

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley

# Inspire



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24



Issue 76 September 2023

Free of charge - donations welcome in honesty box in wall





## Sign up for **Walk the Wey** – and help the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our diocese

**Sponsored walk 16th September 2023**

Following the successful Walk the (North Downs) Way sponsored walk two years ago, Bishop Andrew is inviting you and members of your congregation to join him once again for an enjoyable walk in the autumn sunshine. The last walk raised £4,300 for the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund, which provides funds for parish projects that help the disadvantaged and vulnerable across the Diocese of Guildford.

This year we are walking the Wey towpath with walks of varying length starting from West Byfleet, Send and Godalming – to find out more go to [www.bgcf.org.uk](http://www.bgcf.org.uk) and scroll down the page where you will find information about the routes, timing and how to sign up.

Bishop Andrew says: 'I'm really looking forward to a great day's walking on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, and would love any walkers from across the diocese to join us! The Bishop of Guildford Communities Fund has never been so necessary, at a time when the cost-of-living crisis is making life extremely hard for some of the poorest in our diocese, and many of our churches are reaching out to them with the love of Christ. It'll be good to highlight that work, and raise some money along the way, as we walk and talk together'.

To find out more about the work the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund supports view this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeiXx-NHsXo>



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*In thanksgiving of Creationtide  
1st September—4th October*

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."  
Creator God, you formed our universe from a shapeless void; You fashioned the planets and forged the stars; You established the seasons and determined life's rightful order "

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

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

This issue is sponsored by

*Suzanne & Stuart Cole*

*In celebration of their  
wedding anniversary*

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## Rev Liz writes

Dear Friends,

September and Autumn beckons once more. I always say this is a favourite time of year for me. Apart from the beautiful Autumn colours, I enjoy the changing of the seasons but I like that September is very much a season of new beginnings too. A new academic term begins and children and young people everywhere will be starting new schools, new classes or college for the first time. Our eldest granddaughter is starting secondary school this year which seems unbelievable! So lots of new things begin in the Autumn don't they and I am sure there is a lot going on in our community groups and organisations to encourage us all to do something new perhaps?

Talking of which... we are doing something new this Autumn in our churches. We are recognising properly for the first time ever, the season known as Creationtide. The season begins on September 1st, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4th, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. In order to assist our celebration of this season we are using resources from an annual ecumenical global movement to pray and act to protect our world. This global movement has a different creation theme each year and for this year, 2023, the theme is 'Let Justice and Peace Flow' for which you will see the logo below. The theme is based on the words of the prophet Amos who cried out to the people of his time 'let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream'. (Amos 5.24) So too we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to embrace climate and ecological justice. Our prayers must call out for justice not only for human beings but for all creation. I wonder if we ever think of justice for creation? A mighty river is chosen as well because it represents biodiversity at risk. The urgency of these matters is growing as we all know and we are called to make peace with the earth. I love that idea of making peace with our earth....



Anyway, challenging stuff, but in our own way we are going to reflect on these issues through different readings from scripture about creation throughout the month. We will be including a special Pet Service this month at Ockley plus we will be celebrating two Harvest Festivals as well! I'm hoping there will be some creativity to look at too! Another prophet Isaiah also said this. 'listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.' (Isaiah 43.19). Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could find a way forward to really help our planet and protect the future for our children and grandchildren? Do come and join us in our celebrations, help us bring in the harvest, pray blessings on our beloved animals or just come and let the river of justice and peace flow over you!

With my love and prayers as ever

*Liz*

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**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
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**CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley**

**SEPTEMBER**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>Creation Tide</b>	
	9.30am	Matins - Ockley	
	10.30am	Family Communion - Capel	
	3-5pm	<b>Ockley Church Teas - St Margaret's</b>	

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>Creation 2 (Trinity 14)</b>
	9.30am	Holy Communion CW - Ockley
	10.30am	Cafe Church at The Crown Capel

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>Creation 3 (Trinity 15)</b>
	9.30am	Parish Pet Service at Ockley Village Hall
	10.30am	Family Communion - Capel

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>Creation 4 (Trinity 16)</b>
	9.30am	Harvest Festival at Ockley
	10.30am	Family communion at Capel

**OCTOBER**

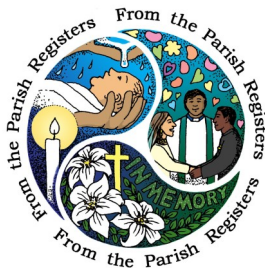
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Creation 5 and Celebration of St Francis of Assisi (Trinity 17)</b>
	9.30am	Matins at Ockley
	10.30am	Harvest Festival at Capel

**Please note there are no Church Teas at Capel during September**

Don't forget the Harvest Festival Supper and Play in aid of our Parish Churches  
**'Never Say Dy' at Ockley Village Hall on Friday 13th October**  
**and the Memorial Hall, Capel on Saturday 14th October**

Full details of how you can get your tickets and more are  
on the back page of this issue.

**Don't forget you can find details of all events & services on our website!**  
**<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/>**



## Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family of the Church

**Daisy Hana Heberd**  
6th August 2023

**Noviee Katie Hoskin**  
20th August 2023

## 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.



## Could you volunteer to help prisoners rebuild their lives this autumn?

Prison Fellowship has opportunities in many prisons across England and Wales for PF volunteers to help run its various programmes for prisoners, including the Sycamore Tree programme, supporting prison chaplaincy ministry, and delivering the Angel Tree project this Christmas, as well as much more.

If you would like to help Prison Fellowship reach out to people in prison, please go to:  
[www.prisonfellowship.org.uk](http://www.prisonfellowship.org.uk)

## 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](mailto: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:

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

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

*Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the choosing of Matthew*

### **Saint Matthew the tax collector**

*Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him. (Matthew 9:9).*

*This month we remember Matthew's call as one of Jesus' 12 apostles. It consisted of a simple invitation, 'Follow me', and an immediately response. The resulting meal at Matthew's house also helps us to understand the challenge of His call.*

#### **Jesus' welcome:**

*At the dinner many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples (10). Jesus welcomed each person unconditionally, in a way that most Jews would not! In the same way, Jesus welcomes us and shows us how we should welcome others. Our welcome cannot be conditional, expecting people to be like us or to behave as we expect.*

#### **Jesus' challenge:**

*When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' (11). The Pharisees were upset and avoided sinners, because they believed only the pure and untainted could have access to God. However, Jesus reminded them that they were witnessing God's love in action: 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill.' (12). When God is at work in the lives of those we don't expect, we need to let Him open our hearts to embrace and encourage what He is doing.*

#### **Jesus' compassion:**

*But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. (13). The Pharisees were so committed to keeping the law, that they had forgotten God's heart of compassion. Our religious practice is meaningless without love and mercy towards others. In what ways can we express love towards others, especially those outside the community of faith?*

### **God can use everything we give Him**

The story is told of a man in charge of building a great church, who was pestered by an apprentice who wanted to design the glass for one of the windows. Finally, he agreed that the apprentice should be given one very small window. BUT – the apprentice would have to provide all the materials himself.

Undaunted, the apprentice carefully swept up all the stray bits of coloured glass that had been discarded and set to work. Slowly, and with great care, he pieced together a window of rare beauty. When the church was finally opened, many people stopped to stare in wonder at his small, but so beautiful, iridescent window.

Our lives can be like that - no matter how small we may feel, or that we have only scraps to offer to God, He can still help us use every bit of time and energy and love we do have, to build a life that is beautiful, and which will reflect the glory of God to others.



# Café Church September 2023

## Happy Creationtide

Not all church traditions and festivals date back hundreds of years. We're all familiar with Easter, Harvest and Christmas which mark important dates in the church calendar but some "traditions" are more recent. Take Creationtide or The Season of Creation, for example. It only started in 1989 when the Eastern Orthodox church declared 1<sup>st</sup> September as a day of prayer for creation. In the few short years since then it has grown into a month-long season which seeks to bring a focus and awareness to the present ecological challenges that the world faces.

Now, there will be those who instantly say that the church should keep out of politics and the contentious issues surrounding climate change and global warming. "Leave it to the politicians and the leaders whose job it is to ensure the smooth running of everything in our world." Well, we can all see how well that's going! And anyway, it is the duty of *all* of us in the church to take an active role in society and politics. Nowhere in the bible does it suggest that Christians should not exercise a social conscience. Quite the reverse is true. We're told to take care of the widows and orphans, to be responsible stewards of all that we've been given and to care for the Earth. In Genesis, the first book of the bible, we read, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" giving a very clear idea of God's plan and our obligation to act accordingly.

But you may not believe in creation at all. You might consider yourself an "evolutionist". There is no God and therefore no supernatural intervention that produced all we see around us. Does this mean that you don't have to play your part in caring for the world? Absolutely not. One could almost argue that if there is no God and nothing "in charge" of the world then it's all the more important that we fill that gap and ensure the health and well-being of our planet. Either way, our actions (or inactions) will have a lasting effect on the world and our environment. So, the Season of Creation is for *all* of us of all faiths and none - which makes it a perfect opportunity for *all* of us to work together in a common cause. As the bible puts it, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers (people) dwell in unity!"

**Bob Cranham**

***Café Church meets at The Crown pub, Capel  
on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September  
at 10.30am.***

***Expect music, discussion, poetry, laughter and free coffee and croissants!***





# NEWS FROM THE BELFRY

## Funds Needed for Ockley Repairs

Bells are a traditional part of our heritage and St Margaret's of Ockley has a fine peal, reputed to be the oldest full set of 6 working bells in Surrey. The tower houses 6 bells, tuned from D to F, with a combined weight of 50cwt, or 2½tonnes; ranging from the smallest bell, 5cwt, known as the treble, to the heaviest, 13cwt, known as the tenor. A replica of the tenor bell was shipped to America in 1752, and is now called 'The Liberty Bell' because it was rung to proclaim the Declaration of Independence.

The bells were cast in 1701, by Richard Phelps, an acknowledged master craftsman of the time, who also fashioned 'Great Tom' in St Paul's Cathedral. In 1981 the original timber bellframe had deteriorated to a dangerous degree and a major fundraising effort was needed to meet the cost of restoration. A new steel frame was made and the bells were returned to the Whitechapel foundry. The treble was cracked and therefore needed to be recast and the other bells were retuned.

In the last article we told how the gudgeon on the treble (the one recast in 1981) had sheared off, dropping the bell into its frame, coming to rest on the wooden wheel and slider. The bell was made safe by hoisting it up, removing its fittings and resting it on wooden blocks awaiting repair to the headstock which holds the bell in place.

We have tried to carry on ringing in the meantime, particularly on Sundays but the practice nights have not gone ahead as often – it's hard work ringing the 'back 5' as they are all heavier than the treble, the 5 and 6 are each more than double its weight. Rings of bells are tuned to ring together so missing one out changes the overall effect, though being the first of the six has limited its impact. Also there is less variation in the order that the bells can ring. Changing the order of 4 bells instead of 5, leaving the tenor at the back, reduces the number of possible rows from 120 to just 24

There has been little progress on the repair of the headstock as the bellhangers all have long waiting lists but we still hope for completion by the end of September. The estimate of costs is over £2300, net of VAT, which we had thought to reduce by doing the installation ourselves, with help from local experts. However this would make it ineligible for a VAT grant and the estimate without fitting but including VAT is only slightly less so we have elected for the professionals!

Applications will be made to the Belfry Repair Funds available which should meet part of the cost and we have some funds in the tower bank account, accumulated from wedding fees and donations received but we will still be several hundreds pounds short. If you would be interested in making a donation to help with the work to restore this historic ring we would be very grateful for your support.

Donations should please be made to The Friends of St Margaret and can be gift aided if you are a tax payer.

Please contact Sue as below for more details or visit [www.totalgiving.co.uk/donate/the-friends-of-st-margarets-church-ockley](http://www.totalgiving.co.uk/donate/the-friends-of-st-margarets-church-ockley)

If you would like to find out more about our bells or how to ring, please come along and see for yourself. Practice nights at St. Margaret's, Ockley, are usually on Wednesdays from 7.45 to 9.15, but please check first.

**For more details call Sue on 01306 627168 or email [ockleybellringers@btinternet.com](mailto:ockleybellringers@btinternet.com)**

## Help more children get back to school this month

As our children return to school this month, World Vision has been reporting on its work in countries where more and more children will NOT be going to school this autumn.

Instead, the worldwide cost-of-living-crisis means that such children will either be **skipping meals to make ends meet, unable to go to school because of the fees**, 'sold' into early marriage, or sent to work as child labour.

World Vision is warning that: *"Forcibly displaced children are paying the price for the international community's failure ... new and protracted conflicts, disasters, and extreme weather, alongside the reverberating impacts of the pandemic and higher costs are driving the **shocking rise in hunger and malnutrition** seen in many parts of the world today."*

**And so it is that 85% of forcibly displaced families** are unable to afford enough food to meet their daily nutrition needs. **25% of families** are responding to increased financial pressures by keeping their children out of school, and **19% have sent their children to work**.

**Meanwhile, significant numbers of families** in Afghanistan and Niger (12% and 7% respectively) are using child marriage as a coping mechanism for decreased income.

If you can help World Vision to provide help for such children, go to: <https://www.worldvision.org.uk>

## Fear among Christians in Niger

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, the army in Niger announced a coup and removed the country's president, Mohamed Bazoum, from power. The West African country's borders were closed, a nationwide curfew imposed, and all government institutions were suspended.

General Abdourahmane Tchiani has since declared himself the new leader of Niger. This military takeover marks the ninth coup in the West and Central Africa region in the last decade.

"The country is in tension now," shares an Open Doors partner in Niger. "We are not sure how the current situation will affect the church in Niger, because we don't know how this new government feels about Western support, especially France.

"We also don't know whether this military junta will be friendly with the church, given that there are many Muslims within the army who have extremist views," they continued.

"If they are among this new junta, then persecution for the church may well be on the rise," explains the Open Doors partner. "There is great fear among Christians now, because nobody knows what is going to happen during these protests. They did something like this some years back, which ended up in burning churches and Christian properties, such as shops and houses. Therefore, there is a need for prayer regarding tomorrow's demonstration.

"Please pray for stability in the country, because there are a lot of rumours on social media. Also pray for the church in Niger, and let this new regime favour them."

## Remembering W H Auden

By Tim Lenton

Fifty years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1973, W H Auden, British-born American poet, died. He is widely – though not unanimously – regarded as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century.

Wystan Hugh Auden had been born in York and died in Vienna. In later years he had been splitting his time between Austria and New York, having become an American citizen in 1946 (though retaining his British citizenship). Having studied English at Christ Church, Oxford, he taught in British private schools, travelled to Iceland and China, and taught in American universities.

Auden's poetry is technically varied, ranging widely in style from haiku to villanelles and far beyond. Altogether, he published about 400 poems and a similar number of essays and reviews. He also collaborated on plays, notably with Christopher Isherwood, with whom he had a relationship for some years. His most famous poem is probably *Funeral Blues*, which is recited in its entirety in the comedy film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

His grandfathers were both Church of England clergymen, and he grew up in an Anglo-Catholic household that nurtured his love of music and language. Possibly of Icelandic descent, he loved Icelandic legends and Old Norse sagas. He returned to the Anglican Church after what he called a "vision of agape" in 1933, seeing Christianity as "the only mature way to understand human darkness and potential".

In 1935 he married Erika Mann, the lesbian daughter of novelist Thomas Mann, to protect her from the Nazis; the marriage lasted until her death in 1969, though they never lived together.

It was recently revealed that Auden was considered as a possible Poet Laureate in 1967 following the death of John Masefield, but was finally rejected because he had taken American citizenship.

© Parish Pump

### The importance in having a cause greater than yourself

A survey was conducted among people who lived to be more than 100 years old. What had kept them going so long? You'd have thought that they would recite their health diets, their miracle drugs, or their devotion to strenuous exercise. Instead, the one thing all these centenarians had in common was a purpose in life. They had had a good reason to get out of bed each morning.

St Paul writes: '*For me to live is Christ*' (Philippians 1:21). For Paul, that kept him going. He lived to exalt the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to share the Good News.

Sadly, too many of us are instead like the man who said; 'No matter what I'm working on, I'd rather be doing something else.'

A wise man once said: There are two most important days in your life. The day you were born, and the day you discover WHY you were born. God made you for a purpose. Have you discovered it yet? You haven't really lived until you know what it is.

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## **Church of England announces £13 million of grants to reach children, youth and families**

Awards of nearly £13 million have been made for dioceses to help churches reach more children, young people and families, from toddler groups to apprentice youth ministers. These come as the latest round of grants for mission from the Church of England.

The grants from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board of the Archbishops' Council aim to revitalise parishes and start new congregations.

The investments build on already successful projects to create new congregations and reach children and young people in areas including Bolton, Bournemouth, Guildford, Southampton and Wakefield.

In the Diocese of Guildford, £3.27 million has been awarded for the first phase of a nine-year project to reach young people of secondary school age. In the Diocese of Manchester, £2.77 million has been awarded to build on the Diocese's Children Changing Places project.

## **Children must not wait until 18 to learn about racial justice**

Nigel Genders, The Church of England's Chief Education Officer, has responded to recent reports around teaching resources for Racial Justice.

He said: "Contrary to the reports, there is no single approach to addressing racial justice in Church of England schools.

"Decisions on the best resources for different age groups and contexts are taken by each school with advice from their diocese. And we trust the judgement of our teachers and school leaders to do this."

However, he said, "in the face of polarised commentary, there is sadly a risk that schools could lose courage in their commitment to teaching racial justice at a time when it has never been more important.

"There is clear evidence that racism exists in our society; children and staff experience racism in schools and communities every day. This might take the form of direct incidents of racist abuse, harassment, and discrimination, or it can be manifested indirectly, in the form of prejudiced attitudes, a lack of acceptance of cultural diversity and ethnically discriminatory practices."

Nigel Genders went on to stress: "In Church of England schools we are committed to addressing the issue. Not by building up some people at the expense of others or by suggesting children are personally responsible for past injustices; rather we must face our past and by doing so build a more just society for all. This includes learning about the enduring impact of slavery and the reality of institutional and systemic racism."

## **General Synod backs regional wedding fees trial following debate**

The General Synod has recently backed a regional trial to offer Church of England weddings free of all statutory fees. The decision followed a debate brought by Blackburn Diocesan Synod.

The Archbishops' Council has been asked to report on the impact of the trial on the number of weddings conducted, the pastoral and missional contacts made, and charitable giving in connection with weddings. The report will also detail the projected parochial and diocesan finances as a result of the trial.

The Revd Dr Tom Woolford, presenting the Blackburn Diocese motion to the Synod, said the current system of waiving fees in the event of hardship 'patronises the poor' and 'robs the struggling' of their dignity.

Continued on page 13

He said: "What would certainly happen if we abolished statutory fees is that most couples would make a donation. We would still be getting an income from weddings but by way of a donation of what couples can afford, some would give a great deal while some would only be able to afford to give a little."

Supporting the Archdeacon's amendment to the motion, The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell added: "This seems to me to be the right thing to do. This is a chance for us to do something which I believe could be really good for us, good for our soul."

### **General Synod calls on Church and Government to move faster on climate emergency**

The Church of England's General Synod has recently called for renewed action from the Church and Government to tackle the impact and causes of climate change.

A motion brought by the Diocese of Oxford called on all parts of the Church to review policies and procedures in order to give due priority to creation care. It also asked the Government to review planning regulations to aid the installation of renewable technology on church buildings that are listed or in conservation areas.

It also commended the National Investment Bodies for their decisions to divest from fossil fuels, called for regular prayer, and encouraged the opportunity for confirmation candidates to make commitments to safeguard the integrity of creation.

Synod members also heard from National Advisors on Net Zero and Environmental Affairs, who said the recent approval of solar panels on the roof of King's College Cambridge could prompt acceptance of more renewable installations elsewhere.

The motion asked for national services, such as the Parish Buying scheme, to build capacity to put cost-effective utilities and supplies within the reach of all parishes.

Additionally, it asks Bishops and the Liturgical Commission to encourage Confirmation services to consider including an additional question, inviting candidates to commit to striving to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

### **Parish 'at very heart' of God's mission, General Synod hears**

The General Synod has recently backed the parish as key to the spreading of the message of the Christian faith, in a debate where the local church was described as 'at the very heart' of God's mission.

Members were told that the parish system is central to the Church of England's Vision for growth, in a debate led by Revd Canon Kate Wharton, from the Diocese of Liverpool.

"The parish system exists not so that we can be territorial and protective of 'our patch' and work only in our own silos, but so that we can ensure that every single soul in the land is held within a system in which they matter and can be known."

The General Synod members voted to welcome the Church's commitment to increasing the numbers of ordinands, as well as an increasing emphasis on lay ministry and the expansion of Licenced Lay Ministers.

"This isn't about survival, somehow bringing in enough people and enough cash to ensure we can keep going," Canon Wharton said. "Rather, this is about a community of believers coming together to dream dreams with God about what might be possible in His perfect plan for their future."

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## **The divine Gardener**

*by Lester Amann*

This is the time of year for many churches to hold their Harvest Festival services. No doubt, there will be displays of food, some grown in local gardens. While gardeners have pleasure growing fruit and vegetables, it can be hard work tending to them.

Jesus knew about the care given to vines. In John 15:1-8 Jesus compared Himself to a vine and referred to God as the gardener. In this parable, God is responsible for pruning the vine. He sees what parts are useful, and what parts useless. The unproductive parts are cut away, so that growth is encouraged. Jesus is telling us that God will prune our lives, not to harm us, but to encourage our spiritual growth.

God's pruning cuts away wrong attitudes and wasteful behaviour, all of which serve no useful purpose in our lives. This pruning is required so that we become more fruitful. And the fruit God wants is love, joy, patience etc. (see Galatians 5:22-23) These holy qualities are intended to influence the world to change it from the bad to all that is good.

To encourage its growth, a vine has regularly to be cut back. The effect looks drastic, but it is still essential. When God cuts away the dead wood in our lives, He does it because He knows how our lives can grow. The pruning knives are in the hands of our Father God who only desires the best for us. This pruning process can be painful, but Jesus says that it is vital if the Holy Spirit is to flow through us to produce the fruit that God wants.

Also in this parable, Jesus said He was the Vine, and we are the branches. We have no existence apart from Jesus. We can do nothing for God on our own and must be joined to Jesus. In the same way a vine utilises the life-giving sap to flow into the branches, so we need the Holy Spirit to flow His life into us. It is only by us remaining in Jesus, that He can give us the inner resources for an effective fruit-producing life.

Jesus said, '*Abide in Me*' (John 15:4 King James Version). Abiding speaks of sustenance, being upheld and supported, enduring and withstanding. So, if we are to reap a harvest of holiness, may we be prepared for God's pruning, and continue to abide in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

### **Feel the tug**

Have you ever wondered how you can be certain about who and what God really is? One Christian put it this way: "I'm reminded of the story of the little boy who was out flying a kite. The wind was brisk and large billowing clouds were blowing across the sky. The kite went up and up until it was entirely hidden by the clouds. Then a man came by and asked the little boy what he was doing, staring up at an empty sky. "I'm flying my kite," he replied.

The man replied: "What kite? How can you be sure it is still there? You can't see a thing."

The little boy agreed that he could see nothing, "but every little while I feel a tug, so I know for sure that it is still up there and is connected to me!"

When it comes to God, you don't need to take anyone else's word for it. You can find Him for yourself by inviting Jesus Christ into your life. Then you too will know, by the warm wonderful tug on your heartstrings, that though you can't see Him, He is up there, and that He lives in you. You are connected!

© Parish Pump



*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.*

## **How to fight back against artificial intelligence**

I've been writing Christian comment columns for newspapers and radio for more than 30 years – but I had a shock when I asked an artificial intelligence computer programme to write one for me.

The question that I posed was simple. Could an AI programme produce a column that would match up to one penned by a team of writers who regularly produce articles for a local newspaper in St Albans, my home city north of London? These are all people who know the area and have a living faith.

The answer? The AI fared pretty well and – worryingly – it produced several insights that could have been written by one of our experienced team.

My experiment with artificial intelligence gave me a glimpse of what AI can already do, with – looking ahead – the potential for 'systems with human-intelligence' to make radical changes to society, including taking away people's jobs and making 'fake news' much easier to invent and distribute.

Many people are worried. A group of technology leaders have called for a pause in development while we study AI's potential impact.

But what 'my' AI-generated article lacked – and, of course, it would – was a living faith that would inform its writing. For anyone who is a Christian communicator – from the pulpit, online, in print, via video or drama or in our personal lives – this is a vital lesson.

In an age when AI can generate sermons, write articles and design compelling graphics, those of us who seek to speak about the faith, and bring others to it, will need increasingly to 'bring ourselves' into our messages.

Like John the Baptist, we need to be pointing to Christ – always – but it'll become increasingly vital that we bring our own lived experiences, our testimonies, into how we communicate.

That's the challenge for all Christian communicators, and anyone seeking to share their faith. Words and arguments that could be drawn from a text-book or the web can easily be replicated by AI programmes.

Actions of love, and sharing our personal story will always be the most persuasive way of presenting Christ's gospel of sacrifice and love.

And AI – I pray – will never be able to match that authenticity and truth.

### **A grain of sand at a time**

This autumn, do you feel overwhelmed with all the things that you need to get done?

Then think of your life as an hourglass. There are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass; and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.

We are like that hourglass. When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks which we feel that we must accomplish that day. But if we do not take them one at a time, and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly, as do the grains of sand passing through the narrow neck of the hour glass, then we are bound to break our own fragile physical and mental structure. Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.

## ***Observations on our Christian faith***

They stand best who kneel most. - *Anon*

You are a Child of God. Please phone home! - *Anon*

Prayer moves the hand which moves the world. - *Anon*

What we know of God encourages us to trust Him in all we don't know. - *Anon*

Who can imagine by stretch of fancy the feelings of those who, having died in faith, wake up to enjoyment! - *John Henry Newman*

The Kingdom of God is simply God's power enthroned in our hearts. Faith in the Kingdom of God is what makes us light of heart and what Christian joy is all about. - *John Main*

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. - *Martin Luther King*

Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees. - *Victor Hugo*

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*Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series.*

## **Reflecting faith – pews and chairs**

Most of us think of pews as having been installed at the same time the church building was built, with occasional upgrades over time. But that's not the case.

Originally church floors consisted of little more than stone flags or beaten earth on which grasses or rushes were lain as a renewable winter covering for cleanliness and insulation. Each year, in late summer, the old and rotten rushes were cleared out and new ones taken to the churches in carts. There are still a number of English towns, in particular in the north of England, that celebrate 'Rushbearing' each year.

The people stood for all the services. However, it was recognised that the infirm and elderly needed support, and stone benches - often backless – were placed by the walls for them. It was not until the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s that wooden pews were introduced for everyone to be able to be seated.

Naturally, people being people, there were pews and then there were *pews!*

Society was organised in classes or hierarchies and the richer and more important folk had the best seats near the front so they could hear what the priest was saying and watch the service.

One's place to sit was arranged by your place in Society, so the poorer and least important were at the back.

Sermons alone could be lengthy; two hours was not unusual, and if you could pay for privacy to doze off and some form of personal heating for winters, then clearly that made sense.

*This month*

Have a look at the seating in a church near you. Are all the chairs or pews the same? Are some more elaborately decorated or larger? Is there a difference between the pews in the nave for the congregation and those for the choir and different again in the sanctuary? Does any of this reflect your faith?

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

I'm writing to you from our holiday cottage on Exmoor! We have been lucky enough to have a fortnight's break for the first time in a while and have filled it with walking many miles on the Moor and surrounds! If anything shouts 'The Glory of Creation' then it's places like Exmoor, one of our glorious National Parks. We are being treated to the wonderful sight of the heathers out, together with the bright yellow flowers of Gorse everywhere. It truly is a sight to behold, together with the Exmoor ponies roaming free and all the cattle and herds of sheep grazing at the side of the road ... sometimes actually on the road!

How lucky many of us are to have the opportunity to have a change of scene, whether it be in our own country or the chance to discover different cultures abroad. It definitely gives us rest, recuperation and a chance to savour new things such as religions, customs and food. There's not a lot I can say about learning new cultures etc on Exmoor, but I can certainly recommend the local pasties and cream teas!

There are all the usual articles in this issue, including the latest news, the continuing 'Reflecting Faith' series, Book Reviews and puzzles. Rev Liz writes on page 4 about '*how we are doing something new this Autumn in our churches. We are recognising properly for the first time ever, the season known as Creationtide. The season begins on September 1st, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4th*'. We will be celebrating Harvest Festival at both churches - Sunday 24th at St Margaret's, Ockley and Sunday 1st October at St John the Baptist, Capel. (See page 5 for Services and Events). Don't forget there will be the annual harvest supper and play in aid of our churches on Friday 13th October at Ockley Village Hall and Saturday 14th October at the Memorial Hall in Capel. Please see the poster on the back of this issue for further details.

There is also a Pet Service at Capel on Sunday 17th September. There is a poster on page 31. As always, we have so much going on and people working hard to raise money for our Parish churches. Sunday 17th September is also 'Come back to Church Sunday'! Do see the amusing poster on page 21! But here are just some of the suggestions of how we might get people back into church ....!

### ***Come back to church!***

*To encourage you to attend, how about if we offered:*

*Beds - for those who say Sunday is their day to sleep-in.*

*Safety helmets – for anyone who fears the roof would fall in if they entered a church door.*

*Blankets and hot water bottles – for those who find our church too cold.*

*Fans and ice cream - for those who find our church too hot.*

There will be no teas in September as our hard working friend Joy will be taking a well-earned break! We wish her a lovely, relaxing time and take this opportunity to thank her for all the Teas she has done over the last 30 years since they started! All of which would never have happened without Joy!

Finally, Stuart and I are sponsoring this issue in celebration of our 33rd wedding anniversary. It also marks 33 years of happily living in Capel! We've seen some changes, mainly to our own house! But thank you to everyone who has made us welcome and become our friends over the years—many through worshipping at St. John's! Here's to the next 33 years!

With my best wishes,

***Suzanne***

editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk



## **If biblical headlines were written by today's modern media...**

*On Red Sea crossing:*

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOUR STRIKE  
Pursuing Environmentalists Killed

*On David vs. Goliath:*

HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED CHAMPION  
Psychologist Questions Influence of Rock

*On Elijah on Mt. Carmel:*

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY  
400 Killed

*On the birth of Christ:*

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS  
Animal Rights Activists Enraged by Insensitive Couple

*On feeding the 5,000:*

ITINERANT PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH  
Disciples Mystified Over Behaviour

*On healing the 10 lepers:*

LOCAL DOCTOR'S PRACTICE RUINED  
"Faith Healer" Causes Bankruptcy

*On healing of the Gadarene demoniac:*

MADMAN'S FRIEND CAUSES STAMPEDE  
Local Farmer's Investment Lost

*On raising Lazarus from the dead:*

FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER RAISES A STINK  
Reading of Will Must Now Be Delayed

© Parish Pump

### **In common**

I was the supply teacher for a class that was learning about groups. In one exercise, pupils were asked to label a group of items according to their common characteristics. Pictured were onion rings, doughnuts, and party biscuits. The correct answer would have been that all the items have holes in the centre.

But one health-conscious boy pointed out: "All of those things contain far too much cholesterol."

# PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

## Prayer of thanks for teachers

Dear Father,

Thank you for teachers. Thank you for their gifts of knowledge and communication. Please give them patience and understanding in their work and most of all the wisdom to listen to you and to be directed by your Kingdom values. Thank you for Jesus – the best teacher of all. Help us all to learn from Him that greatest of all lessons, that you are the living God, His Father and ours, and that you love us and want us to know you.

Father, as we pray and trust in the name of Jesus, our teacher and Lord, may that close knowledge of you become our reality. Amen.

© Parish Pump

## Prayer for September 2023

Dear Father in heaven,

September is a time of change, a change of season, changes in many areas of our lives as a new term begins and new opportunities present themselves. It can be a time of challenge and uncertainty for many of us as well as excitement.

Thank you Lord, that You never change, Your promises never change, Your Holy-Spirit inspired Word never changes. You are constant and rock-solid, always.

Help us to remember that You make all things new when we put our trust in Jesus, You give us new life and new ways of understanding, but help us also to remember that You never contradict Your revealed self. Help us always to check out our thinking with what You say in Your Word. Help us to be faithful to You as we take each step forward, each new day.

In Jesus name, Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Dear Lord,

We give thanks for those who have been married recently **David & Amy Capsey** and those who have been baptised in our church recently: **Daisy Hana Hebbard** and **Noviee Katie Hoskin**. We wish them all God's blessing on their lives ahead.

We remember those who ask for our prayers: **Jennifer, Sally, Nicky, Simon, Eddie, Gia, Charlie, Mark, Betty, Peter, Tessa, Judy, Doreen, Dan, Bill, Claire and Sandy**, together with any others who are known to us.

We remember those who have gone before us and those whose anniversaries fall at this time. We remember those who grieve. *'Cover them with your great wings of love, give their weary hearts rest and their minds sound sleep. Lord, lift their eyes so that they may catch a glimpse of eternity, and be comforted by the promise of heaven. We ask all this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen'*

We bring all the above prayers to you Lord in the name of Christ.

Amen

## The Secret of Living

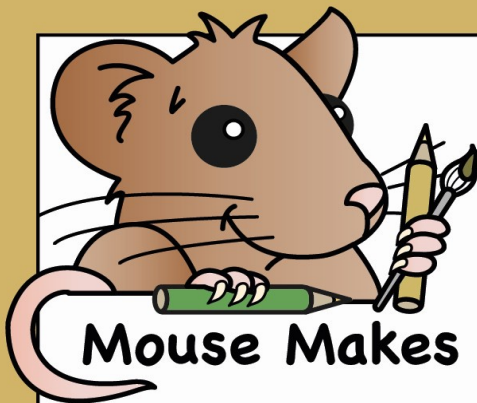
The secret of living  
Is learning to pray –  
It's asking our Father  
For strength for the day!

It's trusting completely  
That His boundless grace  
Will overcome care  
And each problem we face!

It's walking by Faith  
Every mile that we plod  
And knowing our prayers  
Bring us closer to God.

Anon

# Junior InSpire

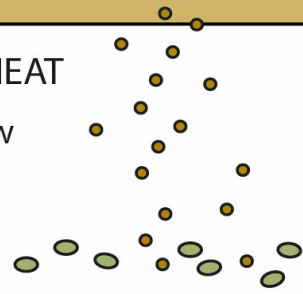


## Mouse Makes

### THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow amongst the wheat?

\_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 13:25*



#### READ

the parable in

**Matthew 13 v24-30, and v36-43**

At harvest time the weeds are gathered, bundled then

\_\_\_\_\_ but the wheat is stored

in the \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 13:30*

Who sows the good seed?

\_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 13:37*

What does the field represent?

the \_\_\_\_\_

and who is the good seed?

The people of the \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 13:38*

Who sows the weeds?

The \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the harvesters?

The \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 13:39*

"He who has ears, let him \_\_\_\_\_"

*Matthew 13:43*



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

PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN

GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE

PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

Find the words from the questions too!



# Come back to Church Sunday!

17th September 2023

## Come back to church!

*To encourage you to attend, how about if we offered:*

Beds - for those who say Sunday is their day to sleep-in.

Safety helmets – for anyone who fears the roof would fall in if they entered a church door.

Blankets and hot water bottles – for those who find our church too cold.

Fans and ice cream - for those who find our church too hot.

Cushions - for anyone who find our seats too hard.

Bicycles – for those who exercise on Sunday mornings.

Hearing aids - for those who find the minister speaks too softly.

Cotton wool - for those who find the minister speaks too loudly.

Score cards - for all who want to rate the hymns/sermons/coffee.

Ready-meals - for anyone who can't come because they have to cook Sunday lunch.

Some flowers - for those who prefer to seek God in nature.

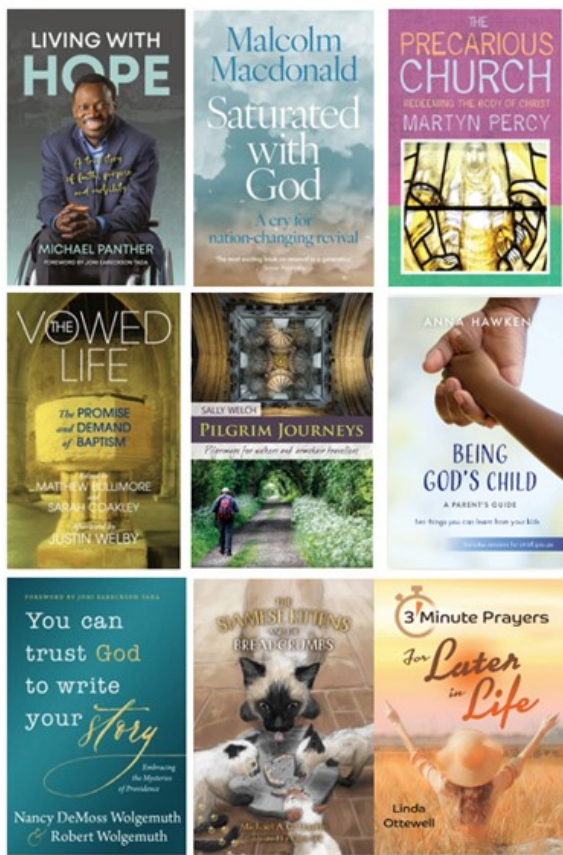
Christmas poinsettias and Easter palms - for all those who have never seen the church without them.

See you Sunday!!



# BOOK REVIEWS

by Parish Pump



## **Saturated with God – a cry for nation-changing revival** By Malcolm Macdonald, SPCK, £12.99

Do you feel weary, tired, dry? Do you feel in need of spiritual refreshment? It's time for us to become a people saturated by God.

Many of us believe revival is possible, but sometimes it feels so far away - we hear of astonishing accounts from across the world or read about remarkable stories in the pages of our history books. This is a book for those thirsting to see revival bubble up in our post-pandemic time and place today.

Exploring the profound images of water in scripture, from baptism to an 'outpouring' of the Holy Spirit, *Saturated With God* paints a compelling vision of what the Church can be today - shining with the love and power of God - and stirs up the call on every Christian to more closely follow Jesus today.

Together, these perceptive reflections offer a theological and pastoral resource for activating the laity's sense of divine call and response, whatever their mode of life.

## **The Precarious Church – redeeming the Body of Christ**

By Martyn Percy, Canterbury Press, £19.99

What is the biggest threat facing churches today? Not enough young people? Too little mission and evangelism? Unsustainable buildings? Unappealing styles of worship? Not enough diversity?

Whatever the reasons, the church today seems to exist in a state of anxiety, concerned with its self-preservation. In this bold and hopeful book, Martyn Percy argues that being a broken church is in fact good news, as it is only through the cracks that the overwhelming abundance of God can shine through.

This collection of essays and reflections considers what it means to be a precarious church. The term suggests uncertainty and peril, yet it is rooted in the Latin *precatio*, meaning prayer. It argues that the Church's vocation is not to be successful or even to survive but to be precarious, liminal, unpredictable and mysterious - a place of encounter with the holy.

The questions that should consume us are not, "how shall we remove the risks and alleviate our anxieties?", but rather "how shall we live in this age of uncertainty?" Every age has had its uncertainties and this inspiring volume explores what faithfulness to each other and to God looks like in an age of anxiety.

## **Living with Hope – a true story of faith, purpose and mobility** By Michael Panther, 10Publishing, £9.99

Born into the Dinka Bor tribe in war-torn South Sudan, Michael was ten years old when he began to lose movement in his legs. He and his family soon realised that any hospital that could help him would take months to walk to—and walking was no longer an option for Michael.

God reached into this seemingly hopeless situation and took Michael on both a spiritual and physical journey of incredible grace. Michael's adventures in Kenya and the USA eventually led to the formation of a widespread ministry that provides resourcing and training to people with disabilities in Africa.

*Living with Hope* is a testament to God's purpose and plan for every life and of the hope to be found anchored in a relationship with Jesus and rooted in His sovereign goodness.

**You Can Trust God to Write Your Story – embracing the mysteries of Providence**  
By Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth and Robert Wolgemuth, 10Publishing, £10.99

Our children beg us for stories at bedtime or while we drive; we gather around firepits and dinner tables to tell and retell our favourite tales—the more dramatic the better. But when it comes to our actual lives, we prefer something less sensational, even boring—sunny skies and smooth sailing, please and thank you. We want our own stories to be predictable, safe, controllable, and catastrophe-free.

When plans fall apart, jobs are lost, kids wander off, doctors give bad reports, we often wonder, "What are you doing, God? Are you sure You have this under control? It doesn't really seem like it right now."

God is the master Storyteller. He's writing your story and it's a part of His bigger, grander, eternal Story. But we're still in the middle. We haven't got to the happy ending yet, and it can be hard to trust Him in the thick of our struggles. That's why Robert and Nancy share their own story, friends' stories, and the stories of people in the Bible who have faced life-altering challenges, but, in the end, have found God to be faithful. Learn why you really can trust God to write your story—no matter what plot twists you may encounter along the way.

**The Vowed Life – the promise and demand of baptism**  
By Matthew Bullimore and Sarah Coakley, Canterbury Press, £19.99

This landmark volume from an influential group of Anglican theologians and practitioners explores a phenomenon that is bubbling up in today's church: the renewal of vowed religious life in both traditional and emerging forms.

Justin Welby describes this movement as essential to the renewal of the entire church, and Rowan Williams argues that it is vital for the health of the nation.

The Vowed Life asks why such a movement is taking place now and considers its prophetic dimensions and the gifts it brings to the wider church, including the strengthening of parish life.

It explores the theological, sacramental, communal and missional nature of vows, including vows of marriage and ordination and the particular vows of baptism under which all Christians live.

It includes an historical account of Anglican religious life by Peta Dunstan, reflections on new monasticism by Ben Edson and an afterword by Justin Welby.

**Pilgrim Journeys: pilgrimage for walkers and armchair travellers**  
By Sally Welch, BRF, £7.99

Why do pilgrims walk so much? What do they learn? What lasting good does it do?

In *Pilgrim Journeys*, experienced pilgrim and writer Sally Welch explores the less-travelled pilgrim routes of the UK and beyond, through the eyes of the pilgrims who walk them.


Each chapter explores a different aspect of pilgrimage, offering reflections and indicating some of the spiritual lessons to be learned that may be practised at home. This absorbing book shows how insights gained on the journey can be incorporated into the spiritual life of every day, bringing new ways of relationship with God and with our fellow Christians, offering support and encouragement as we face the joys and challenges of life.

**3 Minute Prayer for Later in Life**  
By various authors, Kevin Mayhew, £6.99

These are searching, uplifting and encouraging prayers, each with an accompanying Bible reference; an honest expression of daily faith and life, addressing insecurity, fears for the future, retirement, health, changing role and status.

They speak of a surprising God who hasn't finished with us because of a few grey hairs and wrinkles. There's no retirement home with God, simply different plans and new ways of being, always plenty in store. Abundant living certainly doesn't grind to a halt in later years and 'on the scrapheap' will never feature in God's vocabulary.

So, dismiss the notion that it's all downhill from here. We are all beautiful in God's sight, accepted, loved totally and unconditionally, and He delights in us.



Do you have a Book recommendation you could share with the readers of InSpire? If so please send it to:

[editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk)

Thank you!

*Editor: Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of Christian art. You can see the image described by googling 'Vase of Flowers' by Jan Davidsz de Heem.*

## **'He gave us eyes to see them': Flowers – the beauty of the Lord**

In this month of September, we give thanks for God's blessings in all that the earth yields us. Those blessings are focused in this wonderful painting of Jan Davidsz de Heem. He was born in Utrecht in Holland in 1606 and studied art under his father's guidance. De Heem then moved to Antwerp, where for the rest of his life he created paintings of such beauty and depth that one of them – a portrait of Prince William III surrounded by blossoms and fruits - received the highest price ever paid for a painting at that time.

In the 'Vase of Flowers' de Heem has gathered together a bouquet of variegated flowers and plants for our delight. Time stands still in his painting in two ways. First, these thirty-one blooms could never have flowered at the same time, but through the magical touch of the artist, they do for us. Caught on canvas, they are as fresh and vibrant as the day they were painted in 1645.

But there are signs that the gifts of nature do wither and die, as we look closely and see on the marble slab a snail. Nearby is a salamander eyeing his next meal as a spider hangs on a thread from one of the flowers. In the centre, another snail looks at his food, the beautiful and rare red and white tulips. Yet we look again and see also signs of new life: the reeds of wheat are symbols of the Eucharistic bread; the caterpillar and butterfly on the striking white poppy at the top are signs of resurrection; and the peas in their pod and the blackberries mark out the fruitfulness of creation.



The artist shows us a glorious range of flowers - some well-known, others more exotic and brought back to Holland through the colonial expansion of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Tulips and poppies dominate, but to the left are some small-scented roses. Each is a testimony to the beauty and goodness of the world we live in.

A 100 years later, Christopher Smart wrote in 'Jubilate Agno': 'For the flowers are great blessings...for the flower glorifies God...for the flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.'

And 200 years later Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote: 'I do not think I have ever seen anything more beautiful than the bluebell I have been looking at. I know the beauty of our Lord by it.'

And we, in our own century, can echo poet and painter as we praise God, the author of such flowers and plants that make up a world of 'all things bright and beautiful.'

Photo courtesy: National Gallery of Art  
<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.46097.html>



## 25 years of Google

*By Tim Lenton*

It was 25 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1998, that Google, the internet search company, was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, both students at Stanford University in California.

The company was originally based in a friend's garage at nearby Menlo Park.

It began in January 1996 as a simple research project which employed links to decide the importance of individual pages on the world wide web. The two students – both Jewish – worked from their college rooms and called the search engine BackRub, a name fairly rapidly abandoned. Google is a slight misspelling (or reinvention) of the word googol, which is the mathematical term for a 1 followed by 100 zeros.

This turned out to be quite appropriate, given the amount of information involved. Google is now the world's most used search engine by far, leaving such "competitors" as DuckDuckGo, Bing and Yahoo! floundering distantly in its wake.

Google Inc was born officially in late summer 1998 when Sun co-founder Andy Bechtolsheim wrote Page and Brin a cheque for £100,000. There was a third founder, Scott Hassan, who wrote much of the original code, but he left before Google was officially founded as a company. Today, however, he is described as a serial entrepreneur with a net worth of around a billion dollars.

Being a huge company, Google has plenty of critics, but its code of conduct, stated in 2004, was "Don't be evil" because "we believe strongly that in the long term, we will be better served – as shareholders and in all other ways – by a company that does good things for the world, even if we forgo some short-term gains".

### **Remembering the genius of JRR Tolkien** *By Tim Lenton*

Fifty years ago, on 2nd September 1973, JRR Tolkien, the fantasy writer, poet, scholar and educator, died. He was best known for his novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Born in Bloemfontein and descended from a family that originated in an area that was then East Prussian and is now Russian, Tolkien – always known as Ronald – thought of himself as unmistakably English. He was brought up in the Birmingham area after the death of his father, who had stayed in South Africa while his wife and children visited England.

Ronald's mother then died when he was 12, and he was raised by aunts, uncles and a guardian who was a Roman Catholic priest, Father Francis. Tolkien later became a devoted Catholic and insisted that his fiancée, Edith Bratt, join him in that faith. She did so, reluctantly, and they had a long and extremely happy marriage. His beliefs were a significant factor in C S Lewis's conversion to Christianity.

Tolkien had a longstanding fascination with language and became an acknowledged expert in both linguistics and mythology, which led to his writing his two most famous works – and several others. Despite assumptions by some, none were intended as children's books, and *The Lord of the Rings* was never a trilogy – it was printed in three volumes for cost reasons.

The huge success of his writing led to unexpected fame. He and his wife eventually moved to Bournemouth and lived there until she died in 1971. He was then given rooms in Merton College, Oxford. He said in an interview shortly before his death: "A pen is to me as a beak is to a hen."

Since 2003, The Tolkien Society has organised Tolkien Reading Day, which takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> March in schools around the world.

© Parish Pump



THE AMBER FOUNDATION

# *Culture Festival*

**In celebration with Mole Valley's Arts Alive!**

Thursday 5th October, 10am-12noon  
Farm Place, Stane Street, Ockley RH5 5NG  
RSVP [louise.cheung@amberweb.org](mailto:louise.cheung@amberweb.org)

[WWW.AMBERWEB.ORG](http://WWW.AMBERWEB.ORG)

**September brings a return to work and school. With this in mind...**

Arouse yourself, gird your loins, put aside idleness, grasp the nettle, and do some hard work. - *St Bernard of Clairvaux*

O Lord, let us not live to be useless, for Christ's sake. - *John Wesley*

Only the educated are free. - *Epictetus*

The things taught in colleges and schools are not an education, but the means of education. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**September also brings Back to Church Sunday, on 17th September:**

The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in the which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments be duly ministered. - *Book of Common Prayer*

I am afraid that he has not been in the inside of a church for many years; but he never passes a church without pulling off his hat. This shews that he has good principles. - *Samuel Johnson*

Kneeling ne'er spoil'd silk stockings; quit thy state; All are equal within the Church's gate. - *George Herbert*

The church is the only society in the world that never loses any of its members, even by death. - *Anon*

Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence, and learning. - *Anon*

## Weather by app?

Do you watch the weather via an app? It seems millions of us do, as we try to outguess what the British weather is going to do next.

There are thousands of weather apps out there, and it seems that you can find one that will predict almost anything you want. But if you want reliability, you could do worse than choose the Met Office app.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has recently named the Met Office as the world's best public sector-provided app for usefulness, reliability and information quality. As its website says, "92.5 per cent of the Met Office's next day temperature forecasts are accurate within two degrees Celsius." As the UK's official weather service, it is also responsible for weather warnings, and sends them directly to users as push notifications.

Or you might try The Weather Channel app. Some industry analysts say that the US-based Weather Channel is the world's most accurate forecaster. Using data from IBM, the Weather Channel offers a main app with hurricane, lightning and wildfire tracker capabilities on top of all the usual functions, as well as a separate Storm Radar app.

Puzzle Solutions and this month's maze on page 30

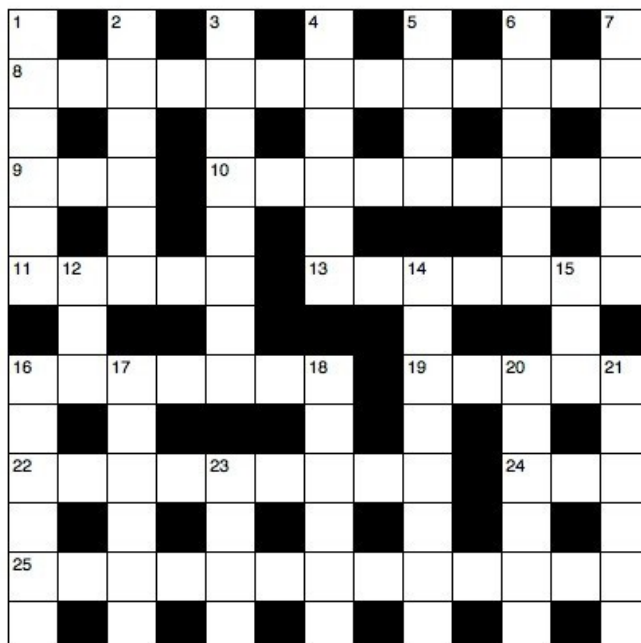
## CROSSWORD CLUES

### Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14-17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

### Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)



# WORD SEARCH

For some reason, the Church gives thanks for angels in September. The 29<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of Michael and All Angels. Since the days of Genesis, these messengers of God have been sent many times to intervene for the good in human affairs. Angels guarded the Garden of Eden, they led Lot away from Gomorrah, they helped Gideon, they stopped Balaam, they closed the mouths of lions for Daniel, and, most important, the archangel Gabriel was sent to tell Mary that she would mother the Messiah. Angels sat in the empty tomb of Jesus, and told of His Resurrection. Revelation is teaming with angels, sent on all sorts of missions by God in the last times. Today, many Christians in the world's hot spots report having had angels help them when in mortal danger.



Thanks  
Angels  
Church  
Feast  
Michael

All  
Genesis  
Messengers  
God  
Sent

Intervene  
Garden  
Eden  
Lot  
Gideon

Balaam  
Mouths  
Lions  
Daniel  
Archangel

Gabriel  
Mary  
Mother  
Teaming  
Revelation

Danger

Easy Soduko

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

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Medium Soduko

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



# Puzzle Solutions

## Easy Soduko solution

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

## Medium Soduko solution

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

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

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

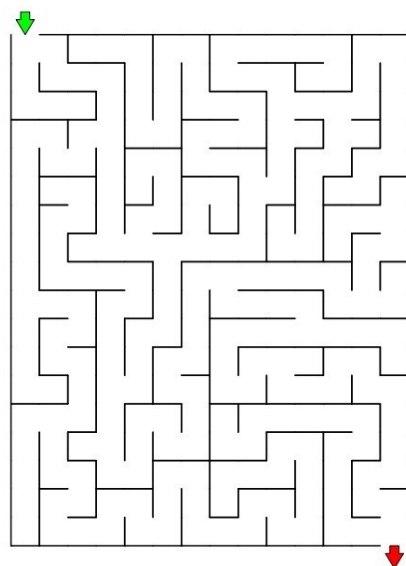
**ACROSS:** 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

**DOWN:** 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.



"Er... vicar – does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

## Maze



Parish of Capel and Ockley

Creationtide  
**Pet Service**

A Service of thanksgiving and blessing for all  
creatures great and small...

horses and donkeys very welcome!



# Ockley Village Hall

Sunday 17th September 9.30 am

**ALL WELCOME - BRING YOUR PETS**

**If necessary - suitably restrained or caged!!**

St John's & St Margaret's Harvest Supper

# NEVER SAY DY

by Mo Speller

A murder mystery to be solved by the audience  
plus a two course supper  
in aid of the combined parish of Capel and Ockley

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October in Ockley Village Hall**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October in Capel Memorial Hall**

Doors open at 7pm for curtain up at 7.30pm

## Tickets

Adults £14

Children £7

Family £35



## Box Office Capel

Corinne Jay

07718 346294

[Capeditor@gmail.com](mailto:Capeditor@gmail.com)

## Box Office Ockley

Helen Burt

07990 597553

Make a group booking with your friends to ensure that you sit together and form a team with the other people on your table

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Scripts for Stage

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to Suzanne Cole [editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk) By 20th of each month please. If you would like to receive *InSpire* by email, you can subscribe to InSpire via the church website:- [.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine](http://capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine)