, once we get past the trees, gifts, turkey stuffing and pudding!



“God is with us in our pain and fear’ – Bishop of London’s message of hope

The Bishop of London, Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, has said that despite this being a time of “great uncertainty and challenge” as the world struggles to “overcome a devastating pandemic that has cut short earthly lives, destroyed livelihoods, and separated us from the people and activities we enjoy,” yet still “we are not without hope.”

Speaking recently in St Paul’s Cathedral, she said: “Through word, prayer, song and symbol, we are reminded that God’s love for us can never be destroyed. God is with us in our pain and fear and will lead us to a yet more glorious day.”

Bishop Sarah also praised the ongoing work of the “real heroes and heroines at work in intensive care units, the Emergency Department, oncology and elderly care wards.”

These people have been “giving their all, and are continuing to give their all, because we are still very much in the midst of the Covid pandemic.”

“Yet,” she went on, “The hope we have in our hearts as Christians is eternal. Hope that is in Christ will not be disappointed.”



'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him' John 1:9-10

ADVENT cont..

'The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.'

Romans 13:11

TUESDAY 1st

God our Father, we rejoice as we look forward to the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. May we welcome Christ as our Redeemer and meet Him with confidence when He comes to be our judge.

WEDNESDAY 2nd

God of Power and Mercy, open our hearts in welcome. After this difficult year, remove from our hearts the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom and receive His love.

THURSDAY 3rd

Loving Father, send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations this Christmas. We have been anxious about many things this year and look forward to Your coming among us bringing us Your peace.

FRIDAY 4th

Dear Lord, we who are blessed in so many ways, seek the joy of Your Kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy, seek, and long for, the joy of Your presence.

SATURDAY 5th

Father God, You are calling us out of the darkness to share in the light of Your love and Your truth. May we be ready to receive Your love and Your grace. Come, Lord Jesus!

SUNDAY 6th

Come Lord Jesus, give us new courage to trust in Your love. By Your coming, raise us to share in the joy of Your Kingdom on earth as in heaven. We give You thanks because Your Son our Lord was awaited by the prophets, announced by an angel, conceived by a virgin, and proclaimed at last to us all.

PREPARATION

'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!' 2 Corinthians 9:15

MONDAY 7th

Dear God, in a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up the good news of Your love for us. This Christmas, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your love, joy and peace more than now.

TUESDAY 8th

Loving Father, though Christmas may be hard this year, help us remember the gift You gave - Your Son, Jesus, a baby born to die. Thank You for this gift of love. Help us to receive it with grace and understanding.

WEDNESDAY 9th

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will turn our hearts toward You as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that you sent to us on that first Christmas.

THURSDAY 10th

Father, we thank You for coming to earth to redeem us. This Christmas, help us to truly reflect on how much You love us and to know that without You, we would be lost. Jesus is our Lord, Heaven is our home and Satan has no right to control us.

FRIDAY 11th

Almighty God, thank you for being Emmanuel, "God with us." Help us to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as You forgave us. Show us creative ways to love and care for those outside our home. Fill us to overflowing with Your love for the lost. Teach us to do acts of kindness to those who are in need at this time of year.

SATURDAY 12th

Lord, we pray to understand Your call to love one another as You Loved us. We earnestly pray to close the doors of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. May we take this time to extend our gifts to the poor and the lonely and bring Your love to them.

SUNDAY 13th

Father, Saving God, who walked this earth in Eden and by Galilee, we praise You for Your everlasting love, enduring patience, and for the greatest gift of all, the possibility of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FAMILIES

'Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.'

Philippians 2:4

MONDAY 14th

Father, thank You for our families. We ask that You bless them and protect them from harm and evil and bring Your perfect peace to their hearts.

TUESDAY 15th

THURSDAY 17th

Almighty God, we pray for families living in poverty, families that are hungry and homeless. Let us not forget them while we spend time with our families this Christmas.

FRIDAY 18th

Dear Father, shine Your light on our families. Give them strength to overcome difficulties and protect them from any problems they may encounter in the future. May our own families be a light to others. We ask You to touch with grace those in our family who do not know You. Open their hearts to Your great love for them. Help us to share Your Truth and be Your Light.

SATURDAY 19th

Father, we give thanks for the courage, faithfulness and obedience of Mary and Joseph. We pray that their example might be the pattern of the lives of all parents.

SUNDAY 20th

Lord, we choose to put You at the centre of our family life as we celebrate Your birth. Keep us from distractions and help us to invite You into all our family activities. May we set aside the time to glorify and worship You with our family during this busy time of year.

CHRISTMAS

'But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'

Luke 2:10

MONDAY 21st

Gracious Lord, may we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.

TUESDAY 22nd

Dear Lord, release the joy in us that's been crushed by pride, wrong priorities, or world events. Tear down the strongholds that have held us captive far too long. Extinguish the flames of apprehension that rob us of a calm, quiet spirit. Show us again the beauty of that Holy night so many centuries ago.

WEDNESDAY 23rd

Generous God, thank You for those who will be spending time helping others this Christmas. We especially thank You for those who leave the comfort of their homes on Christmas Day to help provide a meal for the hungry and forgotten.

THURSDAY 24th

Father, let us celebrate the reality of Your presence in our lives; Your birth, Your life, Your death, and Your resurrection. And as we celebrate, help us to be a helping hand to those in need around us. Open our eyes and let us see them as You see them.

FRIDAY 25th

Loving Father, we ask You to grant us peace.

Peace in our homes, in our churches, and in our hearts. Help us to stay focused on You, today and always. Thank You for loving the whole world enough to send the greatest gift, Your Son, so that we might truly have a very happy Christmas.

SATURDAY 26th

Heavenly Father, help us to reflect on the gift of Your Son and not just the presents we received. We pray that the Christmas shoebox gifts reached the children safely and that those children will come to know Your love through the generous hearts of the givers.

SUNDAY 27th

Lord Jesus, turn our hearts to the matters of this world that need our prayers. We pray for an end to the coronavirus throughout the world, an end to conflicts in forgotten areas and an end to injustice and oppression.

CELEBRATION

'I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.' **Philippians 3:14**

MONDAY 28th

Father, in this season of celebration, may we be reminded of those who do not yet know You. We pray for Your gift of wisdom so that we may share the Good News.

TUESDAY 29th

Dear Lord, You have guided us through the difficult days of this year, encouraging us along the way. We pray, as we celebrate the ending of this year, that You will be close, be our Guide and our Comforter throughout the year ahead.

WEDNESDAY 30th

Loving Father, for the coming year may we trust in You with our whole heart rather than trust in our own ways. Forgive our sins and transform us to Your will.

THURSDAY 31st

Father, we pray that the new year will bring peace, joy, love, happiness and, most importantly, health to us and to our families. We pray that we may once again celebrate with our friends, neighbours and families the joy of being together and worshipping together.

Editor: 29th November is the start of Advent...

The Promise of Advent

Stir up our hearts, we beseech you,
to prepare ourselves to receive your Son.
When He comes and knocks, may He find us not sleeping
in sin,
But awake to righteousness,
Ceaselessly rejoicing in His love.
May our hearts and minds be so purified,
That we may be ready to receive His promise of eternal
life.

*from The Gelasian Sacramentary, c.500 (oldest official
prayer book of the Western Church)*

Our sincere thanks to those who have kindly placed orders with us this year and we are glad we've been able to help some with their Christmas shopping, whilst benefitting an ethical trader as well as profits going to our Parish churches.

The Christmas/Winter 2020 brochures are in both churches. We do just ask if you could pop the brochure back in church afterwards so that we can keep circulating them. Alternatively, you can log on to the Traidcraft website: traidcraftshop.co.uk to peruse and we can then order for you if you would like us to. ***If we order as our church representatives, the churches benefit from 10% of all sales at the end of the financial year.***

Don't forget we are happy to deliver locally and will always follow current Government guidelines regarding Covid-19 to both you and us as safe as possible! Payment can be by cheque, cash or online transfer ... whichever is more convenient for you.

Once normality is resumed, we will be selling regularly at our churches, but until then we have a limited stock, please see the table below.

Suzanne & Stuart Cole

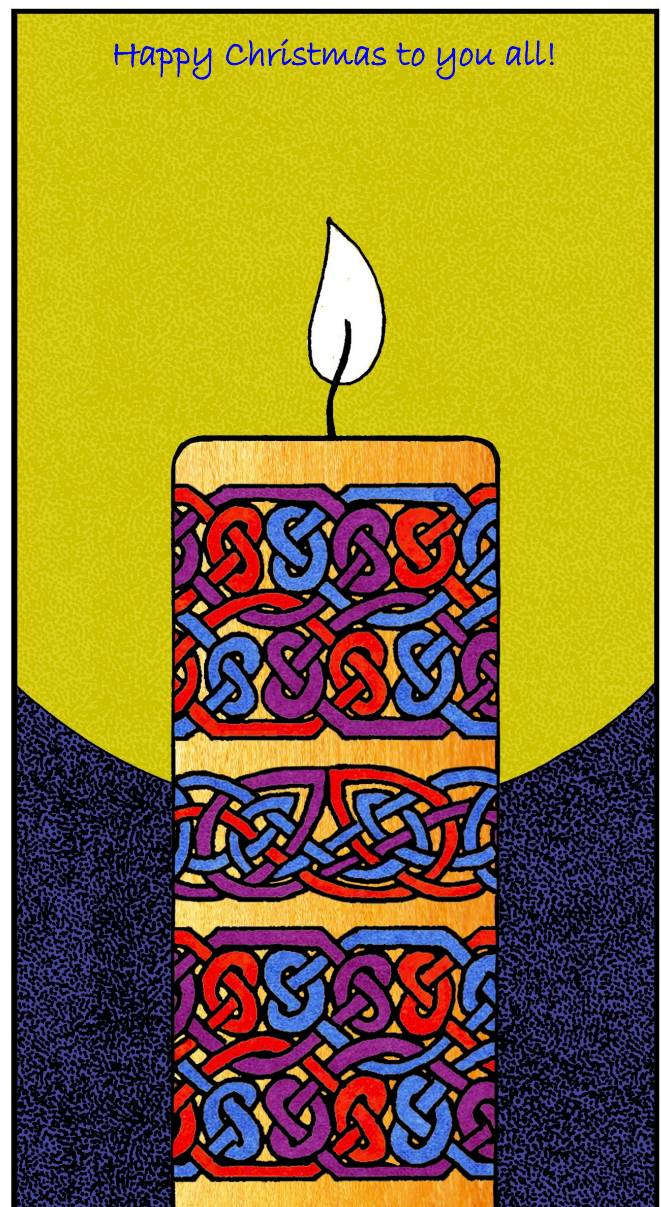
email: traidcraft@ansford.me.uk

or phone 01306 711449

Thank you!

Current Stock

Bio-D Hypoallergenic Sanitising Hand Wash Geranium (500ml)	£4.20
Bio-D Hypoallergenic Sanitising Hand Wash Lime and Aloe Vera (500ml)	£4.20
Divine Milk chocolate 35g	£1.10 Low stock
Organic Dark Chocolate with Mint cream	£2.65
Kilombero White Rice from Malawi 1kg	£3.75
Organic Milk chocolate 100g	£2.65
Fair Trade Organic Penne Pasta from Bolivia 500g	£2.70



Dear Readers,

Well here we are at the end of an extraordinary year. We are about to come out of a second national Lockdown and face life for the foreseeable future in a Tier system. There is a huge ray of hope in the form of the various vaccines being produced ready for use. How incredible that the scientists have managed to produce successful vaccines within the space of a year, when usually the whole practice takes about five years I understand. They have worked so hard on our behalf and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude, as we do to so many others in the NHS, school staff, shop staff, our refuse collectors and SO many more!



I really hope that everyone manages to have a Christmas with those they love wherever possible, but I realise that for many that isn't going to happen. As friends and neighbours, let us look out for those who many need our help, company or a listening ear over the Christmas period. Many of our parishioners will find themselves facing Christmas alone, when I'm sure any loneliness is amplified.

We as a church are taking part in the Church of England's Christmas campaign '**Comfort & Joy**' - more details on page 9. There will be booklets to pick up in church with daily reflections. You can also sign up to receive Daily reflections by email. *There is also a phone line who do not have internet access.* **Daily Hope is a freephone number (0800 804 8044)** offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. I think it is excellent that this is another option to keep people connected in these uncertain times.

Many of us have read books by C. S. Lewis and there is a reflection on him on page 32. "**Faith: C. S. Lewis, my guardian and my friend**" is written by Paul Edmonson wherein he reflects on the influence of the Narnia author on his life, from childhood to the present day. There was also an article on Edith Cavell in October's issue of InSpire and there is now another interesting one on page 31. A letter written by **Nurse Edith Cavell during the First World War**, just days before she was captured by the Germans, was given to Norwich Cathedral in time for Armistice Day 2020. Without wishing to get political, I have also featured a Church Times article on the recent American Presidential elections with an emphasis on Joe Biden's Catholic faith. 'His Catholicism is likely to influence his presidency' says Paul Vallely.

There have been many well-known people who have died this year and Stuart Cole has written an article on **Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks** on page 35. I often enjoyed listening to his thoughts on Radio programmes and he will be missed by many I am sure.

For the first time, we can feature a '**Quiz on 2020**' on page 20! If anyone would like to produce a Quiz to put in InSpire more regularly, I think it would be a lovely idea and a very welcome addition? If anyone has any thoughts on this, please do let me know!

My sincere thanks to the Sponsors of 2020's editions of InSpire - without you we would be unable to offer this resource to all parishioners for free! I'm pleased to say that people who visit the area are also picking up copies and emailing to see how they can receive them! This is great news, as it is both a resource for us to share and one to share and evangelise with others wherever possible.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and I hope that 2021 is full of hope and that we finally manage to get Covid-19 under control and begin to return to more normal lives.

May God bless and keep you.

With my very best wishes,

Suzanne

Every morning tell Him,
"Thank You for Your kindness,"
and every evening rejoice
in His faithfulness.

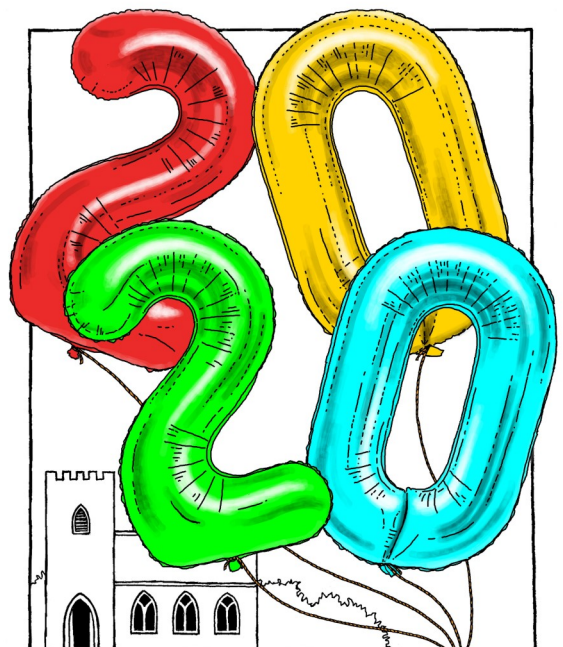
Psalm 92:2

Editor: David Pickup offers a quiz for this Christmas.

A Quiz on 2020

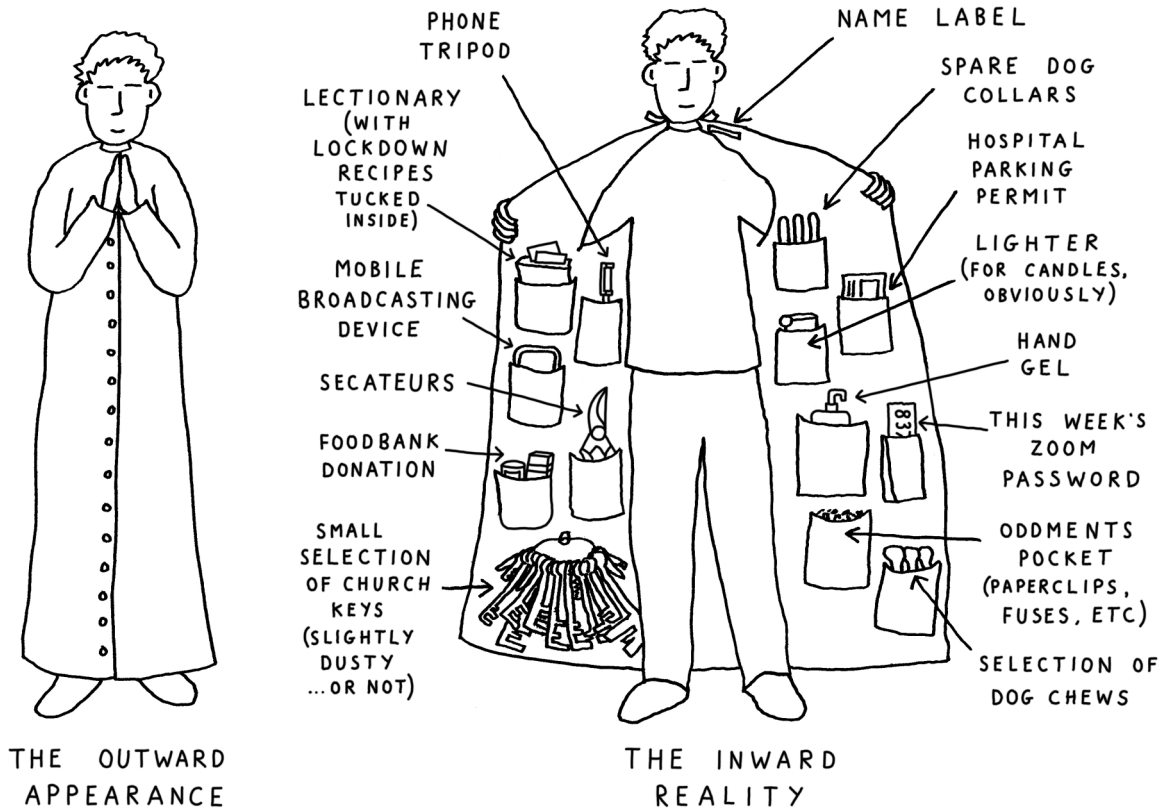
- ◆ Job applications from weirdos and misfits were invited from people to work at which place in London?
- ◆ Which famous actor who died this year is associated with the phrase “I am Spartacus?”
- ◆ In February the Church of England advised against the practice of ‘intinction’ – what is it?
- ◆ In a world “where you can be anything, be _____” – what, wrote actress Caroline Flack on Instagram in December 2019?
- ◆ What were we supposed to do in March while singing the National Anthem or Happy Birthday twice?
- ◆ This year was a leap year. What do we call other years?
- ◆ Which village in the Peak District is associated with self-isolation during a previous plague?
- ◆ How long, literally, is quarantine?
- ◆ Why did President Macron visit Britain on 18th July? What other Anglo-French anniversary could he have remembered but for some reason it was not mentioned?
- ◆ How many countries launched space rockets to Mars this year?
- ◆ Who, in their resignation letter in August, on Twitter posted, “I have championed our work, built our relationships and celebrated the diversity of our staff... and will always be an ambassador for the UK and the new Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office” after a four year career in Downing Street which had included scraps with a neighbour? He was going to spend more time with a family in the country.
- ◆ Which day is the furthest away from Christmas Day?
- ◆ What was the Battle of the Tennis Court and why was it remembered in August?
- ◆ The BBC banned singing the lyrics from which song from the Last night of the Proms, because it had a link in their mind with slavery and colonialism?
- ◆ This year marked the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower*. What event did they start which led to a public holiday?

Answers on page 38!



This cartoon was first produced by Dave Walker in 2009, but has been adapted to reflect the current times.

THE CASSOCK



CartoonChurch.com

© Dave Walker

For this and more of Dave's cartoons which feature regularly in The Church Times, please visit: <https://cartoonchurch.com/>

He has also got a 2021 calendar of his cartoons for sale if you enjoy them!

Thankfully our Saviour is not Father Christmas. He gave His best to us because we were *not* good. - Moe Bergeron

Believe in God and you'll believe in miracles. Believe in the baby of Bethlehem, and you'll experience one. - Anon

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. - Anon

Nigel Beeton writes: 'Now those that know me know that I'm an old fashioned sort of a bloke. I completely understand those who give to charity instead of buying Christmas cards, and I don't really mind getting electronic messages, but I really do appreciate a good old-fashioned Christmas card. I put them up in my hall, and I often stand and admire them, and think of those who sent them long after an e-mail has disappeared below the special offers and the dozens of e-mails that come in each day.'

Let's hear it for the Christmas card!

A folded piece of Christmas cheer
Came through the post today!
I love it when those cards appear
I love the things they say!

And at this busy Christmas time
I'm always glad to see
The Christmas scene or Christmas rhyme
That you have sent to me.

The trouble that good people take
Is really, really kind –
Some people even sit and make
A card for me to find!

And in our virtual world of text
And pictures on a screen
These bits and bytes leave me perplexed
If you know what I mean?

And so I think that it is fine
To see your kind regard
I can admire this Christmas time

Your real Christmas card!

By Nigel Beeton



Editor: Here are some titles of carols, as misunderstood by children...

Children's Christmas Carols

Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly
We three kings of porridge and tar
On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me
Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire.
He's makin a list, chicken and rice.
Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.
With the jelly toast proclaim
Olive, the other reindeer
Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say
Sleep in heavenly peas.
In the meadow we can build a snowman, then pretend that he is sparse and brown
O come, froggy faithful.



How much 'busyness' do we really need in our lives?

Struggling for relinquishment

Do we have an addiction to a busy life?

Until a few years ago I ran a couple of imprints at a well-known publishing company, and feared I was slacking if I didn't receive a hundred emails a day.

I regularly attended events such as the Frankfurt Book Fair, where the diary took months of planning and each day was divided into thirty-minute slots. The buzz was intense: I have rarely felt more alive. I was publishing 60 books a year and keeping my feet in the complex web of relationships that that required. It all took intense concentration.

Like many business folk, I have been an adrenaline junkie. Which is another way of saying: your life is probably at war with your ethics.

If you fill every minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, as Kipling had it, you cannot think critically. This is where relinquishment comes in. It helps us stop trashing the planet, for a start.

Relinquishment allows us to concentrate on priorities. If we are trying to live a sustainable life, to eat meat from animals farmed with integrity and butchered without cruelty; to seek out fruit and vegetables that are locally sourced, grown without artificial fertilizer, and packaged without plastic; these things require space to think. Pollution, land degradation and climate change all result from the premise that more = better, which is the lie behind our enslavement to the Gross Domestic Product. We cannot afford to keep going as we are.

In the everyday routine of our lives, if we are to live as faithful disciples, we must undertake the detailed work of finding out and considering the implications of our choices as voters and as consumers. We should ask, 'Who made this shirt? Why is it so cheap? Where was the cotton sourced? How was the factory run? What were the workers paid? Did they work reasonable hours? As a customer, am I a partner in their wellbeing, or exploiting their vulnerability?'

It takes time to make considered decisions – and relinquishment creates time.

These ideas, and many more, are explored by Pen Wilcock in her new book [Relinquishment: Making Space for What Really Matters](#), available from Amazon in paperback and ebook.

By Tony Collins
© Parish Pump

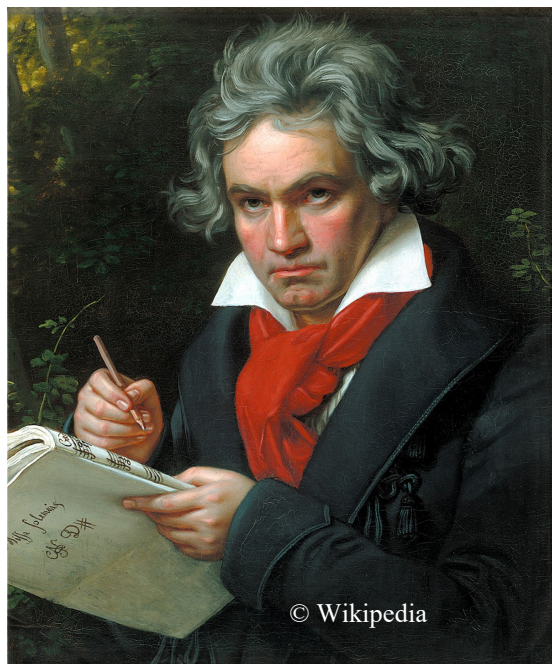
As the year draws to a close:

Lines from Invocation of Peace

Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you;
Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you;
Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you;
Deep peace, pure grey of the dew to you,
Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you!
Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

By Fiona Macleod (19th century Celtic visionary and romantic)

BEETHOVEN: 'from the heart to the heart'



© Wikipedia

This year, 2020, is a special year for Beethoven: it marks the 250th anniversary of his birth on 16th December 1770.

And so it was very fitting that back in August, at the first Live Prom this year in the Royal Albert Hall, the BBC Symphony Orchestra played his 3rd symphony, the *Eroica*.

Beethoven composed it in 1804. A few years earlier he had noticed the first symptoms of his deafness. He wrote in a letter to his brothers that was found after his death, *'I must live like an exile.'* The deafness brought in its wake depression and thoughts of suicide, but Beethoven wrote that *'the only thing that held me back was my art.'*

He went on to compose works which expressed the tragedy this cross of deafness brought, but also conveyed the power of the human spirit which proved indomitable in the face of that struggle. *'Music,'* he wrote, *'is the electric soil in which the spirit thinks, lives and invents.'*

Beethoven was to compose six more symphonies after the *Eroica* and a wealth of other music up to his death in 1827. He spent most of his life in Vienna, but through his music his creative genius travelled far and wide.

Scholars divide his work into three stages. Up to 1800 he composed very much in the classical tradition. That year marked a second stage with works like the 5th Symphony, which opens with the famous eight-note motif of fate knocking at the door, and his opera *Fidelio*. Then in 1817 came a final stage when his compositions explored new territories of the human spirit altogether.

Although his deafness brought loneliness and isolation, he found in music the means to express those experiences: his struggle with Destiny, his love of Nature and that search for an inner peace and serenity. Weighed down by physical limitations, he found a freedom to express himself and his longing for transcendence and light.

It is there in the Prisoners' Chorus in his opera *Fidelio* as they emerge from the dungeon into the sunlight. And it is quintessentially present in his last great works: the late String Quartets, the 9th Symphony with its exultant hymn to Joy, and the Missa Solemnis where there is a beauty and a serenity in the Benedictus and Agnus Dei.

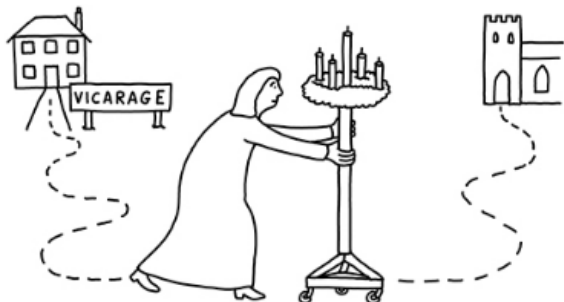
On the score of this work, Beethoven wrote above the Kyrie *It comes from the heart - may it go to the heart.* In this month which marks the 250th anniversary of his birth, we give thanks for his music which continues to speak to hearts in every age. It is music that tells us of the pain and struggle of life, but also the discovery of a courage and freedom that can help us to step out in his company and welcome the light and the joy, the peace and the beauty.

© Parish Pump

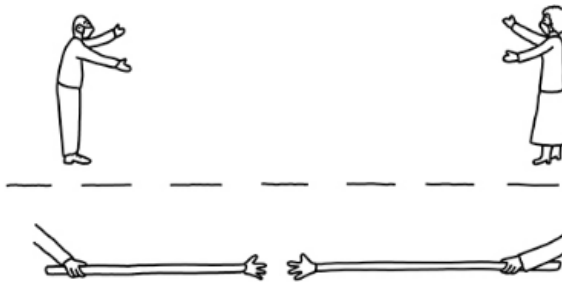


GOING BACK TO CHURCH

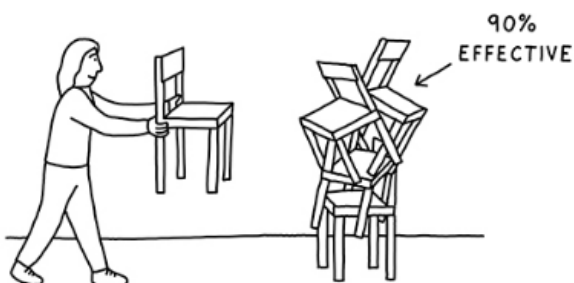
THINGS TO REMEMBER



THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ADVENT WREATH



HOW TO GREET PEOPLE



THE BEST WAY TO UNDERTAKE REGULAR TASKS



WHERE WE'RE UP TO ON THE ROTAS

© Dave Walker

For more of Dave's cartoons, go to: <https://cartoonchurch.com/>

We want your stamps!!!

As a church we have been collecting stamps for almost a year now, and I am delighted to say that I have been able to send 5 large envelopes and 2 boxes of albums to the RNIB. Thank you for all your donations so far.

As we haven't been able to see as much of our friends and family as normal, I suspect that many will send more Christmas cards this year as a way of keeping in touch. So this is a reminder to keep all the stamps and pop them into the church where there will be a box for you to deposit them. I will then sort them into UK and Overseas (the RNIB take them all but like them to be separated) and send them on. If you can also trim them so that there is no more than a 1cm border I would be most grateful – trimming thousands of stamps as I have done over the summer is very therapeutic, but time consuming!



Printer Cartridges

As a new recycling strategy, I have also signed the church up with a printer cartridge recycling company. They will donate up to £2 per cartridge to the church. A box for your used ink cartridges will be in the church porch shortly please deposit any used empty cartridges in there and I will send it off when it is full. Some cartridges don't have much value but can still be recycled in this way so you are still helping the environment. I Look forward to all your donations!

Thank you
Debbie von Bergen

6th December: How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD 343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his lifework of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get around all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

***NEW 17th December: Eglantyne Jebb – founder of 'Save the Children'**

Here is a modern-day saint whose compassion and determination has saved literally millions of lives.

Eglantyne did not begin as an obvious 'mover and shaker' of people. Born in Shropshire in 1876, she grew up in Ellesmere, studied history at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford, taught at Marlborough, and then resigned as she was not physically robust.

Eglantyne moved to live with her mother in Cambridge, and it would have been so easy to settle for a life of peaceful obscurity. But she was a Christian, and at Oxford she had developed a passion for social concerns, so this compassion now drove her to take action.

She began in 1906 by publishing research on the poverty she'd found in Cambridge.

Then in 1912 the Balkan Wars broke out, and Eglantyne left Cambridge for Macedonia. Her months among the refugees led her to decide that long-term constructive aid was more effective than short-term handouts.

The First World War left Eglantyne horrified by the prolonged Allied blockade on Germany and Austria-Hungary, which even after Armistice meant starvation for millions of civilians, especially children.

And so in 1919 Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy Buxton helped found the ‘Fight the Famine’ Council, which wanted to end the blockade and establish a League of Nations.

One day during a rally in Trafalgar Square, Eglantyne was arrested for distributing a leaflet showing starving children which read: “Our blockade has caused this – millions of children are starving to death.”

She ended up in court and was fined, but the judge was so impressed with Eglantyne’s commitment to children that he himself paid her fine. His money became the first donation to Save the Children, the new charity just set up by Eglantyne and Dorothy.

Save the Children was officially launched at the Albert Hall in May 1919, with the aim of helping the starving civilians of central Europe. It was a success, raising £400,000 in that first year alone.

When in the autumn of 1921 Russia was facing famine, Save the Children chartered a cargo ship, the SS Torcello, to carry 600 tons of lifesaving food and medical supplies to Russia – saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

By 1922 Save the Children had become one of Britain’s biggest charities. Eglantyne’s Declaration of the Rights of the Child, written in 1923, was adopted by the League of Nations the following year. The present-day UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is derived from it.

But ten years of running Save the Children had sapped Eglantyne’s fragile strength, and she died in Geneva in 1928, aged only 52.

©Parish Pump

Things to make you smile

‘There, there dear ...’

A recent poll has found that the over-60s often face patronising, though usually well-meant, comments from the younger generation. One older woman was amused, when going into a shop before Christmas, to be met by a younger assistant who asked, ‘And how are we doing so far today?’

‘I suspect she had taken one look at me and decided that I was lucky to have even made it alive to lunchtime!’

Picture

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw a picture of a Bible story with a Christmas theme. She was puzzled by Kate’s picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. ‘The Flight to Egypt,’ was the reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: ‘That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who’s the fourth person?’

‘Oh,’ explained Kate happily, ‘that’s Pontius - the pilot!’

Next Christmas

The grandson had just taken a photograph of his grandmother who’d come to stay for Christmas and her 89th birthday. ‘Grannie, I sure hope I’m around next year to photograph you on your 90th birthday,’ he said tactfully.

‘Why not?’ his grandmother shrugged. ‘You look healthy enough.’

© Parish Pump

Paul Vallely: Biden's politics are rooted in his faith

13 November 2020

His Catholicism is likely to influence his presidency, says *Paul Vallely*

©VATICAN MEDIA /CPP / IPA/IPA



Vice-President Joe Biden meets Pope Francis at the Vatican, in 2016

THE morning that America went to the polls last week began very differently for the two presidential candidates. Donald Trump's first call was to the mega-conservative TV station, Fox News. Joe Biden went to early-morning mass at his parish church, leaving the service early to visit the church's graveyard where his first wife and daughter (who died in a car crash) are buried alongside his son, who died of brain cancer in 2015 — but not before urging his father to run for President.

Mr Biden looks set to be the second Roman Catholic President of the United States. His faith and the public pronouncements that he has made about it offer some interesting clues to what we might expect from his presidency.

Headlines about Catholicism in the United States generally centre on abortion or gay marriage. Those are not revealing topics with Mr Biden. On abortion, like most practising Catholic politicians, he insists that he doesn't think it right to impose his personal views on others. Like 61 per cent of American Catholics, he approves of same-sex marriage.

But, when his friend Senator Chris Coons was asked what drove the President-elect, he replied instantly: "His view of the world is rooted in his Catholic faith, which teaches that everyone is made in the image of God and that the abuse of power, through racism or classism, is sinful. He'll bring that concern for others to his leadership. Nothing upsets him so much as the mistreatment of those who are perceived as lesser."

The director of the Franciscan Action Network, Stephen Schneck, said: "Biden actually sees his Catholic faith as a key for bringing the country back together and overcoming divisions. . . He thinks there's something in Catholicism itself that provides a ground where both sides can find a common place."

But what kind of Catholicism? Mr Biden has in the past written: "I'm as much a cultural Catholic as I am a theological Catholic. . . My idea of self, of family, of community, of the wider world comes straight from my religion. It's not so much the Bible, the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments, the sacraments, or the prayers I learned. It's the culture."

His interactions with popes have been interesting. As far back as 1980, Pope John Paul II had one of the longest meetings of his early pontificate not with a world leader, but with the 37-year-old Senator Biden, and their conversation ranged far and wide. When Mr Biden met Pope Benedict in 2011, he chastised the pontiff, *The New York Times* reported, for the Vatican crackdown on the American nuns who had taught him. When he met Pope Francis in 2015, the pair talked about the death of Mr Biden's son. The exchanges illustrate the breadth of his Catholicism.

When asked about popes, he once told a reporter: “I’m a John XXIII guy.” Perhaps he meant the liberality that sprang from that pope’s traditionalist roots. But perhaps we should remember also that John XXIII was a man who came to the top job late in life, and, contrary to all expectations, set about revolutionary change.

Perhaps there was more than rhetoric to Joe Biden’s insistence that the recent election was “a battle for the soul of the nation”.

How to save Christmas this year

13 November 2020

There is a better way than simply saying ‘Boo’ to the darkness, argues *David Thomson*

The Jeremiahs have it. The Covid statistics are making it perfectly clear that things are getting worse before they get better, and the public mood is slowly trying to come to terms with that, as we struggle to agree what measures to take.

We were desperate that it should not be so — desperate to get back to life as we liked it: just life, not this dark pall of deathliness and depression. And I suspect that we will also now start to be desperate again — this time, to save Christmas.

This is not Christmas as a theological purist would have it: that is all about Christmas saving us, not our saving it. That is about real light shining perilously in real darkness, not fairy lights on a tree. But the theologians have a point. Even if warm hearths and family togetherness are what we long for, they are powerful because they speak not just of a kiss under the mistletoe or a blow-out meal, but of a deeper sense that winter will not have things all its own way — a sense of unconquerable light. We have been celebrating it since Stonehenge, and we want and need to celebrate it now.

But just saying “Boo” to the darkness — or, indeed, the virus — and getting on with the party is going to end in tears. Let me put it starkly. It is three weeks before Christmas. “Blow it,” you say. “We’re going to have a party.”



© PA

Continued on page 28

It is two weeks before Christmas, and “Blow it,” you say. “Let’s go shopping.” But some of your friends cry off because they are feeling a bit poorly.

It is one week before Christmas, and you’re feeling a bit poorly yourself; your best mate has just gone into hospital. It’s Christmas, and . . . well, the shine has well and truly gone off the gingerbread, and no one is feeling much like celebrating any more.

WHAT can we do? Is there anything we can do? Let’s go back to those theologians, those keepers of the Christian tradition that Christmas is perhaps all about anyway.

From ancient times, Christians kept fasts before they dived into their feasts. They didn’t take the waiting out of wanting: they knew that a bit of waiting, a bit of preparing, a bit of pondering, would make the feast all the more fun.

Cue Advent: not just the Advent of a boozy miniature a day in December, but the Advent that starts four Sundays before Christmas and takes us slowly and carefully through the Bible’s story of how we got into this pickle we call life, and how God’s plan to join us in it, and raise us from it, came to pass. It’s all those readings you’ve heard at a traditional carol service, but old-school, taken slowly, savoured for all they’re worth. Then, at Christmas, the Great Twelve Days of Feasting can begin.

Hearts that are heavy with deathly fear can resonate poignantly with the Advent warnings of the day of the Lord that are ordinarily too strong a meat for many to take — but with them the assurance that, in the crisis, endings can turn to beginnings, and death and fear themselves flee before the face of God.

The prophets can call us to attend to laying the foundations of not just new high-speed railways, but a new way of living: one that is worthy of what Jesus called the Kingdom of God — a kingdom of justice and peace. The last of the prophets can invite us to sink our losses very personally into the waters of baptism, in which we and they are transformed into active assets for bringing in that Kingdom, full of the life of Christ himself. And Mary, in whom that life was so physically born, can be our witness that Jesus has promised and will be with us every step of his way.

So, there are four Sundays, four themes and sets of readings, four candles to light on our kitchen tables and in our street windows to speak of hope, justice and peace, faith, and love.

SO, THIS year, how about saving Christmas by keeping Advent? Look for safe ways to buy the presents and order the food. Give some time to writing some personal cards or messages.

Then, dust down your Bible and look up the stories for yourself. Light a candle for each Sunday. And enjoy the peace — peace now, as you give Christmas the best chance it can have of going off well; and the promise of a peace that passes our understanding that can surround us, come what may.

Dr David Thomson is an honorary assistant bishop in the diocese of Hereford.

© Church Times

**To read more articles online from The Church Times please go to:-
<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/>**

Edith Cavell letter given to Norwich Cathedral

by Hattie Williams
13 November 2020

Nurse Cavell was executed in 1915 for her part in helping Allied soldiers reach safety

A LETTER written by Nurse Edith Cavell during the First World War, just days before she was captured by the Germans, was given to Norwich Cathedral in time for Armistice Day, on Wednesday. The four-page letter, written by Nurse Cavell to her mother, Louisa, is dated 26 July 1915. It was to be her final correspondence before she was taken by the Germans from the hospital where she was working, in occupied Belgium, on 5 August 1915.

© Bill Smith/Norwich Cathedral

It is signed: "My dearest love to you & all the family. I am looking forward to a happy meeting later on. Ever your affectionate daughter."

Nurse Cavell was executed by firing squad on 12 October 1915 for her part in helping several hundred Allied soldiers reach safety. After the war, her body was returned to Norfolk, where she was born, and she was laid to rest at Life's Green, in the grounds of Norwich Cathedral.

Her letter refers to timeless, ordinary concerns such as family news, the weather, transferring money, and the organisation of her pension, as well as details about her life in Brussels.

"We move into the new School at the end of this week or the beginning of next," she writes. "It advances rapidly now & the nurses are nearly all there already. The patients will be moved at the last. The little garden in front is gay with flowers & the cleaning in progress. It is very dirty as you may imagine & will want going over many times before it is really nice as the workmen are still in and are not likely to finish for some time yet.

"We have more patients just now and are glad we shall not have to move them far. When I can get a good photo of the new place I will try & send it to you."

The letter has been given to the cathedral by Greg Stewart, who was given the correspondence by the late poet and playwright Roger Frith.

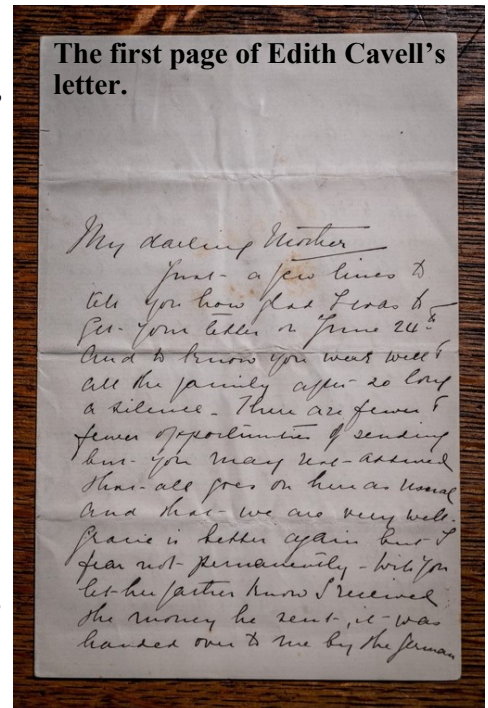
The Librarian and Vice-Dean of Norwich Cathedral, Canon Peter Doll, said: "Nurse Cavell's letter is a wonderful gift that will be treasured by Norwich Cathedral. It gives real insight into her life and activities just prior to her arrest, revealing her professional concern for her patients and for the completion of the new building for the nursing school and clinic she directed. . .



"Our intention is for the letter to go on public display in the cathedral at some point in the near future and to ensure that it is safely preserved for generations to come."

The cathedral is also the custodian of two of Nurse Cavell's Bibles, and her copy of Thomas à Kempis's *Imitation of Christ*, which she was annotating until the day of her death. Her father, the Revd Frederick Cavell, had been the Vicar of Swardeston for 46 years, until 1909, when he had retired and moved to Norwich with Edith's mother.

Edith Cavell
© Bill Smith/Norwich Cathedral



Faith: C. S. Lewis, my guardian and my friend

28 November 2020

Paul Edmondson reflects on the influence of the Narnia author on his life, from childhood to the present day

© Marion E Wade Center

THE great collect for Advent Sunday urges us “to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light” while we are mortal, so that, when we enter into immortality, we will flourish into eternal life. This year, Advent Sunday falls on the birthday of a great intellect and Christian disciple: C. S. Lewis. Lewis is part of my “armour of light”. I carry him in my heart and in my mind.

In his writings, I find the essence of my youth, the beginning of my independent reading, and the gateway to my imagination. Lewis’s own love of literature goes before me and beckons me; but he also points me back to my past, and the moment when I first became aware of God.



I am seven years old, and overwhelmed by joy and sadness in equal measure having just watched a cartoon version of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It is Easter Day, and I know that I feel expanded by the story, but am unable to articulate why or how. Instead, I go into the back garden and think about what I have seen and heard, while I pace around on the pair of stilts that my godfather has recently made for me. Everything feels larger than ordinary life.

A few days later, I buy a copy of the book with some pocket money (85p), and my adventure with reading — and with God — truly begins. The rest of the Narnia books followed, but I would always return to *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It became part of my outlook.

Years later, I discovered Lewis’s theological writings. I was an under-graduate, and was facing a crisis of faith. A friend gave me a copy of *Mere Christianity*, like a lifebelt tossed to a drowning man. Lewis carried me to the shore and enabled me to get my breath back. I was thrilled earlier this year to visit The Kilns, the house he lived in from 1930 to 1963, and to see where he would kneel down, next to his bed, and say his prayers.

C. S. LEWIS was an atheist until the age of 32. Then, as he writes in his memoir *Surprised by Joy*, he felt “the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet”. Lewis’s appreciation of myth enabled him to accept the centrality of scripture. He recalls his journey towards Christianity: “I was by now too experienced in literary criticism to regard the Gospels as myths. They had not the mythical taste. . . . If ever a myth had become fact, had been incarnated, it would be just like this. And nothing else in all literature was just like this.”

Reading Lewis gives me fortitude, and emotional and mental strength. Fortitude is one of the four cardinal virtues (along with justice, temperance, and prudence) that Lewis writes about in *Mere Christianity*. “Guts”, he writes, “is perhaps the nearest modern English. You will notice, of course, that you cannot practise any of the other virtues very long without bringing this one into play.”

I find fortitude in his prose style: its clarity, directness, calm persuasion, aphoristic quality (there are many anthologies of Lewis’s work), and in Lewis’s own tough-mindedness.

His mind was sharpened and filed in his teens by his rigorous tutor, William Kirkpatrick (who would become Professor Kirk in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*). He taught Lewis how to think and write with an indefatigable logic that, undaunted by difficulty, reaches ever more deeply to unearth the truth and to present it with his own salty tang of rhetoric.

Lewis is fond of antithesis and contradiction, of turning things on their head in order to show them the right way up: “Our Lord,” he writes in *The Weight of Glory*, “finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

In the magical land of Narnia, the great lion Aslan speaks to several of the children alone: words intended only for that particular child, like the personal God of Judaism and Christianity. In *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Father Christmas gives Peter a sword and shield, Susan a bow and arrows and a small ivory horn, and Lucy some miraculous cordial and a dagger.

In *Prince Caspian*, set centuries later in Narnia time, the children take up their gifts again in an ancient treasure house of the now ruined castle of Cair Paravel. Lewis places special emphasis on this moment: “All the battles and hunts and feasts came rushing into their heads together.” Peter’s shield of faith and his sword of the spirit allude to the armour of God that St Paul writes about in Ephesians 6.10-18. Susan’s bow and arrows evoke William Blake’s “bow of burning gold” and “arrows of desire” in “Jerusalem”.

On Advent Sunday, the children’s gifts from Father Christmas become like our armour of light: symbols of immortality in this our transitory life. This central, Christian truth is of profound importance to Lewis’s writings. In *Surprised by Joy* he illustrates this crisply: “If Shakespeare and Hamlet could ever meet, it must be Shakespeare’s doing.” We are mortals living towards eternity in a God-incarnated universe.

Advent is a lion, and Lewis is one of the voices crying in the wilderness. There is something of St John the Baptist about him: Lewis, too, calls us to make the crooked straight and the rough places smooth. He is keen to emphasise that we do not possess any luminosity of our own. In *The Great Divorce*, the fantasy writer who inspired Lewis, George Macdonald, shows him around heaven and says: “There is but one good; that is God. Everything else is good when it looks to Him, and bad when it turns from Him.”

Lewis shows us that our earthly armour needs to be given up, like Eustace’s dragon-scales in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, otherwise we become dark and vulnerable creatures, fretting, even petrified. It is Love that calls us out of the shadows, like the lion Aslan breathing on the statues in the White Witch’s castle to bring them to life.

Lewis took pains to define and articulate how God’s love for us is present in our different kinds of loving, and how these are related and revelatory: affection, friendship, sexual love, and charity. *The Four Loves* provides important insight into Lewis’s inner being.

“Friendship” love is especially interesting and important to him because, although it is a great gift, it is not absolutely essential to our existence. Many people, writes Lewis, go through life quite happily without experiencing the special kind of friendship he describes: one of “naked personalities”, unconditional loyalty, no expectations, and everything open and equal. Lewis clearly found the Kingdom of God through his excellent and intimate friendships.

Lewis is my Advent watchman, my guardian angel, and my friend. I hear the voice of love in him, and I want to follow it because I know it will be good for me. He continues to influence and enhance my life, my discipleship. When I was ordained, a friend congratulated me with Lewis’s words: “Once a king or queen in Narnia, always a king or queen.” In ministry, I continue to see his short and powerful *A Grief Observed*, written after the death of his wife, bring consolation to those raw with the loss of loved ones. His works are part of my wider scripture, my “armour of light”.

I hope that C. S. Lewis will one day be included in the Anglican Lectionary, and I have written this Collect for him:

Almighty God,
 who so gifted and blessed
 our fellow disciple, C. S. Lewis
 with intellect and imagination
 to hear the sound of your loving roar,
 grant that we, knowing we are made for immortality,
 may be guided by your Holy Spirit
 into the ways of truth, fortitude, and hope,
 and be overwhelmed by the joy of your Kingdom,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Revd Dr Paul Edmondson is head of learning and research for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, and an NSM at St Andrew’s, Shotton.

Editor: Continuing our focus on charities, it is fitting to feature a local charity who are helping young people in some of our local secondary schools amongst other settings. My thanks to Rev Liz for reminding me about them.

BE ME PROJECT

The 'Be Me project' was founded in 2014. We run courses to help build positive wellbeing and confidence to cope with the world's pressures. **We have worked with over 1000 people so far...**

A Year 9 Student

"I started 'She Is' in 2019 and I really enjoyed it because each week was a different theme with a creative craft which was super fun and relaxing to do. It was also really chilled sharing thoughts and feelings in each of our lives, in a safe environment, to get stuff off my chest. I guess it made me think about how to deal with situations in life and feel a lot less stressed over them. I learnt all about me and that I'm worth just as much as anyone else. It was really nice to meet up online during Covid and do the 'Who am I' book because lockdown was a very uncertain time with an uphill battle, so just knowing someone understood my mind and could guide me through was a massive relief and began to change my outlook on life at the time.

One of the things I have learnt is that sometimes just being resilient is so important and not just giving up on the things I care about.

I'm so grateful to Be Me as I now feel so much more comfortable and confident as a person."

A Head of Year

"Be Me Project has worked with this cohort of young people to outstanding effect. We have seen an improvement in the attendance of these young people, an increase in their motivation in class and a reduction in friendship issues. The impact has been both measurable and qualitative; these young people are happier as a result of the work carried out by Lisa and Mel and as a result of the quality of the course content. It speaks to these young people about things which are important to them and challenges them to re-frame their thinking. As a school we are immensely grateful to have been part of 'Be Me'. Lisa and Mel are kind and compassionate but prepared to challenge too. Their excellent inter-personal skills mean they establish a great rapport with young people and they get the best from them. I have no hesitation in recommending this programme to other schools. I am delighted to have hosted some of the first programmes in the North of England."

A Head Teacher

"Our school has had to reduce its support for students year on year to increasingly harsh budgets and this project was a lifeline for some of our young people."

A Pastoral Lead

"Staff in our school have noted a really positive change in the girls. They have grown in confidence, attendance has improved and relationships have been more positive. It is very important this valuable work is able to continue."

Do look at their website to learn more about them, what they do and how you might be able to help/donate.

<https://bemeproject.org/>

You can also find them on Instagram and Facebook.



PRE-ORDER Penguin Christmas Cards - Pack of 10

£4.00



PRE-ORDER Santa Christmas Cards - Pack of 10

£4.00

The **BE ME PROJECT** now have an online shop too including some Christmas card packs.

<https://bemeproject.org/shop/>



Jonathan Sacks was widely known as both a Rabbi and philosopher and was popular contributor to both *The Times* and *Thought for the Day* on Radio 4 as well as being a religious commentator on television. He was described as *The Times's* favourite Anglican bishop, because he emphasised what it would like to hear from Anglican bishops but usually didn't. He was born in Lambeth in 1948, the oldest of four brothers. His father sold textiles, and his mother worked in her family's wine-importing business. He attended the local Christian primary and secondary schools in London before becoming the first in

the family to go to university to study philosophy at Cambridge. He intended to become an accountant, but in the summer of 1968 he went to the United States to visit relatives and talk to rabbis whose work he was reading about the six day Arab Israeli war.

In New York he met with Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson the leader of the Lubavitch Hasidic movement of ultra-Orthodox Jews who asked him questions about why so many young Jews falling away from their intellectual and cultural heritage rather than giving him answers. He would say later that "here was one of the greatest leaders in the Jewish world challenging me not to accept the situation, but to change it." Sacks felt that he was being called to help put them right.

He continued his education at both Oxford and London gaining his PhD from London in 1982. His first appointment as a Rabbi was for the Golders Green synagogue in 1978. Between 1983 and 1990 he as Rabbi of the Western Marble Arch Synagogue in Central London, and during this time he also served as Principal of Jews' College, the United Synagogue's seminary. In 1991 he became the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth and held that position until 2013.

He was probably the best known of all Chief Rabbis since the position was established by act of parliament in 1870. He trod a path between both extremes of the Jewish faith. Having been nominated as Chief Rabbi, pressure came from the more conservative branch as he had not had a full Jewish education despite being a rabbi. So, prior to his appointment he attended a Yeshiva in Jerusalem for a year. As an orthodox rabbi, he followed tradition and did not recognise the Reform and Liberal traditions of Judaism who did not come under his jurisdiction. This caused tension, but then he himself was not recognised by the ultra-orthodox Haredi rabbis.

Despite this difficult position within his own faith he built a reputation for trying to understand, accept and communicate with other faiths. He believed that a true relationship with God is available in non-Jewish cultures and religions due to the covenant that God made with Noah and all his descendants, so one does not need to be Jewish to know God or truth, or to attain salvation. In his Reith Lecture of 1990 he argued that secularism had failed to address core issues and there was a real danger that the gap would be filled with hate filled fanaticism and therefore there was a need for inclusion of religion in public life. He was a friend of many of the Archbishops of Canterbury and went with George Carey to watch Arsenal (which they both supported) lose to Manchester United 6-2. One paper later commented that as their combined forces did not help there could be no God. Sacks countered with "to the contrary, what it proves is that He supports Manchester United". He also sat with George Carey as the resident of the Council of Christian and Jews, and it was during his tenure that the more liberal branches of Judaism were admitted.

He was a prolific writer and authored nearly 30 books. Anyone that remembers his talks will recall his storytelling abilities and communication skills as well as his philosophical and intellectual insight. He also held numerous academic appointments, was knighted in the 2005 Birthday Honours "for services to the Community and to Inter-faith Relations", and in 2009 he was made a life peer where he sat as Baron Sacks, of Aldgate in the City of London as a crossbencher.

Jonathan Sacks died on 7th November 2020.

Wordsearch Clues

Silent Night

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.



Silent
Night
Loved
Carol
Austria

Christmas
Eve
Father
Joseph
Mohr

Melody
Single
Bing
Version
Third

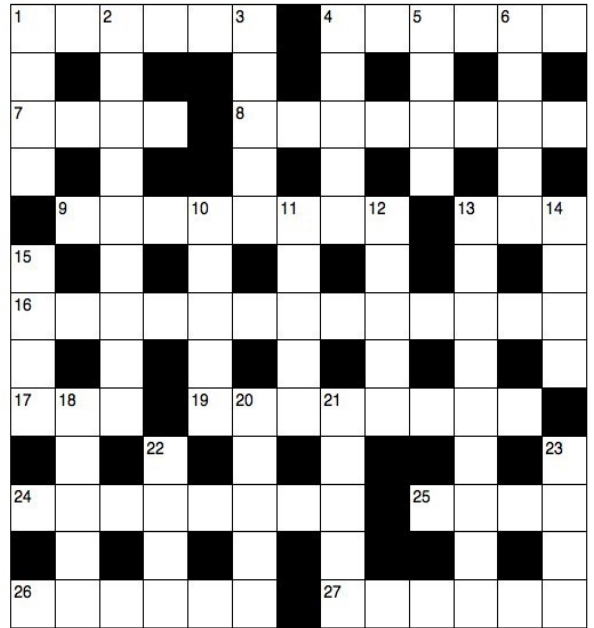
First
Sung
Stille
Nacht
Heilige

Young
Priest
Organist
Midnight
Mass

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

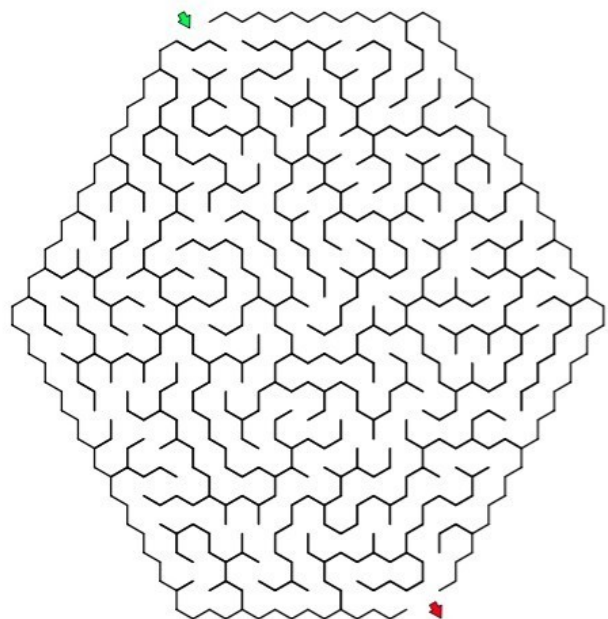


Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

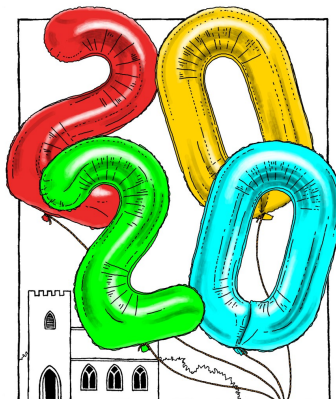
6	1		7				
				4	5		2
			8				3
	7		8		9		
		2			6		
		3		2		8	
4			5				
1	6	3					
			4		9	7	

© 2013 KrazyDad.com



The 2020 Quiz can be found on page 18

- ⇒ Job applications from weirdos and misfits were invited from people to work at 10 Downing Street.
- ⇒ Kirk Douglas was the famous actor who died this year and is associated with the phrase “I am Spartacus”.
- ⇒ In February the Church of England advised against the practice of ‘intinction’ – which is dipping the communion wafer in wine.
- ⇒ In a world “where you can be anything, be *kind*” wrote actress Caroline Flack on Instagram in December 2019.
- ⇒ We were supposed to wash our hands in March while singing the National Anthem or Happy Birthday twice.
- ⇒ This year was a leap year. We call other years common years.
- ⇒ Eyam is the village in the peak district is associated with self-isolation during a previous plague.
- ⇒ Quarantine is forty days long, literally, the word derives from the Italian expression quaranta giorni.
- ⇒ President Macron visited Britain on 18th July to commemorate De Gaulle’s broadcast to France in 1940. It was also the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo.
- ⇒ The United States, Europe, Russia and China have all launched space rockets to Mars this year.
- ⇒ The Foreign Office cat, Palmerston, in his resignation letter in August on Twitter posted, “I have championed our work, built our relationships and celebrated the diversity of our staff... and will always be an ambassador for the UK and the new Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office” after a four year career in Downing Street which had included scraps with a neighbour. He was going to spend more time with a family in the country.
- ⇒ Boxing Day is the day furthest away from Christmas Day (because you cannot travel backwards in time - think about it)
- ⇒ The Battle of the Tennis Court was part of the Burma Campaign during the Second World War. It was remembered in August as part of VJ commemorations.
- ⇒ The BBC banned singing the lyrics from which Rule Britannia from the Last night of the Proms because it had a link in their mind with slavery and colonialism. The decision was since reviewed.
- ⇒ This year marked the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower*. Their celebration of harvest gave rise to Thanksgiving.



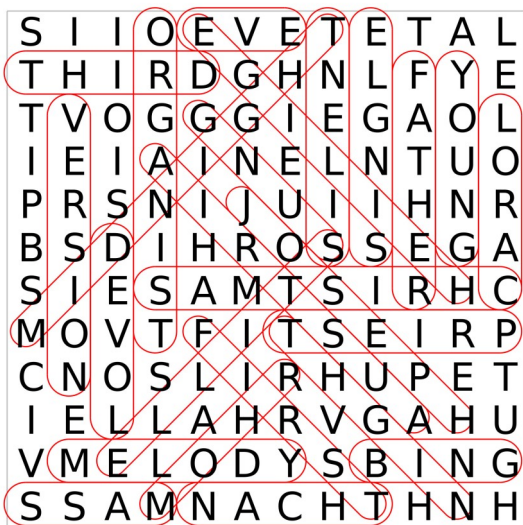
Puzzle Solutions

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

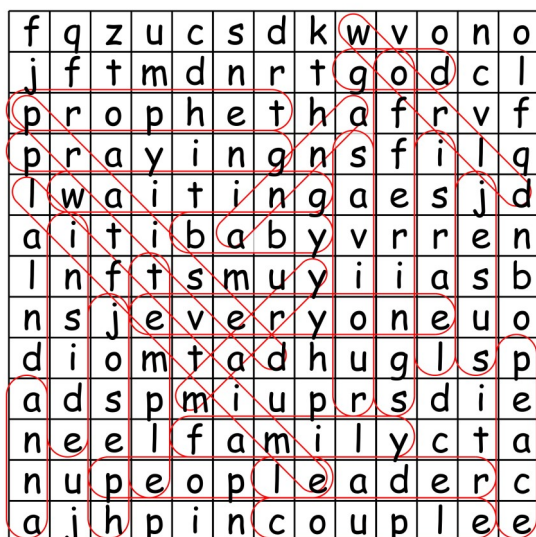
Wordsearch solution



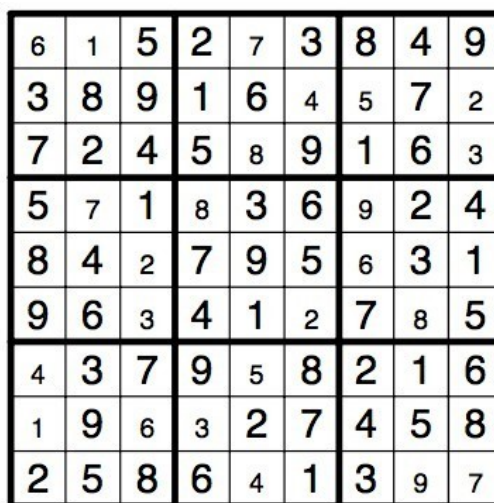
Crossword solution



Junior Wordsearch solution



Medium Sudoku solution



We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for the coming year.
We hope that 2021 is kinder to us all!



Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to
Suzanne Cole editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk **By 25th of each month please.**
If you would like to receive *InSpire* by email, you can subscribe to InSpire via the church website:-
www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine