

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley

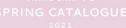
March 2021 Issue 48

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Get your copy in church!







IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT SERVICES RESUMING ON PAGE 5 **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

Margaret Zandona

"In memory of my beloved mother Anne Arnavutian who filled my life with love and joy. You had 'the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is so precious to God'. You will be forever in my heart."

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Rev Liz writes

Dear all,

So, how are you getting on? We are reaching the point where some restrictions will be lifted with the good news that infection numbers are going down along with deaths from the virus. That as well as the excellent news that the numbers are going up rapidly of those who have been vaccinated. It's been a hard old month hasn't it with all sorts of weather thrown at us for good measure. With the weather in mind I was amused to see that there is now such a thing as Muddy Church! We have had Messy Church, Cafe Church, but now there is Muddy Church too. Very appropriate for those of us who have been sliding about in mud on country walks with or without dogs I thought. Anyway, Muddy Church is all about taking church outside, helping people to connect with their environment and those around them and basically enjoying creation, nature and being together. Just what we like doing in Capel and Ockley isn't it?! If only we could be connecting a bit more I hear you say and is this not just another churchy thing? Well Muddy Church is not just for Church goers but offers a space where everyone can come together regardless of age, friends can meet up, those alone can walk with others and people are invited to share their questions and lives. It is based around the idea that everyone brings something



and offers places for listening and sharing, acceptance and wondering and its about being open to the idea that God is present in all our lives and in all creation. This of course fits in very well with our Lent Course 'Creation Matters' which is currently happening on Monday evenings at 7pm. Do contact us if you would like to join via zoom. Each session can stand alone so do as much or as little as you like. We are also hoping to record the sessions so you can watch later at your convenience.

You can find out more about Muddy Church on <u>www.muddychurch.co.uk</u> and there are lots of lovely resources to find there. There are a couple I really like; one is called 40 moments which links with the season of Lent encouraging us to take some time to enjoy doing all sorts of things from jumping in puddles (!) to clearing out clutter or making a bird feeder. So if I see people jumping in puddles especially those of us who are old enough to be vaccinated I will know you are joining in! The other one which looks really good is called '40 Bags' which involves each day giving a bag to bless someone or fill a bag to recycle. It can be a bag of any size, a bag of sweets or fruit to share with someone or a bag for recycling. I think all of these ideas can be done keeping to current restrictions on socialising and exercise. Let us know how you get on?

Finally Muddy Church is doing something called 'Heart Bombing' which is all about love. Yes I know we have already had Valentine's Day but love is not just about one day a year is it? This year above all we all need to know love and be loved. We can do that in lots of different ways and our communities are brilliant at this already but to keep us going a bit longer through the lockdown we could do an extra something to show someone they are loved. Muddy Church suggests putting hearts on windows, making hearts which can hang on trees and all sorts. Can you think of some ideas in which we can show people love and spread the love around our neighbourhood?!

Well by the time you are reading this we will hopefully have been given a 'roadmap' by the government as to how and when restrictions will be lifted. Once more I am sure we are all so grateful for our local businesses and health services for keeping us going in so many ways throughout this pandemic apart from the massive sacrifices that they and all front line NHS staff have given in order to help and serve others. This Lent we have another opportunity to draw closer to God and you will find inside church lots of things to help you. You will of course find first and foremost peace and quiet in our ancient places of worship whose sacred walls resound with the prayers of many over hundreds of years. Do pop in and just sit or stand and let this amazing space just sink in... If you would like a bit of reading material or ideas for reflection there are free booklets produced by the Church of England called 'LIVELENT - God's Story, Our Story'. There are also some Lent bags too while stocks last which include the above booklet, another booklet about Easter and a couple of little treats! The thing is as I always say Lent is not about necessarily giving things up or denying ourselves but it is more about finding ourselves. We can do that through spending time inside or outside which brings us back full circle to what Muddy Church promotes, drawing closer to God in so many different ways. As Jesus entered the wilderness for those 40 days, he did not go alone but he went with his heavenly Father and was waited on by angels. I pray during these 40 days before Easter that you may also be attended by angels and that you will, despite whatever challenges you are facing at the moment, know the healing presence of God the Father and know that you are deeply loved by Him!

With my love and prayers,

Revd Liz

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

Some Lent recommendations from Rev Liz

'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!!





Easter gifts ... available from Traidcraft now!

It is also **Fairtrade Fortnight** until 7th March 2021 with lots of special offers! Read more on page 16.

If we can help, please let us know. Suzanne and Stuart Cole

traidcraft@ansford.me.uk Or call 01306 711449

10% of all sales go to our Parish churches!

NEWS from the Pews

Lent Booklets & Bags

These are available in both churches. Please do help yourself and if you know of someone you think would enjoy one, please do take one for them as well.

There may be one or two **LENT BA**GS still available at Ockley in the church porch.

Do you know of anyone who would like to be added to the Church mailing list? This would ensure they received the weekly notice sheets and readings, amongst other things.

If so, please get in touch with Debbie von Bergen:- debbievonbergen@icloud.com

We must have their permission before adding them to the list. Thank you.

From the Registers

Capel and Ockley

We mourn the loss of **Ronald James Backhouse 27th January 2021** May he rest in peace and rise in glory



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Church services and events for the Parish of Capel and Ockley March 2021

Update on services as agreed by the Standing Committee w/c 22nd February 2021

We have agreed to open both churches from **21 March** for socially distanced services. 2 services will be held each Sunday 9.30 at Ockley and 10.30 at Capel. The restrictions that were in place before Christmas will continue and will be published on the weekly sheets.

We chose 21 March as it is the week after Mothering Sunday so will be relatively quiet making it easier to have all our safety restrictions in place. One of the services will be filmed and will then be made available online for those who will still be shielding or unsure about returning to physical church.

For Easter it was agreed that we will operate a booking system for services on Easter Sunday. Rev Liz will decide the times of Easter services shortly.

By Debbie von Bergen



Lent Course

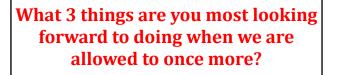
CREATION MATTERS

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 If you would like to join any of the sessions please contact Liz <u>liz@hostmyserver.co.uk</u> 01306 711260 or text 07837408239 All welcome - we need to learn from each other





NEWS from the Pews



And have you had your first vaccination?

Do let Suzanne know on

editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk



Fundraising Events update

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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 <u>leighdesouza@yahoo.com</u> or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 <u>liz@hostmyserver.co.uk</u>

This notice will appear each month in InSpire and the contact details for our Safeguarding Offier and the Diocescan 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

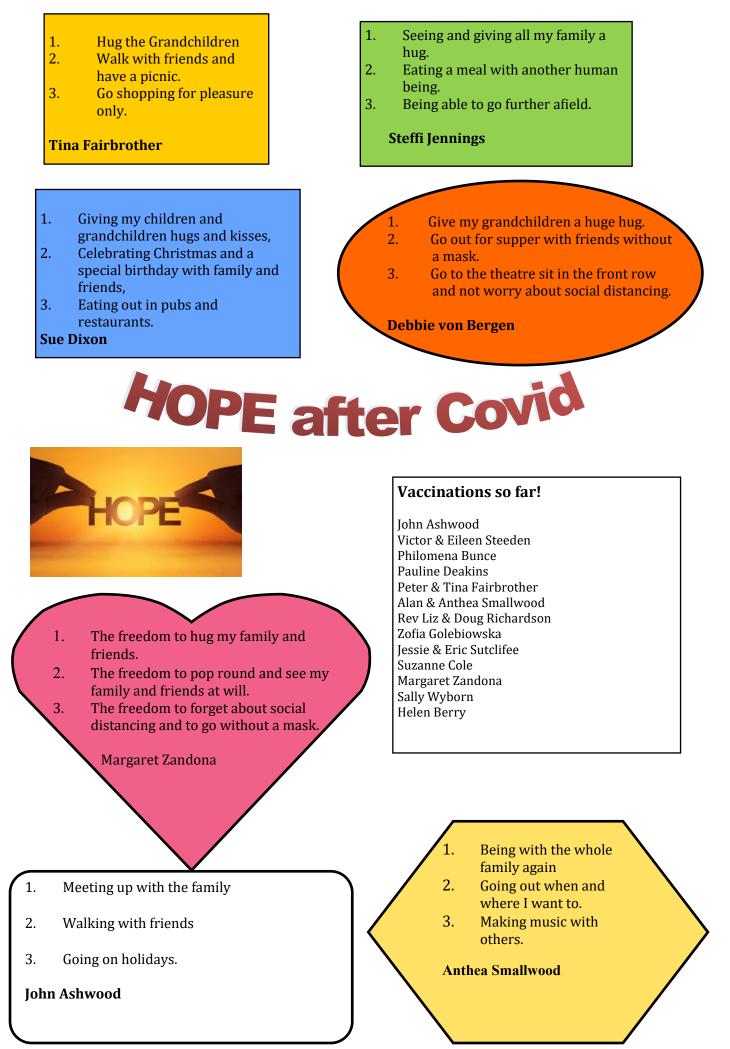
HOW THIS WORKS:

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.

What 3 things are you most looking forward to doing when we are allowed to once more?

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March 2021 Compiled by Belinda Kerry

'Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.' Ephesians 6:11

LENT

'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.' Matthew 26:41

MONDAY 1st

Loving Father, we pray that we will not be dragged down by our own desires. Give us the strength and wisdom to walk away when we are tempted and the clarity to see the way out that You will provide.

TUESDAY 2nd

Precious Saviour, we recognise that we need Your help and Your guidance in our battle with temptations. During this time of Lent, fill us with the power of Your Holy Spirit to lead us and strengthen us.

WEDNESDAY 3rd

Merciful Father, when we face the day haunted by expectations others place upon us, weighed down by burdens of isolation, unsure of outcomes and afraid, remind us that You faced all this and more, so that we might loose the chains that bind us, rise above and beyond the troubles of this world, and know peace in Your embrace.

THURSDAY 4th

Dear Lord, during Lent, as Your grace fills our hearts, may we be stirred into action to demonstrate Your love for all the world and for all creatures that live and move on this earth. Jesus Christ, our Saviour, for our sake You fasted forty days and allowed yourself to be tempted. Protect us so that we may not be led astray by any temptation. Since man does not live by bread alone, nourish our souls with the heavenly food of Your Word, we pray.

SATURDAY 6th

Lord Jesus, we are thirsty and we are weak. Lead us to Your Living Water to refresh us body and soul, for this water will never run dry. We thank You for the efforts of our churches to keep us all connected during Lent and throughout the pandemic.

SUNDAY 7th

Heavenly and Merciful Father, help us to recognise our need for You every second, every minute, every hour throughout our lives. Continue to walk beside us and mould us as we progress towards the cross, and strive to become better, stronger people in You. Guide our actions, thoughts, words and deeds.

FEAR AND ANXIETY

'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.' Isaiah 41:10

MONDAY 8th

Loving Father, we come before You to lay all our worries and anxieties at Your feet. When we are crushed by our fears, remind us of Your power and Your grace. Fill us with Your peace as we trust in You.

TUESDAY 9th

Lord Jesus, help us to see the truth through our fears and our worries, that You are with us always. Free our hearts from our burdens and help us to take one step at a time. Calm us with Your quiet words of love.

WEDNESDAY 10th

Calm us, Lord, as You calmed the storm. Still us, Lord, keep us from harm. Let all the tumult within us cease. Enfold us, Lord, in Your peace.

THURSDAY 11th

Lord Jesus Christ, You remind us not to worry about tomorrow. You assure us of Your love for us each and every day. Help us to keep our focus on You. We choose to trust You and not to worry. Holy Spirit, guard our hearts.

FRIDAY 12th

Lord, when our focus drifts away from You with constant worry and self-doubt, when we feel a failure or are afraid of being alone, bring our thoughts back to You to be the centre of our lives. Help us not to stray but to focus our hearts and minds upon You.

SATURDAY 13th

God of Love and Grace, encircle us, keep us safe and secure, guide our thoughts and calm our fears, we pray. Embrace us Lord and comfort us with Your love.

SUNDAY 14th MOTHERING SUNDAY

God of Peace, You have taught us that in Your returning we shall be saved. Be our strength and our salvation in a world of hurt, anguish, worry and fear. By the mighty power of Your Spirit, lift us up as we pray to You for rest and reassurance and may we always know that You are our God, and that Your grace can overcome any fear or worry we may have.

CHURCH AND MINISTRY

"...preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction." 2 Timothy 4:2

MONDAY 15th

Heavenly Father, we pray for the growth and development of the ministry of our churches. May Your Holy Spirit lead and guide us all to spread the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY 16th

Loving Lord, we lift up all church leaders to You. Keep them from losing heart when ministry becomes difficult. Protect their families and time with their families. Keep them strong in faith as they lead and guide their parishes through these difficult times.

WEDNESDAY 17th

Loving Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds, so that we are willing to hear and understand all that Your Holy Spirit has to teach us today. Help us not only to be hearers of Your Word, but those that take and apply all that we learn from You in our lives, to Your praise and glory.

THURSDAY 18th

Lord Jesus, compel us as a church to proclaim Your truth and preach Your message. It won't always be easy, and it may not be convenient. But Jesus, Your words are life to us. Use Your Word to rebuke us, correct us and encourage us. Only You can give us great patience and the words to teach.

FRIDAY 19th

Jesus, seal our commitment and desire to be devoted to communing with You in prayer. Let our church be known as a house of prayer. Keep us awake, alert and fill our hearts with joy no matter the circumstances as we come to You as a church body in prayer.

SATURDAY 20th

Loving Father, we confess as a church that we want to know You more. We commit to the study of God's Word, personally and corporately. Help us to grow and give us a passion and zeal for the Bible and prayer. Lord, feed us, strengthen us and move us when necessary to be men and women of faith, full of grace and truth.

SUNDAY 21st

Faithful Saviour, we pray that You raise up men, women and children to make disciples here and around the world. Show our church how to be involved in Your Kingdom work and may Your Holy Spirit give us the power to be Your hands and feet.

UNION WITH CREATION

'Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.' Genesis 2:7

MONDAY 22nd

Heavenly Father, You have taught us that all creation is Your handiwork. Grant us Your grace that we may exercise wise stewardship of this Earth and cherish its resources so that our children may enjoy its riches and Your name be glorified through all that You have made.

TUESDAY 23rd

Creator God, thank You for the waters of the earth, for the life-sustaining rains, lakes and deep oceans. Keep us mindful of how precious these are, and how vulnerable they are. Help us to work together for clean water and for the sharing of it with those who have need of it today.

WEDNESDAY 24th

Holy Spirit, keep us always aware of how we treat our Father's creation. When we look at the beauty of our world, may we be as amazed as we were when we were children. Help us to share this joy with our own children and teach them to value all that You have made.

THURSDAY 25th

Father God, teach us to contemplate You in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of You. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that You have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

FRIDAY 26th

God of Love, show us our place in this world as channels of Your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in Your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.

SATURDAY 27th

Lord, Father of our human family, You created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace. Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

SUNDAY 28th PALM SUNDAY

Dear Lord, may this eternal truth be always on our hearts, that the God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted His Son to the care of ordinary people, became vulnerable that we might know how strong is the wonder of Love.

HOLY WEEK

"...the punishment that brought us peace was on him and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

MONDAY 29th

Dear Lord, during this week, help us to keep in our mind our Saviour's gift and promise of new, abundant and eternal life for all who believe and trust in Him.

TUESDAY 30th

Merciful Lord, we pray that we would not be counted as the doubters hiding in the shadows or deny You as Peter did. We give thanks that You are there when we call on Your name for forgiveness to bring comfort, peace and love.

WEDNESDAY 31st

Lord God, we pray to You in this week when Your church remembers Jesus' passion and death. We may be distracted by many things but help us to turn our eyes now to the One who comes in Your name, the One who opens the gates of righteousness, the One who answers when we call.

Lent ideas and resources

There are numerous Lent resources available, here is a roundup of some of them:

First there is our own **Lent course 'Creation Matters'** being run by Rev Liz which started last Monday 22nd February. It starts at 7.00pm each Monday evening on Zoom. This course will run for 6 weeks and we will be discussing 'Creation Matters'. Don't worry if you can't come to all the sessions, they will be recorded so that you can access them in your own time. If you haven't used Zoom before or would like some help setting it up, we can do that too! Just email Rev Liz (<u>liz@hostmyserver.co.uk</u>)

The Church of England has produced a lovely booklet called **#LIVELENT – God's Story, Our Story.** These booklets will be available in our churches later this week, both on their own and part of the Lent bags that we have produced. Please do go to either church to help yourselves.

The **Lent bags** include the booklet above, a palm cross, another booklet about Easter and a couple of little treats. **At the time of going to print, we believe there may be a couple available in the porch at St Margaret's, Ockley but all bags in St John the Baptist have now been taken.*

The Bible Socety is running an online programme called **'The Lent Encounter'** which is based around Andrew Ollerton's new book 'The Bible : A story that Makes Sense of Life'. You don't need to own the book to benefit from the 40 days of emails which will include bible verses, video reflections and challenges.

Roots who produce resources for churches have developed a lovely series of reflections for Lent giving us an opportunity to explore in a biblical context the challenges and changes of everyday life we have experienced during the pandemic. The reflections are attached as a pdf. If anyone would like a hard copy, I can print some off and deliver them to you. Today's picture is taken from their leaflet.

Speaking of challenges, **40 acts** which normally runs a series of challenges to benefit others during Lent has understandably decided that this year they can't go ahead as normal, but they are going to put out some inspiring emails. If you haven't heard about them before take a look at their website:

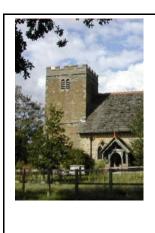
https://40acts.org.uk/some-news-for-2021/

If you know anyone at home with children, the following resources from **Muddy church** – which you will hear more about in the future look great fun:

https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/lent-40-moments-and-40-bags

Debbie von Bergen





NEWS FROM THE BELFRY



Romance in the Belfry

It is not uncommon for couples and families to ring together. Sometimes there are generations of ringers and it is natural for the children to follow in their parents' footsteps. These tend to be the best ringers as the art is instilled in them from an early age. Others may have started ringing as a hobby and then bring in their partner or other family members because of the interest they have generated as ringing is highly addictive.

Multiple ringers in a household are very useful for a tower as it is easier to complete a band although their absence is also more noticeable, such as at holiday times. When we were able to ring between lockdowns it also enabled us to ring more bells than otherwise as same household ringers did not need to be distanced.

Last October while we were still able to ring under restrictions, there was an unofficial 'practice' session at Ockley on a Saturday afternoon just for the 15 minutes allowed, with only 5 of the 6 bells taken due to distancing. This was a ruse to allow one of the ringers to spring a surprise proposal to his long term partner, with just 6 of us there to celebrate and a bottle of fizz tucked away with glasses in readiness. The wedding is booked to take place at Ockley in June, whatever the restrictions may be. When the creator of 'Fun With Bells' asked for suitable material for the Valentine's edition of a monthly podcast all about bell ringing, this was an obvious choice. Their romantic tale has been retold ready for the February broadcast.

After the daily tolling in November for Prayer Month further restrictions came into force. There has been no ringing since, and will not be until the lockdown is lifted nor is there any information yet on what restrictions will be in place. Presumably it will be some time yet before ringing is anything more than the 15 minutes allowed before, with distancing and masks.

We continue to meet socially in Zoom and use Ringing Room to practice. This is a computer application that enables us to ring together remotely by pressing a key for each bell. There are many additional groups holding virtual meetings, to keep the ringing community connected and up to speed, in recognition of the fact that it could still be another six months before ringing returns to anything like before.

Ringing has developed and passed from generation to generation in Britain for over three hundred years. It is a wonderful blend of sport, music, exercise, and friendship, as well as a challenge of wits and skill.

For more information contact Sue on 01306 627168 or email ockleybellringers@btinternet.com

4th Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day. Motherhood takes... the strength of Samson, the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the faith of Abraham, the insight of Daniel and the courage of David!

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.



Mothering Sunday praise

Gracious God, As a mother loves her child so you love us, for that great truth We praise and thank you.

We owe our very lives to you. You have watched over us from our birth, tenderly nurturing us, showering us with love. When we have needed you.

Amen

Extract from a prayer by Nick Fawcett (Prayer for All Seasons 1998)

For those who no longer have their mother with them ...

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unheard but always near, Still loved, Still missed and very dear.

Don't forget!

Don't forget there will be Mothering Sunday posies available at both churches on Sunday 14th March 2021.

Our thanks to Joy and Sally for organising this.



The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers all that mothers have done for us this past year.

Let's clap for mothers!



As Mother's Day approaches, let's hear it for all the mothers who have been on the frontline of helping our country survive the Covid pandemic!

Just as we've clapped on our doorsteps for the NHS and other heroes, let's applaud all that mothers have done – often balancing home and employment – during these long lockdown months.

Research shows that mums have carried out most of the home schooling and household tasks – with many also holding down important frontline roles in the NHS and other essential services.

Women spent more than twice as much time as men on their children's home schooling and development during the lockdown,

according to a study by University College London. It measured how parents responded while schools and nurseries were closed to most families.

The survey, reported by the Guardian newspaper, found that women across several age groups took the major share of childcare and home schooling. Those with primary school-aged children "were considerably more likely" to have given up working than fathers with children of the same age.

The pressure on families was further increased as many grandparents and other carers were unable to help. Family and friendship networks were put under strain with contacts restricted to online Zoom or Facetime calls that are often difficult with younger children.

Launching a Children's Society report into children's welfare during the lockdown, chief executive Mark Russell said: "We are living in unprecedented times. Months of national lockdown, only small numbers of children in school, and many families experiencing real crisis. Coronavirus has impacted every area of our lives and The Children's Society has been deeply concerned about the impact of this crisis on children, especially the most disadvantaged."

He added: "Our survey found a higher proportion of young people experiencing low well-being than we are used to seeing. Whilst we know that most children's well-being will 'bounce-back', there will be some who do not." Mothers are at the frontline of helping our children cope with – and then recover from – the effects of the Covid pandemic and the extended lockdowns.

Many working mothers lost their jobs because of the pandemic, and families will be hard-pressed to make up for the income lost. Food bank provider, the Trussell Trust has warned churches to prepare for a 'tidal wave' of poverty and to be ready to help their local communities.

This Mother's Day, daffodils and chocolate may seem very thin reward for the major contribution of mums across our nation.

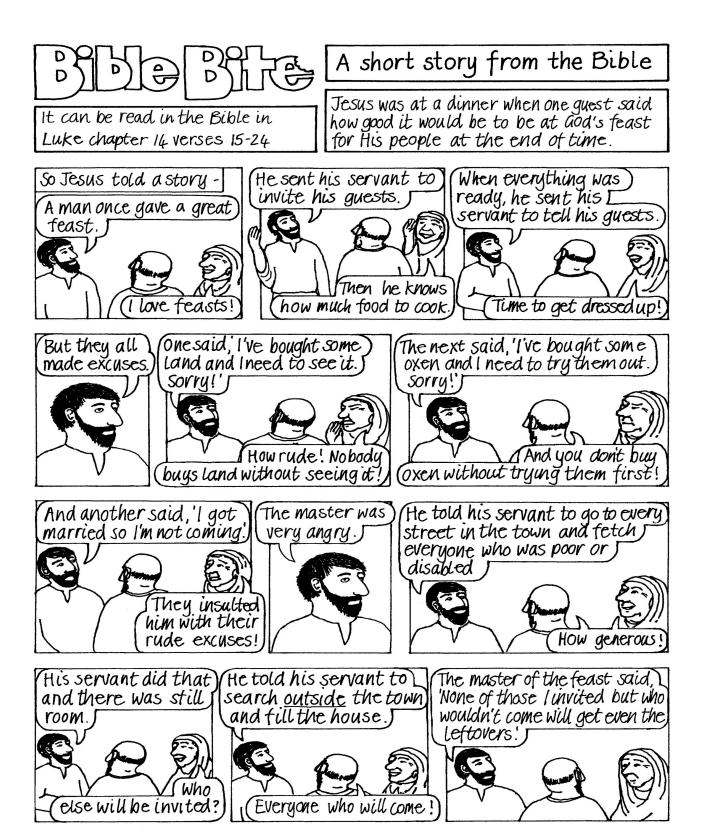
In normal times, they have a challenging and demanding job to do. Through the pandemic, they have risen to the challenges and sought to ensure children thrive despite the lockdowns.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let's recognise the amazing efforts made by mothers in the home with their children.

Let's also celebrate the vital roles many also play – as do those without children – in the NHS, in education, in the government and civil service, in keeping vital supplies flowing – and in our pulpits and across our churches.

©Parish Pump







Page 15

Turn the page around and see if you can colour in the mice making tea!



excuses

married

servant

rude

oxen

town

leftovers

Jesus

Don't forget it's Mothering Sunday this month!

story

feast

God

house

master

bought

everyone

dressed

dinner

land

time

guest

street

invited

angry

generous

There will be posies available to collect for your Mum or anyone who is like a Mum to you at both St John the Baptist, Capel and St Margaret's, Ockley. The flowers will be found in the church porches!

Mothering Sunday ... Sunday 14th March 2021



🕶 TRAIDCRAFT



Page 16 22nd February until 7th March is a two-week celebration of all things Fairtrade. This year's theme is climate change and the impact of this on Fairtrade farmers and producers around the world.

During the two weeks of Fairtrade Fortnight 2021, individuals, groups and companies come together to celebrate the people in developing countries who grow our food, but who are often underpaid and exploited.

This year, the focus of Fairtrade Fortnight is climate change, and the growing problems this poses to farmers and workers within the Fairtrade community. The two-week period will highlight the facts; climate change is a huge challenge for farmers and workers in countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Honduras, yet these are the countries who have contributed least to the causes of climate change. Droughts, crop disease, floods, heatwaves and shrinking harvests are among the challenges they face. When the Fairtrade

Foundation spoke to some of these farmers, they were told that they felt climate change was one of the biggest obstacles their generation is facing. They also commented that only with more money would they feel equipped to meet their everyday needs and deal with the devastating challenges climate change brings.

Choosing to buy fair trade, ethical food and drink is everyday activism, and is the simplest way to change the world. Through fair trade, farmers and growers can earn enough to feed their families, send their children to school, provide a future for their local community and look into solutions to the problems they face due to climate change. This Fairtrade Fortnight, we invite you to join Traidcraft on a journey stretching over forty years of UK fair trade, fighting for them and fighting with them. Why not embark upon your own fair trade journey by choosing to buy your fair trade goods from our collection of <u>Fairtrade Fortnight special offers and discounts</u>.

We've curated our favourite <u>fair trade food</u>, snacks, and treats, all available to buy online. From the very finest fair trade brands like <u>Divine Chocolate</u> and <u>Zaytoun</u>, to a wide range of Traidcraft's own <u>fairtrade</u> <u>chocolate</u>, <u>coffee</u>, <u>tea</u>, <u>biscuits</u>, and more – there's a world of quirky flavours and ethical bites waiting to be discovered and celebrated.

How will you celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight this year?

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT FACTS

Did you know, Fairtrade Fortnight started in Edinburgh in 1997? Fairtrade Fortnight is now celebrated in a number of countries around the world, including Canada, Australia and New Zealand. There are over 100,000 Fairtrade campaigning groups in the UK, and over 4,500 Fairtrade Labelled products available for sale. Fairtrade Fortnight takes place every year.

The Fairtrade Foundation was jointly founded by Traidcraft in 1992, with the aim of establishing the standards that underpin today's well-known Fairtrade Mark.

Interested to read more about the story of Traidcraft and fair trade? <u>Discover the</u> story of Traidcraft, and learn more about <u>fair trade</u>.

The new Spring Catalogues are arriving shortly! We hope to have them by the beginning of next week (Monday 1st March 2021) and will put a few copies in each church (NB: St Margaret's church porch). Fairtrade fortnight goes on until 7th March with lots of special offers so do take a look and let us know if we can order anything for you? Don't forget they do Divine chocolate and the Meaningful Chocolate's Real Easter Egg (no longer being stocked in supermarkets). Can we help you shop for Easter gifts?!

In the meantime, if you would like to order anything, please contact us. Suzanne ら Stuart Cole email: 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

Dear Readers,

The last weekend in February is proving to be a very beautiful one with cold, crisp nights and beautiful spring like days where you can actually feel the first warmth of the sun! It does generally feel more hopeful than it did a while ago—the warmer weather coming and all the beauty of the spring flowers, plus the continuing rollout of the vaccination programme at an impressive rate! I'm sure that many of you have now had your vaccine (myself included!) and there is a small list on page 7 of those of us that I know about! Do see that page for **'Hope after Covid'**! It is thoughts from a few of you about what you most want to do once restrictions are gradually lifted. I think the most striking thing about all of them is that they involve people—family, friends etc and wanting human contact once more, whether it is speaking to someone in the same room or hugging those we care for! Wanting to go on holiday and eat a nice meal out do feature, but they clearly aren't anyone's main priority. The crisis of the pandemic has certainly focussed us on what really matters to us and I'd like to share a thought with you ... *"In the rush to return back to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to".*

On that basis, I am sure everyone will be delighted to hear that services will resume at the end of March. Rev Liz and the Standing Committee made the decision recently and understand that not everyone will feel happy returning just yet. For that reason, the services will be recorded and broadcast later in the day for those not wishing to attend. I'm sure we would all like to thank those involved in giving us our online worship opportunities since December 2020. I think they have done a wonderful job! I shall thoroughly look forward to getting back to worshipping together at some point, but I have very much enjoyed 'church' at home too!



We are currently in **Fairtrade Fortnight** and the new **Traidcraft Spring catalogues** will be in church next week sometime. They are being to delivered to us on Monday 1st March and we will endeavour to get them in the churches as soon as possible. They have some lovely, tasty Easter ideas, so do get in touch with Stuart and I if we can help you order anything? (see contact details opposite on page 16).

There is much to read in this issue including the second part of **Chris Cooper's memoirs of Croydon Air**port. There are also features on **Mothering Sunday** on pages 12 & 13, articles from Parish Pump, **Lent resource ideas, Easter makes and bakes** on page 18 and for the first time a **'Mindful colouring in'** page to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight (see back page). We also have our usual **'Prayer Diary'** compilation from Belinda Kerry and **'Romance in the Belfry'** from Sue Dixon. My thanks to both of them for their regular contributions. We have several pages of Church Times news including one sobering article on page 32 **'2021 World Watch List of Persecution of Christians'** where a Christian persecution watchdog has warned that more Christians around the world are suffering because of their faith, and the kind of persecution they're experiencing has intensified. Clearly, these fellow Christians need our prayers. In the last year a lot of our freedoms have been denied to us due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but nothing compares to the persecution so many Christians are enduring around the world.

Don't forget there is the Lent Course **'Creation Matters'** taking place on Monday evenings via Zoom if you would like to join in - details on page 5 and there are the Lent booklets and Lent bags available in our churches if you haven't already picked one up? (see picture of contents below).

Do let me know when you've been vaccinated so we can created a LONG list! It's such a wonderful sign of hope for our way out of this pandemic.

With my very best wishes,

Suzanne





Make

Joy box or jar

Decorate the outside of a box or jar with the word 'joy' and 'flowers' or things that make you happy. Then as things happen in your family that give you joy add them to the box/jar. These are great to read and reflect on at the end of the month or at times when we are feeling sad to remind us of the joy in our life.



Easy Easter nests

Prep: 25 mins Cook: 8 mins Plus chilling

Makes 12

Ingredients

200g milk chocolate, broken into pieces

85g shredded wheat , crushed

2 x 100g bags mini chocolate eggs

You'll also need

cupcake cases

© BBC Good Food

goodfood

Method

STEP 1

Melt the chocolate in a small bowl placed over a pan of barely simmering water. Pour the chocolate over the shredded wheat and stir well to combine.

Easy

STEP 2

Spoon the chocolate wheat into 12 cupcake cases and press the back of a teaspoon in the centre to create a nest shape. Place 3 mini chocolate eggs on top of each nest. Chill the nests in the fridge for 2 hrs until set.

Real Easter Egg launches despite being dropped by supermarkets

The Meaningful Chocolate Company has launched its 2021 Fairtrade Real Easter Egg range. All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to a 24-page activity book version with a prize competition worth £200. They provide an opportunity to share the joy of Easter with friends and family.

The 2021 Original Real Easter Egg includes a new 24-page Easter story activity book. It features a rainbow design to remind us of the importance of working together, in amazing and inspiring ways, for the common good. It costs £4.50 and is delivered in multiples of six or as singles.

David Marshall, from Meaningful Chocolate, said: "Even with the current uncertainties we believe that it is more important than ever that churches, schools and individuals find ways to share the Easter story in 2021. Our aim is to provide some of these resources and continue to support Fairtrade. The Real Easter Egg is a proven way to do this. You can order direct from <u>www.realeasteregg.co.uk</u> "

About the Real Easter Egg

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter eggs sold each year in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to share the Easter story.

The Real Easter Egg has been on sale since 2010 and involves thousands of churches, schools and groups. It crosses all denominations and offers individuals a simple way to share the Easter Story while supporting Fairtrade and charitable projects.

The Real Easter Egg continues to be the UK's top mail order Egg in terms of volume. To date more than a million eggs have been sold and more than £300,000 has been donated to charitable causes.

How to stop stress getting the better of you.

With the third lockdown, too many of us are facing a torrent of stress over job insecurity, home schooling, isolation, illness, or all of the above!

Stress makes us want to eat badly, exercise less and drink more. It also has a profound effect on our immune system.

While brief or 'acute' stress can spur us on to some specific achievement, the opposite is true of 'chronic' stress, which does only damage. It suppresses our immune system, making us more susceptible to bugs. That is why a stressful event can leave you feeling run down, or trigger a bad cold, shingles, or asthma.

So how do we give our immune systems some help during this crisis?

Eat well. A balanced diet includes at least all six plant-based food groups: fruit, vegetables, wholegrains, legume, nuts and seeds.

Exercise every day: regular moderate exercise helps your immune system.

Get enough sleep. It has been called "the foundation of the immune system." Avoid caffeine in the afternoon and keep devices, laptops or screens away from you for an hour before bedtime. Instead, stretch and relax, and consider a hot shower or bath.

Finally, don't be mean to yourself. Practise some self-compassion. Give yourself some private time, forget perfectionism, and accept that 'sometimes half-good is good enough.' Be kind to yourself – because even that will help your immune system.

© Parish Pump

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham writes

Looking back on the year that changed the world.

It was just over a year ago that the WHO discussed the coronavirus that was starting to spread around the world. None of us could have foreseen the devastating effect on our world, with over 80 million people infected and nearly 2 million deaths. How has the pandemic challenged our faith over the last year?

Firstly, it has forced us to face up to the *reality of our situation*. We cannot underestimate the health, social and economic effects of the virus on our lives, churches and communities. We have learned how to do church online, but the future shape of church life is uncertain! As the apostle Paul writes: *'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus' (2 Cor 4:8-10).* The pandemic has challenged so much of what we take for granted, but also demonstrated that God is alongside to help us in these circumstances.

Secondly, alongside the fear and uncertainty of this year, we have also learned to find **new faith and hope in Jesus**. The experience of Jesus' death and His resurrection provides a pattern for us in facing the future: 'so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.' (2 Cor 4:10-12).

During the season of Lent, it's good to focus on the promise of sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we consider our present struggles, are we ready to surrender them afresh to Jesus?

Considering the need to stay connected **'Zoomed Out?'**

'You're still on mute!' If you've used Zoom over the past year, you'll be familiar with this cry! After a day on Zoom, the last thing we often want to do is using it for a chat with friends or a church service on Sunday! Now this reveals a wider problem that we face. We know that staying connected in the pandemic is hard. When we're tired and busy, it's easy to stop connecting with others, which would encourage our faith or wellbeing. This might also include not sending a text, Facebook comment or phoning somebody up.

Remember what Paul says: 'For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.' (Romans 7:15). It's often easier to avoid connecting with God and others, when this would be good for our sense of value, purpose and identity. Certain patterns of behaviour can make us feel safer, but in reality they prevent us from living our lives fully as God intends.

Paul adds: 'What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!' (Romans 7:24,25). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have the freedom to act differently. Lent is an ideal time to develop new habits, especially when we are tired or anxious. It may involve spending less time on Facebook, turning the TV off to call a friend who we need to catch up with, or getting up a bit earlier to spend time in Bible reading and prayer.

Let's keep reminding ourselves that '*God is bigger than Zoom*' and make sure that we don't get disconnected! Let's be committed to doing the right thing, rather than simply the easier thing.

For Lent ...

Finding God in Each Moment of the Day

Do you know the popular series of books entitled *Where's Wally?* These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there!

In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have responded to Him. As the psalmist says, 'On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night' (Ps 63:6).

What does this look like in practice? Here is a step by step guide:

1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.

2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite Him to guide you.

3. Recall the beginning of the day, when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.

4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day.

5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can expect to see two things beginning to happen:

Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change.

Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary any more!

Definitions from church life

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

PEWSHEET: Your receipt for attending Matins.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Sunday morning worship, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JONAH: The original 'Jaws' story

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of a formal Sung Eucharist, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

SIDESMEN: The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.



Sermon @uotes

Boyhood in Beddington and the Last years of Croydon Airport Part 2: Going up in the world! By Chris Cooper



It was in 1956, that I bumped into one of my friends from school days in Wallington. David, as I will call him, was learning to fly to obtain his private pilot's licence. He was being instructed in handling the afore-mentioned Auster 4: a three seater monoplane, and would I like to help with the cost of the instructor's fee? I duly agreed and was able to use the observer's seat during a one hour flight.

One Sunday morning in 1958 we met up at Croydon and was introduced to 'Charles' who showed me all the kit and straps that are used to stop us falling out! After my safety briefing, I sat in the observer's seat which sits sideways and gives an excellent view all around. I had put in a lot of extra paper rounds to help with the cost, but the experience was worth all the extra effort I had put in!

The first lessons were how to take off and land properly; the next was navigation. This involved flying from Croydon to another airfield and in due course we visited Biggin Hill, Fairoaks and White Waltham. On one occasion during a flight to Biggin Hill in April 1958, we passed over the main line from London to Brighton and observed something that was to have a great influence much later in my life.

Coming down from the direction of East Croydon was a steam hauled train, which I noted from our height of about one thousand feet was exceptionally clean! The train passed behind us and I gave it no more thought until the next day when returning to Grants of Croydon where I worked. I asked my friend in the travel department if he knew of such a train? His reply was that it was a 'Special' to mark the last run of 'Beachy Head' no. 32424 before it went to scrap.

Many years later some lads from the Bluebell Railway locomotion shed discovered an almost new boiler for that type of engine at Brightlingsea in Essex. After much effort and fund raising, a new 'Beachy Head' is rising from the ashes! I wish them well.

Having wandered off the point, I return to the air and a trip to White Waltham which could have been my last. Having landed without incident, we visited the clubhouse for a short time and then returned to Croydon. David forgot to turn the petrol back on, so halfway down the runway into take off, the engine cut out and finished up with the Auster's nose in the hedge! The result of this error was to turn the aircraft round by hand, taxi back to the starting point and take off again! I had two or three more flights with David, the last one being in 1959. I always wonder if he did obtain his PPL? On one occasion, having landed at Croydon, we were alighting from our aircraft when a member of the MTCA police rode up on his bicycle and tried to arrest me for trespassing! This resulted in an argument between Charles, David and the owner of another aircraft that was there at the time. Officer Weaver realised that he had been over-zealous and went off to pursue other plane spotters; for which he was notorious! I had so many wonderful times on G-AKXP, never to be repeated.

One sad event that took place in the Fifties on a Sunday in 1952 was the crash in Wallington. A 'Dragon Rapide' had taken off from Croydon when it experienced an engine failure. As luck would have it, I was almost outside the Gas showroom at the junction of Woodcote Road and Stafford Road, when the plane came down, demolishing the trolley bus wires and the petrol pumps of Jack Rose's garage, before piling up against the church that was there then. The children were quickly evacuated from the Sunday school in the building, whilst the fire brigade tackled the inferno. The conflagration was soon under control, but unfortunately the pilot had lost his life.

These were the days of the AFS and for hours afterwards, Green Goddesses came from every quarter to render assistance, long after the fire was out. The volunteers had been training at their depots and the air crash was an excellent opportunity. As the end of 1959 approached, the number of organisations using Croydon was starting to run down. It was obvious that the Ministry was deaf to the case for retention put forward by the users of the airport. The main reason for closure was the fact that Croydon was too close to Heathrow and that aircraft movements so near to the developing hub for London would be dangerous.

The date set for closure was the end of September 1959, and as a result, Morton Air Services moved to Gatwick airport as Jersey Airlines had previously done. Trans-Air became part of British Caledonian whilst the Flying clubs moved to Biggin Hill, Redhill or Headcorn in Kent. The 30th September was the last day and if I remember correctly the last aircraft to leave was Miles Gemini G-AJWE. After that, there was nothing left.

The Ministry made sure that the airport was well and truly closed by installing the largest cross in the centre of the site, to leave no room for doubt.

Most of the airport has now been re-developed with the Roundshaw Estate on the west side with Wilson's school on the north. Airport House and the Central tower are preserved among the new buildings, whilst from Purley Way you can see an area of tarmac in the country park which was the start of runway 30 degrees.

For more information, contact the Croydon Airport Society.

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



CHURCH TIMES

Housing crisis: Nowhere to call home

The UK's housing crisis has defeated many governments. *Pat Ashworth* looks ahead to a church report on the problem

19th February 2021

Seventy years ago, in the wake of the Second World War, the Conservative government was elected on a manifesto plege to build 300,000 homes a year. Local authorities went on to build 3.1 million social homes in the following 25 years: 425,000 were built in 1968 alone.

Forty years ago, there were 5.5 million social homes. Today, there are just four million. In the intervening years, "public housing" — aimed at a broad spectrum of people and featuring municipally owned houses financed by public loans and subsidies — yielded to "social housing". It was now for the residue of people unable to afford anything else; owned by a mix of housing associations and local authorities, and funded by public and private finance.

The figures are now starker than ever. The Government's own definitions of those in priority need for housing show that about half a million households are homeless or living in unsatisfactory conditions. One in every 200 people is without a home. One child in nine is living in an overcrowded home.

The number of people sleeping rough is estimated to be up 165 per cent since 2010. The number of households in temporary accommodation — used by local authorities to fulfil their duty to homeless households with priority need — has grown 82 per cent in the past decade. A total of 83,700 households were living in temporary accommodation in June 2020. The figure included 127,890 children.

The bones of the housing crisis are laid bare in a comprehensive report from the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee in July 2020. This Select Committee investigated the long-term delivery of social housing, set out a blueprint for the future, and concluded: "There is compelling evidence that England needs at least 90,000 net additional social-rent homes a year for the next 15 years."

In 2019, the total number of social-rent homes built was 6827. In a Green Paper in 2018, *A New Deal for Social Housing*, the Government acknowledged "a long-term need for social housing, especially in London and the Southeast", and affirmed that "social housing remains central to our [300,000 homes a year] ambition." The Select Committee's report revealed the total stock of social-rent housing to have increased by just 100,000 since 2010.

MANY factors have contributed to the current situation. The Housing Act 1980 furthered the declared ambition of the newly elected Conservative government that the country be "a property-owning democracy". The Right to Buy allowed occupiers of social housing to buy their homes from the local authority, but there was no commitment to replacing the homes, or to local authorities' ring-fencing the money to do so. The homelessness charity Crisis has calculated the replacement rate of the homes to be less than two in five.

But the Select Committee identified the significant rise in the value of land as an equally important factor in explaining the decline in social housing. Before the Land Compensation Act 1961, local authorities could compulsorily purchase land at its existing value. The new Act meant that landowners could be compensated for the amount that it might reach in future on the open market. The Royal Town Planning Institute estimated that lack of land was the factor in 90 per cent of cases where local authorities were not delivering social housing.

The charity Shelter, whose own commission on social housing concluded its work in 2019, has called for the provision of 3.1 million social homes over 20 years: an average of 155,000 a year. The Affordable Housing Commission (AHC) has recommended that the "step change" for the Government should be 90,000 a year, in line with the latest assessment of housing needs.

It warned that Covid-19 had exposed the broken housing system and its reliance on private renting to provide for lower-income households. Those in overcrowded homes had faced worse health outcomes, and private tenants had struggled to meet housing costs. It called for a social house-building programme to be top of the Government's agenda to rebuild the country from the impact of Covid-19.

The Prime Minister vowed on 30 June last year that the Government's "new deal" for Britain was "to unite and level up. To that end, we will build, build, build. Build back better, build back greener, build back faster and do that at the pace that this moment requires."

In a series of study visits, members of the Archbishop's Commission on Housing, Church and Community — which is to publish its full report on Sunday — have seen for themselves just what the definition "living in unsatisfactory conditions" means in 21st-century Britain.

Among them, the Rector of Stockport and Brinnington, the Revd Lynne Cullen, was a housing officer before ordination. Even she was shaken by the circumstances of a family in Newham, living on the second floor over a shop. Their flat, basically one room, was reached up a dark, steep, and narrow staircase, impeded by other tenants' washing and storage.

The Commission found a young couple living there with a three-year-old child. They were basically in one room, the two beds jammed together, allowing almost no space to walk around. The husband told them about suspected rat infestation, problems with the electricity supply, concern about the windows, and the lack of heating.

"We all sat there on the bed, in that tiny room. It's hard to describe how poignant it was," she said. "While the husband was speaking, the wife silently passed me a folder. It was the documentation around the death of their baby, four months earlier. They were living with all of these issues. They felt unheard; they felt insecure in their tenancy. The repairs they reported had not been acted on."

Another visit illustrated the plight of a single mother with three children under the age of nine, one of them a little boy with ADHD. Only one room of their three-bedroom flat was able fully to be used; so it contained a bunk bed for the children and a settee for the mother. The window had to be sealed, because it was considered unsafe for the little boy.

"It was August, stuffy and oppressive," Mrs Cullen said. "She hadn't been listened to. She had been on the waiting list for social housing for a long time, but demand had long outstripped supply. She was living under pressure all the time, with a great sense of isolation and disconnection from the community."

One woman was found to have moved five times in six years, through insecure tenancies. A mother encountered in a high-rise had a four-year old with special needs, who had barely been out for a year. She suffered the complaints of neighbours that the child was noisy.

Mrs Cullen hopes that churches will feel called to connect, to "look through the lens of housing need at the assets of buildings and land with which God has blessed them. What I love about the Commission's work is that we are putting our own house in order first. We are walking the talk, starting with what we can do to tackle the housing crisis together."

The report promises to be radical in its content and recommendations. Chris Beales, a social entrepreneur who has worked in this field for many years, commends the strong will to push for truly affordable social housing. A significant part of his own work on the Commission is working with Knight Frank and the research company Eido to develop a digital map of all Church of England land and buildings, using ARcGIS mapping technology.

"If we use the technology responsibly and creatively and strategically, then collectively we can make a big impact on the housing crisis," he said. "If you take an area like Durham, for instance, you have a bit of diocesan land, a lot of Church Commissioners' land, also some cathedral land. If you put that alongside local-authority or Homes England land, there is the potential to do something really significant."

Pioneering work is already going on. In the south-west, for example, the dioceses of Gloucester, Salisbury, Bath & Wells, and Bristol, together with three dioceses in South Wales, have come together to open dialogue with the Western Gateway, a strategic partnership promoting and maximising economic growth in that area.

He finds encouragement, too, in a new, positive way of thinking from Homes England, which is responsible to the Government for increasing the number of homes to be built and for increasing the supply of land. Many housing associations are also wanting to see change.

"There is a real opportunity for the Church of England to take a leadership role. We have a presence in every community; we bring thousands of volunteers, hundreds of schools. and thousands of acres of land," Mr Beales says.

"Churches during Covid-19 have had a real opportunity to exercise their ministry of love, and they are doing it brilliantly. People are realising that things have got to change, with the Church back in the public square."

CHURCH TIMES



After virtual church, there was virtual coffee ...

chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk

Dear England Book Launch The Archbishop of York in conversation with Adrian Chiles on 'Dear England' WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH - 7.00 PM

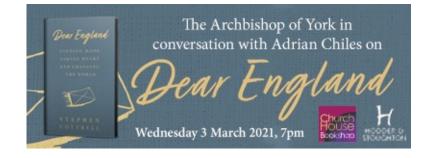
Join the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell in conversation with Adrian Chiles about his brand new book.

Dear England is the letter the Archbishop would like to write to a country that no longer sees the relevance of a Christian narrative – a nation divided by Brexit but united, to some extent, by the coronavirus. He shares his dream of 'what our dear country might become if we inhabited it differently', writing, 'I believe our best future will emerge when we learn how we belong together and how we can build communities of belonging.'

Register below to receive access to this FREE event.

Tickets are free! Why not consider donating to the Archbishop of York Youth Trust? Find out more and donate here: <u>https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/support-us</u>

Visit our **EVENT BOOKSTALL** to pre-order signed copies of *Dear England* on special offer and to view other discounted titles by Stephen Cottrell: <u>https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/features/dear-england</u>



Pater noster: motherly Father

Our Lent series is from a new book exploring the Lord's Prayer. In the first extract, *Stephen Cherry* considers what we mean by 'Our Father' 19th February 2021



The question of how to begin a prayer confronts everyone who has ever sought to pray. Jesus was a person of prayer long before he taught his disciples to pray, and we can be sure that as he prayed he drew on the prayers of the Bible — not least the great collection of poetic biblical prayers called the Psalms. We might expect, therefore, that when Jesus did teach his disciples to pray, he would have put forward a familiar image or idea from that basic repertoire of prayer. The surprise is that he did not. The word with which the prayer begins is not "Judge", or "Lord", or "Master", or "Mighty One", or even "Almighty", but "Father".

It would be wrong to imagine that Jesus was here inviting people to think of their own relationship with their male parent and then extend that to their relationship with God. There is no evidence that he had a particularly high regard for his earthly father, and he certainly took the opportunity from time to time to distance himself from the idea that the domestic or genetic unit was especially important (Matthew 12.48-50). For Jesus and his Jewish followers, the duty to respect parents, and to care for them when they became needy, was enshrined in the

Commandment: "Honour thy father and thy mother."

But, for Jesus, our duty of care is far more extensive than an exclusive focus on the family. When Jesus used the word "Father" as the mode of address with which to begin this prayer, he was shifting the focus of our relationship with God from one based on power and deference to one based on care and support. When we pray to the "Father", we pray to the one who caused us to be and sustains us in life, not to one who owns us as a subject, or who has power over us that we fear will be exercised harshly, or who matters primarily because it is by them that we are held to account for our thoughts, words, and deeds. The "Father" whom Jesus addresses is not a potentate who terrifies, but a progenitor who is deeply benevolent.

It's also important to appreciate that, when Jesus used the word that we translate as "Father", he was not making a definitive statement to the effect that God is more like your father than any other person you can think of or imagine. Nor was he saying that your earthly father is the best model of God that can ever be suggested. And he was certainly not saying that "your father is more important than your mother." On the contrary, he was deliberately moving people's understanding of God from the institutional to the relational.

That, as time has gone by, it is the father of the household who has been taken to embody and represent a more formal, discipline-oriented figure than has the mother is, given Jesus's choice of words, the source of significant confusion. The biblical scholar Joachim Jeremias understood this point well and addressed it by writing that "the word 'Father', as applied to God, thus encompasses, from earliest times, something of what the word 'Mother' signifies among us."

Writing much more recently, the Jesuit priest and leading Roman Catholic theologian Gerald O'Collins — seeking to capture here the sense of forgiveness seen in the father of the prodigal son, in Jesus's compassion for the large hungry crowd that gathered to hear him, and in his uses of the imagery of a mother hen caring for her chicks under her wings to describe his mission — suggested that the God to whom Jesus prays might be thought of as a "motherly father".

THE origin of the bird and wings imagery is found in the Old Testament, but, according to O'Collins, not only did Jesus apply to himself imagery used for God but he also "gave the image a very homely twist by representing himself not as a mighty eagle but as a barnyard hen". O'Collins goes on to expound the "motherly father" phrase in terms of the way in which the death and resurrection is presented by the Evangelists and, in particular, by a sequence in the Gospel of John. It is John who uses the metaphor of childbirth to explain the paroxysm of pain and lamentation that accompanies the birthing of a new way and how it is all swallowed by joy.

Article continued on page 29

Picture above: The History Collection/Alamy Detail from The Return of the Prodigal Son by Rembrandt van Rijn

CHURCH TIMES

Survey: vaccine rollout should be made equal

by a staff reporter Those vaccinated are urged to donate to Christian Aid's 'Pay it forward' appeal

Avon Valley Churches teamed up with the Cottage Loaf bakery, in Fordingbridge, Hampshire, to distribute more than 400 Valentine's cupcakes to local families and care homes.

Nearly two-thirds of people in the UK believe that the Covid-19 vaccination should be rolled out equally around the world, and that poorer countries should be given equal access to the vaccines, a new survey suggests.

The survey, published on Monday, found that 63 per cent of respondents agreed that the vaccine programme should not favour richer developed countries. Only 11 per cent disagreed.

The survey was carried out for Christian Aid by Savanta ComRes: 2119 UK adults were questioned online earlier this month, and the resulting responses were weighted to represent the population. It also found that 66 per cent of respondents wanted the UK Government to put pressure on pharmaceutical companies to help a faster rollout by making the vaccine formula available.



Photo ©Avon Valley Churches

Christian Aid has formed a partnership with the diocese of Gloucester to encourage people who have been vaccinated to "pay it forward" by donating to Christian Aid's coronavirus appeal.

A similar campaign, set up by the Rector of St Andrew's, Curry Rivel, in Somerset, has raised more than £20,000. The "Twin my vaccine" campaign, set up on the donation site Just Giving by the Revd Scott Patterson, encourages those who have been given a free vaccine to donate towards one for people in the world's poorest communities. It beat its initial target of £1000 and raised £20,000 in the first two weeks. The money raised will go to UNICEF's Covid-19 appeal, to deliver vaccines around the world.

Mr Patterson said: "There is a lot of pent-up generosity in my congregation and beyond, and a feeling of not being able to do much to help. The love of our neighbour is a global calling, after all. Those who have been given their first shot of the vaccine are so grateful for it, they want to help others."

In neighbouring Backwell, also in the diocese of Bath & Wells, parishioners are responding to a "Buy One Give One Free" appeal to donate the cost of their vaccine, which varies from £4 to £30.

The Bishop of Taunton, the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, said: "The global perspective can sometimes get overlooked amidst all the pressing needs around us; however, your actions demonstrate God's loving generosity to all.

"It really is important that we don't allow our own anxieties for our nation to become one that gets caught up in a selfish response without concern for others around the world. If we are truly going to beat the virus then we need to pay attention to those who are even more vulnerable than ourselves."

The UK announced this week that it had met its goal of giving at least one shot of a vaccine to the most vulnerable people in the UK, although vaccine take-up is still low among ethnic-minorites. In a recent survey, 48 per cent of people from an ethnic minority said that they were reluctant to be vaccinated, although more than half said that they would be willing if they knew that it was safe.

Grace Penn-Timity, a Methodist nurse who works in A&E, said that she was urging friends and relatives to get vaccinated, and was working to combat misinformation about the vaccine. "I talk to my fellow ethnic-minority people. . . You know how difficult it is to lose somebody. To die on your own with no friends or family around, it's even worse."

The Prime Minister has said that he will unveil his "roadmap" for lifting restrictions on 22 February.

The Christian charity the Pilgrims' Friend Society, which runs care homes, said that the vaccine rollout had brought "hope" to staff, but the Government must ensure that guidance for any lifting of restrictions was given in good time to help the sector prepare, and not raise expectations for relatives immediately.

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Victoria Stone, the coronavirus lead for the charity, said: "We hope the roadmap will include timely guidance for care homes, so we can be as prepared as possible. Since the pandemic began, we've often received guidance the night before the changes are due to be implemented, or on a Friday for a Monday rollout. This understandably creates an immediate expectation among relatives for changes, when in reality we need more time to put the necessary procedures in place.

"We also would welcome news on the Infection Control Fund, which helps facilitate things like safe indoor visits, as this is due to run out in March. And, finally, we hope to hear news on when we can look forward to hairdressers and other volunteers returning, as these are both great morale-boosters for residents."

Five churches in the Midlands have been awarded grants from the Culture Recovery Fund to help fund urgent repairs during the pandemic. St Peter's, Rous Lench, in Worcestershire, receives one of the biggest sums — $\pounds 25,000$ — to stop water seeping through a damaged roof.

A poetry competition in praise of key workers during the pandemic has been launched by three UK poets and a Christian cleaning company. The collaboration asks for poems — written or spoken — to celebrate key workers, from cleaners and delivery drivers to shop and care workers.

For information, visit poetryforgood.org.uk

© Church Times

Pater noster: motherly Father (continued from page 27)

It is John, too, who names the women who stand as silent witnesses to the crucifixion, and Mary Magdalene as the bewildered and distressed witness to the resurrection. O'Collins sees this as a "feminine sequence" that has a deeper symbolic meaning — one perhaps not evident to the writer. "It may prove hard to catch this meaning in a net of words, but we should not bypass the task of reflecting on the feminine face of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection — a face which also lets us glimpse some characteristics of the God whom Jesus preached and revealed."

The figure of Mary, the mother of Jesus, not only runs through this narrative — and indeed the whole Gospel narrative right up to and including Pentecost — but also hovers over it as the Virgin Mary or "Our Lady". Oddly, "Our Lady" is not often connected to the "Our Father", but might it be that there is in the deep spirituality of this prayer an integration of two principles that Christianity has done well to retain, but perhaps done too much to hold apart?

Carl Jung, one of the founders of psychoanalysis and the unwitting progenitor of the Myers-Briggs personalitytesting industry, believed that the doctrine of the Assumption of Mary was "the most important religious event since the Reformation" because it signified that the feminine principle had been absorbed into the Godhead.

Certainly, those who meditate on or pray with Andrei Rublev's great 15th-century icon of the Trinity, based on the hospitality of Abraham, will be struck by the feminine nature of the forms and the androgyny of the faces. There can be no doubt that, had Rublev wanted to depict God as a bearded man, he would have had the resources to do so — and countless examples to follow. But he didn't.

Another image that points to the way in which masculine and feminine principles are held together in the divine, as Henri Nouwen observed, is found in the different forms of the two hands of the forgiving father in Rembrandt's masterpiece *The Return of the Prodigal*. These two images are today reproduced thousands, if not millions, of times each year. Maybe part of their power is that they communicate something integrating and healthy and complete about the understanding of God's nature and of God's relationship with us.

There are many people for whom that health and fullness is no longer conveyed by the word "father" alone, while for others the word is still able to do its spiritual work of connecting muddled human beings with the God of comprehensive and all-encompassing love. Whatever we say, however, when we use the word "father" here we are implying "mother" and referring to the lovingkindness of God.

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry is the Dean of King's College, Cambridge.

Extracted from Thy Will Be Done: The 2021 Lent Book © Stephen Cherry 2021 (Bloomsbury Continuum, £9.99 (<u>CT Bookshop £7.99</u>); 978-1-4729-7825-7)

Video: Stephen Cherry was interviewed during our recent Lent Books: Discussion and readings. It can be watched <u>here</u>.

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Wordsearch Clues

Life is full of ups and downs: after blessings, hard times often follow. They are not meant to destroy us but to help us grow spiritually by deepening our faith and dependence on God. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil – to give Him the opportunity to stand fast against the enemy. The devil's temptations were based on half-truths, which Jesus rejected by standing firm on the whole truth of Scripture. The truth sets us free!

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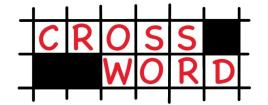
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Puzzle solutions are on page 33

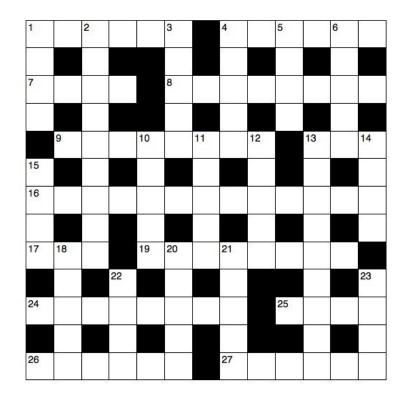


Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping heel'(Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will three times thatyou know me' (Luke22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this(Genesis 41:19) (4)



Editor: Here in the UK we may struggle to hold services because of coronavirus, but at least no one in the government is threatening to arrest and imprison us for just being Christians! And yet that is the harsh reality for hundreds of millions of Christians around the world today. This article reminds us all of struggle of our brothers and sisters in Christ who need our prayers.

2021 World Watch List of Persecution of Christians

A Christian persecution watchdog has warned that more Christians around the world are suffering because of their faith, and the kind of persecution they're experiencing has intensified.

Open Doors has found that more than 340 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith, amounting to one in eight worldwide.

Now the charity has released its 2021 World Watch List (WWL) which highlights the top 50 countries that are most hostile toward Christians.

Here are the top ten.

1. North Korea

Being discovered as a Christian is a death sentence in North Korea. If you aren't killed instantly, you will be taken to a labour camp as a political criminal.

2. Afghanistan

ISIS and the Taliban continue to have a strong, violent presence in Afghanistan, with the Taliban controlling large regions.

3. Somalia

Islam is considered a crucial part of Somali identity, and if any Somali is suspected of having converted to Christianity, they are in great danger. Members of their family, clan or community will harass, intimidate or even kill them. Women may be raped and forcibly married.

4. Libya

There is no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion and very limited possibility of public church life in Libya. Although there are around 34,500 Christians in the country, only a tiny number (approximately 150) are Libyan – the majority are expatriates and migrant workers.

5. Pakistan

Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are used to target Christians, and Islamic extremist groups vehemently "defend" these laws, including attacking or killing those believed to have contravened them.

6. Eritrea

Government security forces monitor phone calls, scrutinise activity and conduct countless raids which target Christians, seize Christian materials and damage house churches. Christians can be arrested and imprisoned without trial.

7. Yemen

Christians in Yemen usually keep their faith secret, because if they are discovered then they could face the death penalty. Leaving Islam is forbidden, and all Yemenis are considered Muslims by the state.

8. Iran

The Iranian government sees the conversion of Muslims to Christianity as an attempt by Western countries to undermine the Islamic rule of Iran. Christians from a Muslim background are persecuted the most, primarily by the government, but also by their families and communities.

9. Nigeria

More Christians are murdered for their faith in Nigeria than in any other country. Violent attacks by Boko Haram, Hausa-Fulani Muslim militant herdsmen, ISWAP (an affiliate of ISIS) and other Islamic extremist groups are common in the north and middle belt of the country, and they are becoming more common further south.

10. India

Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus, and that the country should be rid of Christianity and Islam. They use extensive violence to achieve this goal, particularly targeting Christians from a Hindu background.

Puzzle Solutions

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Crossword answers:-

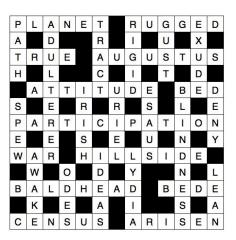
ACROSS: 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.

DOWN: 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

Wordsearch solution



Crossword solution



Easy Soduko solution

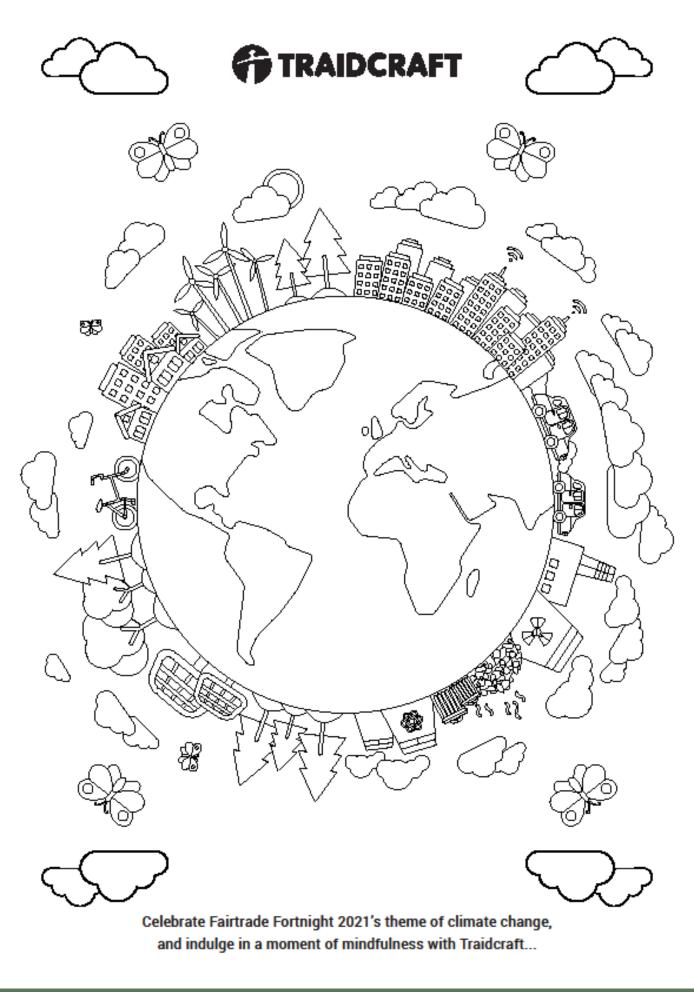
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Medium Soduku solution

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