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# Inspire

Issue 47 February 2021

shelter of your wings Ps 17:8

## Keep me in the

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley



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**Happy 4th Birthday to InSpire!**

It started in February 2017 and now 46 issues later we find ourselves celebrating four years! The first issue was 14 pages and is now regularly 36 pages plus! Our Sponsors kindly allow us to keep producing the magazine and for it to be available to all who want it—free of charge!

I hope that it still still enjoyed by everyone and that you find it interesting, helpful, informative and amusing in equal measures!

Best wishes,  
Suzanne,  
Editor of InSpire

**Inspire** is available to download from the church website:-  
[www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine/](http://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine/) **Page 2**

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

This issue is kindly sponsored by

**Anthea & Alan Smallwood**

Our thanks to them both for their kind sponsorship and all that they do for our church.

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*Dear all,*

I am no marathon runner but I can imagine that it is typical that in those final last stages of a race i.e. more than three quarters through with the end in sight - these must be some of the most difficult to physically and mentally to run - your body and mind is tired yet you have to keep going. Yes the combination of January and a more intensive lockdown because of the Covid variant is tough. Yet and yet the end is in sight. It has been a delight and wonder that so many of our over eighties and key workers have proudly been vaccinated and surely helps us all to cope with current restrictions. Each of the three lockdowns we have experienced have seemed to have their different flavours so to speak. Last March seemed very much quieter and of course we had the blessing of the beautiful Spring in which I remember lots of lovely walks with bluebells and primroses, exploring more of our local countryside around Capel and Ockley, clapping for the NHS and Carers, digging allotments, scarecrows and all sorts! Flexibility arrived in the early summer so that was another change and support bubbles too! The November lockdown had a different flavour altogether, not such good weather then, but Christmas was ahead and I used the time to get ahead for Christmas services and all that entailed as well as online shopping! We also began to think about the Nativity scene that graced our front lawn in December, with the help of Christina Curtis who masterminded the wonderful figures that took up residence! It was such a joy to see how people would stop and pause, take photos, pose beside and explain the scene to their children. Gary Collins lit the whole scene up and with Doug's magnificent guiding star held up by various apparatus until Storm Bella decided to hit that is; which led to the star moving over to take up its final position above the stable itself. Quite right of course theologically!

So what next then?! What will be the flavour for this lockdown I wonder? For me I think it is good to really listen to what others are saying in the way of good advice and wisdom. It is easy in our usual busyness to just brush off much of the good stuff that comes our way. Much easier to instead remember the negative?! The enforced staying at home for a lot of us means we have a unique opportunity to spend time doing something we always say we don't have time for or maybe discover we don't ever want to do that thing?! Spring lockdown saw me begin some much needed interior decorating - there's always that to finish.... Whatever it is and at the moment I find its just plodding on in that marathon scenario, I am beginning to see signs of Spring as this month we enter the season of Lent. And what does Lent lead to? It leads to Easter and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus along with all the new life that is always there however hidden by viruses and lockdowns.

Looking forward to Lent we have decided to study something which we have all appreciated hugely in recent times - creation and all that is within it. Called 'Creation Matters' it is a course which will meet initially via Zoom on Monday evenings at 7pm beginning on February 22nd. Please let me know if you wish to join us. We shall be covering such matters as why we should care for creation, climate change, our attitudes to animals and how to apply what we learn to the way we live. This is looked at from the Christian viewpoint but we have much to learn from each other, so don't feel you have to be a paid up Christian to join in! We will be using scripture as our text but people of all faiths or none very welcome indeed.

It has of course been a great sadness to have to close our churches for public worship but do remember that we are broadcasting a service for you each week on our parish website [capelandockleychurch.co.uk](http://capelandockleychurch.co.uk). If you are not an online person then please do contact me or one of the team to arrange for a DVD or a printout of our weekly readings and notes which we can deliver to you. There will also be copies just inside church each week along with this our wonderful InSpire church magazine and the new Capel and Beare Green magazine! A huge thank you to Corrine for taking on the editorship and production of this. Please do support her and all of us by giving her material and your thoughts for this new venture. We are of course always here for you to assist with all the usual offices and a listening ear. We would love to hear from you and how you are doing in these times. There are restrictions still with baptisms, weddings and funerals but the latter still take place of course albeit in smaller numbers. I look forward to being very busy in the future when we can all meet unrestricted and join in all the many celebrations that have up till now been postponed.

So as we finish this month of January on the high note of Jesus' presentation at the Temple in Jerusalem when we have celebrated Jesus as the light of the world, let us be those who will carry our own light and join it to his as we travel towards Lent and Easter and get this marathon finished!

With my love and prayers as ever,

*Revd Liz*

**Revd Liz Richardson** [liz@hostmyserver.co.uk](mailto:liz@hostmyserver.co.uk) 01306 711260

Vicar St John the Baptist Capel and St Margaret's Ockley

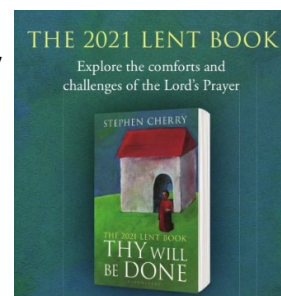
## Some Lent recommendations from Rev Liz

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'**Thy will be done**' by Stephen Cherry (2021 Lent Book) a look at the Lord's Prayer but may be too similar to the Creed which you all did before in some ways but this is a new book written by a very good author and Bishop.

**Candles in the Dark** - Faith, hope and love in a time of pandemic by Rowan Williams and recommended by Jonathan Sacks - looks quite readable and very relevant!

**The Book of Praises** - translations from the psalms by Roger Wagner - a beautiful new book which is just a lovely book which would be a good accompaniment to studying the psalms but doesn't offer commentary but is just beautiful!!



## Lent Books 2021

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season for self-examination in preparation for Easter.

View our selection of new books and courses to accompany you through Lent this year.

**Discounts of 10% and more on selected titles!**

Monday 1 February, 6pm-7.15pm

**Online Event - Lent Books: Discussion and Readings**

A look at this year's selection of Lent books hosted by Mark Oakley. With authors: Stephen Cherry (Thy Will Be Done), Hannah Steele (Living His Story), Sheila Upjohn (The Way of Julian of Norwich), and Samuel Wells (A Cross in the Heart of God). This free event will be streamed on the Church House Bookshop Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/events/420618378988391>



<https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/features/lent-books-2021>

## NEWS from the Pews

**Would you like to sponsor the December 2021 issue of InSpire?** Sponsorship enables us to keep it free of charge for our readers?

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

***Our sincere thanks to all the other sponsors who have come forward to sponsor an issue in 2021 ... we couldn't do it without you!***

### From the Registers

We mourn the loss of

**Ian McRankin Rankin**  
17th December 2020

**Colin John Bushnell**  
1st January 2021

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*





***The PCC met on Monday 25th January and have agreed that there will be no church services in February due to the large number of Covid cases and the national Lockdown.***

*Services are being reviewed on a monthly basis currently by Capel & Ockley PCC. We will keep you informed of the outcomes.*

Our churches are currently closed for Sunday worship but are still open for private prayer and reflection. St John the Baptist is open each day during daylight hours and St Margaret's Ockley is open at weekends only. We hope and look forward to meeting as a congregation as soon as it is safe to do so. Please watch out for notices via the church noticeboards, our parish website, facebook and other social media for up to date information. In the meantime please do join us in worship online at [capelandockleychurch.org.uk](http://capelandockleychurch.org.uk) to access the weekly Sunday Worship service led by Reverend Liz. If you would like to receive the weekly notes and notice sheets for our churches please let Revd Liz know on [liz@hostmyserver.co.uk](mailto:liz@hostmyserver.co.uk) or 01306 711260 and we will arrange for you to receive these by email or paper copy by delivery to you. For your information our usual pattern of services is as below in any month.

### **St John the Baptist Capel**

First, third and fourth Sundays at 10.30am - Family Communion - CW  
Second Sunday at 10.30am - Cafe Church at The Crown

### **St Margaret's Ockley**

First and Third Sundays at 9.30am - BCP Matins 1662  
Second Sunday at 9.30am - Family Communion -CW  
Fourth Sunday at 9.30am - Morning Worship - CW

BCP - Book of Common Prayer 1662  
CW - Common Worship 2005

To discuss baptism, weddings, funerals and other occasional offices please contact:

Revd Liz Richardson, The Vicarage, High Lea, 54 The Street, Capel, RH5 5LE  
01306 711260 or 07837408239 or email [liz@hostmyserver.co.uk](mailto:liz@hostmyserver.co.uk)

Revd Liz also holds Dorking Foodbank vouchers and so please contact her if you need help in this way.

## **February Lent Course**

### **CREATION MATTERS**

6 sessions focusing on how we can better care for God's creation.

A mix of bible studies and practical reflections on the way we live and how we think

Begins Monday 22nd February at 7pm via Zoom

Further details will be given but in the meantime please contact Revd Liz to sign up.

[liz@hostmyserver.co.uk](mailto:liz@hostmyserver.co.uk) 01306 711260 or text 07837408239

All welcome - we need to learn from each other



## **LENT 2021**

Starts Wednesday 17th March and  
ends Saturday 3rd April 2021



## Online Services

Online services will continue for February,  
*would you like to be part of one of them?*

We would love you to do one of the readings  
for the week  
or even some simple prayers.

Have a chat with Revd. Liz 01306 711260 if  
you can help.

Online service links are sent out with the weekly  
sheets each weekend and you can find them on  
the Parish website.

## Fundraising Events update

We cannot currently see a way to hold our usual  
Vicarage Fete due to the ongoing pandemic. We decided  
at PCC on 25th January to keep reviewing the situation  
and maybe hold a smaller event of some sort if and when  
it becomes possible.

Our **Capel Christmas Fair** on Saturday 20th November  
12.00 noon until 4pm is being planned currently as we  
hope that by then we may be able to proceed. We will  
be raising money for our two Parish churches and  
The Motor Neurone Disease Association.

## 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](mailto:leighdesouza@yahoo.com)  
or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 [liz@hostmyserver.co.uk](mailto: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.**



# Valentine's Day

**God's love and faithfulness will last for ever. Psalm 100:5 You are good to us, Lord, and your love never fails. Psalm 106:1 Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful and trusting. 1 Corinthians 13:7 Love comes from God, and when we love each other it shows that we have been given new life. 1 John 4:7 God showed His love for us when He sent His only son into the world to give us life. 1 John 4:9 1 Corinthians 13:13 For now there are faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.**

The Rev Paul Hardingham considers Love ...

## How will you express love this Valentine's Day?

Valentines' Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love in our everyday relationships like Jesus i.e. spouse, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

**Listening** We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? When with somebody, do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before they've finished speaking? Listening takes time; you can't rush it!

**Touching** Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of his day. One survey has suggested that we all need at least 8-10 meaningful touches a day to maintain emotional health! A warm handshake, touch on the arm or hug can be of real value. Of course, it should be appropriate touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

**Speaking** Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of truth, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: 'speaking the truth in love'.

*Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?*

*Editor's note: This article featured in February 2017's first edition of InSpire. Clearly 'touching' is a little difficult in the current pandemic! But we can look forward to times when it is possible once more. Since this article was published in 2017, we note that the Rev Paul Hardingham is now a Canon as per his more recent article on page 10.*



**'Commit to the Lord whatever you do and he will establish your plans.' 'In their hearts, humans plan their course but the Lord establishes their steps.' Proverbs 16:3,9**

## HOSPITALS

### MONDAY 1st

*Loving Father, we bring before You the many people who have been admitted to hospital today. Be with each one we pray and may Your love and peace strengthen and calm them.*

### TUESDAY 2nd

*Father God, bless our Health Service to thrive, to prosper and to heal. Bless our doctors, nurses and all the hospital staff to cope with the current crisis and bless our nation to understand, to thank and to honour those who seek to bring us healing in body and mind.*

### WEDNESDAY 3rd

*Father, You reveal knowledge to scientists and doctors. We thank You for every medical breakthrough, for expertise and for the welfare we enjoy in our nation.*

### THURSDAY 4th

*Lord, You are the God of comfort and rest. Be close to each patient in hospital tonight, especially those who are finding sleep and rest so difficult. Be near to those who are frightened or disorientated and may Your peace fill their hearts.*

### FRIDAY 5th

*Dear Lord, we thank You for the compassionate hearts of all who work in hospitals and care homes. Strengthen them as they go about their tasks and bring them rest and peace at the end of their shift.*

### SATURDAY 6th

*Almighty God, we pray for all the domestic, catering and other 'unseen' staff in hospitals and care homes. Thank You for the work they do concerning the nourishment and comfort of each patient.*

### SUNDAY 7th

*Father God, we lift up to You all the wards and departments in our hospitals. We pray that there will be beds for all who need them, equipment to bring healing and alleviate pain and sufficient medication for protection.*

## POVERTY

**"I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy." Psalm 140:12**

### MONDAY 8th

*Loving Father, thank You that even in times of need, despair, and brokenness, You are there. Please, put Your arms around children and families in extreme poverty so they feel comfort and hope; meet their needs both physically and spiritually. And guide us so we can be your hands and feet pursuing justice for the poor.*

### TUESDAY 9th

*Almighty and Most Merciful God, we pray for poor people around the world who may have been sidelined by our preoccupation with the pandemic. You taught us to speak out for what is right so may our prayer be for a world transformed by love and generosity where poverty shall be no more.*

### WEDNESDAY 10th

*Dear Lord, we pray for generous hearts and a compassion for those who have less than we do. May we always feel a need to do your work here so that we are able and willing to touch lives that need us.*

### THURSDAY 11th

*God of Justice and Compassion, we ask forgiveness for the continuing disparities between those who have so much and those who have so little. We pray for the relief of the suffering of those who are hungry and thirsty, for those who have no homes or the basics for comfortable living.*

### FRIDAY 12th

*Dear Lord, we pray for those whose needs for daily living have gone unfulfilled. The poor, the hungry, the neglected and those without a place to lay their heads are present to us. Let us remember to care for their needs with love and compassion.*

### SATURDAY 13th

*Loving Father, we pray for policies of justice and fairness within our Government that they will prioritise the needs of the poorer families of our nation. Guide and strengthen all politicians so that, with Your hand to lead, a better future will emerge.*

### SUNDAY 14th

*God of comfort and joy, we thank You for all the simple acts of kindness in our communities and neighbourhoods during the pandemic. May we find God's love in Jesus Christ and share that love to all who are vulnerable.*

May there be  
within this day  
quiet moments,  
when I can rest  
in your presence,  
sit for a while  
at your feet,  
be still, and  
simply listen.





**GENTLENESS**

**'Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.'** Philippians 4:5

**MONDAY 15th**

*God of all the world, help us today to live with faith and love, that with gentleness and courage we may give freely to others as You have given freely to us.*

**TUESDAY 16th**

*Heavenly Father, we look back on the events of last year with sadness, with hurt and with some discomfort. May we remember that You give light to those who live in darkness so, as we look ahead, may we feel Your gentle guidance through our difficulties and find rest in You for the future.*

**WEDNESDAY 17th**

*Father God, we lift up all families to You. Bless them with the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, especially with the gift of gentleness. As they interact with each other, help families to be gentle in their speech and actions.*

**THURSDAY 18th**

*Father, in this world full of anger and despair, let our hearts and minds be tranquil and calm. Allow our spirits of love, kindness and gentleness to infiltrate and infect the land. Let it spread like a wildfire across the nation.*

**FRIDAY 19th**

*Healing and gentle Lord, teach us to be like You in all our ways. Teach us kindness, gentleness and generosity. Guide us to be giving, forgiving, loving and caring. Teach us to follow in Your humble footsteps. Guide us to the place You want us to be.*

**SATURDAY 20th**

*Lord Jesus Christ, help us to follow Your example of gentleness. Help us to be gentle when we face frustrating situations. Help us to be gentle when we judge others unfairly. Help us to be gentle when we are overwhelmed by injustice. Help us to be gentle when we feel agitated. Lord, make us gentle for Your glory.*

**SUNDAY 21st**

*Merciful God, remind us of the many ways You have shown gentleness to us. When we respond to others, help us to see how You love them. Show us how to stand for what is right without abandoning gentleness and respect. Let our gentleness be evident and a clear sign that You are at work in our lives.*

**FRUITFULNESS**

**'Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.'** John 15:4

**MONDAY 22nd**

*Heavenly Father, we pray that You would remove any areas in our lives that hinder us from being fruitful in Your service. Search our hearts and attitudes and may we learn to walk in Spirit and truth more and more. Thank You Father that You have given us everything that is needful for godly living and a fruitful life.*

**TUESDAY 23rd**

*Father God, help us to remain in You. Help us to remain dependent, prayerful and full of trust so that we will lead others to You. Let us think of someone today who needs us to listen, to help, to comfort and to encourage.*

**WEDNESDAY 24th**

*Dearest Lord, we thank You for all who have responded to Your call to go out into Your harvest field. We pray that You would fill us with faith and love, give us boldness and gracious speech that we might reap a harvest for You.*

**THURSDAY 25th**

*Heavenly Father we thank You for the prayers and examples of families, friends and the church who have touched the lives of people around them. Help us all to sow seeds and to gather new children into Your Kingdom that we might rejoice together with the angels in Heaven!*

**FRIDAY 26th**

*Father God, may Your word be understood, received in good soil, take root and grow strong all over the world. And, over time, may Your message of love be proclaimed by new disciples obedient to Your word.*

**SATURDAY 27th**

*Lord we thank You for each parent who lets their child come into Your presence. We pray that You will speak to their hearts that they may choose to continue to let their children come to You. We pray for all ministries that they will keep the doors open for children to hear Your word and grow up knowing Your love and truth.*

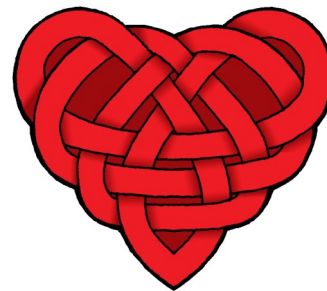
**SUNDAY 28th**

*Loving Father, help us to keep praying when it seems that our prayers are being unfruitful. Keep us seeking Your Spirit as we await Your timing. And lead us to live in grace and mercy towards those who turn away from Your love and Your promises.*

## Love Is...

As we mark Valentines' Day this month, it's good to ask the question: *what does real love look like?*

The Apostle Paul says: *'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'* (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).



### **Love is unconditional:**

At heart, love is not just feelings but action! Paul talks here about unconditional love, using the word *agape*, which demonstrated in God's love for us: *'We love, because He first loved us.'* (1 John 4:19).

### **Love is forgiving:**

According to the film Love Story, *'Love means never having to say you're sorry.'* This is rarely true in our experience! According to Paul, love is being ready to forgive others and *'keeping no record of wrongs'* (5). We can only forgive others because we know God forgiveness in our own lives.

### **Love is sacrificial:**

Paul says that agape love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of other people first. This is modelled by Jesus giving His life for us on the cross. Take the words from 1 Corinthians and instead of the word *love*, substitute your own name. Now substitute the word *Jesus*. This is the Jesus who is available to you to make your love for others grow and flourish.

Someone once compared love being like a group of porcupines huddling together on a cold night. The closer they get, the more they jab and hurt each other. *'To love at all is to be vulnerable.'* (C S Lewis).

© Parish Pump

## A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

*Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger, envy, or self-pity.*

*Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and few self-centered needs, stronger compassion and weakened judgement of others.*

*Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.*

*In your sacred name, I pray.  
Amen*



## Prayer of thanks for God's light

Father of all creation,

Thank you for signs of life and light, even in the dark and sometimes difficult days of winter. Thank you for Jesus' victory over darkness and death – and for the assurance that, if we put our trust in Him - nothing can ever separate us from you.

Help us to hold onto the hope you have given us and to walk on with Jesus as our guiding light. And may His light attract others who don't yet know Him and whom the darkness threatens to overwhelm.

Shine on us, Lord, that we may reflect your light and receive your peace.

In Jesus's name.

Amen

By Daphne Kitching

© Parish Pump



### **2<sup>nd</sup> February: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

### **14<sup>th</sup> February: Valentine's Day**

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4<sup>th</sup> century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day - 14<sup>th</sup> February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

### **Ash Wednesday: My memory of the Passover in Jerusalem**

*by David Winter*

Ash Wednesday introduces the Christian preparation for Easter, which normally coincides with Passover, the major Jewish celebration of the year. It's near Easter because Jesus was crucified at Passover, having just shared this very meal with His disciples.

Passover celebrates and recalls the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. Led by Moses they crossed the Red Sea and 40 days later entered the 'Promised Land.' They shared the Passover meal at their last night in Egypt and have kept it all for nearly the past three thousand years or so that have followed.

Many years ago, when I was in Jerusalem to produce a radio programme, I was invited to join a Jewish family for their Passover meal. It was a great occasion, very like our Christmas, a family event with deep religious significance for those who seek it.

At the meal in Jerusalem, we ate modest lentils and unleavened bread - Matzos as we now call it. We also drank plenty of wine but not from the cup at the end of the table. That is 'Elijah's cup', only to be drunk from when the prophet comes to announce the arrival of the Messiah. At the last supper Jesus instructed His disciples to drink from that cup after supper, which may have shocked them at the time. The Messiah had come!

It was:

**200 years ago**, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1821 that John Keats, the poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 25. \* *See article opposite.*

**125 years ago**, on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1896 that the premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera *La boheme*, took place in Turin, Italy.

**75 years ago**, on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1946 that The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611. \* *see article opposite.*

**70 years ago**, on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1951 that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. It limits the President to two terms in office.

**65 years ago**, on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

**50 years ago**, on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1971 that the UK's currency was decimalised.

**40 years ago**, on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1981 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

**30 years ago**, on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1991 that the Gulf War ended at midnight when a ceasefire came into effect.

**25 years ago**, on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven, Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

**20 years ago**, on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

**10 years ago**, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 that the Canterbury earthquake in New Zealand took place. 185 people were killed and up to 2,000 injured., and there was widespread damage across the city.

© Parish Pump

## Disperse them

A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the harsh realities his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked, "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.

## Tribute

A minister had agreed to step in and take a funeral at short notice. He said a few general words of comfort, and then added: "As I did not know the deceased, is there anyone here who would like to give a few words of tribute?"

There was silence for a few moments, and then a voice from the back observed: "His brother was far worse."

## Remembering John Keats

It was 200 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1821, that John Keats, the Romantic poet, died in Rome of tuberculosis, aged 25.

Keats was a generous, likeable and hard-working man who had much experience of suffering in his short life. He also had a love of civil and religious liberty. Most of his best work was done during the year 1819, when he was already sickening after an exhausting walking tour of the Lakes and Scotland the previous summer.

In that same year he had also been nursing his brother Tom through tuberculosis – the disease that killed their mother. But in 1819, after Tom's death, he moved to Hampstead and fell in love with a neighbour, Fanny Brawne, who was 18.

By this time Keats was devoting himself to poetry, having originally trained as a surgeon following his mother's early death. He is most famous for his Odes, all of which (except the one to Autumn) were composed between March and June 1819. All of them ponder the clash between eternal ideals and the transience of the physical world.

His most famous lines: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty, – that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."

## Celebrating 75 years of the RSV Version of the Bible

The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published 75 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1946. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

The RSV Old Testament followed in 1952 and the Apocrypha in 1957. The translation was a revision of the American Standard Version of 1901 and was intended to be a readable and accurate modern English translation. A ceremony to commemorate the publication of the New Testament was held in Columbus, Ohio, with the translation team saying they wanted it to supplement the ASV and not supplant it.

The RSV New Testament was mostly well received, but the Old Testament, which made use of Dead Sea Scrolls material, less so. One objection centred on the translation of a Hebrew word in Isaiah as 'young woman' instead of 'virgin', which was said to distort a basic Christian truth and encouraged many to go back to the King James Bible.

Some opponents went further, calling it a "master stroke of Satan". One Southern pastor burned a copy with a blowtorch in his pulpit. The controversy may have paved the way for the now widely used and virginal New International Version, introduced in 1978.

Both articles by Tim Lenton  
© Parish Pump

### As recommended by Rev Liz in previous issues ...

**Pray As You Go** is a daily prayer session, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly whilst travelling to and from work, study, etc. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one session for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer.

Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection. Our aim is to help you to:

- become more aware of God's presence in your life
- listen to and reflect on God's word
- Grow in your relationship with God

The style of prayer is based on Ignatian Spirituality. It is produced by Jesuit Media Initiatives, with material written by a number of Jesuits, both in Britain and further afield, and other experts in the spirituality of St Ignatius of Loyola. Although the content is different every day, it keeps to the same basic format.

We also have a number of prayer tools, retreats and resources to help supplement your prayer life.





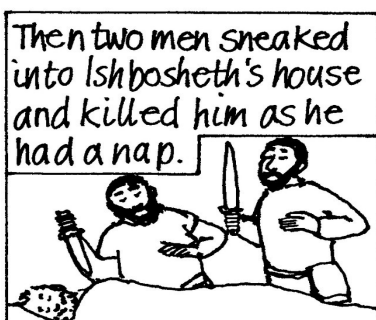
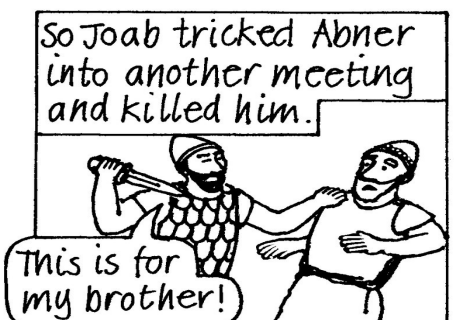
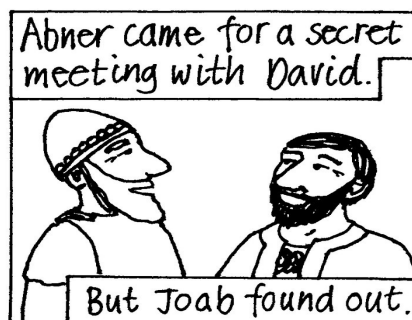
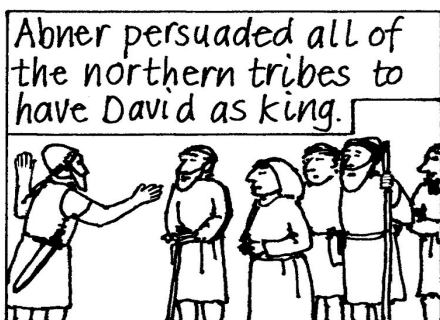
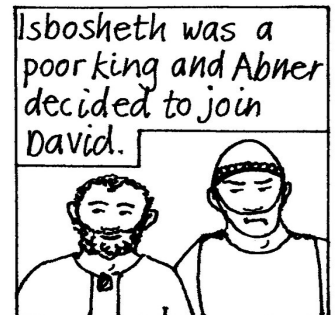
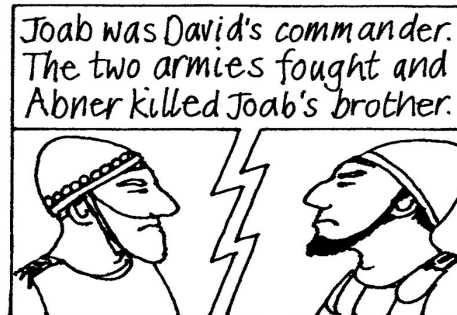
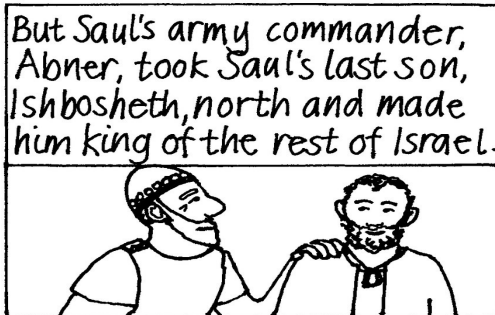
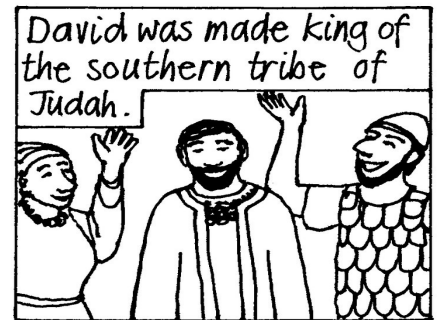
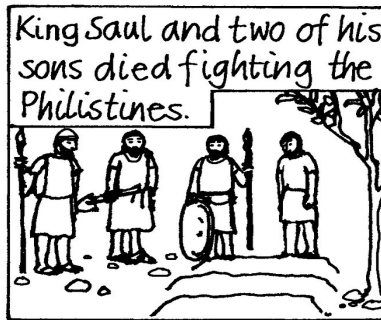
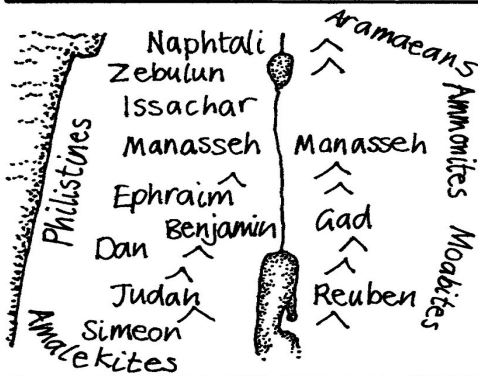


# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Josh 13:8-20:48  
1 Sam 31:1-5, 2 Sam 2:4-24, 3:12, 17-27, 4, 5:1-5

When the Jews reached the place that God had promised them, each tribe was given land to live in. But they were surrounded by enemies.



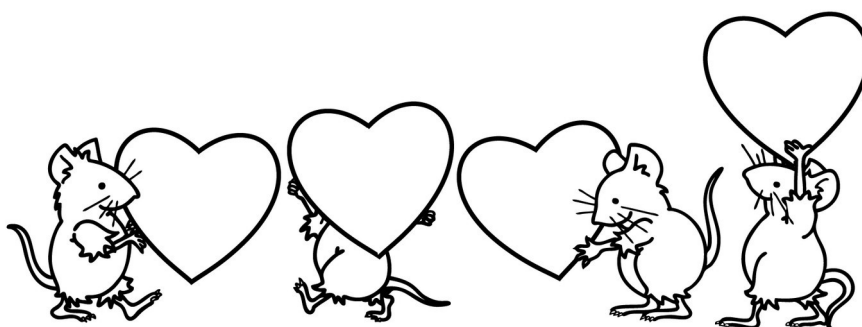
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fighting  
David  
Abner  
king  
land  
tribes

brother  
Philistines  
meeting  
Ishbosheth  
sneaked  
Israel

commander  
Saul  
secret  
angry  
promised  
reward

northern  
tricked  
armies  
Joab  
southern  
enemies



## **Hidden Hands - A NEW campaign by Traidcraft Exchange**

'Homeworkers' are the hidden hands behind the products we love, but they are paid a pittance and never know how much – or how little – work they will get.

It's time to honour their work and call for them to have the same rights as all workers. Will you join us?

**For months now, more of us have been working at home than ever before. But imagine if giving up your office, meant giving up your rights to a fair wage, sick pay and any guarantee of future work.**

In India and Pakistan, 'homeworkers' – most of them very poor women – help make clothes, shoes, jewellery and homewares. Sewing on buttons, cutting threads, doing embroidery – chances are that homeworkers have helped create many of the things we buy.

But despite doing this vital work, they have no legal rights as workers. They are paid just a few pennies per item and never know how much – or little – work they will get.

“There is no set pattern. Some months it comes more and some months it doesn't.”

— Kanchan

Homeworkers are the 'hidden hands' behind so many of our products, but UK brands often don't even know that they have homeworkers in their supply chains.

**It's time to honour the work of these women and call for them to have the same rights as all workers.**

**Will you join us?**

<https://youtu.be/NYcjUM2a8UI>

### **Ankita lives in south west Delhi and works at home so that she can look after her three daughters aged 15, 7 and 6.**

*'I can't work in a factory, as I can't leave my kids unattended. ... I prefer to work from home and look after my kids. Also, my husband doesn't like it if I work outside,' she says.*

Ankita does embroidery and bead work on tops, shirts and dresses, as well as hemming and thread cutting on tops, dresses, shirts and cushion covers. The work is brought to her house by a local contractor – known as a 'madam'. Ankita comments: *'She is good with us, she doesn't abuse... She is patient with us even if we make a mistake. She explains to us how to correct it if we make mistakes.'*

She doesn't know the name of the company she works for, but is certain the work goes for export. 'It goes to the company and from the company it goes abroad to foreign countries.'

Ankita typically works around 5 hours a day. During busier times of year she works up to 28 days each month, at other times around 20 days. The amount she gets paid depends on the work she is going – her hourly rate can vary between 2 and 20 rupees (around 2 – 20 pence). She and other women she knows have tried to change this: 'We have asked for the rate to be increased. We asked her to understand how much hard work we have to do, to bring the piece and then return it. We have to bring it again if it needs to be altered, and also have to go back to return the finished piece. We asked them to increase the rate, but they don't do it.'

*'The payment is low, the hard work is more and the money is less.'* - Ankita

It's important to highlight the above Campaign 'Hidden hands' by Traidcraft. As well as 10% of all sales going to our churches, it is equally important for us to be able to focus on and promote ethical trading. So we will bring their campaigns to your attention wherever we can.

In the meantime, if you would like to order anything, please contact us.

*Suzanne & Stuart Cole*

email: [traidcraft@ansford.me.uk](mailto:traidcraft@ansford.me.uk) or phone 01306 711449

You can either look at the catalogues at church or online: <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/> and then contact us to place an order so that the churches benefit from 10% of all sales. Thank you.



# Letter from the Editor

Page 17

Dear Readers,

This month sees InSpire's fourth anniversary from its inception in February 2017. This issue is our 47th one and it has grown in many ways, not least the fact it was originally under 20 pages and it now usually comprises 36 pages! I hope very much that you still find it useful, informative, interesting and ultimately a reassuring way of keeping in contact with one another during the ongoing pandemic. I would very much welcome your contributions for InSpire whenever you feel you have something you'd like to share—no matter how small! To that end, there is a note on page 29 inviting you to send me a couple of things for future issues if you can? One is—could you write a few lines (more if you really want to!) on **'What three things would you like to do once coronavirus is over?'**. The second is **can you let me know if you've been vaccinated?** I'd like to produce a list that grows each month as more and more of us get the vaccination. This would, I hope, encourage us all that there is 'a way out of all this'.

I'd like to thank Chris Cooper for his contribution again this month with his article 'Boyhood in Beddington and the Last years of Croydon Airport' (pages 20 and 21). What a lot of detailed memories he kindly shares with us. There will be a follow up article on the final years of Croydon Airport from Chris in March's issue.

This month sees the beginning of Lent and Rev Liz has kindly given us some recommendations to read on page 4. There is an online Lent course on offer to us all too—see page 5. It's nice to be able to have an event, albeit a virtual one to be able to share with you as we are not holding services currently or our other usual events. Do register your interest in the Lent course with Rev Liz if you are interested. There are some other Lent reading recommendations from Parish Pump on pages 19 & 27.

We have our usual excerpts from The Church Times and do read those on pages 22—27. They include one **'Keep the stories of faith and freedom alive'** - It has never been more urgent to support democracy — and religion has an important part to play, says *Alan Smith*. Another article from CT is **'Why Donewiths never darken the doors again'** - If their deeply felt longings are not met, some church people will head for the exit, say *Robin Stockitt* and *S. John Dawson*. Certainly food for thought in both articles!

As we celebrate Valentine's Day on 14th February, we have a couple of articles including: **'Love Is...'** it's good to ask the question: what does real love look like? In it, Canon Paul Hardingham considers romantic love. On page 7, we have another article from Canon Paul Hardingham **'How will you express love this Valentine's Day?'** which featured in our very first issue of InSpire!

You will see from the notices on page 6, that the Vicarage Fete is not likely to take place in its usual format this year. We were disappointed to have to cancel last year's fete and had hoped to do something this year. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent with the current Lockdown and new variant, that we are unlikely to be in a position in June to hold a large scale event which would potentially endanger everyone involved. We discussed it at the recent PCC meeting and it was agreed that we will review the situation later on and hold a smaller fundraising event if appropriate to do so. One possibility was a BBQ of some sort with a raffle as these two attractions are normally the biggest fundraisers of the day. We will keep you updated of any news once we know! In the meantime, if you know of anyone or a local business who may donate a raffle prize, do let either Debbie von Bergen or myself know. We feel able to plan for our Chapel Christmas Fair in November as it's much further away and there is a little light at the end of the tunnel that makes us feel it just might be feasible! The first Fair should have taken place in November 2020, so we hope to try again this year! But needless to say, we will have to be flexible and keep an eye on restrictions and Government guidelines regarding COVID as we go along.

I wish you all a safe and healthy February and hope you enjoy the simplicity of **'What is Luxury'** pictured right which spoke volumes to me. I hope you enjoy it and as it says 'Stay blessed. Stay grateful'.

With my very best wishes,

*Suzanne*

\* WHAT IS LUXURY? ... \* They made us believe that luxury was the rare, the expensive, the exclusive, everything that seemed unattainable ... Now we realize that luxury were those little things that we did not know how to value when we had them and now that they are gone, we miss them so much ... Luxury is being healthy. Luxury is not stepping into a hospital. Luxury is being able to walk along the seashore. Luxury is going out on the streets and breathing without a mask. Luxury is meeting with your whole family, with your friends. Luxury are the looks. Smiles are luxury. Luxury are hugs and kisses. Luxury is enjoying every sunrise. Luxury is the privilege of loving and being alive. All this is a luxury and we did not know ..

Stay blessed. Stay grateful.



## **Christian Aid report surveys climate breakdown**

A new report by Christian Aid, *Counting the cost 2020: a year of climate breakdown*, has identified 15 of the most destructive climate disasters of the year.

Ten of those events cost \$1.5 billion or more, with nine of them causing damage worth at least \$5 billion. Most of these estimates are based only on insured losses, meaning the true financial costs are likely to be higher.

Among them is Storm Ciara which struck the UK, Ireland and other European countries in February costing, \$2.7 billion and killing 14. The UK's Environment Agency issued 251 flood warnings.

While the report focuses on financial costs, which are usually higher in richer countries because they have more valuable property, some extreme weather events in 2020 were devastating in poorer countries, even though the price tag was lower. South Sudan, for example, experienced one of its worst floods on record, which killed 138 people and destroyed the year's crops.

Some of the disasters hit fast, like Cyclone Amphan, which struck the Bay of Bengal in May and caused losses valued at \$13 billion in just a few days. Other events unfolded over months, like floods in China and India, which had an estimated cost of \$32 billion and \$10 billion respectively.

Six of the ten most costly events took place in Asia, five of them associated with an unusually rainy monsoon. And in Africa, huge locust swarms ravaged crops and vegetation across several countries, causing damages estimated at \$8.5 billion. The outbreak has been linked to wet conditions brought about by unusual rains fuelled by climate change.

But the impact of extreme weather was felt all over the world. In Europe, two extra-tropical cyclones, Ciara and Alex, had a combined cost of almost \$6 billion. And the US suffered from both a record-breaking hurricane season and a record-breaking fire season adding up to more than \$60 billion in damages.

Some less populated places also suffered the consequences of a warming world. In Siberia, a heat wave during the first half of the year set a record in the city of Verkhoyansk, with temperatures reaching 38°C. A few months later, on the other side of the world, heat and drought drove the fires in Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. While there were no human casualties reported from these events, the destruction of these areas has a great impact on biodiversity and the planet's capacity to respond to a warmer world.

Christian Aid says that: "These extreme events highlight the need for urgent climate action. The Paris Agreement, which set the goal of keeping temperature rise 'well below' 2°C, and ideally 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels, has just turned five years old. It is critical that countries commit to bold new targets ahead of the next climate conference, which will take place in Glasgow, in November 2021."

## **Launch of Rural Teaching Partnership**

The Church of England, the education charity Teach First, and the Chartered College of Teaching have recently launched the new Rural Teaching Partnership.

The partnership will run in ten pilot regions across England, and will see trainee teachers, trained by Teach First, start two-year placements with Church of England primary schools by September 2021

By coming together, these three organisations hope to tackle teacher recruitment challenges currently faced by schools in poorer rural areas, with evidence showing that rural school leaders face greater difficulties with staff recruitment and retention compared to urban schools.

With more than half of its 4,644 schools situated in rural areas, the Church of England is the majority provider of rural schools nationally. Within ten pilot regions, schools serving areas of rural deprivation will be selected for placements either in Church of England schools, or non-Church of England schools which are part of a Church of England federation or multi academy trust.

The ten pilot dioceses are Leeds, York, Truro, Salisbury, Chelmsford, Norwich, Oxford, Hereford, Derby, and Bath-and-Wells.

## Sir Keir Starmer praises churches

Christianity has provided a blueprint for social improvement, according to the Labour Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer.

Writing in a recent issue of Church Times, he said, "For all the loss and difficulty, we should not let this year be defined by pain. Throughout the pandemic, we have also seen the best of humanity."

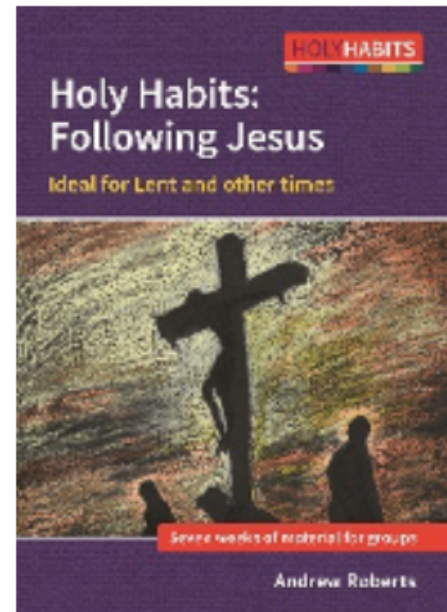
Sir Keir said that during this past year "religious institutions and local communities have banded together for the common good, showing us the very best of Britain." And he went on to say that "the best of British values" that have surfaced during the pandemic "are also the best of Christian values."

### *Seven weeks of material for Lent*

By Andrew Roberts, BRF, £6.99

A welcome new addition to BRF's growing collection of Holy Habits resources, *Holy Habits: Following Jesus* provides seven weeks of material for Lent. Although written before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, many of the applications, questions and take-home ideas are highly relevant to the pastoral needs, challenges and opportunities created by it.

In his introduction Andrew Roberts writes: 'No one can know with any certainty the range and scope of challenges that will be present when you use this material, but I believe that whatever they are, the life and example of Jesus and the way He responded to the challenges he faced will always be of utmost value in shaping our lives as we seek to follow in his footsteps.'

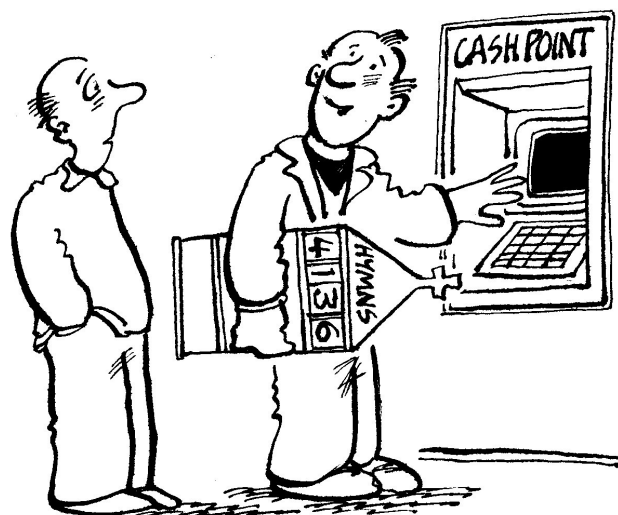


© Parish Pump

### Pray with granny

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him.

"Who are we hiding from, granny?"



© www.parishpump.co.uk

...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!



## Boyhood in Beddington and the Last years of Croydon Airport

By Chris Cooper



### Prelude

They tell me that Sagittarius is a fire sign, if so then I started with a bang on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1940 at the height of an air raid. Eleven pm saw one of the heaviest raids on the capital and my mother and I spent the event in the shelter in Carshalton Park.

At home, we had an 'Anderson' in the back room of 45 Queenswood Avenue, as my mother would not allow my father to put it in the back garden, it was too cold!

The war went on and after May 1941 the air raids became less frequent due to the invasion of Russia. I must have been about three or four when I became aware of the presence of the Croydon Aerodrome just over a mile away. It was fortunate that my Grandfather's house overlooked the airfield and on our visits we were able to stand on the rear balcony and watch all the various movements.

This was the time of 'Make do and Mend' 'Mrs Sew and Sew' and 'Dig for Victory'! On the radio was 'It's that man again' (ITMA) 'Monday Night at Eight' and 'Much Binding in the Marsh'. All around us were damaged buildings, but until now we had been lucky.

It was 1944 and Father, who was in the Home Guard, informed us that pilot-less planes had been observed. What next from Adolf?

We were all uplifted by the fact that D-Day had been a success, but it wasn't so funny when in August a 'Doodlebug' landed just across the road. It demolished the front of our house, but I do not remember the explosion or the aftermath as I woke up in the Memorial Hospital in Carshalton, covered in bandages and missing my tonsils! Happiness was restored when I heard the late Dame Vera Lynn singing on a nearby radio.

The result of that 'Doodlebug' was to last for many years as I had to endure many nightmares and some brain damage which gave rise to a misunderstanding of numbers ie. Mathematical problems. To those who glorify war, let me tell you it is not funny.

We celebrated V E Day in 1945; but for me it was school and that was where the problems associated with the bombing became apparent. I had to spend some time as an outpatient at a mental hospital, but that is as far as I go on that subject.

1951 saw the Festival of Britain, and following stories in the newspapers, I tried to get my parents to let me visit. Unfortunately, they were not interested, so I saved up my wages from my paper round to pay for the cost of a return ticket from Waddon to Charing Cross. By the last day of the exhibition, I had enough cash for the fare, but nothing else.

I had told my parents that I was going to watch the aircraft at Croydon, but slipped off to the station and caught my train. On arrival at Charing Cross, I walked over the bridge to the exhibition, but found that there was an admission charge and I had no more money. Standing by the barriers looking a little forlorn, one of the Commissionaires came over and said 'What's up lad?'. I explained my position, at which he opened the barrier and I was able to enter the Festival of Britain for FREE!

What my parents went on to say about the exploits of an eleven year old is best left unsaid!

During the period 1945-1948, I became more aware of the Airport just over a mile away. For years I had been awoken at night by a revolving beacon of light and a flashing green sign, spelling out the morse code for Croydon. The noise of the aircraft was constant as Europe began to achieve normality.

One of my first memories was of an Avro 'York' four engine job, testing its motors next to Plough Lane, the old route to Purley. This ran across the Airfield before enlargement of the site in the 1930s. The best place to watch the movements was from the closed gate at the end of Plough Lane. Aircraft taking off or landing on runways 24 degrees or 30 degrees had to cross the airfield, so we all obtained excellent views.

Looking across the airfield from Plough Lane, a good view could be obtained of the Control Tower, the Aerodrome Hotel, the Spectators' Enclosure and the various hangars. The spectators' enclosure cost just sixpence admission for a child and one shilling for an adult. To watch the passenger planes, one could not call them airliners, loading and unloading their small compliment of travellers was just as exciting as at Heathrow.

Jersey Airlines operated De Haviland 'Hérons' which carried about thirty passengers, and always reminded me of a 'mini Viscount'. Trans-Air had a number of DC3 Dakota's, whilst Morton or Olley Air Services operated a mixed line of Herons and Doves. Morton's also had an Airspeed 'Oxford' or 'Consul', a pre-war aircraft which seated about eight passengers and seemed to be used for training.

The Shell Oil Co operated a 'Heron' in silver and red livery for their private use, whilst the Sperry Gyroscope Co kept a top condition 'Prince' in the hangar next to Purley Way. The 'Prince' is a high wing, two engine aircraft in blue and silver, but I never saw it fly until the last day. There were so many light planes at Croydon in the mid-fifties that it would be difficult to account for them all.

Starting at the south side of the Airport, as viewed from the Purley Way, was the headquarters of the Surrey Flying Club and its fleet of Tiger Moth bi-planes. Rollasons' hangar and works were next, performing repairs and later in the 50's producing the 'Druine Turbulent' a small single seat job.

Further north, was the site of the Airways Aero Club and it's fleet of Chipmunks trainer aircraft and also a number of 'Dragon Rapide' bi-planes, two engine universal aircraft, one of which gave 30/- shilling pleasure flights over Surrey for a short time. Morton Air Services also kept their fleet on that side, and towards the end of the Fifties ran regular routes to Rotterdam, Le-Touquet and Jersey.

Trans Air kept the DC3's in that area and it was one of their Captains that later became Chairman of the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society.

On the North side opposite the spectators' enclosure, the hangar contained Sperry's Gyroscope 'Prince' as mentioned before, but also the Auster 4 G-AKXP and a Miles Gemini G-AJWE. According to a notice, it was part of the Vendair Flying Club and it later crashed at Biggin Hill.

One hundred yards further on was a near derelict 'Avro Anson'. I don't think it had flown for years and was still there when the airport was closed in 1959. It was cut up in time for the Croydon 1,000 year exhibition the following year. The final hangar at the north end was in general use, and there always seemed to be an aircraft of all types under repair or in storage in it.

During that last year of the Airport, a 'Catalina' amphibian flying boat was in residence until the last day, when I saw it leave.

For many years, I had observed movements, but the best surprise was when a Russian airliner landed at Croydon, just after a rainstorm. The aircraft in question was too tall for the mobile steps used for the DC3's, so everyone had to run around and locate tall ladders to get the passengers off!

**To be continued next month ... 'Going up in the World'!**

*Editor: My thanks to Chris Cooper, one of our Parishioners for writing up his memoirs and sharing them with us.*

If you've found this article interesting and would like to know more, you can go online:

<http://www.airportofcroydon.com/>

## Comment

### Keep the stories of faith and freedom alive

15 January 2021

It has never been more urgent to support democracy — and religion has an important part to play, says *Alan Smith*



Winston Churchill famously described democracy as “the worst form of government, except for all the others”. Mostly, the transition from one elected government to another occurs in an orderly and peaceful fashion. But, as recent events in the United States demonstrate, Western-style liberal democracies may not be as robust as we like to think.

Just hours before the storming of the Capitol in Washington, more than 50 pro-democracy politicians were arrested in Hong Kong. If we are tempted to think that such events could happen only in other countries, let us remember that the decision of the British Prime Minister, in 2019, to prorogue Parliament (evading parliamentary scrutiny, or so his detractors claim) had to be overturned by the courts (News, 27 September 2019). Supporting democratic government has never been more urgent. But how?

Stronger controls on elections, such as identity checks, provoke heated debate. Do they limit or enhance democracy? What about policing social media and the growth in “fake news”? Attempts to ignore the truth in the hope that if a lie is repeated often enough people will think that it is true could be more effective in undermining democracy than Guy Fawkes’s attempt to blow up Parliament. The challenge is compounded by the well-documented attempts of foreign powers to subvert general elections using social media.

Lawyers and politicians monitoring the resilience of our democracy’s checks and balances might reasonably conclude that it is pretty easy to hijack the definition of sovereignty, bypass the scrutiny of Parliament, and self-limit the investigative powers of the press through partisanship. If democracy is about the power of the people, what power do “we, the people”, have to secure it?

All of us who seek the common good have a stake in this conversation. We need to strengthen the fabric of togetherness, which is the lifeblood of democracy, out of which society is made. In this, religion has a part to play.

Human beings are storytelling and story-hearing creatures. It is how we understand our origin, our identity as individuals, communities, and nations, and imagine our future. Some of these stories, such as those that are rooted in the Christian Gospels, have had enormous power in shaping our outlook and laws. Passed down faithfully through the generations, they transcend culture, and, for billions of people, mediate reality and truth. They are not just narratives of events: they are the wellspring of our values, our hopes, and our identity.



Although democracy predates the advent of Christianity, it has found its fullest expression in the cradle of Western Christendom. Here, in St Albans Abbey, Archbishop Stephen Langton signed the first draft of Magna Carta in 1213, two years before the final signing by King John at Runnymede. Centuries of power struggles ensued, and some would argue that we are still far from the ideal of democracy.

The prerequisites for democracy to flourish are trust and consent. Those who lead and those who are led have to make choices about how we order our common life. Democracy requires a social contract that relies on the willingness of everyone to play their part and accept electoral results.

Perhaps some of the enduring power of democracy in the West derives from shared values rooted in such ideas as “Love your neighbour as yourself,” “Forgive and you will be forgiven,” and “Blessed are the peacemakers.” With the decline of Christian adherence in the West, we need to develop common stories to sustain and nurture our democratic life. It is here that Christians still have a vital part to play, although it will not be from a position of dominance, but through service.

We have to find new ways to tell the “old, old story”. A starting-point might be to reflect on the esteem in which NHS staff have been held during the Covid-19 pandemic, because of their extraordinary examples of self-sacrifice. Or we might look to those who are concerned about the environment as a way of sharing in a common cause. Both of these areas have deep resonances with the Christian faith.

Such stories can fertilise the seedbed where democracy can flourish and grow. The alternative is its slow erosion through disrespect, distortion, disinformation, and corruption. The task is pressing. President Reagan recognised this, saying “democracy is only ever one generation from extinction.”

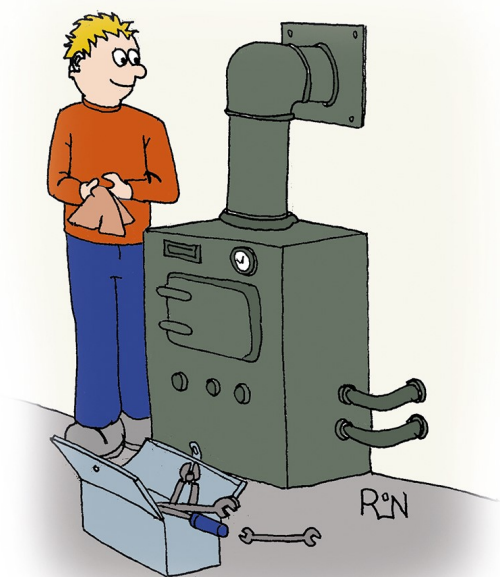
So, perhaps, a good first step would be to introduce compulsory citizenship classes in our schools, providing opportunities to tell stories of the common good and to celebrate the fruits of centuries of democracy.

We need to do the same in our churches, building social capital and affirming the vital importance of trust, which underlies a vibrant democracy.

Let us keep the stories of history, of faith, and of freedom alive. We cannot leave it to the politicians: it is the people’s task.

*Dr Alan Smith is the [Bishop of St Albans](#).*

*Listen to an interview with Dr Smith on [the Church Times Podcast](#).*



A couple of tweaks, and the church boiler was good to run on facemasks

## Why Donewiths never darken the doors again

8 January 2021

If their deeply felt longings are not met, some church people will head for the exit, say *Robin Stockitt* and *S. John Dawson*

The Donewiths — those who have left church — find themselves grappling with a series of conundrums for which they seek resolution.

The people interviewed for a new Grove booklet, *Leaving Church*, decided to leave church after perhaps a lifetime of membership. They did so for a whole variety of reasons. But underneath the list of specific issues that the Donewiths found so troublesome lie deeply felt longings.

### Belonging v. detachment

One issue that those interviewed referred to was being required to commit time, money, effort, and goods to projects. At times, these were projects or initiatives that they did not want to invest time and energy in, and yet felt pressure to do so.

The problem then came more clearly into focus. How can I belong to a community of people if I do not fully resonate with their values and priorities? Is it possible to belong partially, hanging on by the fingertips? Maybe there is a looser way of belonging within the body of Christ.

For some, the experience of trying to belong to a church community in which there may be difficult and abrasive people becomes simply too much of an effort. If this is a voluntary activity, they ask themselves, why am I spending my free time struggling to be pleasant to church people who, if truth be told, I simply do not like?

The felt need to belong, however, is a natural human instinct. Attachment theory asserts that seeking a secure attachment that nourishes and protects is not only our primary task as newborns, but our lifelong task, too. Belonging to a church is a distinct form of attachment and can take a huge variety of manifestations.

Those people who have decided to disengage from one form of commitment to church life often seek an alternative mode of belonging — one that meets their needs at their particular stage of life. What was a nourishing experience at one time is no longer. Maybe their circumstances have changed, the demands upon their time and money have altered, or maybe the distinctive flavour of the church to which they had hitherto belonged has metamorphosed as well. Whatever the range of causes, the sense of dissonance becomes too acute to tolerate and then question marks about belonging come flooding in.

Some people leave their churches only to discover a sense of belonging in a dispersed church or community, such as those found at the Northumbria Community, the Wild Goose community, and St Pixels. Such communities do not meet together each week, but they share a strong sense of community through their Rule of Life. The attraction is the absence of any emphasis on hierarchy or conformity, but, rather, the explicit and gentle message of accompanying one another on a journey of faith.

Others choose to belong in a more anonymous fashion, by attending a cathedral where few demands are placed on them to form new friendships or participate in projects. They can slip in at the back of the building unnoticed and quietly slip away afterwards. The rhythm of the liturgy is enough, perhaps, to offer spiritual nourishment.

### Identity v. performance

Churches can often be busy places. There are always jobs to be done, tea to be made, children to be inspired, and the poor to be fed. The neediness of the world around us is never-ending.

It is not surprising, therefore, that churches want to meet this need and to be salt and light to their neighbourhoods. The danger is, however, as the Donewiths can sense, that it gives the impression that this is what the life of faith amounts to. One long list of things to do, leading perhaps — for some — to compassion fatigue.



What some Donewiths long for in their spiritual journey is to discover more of their truest identity. Who is the real me underneath all this activity? What does God really think of me? How can I love my neighbour as myself when I am not even sure who myself is? And so this is the tussle: to give oneself enough space and enough time to know who I am before God.

In his book, *The Forgotten Father* (Wipf & Stock, 2001), Tom Smail makes the point that the entire ministry of Jesus stemmed from his profound sense of identity as the Son of the Father.

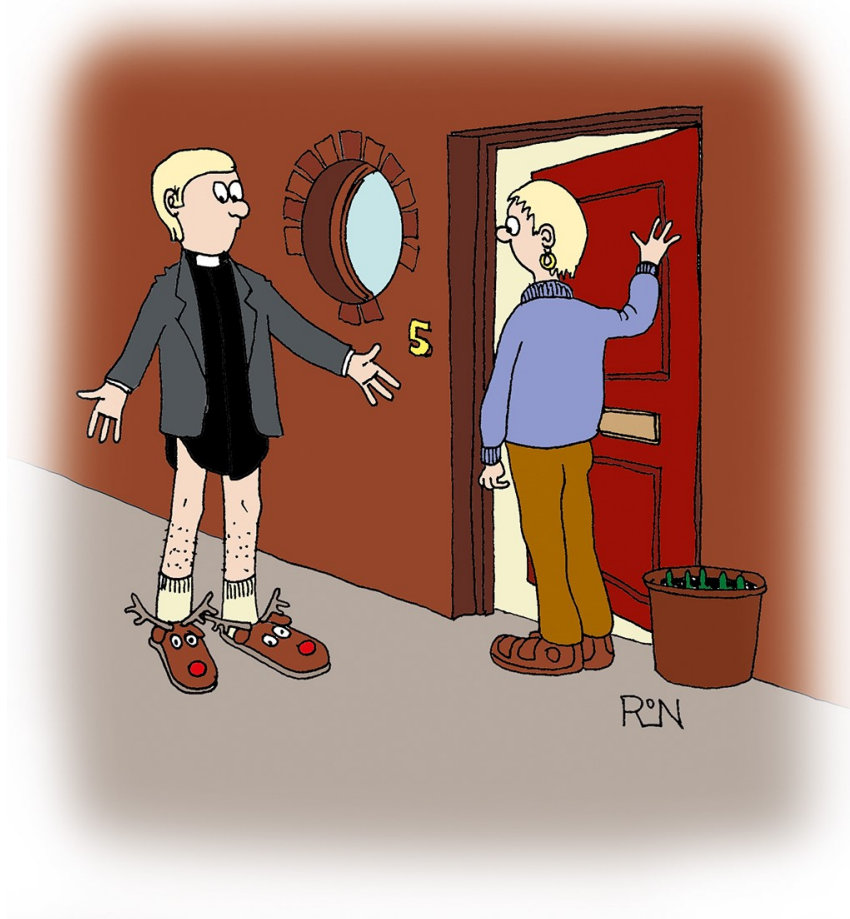
Lurking underneath the feeling of disconnect that Donewiths experience is the longing to discover more of their own identity as human beings in a complex world and as hesitant, stumbling followers of Jesus.

When churches pay more attention to what we do than who we are, when they become absorbed with function rather than learning how to belong together, then those who struggle with the church find themselves looking for the exit door.

*This is an edited extract from Grove Book P162, Leaving Church: What can we learn from those who are done with church?*

*by Robin Stockitt and S. John Dawson (Grove, £3.95; 978-1-78827-126-4).*

*Listen to an interview with Robin Stockitt on [the Church Times Podcast](#).*



Colin remembered he wasn't on Zoom



## Gifts in a time of pandemic

8 January 2021

**Lucy Winkett** reflects on the contemporary resonances of the story of the magi at Epiphany



Copy of the 16th-century mural *Magi* painted by Dionisius, now an exhibit at the Andrei Rublev museum

Some traditions say that they took 12 days to get to Bethlehem; others, that they took more than a year. Either way, the mysterious visitors “from the East” mentioned in St Matthew’s Gospel come from some distance to pose questions for the practice of Christianity in a pandemic.

These magi (I have been unable to call them “wise men” since I realised that going to Herod and promising to let him know where the challenge to his authority lay wasn’t very wise at all) were stargazers: magicians, maybe — perhaps of royal lineage, but at least able to hire an entourage. And, despite preachers’ tending to focus on the symbolic meaning of the gifts over their everyday use, St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) thought that the gifts were thoroughly practical: gold to alleviate the poverty of the Holy Family; frankincense to fumigate the smelly outhouse; and myrrh to drive away vermin, such as worms, from the crib.

Symbolic or practical, epiphanies are important. Just as there was one then, so we are arguably living through one now.

At Epiphany 2021, we see that Covid-19 has not raised any new theological questions, but has ruthlessly exposed truths about our society and Church which were half-known by some, ignored by most, and suffered by many: systemic racism, overcrowded housing, lack of public green space in cities, under-investment in social care, over-reliance on “just-in-time” supply chains, an epidemic of domestic violence, a disconnection with the natural world, and a debilitating instinct for centralisation enabled by a culture that lionises what is perceived as strong leadership.

In these ways, Covid-19 has itself had a truly epiphanic effect and affirms that we are living through an apocalyptic moment. Both “epiphany” and “apocalypse” mean “uncovering” or “revealing”, and the season of Epiphany offers a liturgical lens through which to ask ourselves what is being revealed about the Church, and about the society that we serve.

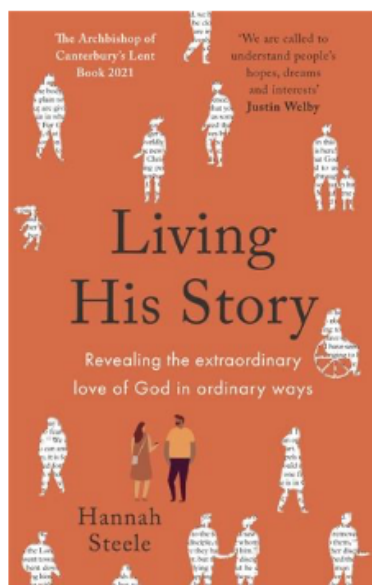
In a year that has shown us how to redefine an open church — not just the buildings, but in digital space — we have a chance to be as humble and confident as the magi as we, diffidently sometimes but, none the less, determinedly, unpack the treasures we have to offer a society in which the vast majority of people live their lives without reference to organised religion.

In offering a gift there is always risk: at best, of misunderstanding and, at worst, of offence or rejection. Perhaps — especially, this year, online — we have wondered whether the recipients will like it, understand why we brought it, why we're getting it out, or putting it on display. The clue for us as a Church is in the magi's approach. They didn't arrive with fanfares and proclamations, instantly claiming the right to define what was happening or how it should go. But they were persistent and courageous. They were willing to travel towards a mysterious divine presence that, they suspected, would not leave them unchanged themselves. This sort of missionary stance is thrilling, exploratory, committed to generosity rather than any attempt at coercion, and carries an expectation that we will be required to return home by an unfamiliar way.

The magi travelled across cultural assumptions, exhibited cultural curiosity, and didn't allow difference to prevent their seeking generous connection. At a time when the Black Lives Matter conversation must not only continue, but intensify and lead to change, it will take magi-like determination from the whole Church, at every level, energetically to pursue the star of teachers such as Martin Luther King, Jr, and be guided by the light of justice ahead, wherever it leads, however it goes.

As for the gifts themselves, the symbolism is potent. The magi offered incorruptible gold, which has retained its value across centuries because of this quality. The Church can offer the gift of community living — even in coronavirus isolation — through its conviction that this corruptible body is, as St Paul suggests, invited to become incorruptible. Like a golden thread running through scripture is the irreducible principle of human dignity, embedded in the doctrine of Creation, that discipleship requires us to hold to, no matter what.

The magi offered frankincense, a provocative scent, that — like all enticing fragrances — evokes memory and dissolves the years. The Church can offer the gift of honest, collective remembrance of the past, combined with a hopeful vision of a new future, repeating in its sacramental spiritual practice the revelation that the sweat of earth is infused with the fragrance of heaven.



– revealing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways

**The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021**

**By Hannah Steele, SPCK, £7.99**

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, *Living His Story*, explores evangelism as a way of sharing God's love with people. How can we convey the love of God to our neighbours in a post-Christian world that has largely forgotten the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Hannah Steele uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. With warmth and encouragement, she shows us how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us and allowing people to be drawn to him through our natural

gifts.

*Living His Story* is a Lent devotional that will change the way you think about evangelism, show how ideally suited it is for the world we live in and fill you with confidence in sharing God's love with the people around you.

Set out in six sessions to take you through Lent, the book can be used as a single study for individuals or small groups to prepare for Easter. It will help you find space to see evangelism from a new practical perspective.

## Wordsearch Clues

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between a man and woman: Valentine cards and romance abound. ‘Love’ as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

- Naming
- Christ
- Candlemas
- Simeon
- Anna
- Temple
- Love
- Valentine
- romance
- Matthias
- Fairtrade
- Fortnight
- Coffee
- Bananas
- Chocolate
- Justice
- Poverty
- Nest box
- Marriage
- Wedding
- Holocaust
- Leprosy



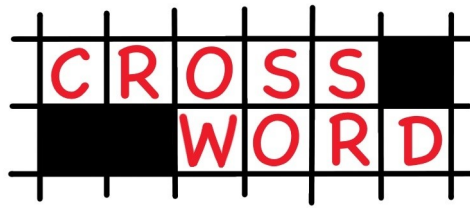
All Puzzle solutions are on page 31

Easy Level Soduku

	5		9			7	2	3
2		4	3	8			1	
	3		5				6	
		6			9			
5		3	2		4	6		1
			6			5		
	4				8		3	
	2			6	3	8		9
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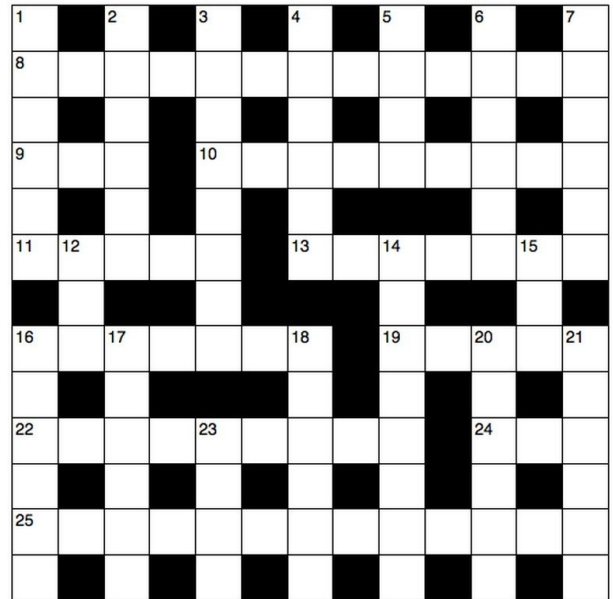
Medium Level Soduku

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



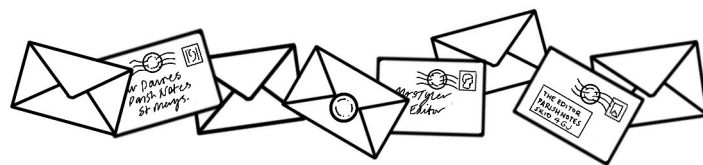
**Across**

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)



**Down**

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



**Can you help me with next month's InSpire?**

**What three things are you most looking forward to once the pandemic is over?**

Also, **who has been vaccinated so far amongst our Parishioners?** Can you let me know so we can begin a list that expands each month to show that there is hope and we are that little bit closer to all being vaccinated and hopefully resuming some normality! If someone would rather not say, please do not worry! But it should be very encouraging to watch the list grow!

Thank you  
 Suzanne  
 editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk



*Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions'. It now hangs in a private collection. You can see it at: <https://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion>*

## Forty days and forty nights

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month, we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month's painting from 1939: 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.' It is currently held in a private collection.

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village's inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. 'Angels and dirt' he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with his head, his hands and his feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about him, apart from his tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert? During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God.

He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

Article © Parish Pump

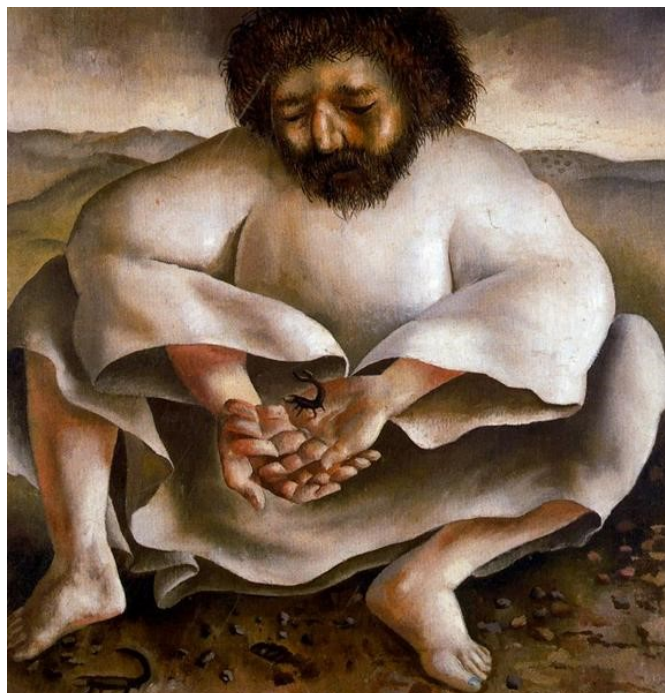


Image © WikiArt

# Puzzle Solutions

**ACROSS:**

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

**DOWN:**

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

**Wordsearch solution**

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

**Crossword solution**

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

**Easy Soduko solution**

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

**Bible Bites Wordsearch solution from Junior InSpire**

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

**Medium Soduko solution**

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



## Words of Reassurance in troubled times

'In the day when I called, you answered me, and strengthened me with strength in my soul.' (Psalm 56.4) God hears us, and *always* does something – He gives us strength which we did *not* have, before we asked Him for it.

'Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.' (Psalm 23:4). Death is our final enemy, but we know that Jesus conquered death, and offers us eternal life.

'I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.' Psalm 34:4. We can take our anxiety and depression to Him because He *wants* to help us. He will always listen to us and help us.

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to Suzanne Cole [editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk) **By 25th of each month please.**  
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