

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley

# Inspire



**Issue 78 November 2023**

**Free of charge - donations welcome in honesty box in wall**





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# CAPEL CHRISTMAS FAIR 2023

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2023 12.00 - 4.00 pm

at Capel's Parish & Memorial Halls, 55 The Street,  
Capel, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5LD

[www.capelchristmasfair.co.uk](http://www.capelchristmasfair.co.uk)



A charity Fair raising funds for Capel & Ockley Parish churches and  
The Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA).

Join us on Saturday 18th November 2023 12 noon until 4pm  
at Capel's Parish & Memorial Halls, 55 The Street, Capel, Dorking,  
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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.  
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## Issue 78 November 2023

### Contents:-

- 4 Rev Liz's letter
- 5 Services & Events for November
- 6 News from the Pews
- 7 The Two Minutes Silence
- 8 Café Church
- 9 News from the Belfry
- 10 Article by Archbishop Welby
- 11 Spiritual Disciplines: Generosity
- 12 A new kind of Remembrance Poppy
- 13 The Bible Society: Eyes on Jesus in Gaza
- 14 News
- 16 Miscellaneous thoughts on our Christian life  
Reflecting Faith: Remembering our Loved ones
- 17 Prayer, Prose & Poems
- 18 How to deal with enemies  
Concern over provision of RE in schools
- 19 Letter from the Editor
- 20 Book Reviews
- 21 High Days & Holy days:  
November: 3rd November  
3rd November: Richard Hooker  
– priest, apologist, teacher
- 22 Junior InSpire
- 24 Be a Barnabas - encourage one another
- 25 Just War by Stuart Cole
- 26 God in the Sciences
- 27 High Days & Holy Days: 1st  
November: All Saints Day
- 28 Puzzle pages
- 30 Puzzle solutions
- 31 &
- 32 Christmas cards available

### Be a stained-glass window

People are like stained glass windows. We glow and sparkle when it is sunny and bright outside. But it is only when the sun goes down that our true beauty is revealed – and then only if there is a light deep within us – the light of God.

### 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

Liz & Tim Wombwell

In memory of Pat Wombwell whose  
birthday was 5th November

Thank you both for your sponsorship

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## Rev Liz writes

Dear Friends,

Everything seems to pale into significance doesn't it when we consider the terrible events that have unfolded in Israel and Gaza in recent weeks. War is always a terrible thing but there has been a particularly horrible brutality which threatens to destabilise the whole region aside from the suffering of those innocent victims, ordinary Israelis and Palestinians, caught up in this escalating crisis. As I write humanitarian aid has been allowed to come through from Egypt and I pray that by the time you read this letter, more will have been able to have been achieved. We continue to pray for peace and for humanitarian solutions to be found knowing that all our hearts and minds go out to all those affected by violence and war. I think our traditional services of remembrance will be especially poignant this year as we come together to remember all those who have died as a result of war, whether as service men and women or the many civilians who lost their lives. Please see the church calendar for further details of our Remembrance Sunday services.



Last month we celebrated our Harvest Festival and collected much needed produce for Dorking Foodbank and Leatherhead START. Our lovely village school Scott Broadwood really boosted our donations of foodstuffs and we had a wonderful harvest service with the children in church talking about all the good gifts that God gives us. As we celebrated all that God provides for us we were reminded that God also needs our hands to do his work to bring the harvest in and to give to those who do not have enough to eat.

This month we begin by celebrating All Saints when we are reminded of not only the remarkable men and women who lived their lives in such a way that others can see God powerfully at work not only in times past but in the present too. This includes famous saints that we might know through the scriptures to famous martyrs who died for their declaration of faith in Christ to the many ordinary saints that dedicate their lives to serve others today. Knowing this inspires us and reminds us that no Christian is solitary. We are surrounded by the company of saints whose mutual belonging not only includes us on earth but transcends death into heaven.

So Remembrance Sunday goes on to explore the theme of memory, both corporate and individual as we confront issues of war and peace, loss and sacrifice, memory and forgetting. Finally the annual cycle of the Church's year ends at the end of the month with the Feast of Christ the King. The year that begins with the hope of the coming Messiah ends with the proclamation of his universal sovereignty. And so next month December we start our new Church year with Advent Sunday and the countdown to Christmas!! Talking of which Christmas comes early here in Capel as the wonderful Christmas Fair takes place in our village halls in the middle of the month. Suzanne and her team find unusual and inspirational stall holders for us to browse and of course it is all for a very good cause - to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease and our parish churches.

So plenty for us to be thinking about and to pray for as winter creeps in once more. God bless.

With my love and prayers,

*Liz*

**Revd Liz Richardson**

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

01306 711260 Vicar St John the Baptist Capel and St Margaret's Ockley



**CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - NOVEMBER 2023**  
**at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley**

**NOVEMBER**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>All Saints</b>
	9.30am	Matins Ockley
	10.30am	Family Communion Capel
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>Third Sunday before Advent</b>
		<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>
	10.45am	Service of Remembrance at Ockley
	10.30am	Cafe Church at St John the Baptist Capel.
	3.00pm	Service of Remembrance at Capel
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>Capel Christmas Fair</b> in aid of our Parish Churches & the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Taking place in the Memorial & Parish Halls, Capel
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>Second Sunday before Advent</b>
	10.30am	Parish Worship with Baptism at Capel
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>Christ the King - Sunday next before Advent</b>
	9.30am	Holy Communion BCP - Ockley
	10.30am	Family Communion - Capel
	3-5pm	Capel Teas



**DECEMBER**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>Advent Sunday</b>
	9.30am	Matins - Ockley
	10.30am	Family Communion

*Don't forget Traidcraft Christmas cards will be available after the 10.30am services in Capel  
See pages 31 & 32 for some Christmas card pictures to show some of the range in stock.*



***Don't forget you can find details of all events & services on our website!***

**<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/>**

## In Loving Memory

In perpetual, loving memory of our darling Mother, Doreen Campbell, who passed from this life on 2, November 2022 and is buried at St. John the Baptist, Chapel.

*God made a wonderful mother,  
A mother who never grows old;  
He made her smile of the sunshine.  
And he moulded her heart of pure gold;  
In her eyes He placed bright shining stars,  
In her cheeks fair roses you see;  
God made a wonderful mother,  
And he gave that dear mother to us...*

Carol, Richard, Stephen & Christina

## Would you like to sponsor a 2024 issue of InSpire?

**We would like to thank all our sponsors over the last six years for their support of the magazine. It enables us to reach a wide audience at no cost to the reader.**

**If you would like to discuss sponsorship, please speak to either Suzanne Cole, Editor on 01306 711449 or Helen Burt, Treasurer (contact details on page 3) Thank you**

## 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)

## 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.



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



## The Two Minutes Silence

by David Pickup, a solicitor.

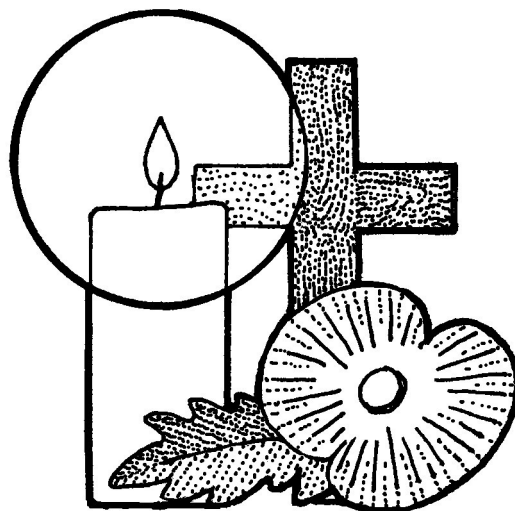
*Remember, Lord, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to Your love remember me, for You, Lord, are good.*  
(Psalm 25:5-7)

I love the Psalms, as they cover every emotion and religious experience, from despair to praise and from fear to rejoicing. Some say they are difficult, but life is difficult, and so the book of Psalms is great for dipping into and finding the right one for you. This one is about remembering – remembering the past failures in our lives, and dealing with them.

What do you think about during the Two Minutes' Silence on Remembrance Sunday? Perhaps you do not think about anything. I find it helpful to make an effort to think about the war dead. I used to do some research into local men who were casualties. I had some photos taken from newspapers or sent home. These memories added some personalities and characteristics to the names on memorials.

I also think of members of my own family, who lived through the wars, and the experiences they had. Most did not go off to serve away from home, but lived through the blackouts, blitz, and evacuation and rationing. My grandfather left a photo of some comrades and had written on the back a request to 'keep this safe'. And so we have, for over one hundred years! I also remember, with thanks, the comparatively peaceful lives we have had.

There are some things we do not want to remember, usually bad things we have done or had done to us. When we turn our memories over to God, we are asking God to be merciful and loving, for although we make mistakes we can appeal to His enduring love.



©Parish Pump

**Can you help at the Capel Christmas Fair on Saturday 18th November 2023  
in aid of our Parish Churches in Capel & Ockley and  
The Motor Neurone Disease Association?**

**Could you spare a couple of hours on the day to help?**

**We need help with a Barbecue for the duration of the Fair**

- \* Parking / Helping Stallholders unload and reload \***
- \* Helping Joy with the refreshments in the Cricket Pavilion \***
- \* Entrance Desk \* Raffle \***



**There is now a list to sign up to in Capel church. Alternatively please email  
Suzanne Cole on: [info@capelchristmasfair.co.uk](mailto:info@capelchristmasfair.co.uk) or call 07923 517202 THANK YOU!**

# Café Church November 2023

## *Where is hope?*

November - the month, every year, when we remember the sacrifices made by so many in two world wars and other conflicts. 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 - Armistice Day - marking the end of hostilities in the First World War that subsequently became the date that the nation stands in silence to honour those that gave their lives in order that we might enjoy the freedoms we have today. A day that focuses our attention on the futility of war and asks that we never again allow such tragic loss of life. If I was being particularly uncharitable, I would say that it doesn't seem to have made a blind bit of difference! As I write this, the war in Ukraine has been usurped in the news headlines by the growing tensions in the Middle East. There is genuine fear that countries around the world will become embroiled in a conflict that will reach far beyond the tiny area of land that encompasses Israel and the Gaza strip. When we reach the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023, will we stand in silence for our annual act of remembrance for the lives lost in this latest man-made disaster?

What makes matters so much worse is that, once again, parties on both sides of the Israel/Palestine conflict are defending their actions by claiming that God is on their side and that God will bring them victory. That's ironic, to say the least, given that all of the major religions in the region claim to be worshipping a God that teaches peace among his followers! Indeed, the very name of God in the three main monotheistic religions means "peace". In Islam, Qur'an 59:23 says that peace is one of the names of God himself: "He is God, other than whom there is no god, the King, the Holy, the Peace, the Defender, the Guardian, the Mighty, the Omnipotent, the Supreme."; in Judaism, one of the names of God is Jehovah Shalom which translates as, "The Lord is Peace"; and in Christianity Jesus is called "Prince of Peace."

So, where can we find hope in a world where hope is an aspiration that seems out of reach. On one level, the answer appears simple. How about we all go back to the "Good Books" upon which we base our trust and actually take them at their word? How about we trust God to *be* God and not take it upon ourselves to sort things out in a way that we think is better? How about we stop cherry-picking verses out of the scriptures in order to build empires to satisfy our own selfish desire for power at the expense of others who don't/can't/won't buy into our narrow, tyrannical abuse of God's word?

You might wonder how it is that I and so many other Christians can remain hopeful in the face of the crushing weight of evidence of man's inhumanity to man. Well, I look to the very pages that are there for *all* to read and I find they tell me to do two things: In the Old Testament book of Leviticus it says, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself", and in the New Testament Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven". So, I will try my hardest to love; to love those that are for me *and* those that are against me. And I will do that trusting that God will be true to His word in Jeremiah where He says, "'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 a hope and a future.'"

**Bob Cranham**

*Café Church meets at The Crown pub, Capel  
on Sunday 12 th November  
at 10.30 am.*



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





# NEWS FROM THE BELFRY

## Ockley Treble Trouble continued

It is now four months since the gudgeon sheared off the treble at Ockley and the bell has been standing on wooden blocks ever since. We are still waiting to hear from the bellhangers when the repair of the headstock will be completed but hope it will be this side of Christmas.

Thank you to those of you that responded to our appeal for funds, particularly Kindred Spirits who made a donation from money raised by the Pavilion Café which is much appreciated. 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.

We are still ringing as best we can on the other 5 bells, especially on Sundays but the practice nights have not been so regular as we are missing the lightest and therefore easiest bell to ring, there is less possibility of variation in the changes, and the sound is not the same. At least the treble is the first in the row so its absence is not as noticeable as it might otherwise have been.

Rings of bells are tuned to sound together when they are first made and therefore differ from any other group of bells. You could not for example source an extra bell to ring in a peal just by its size. At St Margaret's the bells are tuned to F# which refers to the tenor, the heaviest of the six, at 13 hundredweight. The treble is the lightest bell at 5 cwt and is tuned to D#. The intervening bells increase in weight as you would expect between these two extremes and their sounds are also different, C#, B, A# and G#.

Hopefully when the treble is lifted back onto its bearings it will still sound the same. It sustained a small chip to its lip when it fell into the pit in the belfry and wedged against the steel frame. There is no way to tell until it is suspended once more and can be struck on its soundbow, the bottom edge of the bell.

We have new recruits at both Ockley and Capel who are keen to learn on our bells. Ringing is an art which has developed and passed from generation to generation in Britain for over three hundred years. It is a very satisfying pastime which blends aspects of sport, music, exercise, and friendship, as well as a challenge of wits and skill.

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)

## **Don't hold civilians responsible for Hamas's crimes, says Welby, as Anglican hospital is bombed**

by Madeleine Davies

15th October 2023

As Israel assembles its troops for a ground offensive, the Archbishop of Canterbury has issued a plea “that the sins of Hamas are not borne by the citizens of Gaza”, and warned that the enclave’s hospitals are “facing catastrophe”.

The Al-Ahli Arab hospital, run by the Episcopal diocese of Jerusalem, was hit by a missile on Saturday.

“The price of evil cannot be paid by the innocent,” Archbishop Welby said. “Civilians cannot bear the costs of terrorists. International humanitarian law recognises that, for the sake of everyone’s humanity, some acts can never be permissible in the chaos of warfare. I pray that Israel does everything it can to limit the harm caused to innocent civilians.”

Citing the Geneva Conventions, he said that a humanitarian corridor and convoy were needed “as rapidly as possible . . .

“I join with the US Secretary of State and others in urging the Israeli government to exercise their right of defence with the wisdom that might break the cycles of violence under which generations have struggled. Amidst the chaos and confusion of war, and as much as is possible, I join the calls for Israel’s military response to be proportional and to discriminate between civilians and Hamas.”

The statement was issued on Friday in the wake of warning by the Israeli military telling citizens in the north of Gaza — estimated to number one million — to evacuate to the south: “Evacuate south for your own safety and the safety of your families and distance yourself from Hamas terrorists who are using you as human shields.”

Hamas, which has controlled Gaza since 2007, has told the population not to leave. Reuters reported that mosques had broadcast the message: “Hold on to your homes. Hold on to your land.”

The UN has called on the Israeli government to rescind the order, warning that many people including pregnant women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, will not be able to follow it.

“One million people cannot flee in a day: many were already displaced or do not have vehicles, and could not move while bombings continued,” it said. “Mass displacement puts the lives of the sick and wounded in immediate danger and risks a public health disaster, at a time when the health system in Gaza is on the brink of collapse, hospitals in the south of the Gaza Strip are at capacity and unable to accept new patients.

“Wars have rules and civilians must be protected at all times. Under international law, Israel needs to take precautionary measures in future attacks to limit any harm to civilians and civilian objects.”

The Gazan authorities say that 2670 people, one quarter of them children, have been killed by Israeli airstrikes. For the past week, Israel has blocked the supply of food, medicines and fuel to the area. It was reported on Saturday that it had allowed water to be delivered to southern Gaza.

Also on Saturday, the UN head of humanitarian affairs, Martin Griffiths, warned that the humanitarian situation in Gaza was “fast becoming untenable”.

“There is no power, no water and no fuel,” he said. “Food supplies are running dangerously low. Hospitals, overwhelmed with patients, are running out of medicine. Morgues are overflowing. Homes, schools, shelters, health-centres and places of worship are under intense bombardment. Entire residential neighbourhoods have been razed to the ground. Aid workers have been killed. . . The past week has been a test for humanity, and humanity is failing.”

Continued opposite ...



## Don't hold civilians responsible for Hamas's crimes, says Welby, as Anglican hospital is bombed

*Continued*

Israel's evacuation order included the 22 hospitals, which were reportedly treating more than 2000 in-patients in northern Gaza, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to warn that this amounted to a "death sentence" for the sick and injured.

"The lives of many critically ill and fragile patients hang in the balance: those in intensive care or who rely on life support; patients undergoing haemodialysis; newborns in incubators; women with complications of pregnancy, and others all face imminent deterioration of their condition or death if they are forced to move and are cut off from life-saving medical attention while being evacuated," a statement on Saturday said.

"Hospital directors and health workers are now facing an agonizing choice: abandon critically ill patients amid a bombing campaign, put their own lives at risk while remaining on site to treat patients, or endanger their patients' lives while attempting to transport them to facilities that have no capacity to receive them. Overwhelmingly, care-givers have chosen to stay behind, and honour their oaths as health professionals to "do no harm," rather than risk moving their critically ill patients during evacuations. Health workers should never have to make such impossible choices."

© The Church Times

*Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues to his year-long series on the Spiritual Disciplines.*

### **Spiritual Disciplines: Generosity**

*'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35).*

What does generosity look like for us? The practice of generosity is about more than finance, as we recognise that everything we possess belongs to God (Ps 24:1). We are stewards of all our resources, including time, possessions, gifts, as well as our love and compassion for others. God enables us to be generous, because of all that He has given us:

*'You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.'* (2 Cor 9:11).

Here are some practical ways of practising generosity:

*Give consistently:* Planning our financial giving ensures that it isn't an afterthought, but carefully considered (2 Cor 9:7). We can offer time to volunteer in church or in the wider community. We might open our home to others for a meal or coffee.

*Give spontaneously:* God often brings opportunities across our path where we can respond spontaneously. This might be prompted by a text from a friend in crisis or giving a neighbour a helping hand. Acting spontaneously reminds us that God is always working in and through us.

*Give sacrificially:* Being generous also involves making sacrifices with our time and priorities, as we help others, share our possessions, or use our gifts. How can we simplify our busy lives, in order to free up space to practise more life transforming generosity?

To engage in generosity is an invitation to experience more of God's provision in our lives:

*'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you'* (Luke 6:38).

© Parish Pump

## A new kind of Remembrance poppy



For the first time in 28 years, there is a new kind of poppy for Remembrance Sunday this year: it is plastic free.

Director of the Poppy Appeal, Andy Taylor-Whyte explains: “We are very proud to introduce the plastic-free poppy. It will not only enable people to support our Armed Forces community but also continues the RBL’s commitment to sustainability.”

The new poppy has been three years in the development and making. The aim was to reduce the use of single-use plastic and to “be economical, sustainable, and less impactful to the environment.”

The new poppy design has a 40% smaller carbon footprint, and it made from “bespoke red and green paper.” The paper comes from a blend of renewable fibres, 50 per cent of which has been

recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy, to reduce any waste of poppies already produced. Poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury’s stores for recycling.

©Parish Pump

*Editor: Following on from our successful Lent course Living in Love & Faith, here is an update*

### **Living in Love and Faith – first facilitated group conversation held**

The first meeting of the 'Living With Difference' group - who have been invited to be part of a series of three facilitated conversations around the Prayers of Love and Faith - was held in September.

The members of the group included:

Ade Adebajo (Elected member of the London Diocesan Synod); Simon Friend (Co-Convenor of the Evangelical Forum for General Synod); Jamie Harrison (Chair of the House of Laity, General Synod); Sarah Jackson (CEO, Church Revitalisation Trust); Helen King (Vice-Chair, General Synod Gender & Sexuality Group); Tom Middleton (Director of Forward in Faith and Secretary of the Council of Bishops of The Society); Sarah Mullally (Bishop of London, Co-Chair of the LLF Implementation Steering Group); Vaughan Roberts (Rector of St Ebbe's, Oxford); Charlie Skrine (Rector, All Souls Langham Place); and David Walker (Bishop of Manchester)

The group aimed to reflect the spectrum of views held, and aimed to offer back to the Bishops an understanding of how their proposals can be taken forward, reflecting the issues raised in the conversations.

This was scheduled to feed into meetings of the College of Bishops, and then the House of Bishops in October.

© Parish Pump



# Eyes on Jesus in Gaza

Author: James Howard-Smith, 13 October 2023

**The leaders of the Holy Land's three Bible Society teams are asking for your prayers.** Victor Kalisher, Dina Katanacho, and Nashat Filmon say that the situation in Israel and Gaza is heartbreaking.



Will you pray that they're able to maintain their amazing Christian witness in a time of war, keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus?

The past week has seen a shocking attack on Israel by Hamas, which controls Gaza and has fought a number of conflicts with Israel since separating from other Palestinian groups in 2006. Hamas forces attacked several towns, committing atrocities and taking hostages. The Israel Defence Forces have retaliated with airstrikes and a blockade of Gaza.

'We are in shock, angry, in mourning,' said Victor, who leads the Hebrew outreach in Jerusalem. 'More than ever we need your prayers. Our staff are safe, but the situation is very tense. Many are in a state of shock.'

Dina, who leads the Arab-Israeli team in Nazareth, said: 'My staff have not come to work today. They are afraid. There are no cars in the streets, no schools, no universities. Everyone is at home. We are told to purchase food and water for a whole week. It might be even more. There are serious things happening.' In Jerusalem, Nashat, who shares the Bible with the Palestinians, said: 'The situation is bad, and we are sadly and suddenly in wartime. It is heart-breaking to see and hear the number of casualties. Please pray for us all and for our team everywhere and for their families, especially the ones in Gaza.'

All three teams support the Church in all sorts of fruitful ministries. Earlier this year, when they asked for your support in their life-changing work, you helped raise more than a hundred thousand pounds. People seeking Jesus in the places he lived are meeting him in the pages of Scripture thanks to you.

**Will you pray that Victor, Dina and Nashat are able to lift up the Bible as the ultimate light in the darkness?** They want to present a countercultural message rooted in God's love, justice and mercy. When violence broke out two years ago, the leaders reaffirmed their shared aim of seeing the word of God impact communities and transform people into the likeness of Jesus.

Ask God to inspire and empower Christians throughout the Holy Land to love both Jews and Palestinians. On a practical level, Bible work in the Holy Land often seeks to break cycles of violence. Volunteers run workshops in schools on subjects like controlling anger and learning to forgive.

'We at the Bible Society in Israel ask you to pray that God will give us wisdom in these days,' Victor said. 'Wisdom and grace to be his messengers, serving his kingdom, and not weaken his message with our own anger. Pray for wisdom and grace to love, not only the lost souls around us but also to love those who hate us.'

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/latest/news/eyes-on-jesus-in-gaza/>

*Editor: Net Zero is in the national headlines at present. Here is a response from the Church of England.*



## **C of E's response to the Net Zero statement**

The Bishop of Norwich, who is the Church of England's Lead Bishop on the Environment, has responded to the announcement by the Prime Minister on Net Zero policies.

"The Prime Minister's Net Zero speech calls for a welcome change in the debate from loud polarised voices, but he set out delays in policy before hearing the properly informed debate he called for.

"Whilst it is right that he has kept our international commitments, postponing changes leave necessary adaptations to the last minute, rather like last-minute exam cramming—a risky gamble. Ignoring the ongoing carbon emissions exacerbates climate change's impact.

"The Prime Minister said we can meet our climate targets without taking the carbon reduction actions the Government had previously announced. We can't. Decarbonisation must permeate every aspect of our lives.

"Failing to acknowledge the urgency undermines progress, impacting business, investment, green job creation, and global influence.

"We are already seeing the devastating effects of climate change, which is hitting the poorest people of the world hardest. We must act now to ensure a just transition; it is our moral duty to care for God's creation.

"Christians are called to be a people of hope; to live in harmony with our world; to treasure God's creation and to love our global neighbours."

## **Legislation clarifying right of local authorities to support churches clears final hurdle**

Legislation clarifying that parish and town councils can provide support to churches for repairs and improvements has cleared its final stages in the House of Lords.

A Government amendment to the Bill makes it clear that local authorities can provide grants for parish churches or places of worship, following many years of legal uncertainty.

The amendment was introduced after the Bishop of Bristol, Viv Faull highlighted the need for clarification of the law during the Bill's Committee Stage in the House of Lords.

Bishop Viv, who is the Church of England's joint lead bishop on church buildings, said: "This amendment brings clarity to the law which will give local authorities confidence to award grants to local church buildings to enable them to serve their communities better.

"I have long been in conversation with Government about bringing in this change and have been contacted by both local authorities and church councils who are anticipating this change with enthusiasm and gratitude."

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill recently received its Third Reading in the House of Lords. It will now go to the House of Commons for final consideration ahead of Royal Assent.

The clarification comes after the Taylor Review of the Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals, published in 2017, proposed a clarification through guidance or a change in the law.

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Editor: We continue our occasional series on how some of the famous hymns came to be written.

## The Story Behind the Hymn: O God our Help in Ages Past

1 O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,  
our Shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal Home.  
2 Under the shadow of Thy throne, Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defence is sure.  
3 Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.  
4 A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.  
5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream bears all its sons away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.  
6 O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,  
be Thou our Guard while life shall last, and our eternal Home!

Source: *Psalms & Hymns to the Living God*

*O God our Help in Ages Past* is considered one of the grandest hymns in the English hymnody. It is sung at the annual Remembrance Sunday Service at the Cenotaph in London, and it was also sung at the funeral of former prime minister Winston Churchill in St Paul's Cathedral.

The hymn was written by Isaac Watts in 1719, as a paraphrase of Psalm 90. It is a psalm of Moses, and carries a strong message of hope and faith in God's loving care.

Isaac Watts was born in Southampton in 1674, the eldest of nine children. His father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was in prison for his non-conformist beliefs at the time of Isaac's birth.

Watts had an outstanding aptitude for language. By the time he was 13 he had learned Latin, Greek, French, and Hebrew. He had also begun to write in verse, even speaking in rhyme in ordinary conversation – much to the irritation of some of his family!

By the time Isaac was 18, he had a particular bugbear – the deplorable state of congregational singing. It was mostly metrical psalms, which were heavy going and ponderous. But many non-conformists thought that if congregations sang anything other than the actual words of Scripture, it would be an insult to God.

Isaac was complaining about this one Sunday when his father suddenly challenged him: "Why don't you give us something better to sing, then?"

Isaac accepted the challenge. The next Sunday he produced his first hymn, and the congregation loved it. Isaac then wrote new hymn texts for his church - every Sunday for the next two years. By 1719, Watts had published a hymnal: *The Psalms of David in the Language of the New Testament*. He had paraphrased nearly the entire Psalter.

In all, Watts wrote more than 600 hymns. Other favourites include: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*, and the famous Christmas carol *Joy to the World*.

At the time, some people felt Watts's hymns were "too worldly" as they were not based solely on the Psalms. Yet Watts argued that the Christian church should sing of Christ. He explained his approach this way:

"Where the Psalmist describes religion by the fear of God, I have often joined faith and love to it. Where he speaks of the pardon of sin through the mercies of God, I rather choose to mention the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God. Where He promises abundance of wealth, honour, and long life, I have changed some of these typical blessings for grace, glory and life eternal, which are brought to light by the gospel, and promised in the New Testament."

Watts died in 1748, having been a much-loved hymn-writer, scholar, pastor and preacher.

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## ***Miscellaneous thoughts on our Christian life...***

Every Christian needs a half hour of prayer each day, except when he is busy, then he needs an hour. - *Francis de Sales*

If people want a sense of purpose, they should get it from the archbishops and not from politicians. - *Harold Macmillan*

In his prayers he says, 'Thy will be done' but means his own, at least he acts so. - *William Penn*

We should spend as much time in thanking God for His benefits as we do in asking Him for them. - *St Vincent de Paul*

It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives. - *Samuel Johnson*

Where there is no penitence there can be no progress. - *Fr Andrew SDC*

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*Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on finding faith in the fabric of our church buildings.*

### **Reflecting faith: Remembering Our Loved Ones**

*by the Revd Dr Jo White.*

For the last couple of months, we've been looking at seating in the church building.

Perhaps you've noticed that on the more 'special' items there are dedication plaques to the person who donated the money to buy the item or in whose name the item was purchased. In some churches, pretty much everywhere you look you will find such labels, whilst in others they are much rarer.

Of course, many people donate financially and give specific items in their own name or in memory of someone else without wishing for this to be publicly noted. But often when folk donate something they do like it made clear.

A couple of centuries ago people would leave money after their death for a mass to be said for their soul. In some rich cases this would be every day for a year or even longer.

The 'very' rich paid for a new altar to be placed in the church building or even in an extension to the building – a chantry. This is where their personal mass would be conducted each day. In these cases, a stipend would also be paid to cover the cost of a separate priest to do this task, rather than the rector or vicar having it as an extra daily task. A room would be provided for that priest above the chapel often.

This all stems from the belief that we have sinned and will be punished in purgatory or hell but can 'buy' time off through prayers. Today our theology has moved back to a more biblical understanding, that Christ is the one who bore our sins on the cross, and we can't earn our way to heaven; we can only get there by faith in Him.

But we still love and think about the people whom we loved, even though they are dead. Some Christians believe that, as we prayed for them in life, why should we stop just because they are dead?

As C.S. Lewis wrote;

*"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."*

#### ***This month***

As you remember your loved ones whom you see no more, hold them close in ways that make sense to you, and reflect your faith in God's loving grace and mercy.

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# PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

## **A Prayer for the Holy Land**

by Rev Shona Knight

Loving God  
Praying for the Holy Land and its people  
Praying for your deep peace,  
Praying that swords are turned to ploughshares  
We ask that your kingdom will come on earth as in  
heaven.  
May those in power seek your heart.  
May those suffering know your presence.  
May those mourning be comforted.  
May we, who watch at a distance, be open to seeing  
with your eyes of compassion and understanding  
and know how to pray and respond justly,  
Mercifully and humbly.  
In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen



'Even if prayers are not answered in the way we want or hope for, the act of praying changes the one who prays'.

Kindly shared by  
Sue Partridge

*As we grieve with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and with all who live in the Land of the Holy One. Please join us in an outpouring of prayer in the name of the Prince of Peace.*

## ***Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza***

*Heavenly Father, we pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.*

*We pray especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies.*

*Strengthen and support the work of all relief organisations.*

*We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.*

*Lord hear us as we pray in the power of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Amen**

<https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk>

## **A prayer of commemoration for the fallen**

Father of all, remember your holy promise,  
and look with love on all your people, living and departed.  
On this day we especially ask that you would hold forever  
all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare,  
those who waited anxiously at home,  
and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned;  
those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss.  
Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion,  
those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades,  
and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world.  
And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord;  
grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will  
be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom.  
This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

<https://www.churchofengland.org>

*Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers our response to those who hate us.*

## **How to Deal with Enemies**

*In the season of Remembrance, we consider those who have heroically given their lives in war. However, Jesus calls all of us to a radical heroism in our daily lives: 'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:43-45).*

### **Love Your Enemies:**

Our 'enemies' are rarely life-threatening; they can simply be impatient, judgmental, self-righteous or just plain disagreeable! Whether the conflict is with a family or church member, work colleague or neighbour, our attitude toward them should be one of love. We will naturally want to retaliate, but Jesus commands us to love!

### **Pray for Your Persecutors:**

It's only when we are ready to pray for someone whom we find difficult, that God can soften our attitude towards them. Like us, they are those in need of God's forgiveness and grace. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor executed by the Nazis at the end of World War 2, wrote:  
*'This is the supreme demand. Through the medium of prayer, we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and plead for him to God. For if we pray for them, we are taking their distress and poverty, their guilt and perdition upon ourselves and pleading to God for them.'*

### **Become More Like Jesus:**

When we start loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors, we become more like Jesus Himself. He willingly laid down His life for us, prayed for His persecutors and gives us the power to love our enemies as He did.

At a time when we recognise that we all need heroes; how will we respond to this call to radical heroism in our own life?

## **Concern over the provision of RE in schools**

A group of cross-party peers, MPs and religious educators has criticised the lack of funding for the teaching of religious education (RE). It has called on the Government to address the crisis in teaching and recruitment.

There were 30 signatories to a letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan. They described the current provision of RE as a 'postcode lottery', in which some children receive a well-taught religious education, while others receive "either 'tokenist' RE, or none at all."

The letter went on to point out that half (51 per cent) of the RE lessons in secondary schools are currently being taught by non-specialist teachers. Pupils are now three times more likely to be taught RE by someone with no qualifications at all in the subject. And RE is on track to recruit only 44 per cent of its target by the end of the current recruitment year.

The group is concerned that students who do not receive good RE education "are consequently ill prepared to play their part in our complex religious and non-religious society, with all the opportunities created by its diversity."

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

Here we are going into November already and what a lot will be happening in our village! Do come along and support the Christmas Fair on 18th November (12 noon—4pm) if you can. We have a lovely line up of stalls for you and this year have more stalls than in previous years. The Sports pavilion will be used for refreshments—church teas and cakes! The halls will have all the stallholders and there will be a couple outside, namely Silent Pool Gin from Albury selling their gin gifts and serving mulled gin to warm you up! Also there will be Cody's waffles outside—so more opportunities for hot food! The Committee and I have been working hard for months to put on a good community event and we are gaining a reputation as stallholders are contacting us everyday and we've been full for a while now! The profits from the Fair are split equally between our two parish churches and the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Two very worthwhile causes and a fun event—so do come if you can!

The other event is of course Remembrance Sunday which we will be marking at both churches. It is so sad that as we are marking previous wars, we are reminded once more that there is hardly ever a time when wars are not taking place around the world. The current news is heartbreaking and I pray that a peaceful resolution can be found.

There are all the usual articles so I'm not going to point them out this time, but instead focus on a hymn we sang recently in church based on Ephesians 4:11-16 'One is the body and one is the Head'. I was particularly struck by some of the words when singing them:

***'Gifts have been given well-suited to each,  
some to be prophets, to pastor or preach,  
some, through the gospel,  
to challenge, convert and teach.'***

I found myself looking around at the people around me thinking how very true the words were. Just taking the example of our Christian life I could see (and hear!) what gifts our choir and organist have. Others in our congregation do so many voluntary things for our church—whether it be church teas, cooking for the murder mystery, those involved in café church and eco church and so on. But it reminded me that all these gifts given are given by God and are 'well suited' to each. The hymn goes on ***'Called to his service are women and men, so that his body might ever again, witness through worship, through deed and through word to Christ our Lord'***. It seemed very timely as we have met recently to discuss our church Parish Needs and what we hope to achieve and do going forward. I have also just discovered these words (see page 24) which were adapted by John Henry Newman ***'He has not created me for nothing'***. There is always scope for more but I think a lot of those *'gifts well suited to each'* are already being put to good use!

With my best wishes,

*Suzanne*

editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

### ***With Remembrance in mind, here are some observations on war...***

The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst. - *Anon*

Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind. - *John F Kennedy*

Let men who delight in the cruelties of war remember that their day is coming. - *Louis Mumford*

In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers. - *Neville Chamberlain*

# BOOK REVIEWS

by Parish Pump



## **The Wisdom Pattern – order, disorder, reorder** By Richard Rohr, SPCK, £12.99

A universal pattern can be found in all societies and in fact in all of Creation. We see it in the seasons of the year, the stories of Scripture, and even in our own lives.

In *The Wisdom Pattern*, Father Richard Rohr illuminates the way understanding and embracing this pattern can give us hope in difficult times and the courage to push through messiness – and even great chaos – to find a new way of ‘being’ in the world.

Father Rohr offers reflections in *The Wisdom Pattern* that bring together a deep spirituality with Jungian psychology. They reveal a vision of Christianity that speaks to the heart of 21st century society.

## **Stick with Love - Rejoicing in Every Tongue, Every Tribe, Every Nation** **The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2023** By Arun Arora, SPCK, £10.99

Martin Luther King famously declared that 'I have decided to stick with love... Hate is too great a burden to bear'. In these luminous daily readings, Arun Arora helps us consider the biblical picture of the Church as the people of God, drawn from every tribe, every tongue, and every nation.

Themes of racial justice, hospitality and welcome are explored alongside the stories of saints from across the globe. Beginning with reflections from Isaiah and Revelation, the meditations lead us on to consider the missionaries, martyrs and mystics who light our Advent way.

## **Seeing the Light – poems** By Kenneth Steven, Canterbury Press Norwich, £10.99

This new poetry collection from Scottish poet Kenneth Steven captures small moments of revelation or epiphanies, which come unexpectedly as gifts amid the ordinary. An uncleaned breakfast table, the sight of someone working outdoors, an old photograph, and the features and sounds of the Scottish landscapes that so inspire his work, all become, in the poet's words, portals to a greater reality: “the small moments that make up the whole story”.

This is the sudden ‘going through the door’ into the bigger world. Many of them are written in the sonnet form, whose brevity and economy of expression mirror the essence of this book, and whose very form turns from the ordinary to the extraordinary in a moment.

## **One - Being United to Jesus Changes Everything** By Clive Bowsher, 10Publishing, £8.49

The ‘you will’ sayings of Jesus show how the living God works in believers’ lives, with implications for beauty, worship, obedience, nearness and intimacy, purpose, heaven, freedom, prayer, and love.

Knowing God isn’t a hard problem for us to solve; it’s a dazzling and thrilling reality for us to dive into.

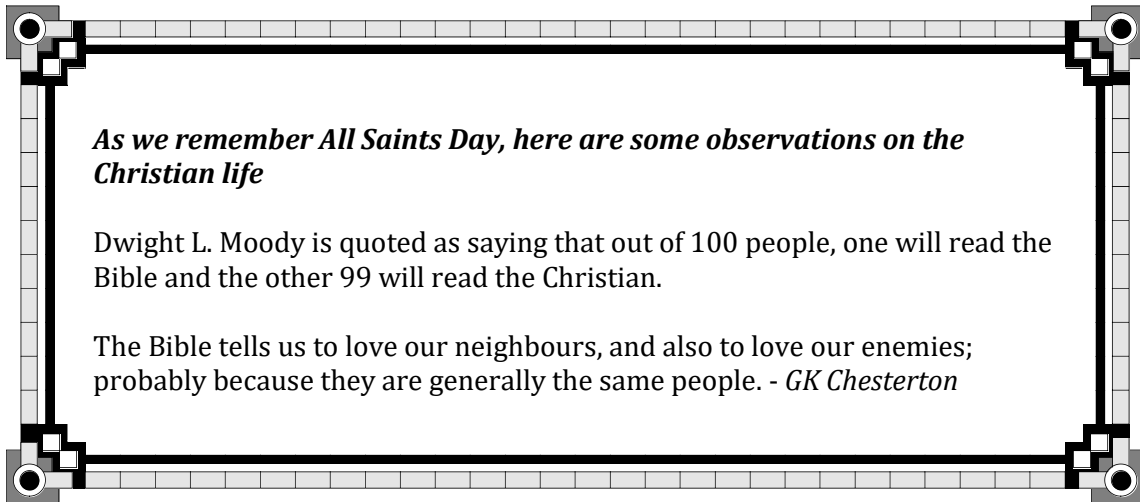
You can know and experience in-one-another love with the Son, a love so close that it exceeds all expectations. He reaches out, befriends, comes close, partners, makes alive, Fathers, and invites: Jesus is “inviting you to jump right in!”

## **Enjoying God - experience the power and love of God in everyday life** By Tim Chester, 10Publishing, £8.38

We believe in God, we serve God, we love God – but do we ENJOY God as much as we can? Does our head knowledge translate into affection of the heart? Do we have a meaningful relationship with someone we can’t see? Do we feel excited about God every day, in every context?

Tim Chester shows us how to relate to each of the three persons of the Trinity, and what this looks like in practice. Readers will discover that as we engage more with God, and understand how awesome He is, we can enjoy Him more.

This isn’t a book *about* the Trinity. It’s a ‘how to’ book exploring how we relate to God (for which we need a true understanding of the Trinity). In day-to-day life, how do the three persons of the Trinity relate to us, and how do we respond?



## **High Days & Holy Days - NOVEMBER**

**NEW 3<sup>rd</sup> November: Richard Hooker – priest, apologist, teacher**

Richard Hooker lived at a critical time for the Church of England. He became one of the most important English theologians of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

He provided the Church of England with a theological method which combined the claims of revelation, reason, and tradition. Traditionally, he has been credited as the originator of the Anglican *via media* – the middle way between Protestantism and Catholicism.

Hooker was born near Exeter around 1554, educated at Corpus Christi College Oxford, and was then made fellow there in 1577, and deputy professor of Hebrew in 1579. In 1581 he was ordained, and later appointed as Rector of Drayton Beauchamp.

In 1585 Hooker was appointed Master of the Temple Church in London, but returned to rural ministry six years later, first at Boscombe in Wiltshire, and then at Bishopsbourne in Kent, where he died in 1600.

The 1580s and 1590s were a time of bitter theological disputes between the Church of England, after the 1559 Elizabethan Settlement of the C of E, and the growing Puritan party within the Church.

Hooker was implacably against Puritanism, and set about refuting it, and defending the Church of England in his magisterial eight-volume book *On the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*.

The book has been called "probably the first great work of philosophy and theology to be written in English." In it Hooker set out to demonstrate the superiority of episcopacy in the C of E, as opposed to bringing in the presbyterian system that the Puritans wanted.

Anglicanism, he said, was rooted in both Scripture and tradition, as suited a Church both Catholic and Reformed. And as human reason is a gift from God, he argued that this, too, was a vital element in interpreting both Scripture and tradition.

So, Richard Hooker was the first real apologist for Anglicanism. His contribution to Anglican thought was so huge that down the centuries he has won the backing of all wings of the Church: the evangelicals, Anglo-Catholics, and central churchmen.

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# Junior InSpire

## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapters 41:46 - 45:28

Joseph: sold by his brothers, taken to Egypt, now in charge of the stored food as famine spreads through Egypt, and beyond...

Joseph's father sent 10 of Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy food.



To prove you are not spies, you must bring your other brother to me...



They needed more food so they had to take Benjamin to Egypt.



Joseph gave them food...



Then as they went home...



You have stolen my master's special cup.



The servant took them back to Joseph.



You are a thief and must stay as a slave.



But Judah said



Joseph saw that his brothers had changed.



I can look after you. Come and live with me.



So all of Joseph's family moved to Egypt.



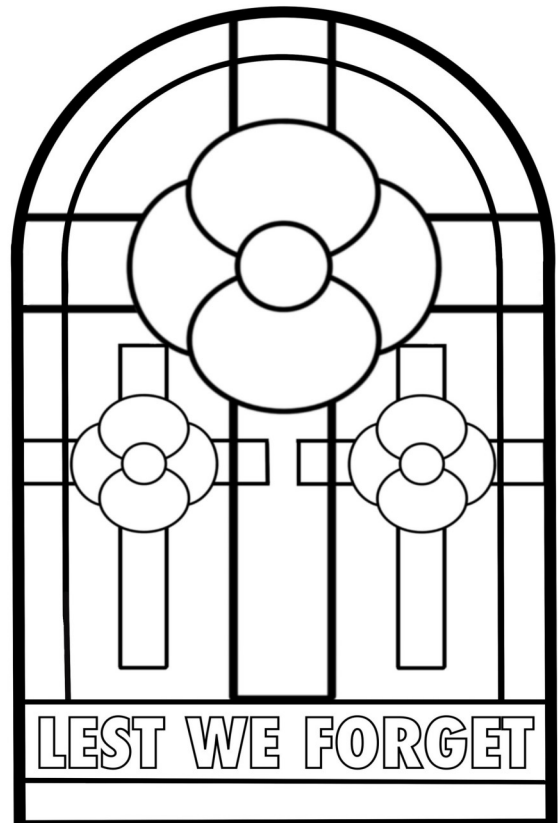
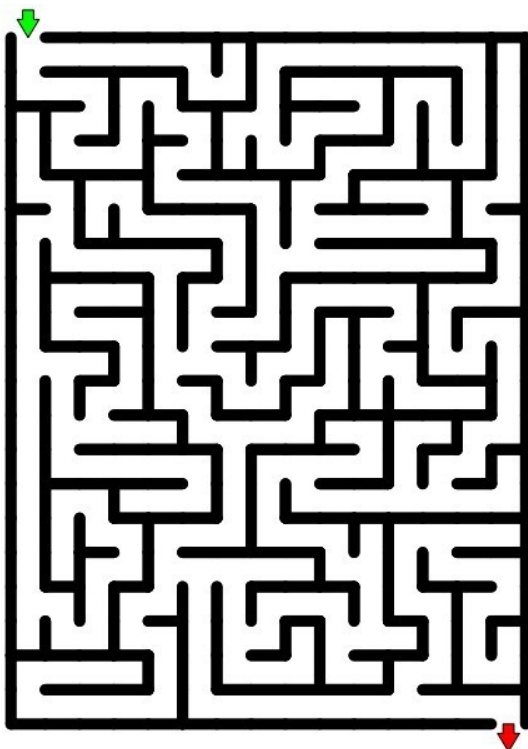


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|---------|--------|-----------|
| little  | family | sold      |
| changed | slave  | Judah     |
| sack    | cup    | famine    |
| sent    | food   | heart     |
| test    | spies  | recognise |
| Joseph  | Egypt  | Benjamin  |
| brother | father | servant   |
| God     | master | thief     |

As we think about Remembrance Sunday, perhaps you could colour in the picture below?



*Editor: Paul Hardingham considers the power that each of us has been given - to help others.*

## **Be a Barnabas - encourage one another**

'*You'll never amount to much*' said a Munich schoolteacher to the ten-year-old Albert Einstein. Good thing that he did not listen – and instead went on to prove his teacher wrong!

Just as children need encouragement, so do God's children. St Paul urged the Christians in his young churches to '*encourage one another*.' (1 Thess 5:11). In the Upper Room, Jesus used the same word to describe the Holy Spirit, meaning one '*called alongside to help*'.

When we encourage others, we exercise a ministry like that of the Spirit to each other. In Acts we read of Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. We know him better by his nickname Barnabas, which means '*Son of Encouragement*' (Acts 4:36). How did Barnabas encourage others?

He was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later gave *encouragement to a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside Paul and brought him into the fellowship of the Church. Are we ready to help those who are new to the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch and there '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). Here was a church which brought together Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, are we able to rejoice when we see God doing new things? Are we also willing to encourage others to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Don't forget, '*In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity*.' (Albert Einstein).

### **As for those signs found outside churches:**

Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY.  
Trespassers will be baptised.

No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'

When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too.'

Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!

### **The Life of Service—a personal reflection**

*God has created me to do him some definite service.  
He has given some work to me which he has not given to another.*

*I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.*

*He has not created me for nothing.*

*Therefore I will trust him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away.*

*He does nothing in vain.*

*He knows what He is about.*

Adapted from words of John Henry Newman

# Just War

by Stuart Cole

Currently there are at least 30 wars happening in the world. There are at least two in Europe such as Ukraine and Russian Federation, Israel and Palestine and many would see the Kosovo and Serbia conflict as a war in abeyance. Outside Europe there are wars in every corner of the world from Algeria to Yemen and Colombia to Myanmar. What is common to them all is that the participants believe that they have 'right' on their side to go to war.

Christians generally believe that war is justified in some limited situations and has developed a theory of 'just war' that attempts to reconcile the fact that taking life is wrong, countries have a duty to defend their people and justice and that the protection of innocent life and defending moral values may require use of force and violence. But the theory of just war did not start as Christian. In 1750 BC King Hammurabi of Babylon laid down laws so that the strong did not oppress the weak. The Mahabharata of 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD instructed mercy on unarmed or wounded enemies. Both the Bible and the Qur'an have rules for the adversary and protection of civilians and the defeated. In Ancient Greece and Roman Empire, there was agreement between the combatants as to what was allowable, and this was often dependent upon their culture. Many countries would not allow suicide attacks, the killing of women and children, enslavement and holding people for ransom. Today such considerations are codified in what is known as the laws of war including the Geneva and Hague Conventions and the United Nations Charter. However, what none of these address is if it is morally right to fight a war.

For Christians, St Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430) was probably the first to address the moral aspects of war and if war could ever be justified. Augustine believed that Christians should be pacifist, but also thought that remaining peaceful would be a sin if a grave wrong was being committed. Someone could defend themselves if it was necessary, but not pre-emptive. Augustine did not lay down the conditions when violence could be used, but did use the phrase 'Just War' in his book 'The City of God'.

Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries Arabic scholars developed the intellectual thinking behind a just war, but the next major step was made by Saint Thomas Aquinas in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In his book 'Summa Theologicae' he laid down what was necessary for war to be just, and what kinds of activities were allowable in a just war. Today Aquinas' just war is interpreted as having just and continuing cause; war being a last resort; war being declared by a proper authority; possessing right intention; war having a reasonable chance of success; and the end being proportional to the means used. All these are obviously debatable, and one person's just war might not be another's. There are many instances where one may think that a war would not be just at the commencement of hostilities but might be proved to be just later. For example, it could be argued that the UK did not have a reasonable chance of success in 1939, but this had changed by 1945. The same might be said of Ukraine nearly two years ago when it was considered likely that the Russian Federation would overrun them in a matter of days if not hours.

Aquinas also considered what were legitimate targets in war, how much force is morally appropriate, and where responsibility lies. Therefore, noncombatants and civilians are not considered legitimate targets although they might be killed; a person is responsible for their own actions and cannot use the excuse of 'superior orders' as a defence. However, how much force may be used is open to wider interpretation due to the accuracy, the terrain, the immediacy of the situation and the wider conflict.

Aquinas never considered the post war morals, but modern scholars consider that punishment of innocents or noncombatants should be avoided and the traditions of the defeated respected with claims of victory and compensation proportionate to the purpose of the war. Reparations are allowable but their proportionality is key, and post World War 1 there has been a major change in this respect. They also identify that there may be a need to rehabilitate or re-educate an aggressor if future wars are to be avoided.

When looking at the trouble in the world today it is very difficult to remain objective and free from any preconceived ideas. However, the theory of a just war does help in at least broadly identifying what should be done and how and in giving a moral framework in which to assess the situation.

## God in the Sciences

*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.*

### God of the mountains, God of the valleys

*Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? (Job 38:4-7, 14, 16)*

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking "What have I done to You...? Why have You made me your target?"

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

*This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in [New Daylight](#) (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.*

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## Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and it seemed to fascinate the seven-year-old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"





## High Days & Holy Days - November

### 1<sup>st</sup> November: All Saints' Day – the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,  
And made converse and walk with thee,  
And with thy saints here and above,  
With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost;  
The several vessels of thy fleet,  
Though parted now, by tempests tost,  
Shall safely in thy haven meet...

The heavenly hosts, world without end,  
Shall be my company above;  
And thou, my best and surest Friend,  
Who shall divide me from thy love?\*



1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

*\*(Maurice Frost (ed.), Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.*

*Of course, very many of the early 'saints' were also martyrs, and so...*

### 1<sup>st</sup> November: The first martyrs – the 'seed' of the Christian Church

The first martyrs of Rome are recorded in the old Roman Martyrology, which states that:

'At Rome, the birthday is celebrated of very many martyrs, who under the Emperor Nero were falsely charged with the burning of the city and by him were ordered to be slain by various kinds of cruel death; some were covered with the skin of wild beasts, and cast to the dogs to be torn asunder; others were crucified, and then when daylight failed used as torches to illuminate the night. All these were disciples of the apostles and the first fruits of the martyrs whom the Holy Roman Church sent to their Lord before the apostles' death.'

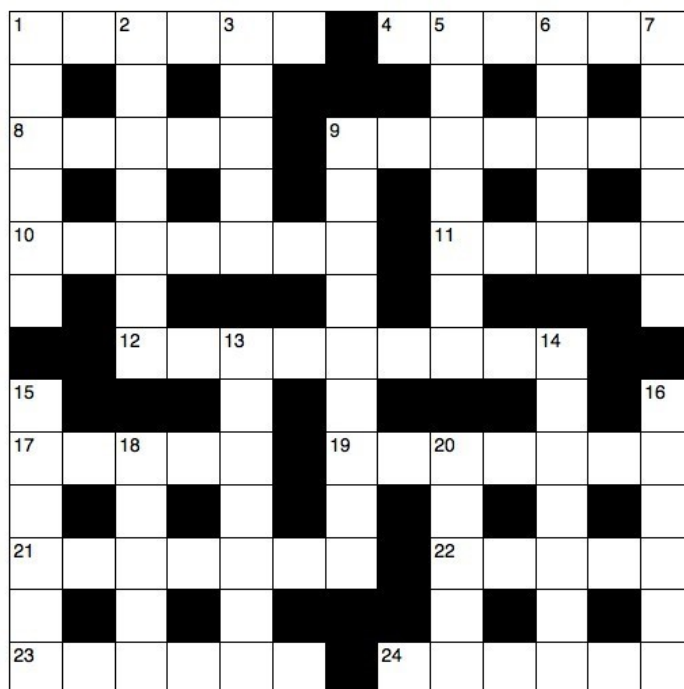
## CROSSWORD CLUES

### Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

### Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)



# WORD SEARCH

This month, on 30<sup>th</sup> November, Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured, not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/ Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.



- |           |             |             |            |             |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Scotland  | Peter       | Patras      | Fife       | Saint       |
| Disciples | Nathanael   | Archaia     | Pilgrimage | Love        |
| Jesus     | Bartholomew | Eighth      | Tenth      | Introducing |
| Andrew    | Messiah     | Remains     | Pious      | Place       |
| Honoured  | Saviour     | Translation | Patron     |             |

Easy Soduko

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

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Medium Soduko

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

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# Puzzle Solutions

## Easy Sudoku solution

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

## Medium Sudoku solution

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

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1, Thanks. 4, Banner. 8, Esher.  
9, Azariah. 10, Compare. 11, Ishma.  
12, Doorposts. 17, Oaths. 19, Galatia.  
21, Papyrus. 22, Frail. 23, Listen. 24, Hyssop.

**DOWN:** 1, Trench. 2, Ashamed. 3, Karma.  
5, Ananias. 6, Neigh. 7, Reheat. 9, Areopagus.  
13, Observe. 14, Satraps. 15, Compel. 16, Gallop.  
18, Tapes. 20, Lofty.

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

## Junior Inspire WORDSEARCH solution

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

## WORDSEARCH solution

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





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More designs on page 32.

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Just some of the designs of cards on offer ... see also more designs on page 31.



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