

InSpire

Issue 61 - May 2022 FREE of charge
Please take a copy!

swallow a nest where she may raise

Just as the sparrow has found a home and the

her young, my resting place is in your house, O



and my King Ps 84:3 LORD my King

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel and Ockley



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Capel

Plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 are being finalised, to correspond with the National plans and Her Majesty's itinerary:

Thursday 2nd June (Bank Holiday)

The Queen will attend Trooping of the Colour followed by national beacon lighting in the evening.

In Capel:

Decorate your house and/or front garden; judging will be on Friday, with prizes

In the evening at The Recreation Ground, Capel

- ◆ 8.00 pm - **Hog roast for families and bar**
- ◆ 9.30 pm **Dedication of commemorative tree and bench**
- ◆ 9.45 pm **Lighting of the beacon in Capel and nationwide** - all are welcome

Friday 3rd June (Bank Holiday)

The Queen will attend a service at St Paul's Cathedral

In Capel

- ◆ **Capel church will take part in the national bell ringing** to be timed with the church service. Time to be announced.
- ◆ Afternoon **BBQ and classic cars at the Crown**
- ◆ 6.00 pm **Kid's cricket** on the Recreation Ground

Saturday 4th June

The Queen will attend the Epsom Derby followed by a National party in the palace celebrating her 70 years of reign.

In Capel:

- ◆ 1.00 pm **League cricket match** on the Recreation Ground
- ◆ **Afternoon screening of the races and Derby**, with tote, followed by music from the decades of The Queen's reign and disco and bar on the Recreation Ground
- ◆ 1.30 – 5.00 pm **Derby Ladies Day at The Crown** with auction and best hat/fascinator prize
- ◆ 7.30 pm **Black-tie dinner and casino evening at The Crown** with live music; contact the Crown for tickets £50.
- ◆ 8.00 pm fun for all the family with **Capel's Got Talent** on the Recreation Ground (more acts are needed, contact ekejaques@yahoo.co.uk to enter)

Sunday 5th June

The Queen will attend a Jubilee lunch and pageant.

In Capel:

- ◆ 10.30am Capel Church will hold a **Special commemorative service**. All are welcome.
- ◆ 2.00 pm **Village Tea Party on the Recreation Ground**. There will be some tables set up for a village picnic, but also the option to bring your own tables and chairs. *The Crown will be selling hampers (booked in advance) or bring your own.*

There will be games for all the family, wheel barrow races (and best decorated wheel barrow), tug of war, other games to be announced, fancy dress, Platinum Pudding competition all with prizes.

We very much want this to be a village-wide celebration with something for everyone of all ages.

We look forward to a great, long weekend of celebration!

Contact: Capel.QPJ@gmail.com





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A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing. -
Anon

A huge thank you to Belinda Kerry who has given us the **Prayer Diary** compilation each month. Sadly this month's diary is the last one from Belinda. We wish her well in her next endeavour!

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

This issue is kindly sponsored by

Rev Liz
and is dedicated to her friend Julia Horrox

And

Andrew Forsyth
'For the people of Ukraine'

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Rev Liz writes

Dear all,

I hope you had a happy Easter and enjoyed the fine weather. We certainly did at home as we have enjoyed some family celebrations and were able to eat outside. This was particularly helpful as a certain little puppy was born and has taken over our dining room! Our lovely dog Ruby had a planned pregnancy but quite unusually for a large dog conceived only one puppy. This led to some birthing issues and post natal care in the form of hand rearing for the first five days. Ruby has now taken over her pup and both are doing very well I am pleased to report. Puppy is staying in the family so we have an exciting journey ahead. It has though been a very steep learning curve and plans to breed certainly did not go exactly to plan, despite careful consideration and preparation. While writing this I am hoping that soon I too will be able to sleep through the night once more!!



As we consider the Easter story and the resurrection appearances that took place which we remember through this month's 'Sundays of Easter', things certainly hadn't gone as expected for Jesus' friends as they thought he had been laid to rest in the tomb. The wonderful resurrection appearances on that first Easter Sunday and to others in the days and weeks that followed convinced his first disciples who were initially terrified on this wonderful but unexpected turn of events, that the Lord Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. The rest as they say is history but the gospels do stress that people received the news of Jesus' resurrection in different ways. The disciples thought it was an 'idle tale' when the women discovered the empty tomb, until they themselves discovered the truth for themselves. Famously Thomas told the disciples that until he saw the marks in Jesus' hands for himself he would not believe. Jesus then obliged! A mix of joy and terror accompanied these appearances until Jesus breathed his peace upon them and opened their minds and hearts so that they could understand what was going on.

I myself have been reading a newly published book by Sam Wells, a scholar and author who is the Vicar at St Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square. He also happens to be married to our own Bishop of Dorking, Jo Bailey Wells. I always enjoy his books as he writes so beautifully and profoundly on Christian theology. This latest one 'Humbler Faith, Bigger God - Finding a Story to Live By' is a book for seekers, doubters, questioners, and those who wonder what faith might mean in these days. I would like to read this book with any who might consider themselves in any of these categories; particularly the doubters!! Will you join me in an informal reading group discussing the arguments put forward by this book? It seems to me that we need to be discussing the challenges that faith brings when all around us things are not as we would expect. Is the resurrection an idle tale or did it really happen? Yes its an age old conversation but will you join me when we feel so powerless in the West witnessing Russian aggression in Ukraine? By the way I hope you like the blue and yellow knitted flags adorning the yew tree in the churchyard?! Anyway, have a think and email me liz@hostmyserver.co.uk or telephone 01306711260 if you would like to join my reading group. In the meantime may God's peace be upon you all!

As always my love and prayers,

Revd Liz

Revd Liz Richardson

liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

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

The situation in Ukraine

We and the national church continue to watch and pray for Ukraine and are here to offer help and support to any refugee families when they start to arrive in our country, especially if they are resettling near us. We are liaising with Chapel Parish Council also, so that we as a community can seek to do the best for our Ukrainian friends.



...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR THE PARISH OF CAPEL AND OCKLEY MAY 2022

SUNDAY	1st 9.30 am 10.30 am 3-5pm	Easter 3 Matins at St Margaret's Ockley. Family Communion at St John's Capel Teas at St Margaret's Church Ockley
MONDAY	2nd 3-5 pm	May Day Bank Holiday Teas at St John's Capel
SUNDAY	8th 9.30 am 10.30 am	Easter 4 Holy Communion at St Margaret's Ockley Cafe Church at St John's Capel
SUNDAY	15th 9.30 am 10.30 am 3-5 pm	Easter 5 Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel Teas at St John's Capel
SUNDAY	22nd 9.30 am 10.30 am	Easter 6 Holy Communion BCP at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion CW at St John's Capel
SUNDAY	29th 9.30 am	Easter 7 Parish Ascension Day Service at St Margaret's Capel



JUNE

Queens's Platinum Jubilee - See full details on page 2



SATURDAY	4th	11am: Wedding at St Margaret's Ockley
SUNDAY	5th 9.30 am 10.30 am 3-5pm	Pentecost Jubilee Open Air Commemorative Service on the Green at Ockley Jubilee Commemorative Service at St John the Baptist Capel Teas at Ockley



BCP - service is from The Book of Common Prayer 1662
CW - service is from Common Worship 2005

Guidelines for your safety and comfort in church

At both churches the wearing of masks inside places of worship is encouraged.
Hand sanitiser will be available for use by the entrance door.
Holy Communion is given in both kinds and the consecrated wine will be served in individual glasses whilst we are still at risk from the pandemic.

Services & Events on website: <https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/>



May Day or Mayday?

Who knew that Croydon would be at the centre of international rescue operations for the past 100 years? Certainly not me! But it appears that the international call for help for ships and aircraft in distress was the brainwave of Frederick Stanley Mockford, officer-in-charge of radio at [Croydon Airport](#) in the early 1920's. He had been asked to think of a word that would indicate distress and would easily be understood by all pilots and ground staff in an emergency. Since much of the air traffic at the time was between Croydon and [Le Bourget Airport](#) in Paris, he proposed the term "mayday", the phonetic equivalent of the French *m'aidez* or "help me".

May Day, on the other hand, is of course the Spring festival that looks forward to the coming of Summer. It was first recorded as early as the 14th century. You can still expect to see the crowning of the May Queen and dancing around maypoles in villages across England.

Café Church will be celebrating the coming of summer this month by returning to The Crown for our monthly services. Yes, that's right - church in a pub! And why not? The early church met in people's houses and we are meeting in a public house. The early church met in familiar surroundings where they could relax and explore their new-found faith together and Café Church is meeting in the welcoming atmosphere of our local pub right in the centre of our community so that we can discuss, debate and learn together in an open, non-judgemental and entertaining environment. The early church met to break bread together - we have croissants!

Why would this be of any interest to anyone outside of the St. John's church family? It seems to me it's a little like this: Most of us want to live our lives like those who dance around the maypole. We want the fun of the party, the freedom to express ourselves, the chance to abandon our cares and responsibilities. We want the celebration of May Day every day. The result of all this is that the only time we cry out to God is when we face a challenge, a drama, a traumatic situation and then our mayday call goes out to someone or something that we don't know in the hope that rescue and salvation will come quickly. It's a bit like those intrepid individuals in the early years of the last century who set out from Croydon for a jolly jaunt across the channel only to find themselves in trouble and calling out to someone called Fred in Croydon in the hope that he would hear and send help.

How would it be if, instead of that last gasp cry of desperation to an unknown God, you could have an ongoing daily relationship with the Creator and sustainer of our lives or, as the book of Hebrews in the bible puts it, "the author and perfecter of our faith"? Well, that's why we meet every month at Café Church (and every Sunday in between, of course, at St. John's) - to look at the validity of Jesus' claim to be saviour and God's promises about his creation. And in doing that we have all the joy and freedom of that May Day festival alongside the assurance that when our lives hit difficult times our mayday cry will be heard by someone that we *know*, who knows us, who *will* hear and who *will* rescue us through our faith in His son, Jesus.

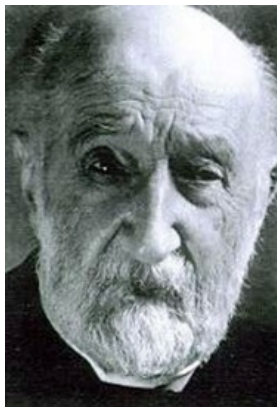
Bob Cranham

Café Church this month meets at The Crown, 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 FREE coffee and croissants!!!! SUNDAY 8th May at 10.30am.

Bob Cranham

The Crucifixion

This year as a meditation for Good Friday the combined choirs of Capel and Newdigate sang 'The Crucifixion'. It was written by John Stainer with text by W J Sparrow Simpson in 1887. The Crucifixion is the last of Stainer's four oratorios and the second he wrote in collaboration with Sparrow Simpson. It has a subtitle of 'A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer' and is often sung on Good Friday, however it was originally performed on the day after Ash Wednesday. Stainer intended it to be within the capabilities of a normal parish church choir, and includes hymns for congregational participation. It was written for W. Hodge and the choir of Marylebone Church. Today some parts sound very Victorian, but overall it has retained its popularity and one of the anthems, 'God so loved the World', is probably better known separately rather than as part of The Crucifixion.



William John Sparrow Simpson was the son of a canon of St Paul's Cathedral and was born in 1859. He was educated at St Paul's school and graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge with a degree in theology in 1882. Immediately upon leaving he became a curate at Christ Church, Marylebone, and a year later wrote the words for Stainer's cantata St Mary Magdalen. He became the vicar of St Mark's, Regent's Park in 1888, and in 1904 became the chaplain to the Ilford Hospital Chapel which was an almshouse foundation. There he housed and trained ordinands. This post gave him time to research and write over 50 books on theology and to compose a number of hymns. He also found time to edit the English Church Review prior to the First World War. He died, still the chaplain of the hospital, at the age of 92 in 1952.

Sir John Stainer was born in Southwark, in 1840 and was the eighth of nine children of William and Ann Stainer. His father and his uncle worked together in their cabinet business and later became the local schoolmaster as well as registrar of births and the vestry clerk. William was a self-taught musician who built his own chamber organ on which John would practice. One of his sisters was also the organist at a hospital in Streatham. He became a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral at the age of ten, was soon their principal soloist, and sang in the first ever performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion. At St Paul's he took organ lessons and by 1855 was organist at St Benet's, Paul's Wharf. Despite his age he sometimes deputised for the organist and sub organist at St Pauls.

By the age of 16 he was appointed as organist at St. Michael's College, Tenbury, Worcestershire. It was a choir school where he also gave piano lessons to the pupils. In 1860 he became organist at Magdalen College, Oxford, as well as playing for the services also trained the choir. He became the youngest ever successful candidate for the Bachelor of Music degree at Oxford and eventually studied and gained a Doctorate. He also took on other roles including University Organist, Conductor of the Madrigal Society, Organist at Crystal Palace, and examiner for music degrees. Like many in his day he was interested in traditional folk songs and published 'Christmas Carols Old and New', and today we still sing many of his arrangements including 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen', 'Good King Wenceslas', 'The First Nowell', and 'I Saw Three Ships'. By 1872 he was appointed organist at St Paul's Cathedral and it was there that he collaborated with Sparrow Simpson who was responsible for preparation and conduct of the liturgy. Stainer introduced regular practice for the adult singers (previously because they were appointed for life they did not bother with rehearsals), enlarged the choir from 12 to 35 and it was during his time that the choir school started. He took on many other appointments and roles both in Britain and internationally and collected several honorary degrees. He wrote some textbooks for organists, as well as on musical composition and worked to improve the standard of music teaching as well as being an examiner.



Due to poor eyesight at the age of 48 in 1888 he retired from his post at St Paul's and returned to Oxford to become Professor of Music at the university. During one of his annual tours to France, and Italy in 1901 he died at the age of 61. He is buried in Holywell Cemetery; Oxford and his extensive library of antiquarian music books was eventually passed to the Bodleian Library.

Written by Stuart Cole

Why God denies us justice

Jessica Martin reflects on innocent suffering and the disquiet sharpened by war

We praise our God as a God of justice, but our world is dominated by unjust acts. Around us, we see the innocent murdered, the poor despised, and those who speak for peace and truth silenced and deprived.

Two weeks ago, in a square in Lviv, the silent witness of hundreds of empty prams spoke of the children already killed in Putin's war. There are more empty prams now. In Russia, two simple words — “no war” — lose you your job and your liberty. At borders where the women and children of Ukraine seek safety with strangers, traffickers wait to entrap them for profit.

The dominance of untruths and the ruthlessness of human politics is before us with particular force this Holy Week, overshadowed as it is by the cruel, costly, and geopolitically disastrous war in Ukraine.

But it was not any less ruthless last year, or last century, or even last millennium. World events instigated by the powerful roll over ordinary people, damaging many well outside the immediate political arena of conflict.

Nor are we in the West free from helpless complicity in those world events. Our part in global civil society is shadowed by calculation about which regimes are and are not acceptable, and those calculations are fuelled by self-interest. The outpouring of sympathy for this latest wave of suffering is driven, partially at least, by our fear at the direct threat of cataclysmic global war.

We recognise the political necessity for adopting a policy of least harms, which, in refusing “escalation”, protects our children and cities at the expense of Ukraine's. The grain that cannot be planted in Ukraine this spring will cause the death by hunger of children in Yemen, and increase the undeserved suffering of the poor by a significant amount worldwide.

And Yemen is hungry, devastated, and dependent on that foreign grain partly because the UK quietly sells billions of pounds' worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia, which bombs Yemen's children and blockades its grain supplies. But that doesn't make it to our national media much.

Human perceptions of justice are often themselves calculations about equity, about fairness. Trespasses upon the liberty and well-being of another should be met with retribution we call “judgment”.

The system, as we administer it to one another, is full of holes, some of them to do with gaps in the power wielded — the International Criminal Court is unlikely to be able to bring Putin to “justice” — and some of them to do with the venality of all our human systems, which all tend to favour justice for some over justice for others, depending on the power and influence of those accused — as Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe can attest authoritatively.

The bewildered words of the psalmist speak with particular force to our human hearts, flawed but desperate for some divine justice to bring order to our human mess: “Has God's loving mercy clean gone for ever? Has his promise come to an end for evermore? . . . And I said, my grief is this: that the right hand of the Most High has lost its strength.”

In the world of Roman-occupied Galilee, Jesus walked, taught, and healed. That was a world where people looked actively for the visible signs of God's justice. They saw, or thought they saw, visible signs of divine favour for the righteous, punishment for the wicked.

As Jesus showed them the things of God — in speech and in miraculous sign, in healing and in proclamation — men and women turned to him and asked him to show them how God's justice could operate among human lives dominated by political violence and random chance.

They wanted things to make sense. They wanted to be told that, when they saw suffering, God was behind what had happened, somehow. Surely everyone got what they deserved? Some people had been judicially murdered by the Roman governor Pilate — had they offended God, too? Others had died during the accidental collapse of a building — what sin had they committed?

Show us the shape of God's justice, they urged Jesus. How is it playing out among us? Surely it could never look like the undeserved suffering and death of a good man? How could that be justice?

Although . . . not everyone thought that. In the last week of Jesus's life, a prudent man of real but limited power pondered a policy of least harms. His name was Caiaphas. He weighed up the harm caused by the death of Jesus, innocent but inflammatory in his rhetoric in a tense political climate, against the wider harms which might rebound on an occupied population were there to be an uprising.

For God is not fair, not the way humans are fair. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” says the Lord.

And the reason? The reason is called mercy. Mercy breaks the connection between act and consequence: it cancels debts, offers gifts to the empty-handed, restores innocence to the guilty. Mercy averts punishment and affirms the bonds of love as the only bonds that hold us – bonds made by God and binding humanity in mutual dependence.

Where mercy rules, justice is redundant, because the guilty are freed. “Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price” — be fed and cared for when you don’t deserve it and can’t pay for it.

And that is just *not fair*. In our human world, our human way of thinking, mercy allows the guilty to get away with everything. When the righteous and the unrighteous subsist together in the world, when the sun shines on the worst evildoer as brightly as on suffering innocents, what chance is there for the tit-for-tat justice we set up in the hope of redressing an impossible balance?

What good to us is a God who is as weak as the most helpless newborn under fire in Mariupol, or suffering a criminal’s death far away and long ago? When *will* we see the meek inherit the earth? “Thy will be done”, we pray, “on earth as it is in heaven.” How long, O Lord, how long?

Jesus’s words to those who ask the question challenge us to reconsider our tendency to divide humanity into the deserving and the undeserving. Do you think you are innocent, he asks, just because you haven’t been judicially murdered or hurt by the random accidents of this world? Think again.

No one is in a position to stand on their dignity here. No one can claim innocence for the world’s ills. We are all caught up in the web of guilt that hurts others, both deliberately and undeliberately, through collusion, through acts of malice, or simply through the hopelessly compromised business of living within the many injustices of human civil society.

Your rights, Jesus says, are not the point. It’s not justice you need: it’s mercy. “My kingdom is not of this world.”

We invented the just-war theory because Jesus’s answer doesn’t solve this world’s problems. Pacifists get killed, and sometimes the vulnerable need weapons even more than they need sympathy.

As Thomas More observed five hundred years ago in his book *Utopia*, to act in the world, to try to influence the powerful towards justice, is to become tainted with the compromise and ill-doing your acting will bring with it — and so to be in desperate need of mercy.

The best we can hope for — as Christians who wish to do good, either politically or in charity — is that our efforts to act ethically, doomed as they are, will meet with a recognising mercy from our God who knew suffering from the inside, and prayed for forgiveness for his own, deeply rational, murderers.

Lord, have mercy. That is our constant prayer, and its name — the name Jesus gives it — is repentance. All the word means is turning, turning towards God and saying: please take it away, this unwanted collusion with the violences and cruelties of this world; take it away, the willed and the unwilled, the deliberate and the unnoticed, the sins of omission and commission. We are too small to carry the sins of the world. Please take them on our behalf: please give us mercy instead.

And he took them. And he takes them. And they lie, the great dark bundle of them, at the foot of his cross, where an innocent man suffers for the guilt of our whole dark, sorrowful, bewildered world.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon us.

The Revd Dr Jessica Martin is a Residentiary Canon of Ely Cathedral.

© *Church Times* 14th April 2022

Russian military vehicle in front of the ruined dome of an Orthodox church in Volnovakha, in Donetsk province

CREDIT: ALAMY





IN CHURCH AGAIN SOON!
We will publish the date in the weekly notes



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<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/traidcraft-catalogue>

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

Thank you
Suzanne & Stuart Cole

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

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

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

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

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

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

2022 CAPEL MILITARY SHOW

The Church and the Capel WI are providing hot refreshments together at this year's Capel Military Show.

CAN YOU HELP AT ALL?

If so, please sign the rota sheet in church or contact Debbie von Bergen if you are unable to get into church and she will sign it for you.

Thank you

Would you like to share Sponsorship of InSpire in 2022?

We are needing to print more copies each month and therefore sharing sponsorship will bring the cost down to each individual dramatically!

If you would like to share half the sponsorship of one month this year with an existing Sponsor please let the editor Suzanne or our Treasurer, Debbie von Bergen know (07774 784008).

Thank you!

Suzanne Cole, Editor

editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Editor's Note

I'm pleased to write that my mother's weeks of convalescing with us following a long spell in hospital after open heart surgery are about to end as she is well enough to return home. It is quite remarkable what the human body will endure and recover from, whether 8 years old or 83! I'm sure my Mum will enjoy her 84th birthday next week now that the thought of major surgery is not hanging over her!



The news regarding Ukraine is still so disturbing and there are several articles in this issue about it. See pages 14 & 15 for some, including how churches and individuals might help. There is an article on page 19 entitled 'Serving in the heat and squalor of a refugee camp'. It is about the work of 'Interserve', a global Christian agency and their work. As we see so many people becoming displaced around the world and in such high numbers, this is a timely article.

I hope everyone had a good Easter and enjoyed the wonderful weather that we were granted for that long Bank Holiday weekend! Enjoy May!

Best wishes,
Suzanne

FROM THE REGISTERS

Capel and Ockley

We mourn the loss of

David Topping

April 2022

Colin Michael Warner

10th April 2022

May they rest in peace and rise in glory
Amen



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.

NEWS FROM THE BELFRY

The Platinum Jubilee

Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee are only a few weeks away now and there will be ringing events arranged for this. Both the Surrey Association of Church Bell Ringers and the Guildford Diocesan Guild are keen to get quarter peals rung at every member tower in their respective areas and we will certainly be involved in these, hopefully including first quarters for some of our newer ringers. There is also the idea to ring for 30 minutes on one of the evenings over the Jubilee holiday weekend starting at 19:52 and ending at 20:22 as an alternative way of marking the anniversary years. It will be a busy few days as we also have a wedding to ring for on the Saturday.

Bell Simulator

We have recently purchased a radio transmitter and receiver to enable us to ring a bell silently for training purposes. The clapper is tied tightly so that it cannot swing enough to strike the inside of the bell, using a rope slung over the top of the bell. This is always done when training new learners, so that they can practice bell handling without disturbing people outside. There is a delay between pulling the rope and the bell swinging far enough for the clapper to fall and strike the bell soundbow which a learner does not experience on a silenced bell. The benefit of a transmitter is that it can be set up to detect the wheel passing as the bell swings and send a signal to a receiver, connected to a laptop in the ringing room. Using bell simulator software the computer will sound at the same time as the bell would if not silenced, and can be used as one bell on its own or in a round of any number of additional computer bells to simulate ringing in rounds, and even method ringing for the more advanced. When in use the transmitter is attached to the bell frame by magnets and powered by a battery pack, so there is no wiring or fixings and the whole system can be removed after use.

Banner Update

The banner was taken down as planned at the end of March, and we had a few new visitors while it was up. One was a returning ringer who had learnt to ring as a teenager at Leigh. In the space of one evening he progressed from single strokes with assistance to ringing rounds and call changes. The following week he was ringing unaided and even managed some plain hunting!

We are of course still open to visitors on practice nights which are on Wednesdays at Ockley St Margaret, from 7.45 to 9.15, but please check as times may change. There is now an Ockley Bellringers Facebook page, which is gradually accumulating photos and information, and is updated with practice night information.

For more details call **Sue on 01306 627168** or email **ockleybellringers@btinternet.com**



HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS IN MAY

1st May: May Day and unbridled merriment

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: 'for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?'

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6.00 am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

*The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower
We are here today and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour.*

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

Mere Discipleship – on growing in wisdom and hope

By Alister McGrath, SPCK, £9.99

In exploring Christian discipleship, Alister McGrath encourages us to move beyond a superficial grasp of our faith to discover its depth and riches. He sees discipleship as a process of growth in wisdom: we absorb a Christian vision of reality, allow it to percolate in our minds and then inform how we see things, think about them and act.

Helpfully drawing on the astute and illuminating insights of Dorothy L. Sayers, C. S. Lewis, John Stott and J. I. Packer, the author suggests how we can hold on to hope while journeying through darkness, and live meaningfully in a world where things don't always seem to make sense.

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War in Ukraine: Diocese in Europe and USPG launch Ukraine emergency appeal

The Church of England Diocese in Europe and USPG, the mission agency, have launched an emergency appeal to get aid to people in desperate need because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Funds raised by the appeal will support Christian charities and churches carrying out humanitarian work both in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Partners on the ground are providing food, medicine, shelter, care for children and people internally displaced in Ukraine. With refugees they are supplying care at the border and beyond, including attention to those from Africa and Asia as well as Ukrainians who are fleeing the war.

The appeal is for urgent help NOW, but the work will go on for many months.

The Church of England's Bishop in Europe, the Rt Revd Robert Innes says: "War is horrible. It injures, destroys, and kills in an often indiscriminate and uncontrollable way. And now, we face war in Europe.

"The people of our little church, Christ Church Kyiv, find themselves in the midst of this crisis. They are typical of so many others.

"Some have fled the city whilst others are still there; praying for their safety and for peace as they shelter as best they can. These people are our brothers and sisters. Those still in Ukraine and those who have fled need our help."

USPG's General Secretary, the Revd Duncan Dormor, adds: "Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine. We have launched this appeal in partnership with the Diocese in Europe to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and support church responses to the current crisis."

To donate to the Ukraine emergency appeal, visit <https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com>

Editor: John Rutter's works are much loved across the UK. We include a link below so that our readers can listen to this latest work.

War in Ukraine: John Rutter pens new work after Ukraine invasion

John Rutter, the composer, has written a new choral work in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

Funds raised from 'A Prayer for Ukraine', are going to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine appeal.

Rutter explained: "How can a composer respond to a global tragedy? I suppose by writing music: like everybody I have been shocked and dismayed by the events of recent days.

"The first thing I wanted to do was write music that would respond in my own way. I went to a late-night service in my old college chapel where they sang a setting of a lovely Ukrainian prayer, so having encountered the Ukrainian text, on Thursday I wrote my own music. I hope the meaning of the text will resonate in people's hearts."

The words of the piece, which are originally in Ukrainian, translate into English as: "Good Lord protect the Ukraine. Give her strength, courage, faith, and hope. Amen."

He added: "I hope it speaks in terms which reach out to the Ukrainian people in their hour of need."

The score is available for free by [submitting this form](#). You are welcome to duplicate the score for the sole use of your own choir. You may like to make a donation to a Ukrainian relief charity, perhaps equivalent to the approximate cost of the copies had you purchased them. If you wish, you are free to make an audio or video recording of the piece without a special licence to do so.

Listen to the new work at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bx4QFxfW2s>

War in Ukraine: Advice for parishes on helping refugees

The Church of England has published a 'toolkit' of resources for parishes seeking to help refugees and evacuees from Ukraine in the wake of the Russian invasion of the country.

The material, available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/war-ukraine-responding> brings together advice on how churches can welcome people arriving from Ukraine through giving, longer-term practical support such as community sponsorship, prayer and advocacy, as well as links to other sources of information including safeguarding.

In a foreword to the toolkit, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, say that The Church calls on "all people of goodwill to join in prayer for the people of Ukraine and to work practically to support them in their hour of need."

They continue: "We have been inspired by the warm response from churches and community groups. We hope that in this toolkit there will be some useful answers.

"In these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might again turn to the Lord and receive God's gift of peace, work for God's justice, and know God's reconciliation and love."

The toolkit includes a brief guide to what is happening in Ukraine and the humanitarian response, together with details of organisations and appeals.

It also contains information on how parishes and individuals can take action to support those arriving both through the family visa scheme and the humanitarian sponsor scheme, advocacy and prayer and theological resources for churches.

More information

[View the parish resources for responding to the war in Ukraine](#)

[View the safeguarding guidance - Homes for Ukraine](#) (safeguarding e-manual)



Items for Reflection

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his introduction to Christianity.

Christian Basics No 5: Understanding the Bible

The Bible is a popular book, with five billion copies sold worldwide every year, as well as a uniquely precious book. At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible, *'the most precious thing this world affords'*.

The Bible isn't simply one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author - God Himself!

As the Word of God, it is the primary way by which God speaks to us. *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and is a *manual for life*, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit, who helps us to apply its words to our lives: *'But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth'* John 16:13.

The Bible can also be described as a *love letter* from God, as it deepens our relationship with Him. Jesus said: *'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life'* (John 5:39,40). Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better. Like a signpost, the Bible points us to the person of Jesus.

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on aspects of Christianity.

Reflected Faith Series: The Meaning of Colours - part 1

In March, April and May this year the coloured frontal of the altar will have been changed many times – as will the colour of the priest's vestments.

Each colour – and there can be as many as six in a church's store – has a different meaning. They reflect the significance of that day or the season.

In March purple was used as a symbol of penitence, as we were in Lent and trying to prepare ourselves for Christ's final act of love for each of us.

Holy Week – the time of Christ's final journey – was denoted by the colour red. Red, the colour of blood, is used for feasts of martyrs as well as those for the Holy Spirit – when it more likely represents his flames of 'fire' which rested on those in the Upper Room.

Maundy Thursday, we switched to white for any Communion service, as this celebrates the remembrance of the first Communion with His apostles which He commanded us to continue.

Good Friday, and we were back to red.

Then on Easter Sunday, the day of the greatest Christian Celebration, we entered to an altar bedecked in gold or the 'whitest' with the most elaborate decoration the church possesses.

'Plain' White will be used for the Easter Season signifying purity and Christ's triumph over death until Ascension Day on 26th May. This, being a special and more significant day in the life, death and resurrection of Christ, goes to gold again: then immediately back to white for the next ten days.

On the day of Pentecost itself, Whit Sunday, 5th June, the colour will be? Yes, you got it, red for flames of fire.

This month:

Watch out for the changing colours indicating the special meanings that day has in the life of the church. If you could choose a different colour for a different or even one of the same meanings, what would you choose and why? In June it will all change again, so we'll consider those next month.

Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

Looking again at Mary Whitehouse

Is it time to look again at the legacy of anti-obscenity campaigner Mary Whitehouse?

Although many Christians under 40 may not know her name, Mary Whitehouse was a high-profile figure from the mid-sixties until she retired in 1994. To many people, she was a figure of fun, often parodied and mocked in the media for her campaigns against obscenity on TV, in print and on the stage.

A recent BBC radio profile, 'Disgusted, Mary Whitehouse' based on 30 years of newly available diaries and letters, has led some to a reassessment of her impact.

Programme presenter Samira Ahmed raises a key question: "Mary Whitehouse's name became shorthand for anti-liberal prudery and censorship, but more than 20 years after her death, do her diaries reveal a woman who was ahead of her time in warning about the corrosive impact of internet pornography on society?"

The documentary reviews Mary Whitehouse's years of protests and records how she persistently lobbied MPs and ministers to draft legislation.

Her successes included laws criminalising the making of indecent images of children and controlling sex shops and the displays of pornographic material in newsagents, and laws that regulated the sale of extreme content (so-called 'video nasties'). She warned about technology getting out of control, long before the internet was born.

As a teenager, I interviewed Mary Whitehouse in the 1970s, and asked about her faith and how this motivated her. She told me, "It's basic. I can't say any more than that. I couldn't have stood up to what I have if I didn't have a sense of commitment that God wanted me to do this work."

Many people saw Mary Whitehouse as a campaigner seeking to return Britain to 'Victorian values.' In fact, in many ways, she was warning about the increased sexualisation of society that the internet – then many years in the future – would bring.

As journalist Samira Ahmed concludes: "Although some of Mary Whitehouse's religious beliefs were very out of step with modern Britain, she would see the impact of internet pornography on the young as exactly what she'd been warning against and support the current efforts to finally get it under control."

Editor: by the Ven John Barton

There, but for the grace of God, go I

This saying is attributed to John Bradford (1510-1555), who was one of the Protestant Reformers. When he saw criminals on their way to execution, Bradford would utter, "But for the grace of God, there goes John Bradford." It was his way of acknowledging that he depended every day on the mercy of God, despite his sins, which he considered were on a par with those of rogues.

Sadly, Bradford's freedom was to last only a short time, for he was convicted as a heretic, incarcerated, and finally burned at the stake, during the reign of Queen Mary. Renowned for his prayer life and preaching, Bradford had continued to proclaim the Gospel in prison. One of his biographers wrote, "He lived a long life in a short space of time."

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Quotes for May

Miscellaneous observations on life....

The way to do a great deal is to keep on doing a little. The way to do nothing at all is to be continually resolving that you will do everything. - *C H Spurgeon*

Thinking of going on holiday? Look in the mirror. If you look like your passport photo, you probably need the trip. - *Anon*

Don't wait for people to be friendly, show them how. - *Anon*

Assumption is the mother of all foul-ups. - *Anon*

Be different. Conform. - *Anon*

Can atheists get insurance for acts of God? - *Anon*

A smile is a curve which helps to put things straight. - *Anon*

If you want to soar with the eagles in the morning, you can't hoot with the owls all night. - *Anon*

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. - *Anon*

Is a lame duck a politician whose goose has been cooked? - *Anon*

People have always named their children after expensive things: Mercedes, Chardonnay, Dior. This year, look out for: Electric, Gas, and Petrol. - *Anon*

Miscellaneous observations on our Christian pilgrimage

It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness. - *C H Spurgeon*

Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years. - *C H Spurgeon*

Comfortable truth isn't. - *Anon*

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing. - *Anon*

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone. - *Anon*

In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma - but never let him be the period. - *Anon*

Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back. - *Anon*

Aspire to inspire before you expire. - *Anon*

Serenity is not freedom from the storm, but peace within it. - *Anon*

We don't change God's message - His message changes us. - *Anon*

Plan ahead - it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. - *Anon*

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position. - *Anon*

Coincidences happen when God chooses to remain anonymous. - *Anon*

When we run away from our problems, they will be waiting wherever we go. - *John Gray*

When God ordains, He sustains. - *Anon*

Deciding not to choose Jesus is still making a choice. - *Anon*

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. - *Anon*

If God is your co-pilot - swap seats. - *Anon*

Editor: This article from Interserve provides a snapshot of what it is like to work with refugees.

Serving in the heat and squalor of a refugee camp

Interserve is a global Christian agency working among the peoples of Asia and the Arab World. Here is a story from their migrant ministry in the Middle East.

As the days shorten and the summer heat begins to lessen, Interserve Partner Tom arrives at his new clinic in the heart of the refugee camp where he serves. Tom is a family medicine doctor and has been working in the Middle East for five years alongside his wife Ruth, who is also a doctor.

The clinic consists of two container-rooms that have been fixed up with AC and a generator, to meet some of the needs of a camp population of around 30,000. The demand on the clinic is high and the needs are great and varied, but they do see some trends in patients. Many 'present' with diabetes and hypertension caused by obesity. This may seem strange given the extreme poverty, but sedentary lifestyles and high carbohydrate diets lead to these complications.

Chronic illnesses are escalated by stress and anxiety as well as inconsistent care. Challenging cases are often made worse by poor patient education and a lack of medical records from previous care – would you think to grab your medical records whilst fleeing for your life? Difficulty accessing specialist care, combined with poverty is a continual challenge.

Ruth provides care for women's health issues. One frequent problem is new mothers abandoning breastfeeding very early on, and supplementing with formula because they believe their own milk supply to be inadequate due to the stresses and hardships of camp life. Thus begins a downward spiral of declining milk supply, abandonment of breastfeeding, no money for formula and threatened infant health.

Tom and his wife are seeking partners to share the new facility and are in discussions with an expat dentist who may be interested in the space. They have recently been joined by a midwife who provides prenatal care and hopes to expand to birthing preparation classes. They would also love to provide more classes such as nutrition, exercise and back care.

There are ideas for many potential projects, but they have limited people resources. There are many obstacles to the work they can do – resources, finances, specialist care – but each day they do what they can, one case at a time, to make a difference to the people living on the camp.

Do you have medical experience? Would you consider having a story like Tom's in the future?

For more about Interserve and the role you might play, go to www.interserve.org.uk



The White Stone – the art of letting go By Esther De Waal, Canterbury Press, £12.99

This book reflects on the changes and losses that come with growing older. Esther De Waal reflects on solitude and, following a period of illness, saying goodbye to a family home and the Welsh border landscape she had known for decades which inspired some of her greatest writing, and adjusting to a new city environment. In her characteristic style, she sees everything as a portal into a deeper spiritual understanding.

PRAYER DIARY - MAY 2022

Compiled by Belinda Kerry

'May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind towards each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Romans 15:5-6

LIGHT

'For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.' 2 Corinthians 4:6

SUNDAY 1st

God of Life, we thank You for the signs of Your light in the middle of darkness. May we be signs of Your compassion in the heart of Your world.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.' Romans 12:12

MONDAY 2nd

Heavenly Father, help us in all our interactions with each other, to have humble and gentle hearts. Grant us patience, bearing with one another in love.

TUESDAY 3rd

Father God, enable our church to do Your will. Make us outward looking and a community of peacekeepers and bridge-builders.

WEDNESDAY 4th

God of power, our hope is in You. We are Your church and we long for revival. Come Holy Spirit into our churches to inspire and increase Your family of believers.

THURSDAY 5th

Loving Father, for all those who have helped our communities to draw closer to You, we thank You God and pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to walk amongst us and bless our homes and our churches.

FRIDAY 6th

Father God, we want to be a church that You want to bless. Help us to communicate such joy, such truth, such grace and such passion in our worship that we compel others to join in the experience of praising You.

SATURDAY 7th

Dear Lord, thank You for our church leaders who bring us Your Word and guide us in Christian living. As they have invested their knowledge in us, may we too invest our lives through evangelism, service and Christian education.

SUNDAY 8th

Heavenly Father, we pray for all members of all church congregations worshipping today that in their life and work they may advance Your

Kingdom and bear witness to Your love shown in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

JUSTICE AND LAW

'For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing.' Isaiah 61:8

MONDAY 9th

Loving Father, You are merciful, just and humble. Help us to reflect the heart of You; to listen to the concerns of those on the margins of life so that we may become more humble and have more understanding.

TUESDAY 10th

Dear Lord, bless those who are refugees from warfare, violence, neglect or abuse. Comfort those who are adrift in a world that does not know how best to deal with them. We particularly pray for those who have lost homes and livelihoods due to the conflict in Ukraine.

WEDNESDAY 11th

Loving God, we pray for the justice system in our country. We want to see Your Kingdom in every sphere of law and justice.

THURSDAY 12th

Father God, give all judges sound minds and a good conscience to deliver decisions based on moral values. We pray for fairness and non-partiality in justice systems around the world.

FRIDAY 13th

Loving Father, Your love is great and extends beyond walls and borders. You see the men and women serving prison sentences in our country and around the world. We pray that they will find everlasting comfort in You.

SATURDAY 14th

Father, thank You for loving us enough to show us how we judge others around us. May we follow the right path in life so that we avoid falling into the hands of the enemy. May Your power move through us in our daily walk with You.

SUNDAY 15th

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who, at great cost, are Your disciples in a place where being a Christian means persecution. While we may wear a cross as jewellery, they bear it as an invitation to abuse, exclusion, imprisonment and even death. We pray for Your compassion and justice to intercede.

COMMUNITY

'Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.' Hebrews 13:1-2

MONDAY 16th

Lord, we thank You for the social life in our villages and for all who organise activities to bring people together. May there always be inspiration, compassion, concern and joy in every gathering and a willingness to help.

TUESDAY 17th

Loving Father, we thank You for all those in our community who give their time to help others. We especially think of those who visit people who are lonely, afraid or sick and for drivers who offer lifts to surgery or hospital.

WEDNESDAY 18th

Father, we pray for the safety of all pedestrians, cyclists, bikers and motorists who use the footpaths, pavements and roads in our parishes. May they appreciate and respect the beauty and peace of our country setting.

THURSDAY 19th

Dear Lord Jesus, fill us with Your love so that it overflows from us and touches the hearts of others drawing them to You. May we be generous with our time and not resentful.

FRIDAY 20th

Father, You created all human beings equal in dignity. Pour forth into our hearts, we pray, a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter and dialogue. Move us to create stronger societies and more respect for our world.

SATURDAY 21st

Holy Father, be with the families in our communities from the oldest to the youngest, weaving Your love into our work, our rest and our play.

SUNDAY 22nd

Father God, teach us to live together in love and peace. Fill us with a joy to be in contact with our neighbours and our friends and thank You for all who serve the community in shops, pubs, garages, schools, nurseries, health care, churches and businesses.

CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' 1 John 1:9

MONDAY 23rd

Dear Father, we are sorry for our sins and repent of them all. Today, we give our lives to You and declare our faith to Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ who died for us so that we may have eternal life.

TUESDAY 24th

Loving Father, if the choices we have made in our

lives have led us far away from You, if the path we follow is our own and not Yours, help us now to confess our need for You. We confess we need Your help and Your forgiveness.

WEDNESDAY 25th

God of Healing, we bring to You our brokenness, our fears and our despair and lay them at Your feet. We long to hear Your voice and to know the peace that only You can bring. May we feel the grace of Your forgiveness and Your love.

THURSDAY 26th

Holy Father, we pray for Your will to be done in our lives and in this world, for Your way to rule here on Earth as it does in Heaven. Help us to submit to Your will and trust and obey You with an eager and joyful heart.

FRIDAY 27th

Dear God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of Your Holy presence. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see You in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak Your wisdom.

SATURDAY 28th

Dear Father, grant us the virtue of true humility, to be like Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ; that we may never, by our pride, provoke Your anger, but rather, by our meekness, receive the riches of Your grace.

SUNDAY 29th

Holy Father, help us to understand the need for confession when we realise our desire for You and our hope for Your mercy. Help us to take that first step towards wholeness and healing.

THE WORLD

'Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!' Psalm 8:9

MONDAY 30th

Lord Jesus, we bring before You the conflicts in nations around the world and the humanitarian crises they generate. We pray for Your love, grace and mercy to fill the hearts of leaders to bring peace and put an end to all suffering.

TUESDAY 31st

Heavenly Father, You gave us a world of beauty, and we have spoilt it. You gave us a world to feed us, yet many go hungry. You gave us a world of riches, but we are unwilling to share. Forgive us, gracious God, for our selfishness and enable us to see this world as a gift from You. And may the message of hope that You gave us spread throughout the world.

Does anyone feel able to produce a Prayer page each month for InSpire? I would be very grateful! A few pertinent/seasonal prayers would be wonderful!
The Editor

HIGH DAYS AND HOLY DAYS - * NEW 26th May: Where did Jesus go at the Ascension?

In Salvador Dali's picture of Jesus' ascension all you can see are his feet! As we celebrate the event this month, it prompts the question *'where did Jesus go?'* Peter says Jesus *'has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand'* (1 Peter 3:22). However, the New Testament tells us three things about what Jesus is doing at the Father's side.

At Pentecost Peter said that Jesus is *'exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear... "The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand"'* (Acts 2: 33-4). Peter is affirming Jesus' position of authority and power at the heart of the universe. By pouring out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us, Jesus gives us a foretaste of the life of heaven ie eternal life, forgiveness, healing, release and God's provision for our lives.

When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being stoned to death by the Jewish authorities he points out, *'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'* (Acts 7:56). Our experience of heaven is only ever partial, as we live with the reality of suffering and setbacks. However, Jesus is still on the throne! We are called to trust him daily.

The Bible also tells us that *'Christ Jesus who died....is interceding for us.'* (Romans 8:34, cf Hebrews 7:25). Even when we don't know how to pray, we have the assurance that Jesus is already praying for us! He knows our needs even better than we do ourselves, so when we feel condemned or defeated in our Christian lives, we have somebody on our side! The Ascension reminds us that the risen Jesus lives in the immediate presence of God, and both transcends and embraces our present experience. This truth lies at the heart of the *up* language used to describe the event.

'Heaven relates to earth tangentially so that the One who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find Him.' (Tom Wright).

Editor: The Ven John Barton on the Ascension, and what lies beyond....

Christ's Legacy

There was no mourning when Christ's resurrection appearances came to an end. After the final occasion we are told the disciples *'worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy'*.

They had already experienced the onset of grief caused by His death, intensified because of the dreadful manner of it and the consequent crushing of their hopes. Then, with feelings combining bewilderment with elation, they were confronted by Christ alive and had to rethink everything they had understood until then about the certainty of death.

They became convinced that the Crucifixion and Resurrection signposted a new beginning, not an ending, and that it gave fresh purpose to humanity, past, present and future.

Why was Christ's final departure met by joy rather than gloom? Here are some reasons, which we might think of as His legacies.

First, He had said that He was going to prepare a place for His followers. It's worth pondering John Chapter 14, to see why Jesus' disciples were so confident after His Ascension.

Second, He taught them His departure was, actually, for their *benefit*. Only in this way would the 'Advocate' come. 'Advocate' is one translation of a word meaning 'called alongside' and is a description of the Holy Spirit's work in and for humanity, then and now.

Third, Christ continues to campaign for the human cause, though now out of sight. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews puts it bluntly: "He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." Paul writes something similar in his letter to the Romans. It means that Jesus prays for us nonstop, so when we pray it's like treading on a moving walkway taking us in the right direction.

Fourth, He came to show us what the unseen God is like. When one of His trainees asked, "Lord, show us the Father", the reply was, "Have I been with you all this time and you still do not know Me? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father". So, the more we contemplate Jesus, the closer we get to the unseen God.

Some general observations on the spiritual side of life:

Anxiety is an attempt to carry the burden of the future oneself; prayer is leaving it safely in the hands of God. -
Anon

When faced with a choice and unsure which way to go, try this Ignatius method of discernment: prayerfully imagine yourself at the end of your life and consider.... 'which choice would I wish I had made?' – *Anon*

You can become a Christian in a moment, but not a mature Christian. Christ can enter, cleanse, and forgive you in a matter of seconds, but it will take much longer for your character to be transformed and moulded to His will. It takes only a few minutes for a bridegroom and bride to be married, but in the rough-and-tumble of their home it may take many years for two strong wills to be dovetailed into one. So, when we receive Christ, a moment of commitment will lead to a lifetime of adjustment. - *John Stott*

Coventry Cathedral – 60 years on

by Tim Lenton

Sixty years ago, on 25th May 1962, the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during World War Two. The Queen had laid the foundation stone in 1956, and she was present for the consecration.

On the night of 14th November 1940, the old Cathedral – together with much of the centre of Coventry – was devastated by incendiary bombs, but the decision to rebuild it was taken the next morning. The Provost, Richard Howard, wanted to do so as a sign of faith, trust and hope, rather than as an act of defiance.

This rejection of bitterness and hatred led to the Cathedral's Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, which continues to give spiritual and practical support in areas of conflict. It is symbolised now by the Cross of Nails, made from three nails found in the roof truss of the old cathedral and set in the centre of the altar cross.

The place now called Coventry Cathedral, on the site of a Benedictine monastery, is in fact two buildings – a joining of the old and the new. The older building, still hallowed ground, was originally a parish church, and then given cathedral status in 1918. Its 295ft (90m) spire, containing 181 stone steps, is the third highest in England, behind Salisbury and Norwich.

The 'new' Cathedral was an inspiration to many celebrated artists, most of them yet to become famous. Among those commissioned by the architect, Sir Basil Spence, were Graham Sutherland (iconic Christ in Glory tapestry), John Piper (baptistry window), Ralph Beyer, John Hutton, Elisabeth Frink and Jacob Epstein, who created the striking sculpture of St Michael defeating Lucifer.

The famous Charred Cross was created when the cathedral stonemason, Jock Forbes, saw two wooden beams lying in the shape of a cross after the bombing and tied them together.



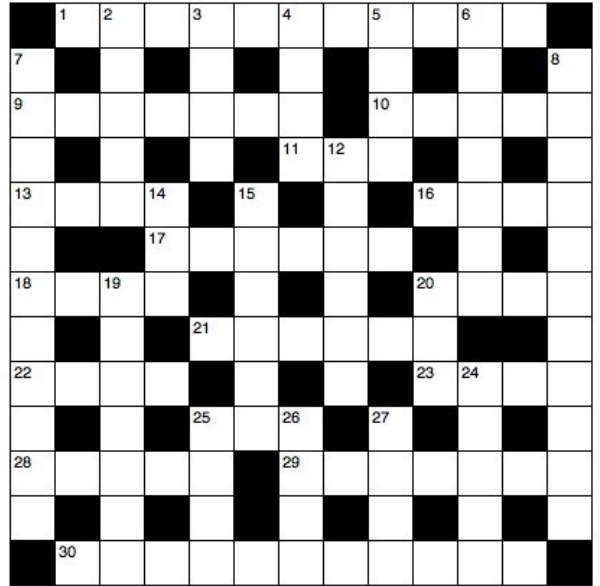
“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” Leo Tolstoy

“Despite the forecast, live like it's spring.” Lilly Pulitzer

PUZ?LES

Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
 10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27)(5)
 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
 13 Stagger(Isaiah 28:7)(4)
 16 'Anyone,then,who knows the good he ought— —and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
 17 Stir up or provoke(Acts13:50)(6)
 18 Burden(Luke11:46)(4)
 20 'As far as the east is from the—,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
 21 Sign(Luke23:38)(6)
 22 'After that,Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
 25 Has(anag.)(3)
 28 'This is the account of Shem,Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
 29 'I will...make them drunk,so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
 30 Paul said of him,'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)



Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
 8 'Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
 12 Acquire(2Timothy2:10)(6)
 14 Container cover(Numbers19:15)(3)
 15 'He...became obedient to death,even death on— —!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
 19 Refrain(1Peter2:11)(7)
 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears'(Luke7:38)(3)
 24 One who worships Brahma,Vishnu or Shiva(5)
 25 'Give to everyone who—you'(Luke6:30)(4)
 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills;where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

Easy Soduko

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

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Medium Soduko

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

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Puzzle Solutions on page 26

Remembering Bertrand Russell

It was 150 years ago, on 18th May 1872, that Bertrand Russell, the Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer, was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature for championing “humanitarian ideals and freedom of thought”.

A member of a prominent aristocratic family, the 3rd Earl Russell was a very public figure who lived to an advanced age. He was a social critic and freethinker who took what were at times extreme positions which he attempted to justify through his academic expertise in logic.

An enthusiast for world government, he was also a pacifist, up to a point. He went to prison for his devotion to pacifism during the First World War, but decided that the war against Nazi Germany was a necessary evil. He supported nuclear disarmament.

His grandmother, the Countess Russell, came from a conservative Scottish Presbyterian family but held progressive views in many areas, including Darwinism. She was big influence on the young Russell, who was brought up in an atmosphere of frequent prayer and religious formality.

This did have an effect, though probably not the one intended. In 1927 Russell gave a lecture in London entitled ‘Why I am not a Christian’, which has since been widely circulated throughout the world. It contained logical objections to Christianity which were less than convincing to Christians but enjoyed much support from atheists.

Russell’s conviction under the Defence of the Realm Act for his pacifist activities during the First World War cost him his position at Trinity College and a fine of £100 (equivalent to roughly £5,700 today). He refused to pay in the hope of being sent to prison, but his books were sold to friends at auction to raise the money. He was later proud of his copy of the King James Bible stamped ‘Confiscated by Cambridge Police’.

by Tim Lenton

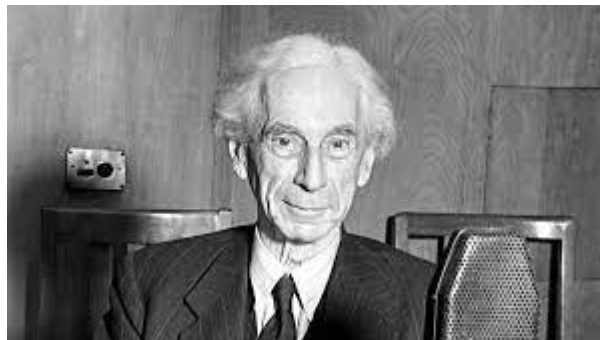


Photo copyright BBC



“Spring adds new life and new joy to all that is.”

Jessica Harrelson

Puzzle Solutions

Easy Sudoku solution

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

Medium Sudoku solution

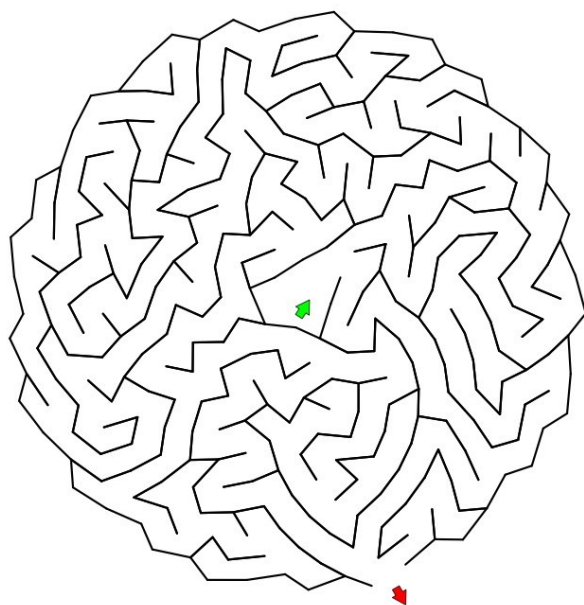
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9	1	4	6	5	3	8	2	7
5	8	6	7	4	2	9	1	3
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7	5	2	3	1	8	6	4	9
1	3	8	4	6	9	2	7	5
6	9	5	1	2	7	3	8	4
2	7	3	9	8	4	5	6	1
8	4	1	5	3	6	7	9	2

Crossword Solution

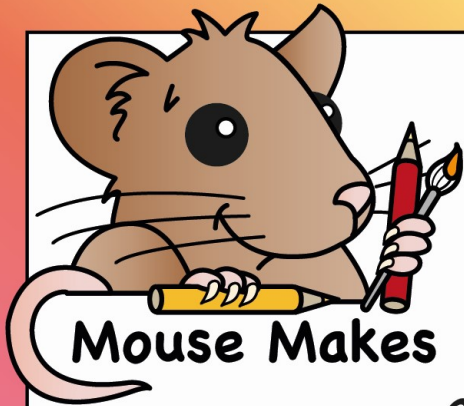
	O	V	E	R	W	H	E	L	M	E	D		
O	A		E		O		I		A		O		
V	A	L	L	E	Y	S		S	T	R	A	P	
E		U		D		T	O	P		L		P	
R	E	E	L		A		B		T	O	D	O	
F			I	N	C	I	T	E		B		R	
L	O	A	D		R		A		W	E	S	T	
O		B		N	O	T	I	C	E			U	
W	A	S	H		S		N		T	H	I	N	
I		T		A	S	H		H		I		I	
N	O	A	H	S			E	V	E	R	N	O	T
G		I		K		L		R		D		Y	
	O	N	E	S	I	P	H	O	R	U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

ACROSS: 1, Overwhelmed. 9, Valleys. 10, Strap. 11, Top. 13, Reel. 16, To do. 17, Incite. 18, Load. 20, West. 21, Notice. 22, Wash. 23, Thin. 25, Ash. 28, Noah's. 29, Ever not. 30, Onesiphorus.

DOWN: 2, Value. 3, Reed. 4, Host. 5, Lisp. 6, Ear lobe. 7, Overflowing. 8, Opportunity. 12, Obtain. 14, Lid. 15, A cross. 19, Abstain. 20, Wet. 24, Hindu. 25, Asks. 26, Help. 27, Hero.



Mrs Logan went for her atmoiser and Mrs Pugh went for hers...

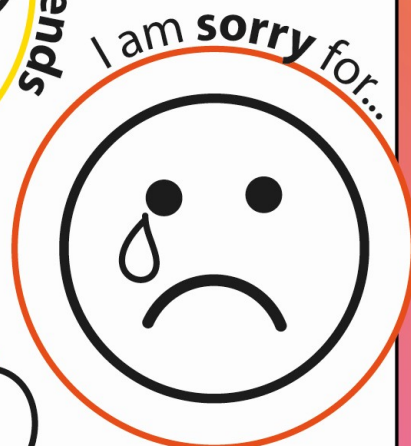


Mouse Makes

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever"
Psalm 136:1



"Never stop praying."
1 Thessalonians 5:17



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6

Jesus said,
"This, then, is how you should pray:

Our _____
in _____
hallowed be your _____
your _____
come,
your _____ be
done, on _____
_____ as it
is in _____.
Give us this day our
daily _____.
And _____
us our _____,
as we also have
forgiven our debtors.
And _____
us not into
temptation, but
_____ us from the
_____ one."

Read Matthew 6:9-13 to fill in the words.

You are invited to

Capel Vicarage Fete



at The Vicarage, 54 The Street, Capel, RH5 5LE
on Saturday 25th June 2022 12.00—3.00pm
where we will be raising money for our local schools!

Come along and enjoy the fun of the fete ...

- * Ice Creams * Barbecue * Cream teas and cakes *
- * Fairground organ *
- * The Cat's Grin Theatre Company will be doing interactive storytelling 1.30—2.30pm *
- * Entertainment from our local schools *

- * A Host of Stalls including:- * Love Little Gems gifts*
* The Country Dog Barn * Body Shop *
* Glitter Tattoos and much more! *

A great family day out!

We also have a **GRAND RAFFLE** and there are
LOTS OF SUPER PRIZES including **FIRST PRIZE of £100!**

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APPEAL!

Could you source some prayers each month for InSpire?

It would be good to have a Prayer page, made up of some that are topical and seasonal? They don't have to be written by you!

It's important that we have prayers each month and would a huge help to the Editor!

If you can help, please contact the editor - see below!

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

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