

# Inspire



Issue 58 - February 2022 FREE of charge - please take a copy!  
The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel and Ockley

# The Ethical Raffle

**This year, we set ourselves a challenge.**

We asked the question: what would the world's most ethical raffle look like? ... can we make it happen?

So now we're delighted to launch **The Ethical Raffle**.



It's actually ethical in three different ways ...

- 1. Prizes only from the best ethical brands and companies**
- 2. Digital only - no trees will be harmed in the making of this raffle**
- 3. 100% of each ticket price helps Traidcraft Exchange make trade fairer for everyone.**

*In short, it's sustainable prizes for a good cause.*

## **PRIZES**

- A £200 voucher towards an eco-camping break at **The Hideaway @ Baxby Manor**
- **4 x** Fairtrade afternoon tea hampers from **Traidcraft**
- A cleaning product hamper from **Bio-D**
- A £50 voucher to spend at **Ethical Superstore** plus a gift bundle
- Fair trade home items from **Namaste**
- A £50 voucher plus home gifts from **Shared Earth**
- Two gifts from **Earth Squared**
- Three months' supply of **Divine chocolate**
- Three digital subscriptions to **Ethical Consumer** magazine

To buy your tickets ... <https://traidcraftexchange.org/raffle>

ALSO ... See online gifts at: [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/charity gifts](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/charity_gifts)



## Contents:-

- 4 Services & Events - February
- 5 Rev Liz's letter
- 6 News from the Pews
- 8 Children's thoughts on marriage
- 9 Shawn Williamson, Stonemason
- 10 Café Church
- 11 Looking at Valentine's Day
- 12 God so Loved the World
- 13 Editor's letter
- 14 News
- 16 High Days & Holy Days in February
- 18 Prayer Diary for February
- 20 Items for Reflection
- 21 Message from the Bishop of London
- 22 Saving the Planet via the Kitchen and Bathroom in 2022
- 23 Christianity in the 2021 Census
- 24 Remembering the Rev Desmond Tutu
- 26 Junior InSpire
- 27 William Wilberforce
- 28 Puzzles
- 29 Book Reviews
- 30 Dr Herbert McGonigle's series on encouragement Part 2
- 31 Report on the search for a new Minister (humour!) and Reflections on Daily Life
- 32 Preparing for Lent
- 33 Dorking FoodBank vacancy
- 34 Puzzle solutions
- 35 Temple Lane Allotment news
- 36 Church Tea dates for 2022

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."  
Desmond Tutu

Remembering Desmond Tutu on pages 24 and 25

"The need of the world is to listen to God." - *Albert Einstein*

## Don't want a paper copy ...

You can register to receive **InSpire** via email each month OR download individual issues!

[www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine](http://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine)

This issue is kindly sponsored by

David Silliman  
and  
Hazel & Michael Fitz-Gibbon

Thank you all for your sponsorship which enables us to keep InSpire free of charge.

## Church Contacts:-

**Vicar - Rev Liz Richardson** The Vicarage, High Lea, 54 The Street, Capel. [vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk) 01306 711260

**Parish Pastoral Assistant:** Sylvie Beckett 07711 849338

**Safeguarding Officer:** Leigh Smith 07732 825908  
[leighdesouza@yahoo.com](mailto:leighdesouza@yahoo.com)

**Diocesan Safeguarding** Jackie Broadfoot

**Advisor:** 07918 559387  
[jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk)

## Churchwardens

Norman Ede 01306 713247 & Joy Harman 01306 711482

James Lee-Steere [jamesleesteere@jayesestate.co.uk](mailto:jamesleesteere@jayesestate.co.uk)  
[churchwardens@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@capelandockleychurch.org.uk)

## Treasurers:

**Capel** Debbie von Bergen 07774 784008  
[treasurer@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@capelandockleychurch.org.uk)

**Ockley** Helen Burt [helenmb0909@gmail.com](mailto:helenmb0909@gmail.com)  
01306 711671

**Capel Organist & Choir** Anthea Smallwood 01306 711883  
**Ockley Organist** Andrew Collings 01403 265794

**PCC Secretary** Margaret Zandona 07712 684766  
[mdzarne@gmail.com](mailto:mdzarne@gmail.com)

**Weekly Sheets Editor** Debbie von Bergen 07774 784008

**InSpire Editor** [editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk)  
Suzanne Cole 01306 711449

**Church website:** [www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk](http://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk)

**Webmaster:** [webmaster@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@capelandockleychurch.org.uk)

**Parish Eco Team** [ecoteam@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:ecoteam@capelandockleychurch.org.uk)

# CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR THE PARISH OF CAPEL AND OCKLEY FEBRUARY 2022

Page 4

## February

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6th</b> 9.30am 10.30am	<b>Fourth Sunday before Lent</b> Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>13th</b> 9.30am 10.30am	<b>Third Sunday before Lent</b> Holy Communion CW at St Margaret's Ockley Cafe Church at St John's Capel
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>20th</b> 9.30am 10.30am	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b> Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>27th</b> 9.30am 10.30am	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b> Holy Communion BCP at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion CW at St John's Capel

## MARCH

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>2nd</b> 11.00 am	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Service of Holy Communion with imposition of ashes CW
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>6th</b> 9.30am 10.30am	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel

BCP - service is from The Book of Common Prayer 1662

CW - service is from Common Worship 2005

Also there will be two working parties in Capel church yard to clear an area for a Garden of Remembrance. This will be on **Saturday 19th February & Saturday 19th March starting at 9am**. Do come suitably dressed and with trimmers/secateurs! Refreshments will be available!

## **COVID UPDATE**

It is most likely that we will still be observing social distancing as far as it is possible inside our churches and requesting that people continue to wear face masks as well as the other important precautions we will be putting into place. Congregational singing is currently taking place but there are always arrangements for seating for those who don't wish to sing. Services & Events on website: <https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/>

**Why aren't my prayers working? \* Where is God when heaven is silent? \* How am I going to get through this?**

**St Peter's Newdigate Lent Course ... 'Un-answered Prayer' Join us on Monday evenings during Lent 8pm-9pm by Zoom Link. 7<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> April**

The Prayer Course II is an opportunity to process life's most painful questions. Using video followed by discussion. Each session is led by Pete Greig of 24/7 and stands alone.

St Peter's Contact : David Newbery

Email: [newberyda@gmail.com](mailto:newberyda@gmail.com)

*Dear all,*

Spring cleaning - love it or loathe it?! As I write this to you on a late January morning - one of those sometimes rare sunny beautiful winter mornings, the sun pouring in through the windows exposes all that post Christmas dust! I'm in the mood to clean - opening windows and doors to let the fresh air and light in - what a treat! Well this lovely month of February we begin the month celebrating Candlemas Day. Candlemas is a traditional Christmas Festival that remembers when Mary and Joseph take the infant Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to be presented to God where he is recognised as the one who will bring salvation to the whole world, yet there will be suffering along the way... You will recall that we hold our Christingle service the Sunday before. There was lots about that in my letter last month. In pre-Christian times this day was also known as the Feast of Lights and celebrated the increase strength of the life giving sun as winter gave way to spring. In fact this ancient festival marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox! This so called Festival of Lights is the reason we have decided to keep the nativity scene on the vicarage lawn for what might seem a long time! I hope you have enjoyed the display and thanks again as ever to Christina Curtis for her creativity and assistance in bringing the holy family back to the vicarage along with a new addition - the donkey. It has been wonderful for us to see the joy and awe that many have expressed through their stopping to explore, photograph and generally interact with. Mind you, there was a bit too much interaction when the baby Jesus disappeared! What a mystery! The plot thickened with the discovery of an empty beer bottle nearby..... sadly he has never been returned. However in true resurrection style we have a new baby Jesus installed, firmly strapped in his crib this time!!



So February begins with discovering what Jesus means to the whole world and as the month continues with what we call 'Sundays before Lent' we prepare ourselves for Lent itself in four weeks time. Lent is the time when we have the chance to think how we might respond to Jesus, the Christ, and to the needs of the world. Perhaps do a bit of Spring cleaning (!) In our hearts and minds, get back to those basics and 'ground' ourselves as we welcome all the wonderful new growth of creation around us.

Looking much further forward, we are very much looking forward to being able to invite you all back to the vicarage for the annual Vicarage Fete, raising money for our local schools. It will take place Saturday 25th June and we already have all sorts of exciting ideas for it. It looks as if we will have a busy year with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June as well as all the usual village occasions and events. What pleasure to be able to mix again freely but sensibly we hope! As part of those village celebrations we will be holding special commemorative services in the parish. It also happens to be Pentecost Sunday but much more about that later!

So as winter continues keep looking for those signs of Spring around us, that lovely Spring cleaning metaphorically and physically is always there and who knows, maybe we will discover things we may have lost and now re-found. A time to get back to basics physically and spiritually?

Blessings and love

*Revd Liz*

**Revd Liz Richardson**

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

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

## Prayers every Friday at 5.00 pm

Prayers are said every Friday at St John the Baptist, Capel, starting at 5.00 pm. This a lovely, calm way to start the weekend. Do join us ...

The prayers last for about 30 minutes.

Debbie von Bergen



## LENT COURSE with St Peter's Newdigate

'Un-answered Prayer'  
starting Monday 7th March via zoom

**See full details on page 4**

## TWO Churchyard Working Parties

**Saturday 19th February and 19th  
March in the churchyard at St  
John's, Capel**



There will be two working parties in Capel church yard to clear an area for a Garden of Remembrance. They will be on **Saturday 19th February and Saturday 19th March, each time starting at 9.00 am.**

Do come suitably dressed and with strimmers/ secateurs! Your help would be most welcome!

**Coffee & Cake will be available!**

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Capel and Ockley

**We mourn the loss of  
Ellen Treanor-Smith (Ellie)  
Who died 18th January 2022**

Our thoughts & prayers are with  
Jennifer Broster and her family.



## The Pavilion Café

We are open every Wednesday morning from 9 to 12 in the Cricket Pavilion on the green in Ockley.

We serve homemade cakes and savouries and offer a range of teas and fresh coffee. On the last Wednesday of the month we also serve bacon butties which are very popular. We ask for donations and, after expenses, the money goes to charity. We like to donate to our local churches, local amenities and charities and also national ones. We have become very popular over the years and there is plenty of parking and disabled access to the building.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** There are plans to *resume the Post office at the Pavilion in Ockley on a Wednesday morning starting at 11.15am.* Please share this news as it will go if we don't use it! Thank you.



Don't forget you can order at any time! To see what's available please see the online catalogue: <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/traidcraft-catalogue>

*Please note that we have not been able to acquire any current brochures to put in church due to a national shortage.*

We will happily order for you! You can reach us on 01306 711449 or email: [traidcraft@ansford.me.uk](mailto:traidcraft@ansford.me.uk)

Thank you  
Suzanne & Stuart Cole

**DON'T FORGET 10% goes to our Parish Churches!**



"The knitting circle are playing their part in our heating efficiency programme."

## Church Mailing List

**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](mailto:debbievonbergen@icloud.com)

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

## Don't forget to recycle your

### STAMPS AND OLD PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Don't forget that you can drop off your used printer cartridges in the box in the church porch at Capel. These are sent to a recycling firm who give a small amount towards our church funds.

Also, don't forget to keep bringing your used stamps to church - again a box is in the porch at Capel.

Thank you

## 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 please contact our Safeguarding Officer Leigh Smith 07732825908 [leighdesouza@yahoo.com](mailto:leighdesouza@yahoo.com)

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

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

## **The Rules of Marriage**

Here are the real-life answers from a group of children:

### **How do you decide who to marry?**

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

### **What is the right age to get married?**

23 is the best age because you'll have known the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

### **How can a stranger tell if two people are married?**

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

- Derrick, age 8

### **What do most people do on a date?**

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

### **What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?**

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

### **Is it better to be single or married?**

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. - Theodore, age 8

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

### **How would the world be different if people didn't get married?**

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? - Kelvin, age 8

**And the #1 Favourite is .....**

**How would you make a marriage work?**

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry. -

Ricky, age 10

*Editor's note:* I do hope you enjoy the above as much as I did! I am currently laughing with tears rolling down my face from some of these, particularly the last one which was the No 1 favourite!



*Editor's note: Shawn Williamson the stonemason has been doing marvellous work on repairing our Capel churchyard walls and bringing them back to their former glory. You might be interested in a commission he finished in 2021.*

Piloto Luis Pardo's portrait sculpture, in Portland stone, was unveiled at the Albert Embankment in London on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at the International Maritime Organisation. The sculptor Shawn Williamson was there along with all those who made it happen from the Chilean Embassy and cultural Attache and the Anglo Chilean society. Piloto Pardo was the brave Chilean Navy Officer who rescued Ernest Shackelton's crew off Elephant Island Antarctica from his tugboat Yelco.

The work has been a retro journey as Shawn the sculptor was once a Merchant seaman himself, back in the 1980's. He finalised his short term naval career as a Boatswain working all over the world including South America. After Art college Williamson went on to train with Lake District sculptor Josefina de Vasconcellos MBE, who had been the pupil of French sculptor Antoine Bourdelle who been the assistant sculptor to Rodin.

Williamson works in Cumbria and has 22 major public commissions to his name. These include the monolithic Herdwick Ram Sculpture weighing in at 12 tons in Portland stone in West Cumbria, unveiled by HRH The Prince of Wales. The sculptor was recognised by the RSA in 2002 for his work training young people in stone sculpture as a Fellowship.

More here [www.lakestay.co.uk/shawnwilliamson](http://www.lakestay.co.uk/shawnwilliamson) and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-cumbria-40092380>. And <https://www.artworkersguild.org/who-we-are/members/williamson-shawn/>





## ***Valentine's Day!***

Yes - it's February already and the inevitable focus on Valentine's Day is in the mind of all of the romantics among us. Trying to find exactly the right card for our beloved; booking a candlelit dinner for two somewhere cosy; a bunch of red roses; perhaps a box of chocolates. Are these really the things that have come to represent the heart of a relationship?

It may surprise you to know that 14<sup>th</sup> February is not reserved exclusively for the annual remembrance of Valentine's Day. My extensive research reveals that in America (where else?) it is also National Ferris Wheel Day, National Organ Donor Day, National Cream-Filled Chocolates Day (I kid you not!), the start of International Flirting Week and also, perhaps unsurprisingly, the start of National Condom week! But this year the 14<sup>th</sup> is definitely NOT the best date in February. We are all able to celebrate a date that happens but once a century - 22/2/22. What a shame that it doesn't fall on a Tuesday - "Two's Day"!!! That would have been brilliant.

The feast of St. Valentine wasn't a thing until AD 496 and was established to commemorate the death of the saint in AD 296. Its association with romantic love didn't start until the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century. One wonders how people ever managed to express their feelings for one another prior to that date?!? St. Valentine is kept pretty busy because not only is he held responsible for the success (or otherwise) of couple's a love life, he is also the patron saint of epilepsy and beekeeping! A pretty broad remit I'd say.

The church didn't have to wait until the Middle Ages to understand what love is or how to articulate it. St. Paul, in the book of 1 Corinthians, gives a pretty comprehensive run down on the Christian perspective of love. *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."* So, lovely as it is to have a special day set aside to celebrate my feelings for my wife, I think I'll attempt to live 365 days of the year trying as hard as I can to honour her and our love by putting into practise the principles presented by Paul. Buying a card and a bunch of flowers may be a once-a-year thing but I'd rather make every day a "Valentine's Day"

***Bob Cranham***

Café Church this month meets inside St. John's, Capel. It's a relaxed, welcoming get together for anyone and everyone. The band will play; songs will be sung; poems will be read; there will be laughter; there will be plenty to think about AND there will be refreshments!

**Sunday 13th February at 10.30am  
at St John's, Capel**



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

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

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

### **The very first Valentine card, a legend**

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but who couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14<sup>th</sup> February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

## St Valentine's Day, a poem

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

*To-morrow is St Valentine's day  
All in the morning betime  
And I a maid at your window  
To be your Valentine.*

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

*The rose is red, the violet's blue  
The honey's sweet, and so are you.  
Thou are my love and I am thine  
I drew thee to my Valentine.*

*Canon Paul Hardingham considers the nature of true love.*

## God So Loved the World

*'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* (John 3:16)

This month, as we mark St Valentines' Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others. *God's love is unconditional:* God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! *'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.'* (Philip Yancey).

*God's love is sacrificial:* God's love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God's love. He died for our sins to give us access to God's love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

*God's love is forgiving:* According to the film *Love Story*, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry.' Yet Jesus' love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.

In this World Cup Year, we remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: *"I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!"*

Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.

Dear Readers,

So we move into February with the recent release of Covid restrictions. There is a letter from the Bishop of London, released by the Church of England today (26th February) on page 21, thanking everyone for the way they've had to adapt their lives over the last two years. **"People have made huge sacrifices to protect one another – not only those they know and love but strangers they might never meet. We've learnt again as society something of what it means to love our neighbour, as Jesus taught."** We all agreed at PCC on Monday evening that we still wished to proceed with caution and recommend that people wear masks if possible for the time being. It does generally feel a little more positive currently and we are certainly looking forward to some normal events this summer in our village, all being well. However, in a cold January, it's hard to envisage the warmth of summer!

In February we celebrate St Valentine's Day on 14th, traditionally a day celebrating love in all its guises and there are various articles in this issue to mark it. Also, most importantly, Lent begins on Wednesday 2nd March and there are early details of a forthcoming **Lent Course** being organised by St Peter's in Newdigate - see initial information on page 4. We look forward to the start of church teas in both churches once more and the full list of dates is on the back cover of this issue. We look as usual to the Saint's days that fall in the month and there are some interesting ones this month. One of those featured is Blaise who became the patron saint of illnesses of the throat, and of wild beasts! He was one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages and there are several churches named after him in England, from Cornwall to Oxfordshire. It is fascinating to read the history of people who did extraordinary things and became sanctified as Saints, thus immortalising them for ever. I'm sure many of us would feel that a modern day saint was the late, great Rev Desmond Tutu. A much revered and respected man, both in his own country and internationally. He died on Boxing Day 2021 and is remembered on pages 24 & 25. There are tributes from church leaders and a few of his most memorable quotes, including the following: **"Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened."** The world has lost a remarkable man of great faith and a towering example to us all.

Most of you will be aware that we have been having repair and restoration work carried out on the churchyard walls at St John's in the last few years by a talented stonemason Shawn Williamson. There is an interesting article on page 9 on a commission that he worked on in 2021. Piloto Luis Pardo's portrait sculpture, in Portland stone, was unveiled at the Albert Embankment in London on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at the International Maritime Organisation, with Shawn being there for the occasion. How lucky we are to have such talent working on the reparation of our churchyard walls.

It was 60 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1962, that **John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth**. He made three orbits in the space capsule 'Friendship 7', which he named himself. The three circles of the globe – which lasted just under five hours, made the Presbyterian Christian a hero and a household name – although he was not the first man in space. A full article on this momentous occasion is on page 15. It is particularly poignant that Glenn said that seeing the Earth from orbit stirred in him a tremendous sense of wonder that strengthened his faith, adding: **"To look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is to me impossible."** Now, 60 years on, we are aware of the need to protect the precious planet we call home. We have our very own church Eco team and there are little things we can all do to help with the issue of climate change. Do see page 22 for some simple things to do in your own home.

On page 23, there are some sobering figures that state that the number of Christians in England and Wales has fallen to 51 per cent of the population, from the 59 per cent recorded in the 2011 Census. This is certainly a wake up call to us all. A very interesting fact is **"We know from research that there is a willingness among younger generations to engage with faith and, for people of all ages, the need for meaning and answers in life hasn't stopped."** This shows us that despite the low numbers in churches, there is a need, desire and willingness from younger generations to engage. Let us strive to find a way to engage with them and others who seek the answers to such questions. Maybe the forty days of Lent we have coming up will give us opportunities to look at our own faith, perhaps with the benefit of the Lent course being offered in Newdigate which aims to answer difficult questions. Thus we might then be able to reach out to others and evangelise as our Lord wished us to do. In the meantime, I'll keep producing this magazine in the hope that it reaches others and spreads some of the love our Parish has to offer to those who pop into our churches and come to events such as our church teas and concerts. Who knows ... maybe somewhere in one issue there could be something that might encourage someone to faith or there just might be one of those difficult answers they are looking for! In the words of the late Rev Desmond Tutu **"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."**

With my best wishes,  
Suzanne

editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

### **Supporting those parishes who are resettling refugees**

The Church of England is setting up a new group to support local churches who are resettling refugees in partnership with the Home Office.

The initiative will support parishes and dioceses who have begun working closely with local authorities and other community partners, to provide practical resources for the resettlement of vulnerable refugees. Since 2015, dozens of parishes have taken part in community sponsorship and welcomed families from Syria, with at least 20 serving as lead sponsor.

The Church's first National Representatives for Community Sponsorship, Domenica Pecoraro and Canon Gareth Jones, are looking forward to their new role, as they "seek to make a difference in the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people."

Domenica Pecoraro said: "My hope is to help as many people as possible find safety in the UK through Community Sponsorship, and at the same time, help our parishes, our agents of Love and Grace, to experience and be renewed by these encounters."

The recent events in Afghanistan have challenged the churches to increase their support for refugees.

### **Digital team wins series of awards for work during pandemic**

The Church of England's Digital Team has been praised for 'incredible innovation and initiative' as it won a series of awards for its output during the pandemic.

A special Ash Wednesday Instagram filter, using Virtual Reality techniques, the popular Time to Pray app & podcast and the 2020 Advent and Christmas campaign 'Comfort and Joy' were among areas of work honoured at the annual 'Digital Impact Awards' in London.

Competitors included household names such as Lloyds Banking Group, Fidelity, Centrica and Nestle.

The judging panel said: "The Church of England has demonstrated incredible innovation and initiative in its adoption of digital tools to support the Christian community through the pandemic.

"From online services to a multi-channels Christmas campaign to apps and virtual reality filters...The digital in-house team demonstrated rigor and creativity as it built its various projects on a vast foundation of research, as they developed digital solutions to immediate problems."

The full list of awards is below:

#### **Digital Impact Awards**

In House Digital Team of the Year – Church of England.

The Church of England has won three golds in the Digital Impact Awards for:

Best use of VR for the Ash Wednesday Instagram filter

Best use of Audio for the Time to Pray app & podcast

Best use of existing social media platforms for the 2020 Advent and Christmas campaign

A further two silvers were awarded for:

Best use of online video for the weekly online services

Best digital employee communication for our Digital Labs training programme

### **Statistics for Mission 2020**

The Church of England's Statistics for Mission 2020 report has recently been published.

Figures show that more than 9,000 churches offered 'Church at Home' worship, such as online or dial-in services, during the March-July 2020 lockdown.

Attendance figures for services were, as expected, significantly lower than usual, amid legal restrictions because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Most of the figures are based on an annual snapshot taken in October 2020, which fell just before the second full national lockdown in England, when adult average weekly attendance was 57 per cent lower than 2019.

Despite the restrictions, the figures were still collected by the Church of England Research and Statistics Unit to record and recognise those things that churches were able to do in such difficult circumstances.

Eight in 10 parishes offered 'Church at Home' online, via email, post and telephone during the first lockdown, which helped sustain parish life when it was badly needed.

### Beware bird flu this winter

If you are feeding the birds, please make sure that you keep their feeders very clean this winter. The UK is facing its worst ever outbreak of avian flu, and already there have been more than 40 cases around the country. The disease is thought to have been spread by migratory wild birds from Russia and Eastern Europe.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: “Everyone should take care to maintain good hygiene when feeding garden birds, regularly cleaning feeders outside with mild disinfectant, removing old bird food, spacing out feeders as much as possible and washing your hands.”

Humans can catch the disease by touching infected birds or their droppings. So, the advice is to NOT approach any dead or dying birds, and to wash your hands every time you touch anything to do with your bird table.

Fortunately, avian flu mainly affects larger species than our much-loved garden birds.

Christine Middlemiss, Britain’s chief vet, recently told the BBC that the disease was at a ‘phenomenal level’ in the UK, which in turn has ‘huge human, animal and trade implications’. And meanwhile, the migratory period for birds does not end until March.

### 60 years since we first orbited Earth

It was 60 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1962, that John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth. He made three orbits in the space capsule Friendship 7, which he named himself.

The three circles of the globe – which lasted just under five hours – made the Presbyterian Christian a hero and a household name – but he was not the first man in space. He was preceded by two Russians, Yuri Gagarin and Gherman Titov, in April and August 1961.

The American launch was postponed four times because of mechanical issues and uncertain weather, and the flight was not without its frightening moments. An apparent problem with the heat shield necessitated a change in plans during the flight, but this turned out to be a relatively insignificant sensor problem.

Glenn was one of the first US astronauts – the Mercury Seven – who were immortalised in Thomas Wolfe’s 1979 book, *The Right Stuff*, which became a film and more recently a TV series.

Glenn, who represented Ohio as a Democratic senator for 25 years from 1974, returned to space in 1998 aboard the space shuttle Discovery, making him the oldest person to fly in space. That mission’s main aim was to study the effects of space flight on older people. He died in 2016, aged 95.

Glenn said that seeing the Earth from orbit stirred in him a tremendous sense of wonder that strengthened his faith, adding: “To look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is to me impossible.”

### All News items on these pages ©Parish Pump

#### Incomparable – explorations in the character of God By Andrew Wilson, 10Publishing, £9.99

This book explores 60 names and descriptions of our great Creator. Each chapter offers profound biblical insights and revelations that will enrich your faith.

‘Selah moments’ allow for a time of reflection and worship, while practical applications connect each truth with your daily life.

This book helps you to immerse yourself in His character, and to delve into the depths of His presence. You will experience a God that is truly beyond compare.

More book Reviews on pages 22 & 29





## **3<sup>rd</sup> February: Anskar, the busy evangelist**

Anskar (801-865) should be the patron saint of any Christian who loves doing mission... and who discovers that evangelists meet the most amazing people, and that their lives are full of surprises....

It was the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and Anskar had grown up in a noble family in Amiens. He decided to forsake it all in order to become a monk. It may have sounded dull to his non-Christian acquaintances, but it opened a life of international adventure and a lasting achievement that has affected millions down the centuries.

Anskar began by going to Picardie and becoming a monk. Soon he felt called to Corvey (Westphalia) where he began apostolic work - or in modern parlance, evangelism and church planting. But that was just the start. For here Anskar met the king of Denmark (as one does). King Harold was in temporary exile, and during his stay in Westphalia, had become a Christian. When the time came, he persuaded Anskar to return to Denmark with him, and under his royal patronage to evangelise Denmark. The trip was a success, and then in 832 Anskar was made Bishop of Hamburg.

When the Vikings sacked Hamburg in 845, another unexpected opportunity came Anskar's way. The Pope made him archbishop of both Hamburg and Bremen, with some responsibility over Denmark, Norway and Sweden. It was an enormous job, but Anskar was up to it. He seems to have worked around the clock, establishing schools, giving great sums to the poor, and preaching the Gospel at every opportunity. Somehow, he even found time to tackle the Viking slave-trade, and somewhat diminish this cruel practice.

But Anskar's most lasting success was as a Christian missionary to Denmark, whose patron he became. It is said that he dressed austere, ate only simple food, and added short personal prayers to each psalm in his psalter, thus contributing to a form of devotion that soon became widespread. He died and was buried at Bremen.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> February: Blaise and the cure for sore throats**

St Blaise is the saint for you if you have a sore throat, or a pet who is ill. He was born in Sebastea, ancient Armenia, (now Sivas, in Turkey) sometime during the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century, and became a physician. But his compassion did not stop there: he went on to become bishop of Sebastea, and thus a physician of souls. Known for his dedication to prayer, Blaise taught by his own example of virtue and sanctity, as much as by his words. His ministry was accompanied by many miracles of healing, and people (and animals) came flocking to him from near and far.

When in 316 the governor of Cappadocia and Lesser Armenia began a persecution of Christians, Blaise was arrested. As he was being led to prison, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking to death on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and begged for help. Blaise prayed, and immediately the child was cured. Regardless, the governor had him beaten and beheaded. But the miracle was not forgotten by the people who loved him, and Blaise became the patron saint of illnesses of the throat, and of wild beasts.

Blaise was one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages. There are several churches named after him in England, from Cornwall to Oxfordshire.





## 6<sup>th</sup> Feb: The Martyrs of Japan, courage in persecution

Page 17

Persecution of Christians in various countries is making the headlines these days. Believers facing such opposition might well find inspiration from the courage of the Japanese Christians of the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Jesuit Francis Xavier had first brought Christianity to Japan in 1549, when he persuaded Shimazu Takahisa, the daimyo of Satsuma, to give him permission to build the first Catholic mission in Japan. All went well at first, and the Japanese responded to the message of Jesus Christ more warmly than anyone could have foretold. By the end of the century, it has been estimated that there were nearly 300,000 baptised converts to Christianity in Japan.

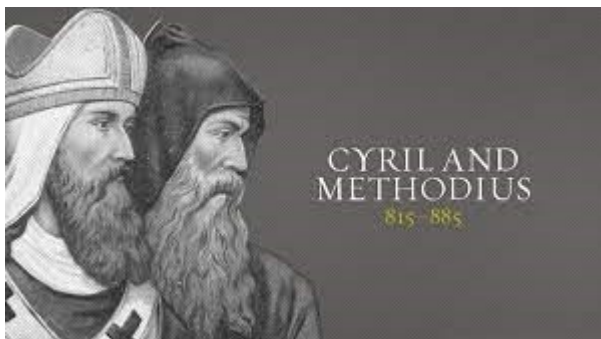
But soon the very success of the Japanese Church led it into trouble: its vibrant growth as an indigenous community believing a faith brought in from the West meant trouble. It was caught up in a maelstrom of tensions between the shogunate, imperial government, Buddhist monks, Shintoists, and colonial ambitions of Spain and Portugal. Gradually, the Japanese rulers came to see Christians as a threat. So Christianity was banned, and those Japanese who refused to abandon their faith were to be killed.

Trouble flared at Nagasaki on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1597, when six European Franciscan missionaries, three Japanese Jesuits and 17 Japanese laity, three of whom were young boys, were executed in a form of crucifixion by being elevated on crosses and then pierced with spears. Within a year, more than 130 churches had been burned. The persecution subsided, then flared up in 1613. Japanese Christians were beheaded, burned alive or imprisoned. They responded with courage and a willingness to sing praises and preach the gospel even as they were led to their deaths.

Such was the brutality of the persecution that by 1630 the Japanese Church had been driven underground and was thought to be lost. So, when missionaries arrived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they were astonished to find a community of Japanese Christians. It had survived for 250 years without clergy, churches, the Bible and only a sketchy idea of the Christian faith beyond one main thing: that Jesus Christ was Lord.

## \*NEW 14<sup>th</sup> Feb: Cyril and Methodius, helping the Slavs

Cyril and Methodius are saints for anyone with good secular qualifications, who now suspects that God may be calling them to use those skills in His service.



Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born into a wealthy family in Thessalonica, in 826 and 815 respectively. Their upbringing destined them for lives of respect and influence.

Methodius, the elder brother, was appointed governor in a Slav province of the Roman Empire, although within a few years he became a monk on Mount Olympus in Asia Minor. Meanwhile his younger brother, Cyril, went into academia in Constantinople, becoming a lecturer in philosophy and librarian.

But then, in 863, the ruler of Moravia, Rostislav, asked the emperor to send him some Christian teachers who could conduct services and teach his people in the Slavonic tongue. Emperor Michael III chose Cyril and Methodius. It was a daunting task, for the Slavonic language had not yet been written down. But nonetheless, the brothers methodically set about their great work.

Cyril used his academic ability to create an alphabet for the Moravians, which eventually became the Cyrillic alphabet. The brothers then used this written language to teach Christianity in Slavonic, and to provide a way for the Moravians to worship in their own language. The brothers translated much of the liturgy and the gospels to this form.

During their time in Moravia, the brothers faced opposition from missionaries of the German Church, who believed that the official languages of the church should only be Hebrew, Greek or Latin. But the Pope pronounced that both brothers were orthodox, and made them both bishops, with Methodius ending up as Archbishop of Rastislav and Svatopluk.

Cyril and Methodius have been held in high honour, as men who pioneered the use of the vernacular language in church services. Cyril would have been astonished if he had known the eventual consequences of his hard work. For not only did the Slavonic language spread quickly, with him becoming known as the Father of Slavonic Literature, but Slavonic went on to become the language of the Liturgy in the 9<sup>th</sup> century Russian Church.

# PRAYER DIARY

FEBRUARY 2022

Page 18

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

## FAITH

'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.' Hebrews 11:1

## TUESDAY 1st

We thank You, Lord Jesus, for coming to Earth. We believe that You are the Son of God who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day. We believe in Your promises. Strengthen our faith today.

## WEDNESDAY 2nd

A prayer for Candlemas; Lord, You fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna that they might live to greet the coming of the Messiah: grant that we, who have received these inexpressible gifts, may be prepared to meet Christ Jesus when He shall come to bring us to eternal life.

## THURSDAY 3rd

Almighty God, we trust You with our whole heart but, when we find our faith dwindling, let us pray for renewal and know that You will hear our prayer.

## FRIDAY 4th

Heavenly Father, let our faith in You be full and unreserved, penetrating every thought. Let our faith be joyful, giving peace and gladness to our hearts. Lord, let our faith be humble and not based on our own ideas but led by the Holy Spirit.

## SATURDAY 5th

Father God, we thank You for our church leaders and pray for encouragement in their faith and ministry. We pray Your blessings on them that You will always guard them from anything that lessens their faith.

## SUNDAY 6th

Gracious Lord, thank You for Your unfailing grace. Help us to let go of the things that we need to leave in the past and to start moving forward in faith. May we always see Your hand at work in our future and trust You with every tomorrow.

## 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. Help us to love the world and all the creatures who live in it.

## TUESDAY 8th

Loving Father, You desire all Your children to love others as Christ loves us. When our reaction to others is poor and weak and is far removed from all that You desire of us, fill us with the love of Christ that we may love others in the same way that Christ loves 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. Forgive us our pride and remind us that You give us all that we need so that we need not envy.

## 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.



'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' John 14:27

**MONDAY 14th**

Father, whenever we feel stress, anxiety or fear, help us to come to You; for You can calm all our fears. Help us to rest and relax while we pray and to let go of all the thoughts that cause us distress.

**TUESDAY 15th**

Lord Jesus, for those who are involved in conflicts, arguments and disagreements, please bring comfort, love, compassion, healing and a peace that can endure.

**WEDNESDAY 16th**

Almighty God, kindle in the hearts of us all the true love of peace. Guide those who make decisions for the nations of the earth so that we may live in peace and tranquillity and experience Your Kingdom here on earth.

**THURSDAY 17th**

Father God, we pray for a united world of tolerance and understanding among all people. We pray for an end to conflicts, wars and aggression between nations and the alleviation of all suffering.

**FRIDAY 18th**

Lord God, You have helped us through the flames of trials and through the pain of personal loss. We are constantly aware of how much we need You, Your grace, Your strength and Your power working in us through the toughest days to bring us peace.

**SATURDAY 19th**

God of Love, bring comfort to those involved in arguments and disagreements within their own home, behind closed doors. Protect those who live in fear and help them to find peace, safety and love.

**SUNDAY 20th**

Loving Father, the news brings reports of violent crimes towards and by teenagers in some of our major cities. May the power of Your love flow into angry hearts to bring Your peace and Your love.

**VOLUNTEERS**

'If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.' 1 Peter 4:11

**MONDAY 21st**

Father, You taught us the importance of service through the many examples of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit and by Your grace, we thank You for the many people who hear Your call to help others.

**TUESDAY 22nd**

Gentle Father, we thank You for all who respond to the call for help when there is a humanitarian crisis in the world. We thank You for the skills offered, for money donated and for aid agencies who distribute food, clothing and vital supplies.

**WEDNESDAY 23rd**

Lord Jesus, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches, that with patience and understanding, they may love and care for Your people. Grant that, together, they may serve You by offering their gifts and talents.

**THURSDAY 24th**

Father, we thank You for the volunteers who have helped during the Coronavirus pandemic. We pray that all the daily needs of those struggling with supplies, ill health and loneliness from the start are being met through the love and care of the local communities.

**FRIDAY 25th**

Loving Father, thank You for the many blessings You have placed in our lives. Help us to be aware of the needs of others and to respond to those who are less fortunate with generous expressions of charity, kindness and caring. May we do so with sensitivity.

**SATURDAY 26th**

Merciful Father, we thank You for charities that provide education for a child who would otherwise be without this important factor in their lives. We thank You for those who sponsor children throughout their early years so that they may be empowered to make their dreams for the future a reality.

**SUNDAY 27th**

Dear Lord, help us to see clearly in this time of uncertainty. Help us to respond to pain, suffering and difficulties as they unfold. Help us to see injustices manifested by each crisis and to discern ways to give, to encourage and to serve.

**PETS AND ANIMALS**

'Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you.' Psalm 86:4

**MONDAY 28th**

Loving Father, protect all pets from harm we pray. They provide many with companionship and joy and we thank You for their part in our lives.

# Items for Reflection

Editor: Paul Hardingham begins a year-long series on the very foundations of our Christian faith.

Page 20

## Christian Basics No 2: What's wrong with the world?

'How can a God of love allow suffering?' Many people struggle with such questions, however the Bible helps us to understand how sin affects both our own lives and the world.

Genesis provides us with a picture of how sin entered the world. In Genesis 2:16-17, God gave Adam and Eve both permission ('*You are free to eat from any tree in the garden*') and a prohibition ('*But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*'), alongside warning them of the consequences of disobedience ('*For when you eat of it you will surely die*').

In Genesis 3, they broke God's law by eating fruit from the forbidden tree. As a result, their eyes were opened to the nature of sin (they knew *shame*) and their relationship with God was broken (they *hid* from Him). As a consequence, death entered their lives. This story reminds us that God gives us free will (an essential aspect of being human) to choose whether God will be at the centre of our lives or not.

The Bible offers different ways of describing how sin:

*a spirit of independence*: we don't want God to interfere with our lives, preferring our own ideas, plans and ways of behaviour.

*ignoring the Maker's instructions*: if you ignore user instructions, you only have yourself to blame when things go wrong! God created us to function with Him at the centre of our lives.

*missing the mark*: we fail an exam even when we miss the pass mark by one mark: '*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*' (Romans 3:23).

In a famous correspondence in *The Times* under the title '*What's wrong with the world?*' GK Chesterton's letter simply said: '*Dear Sir, I am.*'

## Reflected Faith Series: Candlemas by the Rev Dr Jo White

There are three reasons for this festival, which is held each year on the second of February. Firstly, it's the halfway point between the shortest day and the Spring Equinox, so from that date on the daylight hours get longer. In pre-Christian times, this day was known as the 'Feast of Lights' and celebrated the increase strength of the life-giving sun as Winter gave way to Spring. Secondly, it's when we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby Jesus, to the Temple forty days after His birth.

And the third reason? It's directly linked to the name of the feast – Candlemas. It was so named because on that day each year all the candles for the coming year were brought into the church to be blessed at a 'mass'. Remember that candles were important in those days, not only because there were no electric lights; people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine.

In many churches on this feast there will be a procession of the whole congregation with lighted candles – often inside the whole building, going into every 'dark' corner. Everyone carries their own lighted candle, which they are encouraged to take home and light there also.

One of the prayers that may be used is this:

***Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.  
You make our darkness to be light.  
For with You is the well of life  
and in Your light shall we see light.***

*This month*

Christ is often called the 'Light of the World' who came to bring light, hope, and peace into our darkness. Have a think about those places that are dark for you and perhaps you do not like going there or will not go there. Perhaps they are too painful or scary.

Just pause for a short time with a lit candle and imagine Jesus going there for you or with you. Lighting your way. Making it safe. He came to give us life – and life to the full – even in those dark places.

## Your sacrifices have saved lives: Bishop thanks parishes and public as Covid-19 measures lift

Bishop Sarah, who chairs the Church of England's Covid Recovery Group, was speaking as new advice was published by the Church of England ahead of Thursday's change of national rules.

She said: "When the first measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 were introduced in March 2020, few would have imagined that we would still be making adaptations to the way we live our lives – including our worship – almost two years on.

"It has been a very challenging time.

"People have made huge sacrifices to protect one another – not only those they know and love but strangers they might never meet. We've learnt again as society something of what it means to love our neighbour, as Jesus taught.

"And it has certainly not been without cost.

"The loneliness and isolation many have experienced; the impact on people's mental health; the lost jobs and failed businesses and strained relationships must not be overlooked.

"Yet, terrible as the toll from this virus has been, and continues to be, the actions people have taken have saved lives and prevented countless infections, with all the potential long-term consequences that could go with them.

"We may never know what good has been done.

"So as we can begin to look forward with cautious hope, we once again thank those who have done so much to protect us all - particularly our NHS, carers and other front line workers.

"I want to thank everyone who has made sacrifices for others. I think particularly of younger people who, though often least at risk, have sometimes given up the most.

"And I want especially to thank our clergy, parish volunteers and congregations for all you are doing - not simply to keep worship going, but to innovate with bold and remarkable new ways of doing so; reaching new people and, of course, serving your communities.

"As 'plan B' restrictions come to an end the future remains uncertain and we must continue to be cautious. In our churches government rules have been eased but I would still encourage congregations to consider what mitigation can best protect others.

"As we look now towards spring and the vivid demonstration of new life it offers us, my prayer is that we won't forget what we've learnt; that we take this opportunity to thank others and that we look with hope to the future."

© The Church of England



## Saving the Planet via Kitchen and Bathroom in 2022

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

### **Start in the KITCHEN**

25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, partly because most of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste.

Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help.

Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills.



According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

### **Don't forget the BATHROOM**

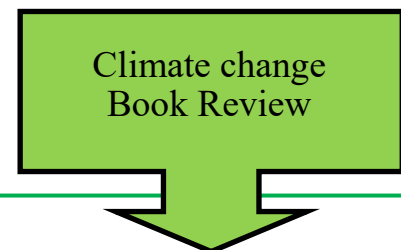
Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash.

Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available.

Saving the planet needn't cost the earth.

© Article by Parish Pump



### **Changing the Climate: applying the Bible in a climate emergency** **By Debbie Hawker, David Hawker and Jamie Hawker, BRF, £9.99**

The climate crisis is one of the most important issues of our time, threatening lives and livelihoods. The Bible teaches us that God the Creator put humans on the Earth to take care of it; to show love to all, and to care for the poor and vulnerable.

This workbook shows how the Bible is relevant to environmentalism, and how we can all play our part in limiting the negative effects of climate change. Each of the 12 chapters looks at a particular Bible passage, connects it with climate action, poses questions and suggests practical steps that can be taken.

More Book Reviews on page 29

## Christians in England and Wales now less than 51 per cent

The number of Christians in England and Wales has fallen to 51 per cent of the population, from the 59 per cent recorded in the 2011 Census.

The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics have revealed just over half the population in England and Wales described their religion as Christian in 2019.

This coincides with an increase in the number of those not adhering to any religion, which has grown from 32.3 per cent in 2011 to 38.4 per cent now.

Of those with no religion, 53 per cent are aged between 20 to 29-year-olds followed by those aged between 30 to 39-year-olds with 46 per cent.

Young adults are therefore the smallest proportion of Christians, with only 35 per cent of 20 to 29-year-olds adhering to Christianity as their religion.

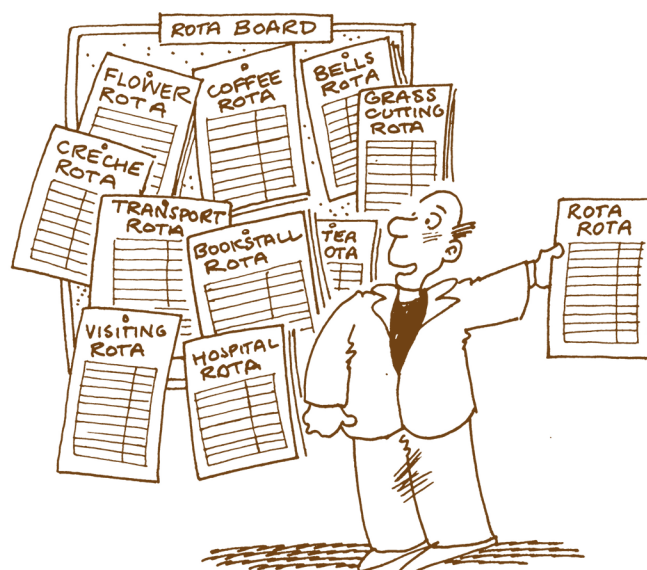
This compared to 60 per cent of 60 to 69-year-olds, 74 per cent of 70 to 79-year-olds, and 81 per cent of those aged 80 and over.

Although the results of the 2021 Census are due to be published, the Office for National Statistics has revealed data showing that “no religion” was the second most common response in 2019.

Reacting to the figures, Dave Male, the Church of England’s director of evangelism and discipleship told the Telegraph: “It’s encouraging that in an age where people are less likely to [class] themselves as ‘Christian’, more than half the population still do.

“We know from research that there is a willingness among younger generations to engage with faith and, for people of all ages, the need for meaning and answers in life hasn’t stopped.”

© Parish Pump



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota,  
rota... do I see a hand...?"

**Desmond Tutu**, in full **Desmond Mpilo Tutu**, (born October 7, 1931, Klerksdorp, South Africa, died December 26, 2021, Cape Town), South African Anglican cleric who in 1984 received the Nobel Prize for Peace for his role in the opposition to apartheid in South Africa.

Tutu was born of Xhosa and Tswana parents and was educated in South African mission schools at which his father taught. Though he wanted a medical career, Tutu was unable to afford training and instead became a schoolteacher in 1955. He resigned his post in 1957. He then attended St. Peter's Theological College in Johannesburg and was ordained an Anglican priest in 1961. In 1962 he moved to London, where in 1966 he obtained an M.A. from King's College London. From 1972 to 1975 he served as an associate director for the World Council of Churches. He was appointed dean of St. Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg in 1975, the first Black South African to hold that position. From 1976 to 1978 Tutu served as Bishop of Lesotho.



In 1978 Tutu accepted an appointment as the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches and became a leading spokesperson for the rights of Black South Africans. During the 1980s he played an unrivaled role in drawing national and international attention to the iniquities of apartheid. He emphasized nonviolent means of protest and encouraged the application of economic pressure by countries dealing with South Africa. The award of the 1984 Nobel Prize for Peace to Tutu sent a significant message to South African Pres. P.W. Botha's administration. In 1985, at the height of the township rebellions in South Africa, Tutu was installed as Johannesburg's first Black Anglican bishop, and in 1986 he was elected the first Black archbishop of Cape Town, thus becoming the primate of South Africa's 1.6 million-member Anglican church. In 1988 Tutu took a position as chancellor of the University of the Western Cape in Bellville, South Africa.

During South Africa's moves toward democracy in the early 1990s, Tutu propagated the idea of South Africa as "the Rainbow Nation," and he continued to comment on events with varying combinations of trenchancy and humour. In 1995 South African Pres. Nelson Mandela appointed Tutu head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which investigated allegations of human rights abuses during the apartheid era.

Tutu retired from the primacy in 1996 and became archbishop emeritus. In July 2010 he announced his intention to effectively withdraw from public life in October, though he said he would continue his work with the Elders, a group of international leaders he cofounded in 2007 for the promotion of conflict resolution and problem solving throughout the world. On October 7, 2010—his 79th birthday—he began his retirement.

Tutu authored or co-authored numerous publications, including *The Divine Intention* (1982), a collection of his lectures; *Hope and Suffering* (1983), a collection of his sermons; *No Future Without Forgiveness* (1999), a memoir from his time as head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time* (2004), a collection of personal reflections; and *Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference* (2010), reflections on his beliefs about human nature. In addition to the Nobel Prize, Tutu received numerous honours, including the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom (2009), an award from the Mo Ibrahim Foundation that recognized his lifelong commitment to "speaking truth to power" (2012), and the Templeton Prize (2013).



**The Archbishop of Cape Town, Dr Thabo Makgoba**, said: “While we mourn his passing, as Christians and people of faith we must also celebrate the life of a deeply spiritual person whose alpha and omega – his starting point and his ending point — was his relationship with our Creator. He took God, God’s purpose and God’s creation deadly seriously. Prayer, the scriptures and his ministry to the people God entrusted to his care were at the heart of his life.”

“He believed totally that each one of us is made in the image of God and ought to be treated as such by others. This belief was not reached through cerebral contemplation; it arose from his faith and was held with a deeply-felt passion. He wanted every human being on earth to experience the freedom, the peace and the joy that all of us could enjoy if we truly respected one another as people created in the image of God.”

**Archbishop Welby** said: “The death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu (always known as ‘Arch’) is news that we receive with profound sadness — but also with profound gratitude as we reflect upon his life. My prayers and condolences are with his family and all who loved him, with the Anglican Church of the Province of Southern Africa, and all of the people of South Africa.

“Arch’s love transformed the lives of politicians and priests, township dwellers and world leaders. The world is different because of this man.

“Archbishop Tutu was a prophet and priest, a man of words and action, one who embodied the hope and joy that were the foundations of his life. He was a man of extraordinary personal courage and bravery: when the police burst into Capetown Cathedral, he defied them by dancing down the aisle.

“He was a man of enormous vision: seeing the possibilities for building the Rainbow Nation long before anyone else, except perhaps President Mandela.

“His vision and bravery were allied with a canny political sense and wisdom, enabling him to be a healer and apostle of peace while so many still saw wounds and war.

“He was a pioneer, the first Black Archbishop of Cape Town, the pioneer of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

“He was a great warrior for justice who never stopped fighting — whether it was for those in his own country, for inclusivity in the South African Constitution, or for those suffering injustice around the world.

“When he was in parts of the world where there was little Anglican presence and people weren’t sure what the Anglican Church was, it was enough to say: ‘It’s the Church that Desmond Tutu belongs to’ — a testimony to the international reputation he had and the respect with which he was held.

“Most of all he was a Christian disciple — that was the root of everything else. After meeting him, many would speak of being in the presence of one who brought God close to them. His joy, grace, laughter, hope and life caught up those around him with a sense of Jesus Christ.

“It was Jesus’s love we saw in his eyes, Jesus’s compassion we heard in his voice, Jesus’s joy we heard in his laughter, Jesus’s face we saw in his face. And it was beautiful and brave.

“His greatest love is now realised, as he meets his Lord face to face.”

## **Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu**

***The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.***

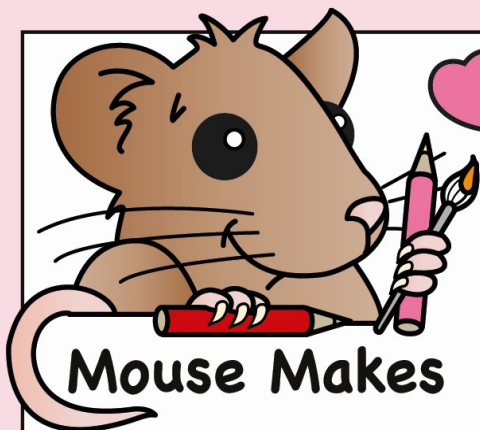
“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

“Don’t raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right.”

“Forgiving is not forgetting; it’s actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It’s a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don’t want to repeat what happened.”

“Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.”



## Mouse Makes

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

Lord, you are a God who shows \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_  
 ...You have great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 86:1

Love the Lord your God with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ and with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 22:37



How did God show He loved us?  
 Read 1 John 4:9



\_\_\_\_\_ is love.  
 Whoever lives in love lives in

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ lives in them.

1 John 4:16

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



Love is ..  
 Read 1 Cor 13:4-7

Love your

\_\_\_\_\_ the same as you love

Matthew 22:39

Love is:

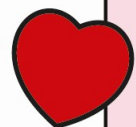
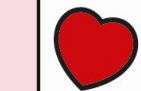
PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:

JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

God's love is:

LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE





William Wilberforce was one of the most important MPs in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. He is known today as the driving force behind the abolition of slavery but was also instrumental in the formation of two modern day charities. He was born in Hull in 1759 and was the son of a wealthy merchant who had made his fortune in shipping with the Baltic states and the importation and sugar refining from the West Indies. Until he was 10 he was educated locally in Hull, but when his father died he was sent away to live with his Aunt Hannah. Up to this time Wilberforce had been brought up as an Anglican, but his Aunt was a Methodist and encouraged her nephew in the same tradition. Shortly after he went to Cambridge at the age of 17 both his grandfather and his uncle died leaving him with a considerable fortune. This allowed him to take a break from Methodism and he immersed himself in a hedonistic student life, enjoying cards, gambling and drinking sessions. Amongst the friends he made at university was the future Prime Minister

William Pitt the Younger. He graduated at the age of 22 and obtained his Masters degree seven years later.

William Pitt encouraged him to stand for parliament and he was elected as MP for Hull, having spent over £8,000 on his campaign. He sat as an independent and was criticised for his inconsistency – sometimes supporting the Tories and at other times the Whigs. At this time he maintained his busy social life in the gentlemen's gambling clubs around Pall Mall. At the age of 25 he went on a tour of Europe with his mother and the brother of his former headmaster. It was during this time away that his interest in evangelical Christianity was reignited and he gave up dancing, theatre, society parties and almost parliament and decided to put his life to better use. John Newton, who wrote 'Amazing Grace', persuaded him to stay in parliament to put his Christianity into practice.

In the 1780s Britain as well as many European countries, transported slaves from Africa to the Caribbean and America. It was the Quakers that set up anti-slavery committees in the early 1780s with their logo designed by Josiah Wedgwood, but they still needed someone sympathetic in parliament to drive the necessary changes to the law. He spent two years researching the trade before giving a three hour speech to parliament detailing its horrors in 1789. There was a powerful pro slavery lobby in parliament and he got nowhere. Continuing his research he proposed legislation to the House of Commons again in 1791, but with the aftermath of the French Revolution and slave revolts in the colonies he was defeated. He succeeded a year later, but only with an amendment to make the abolition gradual, but it was a start, and with the election of more anti slavery MPs he eventually succeeded in passing a Bill to make slave trading illegal in 1807. Having passed the Slave Trade Act the next hurdle was to get it enforced and to persuade other slave trading nations, such as France, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Holland and the United States, to do the same. It was to take him another 10 years to get the Slavery Abolition Act through parliament which freed slaves throughout the British Empire. The vote passed three days before he died in 1834 and gave freedom to nearly 800,000 slaves. The slave owners received £20 million in compensation, equivalent to about £2,300 million today, and many former slaves had to continue to work as indentured labourers for a further six years.

William Wilberforce supported many other causes and initiated some of the campaigns that were later to make the name of Antony Ashley- Cooper (7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shaftesbury). In particular, he supported better conditions for factory workers, chimney sweeps, textile workers, pushed for prison reform, supported a reduction in capital punishment and the severe punishments from the Game laws. From the late 1780s onward, he campaigned for some limited parliamentary reform, such as the abolition of rotten boroughs and the more equal redistribution of across the country and cities alike but felt that the Reform Act of 1832 went too far. He also supported education such as free schools, Sunday Schools and medical reforms such as hospitals and free dispensaries. His opposition to the popular spectacle of bull baiting resulted in him being a founder member of the RSPCA. His evangelical outlook led him to be a founder of the Bible Society, and the Church Missionary Society, and was generous (the equivalent of £200,000 pa) in his giving to people in need. In other ways he was a conservative of his time. He did not support Catholic or women's emancipation, was against many rights being given to trades unions and did not support an enquiry into the Peterloo Massacre.

William Wilberforce died on 29 July 1833 at his cousin's house in Cadogan Place, London. He had requested that he be buried with his sister and daughter at St Mary's Church, Stoke Newington. However, supporters in parliament convinced his family to bury him in Westminster Abbey near his friend William Pitt.

## Crossword Clues

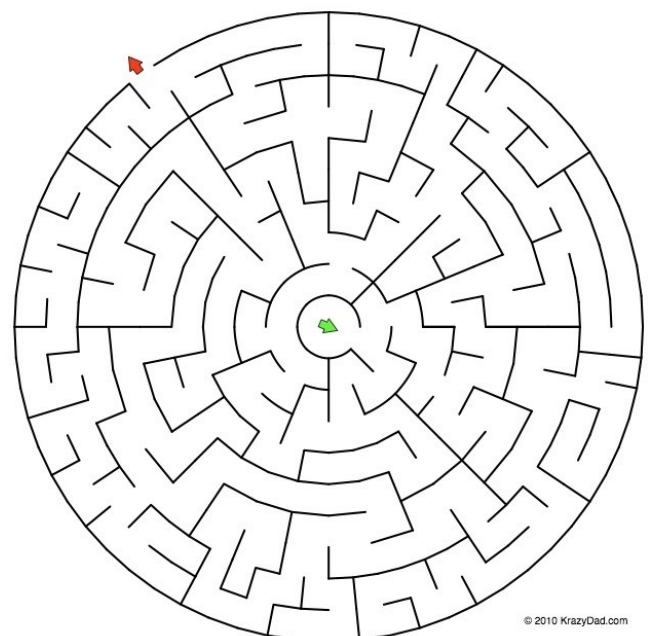
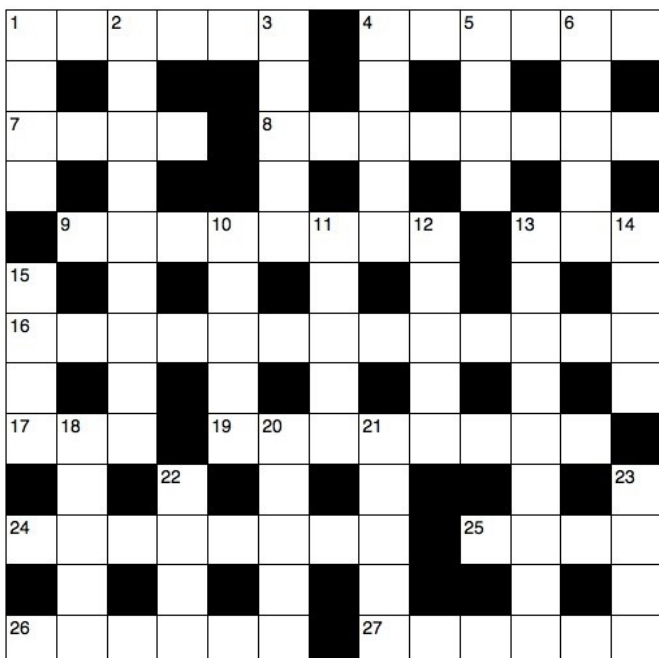
### Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

### Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

**Puzzle Solutions on page 34**



## **I'm Praying for You – 40 days of praying the Bible for someone who is suffering**

by Nancy Guthrie, 10Publishing, £6.99

When we hear that a friend is struggling, it can be easy to say, 'I'm praying for you', but harder to know what you can actually pray!

Through forty carefully chosen Scripture passages, Nancy Guthrie opens up the wealth of scripture to teach us how to pray for those who are hurting. She shows us how the Bible provides us with a vocabulary for prayer that enables us to ask God to achieve what He intends in and through suffering. Nancy teaches us to see how God's purposes are revealed even in our darkest days, and encourages us to pray for His will to be done in difficult situations.

Each chapter includes a passage, a short explanation, and a prayer for your friend. Using the QR code at the end of each prayer, you'll be able to load and send a personal text message to the person you're praying for so that he or she will know not only that you are praying, but exactly what you are praying.

## **Tackling Mental Illness Together** by Alan Thomas, CPO, £9.99

It can be difficult to know how to understand and support those suffering from mental illnesses. This book offers a biblical framework for helping the mentally ill, by synthesising the relevant biblical material with our scientific understanding of mental illness.

This framework will help you to deal wisely, intelligently, and compassionately with issues of mental health in your church and in your community.

## **Unveiled - women of the Old Testament and the choices they made**

by Clare Hayns and Micah Hayns, CPO, £9.99

This richly illustrated book contains 40 daily readings and reflections, each illustrated with original artwork created in charcoal, oils and collage, imagining the woman in question, bringing her out of the shadows and making strikingly relevant connections with today's context.

Some women of the Hebrew scriptures are well known, but many others are barely remembered. Even when they are, we often don't pause on them long enough to think about what we might learn from them. Each reflection ends with a short application to everyday life, guidance for further thought and a prayer.

*Editor: The Rev Tony Horsfall, a former missionary in East Malaysia and then retreat leader based in West Yorkshire, considers the slow and steady type of Christian.*

### **In praise of plodders**

I've been pondering the words of the apostle Paul where he says, 'I press on towards the goal' (Philippians 3:14). It suggests to me taking one step at a time, and simply keeping moving in the right direction with discipline and determination.

This reminds me of the great Bible translator Willian Carey who said of himself, "If he gives me credit for being a plodder, he will describe me justly. Anything beyond that will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything."

Christian discipleship is not always exciting, glamorous, or even enjoyable. Sometimes it is a matter of quietly getting on with it, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

© Parish Pump

*Editor: This series is about encouragement. Each month Dr Herbert McGonigle will take a Bible event and a historical anecdote to bring us a word of help and support in these difficult days. This is the second in the series, which will run for most of this year.*

## **More than conquerors: In the depth of the sea!**

*(Micah 7:19)*

The Bible is very expressive when it comes to speaking about how God can forgive our sins. It uses many descriptions to tell us how our sins are both forgiven and forgotten.

Here is a sample of these great promises. Our sins are 'forgiven,' (Ps. 32:5); 'washed thoroughly' and 'blotted out' (Ps. 51:2, 9); 'forgiven and covered' (Ps. 85:2); 'washed whiter than snow' (Is. 1:18); 'taken away' (Is. 6:7); 'put behind His back' (Is. 38:17); 'laid on Him' (Is. 53:6); 'remembered no more' (Jer. 31:34); 'pardoned' (Jer. 33:8); 'destroyed' (Rom. 6:6); 'purged' (Heb. 1:3) 'borne for us' (1 Pet. 2:24); 'washed away' (Rev. 1:5). What glorious news this is! In Christ we are truly forgiven! Our sins are cancelled! God will not hold our guilty past against us!

The prophet Micah has a very dramatic way of telling us this. He says that God has cast our sins 'into the depths of the sea' (7:19). So how deep is the sea? Far out in the Western Pacific Ocean, two hundred miles from the island of Guam, lies the deepest part of the earth's oceans. It is called the Mariana Trench. It is more than 1500 miles long and over 40 miles wide but it is its depth that is awesome. It plunges down into the ocean bed for some 35,800 feet. By comparison, Everest, the world's highest mountain, is 29,000 feet in height. That means that the Mariana Trench goes lower into the ocean bed than the peak of Everest stretches up to the clouds. At that frightening depth the pressure from the waters above is more than eight tons to the square inch!

While these geographical facts and figures compel our attention, the theology of our forgiveness is even more wonderful! When we are 'in Christ' as His redeemed people, our sins are truly forgiven. God has thrown them into the depth of the sea, never to be resurrected! They are buried forever in the vast abyss of God's unfathomable love and mercy. What great, good news the gospel brings! Our guilty past is both forgiven and forgotten!

A few months after his evangelical conversion in May 1738, John Wesley went to Herrnhut in Germany. He met the Moravian hymn writer Johann Andreas Rothe. Wesley had learned German and enjoyed singing the Moravian hymns. He translated many of them into English, including one of Rothe's great hymns that includes the lines:

*O Love, Thou bottomless abyss  
My sins are swallowed up in Thee  
Covered is my unrighteousness  
Nor spot of guilt remains on me.  
While Jesu's blood through earth and skies  
Mercy, free boundless mercy, cries.*

*The Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology and Church History at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, England.*

## Report on the search for a new minister

*From a church council:* We are still looking for a suitable candidate, and sadly the Bible doesn't provide any role models whom we would really want in our church. For example:

**Adam:** Good man but had problems with his wife. Also, we hear that he and his wife enjoyed walking nude in the woods.

**Noah:** Former pastorate of 120 years, yet with no converts. Also, prone to unrealistic building projects.

**Abraham:** Twice offered to share his own wife with another man.

**Joseph:** Obsessed with the meaning of dreams, plus he had a prison record.

**Moses:** Modest, but a poor communicator, and even stuttered at times. Moreover, he had a temper, and there were rumours he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

**David:** Very promising leader, except that he wrote poetry, and then had an affair with his neighbour's wife.

**Solomon:** We suspect he was a bit of a wise guy, and anyway our parsonage would never hold all those wives.

**Elijah:** Prone to depression, and he set things on fire.

**Deborah:** Played the tambourine, so not at all suitable for us.

**Jeremiah:** An alarmist, always lamenting things. Plus, he buried his underwear outside.

**Isaiah:** Claimed to have seen angels flying in the church.

**Jonah:** Says God had him swallowed up by a great fish, and that later it spit him out on the shore near here because he was called to ministry. We hung up.

**John:** Said he was a Baptist, but he doesn't dress like any Baptists we know. Has slept outside, eats a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

**Peter:** Too blue collar, and too impetuous. Had also been known to curse.

**Paul:** Powerful message, and people responded to him, but he had been known to preach all night. That would never do for us.

**Judas:** Seems to have been a steady plodder, with excellent connections. Knew how to handle money. We're inviting someone like him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.

## *Some miscellaneous observations on life*

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. - *Duane Hulse*

I hold it to be a fact, that if all persons knew what each said of the other, there would not be four friends in the world.  
- *Blaise Pascal*

You cannot find knowledge by rearranging your ignorance. - *Ronald Eyre*

Lose an hour in the morning and you will be looking for it the rest of the day. - *Philip Chesterfield*

Be kind. Remember that everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle. - *Harry Thompson*

We become what we read. - *Matilda Nordvedt*

Nothing is so opened more by mistake than the mouth. - *Anon*

We like someone who comes right out and says what they think, when they agree with us. - *Anon*

A friend forgives your defects, and if he is very fond of you, doesn't see any. - *Anon*

Yours: anything which up to the present other members of your family have not been able to get away from you. - *Anon*

***As we prepare for Lent, we consider the disciplines of contemplation, prayer, and self-assessment.***

The need of the world is to listen to God. - *Albert Einstein*

A religion that does not begin with repentance is certain to end there, perhaps too late. - *Anon*

You cannot starve a man who is feeding on God's promises. - *Anon*

Time spent on the knees in prayer will do more to remedy heart strain and nerve worry than anything else. - *G D Stewart*

If Christians praised God more, the world would doubt Him less. - *C E Jefferson*

The Bible has a great deal to say about suffering, and most of it is encouraging. - *A W Tozer*

Some people treat God as they do a lawyer; they go to Him only when they are in trouble. - *Anon*

The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, and the self-righteous cannot pray. - *L Ravenhill*

We talk about heaven being so far away. Yet it is within speaking distance to those who belong there. - *D L Moody*

Our prayers must mean something to us if they are to mean anything to God. - *M D Babcock*

God made man to be somebody, not just to have things. - *Anon*

The peace of the soul consists in an absolute resignation to the will of God. - *Francois Fenelon*

Christ's sheep are marked in the ear and the foot; they hear His voice and they follow Him. - *Anon*

How is it that nobody has dreamed up any moral advances since Christ's teaching? What was there in His heredity and His environment to account for this unique teacher, and the remarkable fact that no greater has ever looked like emerging? - *Michael Green*

All history is incomprehensible without Christ. - *Ernest Renan*

The yearning of man's heart is homesickness for God. - *Anon*

Seek Christ, and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in. - *CS Lewis*







## Dorking Area Foodbank

Part of Churches Together in Dorking

Registered Charity No 1124616

We are seeking a dynamic, well-motivated and organised person to take on the role of:

### Project Lead

Part-time 16 hours a week

Salary: £21,450 pro rata

Permanent contract

You will take over running our busy foodbank and managing the staff and volunteers. You will be required to work directly with clients and referral agencies and take the lead in developing the service.

It is essential that you have the ability to listen, communicate clearly, are non-judgemental, a good leader of people and are aware of the importance of confidentiality. You will need to work equally well on your own as in a team. Experience of managing volunteers and of working with those who are vulnerable is essential. Training and induction will be provided.

A current driving licence and use of a car is essential.

For further information please telephone 07971 700165 or email: [coordinator.daf@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.daf@gmail.com)

**Closing date for applications: 5pm on Friday 11 February 2022**

**Interview times: Monday 21 February 2022 am**

**or Wednesday 23 February 2022 pm**

### Easy Level Sudoku

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

### Medium Level Sudoku

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

**Puzzle  
Solutions  
on page 34**

# Puzzle Solutions

**ACROSS:** 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

**DOWN:** 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

## Easy Soduko solution

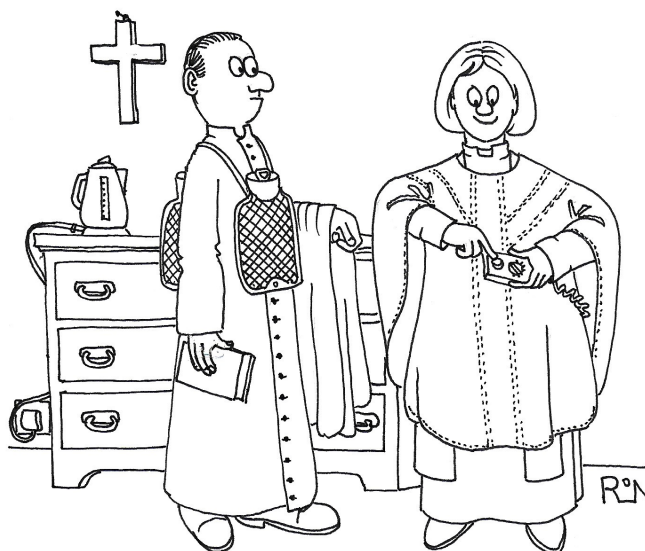
1	6	3	5	8	4	7	2	9
8	7	5	2	9	3	6	4	1
9	4	2	6	1	7	5	8	3
5	1	6	9	3	2	8	7	4
2	3	4	8	7	6	1	9	5
7	8	9	1	4	5	2	3	6
6	5	7	3	2	9	4	1	8
3	2	8	4	5	1	9	6	7
4	9	1	7	6	8	3	5	2

## Crossword solution

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

## Medium Soduko solution

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



*Helen's electric chasuble was the envy of everyone*

# Allotments Available

## at Temple Lane Allotments Temple Lane, Capel

We aim to grow crops in an environmentally friendly way and become self-sufficient as far as possible.

We share plants, seeds, knowledge and experience with each other and try to preserve horticultural skills learned from previous generations while trying new growing methods too.

**New Members:** We welcome new members and anyone over the age of 16 may apply for an allotment.

**Management Committee:** We have an active team, to take forward the official part, and organise things like projects and working parties - aiming to keep everyone informed, consulted and involved.

### **Available Plots:**

We do renewals in January, so now is a great time for any plots available, as you can be ahead of the main planting season.

Also, we cover empty plots: minimal weeds, easy to get started.

**Phil Partridge:** philip\_partridge@btinternet.com / 07813 829 326



# CHURCH TEAS FOR 2022

All 3.00—5.00 pm unless marked otherwise

## CAPEL

27th March	Mothering Sunday
15th April	Good Friday 4.00—5.00 pm
17th April	Easter Day
18th April	Easter Monday
2nd May	Monday May Day holiday
15th May	Sunday
2nd June	Thursday - Jubilee (Provisional)
6th June	Monday - Jubilee (Provisional)
19th June	Father's Day
5th July	Sunday
17th July	Sunday
31st July	Sunday
14th August	Sunday
28th August	Sunday
29th August	Monday - Late Summer Bank holiday
11th September	Sunday
25th September	Sunday (Provisional)
2nd October	Harvest Sunday
16th October	Sunday
6th November	All Souls 4.00— 5.00 pm
19th November	Saturday - Capel Christmas Fair
27th November	Sunday
11th December	Sunday

## OCKLEY CHURCH TEAS

Starting **Sunday 3rd April 2022 3-5pm**

Please also note that Ockley will be doing their church teas again and these will be on the first Sunday of the month, with the first one being on 3rd April.



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