

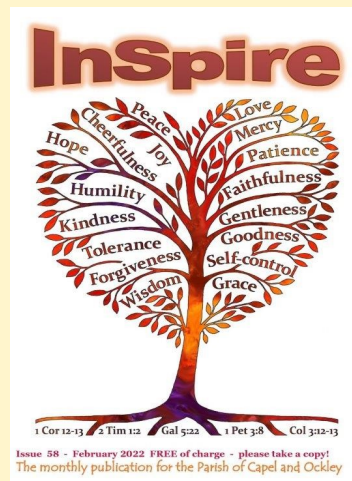


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Thank you



*Wishing our readers a very
Happy New Year!*

Issue 68 January 2023

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May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year. God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power. May we walk gently. Amen



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www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine

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The Capel Show committee

We thank them for their generosity

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Rev Liz writes

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Here we are again at the start of the year and perhaps thinking what the year ahead might look like? Well, it will no doubt continue to be a tough time for many as we negotiate the continuation of winter but it always lifts me when I see how even in January the days are just that bit lighter and longer. December 21st was the day the year turned as it was officially the shortest day and the official beginning of astronomical winter. Things can only get brighter!



This month we are very much celebrating Christ as the light that came into the world, following the visit of the Magi to the manger at the beginning of this month right through to the last days of January as Jesus is presented at the Jewish Temple as was the custom. This 'presentation' falls for us this year on the 29th January when we traditionally hold our annual Christingle service. We do hope many will join us for this lovely occasion when we decorate oranges with fruits, sweets, a red ribbon and a candle. A couple of days later it is Candlemas Day when traditionally candles were blessed on that day and candle-lit processions used to take place before church services. In fact people used to consider Candlemas as a halfway point through winter while they waited for the Spring. So its getting even better then!

During this year we are hoping to make a start on a new project here at St John's. We have been planning and discussing a garden of remembrance in the top left hand corner of the churchyard. It will consist of an area of lawn for the burial of ashes with appropriate seating, along with a wall for the placing of commemorative plaques. You may have noticed stonemason and sculptor, our friend Shawn Williamson who has been working on the restoration of the boundary wall in that area at the end of last year. The area has a wonderful peacefulness about it and I think will prove to be a quiet place for peace and reflection. There are already beautiful ancient trees in place and we will be planting appropriate hedging and shrubs to support the wildlife we all enjoy so much. We will be publishing the plans early this year so do come and have a look at what we are envisaging in due course.

So as we travel through the month of January, let us remember how those famous three wise men or thirty (?) looked up to the skies, trusted in the stars, without knowing exactly where they were going. By faith they set out on a journey to look for Jesus. They had observed his star rising in the east. We sing don't we as we remember each year the visit of the Magi the chorus 'O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light'. So I pray that you may also be guided to the perfect light of all - God in Christ - the most perfect light!

As always my love and prayers,

Revd Liz

Revd Liz Richardson

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

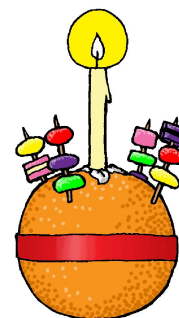


CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley JANUARY 2023



JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	1st 9.30am 10.30am	New Years Day and Second Sunday of Christmas Matins at Ockley Family Communion at Capel
SUNDAY	8th 9.30am 10.30am	Epiphany Holy Communion CW at Ockley Cafe Church
SUNDAY	15th 9.30am 10.30am	Epiphany 2 Matins at Ockley Family Communion at Capel
SUNDAY	22nd 10.30am	Epiphany 3 Parish Family Communion at Capel
SUNDAY	29th 9.30am 10.30am	Presentation of Christ in the Temple Holy Communion BCP at Ockley Christingle service at Capel with TRAIDCRAFT after the service.



FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	5th 9.30am 10.30am	Third Sunday before Lent Matins at Ockley Family Communion at Capel
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Please note: CW - service is from Common Worship 2005

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

Don't forget up to date on all Services and events can be found on our Parish website

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.

Can you believe it? Christmas is done and dusted, fun and festivities are over, resolutions have been made (and probably already broken!) and we're heading off into yet another new year with all that that promises. Where does the time go? It seems only a moment ago that I was wondering what 2022 would bring. Could any of us have imagined a war in Europe, multiple Prime Ministers and Chancellors, a financial collapse, energy prices that make everyday living a challenge even for those in full-time employment and England losing in the final stages of a World Cup? Well, alright maybe the last point was a little more predictable! Perhaps it was the relentless pace of change that made time seem to disappear at a faster rate?

The same thing seems to happen in the church calendar every year. One festival, celebration, remembrance or thanksgiving after another. For example, we've only just had Christmas, a time when we think of the baby Jesus being placed in a manger, but in three months' time we'll be thinking of him being placed on a cross at Easter. That means that 33 years of life will have to be condensed into just a few short weeks!



Of course, the beauty of the rhythm of the church year is that we can remind ourselves on a regular basis of all the good and amazing things that Jesus did and all that God has done before and after his son was here. It's like a handy checklist (who doesn't like a list?) of Jesus' birth, life, miracles, teachings, suffering, death, resurrection and continuing love for his people and his world. But no sooner have we been through that annual cycle than we'll be at Christmas 2023 starting the whole thing over again. Where does the time go?

I find the most difficult concept to grasp is that while we try to cope with the passing of the days, months and years at what feels like an ever-increasing rate of knots, none of this is even an issue to a God who is eternal and for whom time has no significance. What if we could tap into that sense that we don't need to worry or panic about the passing of time; the lack of hours in the day; the pressures of everyday life? Well.....we can. Just look at what Jesus says in Matthew 11. ***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*** Or maybe his words in Luke 11 would be helpful? ***"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"*** And then there's the ultimate promise of Jesus in John 6. ***"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life"***.

There you have it. In God's grand scheme of things it doesn't matter how quickly we seem to race through either our own lives or through the life Jesus in our annual church calendar, everything points in one direction - that if we have faith our tiredness and problems can be eased, our worries can be put into perspective and we can look with confidence towards a time when time itself has nowhere to go.

Bob Cranham

**Café Church meets at St. John's, Capel on
Sunday January 8th at 10.30am.**

Expect free coffee and croissants, a warm welcome,
a band, some debate, a little poetry, a lot of laugh-
ter and plenty more.

The Pavilion Café

We are open every Wednesday morning from 9am to 12 o'clock 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.



Editor: This recipe quiz was found in Becket News, No 57, January 2014, Bulletin of the Hamburg Anglican Church.

Biblical cooking

If you can prepare this dish without looking up the references in the Bible, you should be on Mastermind! It is suggested the Authorised Version is used. (You can find it online at www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/)

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lb of Judges 5:25 (end);
- 2 ½ lb of Jeremiah 6:20;
- 3 1 tablespoon of 1 Samuel 14:25;
- 4 3 of Jeremiah 17:11;
- 5 ½ lb of 1 Samuel 30:12;
- 6 ½ lb of Nahum 3:12 (chopped);
- 7 2 oz of Numbers 17:8 (blanched and chopped);
- 8 1 lb of 1 Kings 4:22;
- 9 2 Chronicles 9:9;
- 10 a pinch of Leviticus 2:13;
- 11 1 teaspoonful of Amos 4:5
- 12 3 tablespoons of Judges 4:19

Answers on page 30

NEWS from the Pews

In Memoriam

We remember with love and mourn the loss of

Doreen Campbell

on

2nd November 2022

Winifred Kate Wright (Winnie)

on

19th November 2022

(Aged 102 years)

John Richard White

on

3rd December 2022

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



Thank you to all our loyal Traidcraft customers. We are delighted to say that we have recently been able to give Helen Burt, our Treasurer a cheque for £200, which is 10% of our takings over the last year.

Thank you all for your continued support. It helps to support Fairtrade with suppliers all over the world and in turn helps us raise funds for our church as 10% of all sales goes to our churches.

Our sincere thanks
Suzanne & Stuart Cole

**Traidcraft ... NEXT in church
on Sunday 29th January after the 10.30am
Christingle service at Capel**

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 **Dineke van den Bogerd:**

editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

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

With beginning a New Year in mind...

Sin has turned the world from a paradise into a thicket; there is no getting through without being scratched. - *T Boston*

God loves us; not because we are loveable but because He is love; not because he needs to receive but because He delights to give. - *C S Lewis*

God gives wherever He finds empty hands. - *Augustine*

We Christians are miserable indeed if we grow old in making no improvement. - *John Calvin*

A glimpse of the next three feet of road is more important than a view of the horizon. – *C S Lewis*

The search for happiness is one of the chief sources of unhappiness. - *Eric Hoffer*

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. - *Anon*

Many who are climbing the ladder of success have their ladders leaning against the wrong walls. - *Erwin Lutzer*

Time is nothing to God. - *Oswald Chambers*

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you. - *James Allen*

Trials are the resistances God gives us to strengthen our spiritual muscles. - *G Seevers*

Peace is not the absence of conflict from life, but the ability to cope with it. - *Sun Dial*

We know not what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. – *Willis J Ray*

The fruit of the Spirit is not push, drive, climb, grasp and trample... Life is more than a climb to the top of the heap. - *Richard J Foster*

Miscellaneous observations on life...

The second day of a New Year's diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it. - *Jackie Gleason*

Gluttony is an emotional escape, a sign that something is eating us. - *P Devries*

Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it? - *Mark Twain*

Feel a failure because you don't get everything on your list done each week? Don't worry – the only person who ever got everything done by Friday was Robinson Crusoe! - *Anon*

New Year Sales: The science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it. - *Stephen Leacock*

Friendship flourishes at the fountain of forgiveness. - *Anon*

Sign on door of music shop: Gone Chopin, have Liszt, Bach in a Minuet. - *Anon*

Church aims to double number of UK Minority Ethnic Head Teachers in England

The Church of England is seeking to double the number of UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) Head Teachers in all its schools in England over the next five years.

The *Leaders Like Us* scheme (<https://www.cefel.org.uk/leaderslikeus/>) launches this month (January 2023). Applications are now open to teachers from all schools. The scheme aims to equip UKME teachers with the skills for headship, and it has funding to train more than 450 teachers by 2027.

Around one in every three students in schools in England are from UKME backgrounds, but there are fewer than 400 headteachers from the same backgrounds in total, out of more than 20,000 schools.

Research shows that the impact of teacher and school leader representation on students is significant; their attainment and likelihood of progressing to tertiary education is exponentially higher when students see leaders like them. Their exclusion and suspension rates decrease, and future aspirations are also measurably lower.

As with all Church of England programmes and networks, 'Leaders Like Us' is open to anyone who would like to learn and develop within a values-led environment built upon Christian foundations. The course is fully funded for teachers through a Racial Justice Grant from the Church of England's Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC).

A very hard winter for many: the bishops respond to recent Autumn statement

The Bishop of St Albans, Alan Smith, convenor of the Bishops in the House of Lords, and the Bishop of Durham Paul Butler, who speaks on poverty issues in the Lords, have recently responded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn statement.

They said: "It is heartening to hear the Chancellor single out the needs of the most vulnerable as a principle behind his Autumn Statement. We recognise that he has had to make some very difficult choices.

"Ahead of the Autumn statement, one of our key concerns was to see benefits keep pace with inflation. So we welcome the Chancellor's commitment in this regard, but continue to call for the end to the two-child limit on Universal Credit, which hits some of the poorest families hardest.

"This is going to be a very hard winter for many. Our churches, in communities across the country, are already reporting alarming rises in demand for foodbanks and other services which have become a lifeline. It is heart-breaking to hear of people who just a year ago were donating to foodbanks, but who are now using them themselves.

"Many of our churches are among the more than 3,700 public spaces which are opening up this winter as a Warm Space for people amid surging energy bills.

"While we recognise the intense economic pressures on this country, as the Chancellor acknowledges, it is a global situation, and we will continue to hold the Government to its commitment to return to giving 0.7 per cent of national income on international development."

Millions of people in touch with church community action amid cost-of-living crisis

More than seven million people have had contact with their local church for community support services such as food banks, parent toddler groups and lunch clubs, new figures recently published suggest.

Polling by Savanta ComRes for the Church of England shows that nearly half the population reports having been in contact with their local church – at 46% - with the most popular reasons for doing so being attending weddings, baptisms, and funerals (50%) worship and services (42%) and carol services (39%).

But the figures also show that 30% of those in contact with their local church – or 13.7% of all UK adults – have done so through community services such as parent toddler groups, lunch clubs and food banks.

The figures also show that twice as many agree (47%) as disagree (23%) that the local church is an important part of their community and just over a half (52%) agree that the Church is an important part of British society.

The findings come after Church of England statistics from 2019 show its churches running or supporting 35,000 social action projects.

This includes 8,000 food banks and more than 4,000 parent/carers toddler groups. More than 5,000 churches run or support lunch clubs, coffee mornings or similar hospitality for older people.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the bishops in the House of Lords on welfare issues, said: "These figures show the extent to which the Church of England is providing not just spiritual and pastoral support, but practical help to communities throughout the country.

"Jesus's commandment to love your neighbour as yourself is evident in the care and service provided by churches in so many ways.

"The biggest source of practical support provided by the Church of England currently is through running or supporting around 8,000 food banks throughout the country and many of our churches are now opening up as 'warm spaces' through the 'Warm Welcome' campaign, as people struggle to pay their energy bills.

"Sadly, we anticipate that these services will come under increasing pressure this winter."

Domestic abuse must not be a taboo subject, as reports to churches increase

The Church of England has revealed that there has been a 37% increase in reports of domestic abuse to diocesan safeguarding advisers over the past three years (2019-2021).

These are reports relating to the work of the local church in its community, collected in a diocesan self-assessment audit. The Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, has called on the Church to recognise and act on domestic abuse within the communities it serves.

While churches must recognise it does take place in the homes of those involved in our worshipping communities, she adds that churches can also be part of the solution, by offering support and teaching good practice and theology and challenging the misuse of scripture in relation to women.

She stresses it is not just violent behaviour but also controlling and coercive behaviour, and notes that while the majority of reports relate to violence against women, men are victims too.

Bishop Rachel was one of a number of bishops in the House of Lords who contributed to the passage of the Domestic Abuse Bill through Parliament, and which became legislation (the Domestic Abuse Act) last year. She also warns: "The cost-of-living crisis is rapidly becoming a national emergency for domestic abuse victims who cannot afford to leave perpetrators."

Church of England commits £2m to enable charities to purchase housing to support vulnerable people

The Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme, a £25m fund which exists to deploy investment funding granted by the Church Commissioners for England to strengthen communities, has committed £2m towards the second Social and Sustainable Housing Fund (SASH II) managed by Social and Sustainable Capital.

SASH II seeks to enable charities and social sector organisations to acquire and own portfolios of property so that they can provide a combination of high-quality housing and targeted support to vulnerable people.

The creation of SASH II follows the success of the first fund launched in 2019, which deployed £64.5m to 20 organisations. SASH II has a target size of £125m, and the fund aims to help over 30 organisations purchase 1,000 properties, providing homes for 10,000 people over the life of the fund.

It is estimated that up to 200,000 people in the UK are currently living in housing on a transitional basis before they can return to independent living without the need for additional support. This £2m commitment will enable charities across the UK to support a wide range of vulnerable adults.

The Grace of Giving

by Canon Paul Hardingham

Money can be a sensitive subject in church, especially when it comes to giving. Paul describes the support given by the Macedonians to the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem as evidence of the 'grace of giving' (2 Corinthians 8:7). They were following the example of Jesus: *'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich'* (9). How does he describe their giving?

Sacrificial giving: *'Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity'* (2). In giving, our first response can be *'How much?'* For Paul, *'rich generosity'* is always a response to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. How serious and sacrificial is our giving?

Regular giving: *'they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability'* (3). The Macedonians were thoughtful in their giving. Is our giving regular and planned, or do we simply put our loose change into the collection plate? How can we give regularly to God's work in our local church and beyond?

Willing giving: *'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'* (2 Cor 9:7). It's not often that we find ourselves laughing when putting money on the plate! Let's prayerfully review our giving (as well as our spending), and ask God to help us to respond appropriately.

God doesn't just want our money; He wants all of our lives: *'they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us'* (5). Is God the sole owner or simply a shareholder in our lives? Let's seek to *'excel in this grace of giving'*!

© Parish Pump

27th January – Holocaust Memorial Day

Jews had come to Poland from all over Europe, where they found freedom to worship and trade. By the beginning of the 20th century, there were 3.5 million Jews in Poland, or a little over 10 per cent of the population. In the Polish town of Oswiecim, that figure was 58 per cent. Jews were welcome there.

But when the Nazis moved in, Oswiecim became the Polish town where the Auschwitz death and concentration camps were located. Auschwitz 1 was primarily a concentration camp of around 15,000 prisoners. They worked in the arms factories in harsh conditions, with poor hygiene and nutrition.

Birkenau, or Auschwitz 2, was the main death camp, built in 1941 on the site of the village of Brzezinka, 3km from Oswiecim. In 1944 this area held more than 90,000 prisoners and was the main extermination site, housing the gas chambers and the crematoria.

Auschwitz III developed from one of the sub-camps, Buna, near Auschwitz-Birkenau, and used prisoners as slave labour. It was primarily a labour camp. Auschwitz-Birkenau is now a state museum, receiving millions of visitors a year. German and Polish pupils have to visit a concentration camp as part of their education.

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Solitude

In thee we live; and every word
Of heaven is thine; blown free
To west, to east, the God unshrined
Is still discovering me.

From a poem by Edward Dowden 1843 – 1913



Dorking Area foodbank
CTD Office,
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Church Street,
Dorking RH4 1DW

Tel: 01306 887697
Email: info@dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk
Website: www.dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk

16 December 2022

St John's Church
Capel

I am writing to thank you for all your donations this year to the Dorking Area Foodbank. We know that everyone in our community will be feeling the increase in the cost of living and are truly grateful that you are able to keep making donations. We use all your donations to provide much needed weekly food parcels to families and individuals in the area that are struggling to afford the essentials.

2022 has been another busy year for the Foodbank. The cost of living crisis we are all experiencing has resulted in an increase in demand for our services. We are continuing to offer a warm welcome, an emergency food parcel as well as fuel advice at our twice weekly sessions. This would not be possible without the generous support of local community and church groups such as yours.

Please pass on our thanks to your colleagues and congregation for their kindness and generosity.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Mackenzie
Volunteer
On behalf of Dorking Area Foodbank



Dorking Area foodbank is run by Churches Together in Dorking Ltd
Registered Charity No: 1124616 | Ltd Co. No: 06560738 | Registered in England & Wales
Registered Office: Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB



Do keep the contributions for
the Foodbank coming!

Thank you

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

I hope that everyone has had a good Christmas. It was lovely to see so many in church for the 'Nine Lessons and Carols' service before Christmas. As always, Norman's mulled wine and Joy's excellent Mince pies went down a treat! Sadly, like so many other families, we weren't able to all be together for Christmas as my mother-in-law was unwell. I know we aren't alone in that, with so many winter ailments currently going around. I'm hopeful that my mother-in-law will be fighting fit in time for her 94th birthday at the end of January!

I think that the article opposite is so thought-provoking by Nigel Beeton. It is absolutely right to be optimistic about the new year and the future, but it also holds many worries for so many people right now with all the things he mentions and more including the ongoing strikes. It reminds me of my childhood and doing my primary school homework by candlelight in the early 70's when there were so many power cuts! In some ways fond memories for me, but as a young child, I would have had no idea about the hardships behind all the strikes that were occurring. Now in my late 50's, I have far more awareness! Whatever happens though, we are still capable of helping others, even when the odds are often stacked against us. I know that the help we've been able to give collectively to Dorking Foodbank (see their thank you letter on page 13) and the recent Christmas hampers will have been so welcome to those less fortunate than ourselves. These are just two examples of our giving and there are many more I could quote. Do see Canon Paul Hardingham's article on page 12 called **'The Grace of Giving'**. "God doesn't just want our money; He wants all of our lives: *'they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us'* (5). Is God the sole owner or simply a shareholder in our lives? Let's seek to *'excel in this grace of giving'!*"

Stuart and I have discovered the V & A museum recently (we don't know why we haven't discovered it earlier!) on two trips to London and enjoyed the Beatrix Potter exhibition they had on for a limited time. How talented she was both as an artist and a storyteller. This leads me to an article on another enduring author shared on page 18 **'Remembering Lewis Carroll - Creator of Alice in Wonderland.'**

In January, we celebrate Epiphany or the coming of the Kings. "In many parts of the world, 6th January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other, than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?". Do see more on this on page 25 where you can find more information on High Days and Holy Days in January. Another important date is **27th January—Holocaust Memorial Day**, see more information on page 12.

On page 20, The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series **'Reflecting faith – to the Glory of God, part 2'**. In the previous month, she looked at flowers used to decorate our churches for Christmas. This time, she questions how creatures are used to decorate the interior of church buildings, and thus giving hidden symbolisms. *"Because the bee appears to die in the winter and reappear in the early summer, it symbolizes rebirth. The bees' hard work is connected to the beehive, which symbolizes order. The bee represents the Christian and the beehive symbolizes the church."*

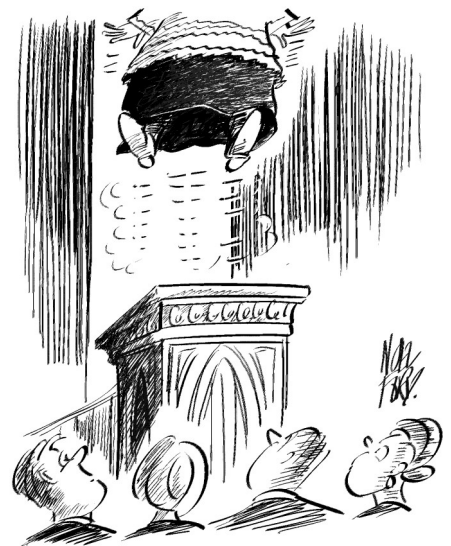
On the back page (32) are some Book Reviews from Parish Pump including **'Hope in the Face of Suffering – 20 devotions for Tough Times'** and **'New Celtic Monasticism for Everyday People'**. Some reading ideas for the New Year!

It only remains for me to wish everyone a very happy 2023! The following is a snippet from some of the topical prose and prayers on page 27.

*'Help us Lord
To delight in Your company,
To walk Your safe way,
To shine Your clear light
Of hope for the year.'*

By Daphne Kitching

*With my best wishes,
Suzanne*



The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: Although of course we will heartily wish one another a Happy New Year, we have to be honest and realise that for very many the future in general, and the new year in particular, holds a great deal to be feared. War, energy costs, inflation, we've all just come through a nasty pandemic. The future looks very frightening indeed. So it did for the Israelites in the time of Jeremiah. Exiled to Babylon, surrounded by their enemies and by false prophets, there was nothing whatsoever for them to look forward to.

And yet, in Jeremiah 29:11-13 we read this promise by God to His people: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find me when you seek Me with all your heart." Because of our faithful God, we can truly say: Happy New Year!

My plans for you

When your troubles are great
And you fear so much
When you've gone to a land far away;
When all those that you love
Are far out of touch
And you're scared of the night and the day.

*"I know," says the Lord, "of My plans for you,
"Plans for good not for ill – you will see!
"Your future and hope in My plans for you
"When you pray, and you call out to Me!"*

When the darkness surrounds
And the night is long
When the storm's blowing hard on your door;
When your bones ache with pain
And you feel so wrong
And you really can't take any more.

*"I know," says the Lord, "of My plans for you,
"Plans for good not for ill – you will see!
"Your future and hope in My plans for you
"When you pray, and you call out to Me!"*

When your world has gone wrong
Though you've tried so hard
And the ends never seem quite to meet;
The betrayal of friends
Leave you deeply scarred
And it all seems to end in defeat.

*"I know," says the Lord, "of My plans for you,
"Plans for good not for ill – you will see!
"Your future and hope in My plans for you
"When you pray, and you call out to Me!"*

When you seek you shall find
If you search for Me
You be sure that I will do My part;
You know I will be found
And I'll hear your plea
When you search with the whole of your heart!

*"I know," says the Lord, "of My plans for you,
"Plans for good not for ill – you will see!
"Your future and hope in My plans for you
"When you pray, and you call out to Me!"*

By Nigel Beeton

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Joseph Turner (1775-1851)

Amid the hectic, busy lives we lead, many people fall under the control of ‘the hurry syndrome.’ We have to do ‘A’ as soon as possible, and we have get to ‘B’ as soon as possible. And along the way, we have phone calls to make, emails to open, and Facebook and Twitter and all the social media to check.

It means that we often go through the world without giving that world a second glance. This year in these articles we are going to pause, and, as the poet says, ‘stand and stare.’ Each month we shall be looking at a painting that celebrates the wonder, the joy, the mystery, and the marvel of the created world in which we live.

Joseph Turner (1775-1851) was one of the great artists of the 19th century. But he did little to conform to that accolade. But no matter – he was passionate about his vision of the world around which inspired his art. Wherever he went, he sketched and painted.

The ending of the Napoleonic wars meant that people could travel safely through Europe, and he visited Italy many times. That country and its scenery taught him the place of light in art, which in many ways was the foundation of the paintings of his last 15 years.

Ruskin hailed Turner as ‘a great angel of the Apocalypse....sent as a prophet of God to reveal to men the mysteries of the universe.’ Turner was not particularly religious himself, but in the paintings of his old age, he was like a creator grappling with the elemental forces of light and sky, of water and sun.

In 1842 he painted ‘Steamboat in a Snowstorm.’ We see the water and the sky and the snow all cascading around each other. The clouds and driving snow, the churning of the water - all are there in abundance, and in the midst there is the steamboat trying to keep afloat and make its way through the forces of nature. Without that title we might think this painting is a modern abstract. With the title, we sense the wildness and wonder of the great forces of sea and sky, snow and clouds.

This month of January can bring snow which stops the traffic and maroons us in our homes. Here in the painting the snow and wind beat around the steamboat: it could be an image of human life tossed around by circumstance and event.

But I think Turner wanted us to see something of the extraordinary power the great forces of nature have over life – not to make us fatalistic and gloomy, but to proclaim that here in our world are mysteries and marvels that can stop us in our tracks.

It is like the voice of God speaking to Job, who has questioned the justice of God’s ways in His world. ‘Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?’ God asks Job. ‘Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?’ Job’s response is to question no more. He puts his hand over his mouth and looks out at the world God has created in wonder and amazement.

Picture: Tate Modern

Text: Parish Pump



The man who made the first-ever vaccine

by Tim Lenton

Two hundred years ago, on 26th January 1823, Edward Jenner, the British physician and immunologist who created the first vaccine (for smallpox), died of a stroke.

He was the son of a Gloucestershire clergyman and the brother of another – who brought him up when his father died. He was also a violinist, a poet and a naturalist, but he chose medicine and became the pupil of a distinguished surgeon, John Hunter, at St George's Hospital in London. Hunter also had wide interests, and the two kept in touch for many years.

Jenner, a committed and sincere Christian, married a near neighbour, Catharine Kingscote, in 1788. He was described as amiable and quiet, but his work in creating a smallpox vaccine was said to have saved more lives than any other man on earth, though his treatment in making inoculations using cowpox lesions, initially from a dairymaid in 1796, was laughed at by some to start with.

The word 'vaccination' (relating to cows) stems from this experiment. Previous smallpox inoculation attempts were known as variolation and were both less successful and dangerous to health. Jenner himself had received this treatment as a child.



Jenner was a member of the Royal Society, primarily because of his work as a naturalist. He published valuable observations and interpretations on, for instance, the life of the cuckoo, which was little understood at the time.

But in the end, he gave so much time to vaccination work that his personal affairs suffered badly, though he was voted a total of £30,000 by Parliament.

His wife died of tuberculosis in 1815, after which he retired from public life. In 1980 the World Health Organisation said that smallpox had finally been eradicated from the world, though a few lab samples were kept.

© Parish Pump

Six songs of the lukewarm church

Blest Be the Tie that Doesn't Cramp my Style
Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me
I Surrender ... Some
I'm Fairly Certain that My Redeemer Lives
Sit up, Sit up for Jesus
Take My Life - and Let Me Be

Remembering Lewis Carroll, creator of Alice in Wonderland

by Tim Lenton



Just 125 years ago, on 14th January 1898, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, an English author, poet, photographer and mathematician, died of pneumonia. His pen name was Lewis Carroll, and he was best known for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* and the poems *Jabberwocky* and *The Hunting of the Snark*.

A brilliantly inventive writer, Carroll was also a deacon in the Church of England, and a firm Christian – some have even claimed that *Alice* is a biblical allegory, with the Cheshire Cat as God. (Carroll was born in Cheshire.)

Carroll was a maths lecturer at Oxford, and Alice Liddell – who provoked the story of Alice – was the daughter of one of his colleagues. She had two sisters, Lorina and Edith, who were also close to Carroll, a bachelor who remained celibate throughout his life. He was known to be good with children, unsurprisingly for an eldest son with eight younger brothers and sisters – and at one point was invited to entertain two grandchildren of Queen Victoria.

The book *Alice in Wonderland* and its sequel have been subject to huge numbers of unlikely interpretations, ranging from drug use to being the outpouring of migraine aura symptoms. But most people continue to regard them as masterpieces of fantasy literature, produced by a highly intelligent and sensitive man.

The Alice books might never have seen the light of day, had not novelist Henry Kingsley come across the first version on a visit to the Liddells, and urged Alice's mother to persuade the author to publish it. Carroll consulted another author – his friend George MacDonald, whose son Greville, aged six, apparently said he "wished there were 60,000 volumes of it".

By the time of Carroll's death, the two-volume *Alice* was the most popular children's book in England.

© Parish Pump

A Bible quiz – of sorts!

- Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?
A. Ruthless
- Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?
A. German Shepherds.
- Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
- Q. What was the greatest female financier in the Bible?
A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.
- Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?
A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.
- Q. What's the phone number of the Garden of Eden?
A. ADAM-8-1-2



This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Science and Miracles

We live in a world where we can expect the sun to rise tomorrow and the milk to pour out of the bottle when we tilt it over our cereal. But for God, the properties of matter and the biological processes that we know and read about in textbooks are simply the usual ways He works. If He chooses to do something unexpected to demonstrate something about His character, His relationship with us, and His purposes, then He will.

A group of 14 UK-based science Professors wrote to the Times in 1984, saying that “We gladly accept the Virgin Birth, the gospel miracles, and the Resurrection of Christ as historical events. We know that we are representative of many other scientists who are also Christians standing in the historical tradition of the churches.” For the non-believer, I would suggest a thought experiment: if God exists, why should He be bound by the same laws of physics as us?

Professor Christine Done is an Astrophysicist at the University of Durham. In the book *True Scientists, True Faith* (Monarch, 2014) she writes: “Even when I was an atheist I used to get cross at discussions...on how all Jesus’s miracles could be physically explained. To me, once you have believed in a God, a supernatural being, then it’s obvious that supernatural stuff could happen, since any God who can make the physical universe and its laws can presumably suspend those laws in any time and way He chooses.”

There are also miracles which appear to be a case of wonderful timing. The wind blew all night, and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, for example. The biblical writers don’t seem especially interested in distinguishing between wonders that seem to break the usual rules of how things happen and those that don’t.

Many in Jesus’ audiences were not won over by His wonders. Most of the people in the crowds who ate the food He produced out of nowhere were quite happy to turn on Him when the religious authorities decided He was dangerous. We can only make sense of something unexpected, such as an answer to prayer for healing, in the context of a growing relationship with God.

The exciting task for a Christian is to explain what this interaction looks like, and to demonstrate what ‘your kingdom come’ looks like in our communities. God works through us in words, works *and* wonders.

© Parish Pump

Amen to all that

When my young daughter said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). Then, for several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, she began to add: "And all girls."

This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity finally got the best of me and one night I asked her what she meant by it. Her response was simple: "Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

© Parish Pump

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series.

Reflecting faith – to the Glory of God, part 2

Last month I wrote about the use of flowers to decorate the church during Advent and Christmas and how they reflected our faith and the time of year. Did you manage to see any of the three I mentioned: poinsettias, lilies or even irises?

They each have a 'meaning' which tells you part of the story of faith; the iris demonstrating light and hope by its very colourful face, while the lily symbolises Jesus' mother Mary, as well as the Easter resurrection, chastity, innocence, and purity.

The various parts of the poinsettia emphasise different aspects of Christmas. The shape of the flower and leaves resemble the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red coloured leaves represent the blood of Christ shed for the world. The white leaves represent His purity.

This month I wanted to think about 'creatures' in church.

I don't mean whether dogs should or shouldn't be allowed in the building or how to deal with an infestation of woodworm or bats - but rather how creatures are used to decorate the interior of church buildings, giving hidden symbolisms.

What animals, birds or insects have you noticed? You will often find them carved in stone or wood as well as within paintings and pictures. It's not that the craftsmen are wanting to include their pets, but rather each creature brings its own natural meaning.

Bees and their hives are a great example.

The bee is symbolic of tireless activity. It represents a good work ethic and being diligent at a task. Because the worker bees do not mate, they symbolize virginity and chastity. (Though I'm never sure how that relates to the queen bee!)

Because the bee appears to die in the winter and reappear in the early summer, it symbolizes rebirth. The bees' hard work is connected to the beehive, which symbolizes order. The bee represents the Christian and the beehive symbolizes the church.

This month

Have a look at the 'creatures' used in a church near you. What do they 'say'? What aspects of their way of being, speak to you of the glory of God?

© Parish Pump

When church bulletins don't get it quite right:

During the absence of our minister, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

More than one million people pray online with Church of England podcast and app

The number of people using the Church of England's Daily Prayer audio service has recently passed a million, as the podcasting revolution begins to reshape how people worship.

The podcast, also available as audio on the [Daily Prayer app](#), follows the Church of England's traditional cycle of Morning and Evening Prayer, with a range of voices and music.

The short atmospheric services feature prayers and readings following the pattern set out in the Church of England's Common Worship services, recorded by volunteers across the country.

They are edited together with music from the St Martin's Voices choir at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, by the Church of England's Digital team.

It was launched in March last year after churches across the country reported large numbers tuning into prayer services broadcast online during Covid restrictions.

It comes amid signs of a resurgence of interest in the ancient monastic cycle of daily worship.

Thomas Allain-Chapman, Head of Publishing for the Church of England, said: "Adding audio to the existing Daily Prayer app has transformed a useful resource into something truly inspiring and enriching."

So far, the Daily Prayer podcast has reached one million listeners, with around 8,000 listening every day. In total there have now been five million downloads since its launch in March 2020.

Daily Prayer is one of a series of prayer and discipleship apps and podcasts available from the Church of England, including 'Time to Pray', which won Gold for Best Use of Audio at the 2021 Digital Impact Awards.

Daily Prayer is the official app to help you follow Morning, Evening and Night Prayer, wherever you are.

For every day of the year, it presents the three services in full and include Bible readings (NRSV translation), psalms, canticles and seasonal variations.

It allows you to:

- Access Morning, Evening and Night Prayer for yesterday, today and a month ahead
- Listen to full audio of Morning and Evening Prayer (Contemporary Services)
- Switch between Contemporary and Traditional formats with one click
- Find details of Feast Days, Festivals and Commemorations from the Common Worship Calendar
- Read Bible passages in full (NRSV translation) without the need for a separate Bible app

The app is compatible with smartphones and tablets (iPhone/iPad iOS 9.0+ and Android 5.1.1+).



Junior InSpire

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis 12:1-9, 17:1-22, 18:1-15, 21:1-7

About 6000 years ago, God told Abram and his wife Sarai to leave their home and go to a new land that He would give them

This land will belong to your family, but not yet

But Sarai and I cannot have children

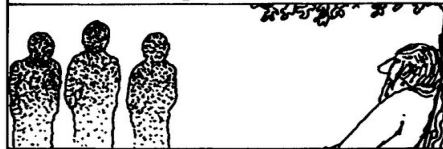
and I am changing your names to Abraham and Sarah

'Abraham' means 'Father of many'
'Sarah' means 'Princess'

You and Sarah will have a son, Isaac

We are too old to have children. Ha ha ha!

It was noon, and everyone was resting from the heat...



When Abraham saw three men coming to his tents.

He recognised the Lord



Please stay and have something to eat.

He ran to tell everyone



Quick, we need a feast cooked for special guests

Sarah was in the tent, listening

By this time next year, you will have a son



At our age? Ha ha ha!

Why did Sarah laugh?



I didn't laugh



Yes, you did.

Soon afterwards...



I'm pregnant!

Sarah and Abraham's baby boy was born



I'm so happy, I can't stop laughing

They called him 'Isaac' which means 'laughter'



Ha ha ha!

Ha ha ha!

HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS

***New 6th January: Gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus**

Epiphany is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world, 6th January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other, than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?

What do we make of these presents? Gold is for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense carries a feeling of worship about it: it was used in the temple worship and indicated access to the presence of God. Frankincense is thus for worship and incarnation.

The third gift, myrrh, finds its place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus' body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid. Thus, when the wise men visit the baby Jesus, the shadow of the cross already falls across the crib. But myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the third gift is about adoration as well as death. And Christ's death on the cross is for love of the Church, His bride.

As for the magi, they were not Jewish grandees, but foreign Gentiles. And so it was clear, from as early as the manger in Bethlehem, that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jews, but the Saviour of the whole world.

11th January: Mary Slessor of Calabar

Courage, vision and leadership are found in the most unlikely of places.

Mary Slessor was born in December 1848 into a wretchedly poor family. Her father was an alcoholic who lost his job as a shoemaker. Mary was the second of seven children, and in 1859 they moved from Aberdeen into the fetid slums of Dundee. Her father and mother worked in the mills, and Mary joined them there when she turned 11.

When Mary's father and both brothers died of pneumonia, Mary's mother struggled on to keep Mary and her two sisters alive. By the time Mary was 14 she was doing a 12-hour day as a jute maker.

But life was not all drudgery. Mary's mother was a devout Christian who read the family Bible to her daughters, and also the *Missionary Record*, a monthly publication from the United Presbyterian Church. The stories of the missionaries captivated Mary. When she heard that David Livingstone, the great missionary explorer, had died, she decided that she would follow in his footsteps. She wanted to devote her life to taking the gospel to Africa. She was 25.

In August 1876 the Presbyterians sent her out to Calabar, Nigeria, an area where no European had ever yet set foot. With her red hair and blue eyes, Mary grabbed attention wherever she went, but despite recurring illness and constant danger, Mary settled happily among the tribes. She learned their traditions, quickly becoming fluent in their language, Efik. Soon she won the confidence of their tribal leaders. She taught their children and was soon determined to put an end to some of their barbaric practises, such as the killing of twins (whom they thought were evil).

Over the years Mary put an end to many witchcraft practises, and she adopted every twin child she found abandoned. And she talked endlessly about Jesus Christ, the passion of her life.

Mary was tough – she made long trips through the jungles and took canoes up remote rivers. When her shoes gave out, she went barefoot. Her great passion was to go to 'the regions beyond' with the Gospel. She thrived in places and among people who would have terrified most women in her day.

It has been written of her: "Practically singlehanded she tamed and transformed three pagan communities in succession. It is a question if the career of any other woman missionary has been marked by so many strange adventures, daring feats, signal providences, and wonderful achievements." (Dr Robert H. Glover, *The Progress of World-Wide Missions*.)

Continued on page 25

When in 1901 Southern Nigeria became a British Protectorate, Mary was appointed the first ever female Magistrate in the British Empire. She became a skilful diplomatic emissary. She was known for saying: "It is not Mary Slessor, but God and our united prayers that have brought the blessings to Calabar. Christ shall have all the honour and glory for the multitudes saved."

When she finally died of fever in January 1915 the native Christian girls and women wept bitterly: "Our mother is dead. Everybody's mother has left us."

Mary Slessor once wrote to a friend who had long prayed for her: "I have always said that I have no idea how or why God has carried me over so many funny and hard places, and made these hordes of people submit to me, or why the Government should have given me the privilege of a Magistrate among them, except in answer to prayer made at home for me. It is all beyond my comprehension."

27th January: St Angela Merici, helping children in need

With international concern about the welfare of children, Angela is a good saint to remember. Not only did she herself survive a harsh childhood, but she went on to dedicate her own life to helping children in need.

Angela was born near Lake Garda, in Desenzano, where she was orphaned as a young child. The 1480s were hardly an easy time for orphaned girls, but somehow Angela survived to grow into her teens, when she became a Franciscan tertiary. However miserable her own childhood, Angela chose to let it work for good in her life: she decided to devote her own life to the education of poor girls. Girls! This was a time when most of the *men* were illiterate!

But Angela was an audacious woman, and she had only just begun. She and some close companions set to work in the name of Christ, seeking out the poor families in their community. Angela taught the young girls all that she could, and prayed with them, assuring them that even they were precious in the eyes of their Creator.

All of which left the Roman Catholic Church badly baffled. What should they do with religious sisters who had taken no vows, still wore their lay clothes, and who, instead of walling themselves up in some nunnery to lead an enclosed life, spent their days in a decidedly mobile, highly visible fashion – out and about in community support?

It wasn't until 1565, some 25 years AFTER Angela's death, that the Church decided it approved of such work. By then the Ursuline nuns, as they were by then called, were going from strength to strength. They still flourish today, with some 2400 Ursuline Sisters in 27 provinces on six continents. They have been well described as 'the oldest and most considerable teaching order of women in the RC Church.'

It took nearly 300 years, but in 1807 the Roman Catholic Church decided that Angela, unveiled, unenclosed and unsupervised as she had been, had been a saint after all – and 'made' her one.



...the good news is - I've found a way of heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!...

John Newton



Over the past few years there has been much debate about the relationship of the Church of England and its clergy with the slave trade. Revd John Newton is often quoted as being a slave trading priest. It is true he was, but his story is far more complicated than just that fact. There can be few families that lived through the 18th century that were not in some way linked to the slave trade.

John Newton was born in Wapping in 1725. His father was another John and a shipmaster in the Mediterranean. His mother, Elizabeth the daughter of a London instrument maker and a non conformist. It was her that educated John in Christianity until her death when John was almost seven from consumption (tuberculosis). By the age of eleven he was at sea with his father completing six voyages prior to his father retiring in 1742. His father wanted him to work at a sugarcane plantation in Jamaica, but he signed on with a merchant ship sailing to the Mediterranean Sea. It was at this time he met his future wife, Mary Catlett.

*How sweet the name of
Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows,
heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.*

Whilst on a visit to England in 1743 he was pressed into the Royal Navy and became a midshipman (trainee officer) aboard HMS Harwich. When he tried to desert, he was reduced to the rank of seaman and flogged 96 times. By all accounts he was a licentious and godless sailor. Having contemplated suicide and killing the Captain he managed to transfer to Pegasus which was a slave ship bound for West Africa selling goods and returning to the Caribbean and North America with slaves. Newton fell out with the crew of the Pegasus to such an extent that in 1745 he was left in West Africa with Amos Clowe, a slave dealer. Clowe gave him to his wife, Princess Peye of Sierra Leone and he was treated as a slave.

*Glorious things of you are
spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed you for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake your sure
repose?
With salvation's walls
surrounded,
you may smile at all your foes*

Early in 1748 he was rescued by a sea captain who had been asked by Newton's father to search for him, and returned to England on the merchant ship Greyhound. Newton's spiritual conversion began when he awoke during a storm off the coast of Ireland and was about to sink. He prayed and the storm began to abate. By 10 March 1748 he considered himself to be a Christian and he celebrated the anniversary for the rest of his life. He continued his work in the slave trade but gave up swearing, gambling and drinking. Later the same year he became First Mate aboard a slave ship bound for the West Indies via the coast of Guinea and by 1750 he was the Captain of slave ships. He only ceased when he suffered a stroke in 1754, but still continued to invest in the trade.

*Amazing grace (how sweet the
sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*

He had married Mary Catlett in 1750, and was appointed as a tax collector in Liverpool in 1755. At this time he studied Greek, Hebrew and Syriac and in 1764, after seven years of trying, he was ordained in the Church of England and took a position at Olney in Buckinghamshire. His stipend of £60 was supplemented with £200 by an and evangelical philanthropist merchant for hospitality and the poor. During his sixteen years there he became known for his pastoral care, as a friend of Dissenters, and preaching. In 1767, William Cowper, a poet, worshiped in Newton's church and collaborated with Newton to write a hymnbook 'Olney Hymns' in 1779. This includes 'Glorious Things of

There Are Spoken', 'How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds!', and 'Amazing Grace'. He encouraged a neighbouring priest, Thomas Scott, to become more evangelical and to co found the Church Mission Society. In 1779 he accepted his final appointment as Rector of St Mary Woolnoth, Lombard Street, London. He was one of the few evangelical priests in the city and soon became influential with like minded social figures such as William Wilberforce. He contributed to the work of the Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and he wrote a pamphlet, sent to every MP, 'Thoughts Upon the African Slave Trade' where he describes the trade as 'a stain on our national character' and the horrific conditions on the slave ships. He apologises for the late confession and says that he is humiliated by once being an active participant in the trade.

Newton's wife died in 1790 and he was awarded Doctor of Divinity by College of New Jersey in 1792. In later years he suffered poor health and failing eyesight dying in 1807. He was buried with his wife in St Mary Woolnorth prior to being moved to Olney in 1893.

Written by Stuart Cole

PRAYERS & POEMS

A Prayer for Wisdom to redeem the time

O Lord God of time and eternity, who makes us creatures of time, that when time is over, we may attain Your blessed eternity. With time, Your gift, give us also wisdom to redeem the time, so our day of grace is not lost, for our Lord Jesus' sake.

By Christina Rossetti

New Year

(Gal 3:29, Mt 28:20)

Jesus,
Heir of the promise,
Hope of the years,
You are here.

Help us Lord,
To know that You are *there*, too,
Before us
As You are behind us,
Already in the new moment,
The new day,
The new year.

Help us Lord
To delight in Your company,
To walk Your safe way,
To shine Your clear light
Of hope for the year.

By Daphne Kitching

A Dressing Prayer

Bless to me, O God, my body and my soul;
Bless to me, O God, belief, condition whole;
Bless to me, O God, my heart, my speaking too,
And bless to me, O God, the things
my hands do;
And, O God of virtues, thine own way be blest,
Till at the close of day I lie down to rest.

From an ancient Celtic prayer

As a new term approaches

A Prayer for Students

Grant, O Lord, to all students, to know what is worth knowing, to love what is worth loving, to praise what delights You most, to value what is precious in Your sight and to reject what is evil in Your eyes. Grant them true discernment to distinguish between different things. Above all, may they search out and do what is most pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By Thomas a Kempis

No Coming to God without Christ

Good and great God! How should I fear
To come to thee, if Christ not there!
Could I but think, He would not be
Present, to plead my cause for me;
To Hell I'd rather run, than I
Would see Thy face, and He not by.

By Robert Herrick 1591-1674



The New Year

He comes he goes, his times are set
The New Year now has shown his face
For time is here and will not wait
For dwellers all in time and space.

We sojourn here on this fair earth,
Just for a time so quickly gone
Our lives just like a vapour spent
As we await another dawn.

There is a day God has ordained
When we will reach a distant shore,
Eternity our new address
Where time will cease and be no more.

By Megan Carter

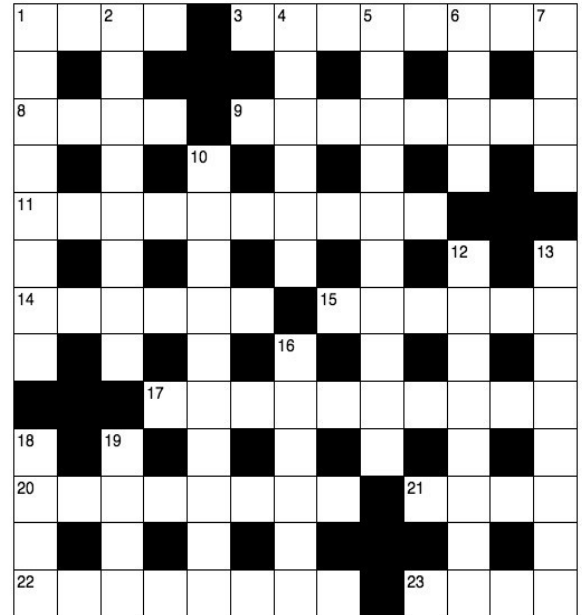
Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



Easy Soduko

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

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Medium Soduko

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

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The great North Sea Flood

by Tim Lenton

Seventy years ago, on 31st January 1953 and stretching overnight into 1st February, the worst North Sea flood on record took place. North-western Europe was hit by extensive flooding when severe gales combined with a spring tide and very low pressure.

Over 1,800 people were killed in the Netherlands, over 300 in Eastern England, and 28 in Belgium. More than 230 deaths occurred on ships and boats along Northern European coasts, as well as in deeper waters in the North Sea.

The semi-enclosed shape and shallowness of the North Sea was a major factor in the severity of the flood. The surge peaked at almost 11 feet (3.35 metres) above the average sea level. Sea defences in all countries affected were in poor condition because of the Second World War, and warning systems, -where they existed,- were far from adequate.

Land up to 18 feet above mean sea level was flooded, and because of the lack of warnings – it was a Saturday night, and government and emergency services were not necessarily staffed – many people died in their sleep without any knowledge of what was happening. Radio stations typically broadcast only during the day. Amateur radio operators set up a voluntary emergency radio network – in many areas providing the only contact with the outside world for days.

In England and Scotland nearly 1,000 miles of coastline was damaged, and flooding forced more than 30,000 people from their homes. Damage was estimated at £50 million — equivalent to more than £1.5 billion today.

Worried about a recurrence, the UK and the Netherlands strengthened their coastal defences in the wake of the flood. Notable examples were surge barriers on the Thames and Humber estuaries.

© Parish Pump

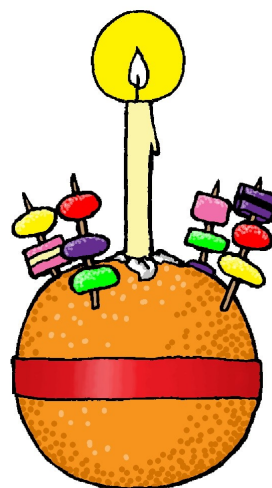
Sunday 29th January 2023 10.30am

St John the Baptist, Capel

Celebrating Candlemas with our annual **Christingle** service at 10.30 am.

The service will be followed with **Traidcraft** sales. 10% of takings go to our Parish churches in Capel & Ockley.

Hope to see you there!



Puzzle Solutions

Easy Soduko solution

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

Medium Soduko solution

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

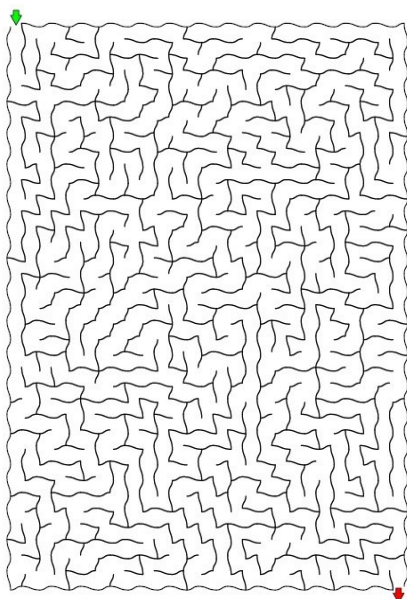
Crossword Solution

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

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

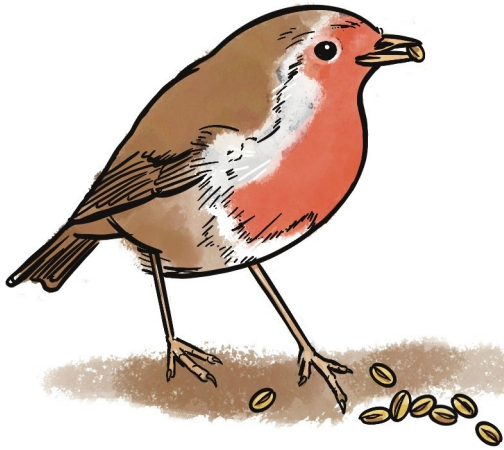
DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

Can you find your way around the maze?



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric

Answers to Biblical Cooking clues: 1 butter; 2 sugar; 3 honey; 4 eggs; 5 raisins; 6 figs; 7 almonds; 8 flour; 9 spices; 10 salt; 11 leaven may be taken as baking powder or as yeast; 12 milk



The following piece was sent out by Dineke with the weekly notes on Friday 30th December 2022. For anyone who does not receive the weekly sheets by email, you may enjoy the following! It was shared by Nick Ward.

The Robin

Long known as the 'robin redbreast' our familiar robin gave its name to the first postmen who wore red-jackets and became known as 'robins'. Some suggest this is the reason why robins appear on Christmas cards, but there is a link with Christmas

which pre-dates Victorian postmen.

Robins and Christmas

Legend has it that the robin's redbreast gives it a direct link to Christianity. One fable suggests that when the baby Jesus was in his manger in the stable, the fire which had been lit to keep him warm started to blaze up very strongly. A brown robin, noticing that Mary had been distracted by the inn-keeper's wife, placed himself between the fire and the face of baby Jesus. The robin fluffed out its feathers to protect the baby, but in so-doing its breast was scorched by the fire. This redness was then passed onto future generations of robins.

Other robin associations

Another story suggests that a robin pulled a thorn from the crown of Christ whilst he was on the cross and that it was Christ's blood that created the bird's red breast. The robin is one of three British birds which have red in their plumage and have an association with resurrection, the other two are the swallow and goldfinch. The robin is commemorated on Glasgow's coat of arms as 'the bird that never flew'. It is said that St Surf of Kinross was befriended by a robin and when he prayed the robin would come and sit on his head or shoulder. Some of his disciples became jealous of the attention given to the robin and killed the bird but one of his followers, Kentigern, who became St Mungo founder of Glasgow Cathedral in the sixth century, prayed over the bird and restored it to life.

We all know that as soon as we take a spade out of the potting shed we are likely to see a robin perched on the handle. The robin will be looking for earthworms and grubs where we dig but this habit has also lent the robin to a whole range of slightly sinister, funereal connections. In 'Babes in the Wood' we have two children who died from the cold:

*'No burial this pretty pair
From any man receives
Till robin redbreast piously
Covers them with leaves.'*

This type of association is probably the reason why a visit from a robin to a sick person might be said to foretell death. There are certainly many stories of relationships between robins and sick people, Wordsworth referred a great many times to the robin in his poetry and on one occasion, when his sister Dorothy was ill, he noted a robin which sang to her and fanned her face "in a manner most touching".

Our affection for the robin was cemented in 1960 when it was voted our national bird. Christmas robins will forever be commemorated on Christmas cards and I hope will always be a common sight in our gardens.



Christian Essentials – 9 characteristics of every follower of Jesus

By Ken Noakes, 10Publishing, £7.99

Saved by grace. Grounded in the Word. Faithful in prayer. Bold in witness. Resilient in suffering. Committed in membership. Loving in relationships. Godly in giving. Fruitful in service. Does this sound like you? Do you wish it did?

This book explores what it means to actively follow Jesus and “let your light shine before others”. It will help those who are exploring Christianity, encourage those who are new to Jesus, and grow every Christian who seeks to live according to what God desires rather than what the world values.

This is a discipleship manual, aiming to help those who engage with their world, joyfully embracing the privilege of growing as disciples of Christ.

Hope in the Face of Suffering – 20 devotions for Tough Times

By Jeremy Marshall, 10 Publishing, £3.99

The pandemic has made all of us wake up to the reality of suffering and death. Do we each have a philosophy of life that copes with death?

Thankfully Jeremy Marshall helps us get the roof on before the storm hits. As he has lived with an incurable cancer diagnosis for five years, so he has the credentials to walk us through the Bible's story of hope, which wonderfully assures us that for the believer, death is never the last thing.

New Celtic Monasticism for Everyday People

By Ray Simpson, Kevin Mayhew, £16.99

This book offers ancient roots for future routes.

Christendom is over. The expressions of Christianity many of us grew up with belong to a receding past. The great emergence of new monasticisms is the future, but aspirations alone are not enough.

This book sets out a practical way to embrace a rhythm of prayer, learning, earth-care, and healing, and tells the story of a small but worldwide, growing network of people who follow this way and find it life-giving. This revised edition includes resources and study material for individuals and groups, and invites them to join the Pilgrim Way.

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to Suzanne Cole editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk By 20th of each month please.
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