

January 2021 Issue 46

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InSpire

SEE WHAT GOD CAN DO THIS
NEW YEAR

The Monthly Publication for the Parish of Capel and Ockley

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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 kindly sponsored by

Peter Bradley

"Wishing all my friends in Capel
a better 2021"

Our thanks to Peter for his sponsorship

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Dear all,

The New Year is traditionally a time when we say farewell to the old year and welcome in the new one and I feel sure we will all be very happy to send 2020 off on its way into history! Who could have foreseen this time last year what lay ahead for us all and of course as I write this letter just before Christmas we still don't know whether lockdowns can now be a thing of the past or whether we face another one in January. That awful phrase 'the new normal' I hope will filter away and perhaps Pope Francis puts it better calling it 'not an era of change but change of an era'? Something to reflect on?!

Throughout this year we have all had to adjust to a different way of living and being. Who would know that wearing masks would now be mandatory in many situations and even can be a fashion accessory? As a church and community we have had to adjust quickly to all the different rules and regulations, trusting that somehow we will survive even though at times certain things haven't necessarily made sense! Hopefully you have felt supported by all that has been there and as usual our wonderful community pulled together to provide essential supplies to those who couldn't get out. Those support systems are still in place by the way, even if some have been scaled down they can easily be scaled back up again.

Most of all though, the important thing has been and continues to be about protecting one another as we have tried to live our lives whilst all the time offering love and support to one another. If you or someone else needs assistance please do contact me or one of the church team in confidence so we can signpost you in the right direction. Can I remind you that I have food bank vouchers for anyone who needs them and that anyone can use the food bank whether they have been given a voucher or not. No one is turned away.

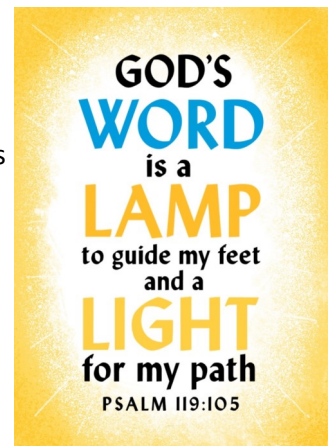
Hopefully our Christmas services in church will take place and a reminder that there are two services on Christmas Day, 9.30am at Ockley - with a short Christmas quiz and carols, which unfortunately the congregation will not be able to sing yet! At 10.30 at Capel there will be a service of Christmas Communion. Don't be put off by Communion if you are not a regular attendee, you will still enjoy the service and can receive a blessing at the rail instead of the bread and wine. There is also going to be an online Christmas service on our website available to view from Christmas Day onwards capelandockleychurch.org.uk We also have a special treat on Sunday 27th December when the postponed Cafe Church from earlier in December will be inviting us to join them in a Christmas Cafe Church with some rather special carols....

Following Christmas, January brings us into the season of Epiphany when we celebrate one particular element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far traveled magi which is understood as the revealing of Christ to the Gentiles. As we continue through these winter months, let us rejoice that already the nights are drawing shorter, the light of day is staying longer even now. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly this begins to happen. The magi travelled with trust in their science of astrology (or is it an art?!) Trusting in their knowledge, they followed the star which shone brightly in the sky, not knowing where they would end up but they sensed it was going to lead to something important. This year we have all heard about 'following the science' and 'trusting in the science' which has guided us through thus far and is set to provide us with a way out with the new vaccines. The magi used their science in order to make a discovery, to satisfy their curiosity as to what the birth of this new star in the sky meant. On arrival they paid homage to this new born king realising that whoever this child was, his birth pointed to something far bigger than anything they had ever known before. Let us remember then that we are all part of something far bigger than ourselves - science helps us discover more and more about God - and it is easy to feel somewhat hemmed into our own small worlds, particularly in these times. I pray that you may feel curious and want to know more about what's 'out there' and that your horizons are widened as you discover or rediscover the child in the manger who is the Light of the World! I do hope that you find Comfort and Joy this Christmas along with the hope that only Christ can bring amid the uncertainty of these times. Peace be with you and yours and Happy New Year

With my love and prayers as ever,

Revd Liz

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



Would you like to sponsor an issue of InSpire in 2021 in order to keep it free of charge for our Readers?

Typically a print run of 50 copies costs £80-£85. However, if you are able to gift aid your donation, it works out at approximately £66 to sponsor an issue. Occasionally, we like to offer a full colour edition, such as Christmas issues, but it is always done with prior agreement with the sponsor.

We currently have the following months free to sponsor:
February / March / April / June / November / December
Do you have a birthday, anniversary or someone special you would like to dedicate an issue to?

For all enquiries, please speak to Suzanne Cole 01306 711449
or Debbie von-Bergen 07774 784008
Thank you

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2020

Despite having to do things differently this year and no door to door collecting, I am pleased to tell you that we have raised £1,479.48. Thank you to everyone who supported the Appeal in difficult times.

Stuart Cole
Local co-ordinator

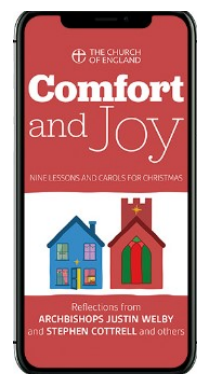


Comfort and Joy

We hope you have managed to pick up a copy of the Comfort and Joy booklets that are in both churches.

It is the Church of England's Christmas campaign with reflections for each day from Christmas day.

Find out more about the campaign and how you can access it online and sign up for daily emails or download the App on page 7.



Tree of Hope

We hope that many of you will have had the chance to go into Capel church and hang your hopes and prayers on our new 'Tree of Hope'. We need hope now more than ever and it seemed fitting to find a place where people could share their thoughts with us and God.

'Our Father hears our prayers'



DECEMBER

SUNDAY 27th Sunday after Christmas

10.30 am Christmas Cafe Church at St John the Baptist Capel

JANUARY

SUNDAY 3rd Second Sunday of Christmas

9.30 am Matins at St Margaret's Ockley BCP

10.30 am Family Communion at St John the Baptist Capel

SUNDAY 10th The Epiphany

9.30 am Family Communion at St Margaret's Ockley CW

10.30 am Cafe Church with the Crown at St John the Baptist Capel

SUNDAY 17th Epiphany 2

9.30 am Matins at St Margaret's Ockley BCP

10.30 am Family Communion at St John the Baptist Capel

SUNDAY 24th Epiphany 3

9.30 am Morning Worship CW at St Margaret's Ockley

10.30 am Family Communion at St John the Baptist Capel

SUNDAY 31st Candlemas

9.30 am Said Holy Communion BCP at St Margaret's Ockley

10.30 am Christingle Service at St John the Baptist Capel

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 7th Fifth Sunday before Lent

9.30 am Matins BCP at St Margaret's Ockley

10.30 am Family Communion at St John the Baptist Capel



BCP - service is from The Book of Common Prayer 1662

CW - service is from Common Worship 2005

Guidelines for Parish Sunday 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

Weekly Sheets Editor

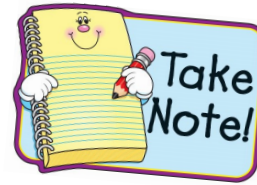
New weekly sheets editor required! Currently, Debbie von Bergen and I do alternate weeks. I will be finishing at the end of December and I'm sure Debbie would love someone to share the job with!

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)

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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.

Christmas Day

Comfort and joy

Day
1

Carol God rest you merry

... Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and charity
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Traditional

Comfort and Joy is the Church of England's 2020 Christmas campaign

Taking inspiration from a traditional carol service, it features daily reflections for the Christmas season from Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcot, Martha Collison, Stephen Cottrell, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Justin Welby.

Take part in Comfort and Joy with:

- The official booklet from Church House Publishing (**Available in our churches**)
- The free app for Apple and Android devices (see info below)
- Daily emails from the Church of England during the campaign itself. You can sign up to receive the emails here:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/comfort-and-joy-our-advent-and-christmas-reflections>

Find out more about the campaign at: www.churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy

Hear the Church of England digital team talk about the Comfort and Joy campaign [on the Church Times podcast](#)

Download the Comfort and Joy App

The campaign invites us to hear again the message of the angels – good news of God's unfailing love for a world that is weary and hurting.

Taking inspiration from a traditional carol service, it features daily reflections for the Christmas season from Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcot, Martha Collison, Stephen Cottrell, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Justin Welby.

The free Comfort and Joy app offers:

- Daily reflections from Christmas Day to 2 January, exploring a Bible reading and a familiar carol;
- Full audio of the reflections, complete with full recordings of the featured carols;
- Weekly reflections for Advent and links to online video Worship At Home services;
- Family prayer activities linked to all the Advent and Christmas themes;

Links to online and in-person Christmas services and events near you thanks to AChurchNearYou.com

You can download directly from your phone's App store or go to this page and follow the links:-

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/comfort-and-joy>

Reflection

by Archbishop Justin Welby

A light amidst the difficulties of this year has been the way people have cared for each other with generosity and courage. Cynicism about community has often been overwhelmed by love for neighbour.

It has been stressful and anxious, but we have not shut ourselves off from each other. There have been countless wonderful acts of kindness and care, often sacrificial ones.

We've seen these acts of goodness in health and in care, we've seen them in the community and in our neighbourhoods. Most often they have come not from power or position but from love and vulnerability.

That's exactly the sort of love that we celebrate at Christmas. Love that gets its hands dirty. Love that is open and generous. Love that, without great ceremony, makes a difference.

May we find that love, God's love in Jesus Christ, this Christmas. May we share that love, God's love in us, this Christmas. And as we receive, and as we give, may we know the comfort and the joy that is God's gift to us.

Give

Is there a gift, not one bought from a shop or prettily wrapped, that you might need to give another person today?

How might such a gift bring comfort and joy to someone this Christmas?

Pray

God of comfort and joy, may we know your presence with us today and bring your gentle, joyful love to others, this Christmas and always. Amen.



JANUARY 2021

'..let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.' Hebrews 12:1-2

CELEBRATION contined from last month.

'Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations 'The Lord reigns!'

FRIDAY 1st

Almighty God, this year, may we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us with new attitudes and motives so that our words will praise the Lord our God as He reigns in our hearts!

SATURDAY 2nd

Dear Lord, this year, may we dwell on the goodness in our lives. May we cherish in our hearts the gifts You have given us. May we be grateful for the blessings of life, of love and of sharing.

SUNDAY 3rd

Loving Father, we praise You and give You glory for the wonderful things You do for us; for life and health, for friends and family and for the beauty of Your creation.

HOPE

The Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete. Deuteronomy 16:15

MONDAY 4th

Dear God, You are the hope of all who trust in You, the wisdom of all who serve You and the unifier of all who worship You. We thank You for Your presence in our lives.

TUESDAY 5th

God of Wisdom, fill us with strength and boldness according to Your promises that we might connect with each other in love and bring the message of hope to others.

WEDNESDAY 6th

Merciful Father, You provide us with perfect love at all times and, through the Holy Spirit, have given us everything we need. Increase our faith, we pray, and help us through these difficult times.

THURSDAY 7th

God of Truth, we thank You that, in a world full of despair, You are our hope. In a world of darkness, You are our light and in a world of sorrow, You are our joy. We thank You for the scientists who have developed the vaccine bringing us hope for the end of the virus.

FRIDAY 8th

God of Love, as we live through these difficult times, we ask that You bless us with Your peace. Give us strength to face adversities and to

SATURDAY 9th

God of Power, we come before You today helpless and weak. We need Your hope for a better life, Lord. We ask that You fill us from head to toe with Your everlasting light, Your love and Your peace.

SUNDAY 10th

God of Hope, we pray for Your hand on all who are or have been affected by Covid-19. Bring Your healing touch and we ask that You bless them. We pray for the hope of the end of this pandemic through the rollout of the vaccine.

LISTENING TO GOD

"But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear."

Matthew 13:16

MONDAY 11th

Loving Father, thank You for being a God of compassion and love. Although life is hard, help us to take time in our day to listen for Your voice to guide us, to lead us and to comfort us.

TUESDAY 12th

Lord, if changes in our lives baffle and confound us, help us to be still and remember that You are in charge. Help us to trust in You to give us strength to rise above conflicts and overcome difficulties.

WEDNESDAY 13th

Servant God, we pray that the Holy Spirit will be with us throughout our lives. We pray that we will sense the Holy Spirit guiding us into truth and filling us with God's deep and lasting peace.

THURSDAY 14th

Father God, help us to create still moments in our day to listen for Your voice so that we may learn from You and understand. Lord, we need You to guide our thoughts and bring us to fellowship, prayer and praise.

FRIDAY 15th

Loving Father, our lives are noisy and our heads are filled with so many things to do in our everyday lives. Help us to receive clear guidance from You as we desire to do the right thing and make the wisest choices that are acceptable to You.

SATURDAY 16th

Father God, as we come to You in prayer, remove the thoughts of this world in our heads that demand our attention. Help us to calm the storms and be

ENCOURAGEMENT

‘And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together.....but encouraging one another...’

Hebrews 10:24-25

MONDAY 18th

Dear Lord, teach us to trust in You and to be patient. Sometimes, when our faith is struggling and we feel far from You, help us to find strength and encouragement from Your promise to ‘soar on wings like angels’, to ‘run and not grow weary’ and to ‘walk and not be faint.’

TUESDAY 19th

Merciful Father, help us to be aware of all the ways You help us. We thank You for the assurance of Your strength to help us be victors over our struggles.

WEDNESDAY 20th

Lord our Provider, help us to be aware of all the ways You have helped us so that we may bear witness to others of Your love. We thank You for the assurance of Your strength that will guide us through difficulties.

THURSDAY 21st

Dear Lord, give Your people Your peace that we may shine brightly in a dark world. Grant us the courage to live faithfully even in the midst of hard times. Help us to live boldly and bravely in the midst of a world that needs to know You. Lord Jesus, come and restore the world You have made and make all things new.

FRIDAY 22nd

Loving Father, we thank You that You are close to us. We can do all things through You ...for You are the source of our strength. Let all we do honour You, Father. As you encourage us, let us be an encouragement to those around us.

SATURDAY 23rd

Saviour God, in Your Word we are upheld and in Your arms we find safety and protection. When the world seems to press into our lives harder than we can bear, we know we are never holding on alone. You remind us to be strong and courageous, to rely on You for strength, and not to fear. You promise to strengthen us and uphold us.

SUNDAY 24th

Father, help us to keep getting up, keep following You, keep hoping, and holding onto the joy and peace Jesus died to give us. He is our ultimate source of encouragement.

ACCEPTANCE

‘Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7

MONDAY 25th

Father, help us to accept one another as Jesus did. Instead of differences, help us to understand that as You love and cherish us, so You love and cherish everyone and richly bless all who call on You.

TUESDAY 26th

Dear Lord, may we accept with all our hearts the great news that we are not alone. You are with us Lord and can do so much more than we could ever imagine. Let us pray with the understanding that You will listen and grant us Your mercy and Your grace.

WEDNESDAY 27th

Loving Father, help us to understand and accept how much we are completely loved by You. Sometimes we seek acceptance from others instead of knowing we are enough, more than enough, in Your eyes.

THURSDAY 28th

Almighty God, help us to let go of anxiety and feel Your peace. Your Word says that You are love and where there is love there can be no fear. Help us to let go of fear and receive Your perfect love.

FRIDAY 29th

Dear Lord, help us to accept our strengths and our weaknesses, our gifts and our shortcomings, our good points and our faults. We know our lives are a blessing and a gift from You.

SATURDAY 30th

Precious Saviour, help us to accept the person that You made us to be. Help us to recognize the plans and purpose for our lives. May we encourage others to live their lives in beautiful acceptance of who they were created to be and what they were created to do.

SUNDAY 31st





It was **125 years ago, on 28th January 1896**, that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2mph at the time, and a man carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But one day Mr Arnold took off at 8mph, without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle for five miles, arrested, and fined one shilling.

Mr Arnold was four times over the rather modest 2mph limit in the streets of Paddock Wood, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent. To achieve this feat today, a driver in most towns or cities would have to be travelling at over 100mph, which is probably a bit excessive.

The speed limit was changed later that same year to 14mph, but there is no record of Mr Arnold getting his money back. Nor is there any evidence that he was endangering life and limb, which used to be the criterion: the 1832 Stage Carriage Act introduced the offence of endangering someone's safety by "furious driving".

Just over 100 years later, the road safety charity Brake reports that male motorists are more than three times as likely as women to have driven at more than 100mph, because 'boy racers' believe they have more talent than the average driver. Police have caught one driver doing 120mph in a 20mph zone, another doing 152mph in a 30mph zone, and one doing an astonishing 180mph on a motorway. As Edmund King, AA president, points out: "Generally men have riskier attitudes towards driving than their female counterparts."

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Looking forward to 2021

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delights in His way. - *Psalm 37:23*

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. - *Proverbs 3:6*

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. - *Corrie ten Boom*

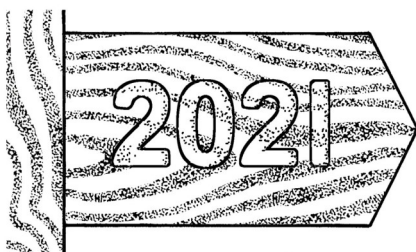
In His love He clothes us, enfolds us and embraces us; that tender love completely surrounds us, never to leave us. As I saw He is everything that is good. - *Julian of Norwich*

Endurance and perseverance are qualities we would all like to possess, but we are loath to go through the process that produces them. - *Jerry Bridges*

You can never plan the future by the past. - *Edmund Burke*

What we look for does not come to pass. God finds a way for what none foresaw. - *Euripides*

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January 2021

***NEW 13 Jan: Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers**

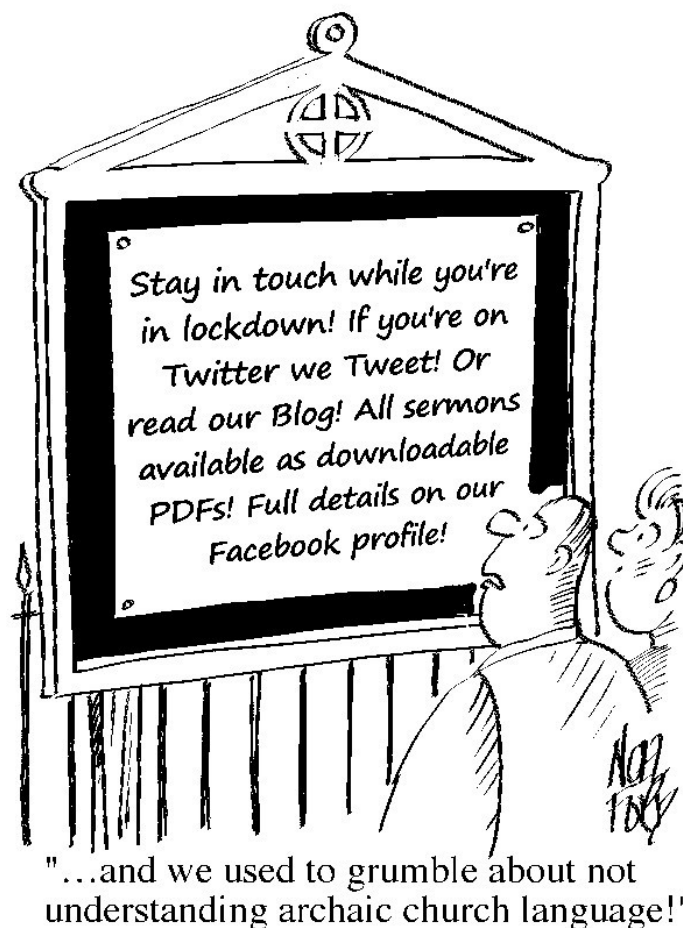
Heroes are not always men or women of action. Sometimes the fight for right over wrong can be even more powerful when done through words and argument.

Hilary was such a champion of the Christian faith. Born into a wealthy pagan family in Poitiers in 315, he first became an orator of Neo-Platonism. Here he learned how to think and argue, but soon he lost confidence in paganism. By 350, Hilary converted to Christianity.

Already well known and loved in Poitiers, Hilary was made bishop only three years later. His oratorical skills in defence of Christianity were badly needed: it was a time when the Western Church was under severe attack. The heresy of Arianism, which denied that Jesus was divine, was spreading everywhere. Hilary became the outspoken champion of biblical orthodoxy, defending it at both the Synod of Bitterae in 356 and the Council of Seleucia in 359. Although briefly exiled to Phrygia in Asia Minor by the Emperor for his stand, Hilary continued to defend Jesus' divinity, and was praised by both Augustine and Jerome as 'the illustrious teacher of the churches'.

When Hilary returned from exile to Gaul, there was great rejoicing. He continued to write many doctrinal and historical works. He also became the first known writer of hymns in the Western Church, stressing Trinitarian themes and the unique relationship of Christ to the Father.

There are three churches dedicated to Hilary in England. His feast day begins the Hilary Term at the Law Courts and at the universities of Oxford and Dublin.



It was:

500 years ago, on 3rd January 1521 that German Protestant reformer Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X after he refused to recant his writings. A few weeks later, on 23rd January, the Diet of Worms was called by the Holy Roman Empire and ran until 25th May. This imperial assembly culminated in the Edict of the Diet of Worms, which branded Martin Luther as a heretic, and banned his writings.

150 years ago, on 26th January 1871 that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) was founded in England.

125 years ago, on 28th January 1896 that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2 mph and a person carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But Arnold drove at 8 mph without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle, arrested, and fined one shilling.

100 years ago, on 28th January 1921 that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was installed beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. It honours those who died in WWI (and later also WWII) who were never identified.

80 years ago, on 5th January 1941 that Amy Johnson, pioneering British aviator, drowned in the Thames Estuary, aged 37. She had bailed out after her plane ran out of fuel and crashed in adverse weather conditions.

75 years ago, on 3rd January 1946 that William Joyce ('Lord Haw Haw'), British fascist politician who broadcast Nazi propaganda from Germany during WWII, was hanged for treason.

70 years ago, on 9th January 1951 that the United Nations moved into its present headquarters in New York City. It is a 39-floor building in the Turtle Bay area of Manhattan, overlooking the East River.

65 years ago, on 27th January 1956, that Elvis Presley's hit song 'Heartbreak Hotel' was released. It topped the US charts in April and became his first UK hit in May of that year.

60 years ago, on 20th January 1961 that John F Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

50 years ago, on 25th January 1971 that Idi Amin became President of Uganda after deposing Milton Obote in a coup.

40 years ago, on 2nd January 1981 that British serial killer Peter Sutcliffe (the 'Yorkshire Ripper') was arrested in Sheffield, South Yorkshire. He was charged with murdering 13 women. He died of Covid-19 in November 2020.

40 years ago, on 20th January 1981, that Ronald Reagan was inaugurated the 40th President of the United States.

30 years ago, 17th January to 28th February, that the Gulf War's 'Operation Desert Storm' took place. Invading Iraqi forces were expelled from Kuwait and the Kuwaiti monarchy was restored. It was a decisive coalition victory.

25 years ago, on 27th January 1996 that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations. It marks the day (27th January 1945) when the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated.

20 years ago, on 20th January 2001, that George W Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States.

Also 20 years ago, on 31st January 2001 that a Scottish court in the Netherlands convicted Abdelbaset al-Megrahi of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988. He was the head of airport security for Libyan Arab Airlines and a suspected Libyan intelligence officer. He was sentenced to life imprisonment but released on medical grounds in 2009 and died in 2012.

10 years ago, on 4th January 2011 that Gerry Rafferty, Scottish rock singer and songwriter, died. Best known for his solo hit 'Baker Street'.

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'St Joseph the Carpenter' by Georges de la Tour. It now hangs in The Louvre in Paris.



The hidden years

When St Paul wrote about the birth and humanity of Jesus to the Philippians, he described it as an emptying and a humbling. Jesus humbled Himself, he wrote, 'and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.' In obedience and love Jesus followed the will of His Father through His ministry from baptism to the cross and Easter beyond.

But what about that period called 'the hidden years', after the Holy Family's return from Egypt? The Gospels tell us of only one event in that period leading up to adulthood: the pilgrimage to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12. For the rest of those 30 years, He lived with Mary and Joseph 'growing in wisdom and in divine and human favour.' Just as He followed His heavenly Father's will in His ministry, so in these growing years He followed the guidance and teaching of Mary and Joseph.

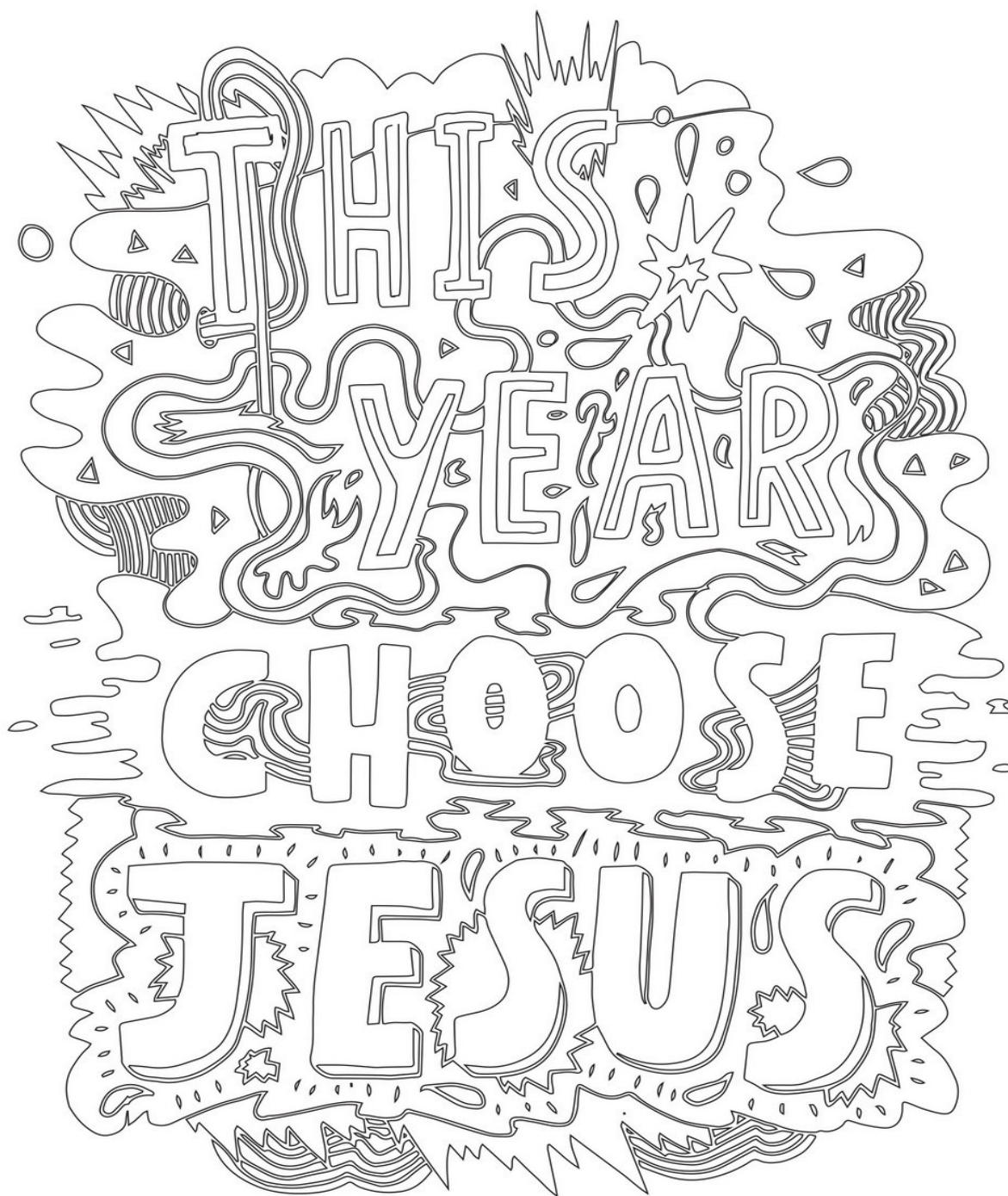
This month's painting highlights one moment in those years of growth: 'St Joseph the Carpenter' by Georges de la Tour. 'Highlights' is the right word, because this painting captures the strong contrast of light and darkness. Georges de la Tour lived from 1593 to 1652 in Lorraine. He was part of a Franciscan-led revival in that area, and this work from the 1640s captures St Joseph and the Christ-Child with Franciscan tenderness and insight.

We can see the tools of Joseph's trade on the ground. He leans over them, hard at work on a piece of wood. Jesus is sitting by his side, his face lit by the candle, which lights up the carpenter's shop. As well as contrasting light and dark, there is the contrast of young and old, and the thought that the child learning from the old man is also the one who can teach us. De la Tour was particularly fascinated by light and shadows cast by a candle or a lantern. Here the artist shows the candlelight illuminating the face of the child Jesus who will grow up to the Light of the world.

As this New Year begins, we can think back to the light from the Bethlehem manger we celebrated at Christmas. We can look ahead to the light shining from the adult Jesus through His teaching and healing. Here in these hidden years, we can celebrate the light of wisdom and divine favour, as Luke calls them, shining on the face of the child Jesus. We pray for that light to guide us through this New Year. When the way ahead may look dark and uncertain, let us pray that God's light will make clear the path ahead.

The graphic is a faithful photographic reproduction of a two-dimensional, public domain work of art. It can be found at:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Georges_de_La_Tour._St._Joseph._the_Carpenter.JPG



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

Can you colour in this poster?



Bible Bite

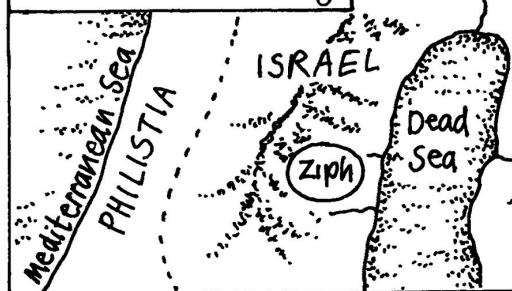
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel chapter 26 - 27:1

When King Saul wasn't fighting the Philistines to stop them invading Israel he was still trying to hunt down David.

People came to tell King Saul where David and his men were hiding. Saul took 3000 of his best soldiers and went to look for David...

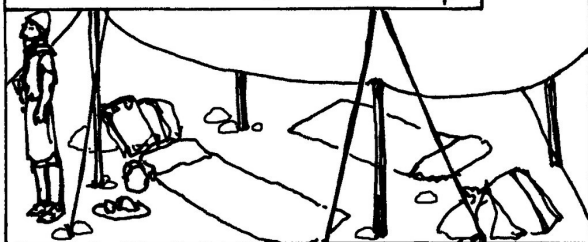
They camped near where David was hiding



When David heard that Saul was near, he crept up to the camp.



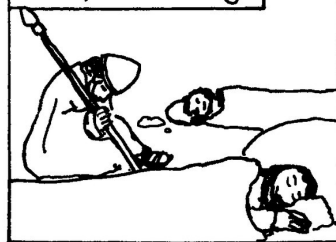
He saw that Saul and his army commander Abner were sleeping in the middle of the camp.



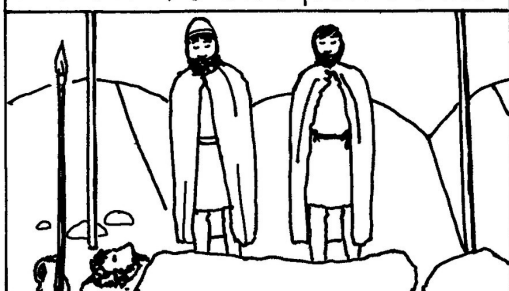
Who will come with me into the camp?



That night God made all the camp sleep soundly.



David and Abishai reached the centre and found Saul



This chance is from God! I'll kill him!



They took Saul's spear and water jar and crept out of the camp.



When they had got far enough away, David shouted



King Saul heard David and shouted back



But David knew that Saul would try again to kill him, so he left Israel and went to Philistia.

Our sincere thanks to those who have kindly placed orders with us in 2020. 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,

Wishing you all a happy new year and let us hope that 2021 is the year we begin to see some sort of normality come back in our lives with the introduction of the vaccinations against Covid-19. I am aware that people who live locally have now contracted the disease and I sincerely hope that by the time this magazine is published, they are well on the road to recovery.



As I write, we are currently re-thinking our Christmas plans in an attempt to keep our elderly mothers as safe as we possibly can. I know we are not alone and that each family will be making decisions based on their individual circumstances. But I do hope that everyone has enjoyed their Christmas, even if it meant speaking to loved ones online etc, just so that it's possible to keep in touch and be connected, even if it is over the internet. This last year has seen the internet come into it's own with the use of such applications as Zoom and Facetime to connect with those we cannot meet up with, together with a huge increase in online shopping and the introduction of far more online services. How fortunate we are that this pandemic did not strike us 25 years ago when we would not have had such options available to us.

I'm not sure what the New Year will bring and it would be worth keeping an eye on the Parish website to keep up to date as we have to remain flexible with whether or not services can go ahead as planned. There is always up to date News on the Home page: <https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/home/> and we have been operating a mailing list for weekly sheets etc. for a few months now. If you are not on that list and would like to receive the weekly news sheets and other important information, please do get in touch with myself or Debbie von Bergen (contact details for both of us on page 2) and we will happily add you!

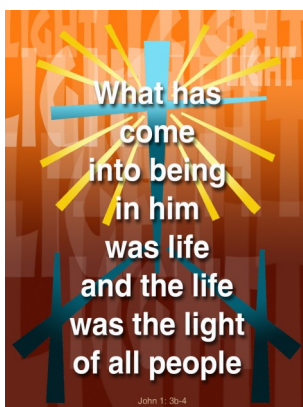
This month the issue contains many articles and the usual puzzle pages and Junior InSpire. There is 'God in the Arts' and 'God in the Sciences' featured, together with Church Times articles and a recipe page from the Church Times once more. I do hope everyone enjoyed the Quiz last month and if anyone is able to produce one occasionally—please do get in touch! It would be a welcome addition to InSpire.

If you haven't already done so, there are copies of the 'Comfort & Joy' booklet which is part of the Church of England's Christmas campaign available for you to collect in each church. Alternatively, there are other ways to access the campaign and there are further details on how to do this on page 7.

Happy New Year to you all and let's pray it is a kinder year to us all.

With my very best wishes,

Suzanne



A bit of fun ...

Films adapted for Wales

It is said that the Welsh film industry has spent lockdown planning to remake numerous well-known films, but this time with a Welsh flavour. The following have been suggested as sure winners:

- * 9½ Leeks
- * The Lost Boyos
- * Dai Hard
- * The Eagle has Llandudno
- * The Magnificent Severn
- * Haverfordwest Was Won
- * Austin Powys
- * Independence Dai
- * The Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch That Time Forgot
- * The Bridge on the River Wye
- * The Welsh Patient
- * Look You Back in Bangor
- * Evans Can Wait
- * A Fishguard Called Rhondda
- * Where Eagles Aberdare
- * Dial M For Merthyr

© Parish Pump



We must become a 'simpler, humbler, bolder Church' - Archbishops

The momentous events of 2020 will have a "profound effect" on the future of the Church of England and our wider society, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

In a recent joint address to the General Synod, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said the Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a "simpler, humbler, bolder Church."

The archbishops' comments came as they addressed the first online sitting of the General Synod following a legal change to enable it to meet remotely amid the coronavirus restrictions.

They outlined how the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout are providing the backdrop to huge social changes - here and around the world.

They also singled out how the Black Lives Matter movement and the publication of the IICSA report on abuse had exposed the Church's own failings and the need to change.

Archbishop Justin told Synod: "2020 will be a year that registers in memory and in history. It can be compared with 1929, with 1914, with 1989.

"We are aware that this is a year in which huge changes are happening in our society and consequently in the Church.

"For let us be clear, there is no possibility of changes in society failing to have a profound effect on the shape, calling and experience of mission in the Church."

Outlining the dramatic events of 2020, he added: "These crises are not signs of the absence of God but calls to recognise the presence of the kingdom and to act in faith and courage, simplifying our life focusing on Jesus Christ, looking outwards to the needy and renewing in our cells our call to wash feet, to serve our society and to be the Church *for* England."

Archbishop Stephen went on to outline the work of groups set up to discern how the Church of England might respond and change in light of the recent challenges. He told Synod: "If we put our trust in God, and if we learn to love one another, then I believe we can become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church, better able to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Time to prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

Editor: This article is by Paul Valler, Chair of the LICC Board (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.)

How many more waves?

As the days are dark, and winter still stretches ahead, many of us find the prospect of more restrictions for months to come even harder than when we first went into lockdown.

After nine months of coronavirus, we are emotionally drained. We are financially drained. We are lonely, depressed, frightened, and facing deep uncertainty, from job losses to health problems to relationship breakdown. We are running out of steam, and the virus is still going strong.

There is a strong parallel in all this with the ancient book of Job and his experience of loss and pain. Like Job, we are discovering that we are not always entitled to health, wealth, and happiness; and like Job our suffering inexplicably goes on and on. Like the irritating moralising of Job's comforters, the constant critique of the media only seems to make things worse. And, like Job, our minds are incapable of totally grasping the meaning of all this suffering. We need hope.

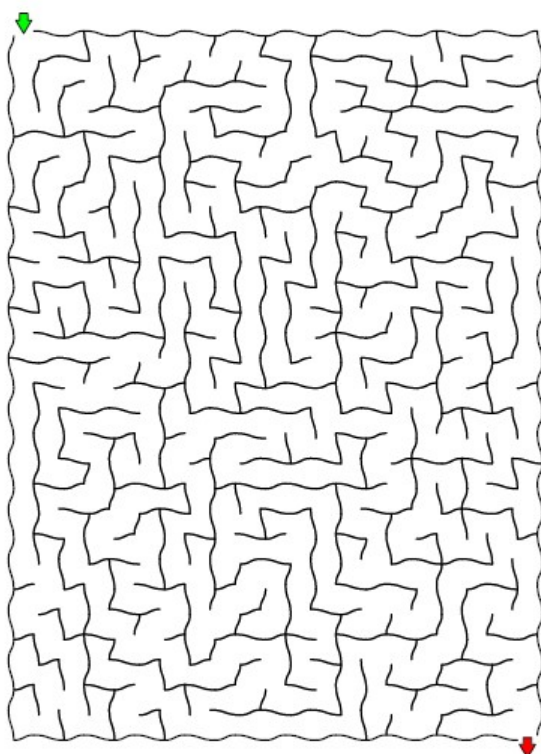
Job was deprived of everything, yet even in his despair he never lost his belief that God was there. Occasionally an indestructible hope burst forth like a ray of light in the darkness of his pain. "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." (Job 19:26).

But the truly transformative moment for Job came when, instead of seeing his situation in front of God, he finally *saw God in front of his situation*. Then, even in the intensity of his suffering, the greatness of the Almighty eclipsed the problem. That is the revelation we need.

In this sad and weary time lament is therapeutic, and we can be completely real with our Father in Heaven. Yet in our lament, the path to rekindling true hope lies in the possibility of focusing on the character and immensity of God. Greater is He that is in us than the pandemic that is in the world.

Join in with the ancient words of Psalm 42: 'Why are you downcast O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God.'

© Parish Pump



Ryan was delighted with the cloak, but not so sure about the face mask

Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the New Year ahead

Five things I'd like to see in 2021

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' Friends have been writing a special journal recording the year, so they can pass it on to their grandchildren. Others just want to leave 2020 behind and look to a happier new year.

Both reactions are completely understandable. But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list.

Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily. Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

Let's value nature. Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

Let's bless technology. Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

Let's value our church family. Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.

Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life, and be able to pass it on to others.

© Parish Pump

Being salt and light in times of sorrow

The coronavirus pandemic has placed Christians who work in roles such as funeral directors, funeral celebrants, bereavement nurses and grief counsellors (like so many in the sector) under great pressure. Often, they are working alone or in small groups where they are the only believer.

As a result, Transform Work UK has set up a Christian Support Group called Christians Working with the Bereaved (CWWtB). The hope is that it can offer prayer, support and encouragement to Christians working in this sector.

More details at: www.transformworkuk.org

Editor: New Year ... traditionally a time of resolutions and reflections. In this article, Tony Collins considers the question of how much STUFF we really need in our lives.

Struggling towards relinquishment

During lockdown the little Methodist chapel to which Pen and I belong has been refurbished.

After the builders left, we started putting things straight, and were stunned to realise how much *stuff* we had. Old hymns books. A broken communion set. Paper and defunct pens, stickers and dried glue from Messy Church. Wonky plastic chairs. A portable font. A cassette player. A communion jug from 1864. A spare organ stool. Endless vases. A handsome, heavily carved table that had been donated in memory of someone no one can remember. Not all of it useless, but none of it needed. I didn't win every discussion, but we filled a skip.

Adaptation is the motor of evolution. If we are encumbered with objects – and habits and old stories – we will be less able to change. Churches should not be museums.

Much of the problem arises from sentiment. My grandparents were world travellers, mainly in India and the Far East, and my childhood home was filled with trinkets. But one man's heirloom is another's junk, and over the course of the decades I have ditched most of the stuff that dogged my steps. If you value things for their sentimental value, rather than their intrinsic utility or beauty, your heirs will sigh as they open your attic. This is where relinquishment comes in.

Relinquishment empowers love and generosity. You'd have thought the more you have the easier it is to give. In fact, the less you have, the more lightly you sit to everything. This is the principle of the Widow's Mite; those who have relinquished much are more often willing to share.

Relinquishment is the starting point for spiritual growth. What if we've been missing the chance to discover not only who we could have been, but who we at heart really are? What if the nothing we brought and leave with is precisely our birth-right, an instrument of spiritual power? If we remove the possessions and commitments that form our armour, our true selves can emerge.

And, once your mother's ancient sideboard has finally gone, you can break out the vacuum cleaner.

Learn how to sit light to stuff by reading Pen Wilcock's new book, [Relinquishment: Making Space for What Really Matters](#), available from Amazon in paperback and ebook.



Written by Tony Collins

Tony Collins has worked for most of his life as a publisher. He is now a literary agent.

© Parish Pump

A look back over the last 60 years, at 20-year intervals, reveals the following snapshot of the ages of various residents in the White House:

60 years ago, on 20th January 1961, John F Kennedy became the 35th President of the United States. The youngest to become president by election, Kennedy was only 43 years old at his inauguration.

40 years ago, on 20th January 1981, Ronald Reagan became 40th President of the United States. At 69 years of age at the time of his first inauguration, Reagan was the oldest first-term US president, a distinction he held until 2017, when [Donald Trump](#) was inaugurated at age 70.

20 years ago, on 20th January 2001, George W Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States. He was 55 years old, almost the exact median age of US presidents on their inauguration day (which stands at 53 years and three months).

This month, on 20th January 2021, Joe Biden will be inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States. He is 78, which makes him the oldest-ever person to become president. (He turned 78 on 20th November 2020.)

© Parish Pump

HAPPY NEW YEAR

(An acrostic poem where the first letter of each line spells out the title of the poem)

Heaven's gift of another year
As the old departs and the new is born,
Plans for a future and a hope
Preparing us for each new dawn.

Yesterday has gone forever,
New days and ventures lie ahead,
Even darkness turns to light
When we make the Lord our head.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit
Ever mindful that He's there,
As we live our lives before Him
Rejoicing in His loving care.

By Megan Carter



If biblical events were being covered by today's media...

On Red Sea crossing:

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOUR STRIKE
Enforcement Officials Killed While Pursuing Unruly Mob

On the prophet Elijah on Mt Carmel:

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS ACTIVIST INTO FRENZY
400 Killed In Unprovoked Attack

On the birth of Christ:

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS EJECTED FROM SHELTER
Animal Rights Advocates Enraged by Insensitive Couple

On feeding the 5,000:

LAY PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH
Disciples Mystified Over Behaviour

On healing the 10 lepers:

QUACK PREYS ON TERMINALLY ILL
Authorities Investigating Use of Non-traditional Medical Procedure

On raising Lazarus from the dead:

ITINERANT PREACHER RAISES STINK
Will Now Being Contested by Lawyers of Heirs



© Parish Pump

Things to make you smile

The cat

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs. Irritated, the vicar followed it.

The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the parsonage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother."

A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."

Sign on the tomb of an atheist

Here lies an atheist. All dressed up and sadly no place to go.

Not comfortable

The vicar was praying for the sick and said: "We must remember Mrs Goodwin in our prayers. She recently had all her teeth taken out and a new gas stove put in."

Driven

You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.

You never learn to pray until your kids learn to drive.

© Parish Pump

Charities find new ways to raise funds in run-up to Christmas

by Pat Ashworth

10 December 2020

The Children's Society is holding a national Christingle service on Sunday



Left: Operation Christmas Child School children receive shoeboxes in Nigeria

Charities are counting the cost of the pandemic at a time when the demand for their services is greater than ever, but when limited opportunities for fund-raising are predicted to result in a £10-billion shortfall.

Those that receive much of their income at Christmas are particularly hard hit. Christingle services have generated about £1.3 million for the Children's Society in recent years: roughly six per cent of its annual fund-raising income. Thousands of people came together in 2019 for more than 4670 local Christingle events around the country.

The director of engagement and income-generation, Joe Jenkins, said that it had been a difficult year for the charity, as there had been a drastic fall in fund-raising because of the coronavirus crisis.

"At the same time, lockdown and restrictions have left many children trapped at home, isolated from family and friends, and, in some cases, increasing the risks of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and loneliness," he said. "These risks may have been hidden from the view of professionals like teachers and social workers who might normally spot the warning signs.

"Fund-raising events like Christingle are vital in enabling us to support these children and give them hope of a brighter future. We certainly hope that people will use Christingle to fund-raise for us this Christmas; so that we can continue our work to provide support for children and young people through the darkest of times."

Some churches are holding traditional events, with social-distancing rules in place, but the Society is also providing churches with the resources to hold a "virtual Christingle". Schools were still getting involved in creative ways, Mr Jenkins said, and, for the first time, the Society was holding a national Christingle service in partnership with the Church of England, on Sunday.

"People attending the online service will be asked to share a message of hope with a vulnerable young person," he said. "In this way, we plan to make Christingle even bigger and brighter than ever before."

The pandemic has exacerbated existing hardship in many parts of the world. The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid Development takes the form of a mother-and-child Advent appeal to raise support for initiatives connected with expectant and young mothers and the challenges they face in keeping themselves and their children safe. The reach of this appeal was debated at the Church's General Synod last week.

In Nepal, the need is for emergency food for pregnant and lactating mothers, whose access to harvests, work, and food have been severely affected by the pandemic. In Cambodia, the appeal will support the crisis work of Tearfund Ireland; and, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it will support Christian Aid's work with families fleeing conflict. In Sierra Leone, the refurbishment of health clinics is the urgent priority.

The Christian homelessness charity Oasis Community Housing has found a way of presenting its Giving a Home appeal to house rough-sleepers both at Christmas and throughout 2021. Donors can "buy" the ingredients for a virtual gingerbread house being constructed online, and, for every £2000 donated, a gingerbread person will move into the house. The charity delivers food, warmth, and medicines, and provides counselling and a safe environment for 2000 people in the north-east and London.

Virtual boxes are a feature of Christmas shoebox appeals this year as an alternative to church and community groups' physically packing them together. Operation Christmas Child's Shoebox Online gives people the chance to select appropriate gifts for the chosen gender and age group, and to send a personal message to the recipient; 26,000 had already been filled late last month — three times the amount packed by the same time last year.

It allowed people to offer “a tangible act of kindness, even while in lockdown, which we hope will contribute to the mental well-being of children in the most vulnerable communities”, the director of Operation Christmas Child, Nick Cole, said:

“Now that lockdown is over, physical boxes can dropped off at collection points across the UK until 14 December, ready to be sent to vulnerable children around the world”. Ms Cole said: “Having moved our collection week to coincide with the end of the national lockdown has meant that we can ensure as many children as possible will be gifted a big smile, and feel and know that they're loved and special.”

The international Roman Catholic volunteering organisation St Vincent de Paul (SVP) currently holds the world record for the most money raised online in 24 hours: Giving Tuesday raised £14.2 million for UK causes last year, and is widely seen as a compassionate counterpoint to the consumerism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

This year, its national campaign, Rise to the Challenge, spearheaded Giving Tuesday, last week, when all funds raised went towards the SVP's Covid-19 recovery programme.

“Covid-19 has changed our way of life, and, for some of the most vulnerable people, it has been devastating,” the charity said before Giving Tuesday. “Increased financial pressures, a growing sense of isolation, and the constant fear of infection have contributed to a decline in the mental health of the nation. Giving Tuesday offers an opportunity to redress the balance and give something positive back to our communities.”

Despite having had no pilgrimages to the Holy Land since March, the McCabe Educational Trust still managed to give £265,000 to suffering communities encountered on previous pilgrimages. Its Trust reserves were now depleted, the company reported late month, and continuing lockdowns and quarantines could mean little or no income for many months to come.

“If you think the situation in the UK has been grim, it has been even worse in places like Israel and Palestine, where there has not been the government support available,” the charity said.

Its Christmas Appeal 2020 seeks to raise £85,000 to help maintain its quarterly grants to communities in Bethlehem and Bethany; to support five sponsored children in India; and to keep a discretionary fund for ad hoc needs, besides continuing to pass on dedicated funding to school, hospital, and rehabilitation projects.

The Salvation Army's secretary for communications, Lt. Col. Dean Pallant, said late last month that the first priority during the pandemic remained the safety of its bands and the public, but there was concern about the loss of income.

“Christmas carolling in the streets and shopping centres of the UK raises £3 million a year; we anticipate this figure will be much lower this year,” he said. “We are encouraged that small bands — subject to local authority permission — will be able to return to town centres in England and Wales, and we hope in the time that is left they will still be able to raise much needed cash for our frontline services.

“However, this is exactly why our national Christmas appeal is so important this year, as people can still donate towards our vital work. It is needed more than ever to support those hardest hit by the pandemic, like struggling families relying on our foodbanks, rough-sleepers needing a hot meal, or isolated older people needing doorstep friendship.”

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<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2020/11-december/news/uk/charities-find-new-ways-to-raise-funds-in-run-up-to-christmas>

Wine: Produced for mass

by Christopher Fielden

Published: 25 September 2020

THE importance of the Church in the history of wine cannot be under-estimated. In Europe, it was the monasteries that led the way. At the time of the French Revolution, the Cistercian order was the largest vineyard owner in Burgundy and the reputation of its wines was spread widely through its daughter houses.

In the New World, however, it was the missionaries who planted the first vines, to provide them with wine for the mass. While the very first were planted in Hispaniola, now the Dominican Republic, as early as 1493, they were a failure, but the success of the Church in spreading its message in Mexico led to increasing demand for wine.



The Jesuits, followed by the Augustinians and the Franciscans, took the message and the wine on to Baja California, and then California itself. As one 18th-century writer said, "The missions did not sell the wine, but they used it in the mass, at table, and for the sick."

In Argentina, Juan Cidrón is credited with being the father of the wine industry. In 1553, the inhabitants of the northern town of Santiago del Estero complained that there was no priest in the community, and Cidrón was sent over the Andes from Chile. He is recorded as having arrived with a crucifix in one hand and a bundle of vine shoots and cotton seed in the other.

Perhaps it is surprising that there was just one grape variety common to this wave of church colonisation. This is the undistinguished Spanish variety now known as the Listán Prieto. Historically, it appeared under a number of aliases, but in California it came to be known as the mission grape, in Argentina as the Criolla Chica, and in Chile as the País.

It is in Chile, however, that it has managed to maintain a foothold: there are still wide plantings in the unirrigated vineyards of the southern region of the Maule Valley. Chile is not a wine-drinking country, beer is widely preferred, but there has been an important market for basic wine in litre Tetra Bricks. This has been largely filled by País wine. Now, there is a movement to rehabilitate this grape, and there are rare examples of its appearing as a single varietal wine in this country.

I have just tasted one of these: the Reserva de Pueblo Uva País 2015, from the Miguel Torres winery. It is a 12 percent Fairtrade wine, and is made largely with carbonic maceration, the method that gives Beaujolais so much of its juicy fruitiness.

I opened this bottle at the height of the heatwave, and first found it rather unappealing. I put what we had not drunk back in the fridge, however, and the following day it appeared a different animal: an attractive butterfly had emerged from its chrysalis, with soft red fruit flavours. If only for historical interest's sake, this wine is worth a try. It is available from, among others, the Fareham Wine Cellar, and Fine Wines Direct UK, in Cardiff, for about £10 the bottle.

A New Year's resolution-prayer - following in His footsteps

Almighty eternal, just and merciful God, grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

St Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226)

This **Mediterranean shepherd's pie** brings moussaka-type flavours to sustain through the cold dark days.

1 large onion
2 carrots
2 celery sticks
2 cloves garlic
1 lb (450g) minced lamb
1 large aubergine, washed and diced
2 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons tomato purée
1 lamb stock cube
2 teaspoons oregano
1 glass (200ml) red wine
1 can chopped tomatoes
1 red pepper, diced
200g (½ lb) button mushrooms
1kg (2 lb) potatoes
450ml (1 pt) milk
45g (1½ oz) flour
45g (1½ oz) butter
120g (4 oz) cheddar cheese

Peel and dice the onion, then gently fry off in a couple of tablespoons of olive oil. Peel the carrots and dice along with the celery. Add to the onion for a couple of minutes. Bash the garlic cloves, remove the skins, chop finely, and add to the pan with the lamb mince. Brown the meat, then add the aubergine. Once it softens and colours, sprinkle over the flour with the tomato purée, stock cube, and oregano. Cook for a couple of minutes, then add the wine and tomatoes. Incorporate well before stirring in the pepper mushrooms. Simmer for 20 minutes. It should feel thick.

Peel and slice the potatoes. Pour the meat mixture into a large baking dish, layering the potato slices over the top, and then sprinkle with salt.

Whisk together the milk, flour, and butter in a pan until it boils and thickens. Simmer briefly with a pinch of salt and half the cheese. Pour this over the potato top; scatter with the remaining cheese. Place in the oven at 180°C/350°F/Gas 4 for an hour or so until browned.

Hurrah for blood oranges, ideal for **Sussex pond pudding**.

240g (8 oz) self-raising flour
120g (4 oz) suet
½ teaspoon cinnamon
120ml (4 fl. oz) half milk/half water
120g (4 oz) butter
120g (4 oz) soft brown sugar
2-3 blood oranges, scrubbed
5 cardamom pods, bruised

Mix the flour, suet, and cinnamon, then combine with the milk and water to form a dough. Set aside one quarter, and roll the rest out into a circle. Grease a 1½-litre (2½ pt) pudding basin, line it with the pastry circle, pressing down and on the sides to join together. Cube the butter and put half inside with half the sugar. Cut into the oranges on alternate sides to create a sort of concertina; place inside the pastry, scatter over the cardamom, and top with the remaining butter and sugar. Roll out the remaining pastry to create a lid, and press this on the pudding to seal. Take a large sheet of kitchen foil and fold over in the middle to create a 5cm (2 in.) pleat. Fasten with an elastic band and place in a double-boiler, and steam for 3-4 hours. When ready to serve, ease the sides with a knife, invert on to a plate, and serve with ice cream.

Wordsearch Clues

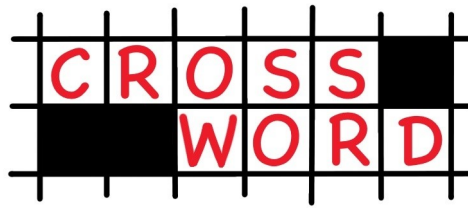
The Christmas story carries on into the New Year, with Epiphany and the arrival of the Wise Men, led by the Star in the East. Through the eyes of faith, they saw Messiah in that small baby, and worshipped him, giving gifts that foresaw his life and work. New Year is also a time of new beginnings for us – resolutions about diets and paying the bills and doing better at work... Happy New Year!

Epiphany
Wise
Men
Camels
Baby
Jesus
Star
Herod
Worship
Gold
Frankincense
Myrrh
New
Resolutions
Bills
Work
Study
Running
Gym

W	H	R	N	A	M	E	R	H	E	B	O
G	I	N	L	B	B	L	Y	Y	W	J	E
N	W	S	C	S	M	D	B	C	R	E	W
L	H	O	E	J	N	A	Y	A	U	S	I
N	E	W	R	P	B	P	N	M	N	U	S
F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E
E	O	M	M	H	L	P	M	L	I	T	L
M	D	Y	S	M	L	G	H	S	N	U	G
R	G	R	T	O	S	L	D	A	G	D	O
L	O	H	A	E	R	N	A	E	N	Y	L
W	A	H	R	N	N	R	S	S	R	Y	D
R	E	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	S	I

All Puzzle solutions are on page 31

January

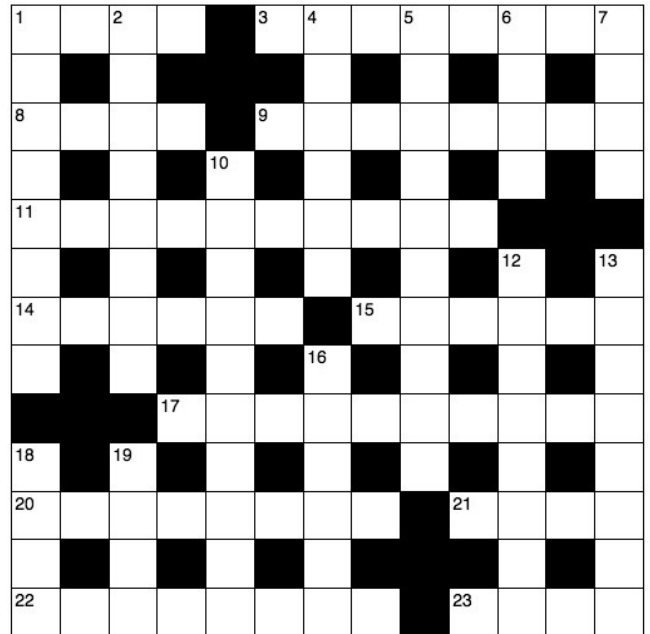


Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 16 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



Easy Level Sudoku

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

Medium Level Sudoku

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

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

A Scientist's Letter to the UK Church: Power, love and self-control

I want to share a message of hope that Christians in the sciences around the world can bring to the church. Dr Francis Collins, who leads medical research in the US, spoke earlier in the pandemic about his faith and his hope in God to help us through this time. He expressed the grief that so many are experiencing, described an intensity of scientific work he has never experienced before, and shared his conviction that he is in exactly the right place just now - serving God with science. He is holding on tight to the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 1:7, 'for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.'

Power

In 2 Timothy the apostle Paul encourages his friend to 'fan into flame the gift of God' that is in him. I am thankful that scientists like Francis are using their own particular talents to understand this virus, and to help prevent or treat infection. The things they discover are not just useful, but at times they can also display the beauty and wonder of God's creation.

Love

A scientist shows their love for God, for people and for the rest of creation through their work in the lab. One scientist described his experiences to me: "I study God's fingerprints in His creation to learn more of Him and the world He placed us in and to learn how we should take care of it and each other...I pray for inspiration and insight into how His creation works...and that He provides the opportunities to give the glory to Him."

Self-Control

It is largely our own and others' selfish actions that can turn one animal's friendly virus into our own species' personal nightmare. Thankfully Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection are the solution to evil. Our ultimate and certain hope is that one day all Creation will be renewed. We can also have hope for today, that God is with us in our suffering. When we respond in positive ways to painful events, that is evidence that Jesus is alive and working in our lives.

Science will not solve all our problems, but with God's help and wisdom we can use the tools of science to serve him and love others. Let's pray together for the strength to cope, and for an end to this pandemic.



Puzzle Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

Wordsearch solution

W	H	R	N	A	M	E	R	H	E	B	O
G	I	N	L	B	B	L	Y	Y	W	J	E
N	W	S	C	S	M	D	B	C	R	E	W
L	H	O	E	J	N	A	Y	A	U	S	I
N	E	W	R	P	B	P	N	M	N	U	S
F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E
E	O	M	M	H	L	P	M	L	I	T	L
M	D	Y	S	M	L	G	H	S	N	U	G
R	G	R	T	O	S	L	D	A	G	D	O
L	O	H	A	E	R	N	A	E	N	Y	L
W	A	H	R	N	N	R	S	S	R	Y	D
R	E	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	S	I

Crossword solution

C	O	C	K		S	H	A	C	K	L	E	S
U		H				E		H		O		L
P	L	A	Y		P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E
O		R		T		P		L		S		W
F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	L	Y			
T		S		E		P		E		L		U
E	N	M	E	S	H		U	N	S	E	E	N
A		A		E		D		G		W		E
				A	R	M	A	G	E	D	D	O
B		S		V		N		D		N		D
B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N		B	E	R	I
F		A		N		E			S			N
C	A	P	I	T	A	L	S		U	S	P	G

Easy Soduko solution

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

Medium Soduko solution

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

Happy New Year to all our Readers!



The Lord God says, “Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the eternal paths, where the good way is; walk in it and you will find rest for your souls.” Jer 6:16

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.**
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