

InSpire Issue 50 May 2021 Free of charge – please take a copy!
The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley

InSpire



This issue is to remember the members of Ockley Parish and
the Rev Henry Whitfield who sailed in May 1639 for the
'New World'



Join us at St John the Baptist, Capel
for socially distanced teas
on **Saturday 8th May 2021 3.00 - 5.00pm**
to raise money for the **Great Green wall**.

Teas will be served outside (under gazebos if
necessary)

ALL the proceeds will go to TREEAID.

Please bring your family and tell your friends.



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Christian Aid week

10th - 16th May 2021



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Inspire

is available to download from the church website:-

www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine/

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

This issue is kindly sponsored by

Richard and Miriam Williams

This issue is to remember the members of Ockley church & the Rev Henry Whitfield who sailed in May 1639 for the 'New World'

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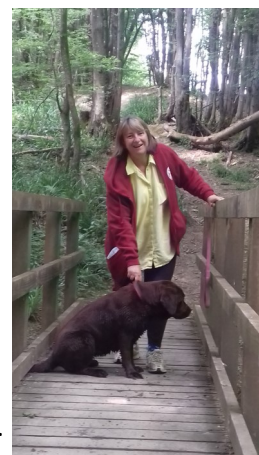
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Dear all,

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We're back! It is wonderful to be back in our churches for our Sunday services. We returned just before Palm Sunday and it was a joy to be together again and prepare for Holy Week and Easter. We also found we were allowed to have a few voices singing so choir is back as well. So all in all, we were able to reflect on our Lord's passion culminating in two services on Good Friday and celebrate his rising on Easter Sunday. Hallelujah! Since then of course non essential shops and businesses have reopened, many of you have been able to have a hair cut - I'm still waiting for mine(!) - and we can now meet outside albeit in groups of up to six and enjoy the hospitality offered to us by our lovely team in the garden at The Crown. Here's hoping the weather is kind to us all after an initial snowfall at the start of this week!



However, it is with great sadness I know that we received the news that the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip had died. Of course we were all expecting this must happen sometime soon but as always death always seems to take us by surprise however much we think we are prepared for it. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Queen and royal family as they continue to mourn his loss and it is a comfort to see how they are planning to support and gather around Her Majesty. At both our churches, services were held on the Sundays following his death to remember and commemorate the Prince. Muffled bells were rung at certain times and it was comforting too to hear our church bells being rung once more even though it was for a sad reason. I think we have all been fascinated to hear about Prince Philip's early life and the remarkable events thereof. We know how loyal he has been to the Queen as her 'strength and stay', but fascinating too to hear more about his many interests and talents which have not only captivated him but changed many others lives, most notably of course the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We would like to remember and celebrate his life later on in the summer with a special commemorative service which we hope you the community would be able to attend and sing at! Please do let me know if you or your organisation would like to be involved, a bit like Remembrance Sunday but not as solemn. We would provide a professionally printed Order of Service so that Capel and Ockley would have their own keepsake of Prince Philip. Also, if you have ever met the Prince and might be willing to share that experience with us that would be really interesting.



His Royal Highness,
The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
(1921 - 2021)



So May is here, 'sumer is icumen in' as the medieval folk song goes and it is with great pleasure we invite you to visit St John's at Capel for a cup of tea and a piece of cake once more at our **'Tea for Trees'** event. This will be held outside in the church grounds and is planned to raise funds for the charity Tree Aid which provides trees to be planted as part of the Great Green Wall in Africa. It is on Saturday 8th May from 3.00 pm so I hope to see you there!

Did you know that there is a change coming in regarding the registration of marriages on the 4th of this month? Clergy will no longer be able to perform the administrative task of registering marriages, issuing certificates and so on. This is in line with the government's intention by the then Prime Minister David Cameron in 2014 to address the issue of the inclusion of the mother's name in the marriage entry. It will also mean that a step parent's name may be added to a marriage registration where requested. The old terminology of the father's profession or rank will also disappear with simply 'occupation' instead. I think I will miss the old registers and the filling in as part of the ceremony with the

Contd on page 5

handing over of a copy of the certificate to the couple on completing their vows, but I can see that it allows much more flexibility for the gathering of information for record keeping and an opportunity for couples to acknowledge important step parents as well as birth parents where applicable and women are included!! This is all about administration and doesn't affect the legality and sanctity of the marriage service in churches. It is the public exchanging of vows proclamation of the officiant which makes it legal. It is fascinating to looking back at how records began, when it seemed that marriage records before 1754 contained simply the names of the bride and groom and the date of the marriage. Some very early registers in the 1500s simply contain entries like "John Smith married his wife". Then from 1754 to 1837 new legislation was passed which stated that everyone had to marry in a licensed parish church in their own parish. This gave a bit more information about names, dates, signatures, clergyman's signature and witnesses. From 1837 marriage records were then kept by the General Register Office of England and Wales. These records have been kept by law since 1837 detailing every birth, marriage and death recorded since that date. So this is the first time since then that legislation has changed! So what does that mean now in our church weddings for the bride and groom and me?! Well I will be giving a couple something called a marriage document which will be completed beforehand and signed by us all including witnesses at the ceremony. Then it will be my responsibility to register the marriage online and the local register office will send the newly married couple their certificate in a new portrait layout. We now have to close all our old marriage registers and send them back to the local register office. We are allowed to keep one as we always do (there are two copies of marriage registers signed on the day) so historical records will still be available. For future marriages the church will keep its own marriage record or register but we haven't yet seen what this will look like. One of the reasons for change as well I think is the illegible writing sometimes in the register books, especially of witness signatures. That reason doesn't apply to me of course!! I shall look forward to trying all of this out shortly.

In this merry month of May which will include more theological mysteries than any other month in the year, with the Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday we look forward to continuing our worship in person as well as online for those who still are unable to be with us. The online services are posted later on in the day on a Sunday as we record one of the morning services. Do remember to visit our website capelandockleychurch.org.uk for the latest news and updates including our own InSpire magazine which you can download or sign up to receive each month; copies are available in our churches each month also. Another good way of finding out what we are up to is to sign up for our weekly emails by contacting Debbie von Bergen on debbievonbergen@icloud.com.

As we celebrate at Pentecost the birth of the church with the coming of the Holy Spirit giving life, inspiration and strength to those who believe in Christ, I pray that you similarly may know his risen and ascended life as we continue our journey out of lockdown into a new chapter of our lives.

With my love and prayers,

Revd Liz

Revd Liz Richardson liz@hostmyserver.co.uk 01306 711260

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

Editor: As we go to press, a second wave of Coronavirus is having a devastating effect on India. This prayer is from Christian Aid's website. They need our prayers more than ever.

Pray for India

I will say of the Lord, 'You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'.
God of power and might we lift our brothers and sister in India to you.

We pray for your protection,

We pray for your provision,

We pray for the nations of earth to have compassion.

When people are in need, you are our refuge.

When people are scared, you are our refuge.

When people are mourning, you are our refuge.

Compassionate God, draw close to those who seek your refuge today.

Amen.

©Christian Aid

See 'Prayer Points for India' on page 11

May 2021

SUNDAY	2nd 9.30 am 10.30 am	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Matins BCP at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel
Saturday	8th 3.00 pm	TEA FOR TREES Join us outside for a cuppa and a piece of cake at St John's Capel to raise money for the Great Green Wall of Africa via Tree Aid.
SUNDAY	9th 9.30 am 10.30 am	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Holy Communion at St Margaret's Ockley CAFE CHURCH at The Crown Capel
SUNDAY	16th 9.30 am 10.30 am	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Matins BCP at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel
SUNDAY	23rd 9.30 am 10.30 am	PENTECOST Holy Communion CW at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel
SUNDAY	30th 9.30 am 10.30 am	TRINITY SUNDAY Morning Worship CW at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel
<u>JUNE</u>		
SUNDAY	6th 9.30 am 10.30 am	TRINITY 1 Matins BCP at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel

Guidelines for Parish Sunday Services.

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

1. Only 2 people to sit in each pew that is open (or one household and room for a single person) Every other pew will be cordoned off.
2. Hand sanitiser which will be by the door to be used when you enter and leave. Masks must be worn unless you have an exemption.
3. No refreshments are currently served but do feel free to bring a water bottle with you.
4. We are advised to ask you not to spend too long in the church building after the service as it has to be cleaned and sanitised.
5. At Capel the toilet will be open and disinfectant available for you to wipe all surfaces after usage.
6. We cannot sing as a congregation but there is supporting music as appropriate.
7. The service will be printed on a sheet given to you as you enter the church along with the weekly newsheet. Please take both home with you.
8. No collection will be taken but we ask that you leave your donation on the plate.
9. Holy Communion is given in one kind (wafer) and all necessary hygiene precautions are taken.

Please also note that St John's is open during the week and at weekends but *St Margaret's is only open at weekends.*

For all the latest information and updates please visit our parish website
www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Our thanks to Corrine & Mike for ringing the bell for the hour before the funeral of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh



You may well have noticed that our Tenor bell was rung, muffled, for the whole hour prior to the 3pm funeral service. The guidance from the Central Council of Church Bellringers was to ring for any period of time during this hour; but Corinne and Mike volunteered for this duty and covered the entire hour between them. Our sincere thanks to them and to the team of bellringers who rang the bells on Friday 9th April, the day Prince Philip died.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

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

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

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

Handmade cards

There is a new selection in St John the Baptist, Capel! Mainly female birthdays, but some 'blank' and 'thank you' ones. I will make some more with male birthdays and other occasions as soon as possible! All proceeds to St John the Baptist & St Margaret's.

Thank you for your support ... Suzanne

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.



Let's stay
connected

14 April 2021

Dear Revd Liz,

I am writing to thank the congregation of St John's for so generously donating food to the Dorking Food Bank. Unfortunately, but unsurprisingly, the need for this service has grown in recent months.

The foodbank has always been a very real example of a community project with local people pulling together to help others. The current Coronavirus Covid-19 challenges have highlighted just how strong this community spirit is - despite the difficulties many individuals are experiencing, there are many people who are helping them through these.

Thanks to the support of churches such as St John's, and other organisations and individuals, the Dorking Area Foodbank remains open, with modified operations in line with Coronavirus Covid-19 guidelines to protect both volunteers and clients, to provide free emergency food parcels for those in Dorking and the surrounding villages who are in financial need, including those affected financially by the Covid-19 crisis.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

We hope that you and all at St John's remain well in these difficult times.

Kind regards,

Y. Beavis

Yvonne Beavis

Thank you volunteer



Foodbank during lockdown – take 2

Many of you have been kind enough to ask how Foodbank is managing during Covid. As you will know Foodbank runs from the Christian Centre in Dorking where we are open twice a week. This has not changed during lockdown, but we have shortened the hours and taken all the necessary procedures to keep both the volunteers and the customers safe. Sadly, we haven't been able to offer our visitors a cup of coffee or tea when they come which we normally like to do, but we try to make the atmosphere as welcoming as possible. Often the first visit to the Foodbank can be very hard for our customers.

Since Christmas the Christian Centre has not been open for any other activities and so on many occasions we have been on our own in the building. This has allowed us to space out and make lots of room to serve our clients. Each shift has 5 or 6 volunteers working to set the hall up, serve the customers and tidy up at the end, including sanitising all surfaces both at the beginning and the end of the session. We have a small room where all the food for the session is stored. This is restocked twice a week by members of the warehouse team which has much larger storage facilities.

For much of the pandemic the Community fridge has been operating daily from the foyer of the Christian Centre as well, this has become so popular that by the time we open in the afternoon all the fresh food has gone, so thanks to a grant we have been able to buy a small amount of fresh produce to give out as well. We can't accept donations of fresh produce as we have nowhere to store it, so one of the volunteers goes shopping twice a week specifically for foodbank. Our customers have been extremely grateful for this addition.

As you can imagine we have remained busy throughout lockdown and are seeing even more people coming through the door as furlough is lifted and some firms are making staff redundant. It is said that most of us are only 2 pay cheques away from needing Foodbank ourselves – a sobering thought.

Without the generosity of the people of Dorking and its surrounding areas Foodbank simply could not function. We have all been touched by the amount that has been given in these times of hardship. I remember particularly the fact that people were donating loo rolls when there were none to be had in the shops – it was such a lifeline for our clients. Please keep donating, rest assured every one of your gifts is used and appreciated by those we are trying to help.

Debbie von Bergen

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham considers how the Holy Spirit can change our lives.

Pentecost

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

God's Promise:

The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power:

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit'. The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.



God's Purpose:

The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives and it's the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the Church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).

What did I do with the car?

As I left a meeting at our church, I could not find my car keys. They were not in my pockets. They were not in the church. Then I thought – I've left them in the car! As I burst through the doors of the church, my heart sank: the church car park was empty.



With a heavy heart I called the police, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the really difficult call: "Darling," I began (I always call her 'darling' at moments like this). "Darling, I have left my keys in the car, and it has been stolen."

There was a little gasp. "You did not *have the car*. I dropped you off. Remember?"

My heart sang as relief flooded through me. "Of course! Thank God! Well, come get me quick – I am already running late... what is keeping you?"

My wife replied with ominous calm: "What's keeping me? I'll tell you what's keeping me. The police are here.

They think I've stolen our car..."

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her Reflected Faith series on the freedom that May brings....

Reflected Faith: Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us.

What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

It is the story of those 'simple' men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month: Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads? I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.



Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Quotes

Rogation Sunday (9th May) is about asking for God's protection and blessing on our endeavours.

If your troubles are deep-seated or long-standing, try kneeling. – Anon

Pure prayers have pure blessings. – Thomas Goodwin

To spend an hour worrying on our knees is not prayer. Indeed, there are times when it is our duty, having committed a problem to God in prayer, to stop praying and to trust and to do the necessary work to arrive at a solution. – Oliver Barclay

Prayer is not an argument with God to persuade Him to move things our way, but an exercise by which we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to move ourselves His way. – Leonard Ravenshill



Hopes of Ringing Again for Real

It seems a long time (and it has been!) since we rang normally in church. Our hopes of ringing at Christmas were dashed by the last lockdown and despite a gradual easing of restrictions there is still little opportunity to ring our bells.

There was a call to toll the tenor at a minute after 12 for the National Day of Reflection on 23rd March to mark the anniversary of the first lockdown and this was done by one ringer at Capel and another at Ockley.

As it happened this coincided with a late decision to allow ringing just for the Easter Sunday service, if the ringers 'considered the risks acceptable' so the opportunity was taken to check the bells and fittings to ensure everything was in order.

At Ockley the ringing area is spacious and well ventilated and the ropes are quite far apart. In fact under the metre plus distancing rule only one rope needs to be left out, either the 3 or the 4 depending on who is ringing the adjacent ropes given that we have more than one ringer in two households. The Easter service ring was still limited to only 15 minutes, and wearing masks and using hand sanitisers. After 5 months it took a while for the rounds to settle into a regular rhythm but with ringing prohibited there has been no opportunity to practice.

There was sadly another call to toll the tenors the following week to mark the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh and this took place half -muffled at both churches at 6pm on the day he died. This was followed by a national request to toll 99 whole pulls, which is hand and backstroke, the next day at noon. The muffle was left on the tenor as it will be needed again to toll for the funeral. In normal times such an occasion would be marked by hundreds of churches ringing peals and quarter peals dedicated to the memory of Prince Philip but unfortunately this is not allowed under the current restrictions though there will no doubt be a number scored virtually.

There is little likelihood of further ringing until the end of this lockdown and even then it will no doubt be restricted till at least the end of June. Hopefully after the next easing in May we will at least have some limited practice time to help us work on our bell skills and perhaps see a benefit from the virtual practices that have continued throughout.

The weekly Zoom practices have kept us together socially, with the use of 'Ringing Room' for virtual ringing. This computer application passed its first anniversary at the end of March, and has been upgraded with many developments along the way. It is generally recognised that virtual learning will be a useful training tool even when there are no more restrictions as it helps to develop theory and technical aspects without having to deal with a moving rope at the same time.

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

Prayer points for India

In India, a second wave of Covid is having a devastating impact. Cases are rising at an alarming rate, with more than 350,000 new cases in just 24 hours, according to Reuters. More than 200,000 lives have been lost to the pandemic in India. Across the country, hospitals are over-run and oxygen supplies are falling short of demand.



Please stand with us and pray for our sisters and brothers in India.

1. Pray for strength and courage for our sisters and brothers in India, in the most marginalised communities, to claim the support they are entitled to.
2. Pray for healthcare workers who risk their lives each day to heal and care for the sick with supplies that are running out, that they receive the medicines and equipment they need to give vital treatment.
3. Pray for Christian Aid's partners, that their messages of protection may reach and help the most vulnerable people.
4. Pray for people across the world who rely on precarious work, that they may be sustained and not lose hope in times of scarcity.

Editor: Tony Horsfall considers what happens when you have no courage left.

Being brave?

Some time ago I was helping my grandson George into his car seat in the back of my car, when I accidentally banged his head. He started to cry. 'Come on, George, be brave,' I said.

'But I don't want to be brave,' he objected.

I guess we all know that feeling. Sometimes life is hard, and we know we have a need for courage, but somehow, we just don't want to be brave. We would rather give in, surrender to the difficulties, and wallow in self-pity.

The Bible seems to constantly exhort us to be brave, to be strong, to take heart, to be courageous. And life during a pandemic certainly calls for us to make a courageous response. But occasionally we may feel overwhelmed and ready to give in or give up.

Perhaps you are reading this at just such a moment. Maybe this comes as a message to you from God so that you do not lose heart. He knows you, and He sees your situation. And He speaks to encourage you, as He did to the church at Philadelphia: 'I know that you have little strength' (Revelation 3:8).

He is the compassionate and understanding God who draws alongside us, to give strength to the weary and power to the weak (Isaiah 40:29). You don't have to do anything, simply turn to Him in your need and ask for help.

You will discover, as the apostle Paul did, that when you are weak, then you are strong. His power will be demonstrated through your weakness. You can do whatever is required of you because He will give you strength.

©Parish Pump

Christian Aid 2021

Good news! Christian Aid week will take place between 10th and 16th May 2021. Door to door collections will NOT take place, but there will be collecting tins in both Carters shop and Capel News!



Please do support Christian Aid if you can!

Thank you

Sue Partridge

Tel: 01306 711355

Be kind to each other

'And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.' (Matthew 10:42)

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been thousands of shining examples up and down the country of people going the extra mile to help the elderly, vulnerable and those at risk. The helpers have been shopping, cooking meals, making regular telephone calls, and checking that needs are being met. We must sincerely hope that these acts of kindness will continue well beyond the coronavirus outbreak.

Simple acts of kindness are so important in cementing the fabric of our society. Some years ago, this thought inspired the following poem:

A Brighter Tomorrow

There is much we can do just to brighten
This world of all take and no give,
There's a great deal that we can contribute
Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours
Or through lending a hand in some way
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers
To someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours
In the service of those most in need
It's all about setting a standard
And trying to give others a lead

It's the way that we tend to treat others
And help and aid folks in distress
It's the care and assistance we offer
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple
The rewards plain for all men to see
'As you did all of this to my brother
Then' said Christ, 'you did it to Me.'

By Colin Hammacott



© Parish Pump

Do you love a bargain?

Some people adore bargains, promotions, and cut-price items. They are the ones who always forage out reduced clothing and food, collect coupons and loyalty points with great care, and are at the front of the queue to bag items on Black Friday.

Now a new study has found that such deal-prone bargain-hunting may be more than a preference – it may even run in your genes. It could be a tendency which is passed on genetically as well as learned.

The study was published in the Journal of the Association for Consumer Research.

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PRAYER DIARY

May 2021

Compiled by Belinda Kerry

Page 14

'Come near to God and he will come near to you.' James 4:8

GENEROSITY contd from April

SATURDAY 1st

Heavenly Father, You want us to be generous people offering our goods, our time, our skills and our abilities to Your service. Guard us, we pray, from holding tight when we should be letting go and honouring You as Lord of all we have.

SUNDAY 2nd

Giving God, we receive so much from You and therefore have so much to give. Help us to share in the blessings of giving as well as the happiness of receiving so that Your love may be more widely shared through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BUILDING....

'Have faith in God,' Jesus answered. 'Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, "Go throw yourself into the sea," and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.' Mark 11:22-23

MONDAY 3rd

***Our Faith;** Dear God, even the disciples who walked with Jesus needed to strengthen their faith. Father, increase our faith to make us movers of mountains. Grow our belief in You so that we can be strong in the Lord, ready to battle against the doubts planted by the enemy.*

TUESDAY 4th

***Our Church;** God of Wisdom, we pray for our church in our parishes. May we be a worshipping community, growing in love and knowledge of Jesus, using our skills and abilities to serve You and others and showing Your love in our care for one another.*

WEDNESDAY 5th

***Our Community;** Merciful Father, give us the eyes to see the needs of our community and the hearts and hands willing to take practical action to address them. Give us ears to listen to the concerns of our neighbours and the time to pray for them.*

THURSDAY 6th

***God's Kingdom;** God of Truth, we confess that most of the time we do not work to build Your Kingdom on earth but look to our own kingdom, making ourselves the centre of our lives. Lord, we need Your Spirit to remind us day by day that this life is not all about us. Help us to seek Your Kingdom in our hearts, our minds and our lives.*

FRIDAY 7th

***Relationships;** Loving Father, help us to accept one another as Jesus did. Instead of differences, help us to see souls who need Jesus and to seek common ground for fellowship.*

SATURDAY 8th

***Trust;** Heavenly Father, we pray for all whose faith is new, weak or struggling. Help us to build our trust in the love that our Saviour, Jesus Christ, has for us and to be loyal to His Word.*

SUNDAY 9th

***Wisdom;** Dearest Lord, may we set aside time to learn Your wisdom so that we can apply it to our daily lives. Give us the strength and courage to build on what we have learnt, even when it is hard.*

THE ROYAL FAMILY

'For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him.' Romans 10:12

MONDAY 10th

Almighty God, thank You Lord for the life of Prince Philip, for all he did for our country and for his loyal support to the Queen. We pray that the award scheme he set up will continue to benefit many young people who take part.

TUESDAY 11th

Almighty Father, we pray for Your protection and comfort for Elizabeth our Queen as she continues to carry out her duties without Prince Philip by her side. We thank You for her dedication and service to You, to this nation and to the Commonwealth.

WEDNESDAY 12th

Heavenly Father, we thank You that the Queen has been a role model to the members of her family and we pray that her influence will be an encouragement for them to turn to You in faith, service and obedience.

THURSDAY 13th

God of compassion, we thank You that members of the Royal Family have compassion in their hearts for many charities. We thank You for their commitment and high profile for these causes and pray that others will be influenced by their generosity and concern.

FRIDAY 14th

Loving Father, we pray for peace between Prince William and Prince Harry. We pray that they will renew their loving relationship and be an example to other families where there may be rifts, misunderstandings and pain. May the Spirit of God's love fill them as they seek reconciliation.

SATURDAY 15th

Merciful Father, we lift to You all members of the Royal Family and pray that their wealth, privilege and position will not be a barrier to praising and worshipping You and knowing that You are the Lord of us all.

SUNDAY 16th

Dear God our Father, give our Royal Family health and strength, wisdom and courage, so that they may carry out their many duties in the best interests of all our people. Let all who have power remember that they are Your servants, and that Your Son came to serve rather than to be served.

COMFORT

‘Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we receive from God.’ 2

Corinthians 1:3-4

MONDAY 17th

Loving Father, we pray for those who feel anxious. Help them to rest in the warmth of Your embrace. May they hand over to You the things they cannot face; the struggles, the trials and the fears. May they be reassured by Your loving presence in their lives.

TUESDAY 18th

Gentle Jesus, comfort us with Your love, shelter us from storms and envelop us in Your tender care. In You we take refuge and in You we will not be afraid. Calm fearful hearts and still anxious minds, we pray.

WEDNESDAY 19th

Father, thank You for always being there when others are not. Comfort those who are experiencing a break down in their relationships and those who have to face the future alone. Bring strength Lord and opportunities for reconciliation and renewal.

THURSDAY 20th

Father, we pray for those who are burdened by responsibilities and obligations of daily life. Help them to understand that the world isn't theirs to carry but God's. Thank You for the comfort of knowing that; 'He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.' Isaiah 40:11

FRIDAY 21st

We pray, Father, that You send comfort and help those who are struggling in this world. Calm those who are fearful, protect those who are weak, provide for those who are in need, heal those who are sick and bring all who do not know You into knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY 22nd

Heavenly Father, use us, we pray, to be a comfort and help for those who are grieving. Please give us the right words to say and the wisdom to know when to remain silent. Give those who grieve a deep awareness of Your presence that is with them every moment of the day.

SUNDAY 23rd

Lord of all, thank You for the comforting words that are in the Word of God. Thank You that Your grace is sufficient for us today. Thank You that Your hand is guiding us and Your love is surrounding us every moment of the day.

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**MONDAY 24th**

Father, today, fill us with the fruits of the Spirit. Help us to live by the Spirit, and not by the flesh. Guide us to lead by example, and show our families and our friends love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, through Your Spirit.

TUESDAY 25th

*Holy Spirit, grant us the **fruit of love**, sacrificial and centred on others, expecting nothing in return. Fill us with tangible and contagious **joy** that doesn't disappear when trials come.*

WEDNESDAY 26th

*Holy Spirit, grant us **peace** that comforts beyond words. Settle in our hearts and actions enduring and hopeful **forbearance** that always leads to grace.*

THURSDAY 27th

*Holy Spirit, grow in us thoughtful, serving **kindness** that seeks to bless others. Stir in us generous and humble **goodness** that pursues harmony in all situations.*

FRIDAY 28th

*Holy Spirit, plant within us unbending and trusting **faithfulness** that isn't unsettled by storms.*

SATURDAY 29th

*Holy Spirit, clothe us with meek and contrite **gentleness** that considers others before ourselves. Develop in us wise and aware **selfcontrol** that thinks before it acts.*

SUNDAY 30th

Father, we pray that the fruits of the Spirit will grow in us every day. May we join our lives to Jesus and remember His words, His actions and His love and we pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will overcome our sins.

YOUTH/CHILDREN

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.’ Deuteronomy 6:5-7

MONDAY 31st

Loving Father, we pray you would protect this child Keep them healthy and help them to thrive. Thank You that You know every hair on their head. You know exactly when they rise and when they fall. Watch over this child in every area of their life and keep them safe.

How to Home Compost by Traidcraft and the RHS

Page 16

We may be pioneers of fair trade and the experts in sourcing eco-friendly, future proof, compostable packaging for our products, but when it comes to the nitty gritty of actual home composting, we look to the specialists for advice.

This is why we've asked our friends at the Royal Horticultural Society, the world's leading gardening charity - and not just anyone, but their Chief Horticulturalist, Guy Barter - for their expert guidance on **how to home compost**.



At Traidcraft, we burn passionately for environmental justice. We believe it's not too late. By making small changes to our daily lives, we can not only protect, but restore our magnificent planet.

Compost Bin and Site: What Exactly Do You Need?

Choosing where to house your compost is critical. We recommend positioning in shade or semi-shade. You need to make sure that the site is not subjected to extremes of temperature and moisture. This is because the micro-organisms that convert your waste into the rich, fertile compost work best when their conditions are stable and constant. Compost bins which retain some warmth and moisture make better compost, quicker.

An earth base is best, as this allows drainage and access to soil organisms. If this is not possible in your garden, simply add a spadeful of soil to the compost bin before you begin.

Don't presume that you have to pay a fortune to get the very best compost bins, as any compost bin on the market should produce good compost, as long as they are able to:

- Retain some warmth
- Allow drainage
- Exclude rain
- Let air in

Compost bins less than one cubic metre in size are much less effective than larger ones, so if you have room for it, the bigger, the better! Note: if you have a smaller garden or no garden at all, you can still make home compost – read on for Chief Horticulturalist, Guy Barter's top tips.



Your compost bin should:

- Retain some warmth
- Allow drainage
- Exclude rain
- Let air in

What Should I Compost?

Getting the balance right is key to producing great compost. Ideally, between 25-50% soft green materials (e.g. grass cuttings or vegetable/fruit kitchen waste) should be used on your compost heap. This will feed the micro-organisms and allow them to do their magic.

The remainder should be woody, brown material (e.g. hedge trimmings – ideally shredded, wood chippings, paper/cardboard – ideally shredded, straw, compostable packaging or dead leaves).



RHS Top Tip: Avoid letting any one material dominate the heap - especially grass clippings, as these can become a slimy, smelly mess on their own.

Turning Your Compost Heap

To make compost, you need to add air – which is why it is essential to turn your heap approximately once a month. Remember to keep the heap moist in dry weather – turning will give you an opportunity to assess the moisture level.

Compost can take anywhere between six months to a year to be fully ready to use. You'll know it's matured enough when it's dark brown with a crumbly, soil-like texture and a smell resembling damp woodland.

Don't worry if not all of your compost has matured at the same pace – this is normal. Any un-rotted material can be added to your next batch of composting materials, and so your self-sufficient home composting cycle continues!

We spoke to RHS Chief Horticulturist, Guy Barter, about all things compost...



*Home Composting
- Our Questions Answered*

by RHS Chief Horticulturist, Guy Barter

What is the difference between the compost we can buy in the shops, and the compost we can make at home ourselves?

It depends on what you mean by compost. There are potting composts used to grow plants in pots. Although these can be home-made, it is usually best to buy readymade ones, ideally peat-free, as these will be formulated to meet plant needs.

Continued on page 18

Then there is compost used for improving the soil. These are often too rich for potted plants but much better than potting compost when it comes to soil improvement. They are usually made from industrially composted landscape and garden waste and will be effective in soil improvement. In essence, these are similar to home-made garden compost but usually finer and crumblier as they are mechanically shredded, sieved and turned. They are no better for soil and plants than homemade compost and obviously cost more than home compost.

If someone has a very small garden, or no garden at all, can they still home compost? If so, how would you suggest they went about this?

Small scale composting apparatus such as hot boxes, wormeries and Bokashi kits can be very effective in a small space and are largely free of odour and mess.

What sorts of things should we be putting into our compost bins? And importantly, what things should we leave out?

Any soft garden waste and uncooked vegetable or fruit wastes from the kitchen ideally mixed 50:50 with strawy material, including scrunched up newspaper and torn cardboard can be composted. Rhubarb leaves and citrus waste will compost well enough despite common contrary advice.

"Small scale composting apparatus such as hot boxes, wormeries and Bokashi kits can be very effective in a small space and are largely free of odour and mess."

Lawn mowings set in a soggy mass won't rot down unless mixed with a great deal of strawy material. Frequent mowing so the small clippings fall back into the grass can avoid the problem of dealing with lawn mowings.

Woody sticks and logs have to be shredded if they are to be composted but can be cut up small and made into log and stick piles to support wildlife, rather than taken to the tip.

Cooked food and any meat or fish will encourage rats and should be disposed of via the municipal food waste collection, destined for energy production in industrial anaerobic digesters.

Weed seeds won't be destroyed in most garden compost bins, so mature weeds should be destroyed. The same goes for plant material infested with pests and diseases.

Can we continue to home compost all year round?

Composting is a year-round activity but will be much slower in the colder seasons. Good compost in gardens typically takes six months to form. Three months is feasible in summer or an insulated hotbox type composter, if the bin is filled in one go with the right mixture of ingredients and if it turned (the bin dug out and refilled). In dry summers an occasional bucket of water may be required, as dry ingredients won't rot well.

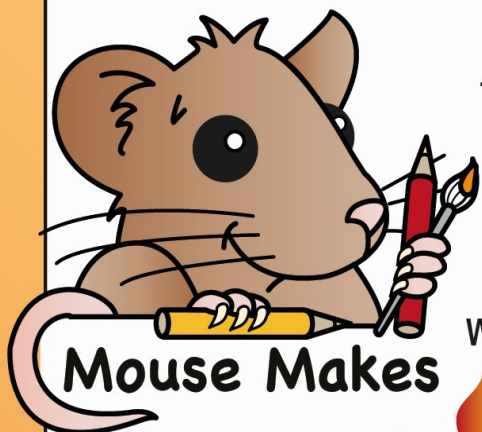
How important do you personally believe it is to home compost?

By home composting, you save on fertiliser and soil improvers such as manures. Fossil fuel use is reduced too by not taking wastes to the dump or consigning them to green waste collection services. Compost making encourages many beneficial insects which also support garden wildlife.

The only downside to home composting is if the contents get too wet, then the potent greenhouse gas, methane, is released. To avoid this, turn wet compost and add more dry matter such as newspaper.

Now that you've learnt all the tips and tricks from the experts, whether you have a small, large garden or non-existent outdoor space, why not start producing homemade compost and do your bit for the environment? Your healthy soil will thank you!

It's **amazing what you can do with waste**, isn't it?



Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit
V S E I L
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit
helps us to
W K N O
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit
H C T S E E A
us about God.

The Holy Spirit
K P E S S A
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit
P H L S E
us to tell others
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit
helps us when we
A Y P R



On the day of PENTECOST
the disciples were gathered
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them?

Acts 2:4

How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6

Which countries
had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was
their reaction?

Acts 2:12-13

Who explained
what was
happening?

What did he say?

Acts 2:14-36

How many
people were
baptised
that day?

Acts 2:41



Change each letter to the
letter before it in the
alphabet and see what
the **Holy Spirit**
produces in us:

KPZ
IVNJMJUZ
TFMG DPOUSPM
GBJUIGVMOFTT
LJOEOFTT
QBUJFODF
QFBDF
MPWF
HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

What is the work of the
Holy Spirit? What does He do?
Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC _ ES
COMF _ RTS
REVEA _ S

IN _ OU
TRAN _ FORMS

HEL _ S

GU _ DES

ENEWS

CONV _ CTS

SANC _ IFIES

Dear Readers,

What a month April has been with little rainfall and snow catching us all out one Monday morning after a very warm period the week before! But those wonderful bluebells are out once more and that brief period to enjoy them is upon us. It never ceases to take my breath away at the sheer number of them in our local woods. Then there is that smell—absolutely divine! This year and last it has been a particular delight to stand amongst the beauty and only hear birdsong around us. The lack of planes directly overhead and the noise that comes with it has been a silver lining in the Covid cloud. Not to mention the pollution we would normally be experiencing.

However, the situation in India is a stark wake up call to the world about what Covid can do to a nation. It is heartening to see other countries respond to their pleas but it sounds like they have worse to come before it gets better. It has never been more true that the world is a community and we need to tackle Covid with a concerted effort and co-ordinated procedures in place. I am off for my second vaccine today and like most others, feel incredibly grateful for this gift. My faith definitely makes me believe that God granted the scientists both the knowledge, wisdom and ability to create these wonderful vaccines at such speed. However, that is purely my personal view! But I am hugely grateful for the protection it offers us as individuals and a community.

Like most others, I was deeply saddened by the death of HRH Prince Philip recently. What an incredibly dutiful man he was and the perfect consort for our Queen. We are all so aware of what huge a change this will make for our Queen's life going forward, as she faces life without her partner of over 70 years. What a wonderfully personal funeral it was and how privileged we were to be allowed in. It was very reassuring to see the Royal Family adhering to all Covid restrictions like the rest of us and only served to make the occasion feel much more intimate and personal. I'm glad that in the last year, the Queen and Prince Philip had the opportunity to spend more time together, despite the awful situation around us all. But that had afforded them more privacy than they have had for years and how important that will have been in view of his recent death. I'm sure the Queen's deep Christian faith, like ours, will be at the heart of everything she does going forward and I hope she is aware of the deep affection that so many people have for her.

We celebrate Pentecost this month (previously known as Whitsun) and The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham considers how the **Holy Spirit can change our lives** on page 9. Earth Day 2021 took place on 22nd April and Traidcraft produced an interesting article on **'How to Compost'** in association with the RHS. I know many of you will know exactly what to do, but for those that might not, I thought it was an interesting article and ties in with our being an eco-church. There are some interesting articles from the Church Times **'Peers remember Prince Philip's lifelong dedication and 'profound faith'** and an interview with the actor **David Suchet about his faith and his love of reading scripture**. Well worth a read! **The Church of England are currently producing a series on prayer** and you can find the first one on pages 22 and 23. There will be more featured in future issues. We had a lovely thank you letter from **Dorking Foodbank** which Rev Liz has shared with us on page 8. Debbie von Bergen and Sylvie regularly volunteer with the Foodbank and Debbie has written us an update on the current situation at the Foodbank—also on page 8.

There is an opportunity for **Capel Teas** once more! ***Don't miss the OUTDOOR teas on Saturday 8th May at St John the Baptist, Capel.*** See page 2 for more details! We can indulge in the church cakes once more ... hurrah!

Thinking of events, do pop ***Saturday 20th November 2021 (12—4) in your diaries for our new Capel Christmas Fair.*** Debbie and I are working hard behind the scenes to put on a good event for everyone. The proceeds will be split between our two Parish churches and the Motor Neurone Disease Association. We have a dedicated website you can look at to keep up to date: www.capelchristmasfair.co.uk We already have a wonderful line up of stallholders and local food and drink producers coming to keep you refreshed! We have DORKING BREWERY, SILENT POOL GIN, HILL HOUSE FARM, CHARLIE CHA'S TEAS, LIBBY'S LARDER (from Capel), CAPEL WI puddings stall, SURREY HILLS CAFÉ doing pastries etc. Then we have jewellery stalls, a photographer, a faux fur accessories stall, one selling candles and diffusers, Body Shop at Home, Box o Sox, 'AnniewithAlex' bags, cards, Loungers casual clothing, Chukka belts, Chilcott UK wool and tweed products! We have tried very hard to be selective with stalls chosen to offer quality products at affordable prices. We are very much hoping that this event is the first of many and quickly becomes an annual Fair that people want to come to!

Enjoy May and the further lifting of restrictions on 17th (all being well!).

With my very best wishes,

Suzanne

Dear friends,

Our thanks to those of you who have already placed orders from the new Spring catalogue. It is very much appreciated.

We currently have a small stock:-

Sultanas 500g @ £3.72

Coconut Milk 400ml @ £1.95

Pasta (Penne) 500g @ £2.70

Bio D Handwash 500ml @ £4.20 (Lasts ages!)

Kilombero White Rice 500g @ £3.75

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

Suzanne & Stuart Cole

email: traidcraft@ansford.me.uk or phone 01306 711449

You can either look at the catalogues at church or online: [https://](https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/)

www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/ and then contact us to place an order so that the churches benefit from 10% of all sales. Thank you.



Things to make you smile!

Coronavirus – warning about vaccine

This happened recently and is an important lesson for our friends and family in the older age group. A friend had his second dose of vaccine at the vaccination centre. Shortly afterwards he began to have blurred vision and struggled to get home.

He rang the vaccination centre and asked if he should go straight to the hospital for help. He was told NOT to go to the hospital, but instead to return at once to the vaccination centre and pick up his glasses....

Mea Culpa

A group of lads took a trip to France and decided to attend Mass in a small town, even though none of them understood French. They managed to stand, kneel and sit when the rest of the congregation did, so it wouldn't be obvious they were tourists. At one point, the priest spoke and the man sitting next to them stood up, so they got up, too. The entire congregation broke into hearty laughter.

After the service they approached the priest, who spoke English, and asked him what had been so funny. The priest said he had announced a birth in the parish and had asked the father to stand up.

Sportsmanlike

During a game, the coach asked one of his young players: "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded yes. "Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called, or you are out at first, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand all that?" Again, the boy nodded yes.

"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."

Prayer

Where to start & how to keep going



How should I pray?

When you were at school you were probably taught to put your hands together when you prayed. But in one of his many books about prayer, Henri Nouwen says that when we pray “we are asked to open up our tightly clenched fists”.

So why not start by holding your clenched fist in front of you, and then slowly opening it up to receive from God the blessings and wisdom God longs to give you.

In this way – your hands open before God – your hand itself can be a basic pattern and reminder of how to pray:

Using your hand as a model for prayer

1. Thumb

When something is good you give it the “thumbs up”. So start with thanksgiving. Count your blessings. What are the good things in your life? Thank God for them.

2. Index finger

This is the finger you use to point. Pray for direction in your life; the decisions you need to make; the things for which you are responsible; the things you are concerned about. Pray for direction in our world and for the challenges we face.

3. Middle finger

This is the tallest finger. Pray for the important people who have power in the world; national and local politicians; the Royal Family and other world leaders and their governments.

4. Ring finger

If you are married, you wear your wedding ring on this finger. It is also the weakest finger. It can't do much on its own. Pray for your family and friends. Pray for the people upon whom you are dependent, and the people who are dependent on you.

5. Little finger

This is the smallest and the last finger on your hand. Pray for the poor, the weak, the helpless, the vulnerable, the excluded, the hungry, the sick, the ill and the bereaved. Remember those who have died.

And finally – lifting both your hands to God in thanksgiving – pray for yourself

The sign of the cross

This leads us to probably one of the most basic ways of praying of all, also using your hands. Making a sign of the cross on your forehead or your body. It is one of the ways many Christians begin and end a time of prayer.

The sign of the cross reminds us that we belong to Jesus.

In Baptism – the start of the Christian life – we are marked with the sign of the cross, the sign that we are saved by the suffering and death of Christ. In death – if we receive the last rites – we are marked with the cross again. The sign of the cross reminds us that we belong to Jesus, the crucified one.

“Prayer is not an activity of the mind, for God is not in the head. It is an activity of the whole person, and God is in the wholeness.”

Ken Leech, Soul Friend

What do you think of when you make the sign of the cross? Many Christians think of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Is there a verse from the Bible or a short prayer that you find helpful to call to mind?

Try listing the things you are thankful for in the morning when you get up. Does this sometimes lead you into prayer?

Prayer

God be in my head,
and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
and in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking;
God be in my heart
and in my thinking;
God be at mine end,
and at my departing

(Sarum Primer)

Invite your friends and family to join in

The Editor: To commemorate the Rev Henry Whitfield and parishioners who travelled with him to the United States in May 1639, we now re-run this article which appeared in InSpire in September 2019. If anyone has any further information on any of those pilgrims from Ockley, please do let the Editor know!

Henry Whitfield

Henry Whitfield, one of Guilford's founders and first minister, is estimated to have been born sometime between June 8 and October 1, 1592 in Greenwich in the English county of Kent. Thomas Whitfield, his father was a lawyer in London and his mother, Mildred Manning, was descended from the family of the poet and "Father of English literature" Geoffrey Chaucer. Whitfield attended New College, Oxford, where he befriended the future founder of the Saybrook colony in Connecticut, George Fenwick.

He initially studied law, but found it undesirable and promptly changed his focus to ministry studies. Whitfield was ordained a minister of the Church of England in 1618 and soon took up the post of vicar of St. Margaret's Church in Ockley, Surrey, where he remained for the next 18 years. During this time, he married Dorothy Shaeffe (also of Kent) and fathered nine children, living off the estate of his father.

However, under the rule of King Charles I, the Church of England began to persecute Separatists and Puritans who opposed the new firm rule of the church and called for reform. Whitfield's sympathies soon shifted to the Puritan movement following the persecution led by Archbishop William Laud. Shortly after being censured as a dissident by the High Commission Court in 1638, Whitfield resigned from his post in Ockley and recruited twenty five families, mostly farmers of Surrey and Kent, to travel to the New Haven colony.

Upon arrival in June 1639, Whitfield consulted Fenwick and Rev. John Davenport, founder of the New Haven Colony, and decided to purchase land from the Menunkatuck Indians halfway between the New Haven and Saybrook colonies. Whitfield and his party moved into the new Guilford colony in September of that year and immediately began construction of his house, though it was not finished until the following spring due to the winter weather conditions.

In the early years of the Guilford colony, Whitfield served as both the minister and community leader, delivering sermons and conducting marriage ceremonies as well as settling civil disputes. However, in 1650 Henry Whitfield returned to England, leaving his wife and the majority of his children in Guilford. It has been speculated that he returned due to the changed political and religious atmosphere for Puritans under the reign of Oliver Cromwell. Whitfield was reinstated in the Church but died in 1657, soon after his return, and was buried in Winchester Cathedral on 17th September.

Source: Wikipedia



Editor: My thanks to Richard Williams of St Margaret's for the following information

Original Planters: Guilford, Connecticut, USA 1639

The first settlers of Guilford, Connecticut, USA came to America as passengers on the Saint John*. The company of settlers on the Saint John was led by the Reverend Henry Whitfield who had been Rector of St Margaret's at Ockley, Surrey since 1616.

They sailed from England on 20th May 1639 under the command of a Captain Richard Russell, and arrived at New Haven (then Quinnipiac), Connecticut, between the 10th and 15th July 1639.

Whilst still at sea, the settlers organised a single communal plantation; this was outlined in a document now known as the 'Plantation Covenant'. It was signed by twenty five men.

Guilford, CT Plantation Covenant *We whose names are herein written, intending by God's gracious permission, to plant ourselves in New England, and if it may be in the southerly part, about Quinipiac (Quinnipiac, later named New Haven), we do faithfully promise each for ourselves and families and those that belong to us, that we will, the Lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one entire plantation and to be helpful to the other in any common work, according to every man's ability and as need shall require, and we promise not to desert or leave each other on the plantation but with the consent of the rest, or the greater part of the company, who have entered into this engagement.*

As for our gathering together into a church way and the choice officers and members to be joined together in that way, we do refer ourselves until such time as it shall please God to settle us in our plantation.

In witness whereof we subscribe our hands, this first day of June 1639.

Further Guilford settlers came to New Haven in a second ship in July 1639.

*It seems very apt with our united Parish that having left St Margaret's, Rev Henry sailed on a ship called 'Saint John'!

Robert Bickell/Richell	Abraham Crittenden	John Housingsoe	John Mephram	Wm.Plane
John Bishop	Wm. Crittenden	Thomas Joanes	Thomas Naish	John Stone
Francis Bushnell	Henry Doude	John Jurden	William Noble	Wm. Stone
Francis Chatfield	William Dudley	Henry Kingstone	John Norton	Richard Sutridge
Thomas Cooke	John Hoadley	Wm Leete	John Parmarly	Henry Whitfield

There is a dedicated '**Mayflower 400**' website commemorative website, celebrating 400 years since the first pilgrims travelled to the USA on the Mayflower in 1620. Last year, 2020 was to be a memorable year, but many of the events had to be cancelled. You can check the status of events on the website.

The Mayflower: 400th Anniversary Special | History Hit Live with Dan Snow - November 2020

Click on this link to view the special show: <https://youtu.be/86V9w0PiElk>

There is a very interesting section called 'Stories' on the website and amongst that section is a fascinating interactive guide to the passengers who sailed on the Mayflower.

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/education/mayflower-passengers-list-an-interactive-guide/>

For this and much more, visit the dedicated commemorative website for news and events:

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org>





Church of England backs VaccinAid campaign to 'Give the World a Shot' to help defeat Covid-19

The Church of England is supporting the 'VaccinAid' campaign which aims to help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history.

Led by UNICEF UK, with the online fundraising platform Crowdfunder, the campaign offers people a practical way to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccination, by making a voluntary donation to help pay for jabs for others around the world.

It aims to help fund almost two billion Covid-19 vaccines for health workers and the most high-risk and vulnerable people on our planet. The money raised will also help UNICEF provide tests and treatments to people in 190 countries around the world through the global COVAX initiative.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is encouraging people and congregations both to donate, and also to spread the word in their community, as a practical demonstration of Jesus's command to love our neighbour.

VaccinAid is being supported by other faith groups, businesses, celebrities and the NHS. Using the Crowdfunder platform, individual donations can be given, or communities - including parishes - can sign-up to fundraise together.

Local churches are being encouraged to join the campaign, with resources available to download for free on the AChurchNearYou.com Resource Hub to share on social media, newsletters or notice boards.

The recently launched campaign has been developed in just a few weeks following a meeting convened by Archbishop Justin with faith leaders, Government and NGOs to discuss how people in the UK could do something practical in response to the real sense of gratitude they have felt as they and their loved-ones receive their vaccines.

Archbishop Justin said: "The Covid-19 crisis has had a profound impact on people here and around the world, but vaccines offer the hope of a brighter future. I'm delighted that churches and other faith groups in the UK are supporting the VaccinAid campaign.

"There is no better way to show our deep gratitude for the gifts of science and medicine than making sure vulnerable people around the world are also given a shot.

For more information on the campaign go to www.vaccinaid.org to donate or begin fundraising.

Majority of mourners during pandemic unable to say goodbye properly, research finds

More than half of young adults have lost someone close to them over the past year, with this age group most active in helping to comfort the bereaved and organise funerals, according to new research by the Church of England on the impact of the pandemic.

People aged between 18 and 29 years old have been worst affected by bereavement since the first lockdown last year. 51% report they have lost someone close to them, compared to 31% of people aged 60 or above, a survey commissioned by the Church of England has shown.

In spite of this, the majority of 18 to 29 year olds, 54%, reported that they had been active in helping others cope with bereavement, compared to 26% of people aged 60 or above. More than a quarter of young adults said they had helped organise a funeral in the last year, compared to 7% of the older age group.

The online survey of more than 2,000 adults showed that nearly three quarters of people – more than seven in 10 - who wanted to attend a funeral over the past year were unable to do so because of the pandemic.

The vast majority of mourners, 89%, said that people had not been able to say goodbye properly to those who have died, while a similar proportion, 84%, said that people had not been able to fulfil the funeral wishes of the person who died. Overall four in 10 people said they had lost someone close to them since March 2020 from any cause, including Covid-19.

The majority of those surveyed said they believed the Church of England should provide both outdoor and indoor spaces for quiet reflection and prayer for those coping with death, dying and grief.

C of E to provide National Professional Qualification for school leadership in partnership with Catholic Church

The Department for Education has recently announced that a partnership between The Church of England and the Catholic Church will provide part of the Government's reformed National Professional Qualification training for teachers from September 2021.

The new National Professional Qualifications will provide training for teachers in different areas of school leadership, including senior leadership, headship and executive leadership as well as specialist areas of teaching.

The Church of England NPQs will support up to 2,500 teachers each year across the whole country.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, the Church of England's lead bishop for Education, said: "I'm delighted that the Government has demonstrated its confidence in our track record of leadership training. Through the Church of England's Foundation for Educational Leadership, we have a first class and innovative team."

Give Thanks appeal raises funds for vulnerable people

Christian Aid's latest appeal, which enables people to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world, has raised £130,000.

Many people in the UK are feeling a sense of relief as loved ones receive their vaccines. Christian Aid's Give Thanks appeal encourages people to pass the blessing on, by helping others who have little protection from the pandemic.

Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information as Covid-19 continues to destroy lives and livelihoods. Christian Aid partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries.

A [donation page](#) has been set up where people can give to Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal.

C of E responds to child sexual abuse report

The Church of England has recently published a detailed response to the recommendations of the IICSA (Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse) report from October 2020.

The response includes an admission that "the Church of England failed to protect some children and young people from sexual predators within their midst."

It goes on: "While the Church will continue to apologise, the main focus is now recognising the distress caused, and acting to improve its safeguarding structures."

The Church has accepted in full the recommendations made by the Inquiry. "Our response document focuses on response to victims and survivors including redress, structure and independence, information sharing, revision of the Clergy Discipline Measure and external audits."

The Church has set up an IICSA safeguarding programme, for which the Archbishops' Council will be responsible.

NB: See our Parish Safeguarding Notice on Page 7

All above articles ©Parish Pump

Peers remember Prince Philip's lifelong dedication and 'profound faith'

13 April 2021

by Hattie Williams

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leaving St George's, Windsor, on Easter Day 2017, accompanied by the Dean of Windsor, the Rt Revd David Conner.

Photo ©Alamy



Members of the House of Lords have praised the “selfless and lifelong” dedication and service of the late Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip — particularly to the Queen, the country, his family, interfaith dialogue, and young people — anchored by a “profound” and personal Christian faith.

More than 90 peers contributed speeches over six hours to a special tribute debate to the Duke held in the Lords on Monday afternoon. A corresponding debate was held in the House of Commons.

A former Bishop of Oxford, Lord Harries, praised Prince Philip for his interfaith work, specifically the foundation of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in Windsor Castle, and the Interfaith Declaration. “Prince Philip clearly had a keen interest in religion, and I understand that his personal library was absolutely chock-full of books on religions of one kind or another,” he said.

“However, it is his public role to which we pay tribute here, where we know that he wanted to make a difference. He saw that one way of doing that was by helping religious institutions relate better to one another through their senior lay people.”

Lord Harries also pointed to the Duke’s “special relationship” with the Rt Revd Robin Woods (who later became Bishop of Worcester), which led to the foundation of St George’s House, Windsor, “first as a place for clergy to meet for a long period of reflection and study, then as a place for senior or rising people in the secular world from all professions to come together for shorter periods to reflect on their fundamental values and beliefs and how these should be reflected in the modern world. We should not believe everything that we see and hear on *The Crown*, but there was a particularly good episode about the Duke and St George’s House.”

In his parliamentary tribute, the Archbishop of Canterbury remembered the tradition of newly appointed diocesan bishops being asked to preach at Sandringham. “Prince Philip listened intently, thought deeply, and over lunch interrogated knowingly. His reading theologically was wide, his memory retentive, his analysis perceptive.

“Few bishops failed to leave with greater thoughtfulness and few bishops failed to admire. We quite often had to answer questions about what a bishop had said in a sermon two or three weeks earlier, with which he disagreed — he was effectively polling the bench.”

Lord Harries, however, remembered the Duke’s “willingness to help nervous bishops be at ease. After dinner on the Saturday, when we had all had enough of making conversation of one kind or another, he invited them simply to relax with him, watching a film on a comfy sofa.”

Archbishop Welby also paid tribute to Prince Philip’s “profound moral imagination, extraordinary foresight, and even vision” in his work and commitment to the Commonwealth, Armed Forces, and especially to young people, including through the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme, which he founded in 1956.

His duty of service and “genuine and deep sense of humility” came from his personal and “sincere” Christian faith, Archbishop Welby said, “absolutely untainted by false piety, formed and developed by wrestling with great issues. . . He knew who he was, and his faith was central to who he was and how he lived his life. He worked out his call to serve and follow Christ in the context of his own unique calling.”

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, quoted from the poem “Crossing the bar” by Alfred Tennyson, which had been sung at choral evensong celebrating the life of the late Duke at St Paul’s Cathedral on Saturday. “The poem speaks of a life well lived, so that there is no sadness or farewell but instead a journey peacefully travelled, serenely and securely.”

This, she said, reflected the “life of dedication” of the Duke: to his naval career, conservation, engineering, the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, and, above all, his dedication to the Queen and country. “They have shared total commitment in their duties and service. They have always had each other to lighten the burden of public life.”

Other peers referred to Prince Philip’s “unconventional start in life” and “controversy” of his early speeches, as well as his interest religion and philosophy. Many, including Lord Forsyth of Drumlean, described the Duke as “a man of faith. . . He sought no acclamation and no credit; you can see that in the arrangements he left for his funeral and the rest.” Lord Sarfraz said: “All faiths recognise his leadership and contributions.”

Lord Alderdice said: “For him, meaning, faith, and commitment in life were truly important. I think for him it was not always just the content of belief but the conduct of life that was crucial: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”

Lord Sharpe of Epsom said: “We have heard that throughout his life the Duke of Edinburgh despised flattery, but it is a fact that he embodied a set of values that are still very obviously widely respected: stoicism, duty, courage, service, self-sacrifice, faith, unselfishness, humour, and fortitude, to name just a few.”

Amnesty International celebrates 60 years

Amnesty International was founded in London 60 years ago, on 28th May 1961.

A non-governmental organisation with its headquarters in the United Kingdom, Amnesty International focuses on human rights and is believed to have more than seven million members and supporters around the world. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 for its “defence of human dignity against torture”.

Amnesty came together following the publication of an article in *The Observer*, ‘The Forgotten Prisoners’, by Peter Benenson, a Jewish lawyer whose mother Flora Benenson was Russian. His father Harold Solomon was British, but he died when Peter was nine. Peter, who was tutored by W H Auden and went to Eton and Balliol, took his mother’s name much later as a tribute to his grandfather, a gold tycoon.

With a group of lawyers and as a member of the Labour Party he founded Justice, the influential human rights and law reform organisation, in 1957, but the following year he fell ill and moved to Italy to convalesce, where he converted to Roman Catholicism.

Amnesty campaigns to put pressure on governments where human rights abuse takes pace. It considers capital punishment to be “the ultimate, irreversible denial of human rights.”

By Tim Lenton

An interview with Sir David Suchet: the Bible cannot be silenced

16 April 2021

David Suchet talks to *Vicky Walker* about his faith and his love of reading scripture



"John's Gospel has been with me most of lockdown," Sir David Suchet says. "I don't make any apology for it." On Easter Day, a virtual audience around the world watched him read the whole of it in the Jerusalem Chamber in Westminster Abbey. The [recording](#) has since been viewed more than 74,000 times.

He has engaged with scripture in detail over the years, recording the entire [Bible](#) for Hodder & Stoughton's *NIV Audio Bible* — which necessitated many hours of reading to bring to life more than three-quarters of a million words.

Turning his attention to John, which, he says, lends itself to a more personal interpretation, he says, "I continually read it and re-read. It is the most intimate of all the Gospels. And it's suitable to be read to one person. I don't think this this is a Gospel to be read to millions all in one go."

He finds a musical resonance to John's Gospel, too. "John's Gospel is Bach," he says. "It's all counterpoint: you've got the top line, but you've got other meanings and references that just go down, down, down, down, down, down, down."

"I hope with my tone to convey a little of all the other layers that John is writing about. I wish I had the ability to have four different voices, all sounding at the same time. There are great depths and great mysticism in the Bible."

He is passionate about the benefits of hearing scripture read aloud. "My message to everybody is to read it out loud, quietly to yourself. Never, never, never, never read the word silently. . . Let it go in into your body, absorb it. And let it come out, so you continue this wonderful, wonderful relationship you can have with God and his Word. "I always read any passage of Bible out loud, because I can hear it at the same time. And that's actually a great, a great source of nourishment," he notes.

He attributes his own conversion to Christianity to reading a hotel Bible in 1986. In it, he "found a way of being or philosophy of life that I wanted". John's Gospel was central to his understanding of that: "When I got to the very end, I thought: this is it — this is my message that I've devoted my life since then."

But he has also described himself in the past as a reluctant convert, "dragged kicking and screaming into the Kingdom". Does he still have doubts and questions? "Oh, all the time!" he exclaims. "For example, when I watch nature programmes, and I see live animals killing and eating live animals. I see the beauty of nature, but also the cruelty of nature and the pain of nature."

"And I look at the cruelty in the world and the suffering in the world, and the wars, and what we're doing to our world, [it] creates doubt, saying, 'What are you doing? Why can't you intervene?'" "But I have learned enough [to know] that that is not the way. He will, but in his time. But, when I look at the world around me, and the suffering and the cruelty and the pain, I, like all the prophets in the Old Testament, in the Psalms, hold up my hands and shout, 'Where are you? Where are you?' "But he is here, and I will not let that put me off. I've got to hang on. I've got to hang on to what I read here," he says, touching the Bible next to him.

During the pandemic, the embrace of technology by churches has been important to him. “I do a lot of Bible reading from my own church online; so I was able to do that for them all through that. But it’s also given me a chance to move on, to expand myself and to open myself up to other churches.

“I’ve logged on to the Western Orthodox. I’ve logged on to Eastern Orthodox. I’m able to go to many different places, many different denominations, because they’re all tied to the same thing. And it’s been absolutely wonderful.

“I have enormous hope that the Christian family around the world can actually say hello to each other, and we cease to be just little pockets of Christianity. But, because it is a worldwide religion, we can join hands to what we’re doing now.

“Stay up one night and say hello to church in Australia; and stay up one night and say hello to a different denomination in South Africa, Canada, America. And we can all hold hands globally, and be part of one glorious Christianity.”

Alongside these global opportunities, he has found a silent companionship with God rewarding — part of what he calls “a developing relationship . . . and that is not shouting, talking all the time and not giving him a chance. “Sitting still, not saying a word. And being with it as a friend, just sharing time together. And sometimes with the person you really love, and very intimate, with the best time to sitting together.” He is aware of the difficulties that many find with the idea of silent prayer: “People say, ‘Oh, I can’t do that. My head is too busy.’ It’s not, actually. It’s just sitting down, having a cup of coffee, and closing the doors again. It’s no more than that. He wants to be as accessible to you as he can be.

“I have a little prayer that is totally impractical,” he says. “It is the homeless brought into churches, off the streets at night. Somehow. There’s so much real estate that religion wants to protect: our churches. But I’m sure if Jesus was walking around, he’d be the first to unlock the door of a church.”

As he walked around London during lockdown, his attention was drawn to “thousands of churches in London. In the City of London, there’s one on every corner.” He is convinced that generous hospitality is required. “Open your doors, because Christ doesn’t want them shut. They’re homes, the house of God, and I’m sure that God would open his doors for the poor, the lonely, the sick, the tired.”

His more ambitious prayer is for a global online gathering of Christians. “I would love to see the leadership of all Christians and denominations coming together worldwide, in a worldwide day of prayer. “We’ve had a prayer day of reflection in this country on the anniversary of lockdown. I would like all Christian communities and all other faiths to come together with those with faith and those with religion, and throw ourselves open to God, and pray for healing and peace in the world. That would be a groundbreaking thing, wouldn’t it? And I think it’s time.”

He expresses concern over divisions that he has observed among Christians, and a lack of unity which has wider repercussions: “My wish is — especially in a multicultural society — for tolerance: greater tolerance, and unity within ourselves.” He has approached this, in part, by expanding his knowledge of other faiths, “trying to be broad-minded in reading and studying other holy texts, reading the Qur’an”. In his 2018 podcast *Questions of Faith*, he met and interviewed a range of people from the other Abrahamic faiths, including a terrorist. He describes it as his “tumble-dryer Christian experience”.

He continues: “I was going in there believing that everything was right with me and wrong with the terrorist, and coming out really seriously questioning myself and having to look through the world through their eyes. That’s what we must do all the time, and we must get rid of extremism. We must.”

He was struck, though, by the passions that he encountered. “When you meet people who have this zealotry about them: yes, it leads to terrible things — I’m not sympathising in any way with terrorism: I’m actually condemning it — but they have a fire.

“And they have a passion that, I think, we have lost in areas of our worship, in areas of our faith. We don’t talk about it. People say ‘My religion is private.’ “Actually, religion in the way it was started was never private. It was always done in groups and in secret for fear of the others, even after Jesus’s crucifixion. And when he appeared his disciples, they were they were all behind the closed doors that were locked for fear of persecution.”

Article continues on page 34

Wordsearch Clues - Rogation Sunday

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. This is when many parishes still 'beat the bounds'. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land. The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake and storm. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to harvest. In the days when maps were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today?

Sunday
May
Rogation
Beat
Bounds

Asking
Blessing
Seed
Land
Romans

Processed
Cornfields
Spring
Earthquake
Storm

Prayer
Cross
Boundaries
Crops
Harvest
maps

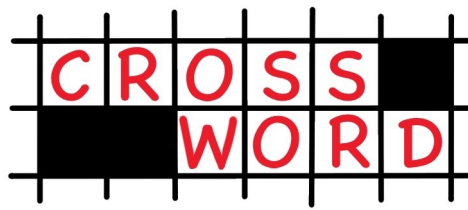


Easy Level Sudoku

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

Medium Level Sudoku

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



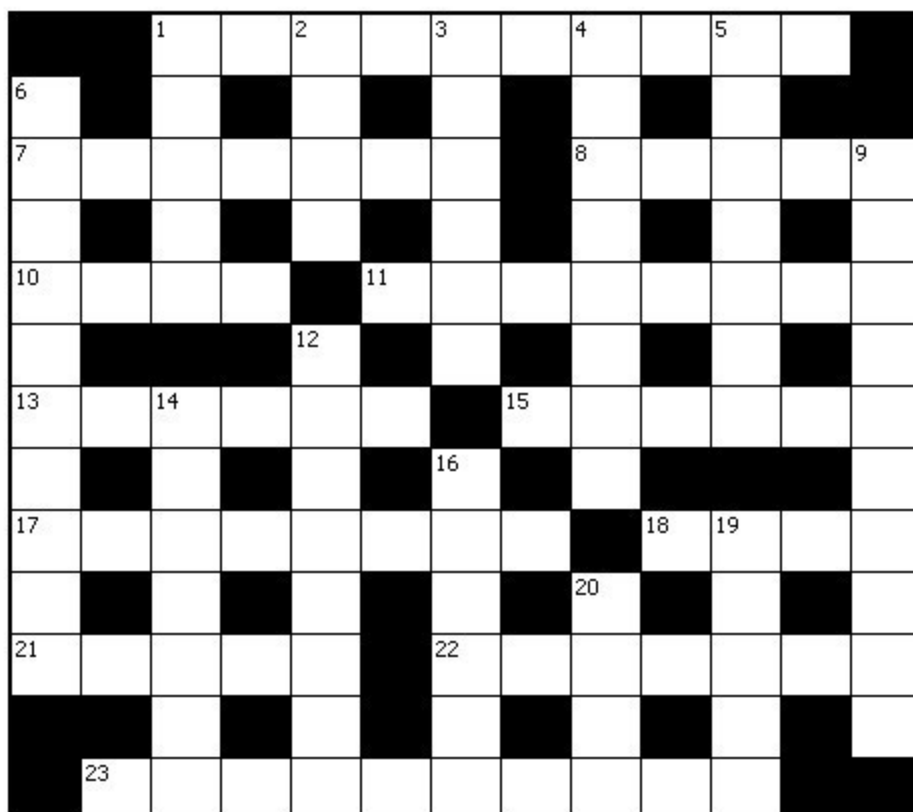
Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (*1 Corinthians 8:7*) (10)
- 7 Coming (*John 11:17*) (7)
- 8 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (*John 17:10*) (5)
- 10 Smarten (*Acts 9:34*) (4)
- 11 Hold back (*Job 9:13*) (8)
- 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- 15 At ague (anag.) (6)
- 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
- 18 So be it (*Galatians 6:18*) (4)
- 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)
- 22 Empowers (*Philippians 3:21*) (7)
- 23 Imposing (*1 Samuel 9:2*) (10)

Down

- 1 Healed (*Luke 7:21*) (5)
- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)
- 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (*Exodus 2:12*) (8)
- 5 Bravery (*Acts 4:13*) (7)
- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (*Acts 16:26*) (10)
- 9 Transgression (*Psalms 36:1*) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
- 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (*Genesis 1:2*) (6)
- 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)
- 20 Cab (4)



He recognises the challenge and risk of biblical warnings about lukewarm Christians. "I don't want lukewarm. You're either hot or you're cold. And what I met in those extremists, and in those terrorists, was boiling hot.

"And I had to recognise that they really, really did believe that they were doing it in the name of God." He describes the difficulty of taking his own spiritual temperature: "I get frustrated, like all people, because I go into areas of not wanting to do anything. We Christians call it the dark desert experience, that you just feel separated from God; but out of that comes good, good things.

"Sometimes, I feel cold; sometimes, I feel lukewarm. Sometimes, I feel hot and passionate. But I never forget in my heart, [and] although I may cry out like the psalmist — and I have cried out in my early days, my goodness me — I will pray for God to do whatever he wants for me, because I'm completely helpless and angry and frustrated. I'm a passionate man. I'm not all head. I'm very gut-driven."

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IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

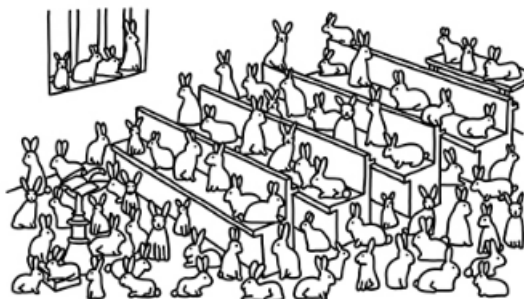
MORE DISCOVERIES UPON RETURNING



REMNANTS FROM THE PAST



A HYMN-NUMBER TRAIL



THAT TWO RABBITS ESCAPED
DURING THE FINAL PET SERVICE



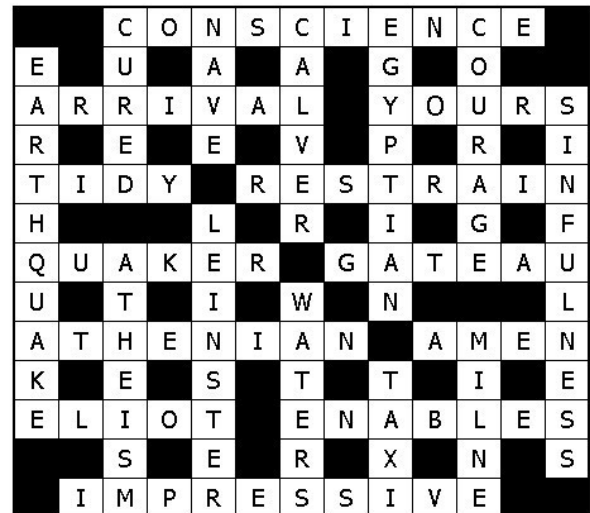
A FOSSILIZED COFFEE MORNING

© Dave Walker and Church Times

Wordsearch solution



Crossword solution

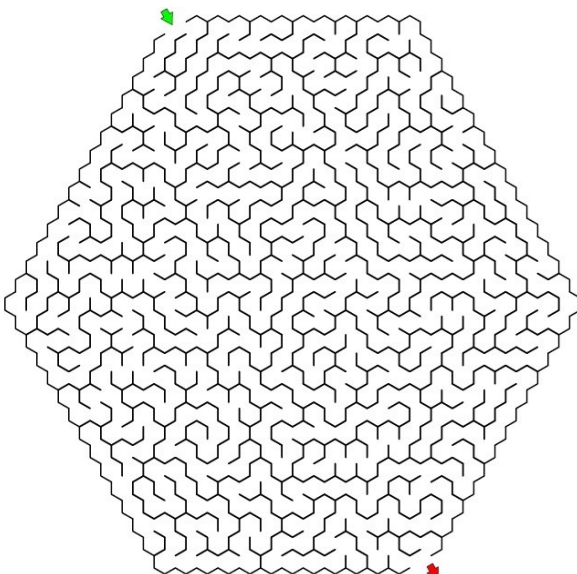


Easy Soduko solution

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

Medium Soduko solution

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



Can you find your way out of the maze?

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower' by Holman Hunt. The painting hangs in the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Liverpool. You can view it at: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Holman_Hunt_-_May_Morning_on_Magdalen_Tower.jpg



I wish you a joyful May

When Van Gogh painted 'The Raising of Lazarus', he turned to Rembrandt for inspiration. But in place of the figure of Jesus, he painted a warm, glowing sun, radiant in the sky, and shining out to bring renewal of life to Lazarus and his sisters.

From time immemorial people have placed the sun at the centre of life and worship. As Christianity grew and spread, it took over ceremonies and practices associated with that belief, but then moved the focus from the sun above to the Son, Jesus, on the earth below.

We can see that in the traditions and worship of Christmas and Easter. In May we celebrate the goodness and fruitfulness of nature brought by the sun with Maypole dancing, the crowning of the May Queen, and games and sports, just as the Romans went dancing in the fields at this time, rejoicing in the gifts of Flora, the goddess of nature. In May the druids would greet the sun in the sky as they gathered on a high place.

That custom persisted for several centuries, particularly at Magdalen College in Oxford. In 1840 Dr John Bloxam revived the ceremony. Holman Hunt, one of that group of artists known as the Pre-Raphaelites, visited Oxford in 1851 and so enjoyed the Christmas festivities that he decided to honour the college life in one of his paintings. That decision took many years to reach the canvas: his painting of 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower' is one of his last complete works in 1890.

We can easily identify the choristers gathered to greet the rising sun in music and song. Amid the clouds and blue sky above, the birds are flying and the floor where the choir stand is bedecked with flowers. It is a glorious celebration of the fruitfulness of May and the summer: God's creation bringing so many gifts. The president of the college is the man with the dark beard at the right of the painting, and Dr Bloxam is beside him.

But there is an unusual character there also, at the side of the painting – a Parsee, an ancient worshipper of the sun from Persia, perhaps representing not just those who look to the light of the sun, but are also searching for the light of truth. The young chorister in the middle looking out at us holds a lily, the symbol of Mary, the mother of God's Son. All creation is gathered to greet the dawn and the rising sun of May – the birds above and people below, young and old, Christian and non-Christian - all united to proclaim the goodness and renewal promised by the sun.

Holman Hunt said that he wanted to represent 'the spirit of a beautiful, primitive and in a large sense eternal service.' Here is a vivid reminder that the faith we profess opens our eyes to God's goodness and glory symbolised in the rising sun, and that He welcomes everyone to share in those gifts.