

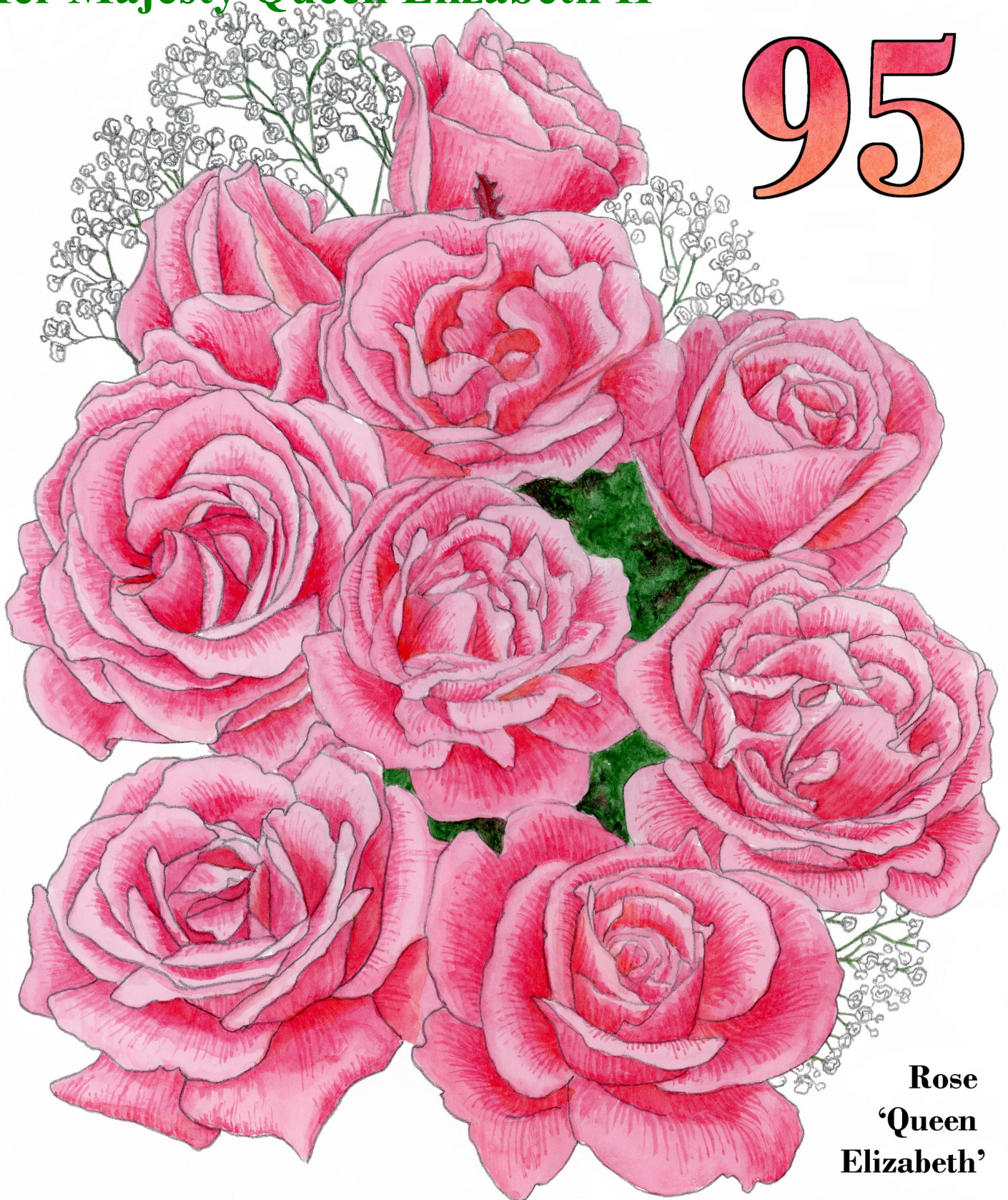
InSpire

Issue 51 June 2021

Free of charge - please
take a copy!

**Happy 95th Birthday to
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

95



**Rose
'Queen
Elizabeth'**

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley



CHURCH TEAS ARE BACK!

***Following on from the success of the Teas for Trees,
church teas are back!***

**From the end of May we will be doing teas at Capel once more,
serving them outside under gazebos.**

Ockley will also have teas – dates to be confirmed!

**The money from these teas will help maintain our beautiful churches
and the services we provide.**

Please do support us and come when you can!

All dates below are for Capel and will be 3–5pm each time.

Sunday 13th June

Sunday 25th July

Sunday 15th August

Sunday 29th August

Monday 30th August—Late Summer Holiday

Sunday 12th September

Sunday 3rd October

Sunday 7th November

Sunday 28th November

Sunday 12th December

Ockley dates to be released in due course!

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We wish her
Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
a very happy 95th official
birthday in June!



God save the Queen

Don't want a paper copy? Don't forget that you can ...

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Register to receive **InSpire** via email each month OR download individual issues!

www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine

This issue is kindly sponsored by

Liz Arthur

This issue is to remember the
birthday of Liz's husband Robert.

We thank Liz for her support and sponsorship and remember
all that Robert contributed to village life in Capel

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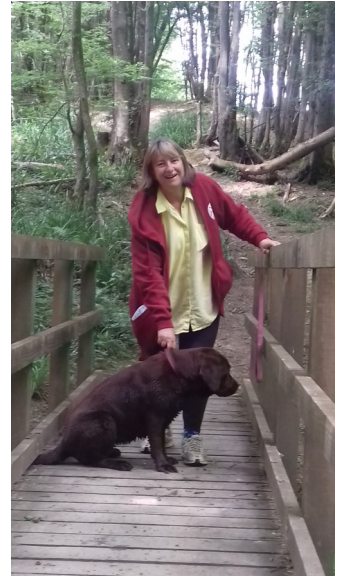
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Parish Eco Team ecoteam@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Dear all,

Lockdown restrictions are slowly lifting and what a joy it is to be able to meet together outside and indoors at various venues in our community. The recreation ground is buzzing with the sound of cricket bats, tennis rackets and football as all ages enjoy outdoor exercise. Our son who is working from home temporarily has joined the tennis club and absolutely loves it. Over in Ockley the Cricket Club is promoting the social side of their club and soon I am told the wonderful Ockley Pavilion Cafe will resume on a Wednesday morning! Our local artists have once again picked up their paintbrushes and are resuming meeting together in Capel Memorial Hall also on Wednesday mornings in our St John's Artists group. It's lovely to see how bit by bit we are reconvening and able to have that all so important contact with our fellow human beings! In church we are continuing to meet together in person and are now allowed to serve refreshments in church. That means coffee after the service is back (hurray!) Although social distancing still applies and people must be seated. However outside, rules differ and we can stand and sup! We are also holding Church teas each month so look at the events diary carefully. We are hoping to be able to offer dates at both churches which will be great. Numbers for services will generally be as many as can be seated socially distanced which gives us greater flexibility especially for funeral services. It will be interesting to see what happens later this month when all restrictions are lifted....



One of the best things about restrictions lifting though is that I have been allowed to go back into Scott Broadwood again for assemblies. It seemed such a long time since I last saw many of the children who have all grown and to meet the reception class children for the first time. We have been thinking about the school value for this half term which has been love which is always a good one! We have also been thinking about God's promises and the diocesan education department have helped us to use the image of rainbows as a sign of God's promise. We have probably all seen a rainbow through the past month or so haven't we?! Its been really fun exploring this theme with the children and they always have such brilliant ideas and ways of putting things which help us adults especially to understand! As we have just celebrated the coming of the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in church, it has been lovely preparation for me to think about this through the children's eyes. I loved how the diocesan resource explained the gift of the Holy Spirit which God sent after Jesus went home to heaven - Ascension Day - as sending them 'a little piece of heaven'. What a lovely way to describe that relationship we can have with our heavenly Father! Of course one of the signs of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is a flame of fire and so we also looked at the words that St Catherine of Siena wrote which said:

'Be who God made you to be, and you'll set the world on fire'. Again a wonderful way of expressing how to be and particularly for our children in their formative years. In exploring what this meant one child said it meant *'be who God made you to be and it would make the world amazing!'* Wow! The grown ups definitely learnt a lot that morning and don't children say the most profound things?! If only we could all be who God made us to be - all over our conflicted world today - then the world would truly be amazing!

Well, this teaching for our school children has been created to help them think about the life that they face 'post pandemic' as they grow up in this 'new world'. So I wonder if these ideas can help us as we step out and face our 'new world' and think about how we live now and what role God's promises might have for us?

With my love and prayers,

Rev Liz

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR THE PARISH OF CAPEL AND OCKLEY - JUNE 2021

SUNDAY 6th TRINITY 1

9.30 am Matins BCP at St Margaret's Ockley
10.30 am Family Communion at St John's Capel

SATURDAY 12th Service of Marriage

3.00 pm Wedding at St Margaret's Ockley

SUNDAY 13th TRINITY 2

9.30 am Holy Communion CW at St Margaret's Ockley
10.30 am CAFE CHURCH at The Crown Capel
3.00 pm Capel Teas outside at St John's Capel

SUNDAY 20th TRINITY 3

9.30 am Matins BCP at St Margaret's Ockley
10.30 am Morning Worship CW at St John's Capel

SUNDAY 27th TRINITY 4

9.30 am Matins BCP at St Margaret's Ockley
10.30 am Family Communion at St John's Capel

JULY

SUNDAY 4th TRINITY 5

9.30 am Matins BCP at St Margaret's Ockley
10.30 am Morning Worship CW at St John's Capel Morning Worship

BCP - service is from The Book of Common Prayer 1662

CW - service is from Common Worship 2005

Guidelines for Parish Sunday Services.

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

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. At Capel the toilet will be open and disinfectant available for you to wipe all surfaces after usage.
4. We cannot sing as a congregation but there is supporting music as appropriate.
5. 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.
6. No collection will be taken but we ask that you leave your donation on the plate.
7. 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

Market in Capel - First one this Saturday 5th June!

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In August last year a small market started in the car park of the Surrey Oaks in Newdigate. This is a fortnightly market and from the start some traders felt there was potential to have a similar market around The Crown in Capel.

Our first market is taking place on Saturday June 5th. **Stalls with fresh fruit and veg from Farm to Fork, meats from Hill House farm (who also supply our local pub), organic herbs, spices and dry groceries from Flavour Riot, cheese from G-Wizz and more. Also jewellery by Capel Creations, Health coach Sally Cranham** and at time of writing requests for pitches for new stalls are still coming in!

The market starts at 08:30 am and closes at 11:30 am. The Crown provides coffee and cake and Donna's Deli will sell goodies made in the pub kitchen. It will be lovely so see many of you at what I believe to be a first for Capel.

From now on you can go to market every Saturday locally: one week in Capel and the other in Newdigate. We hope to welcome many of you.

Dineke

Editor's note: Whilst talking of new markets & events ... do take a look at page 13 for updates on our new Christmas Fair! We now have a lovely array of stalls lined up for you!

I do hope that some of you see your copy of June's InSpire in time to make it to the first Capel market this Saturday morning, 5th June!



HOLY DAYS IN JUNE ... A NEW SAINTS DAY

***NEW 9th June Ephrem the Syriac, prolific hymn writer**

Here is a saint for you, if you have ever been touched by the words of a song.

Ephrem the Syriac was born 306AD in Nisibis, Turkey. Baptised in 324, he joined the cathedral school in Nisibis, where it was soon obvious that he had an outstanding gift for writing both music and lyrics.

Ephrem would have agreed with St Paul about the value of using music to express our faith in God. In an age of widespread illiteracy, he saw that hymns could be powerful carriers of orthodox Christianity, even when sung by uneducated people.

And so Ephrem wrote – and wrote. His poetry was so powerful, and his melodies so evocative, that soon his hymns were spreading far and wide across the Roman Empire. And wherever they went, his hymns took the Christian gospel along with them.

Some of Ephrem's hymns were written to refute heretical ideas, while others praised the beauty of the life of Christ. To Ephrem, everything around us could become a reminder of the presence of God, and thus an aid to worship.

Ephrem became the most prolific and gifted hymn-writer in all of eastern Christianity. His hundreds of hymns influenced the later development of hymn-writing in both Syriac and Greek Christianity.

Ephrem was also a well-respected Christian theologian and writer, always keen to defend orthodoxy from the widespread heresies of the time. Ephrem stressed that Christ's perfect unity of humanity and divinity represented peace, perfection and salvation.

After Nisibis fell to the Turks in 363, Ephrem fled to Edessa, where he continued to work. But plague struck the city in 373, and while nursing others with the plague Ephrem finally died of it himself on 9th June. But his music lives on - more than 500 of his hymns still survive today.

©Parish Pump

GREAT NEWS! Church Teas are back!

See inside front cover for full details!



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

Handmade cards

Thank you for your continued support. I will keep putting cards in church as and when I can!

Best wishes,
Suzanne

Christian Aid 2021

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated to Christian Aid this year. I hope to be able to tell you how much was raised in Capel in due course.

Sue Partridge
Tel: 01306 711355



FROM THE REGISTERS Capel and Ockley

We mourn the loss of

*John David Jaques
14th April 2021*

*David Collinson
17th May 2021*

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



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.*

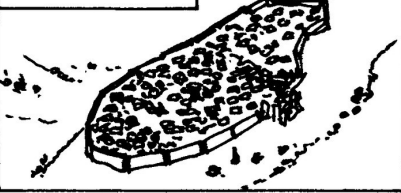
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

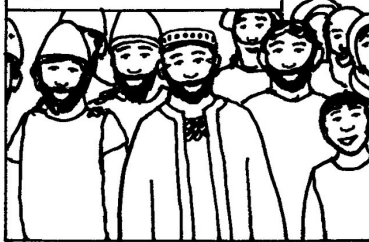
It can be read in the Bible in
2 Sam 6: 1-10, 2 Chron 13, 15: 1-28

Copies of God's Laws for the Jews were kept in a special holy chest - the Ark. It had been stored at Keriath Jearim for 20 years...

When king David made Jerusalem his capital, he decided to bring the Ark there.



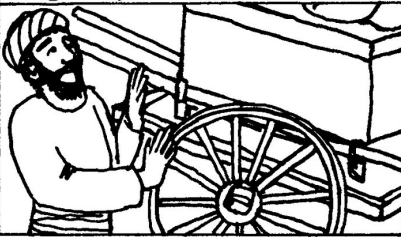
David brought his soldiers and a huge crowd came too



They put the Ark on a new cart and set off down the hill.



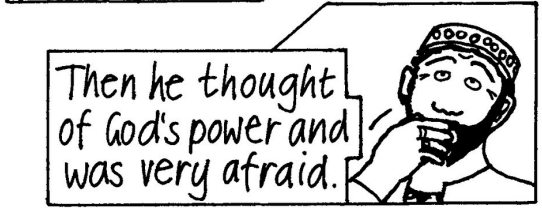
The oxen stumbled, and Uzzah thought the Ark might fall off the cart.



He forgot the Ark was holy and held on to it.

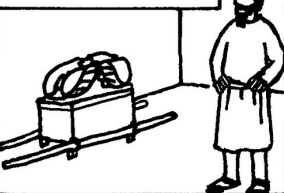


David was very angry with God that Uzzah had died



Then he thought of God's power and was very afraid.

So he left the Ark stored at the house of Obed Edom.



David realised that they had not treated God's Ark with respect.



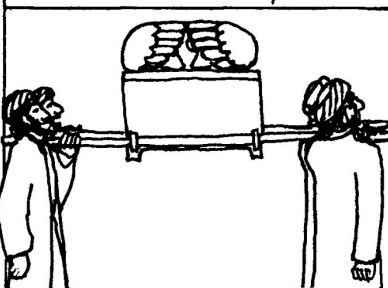
He talked to the Levites, the tribe that God had chosen to be His priests.



They organised musicians and trumpeters, and people to carry the Ark.



God's holy Ark was treated with respect.



Everyone cheered and sang as the Ark was carried into Jerusalem.

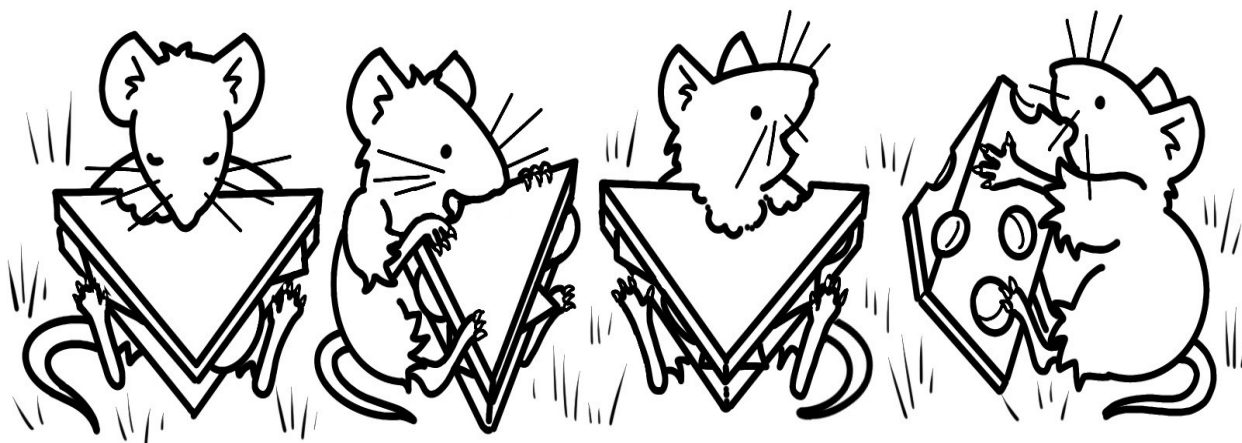


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capital
cheered
tribe
Jerusalem
crowd
laws
holy
angry

Levites
hill
soldiers
Ark
respect
stored
cart
organised

Uzzah
Obed
fall
trumpeters
stumbled
David
afraid
musicians



The mice are enjoying a picnic ... Can you colour them in?

MADAM IS ALWAYS RIGHT!

40 YEARS OF RETAILING..... By Chris Cooper

The above instruction was the first I received when I joined the staff in Grants department store at High Street Croydon in 1957. Before that eventful day, I had been an office boy with United Carriers at Lower Belgrave Street as a 'runner' taking papers and documents to offices in the London Docks. To see the meat porters with the enormous sides of beef on their shoulders transporting them from ship to shore was an education. That was in early 1956. The same year alterations to staff were made and I became surplus to requirements, so I left and joined Grants of Croydon.

I had no idea that my retail experiences would last forty years!

Grants was very much a family store with Mr Donald Grant as chairman, with Mr Goss, Mr Sydney, and Mr Alec Grant as directors. Mr Drew and Mr McEwan were also on the board.

On my first day I was seen by Mrs MacPhearson, the Personnel Manager and given instruction as to the hours 8am-6pm; which entrances to use on arrival and leaving, plus the conduct expected!

I was put to work with Mr Stone, buyer in the piece goods department. This meant looking after the stock of dress materials and checking them. Mrs Barnard was Mr Stone's secretary. Like her superior, she was a no nonsense individual who made the life of us juniors a misery. I was given the task of sorting the remnants of dress fabrics, of which there were hundreds, and attaching the blank price tickets. These were then priced up by Mr Stone.

At this time my confidence was lacking, made worse by the bullying of the buyer Mr Stone. Other members of the staff had noticed what was taking place, and advised me to ask for a transfer to another department. I duly approached Mrs MacPhearson and made the request; only to find out that others had done the same for obvious reasons. When I was asked which department I would like to work in, my answer of 'anywhere' shocked the management. They had not realised how bad the situation had become, and I now knew why those before me had left Grants.

From dress fabrics I transferred to soft furnishings with Mr Nelson, a much more friendly environment. Here I assisted with display, but not yet seeing the customers. This was to change as the July Sale was approaching and it was decided that I would help Mr French in the Quilt and Blanket section. Mr French was a gentleman of the old school and I found my feet with him. He was tolerant of my underpower in the brain section, and it was through him I gained knowledge of stock control, ordering and display.

In these days the Chairman of the board, Mr Donald Grant came round to inspect the store every week. Dressed in traditional attire of black suit and long tailcoat, he had the knack of rooting out the only item on display without a price ticket! Mr Donald also made a point of talking to the staff and always seemed to know the name of any new member. A kind word would put you at ease; and I am convinced that Mr Grace from the BBC comedy 'Are you being served' was based on him.

One of the less pleasant jobs was the processing of old eiderdowns quilts for recovering. At this time the work was carried out by Crossland Hughes near London Bridge. Having selected a cover for the item in question it was collected from Madam and finished up on my counter. Most were in good condition, but now and again I would receive one which had its own inmates!

Most of the blankets we sold were from Charles Early of Witney in Oxfordshire, or a new type coming onto the market by Lan-air-cel. These blankets were cellular in construction to save weight but retain warmth. Now and again, we stocked the Witney Point Design. These were made for trading with Trappers in Canada. The blankets were of different weights from one to four, and marked on the edge of each by a short stripe. Each stripe indicated the number of skins the blanket was worth!

Our small department was next to the rear of the store, adjacent to the market in Surrey Street. We were always subject to the calls of the traders, two in particular I remember, one who called 'narnahs' from his fruit stand and a lady who called 'I say quality; quality only'.

I spent another sixteen months with Mr French and then, as an apprentice, had to move onto another department. This move was to furniture on the third floor where Mr Dimmock was the buyer. This was a significant move as it became the product of choice for the rest of my life in retailing until 1990.

This was the time of the Croydon Development and the Central area of the town became a building site.

It was decided that I should learn about the manufacture of beds and bedding and I was placed with a charming old lady in the showroom in an old house next to the fire station in Wellesley Road. This area was to become the site for the huge 'Nestle' building which stands today.

The disadvantage of having a Fire Station on the adjacent wall was the alarm. When this sounded off it could drown out conversation with a prospective customer! At this time too the appliances began to be fitted with twin tone horns; the first in Britain I was told.

At this period, I was sent on visits to various factories to see how beds were constructed. I visited the 'Sleepzee' production sites in South Croydon and Merstham.

With the demolition of the site, I returned to the store and the furniture department. This was now the early sixties, and I was asked to help clear an area of the floor for an exhibition. I was introduced to Mr Rowland Emmett; famous for his extraordinary creations, like the Oyster Creek Railway at The Festival of Britain in 1951. This exhibition turned out to be the famous flying carpet design to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Post Office, and its services. Working with Mr Emmett was an education and helping with the delicate construction was an experience of a lifetime. My task was to be of general assistance and to help with the complicated wiring of the exhibit. Conversation with Mr Emmett revealed his love of trains and when I told him of my involvement as one of the founding group of the Bluebell Railway, we got on very well!

It was during the clearing of the floor to prepare for the Post office carpet that an unfortunate accident occurred. We had to move an Ercol sideboard to the top of the escalator which led down to the millinery department. Ercol sideboards are on large castors to take the weight. During the move, my colleague who was pushing lost his grip, I tried to stop the item of furniture, but caught my foot in a chair leg and fell over. The sideboard continued down the slight slope to the top of the escalator. I tried to stop it, but luck was not on my side as the sideboard took a ride down the stairs to the ladies hats, scattering stands in all directions. The noise caused other members of staff to appear and help us clear up the mess. It was a good job the store closed on Wednesday afternoons.

It was during the early sixties that major rebuilding also took place in Grants. Two new floors were added to the top of the Surrey Street side with new restaurants; the Devonian Room with the self service restaurant above. The roof top space became the staff canteen with excellent views over Croydon and my home in Beddington two miles away. Staff were not allowed in the posh Devonian room except under special circumstances.

In 1962 I was working in the furniture department with Mr Mitchel, Mr Till and Mr Lockinger while undergoing training and passing the Retail Trades Junior Certificate (RTJC) at the Brixton Day College in South London. This led up to extended training for the National Retail Distribution Certificate which you had to pass in all eight subjects. Calculations for retail being most difficult. I also spent one evening a week learning about double entry book-keeping!

Sundays were spent working on the Bluebell Railway keeping the track in good order, usually out in the middle of nowhere - wonderful countryside! Stores in those days closed on Wednesday afternoons, and it occurred to me that a visit by other members of the staff to my railway might be possible. I circulated a notice of an afternoon excursion to Sheffield Park Gardens and a ride on the Bluebell at a cost, including admission of 8/6d (eight shillings and sixpence). I did not know how many would take up the offer, so it was to my surprise that one hundred and twelve members signed up. The day in May was fine and the outing was a great success, the headboard on the 'GRANTONIAN' special particularly noteworthy. This experimental trip led to others over the years to places like Albury Park, Charleston Manor, and Wisley Gardens, until I left Grants in 1966.

Editor's note: My sincere thanks to Debbie von Bergen for typing up Chris Cooper's notes for this article and to Chris himself for giving us another entertaining article.

Article to be continued in July's issue

Neighbourhood Watch

In one small rural village the local vet also led the local Neighbourhood Watch group. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?"

"He is, but tell me, do you need him as the vet or the Neighbourhood Watch?" the wife asked.

"Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"

Talking

Bishop Douglas Feaver, the notoriously outspoken former Bishop of Peterborough, was presiding at his first Diocesan Synod and a man at the back had been droning on and on for some length of time. Finally, a lady called out to protest that she could not hear what he was saying. Bishop Douglas replied: "You should thank God and sit down."

Friend?

Arriving at church to attend a wedding, a formidable looking lady in a large hat was greeted by the usher. "Are you a friend of the groom?" he ventured.

"Certainly not," she said indignantly. "I'm the bride's mother."



Out to graze

A group of elderly British tourists were touring Holland by bus. They stopped at a cheese farm where a young guide led them through the process of making cheese from goat's milk. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

"These," she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in Britain with your old goats?"

A spry old gentleman answered: "They send us on bus tours!"

Miscellaneous observations on our Christian faith

Without God the world would be in a maze without a clue. - *Woodrow Wilson*

Our ecological responsibility rests in our prior responsibility to obey our Creator. - *R C Sproul*

The universe seems to have been designed by a pure mathematician. - *James Jeans*

Christ has made of death a narrow starlit strip between the companionships of yesterday and the reunions of tomorrow. - *William Jennings Bryan*

The Christian's chief occupational hazards are depression and discouragement. - *John R W Stott*

Jesus didn't commit the gospel to an advertising agency; He commissioned disciples. - *Joseph Bayly*

Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything we have. - *Billy Graham*

Miscellaneous musings on life

It is not marriage that fails, it is people that fail. - *Harry Emerson Fosdick*

A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers. - *Robert Quillen*

The contented man is never poor, the discontented never rich. - *George Eliot*

Nothing is ever lost by courtesy. It is the cheapest of pleasures; costs nothing and conveys much. - *Erastus Wiman*



New Christmas Fair in Capel, Saturday 20th November 2021 in aid of our Parish Churches & MNDA (Motor Neurone Disease Association)

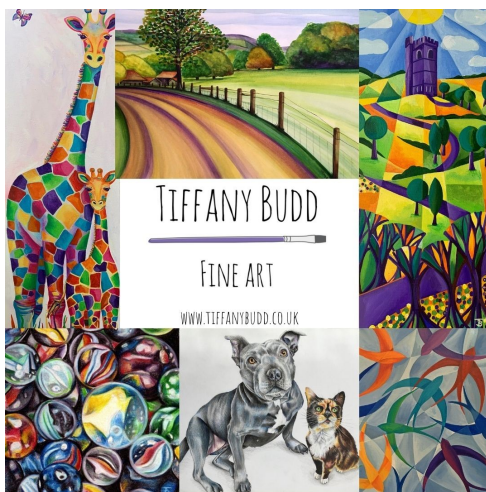
We'd like to let you know about a new Fair which we hope (Covid allowing!) will take place on Saturday 20th November 2021 between 12 noon and 4pm in both Capel's Memorial Hall and Parish Hall. We had hoped to hold the first Fair in November 2020, but Covid 19 put a stop to that! The Fair is in aid of our two Parish churches at Ockley and Capel and the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA). We are both involved in church life in the village and Suzanne has a direct connection to MNDA, having lost her father to MND. We already have a wonderful line up of food and drink stalls and an assortment of other stalls. We are delighted to announce that we have **Silent Pool distillery** coming (they will be serving mulled gin!), **Hill House Farm of Capel** will be doing hot food for us and **Dorking Brewery**, now based at Aldhurst Farm in Capel are also attending. We are keen to support local businesses wherever possible and have the following booked: **Charlie Cha teas, Libby's Larder, Tiffany Budd art, Tracey Pearson jewellery, Karen Dalton's cards, Surrey Hills café** amongst others. Also we have some lovely stalls joining us from further away: **Anni with Alex bags, Chilcott UK** - tartan and wool products, **Box of Sox, Loungers, Wicked of London** - candles and diffusers, **Imagethirst photography and Body Shop**. We are currently looking for specific products to sell at the event - chocolate and/or fudge supplier and a stall selling toys for children. Preferably we would like all these to be handmade items.

We really hope that this event goes ahead and takes off as an event that people look forward to each year! It is advertised on the Charity Fairs Association and we have our own dedicated website: www.capelchristmasfair.co.uk and social media pages on Facebook and Instagram, so please do take a look and keep abreast of our future announcements regarding the Fair!

We very much hope lots of you can join us on the day so why not pop a note in your diary now! There will be plenty of shopping opportunities, the chance to meet up with friends and plenty of refreshments to choose from! Added to that, we will be raising much needed funds to support our historic churches and the Motor Neurone Disease Association which is helping families coping with MND all over the UK.

Best wishes,

Suzanne Cole & Debbie von Bergen
info@capelchristmasfair.co.uk





PRAYER DIARY

June 2021

Compiled by Belinda Kerry

'I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us.' Isaiah 63:7

YOUTH/CHILDREN continued from May

TUESDAY 1st

Loving Father, we thank You for Your protection and care over our families. We pray for the wisdom to lead and teach our children so that they may grow to know and love You and follow Your ways.

WEDNESDAY 2nd

Holy Spirit, direct the hearts and minds of young people as they grow and as they mature. We pray for protection over all children in this increasingly unsafe world.

THURSDAY 3rd

Almighty God, we pray that children are lovingly guided to show compassion for those in need and for those who have less than they do. Give them a sense of justice to defend the weak and to stand up for what is right.

FRIDAY 4th

Heavenly Father, we pray for the children who are suffering and afraid in areas of conflict around the world. We pray for peace and we pray for comfort and healing.

SATURDAY 5th

Father God, we pray for children who have lost a parent or close family member or have been parted from them for whatever reason. We ask that You would draw close to each one and bring comfort.

SUNDAY 6th

Lord God, we pray for all young people who are finding life hard at the moment. We pray that they know how deeply they are loved by You and that Your word will be a lamp to their feet and a light to their path.

LOVE

'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.' 1 John 4:7

MONDAY 7th

Lord, we pray for the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts so that we may experience the power of love to live as our Lord Jesus Christ lived.

TUESDAY 8th

Loving Father, You desire all Your children to love others as Christ loved us when our reaction to others is poor and weak and is far removed for all that You desire of us, fill us with the love of Christ that we may love others in the same way that Christ loved us.

WEDNESDAY 9th

Heavenly Father, we lift up our loved ones to You. May You cover them with love, protect them through the hard times and lead them to love and happiness.

THURSDAY 10th

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.' 1 Corinthians 13:4
Father, help us to be patient in the face of injustice. Teach us to be kind to our enemies as You command. Remind us that You give us all that we need so that we need not envy and forgive us for our pride. Lord, help us to love the world.

FRIDAY 11th

Almighty God, fill us with Your love and guide us to love and care for one another. Show us the harm we have caused by any harsh or uncalled for words or the pain caused by emotional distance.

SATURDAY 12th

Lord, we thank You for Your enduring love and faithfulness. We thank You that You give us the power to love. Fill every relationship with truth and love, compassion and care.

SUNDAY 13th

Father, St Paul wrote that love endures forever and is the greatest of all human qualities. May this truth be the focus of our prayers, the strength for our life of faith and the message we can pass to others.

WITNESS

'Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.' Joel 2:28

MONDAY 14th

Father, we pray for You to open up doors for us to share Your word. Give us the boldness to speak forth the mystery of Christ. We pray that when You do, we would know what to say and how we should say it.

TUESDAY 15th

Lord Jesus, help us to live before unbelievers with wisdom that seeks the opportunities to share the Gospel. Let our speech always be filled with grace so that we may graciously respond to every enquiry or searching question about You. Use us, Lord so that unbelievers will be brought to You and know the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WEDNESDAY 16th

Loving Father, show us today those who need to have the seed of the Gospel sown in their hearts. Show us those who need the seed already sown to be watered. We pray that we can be aware of opportunities to follow Jesus and to share the Good News.

THURSDAY 17th

Thank You Father, for the many blessings that You shower over each one of us day by day. Give us grateful hearts and a willingness and desire to share with others the grace and mercy for which You richly bless us day by day, without measure.

FRIDAY 18th

We praise and thank You, and worship You for Your greatest of all gifts, in sending the Lord Jesus to be our Saviour and Friend and for dying in our place on the cross, to pay the price for our sins. Help us to uplift others and in all things, be Your hands and feet, Your eyes and ears and Your heart of love in all we say and do today.

SATURDAY 19th

Help us Lord to demonstrate Your great love and grace to our friends and families. May we be ready and willing to be faithful witnesses of You and to give an answer for what we believe, so that many may also come to know You and to accept Jesus as their own personal Saviour and friend.

SUNDAY 20th

Loving Father, give to us daily prayerful and listening hearts that long to hear You speak and watch You shape all Your plans for us so we can bless You and Your world by joining in with Your work.

FORGIVENESS

'Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.' Luke 6:37

MONDAY 21st

Father, we are sorry for the things we have done wrong and for the sins we have committed. We ask for Your forgiveness knowing that Your love knows no limits and Your mercy is unailing.

TUESDAY 22nd

Gentle Father, give us the strength to let go of all ill-will. Through Your power, equip us with the grace to forgive unconditionally those who have done us wrong.

WEDNESDAY 23rd

Lord Jesus, by faith we gratefully receive Your gift of salvation. Help us to be ready to trust You as our Lord and Saviour. Thank You for bearing our sins and giving us the gift of eternal life.

THURSDAY 24th

Father, we are humbled by how much You have forgiven us knowing how difficult it sometimes is for us to forgive others. You do not hold back forgiveness so help us, we pray, to forgive even when we find it hard.

FRIDAY 25th

Loving Father, we know that our sins have separated us from You. We are truly sorry. Please help us to turn away from past sins and reach towards You.

SATURDAY 26th

Merciful Father, we believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died for our sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive and hears our prayers. We invite Jesus to reign in our hearts anew from this day forward.

SUNDAY 27th

Dear Lord, help us to rid our minds of any negative feelings we may have towards others. Help us to live free from resentment, bitterness and judgement. Fill us with Your hope, Your love and Your peace, we pray.

FAMILIES

'At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.'

MONDAY 28th

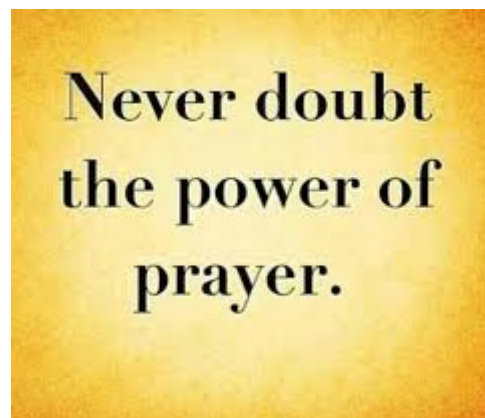
Father, thank You for our families. We ask that You bless them and protect them from harm and evil and bring Your perfect peace to their hearts.

TUESDAY 29th

Dear Lord, we pray for families in crisis, for those whose households are filled with bitterness and harsh words. Bring Your loving peace to them and infuse in them a spirit of understanding, respect and love for one another.

WEDNESDAY 30th

Almighty God, we pray for families living in dangerous places and for families trapped in war zones and in areas of bitter conflict. Bring comfort, compassion, sustenance, healing and a peace that can endure.



The Royal British Legion was formed on 15th May 1921, 100 years ago. In the aftermath of the First World War, four organisations came together to fight the injustices faced by those returning home after service. The National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, The British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers, The Comrades of The Great War and, The Officers' Association. The amalgamation of these diverse bodies can be attributed largely to two men: Field Marshal Earl Haig and Tom Lister of The Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers.

Over six million men had served in the war. Of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability and half of these were permanently disabled. Then there were those who depended on those who had gone to war – the wives and children, widows, and orphans, as well as the parents who had lost sons in the war, on whom they were often financially dependent.

One of the RBL's earliest interventions after the First World War treated tuberculosis, rheumatism and arthritis which were widespread among the veteran population. In an age before the National Health Service, the British Legion (as it was then known) implemented specialist treatment facilities for these conditions. Twenty years later these hospitals and wards became some of the foundation building blocks of the newly established NHS.

During WW1, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. The countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over repeatedly. Previously beautiful landscapes turned to mud; bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow. There was a notable and striking exception to the bleakness - the bright red Flanders poppies. These resilient flowers flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, growing in the thousands upon thousands. Shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was moved by the sight of these poppies and that inspiration led him to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. The poem then inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She campaigned to get it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK. Also involved with those efforts was a French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921 where she planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as the emblem in the UK. The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and raised over £106,000; a considerable amount at the time. This money was used to help WW1 veterans with employment and housing.

In view of how quickly the poppies had sold and wanting to ensure plenty of poppies for the next appeal, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-servicemen. Today, the factory is in Aylesford produces millions of poppies each year. The demand for poppies in England continued unabated and was so high, in fact, that few poppies actually managed to reach Scotland. To address this and meet growing demand, Earl Haig's wife Dorothy established the 'Lady Haig Poppy Factory' in Edinburgh in 1926 to produce poppies exclusively for Scotland. Today, over five million Scottish poppies (which have four petals and no leaf unlike poppies in the rest of the UK) are still made by hand by disabled ex-Servicemen at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory each year and distributed by Poppy Scotland.

With 100 years of experience, the RBL provides lifelong care and support to all serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. This ranges from expert advice and guidance, to recovery and rehabilitation, through to transitioning to civilian life. Many of today's Armed Forces community are struggling in the face of losses, hardships and challenges. At the height of more recent combat operations in 2011, the RBL opened its Battle Back Centre in Lilleshall to support wounded and injured service personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. That same year, the RBL also helped fund and establish the Centre for Blast Injury Studies at Imperial College London. This was the first collaboration of its kind, bringing together civilian engineers, medics and scientists to work alongside military doctors to reduce the effects of roadside bombs and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

In Flanders Fields

John McCrae

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

The beginnings of Boots the Chemist

by Tim Lenton

Jesse Boot, the British pharmacist and philanthropist, died 90 years ago, on 13th June 1931. He turned the Boots Company started by his father John – a former agricultural worker – into a chain of chemists branded ‘Chemists to the Nation’.

The 1st Baron Trent, as Jesse became in 1929, sold his controlling interest to American investors in 1920, but Boots continues to be a familiar name to all Britons. Ironically John Boot had offered his close friend and business associate John Harston the opportunity of going into business with him, but Harston had felt it was not a good investment.

Jesse Boot was a great benefactor to the City of Nottingham. He gave land for what is now the University of Nottingham and was presented with the Freedom of the City of Nottingham in 1920.

He met his wife, Florence Rowe, in a Wesleyan Chapel in Jersey while he was recuperating from illness. She was also an astute businesswoman, who helped to develop the Boots business, and her home island of Jersey benefited from the couple’s generosity. After her husband’s death she commissioned the glass artist René Lalique to refit the Anglican church of St Matthew there as a memorial to him.



Wonders of the Living World - curiosity, awe, and the meaning of life

By Ruth Bancewicz and Danny Allison, Lion Books, £19.99

The living world is beautiful, intricate, and highly ordered. Organisms flourish across virtually every location on earth, and biological scientists are constantly discovering more about them.

These findings spark awe in those who study the natural world, and also raise questions about the meaning of what we see: What’s so special about life? Why are we here? Where is it all heading?

Drawing on the thoughts of six scientists of faith, the work of the theologian Alister McGrath, and the biblical scholar Hilary Marlow, Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz examines their research to assess the claim that the discoveries of science are consistent with the existence of a God.

Beautifully and creatively illustrated, this book will inspire your curiosity and amazement, and prove a fascinating guide to your thinking about the meaning of life.

It features the work of: Prof. Stephen Freeland, Astrobiologist; Dr Rhoda Hawkins, Theoretical Physicist; Prof. Jeff Hardin, Cell and Developmental Biologist; Prof. Simon Conway Morris, Palaeobiologist; Prof. Jeff Schloss, Evolutionary Biologist; and Dr Margaret Miller, Marine Biologist.



Book Review
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Churches stepped up support for their communities during pandemic

More than 4,000 Church of England parishes have stepped up their support to local communities in the face of rising levels of poverty, loneliness and isolation since the Covid-19 pandemic, according to new research.

Church volunteers have delivered food, shopped, walked dogs and collected prescriptions this past year, according to a report by the Church of England and Church Urban Fund.

Church volunteers have also done gardening projects, been 'phone buddies', aided with job-hunting, and helped people get online, as local people struggled with the social and economic effects of the pandemic.

Despite restrictions on meeting socially, nearly a quarter of churches even started a completely new activity during the pandemic. More than of them adapted two or more of their existing community activities in order to meet local needs.

Overall, 37% of churches reported that they were providing *more* support to their communities, with this figure rising to 41% in rural areas.

Food provision and pastoral support were by far the biggest area of support provided by churches, with nearly 80% of churches involved in running or supporting a food bank or similar service. Many opened food banks for the first time.

Church leaders reported that isolation, loneliness and mental health difficulties, food poverty, unemployment and debt are more widespread in their communities as a result of the pandemic.

Church buildings, because of their size and ventilation, have been well used for activities from ante natal classes to socially prescribed exercise. In fact, many became 'symbols of hope', with flags, posters and artwork as a "form of visual encouragement".

Church Urban Fund Chief Executive Rachel Whittington said: "2020 was a year like no other, and yet churches across the UK rose ... with undeterred compassion, displaying the love in action which lies at the heart of the Christian gospel."

New 'Vision' as Church of England engages with Further Education Colleges

The Church of England has recently launched a new 'Vision for Further Education', which calls for a major shift in its engagement with the sector.

The report, Vocation, Transformation & Hope, highlights three themes, exploring how further education (FE) makes a significant difference to people's sense of vocation, their personal transformation, and their hope for society.

The Report notes that there are almost 2.2 million students enrolled in 168 FE Colleges, with nearly twice as many 16-18-year-olds as in school sixth-forms. The Church is nonetheless underrepresented in that sector, in contrast to its extensive links with schools and universities.

It therefore recommends that making effective partnerships with colleges should become a core part of the Church's own planning. The Church should also develop stronger support for these students and community links, as FE Colleges are anchor institutions for the local community, and bring people together.

The Church aims to greatly increase its chaplaincy provision, as chaplains can play a vital role in supporting student and staff wellbeing and mental health.

The Church Commissioners for England have announced their goal to reduce the carbon intensity of their investment portfolio by 25% by 2025.

The 25% reduction target, based on a baseline of 2019, is “a realistic goal in our mission to create real world change to transition to a net zero global economy.”

The Church Commissioners have therefore committed to “increasing engagement activity with the highest emitting companies in our portfolio, as well as with our investment managers across all asset classes.”

They go on: “We are also increasing our policy work in the build-up to COP26 and beyond. This includes Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Deforestation and the Green Recovery.”

The 2025 target includes the Commissioners’ public equities and real estate portfolio.

From Lament to Action: Anti-Racism Taskforce calls for urgent change

The Archbishops’ Anti-Racism Taskforce recently published its report, *From Lament to Action*, which proposes a suite of changes designed alter the culture of the Church of England.

It issues a warning to the Archbishops that a failure to act could be a “last straw” for many people of UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) or Global Majority Heritage (GMH) backgrounds, with “devastating effects” on the future of the Church.

The report sets out 47 specific actions for the Church of England to implement across five priority areas: participation, governance, training, education and young people.

The Taskforce says that without these changes, the Church “risks denying and disregarding the gifts of a significant part of the nation.”

It adds: “Decades of inaction carry consequences and this inaction must be owned by the whole Church. A failure to act now will be seen as another indication, potentially a last straw for many, that the Church is not serious about racial sin.”

The proposals in the report include:

An expectation that shortlists for jobs in the Church will include at least one appointable UKME candidate.

New approaches to shortlisting and interviewing which place a duty on the employer to improve participation on an “action or explain” basis.

Recruitment bodies including the Crown Nominations Commission, which nominates diocesan bishops, to provide “valid, publishable reasons” for failure to include UKME candidates on shortlists.

The General Synod co-opting 10 UKME candidates (five clergy and five laity) for its next five-year term, which begins this year.

The House of Bishops inviting UKME clergy to become participant observers until there are at least six UKME bishops in the House.

30% of new intakes on the Strategic Leadership Development Programme – a scheme to support clergy identified as having potential for taking on wider responsibilities – should come from UKME backgrounds, approximately 20 people from a group of 60.

The appointment of full-time Racial Justice Officers (RJOs) in every diocese - for a five-year term, funded centrally, alongside a new Racial Justice Directorate, within the National Church Institutions.

Meanwhile the report suggests a range of work for the new Racial Justice Commission, including considering how complaints of discrimination and racism could be handled in the future, as well as how churches should respond to historic monuments and buildings of “contested heritage” such as links to slavery.

Rather than attempting to erase the past or rewrite history, the report calls for a “healthy revision of memory and history in a way that will provide scope for education and formation.”

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers our priorities in life.

The Parable of the Great Banquet

One thing that we've probably missed over the past year is parties. Well, this month should enable us to party again! Lots of Jesus' parables focus on parties, as they are a picture of the joy, hope and life of the kingdom of God. The parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-24) challenges us not to miss out on this.

In Jesus' day, when people accepted an *invitation* to a banquet, they were only told the actual time on the day: *'Come, for everything is now ready'* (17). Jesus' invites each one of us to share in the life of His kingdom.

However, the guests made *excuses* for not coming. At the time, this would have been extremely insulting to the host. They said: *'I have just bought a field; I must try out my new team of oxen; I have just got married'* (18-20). These are all good things in themselves, however they reveal their priorities were elsewhere.

We too can be pre-occupied with our own routines of work, family, retirement, holidays, friends, home, social media, that we forget God's priorities for our lives. Jesus calls for total commitment from His disciples. *What priority in my life is holding me back from accepting His invitation?*

How did the host *respond*? He ordered His servants to *'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'* (21). He invited the unexpected and unacceptable people to His banquet. Jesus makes the point that *God's kingdom is open to all!* Thinking about our family, friends, colleagues and neighbours, even if they're not like us or show little interest in God: *Are we willing to offer them God's invitation to share His love and life?*

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her Reflected Faith series with what it can really mean to 'be still.'

Reflected Faith: Sit and be Still

How do you 'sit' in church? I'm a wriggler and change my position on the seat often. I cross one leg over the other, then swap them over, stretch them out, then cross them at the ankles. I do the same with my arms. I lean one way and then the other.

In other words, 'I'm a fidget.' But having been absent from a church building for so long, I wanted to think this month about simply *sitting and being still* before the Lord.

I'm well aware we've done little else this last 18 months – but if you manage to get into a church building, for whatever reason I'd like to encourage us all to just sit still and breathe in the place. To relish being 'back'!

To sit 'heavily' in that spot. To feel the solidity of the surface you are sitting on. Lean into it. Feel how it supports you. Feel each part of your body where it is touching the chair or pew.

Look around you at all the distinctive seating set aside for the different participants of the church: the choir, the worship leader, a deacon or curate, the priest and so on.

In an Anglican church there will be a chair especially dedicated for the use of the Bishop. However plain or fancy each piece of furniture is within your building, they all have the same purpose. To hold the person and keep them safe.

This month:

As you sit in the church building – or at home if you are not able to do so – think of all those people in the Bible stories who sat with Jesus. The number of times He taught in the Temple or in a synagogue, or to crowds gathered on a hill. Recall the Last Supper and His friends gathered sitting with Him to eat and share the Passover meal, and then recall the meal with the men from the Emmaus Road. So many meal times with the bold and the weak, the saints and the sinners. With you and me.

The story behind the HYMN: 'Lord, for the years'

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.*

**Lord, for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim;
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name. ...*

By Timothy Dudley Smith

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so - 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time - his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn are true for the Queen herself, as she celebrates her 95th birthday this month. She does indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way' ...

And so indeed the 'extra' verse added for the Queen has also held true:

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

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Dear Readers,

As I write it is the most glorious day! How welcome it is after a very difficult year with a particularly harsh winter and spring to suddenly feel the warmth on your skin! Suddenly our gardens are springing into action after heavy rainfall and now the encouraging warmth of the sunshine! It is a pick-me-up that I think we all need as life is still uncertain around us, although improving with the successful vaccination rollout. We have now received both of our vaccinations but I shall be relieved when our sons who are both in their twenties receive theirs!

I have enjoyed being back in church a couple of times recently but find that not being able to join in with the hymns is a real hardship! One can only hum and look forward to the time when we can sing our hearts out once more in praise and join in with the choir!

This month is the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen and we mark her 95th birthday! What a long life of service and duty she has given to us all. This month would of course have been the Duke of Edinburgh's 100th birthday and I'm sure it will be a poignant time for our newly widowed Queen. We are also marking the birthday this month of Rob Arthur who lived in our village and his wife Liz has kindly sponsored this issue. We give thanks for Rob's life and all that he contributed to life in Capel. Birthdays are generally causes for celebration and I always feel as I get older that I am grateful for each one as the alternative isn't great! I'll take the ageing joints, sagging skin and other little ailments that are creeping in as I am truly grateful for each day! Having lost friends and acquaintances who haven't made it to their mid-50's, I think it's definitely a cause for celebration to get given another day! Birthdays are always a welcome sign of giving too, which I think gives as much (if not more) pleasure to the giver than the recipient. I was reminded of the kindness of friends when recently a friend gave me a tapestry she had done in Lockdown and had intentionally begun that particular one with myself and Stuart in mind! It is the picture of a poppy, beautifully embroidered and proudly mounted in a frame. She was thinking of Stuart's association with the Royal British Legion (article on page 16). He has been proud to be the local representative of the RBL having served in the Army (REME) when I first knew him. So I thank you Sue Partridge for this kind and thoughtful gift. How much more a personal gift like that means! ***"It isn't the size of the gift that matters, but the size of the heart that gives it"*** - a quote from a book loaned to me.

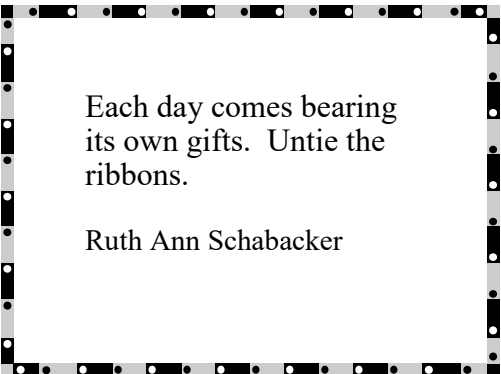
There is an assortment of News items from Parish Pump, an article on **contactless giving from Church Times** and an entertaining new article from Chris Cooper about life as an employee in a department store! There is also the next instalment of the **Church of England's Prayer Guide on pages 24 & 25 entitled 'How do I pray when prayer seems impossible?'**. Added to these articles are the regular monthly items including puzzles and Junior InSpire.

There is news of a **new fortnightly market starting outside The Crown in Capel on Saturday 5th June**. My apologies if you don't get your copy of InSpire before then, but it will then take place again in a fortnight's time. Dineke has written an article on page 6 giving us details. Also, the **Church Teas are back!** All dates are published on page 2. Currently they are taking place outside and it was lovely sitting in the sunshine at the weekend enjoying the beautiful surroundings of our church and churchyard.

Hopefully next June we will be able to celebrate our wonderful annual Vicarage Fete once more as it seems so strange entering a second June with no fete. In the meantime, I do hope that you enjoy your longed for reunions with friends and families and the newly available freedom once more! How we all took our normal lives for granted before March 2020!

With my very best wishes,

Suzanne



Each day comes bearing
its own gifts. Untie the
ribbons.

Ruth Ann Schabacker

On the subject of Giving ...

The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent tolerance; to a friend your heart; to a child a good example; to a father deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself respect; and to all men charity.

Frances Balfour

Taken from 'Losing the Thread' compiled by Alie Stibbe

Dear friends,

Our thanks to those of you who have already placed orders from the new Spring catalogue. It is very much appreciated. A NEW summer catalogue will be available in church soon.

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.



Miscellaneous musings on life

Any fool can criticise, condemn and complain – and usually does. - *Dale Carnegie*

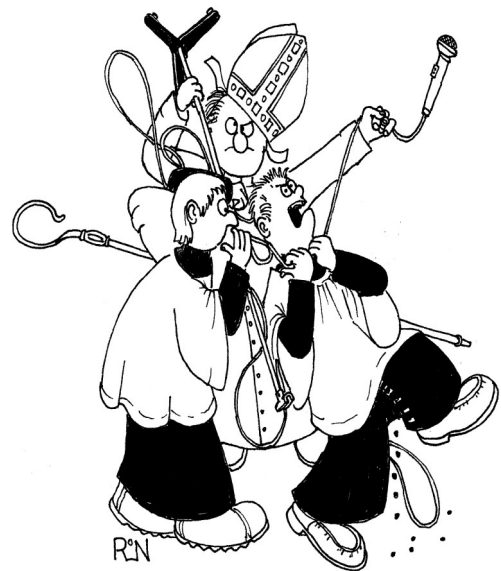
Anger is just one letter short of danger. - *Anon*

The world is the first Bible that God made for the instruction of man. - *Clemens Alexandrinus*

Nature is the art of God. - *Thomas Browne*

Know thyself? If I knew myself, I would run away. - *Johann Wolfgang*

©Parish Pump



After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practise.

Prayer

*Where to start
& how to keep going*



How do I pray when prayer seems impossible?

Throughout Christian history, when people sought to deepen their relationship with God they went into the desert. They pursued isolation. This way of living the Christian vocation was called the solitary life.

Abba Moses, one of the Desert Fathers, used to say to his novices, "Go to your cell, and your cell will teach you everything."

Those early monks who fled into the desert were imitating Jesus in his isolation. There are many times in the gospels where Jesus deliberately removes himself from people. He disappears off to a deserted place to pray (Mark 1.32). He dismisses the crowds and goes up a mountain on his own (Matthew 14.23). He sits by a well in the desert (John 4.5). He prays on his own on the night before his death (Luke 22.41). In particular, the monks remembered the days Jesus spent in the wilderness and the temptations he faced there (Matthew 4.1–11).

Encountering the darkness

The spiritual life always involves an encounter with darkness. The people of Israel are led through the desert into the Promised Land. Jesus began his ministry being driven into the wilderness. The garden of the resurrection is entered through his suffering on Calvary. Similarly, our faith must pass through periods of barren difficulty, doubt and despair.

But doubt is not the opposite of faith. The opposite of doubt is certainty. Doubting is part of believing. It is the shadow that is created by the light. This is why when people become Christians, we do not ask them to say that they know beyond doubt that Jesus is the one they must follow. We ask them if they believe and trust.

When we follow Christ we are not giving our assent to a set of abstract propositions, but to a person. To the living God who is made known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are saying that God is community, and that we are called to live our lives in community with God and with each other.

It is often in prayer that we become most aware of the dark and difficult times of the Christian journey.

Sometimes this is because we are facing a crisis or a tragedy in our life or in the life of the world. Sometimes it can be what feels like a loss of faith. We feel angry and resentful towards God. It feels as if God has let us down, or even abandoned us. Prayer suddenly feels impossible or useless. God seems absent.

When this happens prayer becomes empty, familiar words and rituals lose their comfort. Church becomes boring. Other Christians become irritating, and faith can suddenly feel a ridiculous charade. The energy of our faith is sapped. Although these experiences are dark and terrible, they are also normal and inevitable. All the great spiritual writers speak of the desert experience as part of the Christian journey.

Many Christians are ill-prepared for the dark times that will inevitably come. Often people not only give up on prayer, but give up on God when they find themselves in the desert.

You might be feeling great despair and darkness right now. Prayer might have become very difficult. But if all you do is hold on to your desire to pray, then you are already on the road to recovery.

Finding refreshment in the desert

When you journey through the desert, what you look for is an oasis: a place where you can quench your thirst. The oasis will be different for each of us: it might be a familiar prayer; a verse from scripture; a piece of music; a photograph; or even some symbolic action. Discern what it is – no matter how small and seemingly insignificant – that still connects you to God, and hold onto it tightly through the desert.

Discern what it is that still connects you to God, and hold onto it tightly.

Some of the things you have read about here can be your oasis in this desert. Even if it is just clutching the holding cross in your pocket. Or crying out the name of Jesus from the depths of sadness and fear, then you are a person of prayer, in community with God and held by Jesus. As you hold onto him and cry out to him, he is holding you.

In the Bible, the desert is always a place of discovery. The prophet Isaiah says, “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom.” (Isaiah 35.1)

May this be true for you, too.

***“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night’, even the
darkness is not dark to you; the night is as
bright as the day, for darkness is as light to
you.”***

Psalm 139.11–12

Do you know Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd”, which is itself a beautiful prayer? Find a copy of the text, and next time you are feeling sad, read from it.

Could you commit to memory a prayer that will stay with you even (maybe especially) when you feel far from God?

Prayer

O Lord, support us all the day long
of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in thy mercy
grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(John Henry Newman)

Invite your friends and family to join in

India - engulfed by a tsunami of grief

Covid-19 has been overwhelming India in recent weeks, bringing its health services and institutions to their knees. Hospitals have run out of oxygen, medical staff cannot help the queues of desperate patients, and bodies are piling up as people die in vast numbers.

The Indian Christian community, like their compatriots, have also been suffering. Reports speak of many church leaders contracting the virus and some even dying. Their congregations, also sick and dying, are left without pastoral care.

Indian Christians report that more than 50-60 senior church leaders have died. One pastor said: "in the last seven days we have lost four pastors to Covid19." Another organisation lost three missionaries within a week. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg.

The lockdown is causing severe suffering to the poorest, the day-labourers, who now have no work and no income. Barnabas Fund is working with Indian Christian leaders to provide assistance, both food and medical help, for our brothers and sisters. If you would like to help support them, please go to: <https://barnabasfund.org>

Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, is all for working with our local media.

Keeping faith in the local media

The vital role played by local newspapers and radio in encouraging greater understanding of faith has been highlighted in a newly-published parliamentary report. I say Amen to that.

'Learning to Listen', produced by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religion in the Media, praises the positive role played by local and regional media in reporting religion in a "balanced, nuanced and informative way." It forms part of a wide-ranging review of 'religious literacy' across the press and broadcasting.

The report contrasts this sensitive grassroots coverage with the way faith is often reported in the national press.

As someone who trained as a local newspaper reporter and has been involved in working with the media to cover faith issues for more than 45 years, I wholeheartedly agree with the report's praise.

But from conversations with editors and faith leaders, I know there still exists a divide to be crossed. Often, local journalists are unaware of the rich source of news and feature stories that lie within local faith communities.

And the vicars, pastors, rabbis, imams and other faith leaders are either wary of their local media or are not aware that the local newspaper or radio station would welcome hearing from them.

Where churches and other faith groups have built links with their local media, positive, informed coverage is often achieved.

In the 98-page 'Learning to Listen' report, the group of MPs and members of the House of Lords said, "We heard compelling evidence that local media continues to represent religions in a more balanced, nuanced and informative way than national media.

"Reporting on local religious festivals, community events and local charities can represent the lively reality of religious practice and experience in a way that is very difficult for national journalism to achieve."

The parliamentarians also praised the role of BBC local radio in reporting faith, stating "regional broadcasting has an important role to play in representing everyday belief. It has the capacity to introduce new perspectives at the same time as creating a common narrative. It is an area where religious programming continues to be valued and prioritised."

The report highlights the Sunday morning faith and ethics-based programmes broadcast by English BBC local radio stations, and comments "when prioritised, good local religious programming can be engaging, interrogative and enjoyable." It commends especially the role played by the stations in covering faith issues during the pandemic.

But the parliamentary report also spells out the challenges to local reporting. Advertising has been sucked away from regional and local newspapers by the social media giants, and BBC local radio is under pressure as the Corporation's licence-based funding comes under attack.

In response to these challenges the report concludes, "This loss of local, public interest reporting is deeply worrying. Not only does local journalism play an important social and democratic role, we received compelling evidence that it fulfils a valuable function in representing religion and belief in an accessible and balanced way."

Editor: Dr Peter Brierley delves into some statistics on the second largest denomination in England.

A look at the Methodists today

The Methodist Church of Great Britain (MCGB) was formed in 1932 from a merger of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church (itself a merger of three groups in 1907), then with a total membership of 840,000 and 7,800 churches. In 2019 the MCGB had some 4,200 churches across England, Wales and Scotland, with membership of 170,000.

In terms of church buildings, it is the second largest denomination in England, second only to the Church of England (with 15,500 churches). There are 30 Districts currently (equivalent to Dioceses) which are sub-divided into Circuits, on average 12 Circuits in each District, but some have just one, like the Welsh-speaking churches, or those on the Isle of Man and Shetlands. The largest is London with 35. Each Circuit has on average 12 churches, or 140 per District (the Church of England has 380 churches per Diocese).

Numerically, Methodist attendance is not very dissimilar to its membership. In 2019 attendance was about 164,000, all but 20,000 attending. As with Anglican churches, they find Sunday attendance declining faster than weekday attendance, and children and young people attendance declining roughly twice as fast as adult attendance.

Individual churches naturally vary in size. A list of all 4,200 churches gave an interesting overview: Methodist churches are quite small, with two-fifths, 38%, having under 20 members per church and a further two-fifths, 39%, having between 20 and 59 members, leaving just under a quarter, 23%, with 60 members or over. The median size is 28, meaning that half the churches have 28 or fewer members while the other half have more.

The two largest Methodist churches, by congregational size, are Swan Bank, Stoke-on-Trent (465 members) and Wesley's Chapel, in City Road (464 members). Two others are over 400: Bournemouth Methodist Church (429 members) and Methodist Central Hall in Westminster (422 members).

Dr Peter Brierley may be contacted on peter@brierleyres.com.

All articles on pages 26 & 27 ©Parish Pump

Editor: Here is an 'older' prayer, from France.

Fulbert of Chartres (c.970–1028), the son of a peasant family in northern France, rose to become Bishop of Chartres, renowned for his brilliant sermons. A powerful man, but his prayers reveal his keen appreciation of just how fleeting worldly success can be....

God's Care

How brief is our span of life compared with the time since You created the universe. How tiny we are compared with the enormity of Your universe. ...yet during every minute and ever second of our lives You are present, within and around us. You give your whole and undivided attention to each and every one of us. Our concerns are Your concerns. And You are infinitely patient with our stupidity. I thank you with all my heart....

Contactless-giving pilot launched in Cumbria

28 May 2021

by Paul Wilkinson



Worshippers and church visitors in Cumbria are the first to take part in a year-long national pilot scheme to encourage [contactless giving](#). The first of 115 payment units were installed in churches in Carlisle diocese on Tuesday as part of a £1.25-million investment by the national Church in digital donating. Churches in Southwark and St Edmundsbury & Ipswich dioceses will join the trial later this year.

Most of the churches involved are receiving one of two types of contactless device: the CollecTin More is portable, and can be wall-mounted; the PayaCharity Plus A920 is hand-held, for use in places with no WiFi or mobile signal. A few churches will have a pedestal-mounted GoodWith device, which is designed for larger churches and cathedrals. Donors can choose from a list of payments or enter their own amount. Details are listed on the Church of England and Church in Wales website www.parishbuying.org.uk.

One of the first six churches to go “live” on Tuesday was St Mary’s, Ambleside. The Team Rector, the Revd Beverley Lock, said: “More and more, we are seeing people who worship in and visit our churches turning to contactless forms of payment in their day-to-day lives; so it’s really important that the church is able to offer them the same opportunity to give financially. . .

“During the Covid pandemic, we’ve really missed our regular visitors for their fellowship and encouragement. We hope this will make their generous giving easier.”

The other churches where the service was launched this week are Lanercost Priory; St Lawrence’s, Appleby; St Michael and All Angels, Hawkshead; St Oswald’s, Grasmere; and St Bees Priory. Eventually, some devices being trialled in the pilot will incur a monthly fee of about £10 a month, but during the year-long trial period this will be funded directly by the national Church at specially negotiated rates. Participating churches will be offered training and support, and after the trial they can opt out of the scheme.

The Church of England’s national digital-giving manager, Grace Emmett, who is in Cumbria offering advice, said: “As the trend continues for card payments to outperform payments made using cash, contactless giving will enable visitors and regular churchgoers the ability to quickly and easily support the life and ministry of churches across the diocese of Carlisle. Experience so far is that contactless donations are, on average, three times the value of cash donations. “Working with churches in Cumbria allows us to see how contactless giving functions in a range of contexts, from the city of Carlisle to towns and villages. Enabling contactless payments will be ideal for helping tourists and ramblers share generously within the local economy as they visit churches while out and about, exploring the Lakes. We’re also excited to see how these units support churches in the urban centres of Carlisle, Workington, and Barrow, where churches are delivering front line support to their local communities.”

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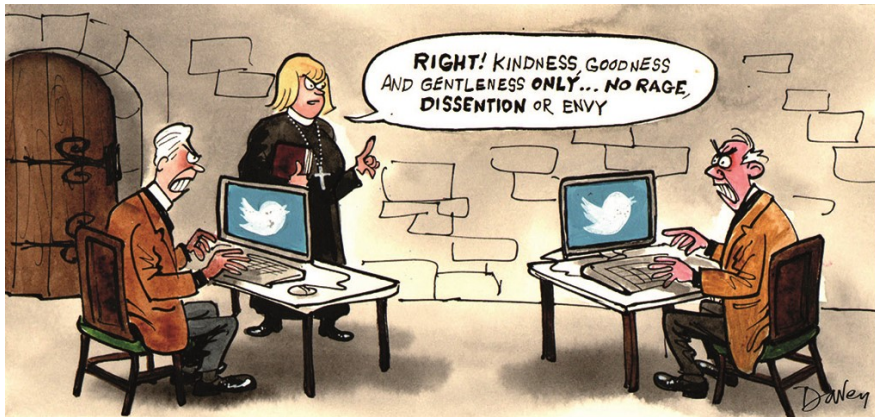
Editor’s note: Don’t forget that we have been offering contactless giving via the App ‘Givt’ for the last year or so! If you would like further details on how to use this App to give, please contact Debbie von Bergen.



You can also find out more on the Givt website: <https://www.givtapp.net/en-gb/>

28 May 2021

Christopher Landau proposes a more distinctively Christian way to handle conflicts in the Church



In the late 1990s, Peter Mandelson told a group of executives in Silicon Valley, California, that he was “intensely relaxed about people getting filthy rich — as long as they pay their taxes”. That phrase, “intensely relaxed about people getting filthy rich”, seemed to epitomise for many the way in which, in government, the Labour Party had abandoned a core socialist element of its founding narrative.

My fear is that the Church is also “intensely relaxed” about side-lining something that should be of foundational importance: the way in which we approach our inevitable disagreements. The challenge is neatly outlined in some words of Jesus, spoken with clarity and simplicity in John 13.35: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Christ himself identifies mutual love among members of the Church as the way in which those beyond it recognise his followers. Yet, the pursuit of mutual love apparently registers way down our contemporary list of priorities, particularly when we disagree in public.

There was a moment during the height of lockdown last year when various intra-Anglican spats were raging on Twitter. The Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral, Canon Daniel Inman, urged participants to step away from their screens: “My top-tip for Anglicans today: use the sunshine and go for a lovely long walk, look at the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, kick a tree, scream on a hilltop, let it all out.”

It was a moment that epitomised the problem that we face. We have stopped noticing the damaging impact of our public disagreements, reinforcing ecclesiastical silos rather than building unity in the one Body.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken often of the need for “good disagreement”. I wish to encourage wider use of an alternative phrase that he has also used, although somewhat less often, which points to a distinctively Christian response.

In his foreword to *Living Reconciliation* (SPCK, 2014), Archbishop Welby writes: “We do not have the option, if we love one another in the way that Jesus instructs us, simply to ditch those with whom we disagree. You do not chuck out members of the family: you love them and seek their well-being, even when you argue. Good and loving disagreement is a potential gift to a world of bitter and divisive conflict.”

It is this reference to “loving disagreement” which might prompt something more fruitful among disagreeing Christians. While “good disagreement” risks being an end in itself, managing a problem rather than solving it, an appeal to *loving* disagreement surely evokes Jesus’s own summation of the law, where loving your neighbour is foundational.

The wider world might well think that to love anyone with whom one disagrees is ridiculous, and that loving disagreement is thus a contradiction in terms; but I wish to suggest that it is, in fact, a Kingdom-shaped oxymoron, pointing to the very love that should be a hallmark of the Christian life.

The challenge for the Church is to recognise that this kind of charity really does begin at home: we are not merely called to love an anonymous foodbank user in our wider community, but also the member of our own parish congregation with whom we disagree profoundly about sexuality, or Brexit, or the Church’s response to lockdown.

It was:

175 years ago, on 28th June 1846 that Belgian musical instrument maker Adolphe Sax patented the saxophone.

125 years ago, on 4th June 1896 that Henry Ford completed his first automobile, the Ford Quadricycle, and gave it a test run around Detroit Michigan. It was a simple frame with an engine, two gears, a tiller for steering and four bicycle wheels. It had a top speed of 20mph. Its success led him to establish the Ford Motor Company.

100 years ago on 10th June 1921 that Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was born on a dining room table in Corfu. He was the husband of Queen Elizabeth II.

90 years ago, on 13th June 1931 that Jesse Boot, 1st Baron Trent, British pharmacist and philanthropist, died. He had turned his father's Boots Company into a national chain of chemists.

80 years ago, from 22nd June to 5th December 1941 that Operation Barbarossa took place. It was the German invasion of the Soviet Union, the largest military operation in history. In the end, it was a Soviet victory, for the German invaders were repelled when they reached Moscow, and then driven out of Russia by a Soviet counter-attack.

75 years ago, on 26th June 1946 that Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery became Chief of the Imperial General Staff (head of the British army).

65 years ago, on 13th June 1956 that the first European Cup final (soccer) was held, in Paris. Real Madrid (Spain) beat Stade de Reims (France) 4-3. The European Cup is now known as the UEFA Champions League.

60 years ago, on 6th June 1961 that Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychologist, died. He was the founder of analytical psychology.

50 years ago, on 16th June 1971 that John Reith (Lord Reith), 1st Baron Reith, Scottish business executive and politician, died. He was Manager and Director General of the BBC in its formative years. He also formed BOAC (now British Airways).

40 years ago, on 5th June 1981 that the first report of AIDS took place. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA reported that five homosexual men in Los Angeles were suffering from a rare form of pneumonia found in patients with weakened immune systems. These were later recognised as the first official AIDS cases.

Also 40 years ago, on 22nd June 1981 that American tennis player John McEnroe earned the press nickname 'Superbrat' when he threw a tantrum during his first-round match against Tom Gullikson at Wimbledon. He hurled abuse at the umpire, swore at the referee, and popularised the phrase 'you cannot be serious' when he disputed a line call. Nevertheless, he went on to win the men's singles championship that year.

25 years ago, on 4th June 1996 that the Second Severn Crossing was officially opened. The bridge spans the River Severn and links England and Wales via the M4 motorway.

20 years ago, on 22nd June 2001 that two British schoolboys who murdered two-year-old James Bulger in Liverpool in 1993 were released from secret custody after 8 years. They were given new identities and moved to secret locations.



It's time to make 'good' disagreement 'loving' continued

In my doctoral research concerning New Testament ethics for disagreement, a key observation concerns whether we hope to exhibit the character of God in the way in which we disagree. In particular, does our disagreement tend towards what St Paul lists as fleshly acts in Galatians 5 (including rage, dissensions, factions, and envy), or will we seek to exhibit the fruits of the Spirit — including kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control?

Loving disagreement necessitates taking seriously that we belong on the same vine, are called to wash one another's feet, and should seek to reflect the New Testament's consistent call to pursue loving unity. We also need to recognise the power dynamics that exist between any two actors in a disagreement; but if their interaction is truly loving, then such differences need not prevent fruitful engagement.

This is not to promote unity at all costs — after all, Paul and St Barnabas parted company after their own sharp disagreement in Acts 15. When relationships become wholly unsustainable, or are even abusive, a clean break is necessary. My point is that, too often, in some contexts, we accept a seemingly inevitable downward spiral towards a split or schism rather than work to restore mutual trust and to repair fractures.

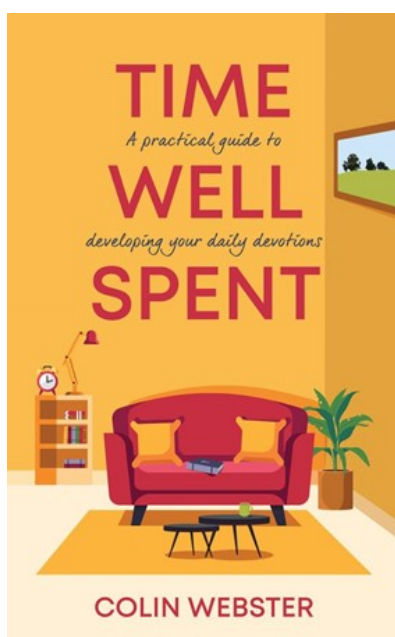
In these weeks after [Pentecost](#), it is surely appropriate to consider how the Spirit might shape our moral responses to disagreement. "Christianly" is an ugly word, but a necessary one. Our challenge is to admit the damaging reality of our current approaches, and invite God to inspire something better in us. Then, I hope and pray, we might learn to disagree Christianly.

The Revd Dr Christopher Landau is Postgrads Pastor of St Aldate's, Oxford. His new book, A Theology of Disagreement: New Testament ethics for ecclesial conflicts, is published on Monday by SCM Press at £30 ([Church Times Bookshop £24](#)); 978-0-334-06045-1.

The HeartEdge Network is hosting an online book launch featuring Elaine Storkey, Joanna Collicutt, Selina Stone, David Ford, and Christopher Landau in conversation on Tuesday 8 June. Register [here](#).

©Church Times
28 May 2021

Book Review



Time Well Spent – a practical guide to developing your daily devotions

By Colin Webster, 10Publishing, £2.99

When it comes to growing our devotional life, we may not know where to begin. Perhaps we feel so busy that we can't possibly add yet another thing to our 'to-do list'. Or maybe Bible study time feels more like a strain on the brain rather than fuel for the soul, and we wonder if it's worth keeping going.

This book tackles these concerns head-on. It explains what a daily devotional time should involve, provides tips as to how to set aside the common distractions of life, and explains why time with God really is time well spent.

©Parish Pump

Wordsearch Clues

St Alban - the first British martyr

Persecution of Christians worldwide is rising fast, so it is worth remembering St Alban, the first British martyr. Alban was a Roman citizen living in England when the Roman emperor, Diocletian, began a fierce persecution. Soon Alban found a desperate priest on his doorstep, hunted by local soldiers. Alban gave the priest shelter, and within days was converted. When the soldiers arrived, Alban took the priest's place, refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and was condemned to death. Alban went to his execution on 22nd June 250AD with such serenity that one of the executioners was converted. He died on the site of the Hertfordshire town that now bears his name.

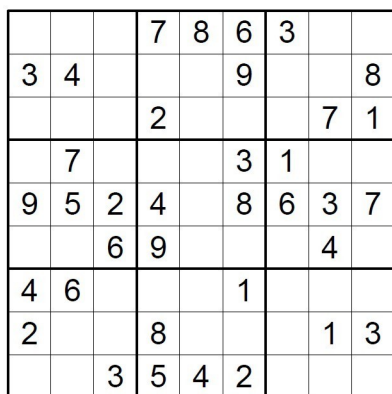


Alban
Martyr
Persecution
Roman
Emperor

Diocletian
Priest
Converted
Soldiers
Sacrifice

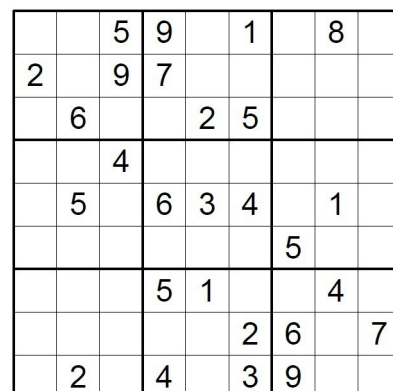
Gods
Condemned
Death
Execution
Serenity

Died
Site
Town
Name
Doorstep



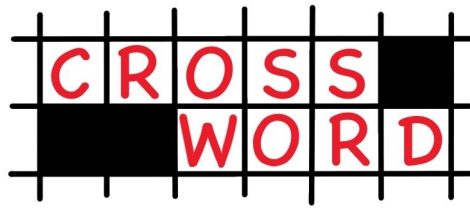
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Easy Level Sudoku



© 2013 KrazyDad.com

Medium Level Sudoku



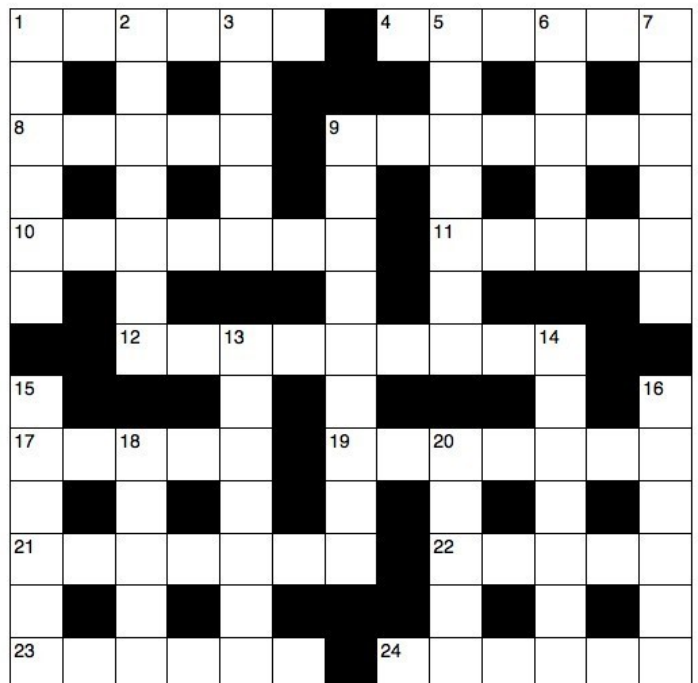
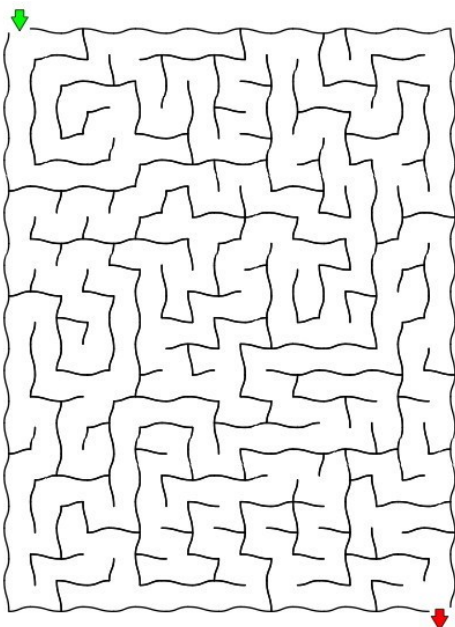
Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



Bible Bites wordsearch solution

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

Crossword solution

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

Word Search solution

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



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden

Medium Sudoku solution

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

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

Easy Sudoku solution

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'Christ before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter'. This painting, done in tempera on wood, now hangs in the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Siena. Our picture of it is in the public domain, and can be found at: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/de/Duccio_di_Buoninsegna_-_Christ_before_Annas_and_Peter_Denying_Jesus_-_WGA06796.jpg

'I do not know the man', the fearful Peter said

At the end of this month, on 28th June, we celebrate two of the great saints of the early church: Peter and Paul. We might relate more easily to Peter because his humanity and vulnerability spill out of the pages of the New Testament in everything he said and did. Peter was a fisherman, who was impetuous and headstrong, not once, but over and over again, saying one thing, and doing another. And yet our Lord chose Peter as the rock on which He would build His church, and at Caesarea Philippi Peter acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Then, when Jesus is arrested, the same Peter in the High Priest's courtyard declares with an oath, 'I do not know the man.'

That denial is in all four Gospels. We might have expected the evangelists would have had greater respect for this follower of Jesus. But they are not intimidated by his later fame and importance, and they record the episode in vivid detail.

That episode is recorded by Duccio in this month's painting, 'Christ before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter.' Duccio worked in Siena in the late 13th and 14th centuries. In his paintings Jesus and the saints are no longer remote, austere figures: he portrays them in a natural, simple way. His greatest work was a series of 45 panels called the Maesta.

This month's picture is the first painting to depict Jesus' trial and Peter's denial together. The scene is a two-storey building: the figures above, apart from the High Priest, are all on their feet. Below, the figures are all seated, with the exception of the serving girl. Notice the wonderful array of hair styles and beards that are typical of Duccio's work.

In the painting Peter is recognisable by his halo, like Jesus above. He is in a direct line below Jesus, but just look at the contrast between the two. Jesus is standing with His hands bound in front of Him and His head to one side. Peter below is seated, looking straight at the girl, raising his hand to protest his ignorance and warming his feet by the fire. It needed courage for Peter to be there, but the Gospels tell us how quickly his vulnerability is exposed. As he answers the questions and reveals his Galilean accent, he starts to curse. He denies Jesus three times, and the scene ends in bitter tears. For all the bravado, a human, broken figure leaves the scene.

On his feast day we rejoice in that humanity of Peter, which brought him low, but encouraged him to try again. In Duccio's painting his denial takes place by the fire of the courtyard. It will be by another fire lit on the shore of the sea of Tiberias that Peter will be asked another three questions – not by a serving girl, but by Jesus. This time he will respond with affirmation, knowing that his Lord has come in resurrection glory to bring a new way forward for him and for everyone as He offers life in abundance.



SOCIALLY DISTANT

*Spiritually
together*

WELCOME BACK

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