

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley

InSpire



THIS
NEW YEAR
EXPERIENCE
NEW LIFE

Issue 79 January 2024

Free of charge - donations welcome in honesty box in wall

Eight easy ways to own your impact this festive season:

Waste less, swap to reusable items wherever possible – travel cups, drinking bottles, cloth nappies, beeswax wraps for food storage, reusable make-up removers, bamboo toothbrushes. Find out more [here](#).

1. Keep bows and ribbons and reuse them for other occasions (they cannot go in your recycling) to reduce waste and save money.

Place non-recyclable items such as hard plastic storage boxes, polystyrene, bubble wrap, and flexible plastic film in your rubbish bin. If in doubt, check it out with a quick search on the [Surrey Recycles search tool or app](#).

Plan food shops and party food in advance to avoid overbuying. Freeze excess food to enjoy later. Have you ever tried a [food shopping app](#)?

Get more meals for your money, try some of our [delicious recipes](#).

1. Put food that can't be eaten, like bones, eggshells and peelings into your food caddy.

Having a pre or post Christmas clear out? Remember some items need to be recycled separately from your main container – such as clothes and home textiles, small electricals, and batteries. In most areas they are collected weekly. Use the [Surrey Recycles search tool or app](#) to find out more.

If you're not planning to replant and reuse your Christmas tree, look for places where you can recycle it by visiting the [Surrey Recycles search tool or app](#) or the [check local collection services](#) web page. Alternatively, subscribe to your local [garden waste recycling collection service](#) and your crew will take it away for you.

Remember, owning your impact now will make a big difference for years to come.



Don't forget you can bring your used stamps to church for recycling! So don't forget to keep all those Christmas ones!

Important Announcement from the PCC

as announced in the weekly sheets in December 2023



PCC Net Zero Statement

Following the lead of the central Church of England, the PCC of Capel and Ockley has adopted a Net Zero Carbon statement in their meeting of 8th November 2023. PCC members and members of the Congregation (and the wider community!) can hold their life and work against the light of this statement:

'The Parish of Capel and Ockley, Church of England, is committed to reaching Net Zero Carbon by 2030. To achieve this requires action by all parts of our church. The priority is to reduce the emissions arising from the energy use of our buildings, our transport and the activities we run as a church'.

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A New Year's Resolution

To begin with oneself, but not to end with oneself;
To start from oneself, but not to aim at oneself;
To comprehend oneself, but not to be preoccupied with oneself.

By Martin Buber (Austrian born Jewish philosopher)

Don't want a paper copy ...

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www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine

This issue is sponsored by

An anonymous donor

Our thanks to them for their support

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Rev Liz writes

Dear Friends,

In our churches at the year drew to an end and we begin the new year there have been some small booklets published by the Church of England called 'Follow the Star - Join the Song - 12 Days of Reflections for Christmas and the New Year. The booklet invites you to hear and respond to the angels' invitation to gather in the presence of the newborn Jesus. Well as you read this you may well be thinking about or have already put away the Christmas decs for another year but of course the Christmas story goes on leading us through Jesus' childhood with the story of Simeon and Anna - people who recognised him in the Jerusalem Temple when he was brought by his parents to be presented to God as was the Jewish custom. The Christmas child grew up and began his ministry at the age of thirty. A ministry that lasted only three years before the authorities found a way to silence him or so they thought! Our church year soon turns from Jesus' birth to adulthood and his experience in the wilderness, led by God's Holy Spirit. Lent begins in earnest as we follow Jesus to the cross and the horror of Good Friday is transformed into the glory and joy of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day!



As we begin this new year perhaps with many good intentions which are not always easy to keep we also hope for a brighter future for not only our own loved ones but for our world. It is easy in this rather difficult month of January to feel that all these hopes are somewhat in vain. Sometimes we just have to keep on putting one foot after another, keep on turning up, keep on trusting and keep on hoping. Musician and writer Nick Cave is quoted as saying "Hope is optimism with a broken heart." Or we could say in other words, hope is believing in God's promises even in the midst of the world's pain. But yet, each day there are glimpses of what is in churchy terminology - salvation. God was born to us which we celebrate afresh each Christmas and now its up to us to put his love into action. We have had a chance to dwell in Christ's presence during the twelve days of Christmas. In him we have seen salvation. Let us dwell on what we might have glimpsed of love, kindness and the goodness of most humankind through this Christmas season and build on this as we begin the new year.

Please know that your parish church is here to help and encourage you and pray for you as well as help you celebrate the joys you may know of which I hope you will experience many.

With my love and prayers and Happy New Year!

Liz

Revd Liz Richardson

liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

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

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - JANUARY 2024

at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley

Sunday 7th The Epiphany
9.30am Matins - Ockley
10.30 am Family Communion - Capel

Sunday 14th Epiphany 2
9.30am Holy Communion CW - Ockley
10.30 am Cafe Church - Capel

Sunday 21st Epiphany 3
10.30am Parish Communion - Capel

Sunday 28th Epiphany 4
9.30am Holy Communion BCP
10.30 am Family Worship - Capel

FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th Second Sunday before Lent
9.30am Matins - Ockley
10.30 am Christingle Service in aid of The
Children's Society Capel

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

[https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-
calendar/](https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/)



NEWS from the Pews

From the Registers

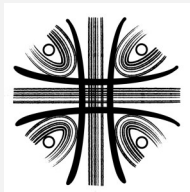
In Memoriam

We give thanks for the lives and mourn the loss of

James William Brant - 3rd November 2023

Patricia Hewson - 14th November 2023

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



A huge thank you to Joy and the ladies who helped decorate Capel church for Christmas. It looks beautiful!



THANK YOU

Real Advent Calendars

You will be pleased to know that our Scott-Broadwood school children were delighted with their gift of their Real Advent calendars.

Christmas Hampers these were collated and safely delivered to many families. Thank you to everyone who contributed with their generous gifts of food and goodies which ensure that families have a good Christmas. Our sincere thanks to Jessie, Eric and Leigh for organising this once again for us.

CAN YOU HELP?

NEW After School 'Church Club' As part of our Parish Needs Plan, we are developing ministry with children and leading a weekly **After School Club** for Scott-Broadwood children beginning in January 2024. Using a successful and well tried format created by the former OOFG Parish, we are looking forward to this new venture. Please contact Revd Liz if this is something you might like to help with. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

'The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.'

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding Officer:

Leigh Smith 07732825908
leighdesouza@yahoo.com

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

News from the Diocese of Guildford

Race Equality Week

Race Equality Matters' (www.raceequalitymatters.com) mission is "To remove barriers and provide the solutions to tackle race inequality". Race Equality Matters (REM) organises Race Equality Week (REW) which will be 5-11 February 2024. For Monday 5th to Thursday 8th February, they invite people to take a 5 minute "challenge", each one focuses on areas of potential unconscious discrimination. Each challenge invites us think about our attitudes and behaviour. The Diocese has agreed to promote participation in Race Equality Week. Each day during REW 2024, we will provide a link to the challenge each day on its website and in its social media so anyone interested can participate.

We encourage churches to promote participation in REW 2024 through their newsletters, notices and social media.

Racial Justice Sunday

The Church of England celebrates Racial Justice Sunday on 11th February 2024 at the end of Race Equality Week 2024. That day the Cathedral's 0945 Eucharist service will focus on Racial Justice. Canon Bev Hunt, the Bishop's Advisor on UKME/GMH issues and Racial Justice Officer will be preaching.

We encourage all churches to recognise Racial Justice Sunday in their service planning and for interested clergy and parishioners to come to the Cathedral for 0945 on 11th February and participate in the Cathedral's celebration of racial diversity.

Taken from the Parish Brief dated 12th December 2023



A BIG THANK YOU!

The Christmas fair committee would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2023 Fair a success once more. We are delighted to announce that the Fair made a net profit of £2,843.21 and is split equally between our Parish churches of Capel & Ockley and The Motor Neurone Disease Association.

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Fair in any way - our stallholders, our visitors and our wonderful team of volunteers who gave up their time to help us.



Next year's Fair will be on Saturday 16th November 2024 so pop the date in your diaries now!

Suzanne Cole, Helen Berry, George Ede & Kerena Justice
The Capel Christmas Fair committee

Café Church

JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year?

Such is the nature of writing a regular monthly column for this magazine that I find myself typing away at the beginning of December 2023 and thinking about the New Year! But deadlines are deadlines and the editors run a tight ship so.....Welcome to 2024!

I wonder how many of us have sat back and thought about what we just celebrated over the Christmas period? If you have, I can guarantee that you didn't think about rejoicing in the birth of a brown-skinned, Middle Eastern, undocumented refugee. But if you wanted a succinct description of Jesus then that would pretty much cover it. In stark contrast to most of the paintings in Western art over the centuries, he was most certainly not white, blond-haired or blue-eyed! He was born in the humblest of circumstances and as a child he was forced into exile in Egypt. The bible tells us that the first people to visit after his birth were shepherds when God used his angels to announce the birth of His son to them. An interesting choice on God's part given that in those days, shepherds were regarded as the lowest of the low and social outcasts.

Doesn't it strike you as a little strange that the God of all creation decided that His son would be born in an outhouse, be called a "Servant" King, would be worshipped first by a group of men who you would not normally give house room to and would go on in the future to recruit simple fishermen as his disciples? Surely Jesus, the Son of God, should have arrived in a blaze of glory, lived in a palace, been pampered with the very best of everything the world had to offer and be befriended by the great and the good of society? Well, no! God's plan all along (as can be seen from the many prophecies throughout the Old Testament written hundreds of years before Jesus' birth) was to demonstrate His love, power and forgiveness from the bottom up. In fact, He had form in this area. After all, He picked the Jewish nation to be His chosen people not because *they* were anything special but because *God* was. They were an argumentative, stubborn, wilful people who cried out to God when times were bad and then went their own way when things were ok! God chose to use them to demonstrate His love, power and forgiveness. Do you see a pattern emerging?

"That's all very interesting, Bob, but what does that have to do with 2024?", I hear you say! Well, if the point of God sending His son, Jesus, was to reveal his love, power and forgiveness, and we are to believe the words written by St. Paul in Hebrews Ch. 13. V. 8 that, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever", then the God who chooses the outcast, the disobedient, the proud and the lost is still wanting to do that today. And if God can somehow get each one of us to be a little more like His son, Jesus, then we will be more accepting of one another, more forgiving, more loving and more able to accept those in our community who may not share the same views or privileges that we do. But that would mean each one of us accepting the outstretched hand of the brown-skinned, Middle Eastern, undocumented refugee.

Bob Cranham

***Café Church meets at St. John's Church, Capel on
Sunday 14th January at 10.30am.***

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

Informal – Inclusive – Inspiring.





NEWS FROM THE BELFRY

A Happy New Year to Everyone!

Last year we were very pleased to ring for the Coronation of King Charles III, which was yet another first for us, after the Platinum Jubilee and Royal Funeral the year before. The week after the celebrations disaster struck when the treble bell fell from its axle having sheared off at the headstock.

The bell was left standing on blocks, out of action for six months awaiting repair and finally rehung the week after Remembrance Sunday. It had taken so long to repair because, like many traditional crafts, the engineering firm that the bellhangers had previously used closed down following the retirement of the owner.

Fortunately the damage was not as bad as it might have been and we were still able to ring the other 5 bells in the meantime. The treble being the first in the row it was not missed as much as any of the other bells would have been.

Thank you again to all those who contributed to the repair of the headstock which was much appreciated. We are hoping for a less eventful year in 2024.

We now have 6 bells to ring once again but would like more people to ring them. If you are looking to be more active, get out more, acquire a new skill or make new friends why not consider bell ringing? Learning to ring church bells ticks all these boxes and more, occurring regularly, for an hour or so a week with instruction and equipment provided free of charge. It can be a very absorbing and often exhilarating pastime for all.

Ringling is well within the capabilities of most people and research shows that there are many benefits to learning something new and keeping the mind and body active. It is a very sociable activity where many new friendships are made and the band must act as a team and collaborate to achieve a common goal.

Anyone interested in finding out more is welcome to come along and have a go, under supervision, or just to watch. Please contact Sue first as although Wednesday is practice night we are not always at Ockley tower.

For more details call Sue on 01306 627168, email ockleybellringers@btinternet.com or go to www.bellringing.org/learntoring/

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham begins a new series which will run for the next two years.

What's the Big Idea? *An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Genesis*

This is the first of a new series aimed at providing an overview of the Bible. This month we consider the first book, Genesis.

As the title suggests, Genesis is primarily about beginnings. In chapters 1-11, it records the creation of the heavens and the earth and human beings; marriage and family; sin's effect on society and the world. The following chapters record God's dealings with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, and their families. In this story of the Patriarchs we see God establishing a people called to bless the world, as He blesses them.

The book of Genesis is key to understanding the whole Bible. It is supremely about relationships; the relationships between God and the created order, God and human beings, and between human beings themselves. Fundamentally man has been created in the image of God, so that he can relate to God in a personal way: *'God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them'* (1:27). However, Genesis plots how this relationship was broken by sin, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, resulting in the fall of human beings and the created order. By creating people with free will, God risked the possibility that they might reject Him. This is inherent in His love for human beings.

In Genesis, God enters into covenants with the world (the rainbow following the flood) and with Abraham and his descendents (circumcision), pledging His love and faithfulness to them and calling them to respond to Him in faith. It reminds us that God is fundamental to living. Without a sense of the centrality of God's place in our lives, we can never get our lives right.

Miscellaneous observations on modern life

Carpe diem. Seize the day. Make your lives extraordinary. - Dead Poets Society

There's no place like home. - The Wizard of Oz

The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved, loved for ourselves, or rather, in spite of ourselves. - Victor Hugo

A weak mind is like a microscope, which magnifies trifling things but cannot receive great ones. - Lord Chesterfield.

The cross is 'I' crossed out. - Anon

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar. - William Wordsworth

You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment if you don't trust enough. - Frank Crane.

Opportunity knocks but once, but temptation leans on the doorbell. - Anon

Persecution is the legacy bequeathed by Christ to his people. - Thomas Watson

I have had more trouble with myself than with any other man I have ever met. - Dwight Moody

The last thing one knows is what to put first. - Blaise Pascal

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the year ahead.

New Year Resolutions

Last year (2023) 30 million people in the UK made New Year resolutions, with health (28%), money (27%), family (24%) and self-improvement (21%) topping the charts for the most common resolutions. However, surveys suggest that most people lasted seven weeks before giving them up and 21% only lasted for a month before giving up.

What resolutions can we make that will last beyond January? At the start of a new year, let's remember Paul's words: *'I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings'* (Philippians 3:10). Like Paul, our resolution should be to know Christ deeper in this coming year.

'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Phil 3:13,14). Paul sees following Christ like an athlete running a race in the stadium. As any good runner, we mustn't look back. We cannot live on past successes, get bogged down by past sins and failures, or be bitter over past wrongs we've done, or had done to us!

An athlete strains every muscle to win the race. Like Paul, let's be single-minded in making Jesus our focus during the coming year in everything we do. What practical steps are needed if we are to go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading? How can we more effectively see Christ working in our workplace and career, or family and children?

In the film *Chariots of Fire*, Eric Liddell says: *'I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.'* In this New Year, let's find our pleasure in the pursuit of knowing Christ better!



More Bulletin Bloopers

The church notices that did not come out quite as they were meant to do!

We are delighted to announce that the youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Any church member over 18 is welcome to join our new lay ministry programme. It requires minimal training and time: just six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.

Vestry cupboard that hid "precious" Welsh Bible

A Bible printed in 1620, one of the very first to be produced in Welsh, has been discovered by chance in a vestry cupboard in St Martin and St Enfail's Church in Merthyr, near Carmarthen.

Mari James, Library Development Officer at St David's Cathedral, described the 400-year-old Bible as "quite a treasure" and "a precious part of Wales' history of Christian worship".

A former Merthyr churchwarden, Huw Evans, found the Bible forgotten and unrecognised among candles, communion wine and linen in the back of the cupboard.

Copies of the Bible, known as the Bishop Parry version, were distributed to all churches in Wales to comply with Queen Elizabeth I's instruction that everyone should be able to read the Scriptures in their own language. This was the main Reformation project in Wales, intended to consolidate Protestantism.

The volume was based on the 1588 translation by Bishop William Morgan. The Old Testament was translated directly from the original Hebrew, and the New Testament from Greek. Some of the work was carried out in St David's.

A Welsh Book of Common Prayer, dating from 1710 in the reign of Queen Anne, was also found languishing - in the same vestry cupboard.

Editor: Lester Amann considers the future.

Looking ahead

January is named after the Roman god Janus. He had two faces, so he could study the past and see into the future.

At the start of a new year, we dispose of old calendars and diaries. No doubt, it is only natural to look back at the former year. Perhaps we recall occasions of happy times that include special moments with dear friends. On the other hand, our old year may have had disappointments, such as loss of employment or deterioration of health.

We might also reminisce at the life of our church. We remember our building regularly filled for our services. There were many joyous occasions in which we were encouraged and supported. However, over time, things have changed. We may now have a dwindling congregation, with its regular members elderly and less active.

However, these pondering are not meant to make us depressed! We can look back with thankfulness that God has been with us. Also, we can look to the future, praying that God will give us wisdom, strength and guidance for our journey ahead.

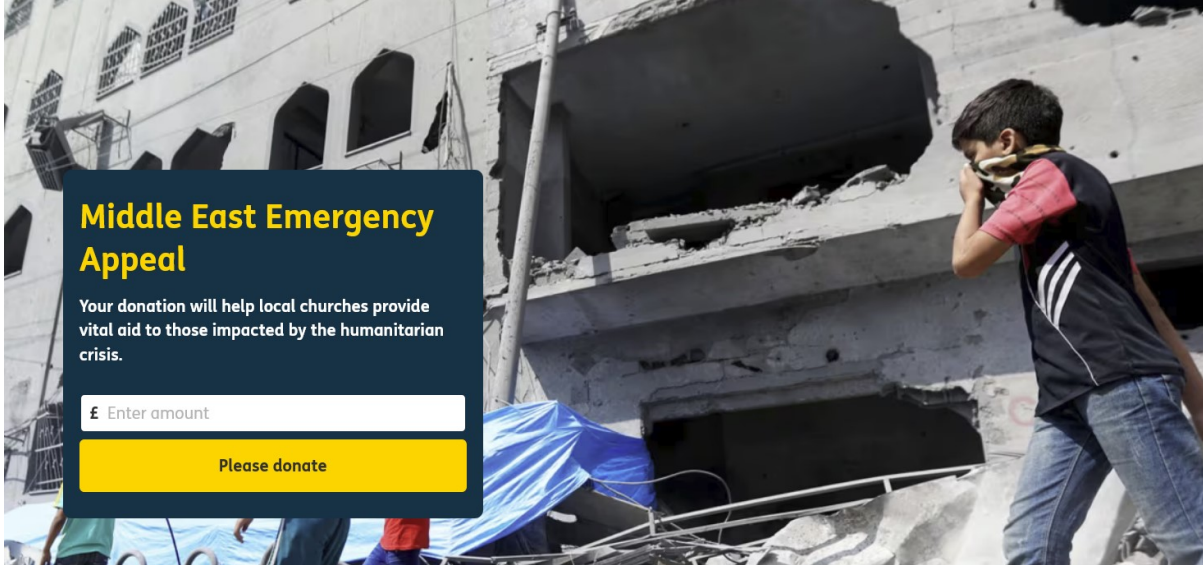
The Bible is full of instances where individuals and indeed the Jewish nation looked back. They had annual Feast Days, through which God showed them His grace and favour. These festivals were important because they had a dual purpose – to look back and face forward. The Passover looked back to the Israelites deliverance from slavery in Egypt. This meal was a reminder that just as God had cared for them in the past, He would be with them in the future.

Similarly, for us, the Communion Service is a reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus who secured our salvation. We look back to His life, death, and resurrection so that we can live with confidence that our sins are forgiven, and one day we will live in God's eternal Home.

January can be a month when remember God's blessings and faithfulness in the past, enabling us to look to the future with confidence. As we start a new year, may it be our prayer that God will enrich us wherever we are, and that we will know He is always with us.

TEARFUND MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY APPEAL

Emergency Appeal ! Emergency Appeal ! Emergency Appeal ! Emergency Appeal ! Emergency Appeal !



Middle East Emergency Appeal

Your donation will help local churches provide vital aid to those impacted by the humanitarian crisis.

£ Enter amount

Please donate

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/middle-east-emergency-appeal>


Middle East Emergency Appeal: how you can help today

Right now, thousands of people in Gaza and Israel and the wider region are experiencing devastating loss, trauma and overwhelming need. The situation continues to worsen on a daily basis, increasing the number of people being displaced from their homes.

Tearfund is working with local churches and partners to support their preparations and help them respond to the needs of people across the region.

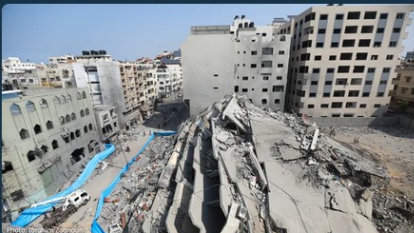
Your help can make a difference. Please give if you can, and join us in praying for the lives that have been ruined by the unfolding crisis.

Pray and donate today



Pray >

We've created a guide to help individuals and groups pray for people affected by the crisis in Gaza and Israel.



Give >

Help us work with local churches and partners as they prepare to respond to the needs of people across the region.





Bishop introduces Bill to allow humanitarian visas for those seeking asylum

A Church of England Bishop is proposing legislation to provide a safe and legal route to the UK for those seeking asylum, as part of attempts to crack down on illegal people smuggling across the Channel in small boats.

The Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, has published a Private Members' Bill in the House of Lords which would permit an annual number of humanitarian travel visas to the UK.

The visas would allow people to safely enter the UK where there is a high chance that their asylum claim will be granted. The nationalities currently most likely to travel to the UK on small boats and have their asylum claim granted are Afghan, Syrian, Iranian, Eritrean and Sudanese.

The Bill also proposes that their asylum claim would then be considered in the UK through an accelerated process.

Under the terms of the Asylum Application (Entry to the United Kingdom) Bill, up to 10,000 asylum travel visas would be granted in the first year of its operation with subsequent limits set by the Home Secretary. Nationalities eligible to apply would be named by the Home Secretary.

Bishop Guli said: "I am pleased to bring forward this Private Members Bill on the introduction of a Humanitarian Visa Scheme, which will provide a much-needed opportunity to discuss safe routes into the UK for refugees fleeing conflict, persecution and disasters.

The Bill had its first Reading in late November, and will be timetabled for a Second Reading at a later date.

Church calls on Scottish Government to end child poverty

The Church of Scotland recently joined campaigners to urge the First Minister to keep his promise, and to provide significant additional investment to tackle child poverty.

More than 150 organisations across Scotland signed an Open Letter that called on Humza Yousaf to "do the right thing" and increase the Scottish Child Payment to at least £30 a week in the upcoming budget.

The Church of Scotland says that it is committed to speaking truth to power, in order to help tens of thousands of children locked in poverty because supporting the poorest people in society is the Gospel imperative and at the heart of all that it does.

The Church believes that all families should be provided with the support and resources necessary to thrive and the Scottish Child Payment, which has not been increased for 16 months, is a lifeline for those most in need. According to the Scottish Government, it is estimated that 24% of children (250,000 children each year) are living in relative poverty, after housing costs in 2019-22.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 stipulated that by 2030 less than 10% of children living in Scottish households should be living in relative poverty.

Synod backs trial of special services asking for God's blessing for same-sex couples

Special services of prayer and dedication asking for God's blessing for same-sex couples will soon be introduced in the Church of England on a trial basis, following a vote at the last General Synod.

Synod voted in favour of a motion containing an amendment tabled by the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, to bring forward the standalone services based around texts known as *Prayers of Love and Faith*.

Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) is a collection of prayers, readings and other resources for praying with and for a same-sex couple who love one another and who wish to give thanks for and mark that love in faith before God.

The House of Bishops had already recently agreed that structures for special standalone services based on the PLF could also go forward to be formally authorised under canon law, under a process expected to take about two years.

However, the General Synod motion means that the services could be authorised for use sooner, but temporarily, under separate legislation.

That would enable the first standalone Prayers of Love and Faith services to take place in churches at the same time as the process of seeking permanent authorisation is under way.

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, and the Bishop of Winchester, Philip Mounstephen, who have been co-chairing the Living in Love and Faith steering group, said: "During more than nine hours of debate we have heard very clearly what has been said, with passion and deep conviction, from a whole range of different perspectives.

"The truth is – and as we have seen again today – that the Church of England is not of one mind on questions of sexuality and marriage.

"Synod has agreed – narrowly – that standalone church services for same-sex couples should be authorised under Canon law on a trial basis.

"The House of Bishops will now consider how best to implement that call as we also commend the Prayers of Love and Faith for use in worship.

"Yet we must also reflect on all that we have heard from Synod – from across the whole spectrum - and redouble our efforts to find a space where we can live with our current disagreements because we believe that is what God is calling us to do."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "We have heard loud and clear, through an extensive debate over two days, the depth of feeling across the Church on these hugely important questions.

"In particular, we have heard deep and heartfelt concern about the way the bishops have sought to implement Synod's earlier decision on the Prayers of Love and Faith."

"So while this motion was passed, narrowly, we do not underestimate the depth of feeling and will reflect on all that we have heard as we seek to move forward together."

All above articles ©Parish Pump

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on the meanings in church buildings.

Reflecting faith:

by the Revd Dr Jo White.

Reflecting Faith: God's Acre

I thought we'd spend a few months at the start of this New Year considering the outside of a church building, and the gardens around it.

For many churches this will include a churchyard, though not necessarily. If your church does stand in a churchyard, then it may be what is known as a 'closed' one, meaning that burials and interments no longer take place other than within an existing family grave. An 'open' churchyard is one where burials and interments are still able to take place.

The maintenance for open churchyards is the responsibility of the church, whilst once closed (which, for Church of England churches, has to be agreed by Parliament) the maintenance is passed to the local or parish civil council.

These days, with the many financial cutbacks, Councils often try to refuse to take on a churchyard. But as it is a statutory obligation, they have no choice, and many will simply reduce the number of grass-cutting sessions to fit their slimmed budget.

Churchyards have not always looked as they do today, with memorial stones of varying shapes and sizes. Originally, they were simply left grassed and in towns this became one of the few green areas. People were buried there without any permanent marker being placed, nor any other official record of placement kept.

The thinking was that their life here on earth had ended and the person was now with God in heaven. Only those people in 'God's kingdom' would be allowed to be buried in the consecrated grounds, so anyone who had taken their own life, or unbaptised babies, would not be allowed.

Church buildings are usually built facing east - the place of the rising sun - and the people's entrance is on the south wall. This gives access to the churchyard from the south, and in European countries that means your first experience of entering the churchyard and the building is on its sunny side.

It was common practise to bury to the south of the church, as this was the lighter and warmer side. The richer and more influential folk would request to go as near to the altar - the Holy of Holies - as possible; even if that was outside the building itself.

Over the course of time folk wanted - and richer folk could afford - a marker for where their loved one lay. This idea of having a permanent marker reflected the attitudes at the time, of visiting the place of rest specifically marked. Not just to know where to visit and even bring a picnic for the family on a good weather day, especially in working busy town areas; but also, to recognise the importance of their loved one's life.

This month

Try and visit a churchyard with very old memorials. Have a look at all the different materials, styles, wording and embellishments. What message do they give to you?

PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

Prayer for Gaza and Israel

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and Israel. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you would stretch out your mighty hand to bring an end to this war.

We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.

We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.

Amen.

New Year Prayer 2024

Lord,

We stand on the threshold of a new year. Some of us are excited, some of us are fearful. We don't know what 2024 will bring, but we know that there will be ups and downs, joy and sadness mixed in with the months.

As we step into this new year, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you; to know for certain that, whatever happens, you will be in it with us, not watching from the sidelines, but right in the middle of it with us.

Help us to put our trust in what Jesus did on the cross, maybe for the first time, maybe as a New Year re-commitment, so that we will *know* that nothing can separate us from you.

Let the storm rage, let the sun shine – we are safe!

In the name of the risen, living Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching

Here is some comfort from a divine perspective to any of our readers who are facing a difficult New Year....

Let nothing disturb thee

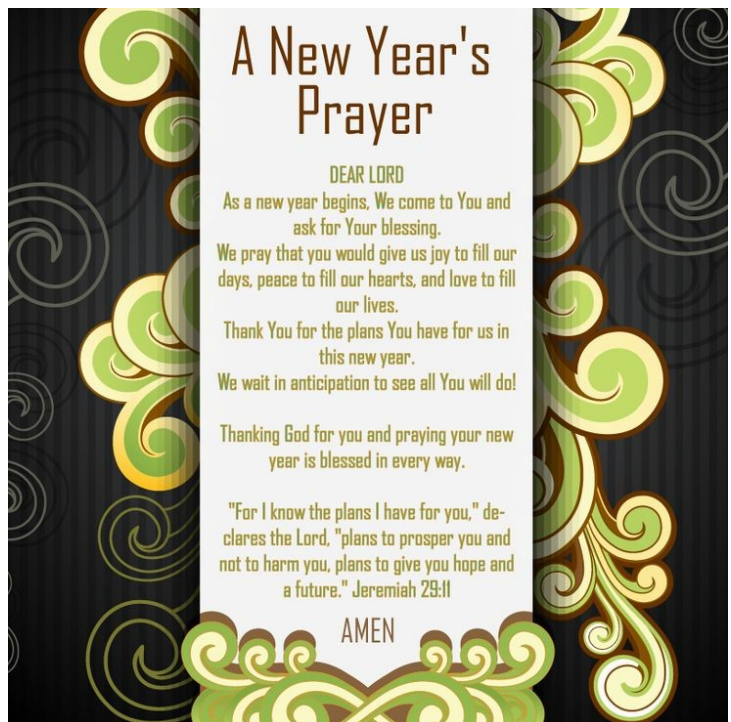
Let nothing disturb thee, nothing affright thee;
All things are passing; God never changeth';
Patient endurance
Attaineth to all things;
Who God possesseth
In nothing is wanting
Alone God sufficeth.

By St Teresa of Avila

Great lives

Lives of all great men remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Having a religious faith makes you happier

People who have a religious faith are generally happier and more resilient than atheists and other non-religious people.

That is the finding of a new study, *Keep the Faith: Mental health in the UK*, which has been recently published by the Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life (IIFL).

The think tank was set up to study the part that religious faith plays in the UK. It was the first to focus exclusively on the link between people's faith and their mental health in the UK.

The survey included Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus, with nearly 70 per cent of them reporting a good psychological well-being, as compared with only 49 per cent of atheists.

As for happiness, just nine per cent of people with a faith said they were unhappy, as compared with nearly a quarter of atheists.

It was also found that believers feel they have more self-control, more life satisfaction, and more optimism about their future. Only nine percent of believers were pessimistic, as opposed to 30 percent of non-believers.

But it seems that practising your faith is important. Even among believers, those who regularly attend religious services are far more likely to report positive psychological wellbeing, when compared to those who rarely or never attend such services.

Overall, the IIFL has concluded that the rapid secularisation of the UK has left many people with lowered resilience and lowered wellbeing.

As the author of the study, Dr Rakib Ehsan, says: "while the fast-paced secularisation of the British has been cited as a form of social progress, this appears not to be the case from the perspective of mental health."

Editor: How has having faith in God has on your personal lives? Please do let me know if that's something you'd like to share with our readers in a future issue?

Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."
Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."
The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's completely not working now."

Why?

A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"
"I don't know what to say," the girl replied.
"Just say what you hear Mummy say," the father answered.
The daughter bowed her head and said, "O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

I hope you've all enjoyed the Christmas break and shared the festivities with those you love. I can't believe we are entering a new year once more but I wish you all every blessing for 2024!

I'm sorry that there was no December 2023 issue, but many of you were aware that we moved my Mum, Pat, from Ewell to Capel at the end of November and life has been very hectic, both leading up to the move and since! Anyone who has moved house will understand! She is now living in The Street and will hopefully meet many new friends and neighbours in the coming months and years. I'm very much looking forward to spending more time with her and it's true to say that my life will be infinitely enriched with having her nearer in the coming years. Those of us who already live in the communities of Capel and Ockley know how special they are. We still have 'hubs' with a doctor's surgery, village school, pre-school, a few shops and a petrol station in each village! We are so lucky to have much on our doorsteps, including of course the beautiful Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty landscape. Thinking of the natural world, we are all very conscious of the need to play our part in conserving our planet and the PCC has released has adopted a **Net Zero Carbon statement** in their meeting of 8th November 2023. You can see that full statement inside the front cover. It is something that we all, together with the wider community can play a direct part in going forward.

In the January issue, there are some interesting articles including the one opposite on how 'having a religious faith makes you happier' - see opposite. Also, there is a fascinating new series by Canon Paul Hardingham on page 10. The new series of articles will run for the next two years. It's called **What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible** and starts at the beginning with a look at the Book of Genesis.

Often as we begin a new year, we use the opportunity to reflect on our lives and some of the things that we might like to give up or indeed new hobbies we consider taking up. On that note, Sue Dixon's article '**News from the Belfry**' on page 9 points out that they are seeking more bellringers. *'We now have 6 bells to ring once again but would like more people to ring them. If you are looking to be more active, get out more, acquire a new skill or make new friends why not consider bell ringing?'* If you are interested, there are contact details for Sue at the end of the article.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead as a church community. We have the new PCC 'Net zero carbon' statement to work on together, many fundraising events such as the Military Show, our regular church teas, the horticultural shows and the Christmas Fair. Also, the exciting new venture of a school '**Church Club**' at Scott-Broadwood school. Please do see more details on page 6 'News from the Pews' to see if you might like to be involved.

As Lester Amman says in his article '**Looking Ahead**' on page 9, *'we can look back with thankfulness that God has been with us. Also, we can look to the future, praying that God will give us wisdom, strength and guidance for our journey ahead'*.

With my best wishes for 2024,

Suzanne

editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk



BOOK REVIEWS

by Parish Pump

Brighter Days - 12 Steps to Strengthening Your Wellbeing By Patrick Regan, SPCK £12.99

The demands of modern living take their toll on all of us. Yet we can feel as though we're the *only* ones who are weary, overwhelmed, or anxious.

The truth is that we all have days where life feels too much. So this book is packed full of practical tips, on how to invest in your emotional, mental, physical and spiritual health, so that you can look forward to a healthier and more hopeful future.

Sunday - A History of Religious Affairs through 50 Years of Conversations and Controversies By Edward Stourton, SPCK £29.99

Radio 4 listeners are familiar with Edward Stourton of BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme. Here he chronicles over 50 years of current affairs on *Sunday*, in collaboration with BBC Producer Amanda Hancox.

Sunday has cross-examined guests on everything from the Church's answer to the cost-of-living crisis, to the debate around female bishops; from the abuse within the Catholic Church, to the new wave of anti-Semitism. Not to mention the evolving debates on pertinent issues such as sexuality, bioethics, nuclear weapons, and many more!

Looking back on it all, Edward Stourton provides critical reflections on how religion has impacted some of the world's most epoch-making moments. The book also includes interviews with well-known leaders such as Desmond Tutu, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and Enoch Powell.

Sunday lies at the intersection of ethics, politics, and religion. It has featured hundreds of stimulating discussions, and is a testament to how religion remains a powerful force in the lives of most people, whether of faith or non-believers.

How to be (Un)Successful - an unlikely guide to human flourishing By Pete Portal, SPCK 12.99

Many of us yearn for that ever-elusive 'success': in money and power, in influence and accolades. So perhaps it is time for us to remember that success *is* attainable – though not in what we have. Instead, it is to be found in *how we live*.

It is easy to conform to our materialistic culture, but instead we need to redefine success in the light of

Christianity. We can choose love over efficiency, depth over volume and real friendship over cold transactions. Jesus' life and teaching are the perfect antidote for a world growing sick with the wrong sort of success.

A Truth Universally Acknowledged - 40 Days with Jane Austen

By Rachel Mann, Canterbury Press, £12.99

Jane Austen – novelist, forthright letter writer, daughter, and sister of Anglican clergy – had a rarely-matched insight into human character.

She exposed frailty, caprice, and pomposity, yet without losing a profound and compassionate understanding of human nature. Her life was profoundly shaped by the church and Christian spirituality, making her writings an ideal accompaniment for the 40 days of Lent.

Rachel Mann introduces Jane Austen, her world, and her ideas, and, for each day of Lent she offers a commentary on a short excerpt from Austen's writing, to explore how her faith can illuminate ours.

Themes include: The Triumph of Love, Learning Wisdom, Seeing Beyond the Surface to the Truth, Knowing Where Your Treasure Lies, The Temptation to be Proudful and Prejudiced, The Pomposity of Religion, Privilege and its Limitations, Duty and Good Manners.

Transfiguration - 50 Pilgrim Steps By Rob Marshall, Canterbury Press £12.99

In 50 pithy and engaging daily reflections, from Ash Wednesday to Easter and beyond, Rob Marshall leads us on a pilgrim journey to the Mountain of the Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus displaying the overwhelming glory of God to three chosen disciples is one of the most potent yet mysterious stories in the gospels, and a prelude to all that will occur in Jerusalem.

Rob Marshall explores the many layers of the Transfiguration, and relates them to ordinary human experiences – journeying, prayer, revelation, tiredness, sleep, fear, doubt, waiting, questioning, listening, suffering, vision and much more.

Mountaintop encounters with the divine are transformative, but like the disciples we are not meant to stay there. Instead, we are meant to return to the realities of daily life, changed forever by glimpsing the glory of the God. Transfiguration will help you take the power of divine revelation into your ordinary daily Christian life.

Editor: This year much of the C of E lectionary will focus on Mark. So here is a short introduction to this much loved gospel...

The Godspell about Jesus

Mark is the shortest of the Gospels, and most likely the first to be written (about 65 – 70AD). It is certainly the most action-packed!

The gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, whose name occurs often in Acts. His mother lived in a house in Jerusalem, where Jesus' followers met in the early days of the church there (Acts 12:12). John Mark was cousin to Barnabas, Paul's travelling companion.

John Mark had set off with Paul on the first great missionary tour, but then disgraced himself by going home – not making himself popular with Paul! However, Barnabas gave John Mark a second chance, and in later years John Mark won the friendship of Paul. When Paul was in prison, John Mark stood by him (Colossians 4).

Mark's gospel was written not when John Mark was in Jerusalem, but later, when he had spent some time with Peter in Rome. Peter had come to love John Mark as his own son. (1 Peter 5:13), and there is a strong early tradition that John Mark set down Jesus' story as he had heard it directly from the apostle Peter.

For example, Papias, writing about AD140, said: "Mark, who was the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately all that he remembered, whether of sayings or doings of Christ, but not in order. For he was neither a hearer nor companion of the Lord."

Some years later Irenaeus wrote that Mark's gospel was written "when Peter and Paul were preaching the gospel in Rome and founding the church there." After their deaths, "Mark, Peter's disciple, has himself delivered to us in writing the substance of Peter's preaching."

John Mark wrote his gospel with extraordinary vividness. And he obviously knew he would have non-Jewish readers because he often explains Jewish customs.

The Gospel begins with a bang: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God..." No beating about the bush – here is the purpose and the message right from the opening verse.

The word 'gospel' in Greek is *evangelion* – good news (hence the term evangelist). So where does the actual word 'gospel' come from? The Anglo-Saxons first thought it up, using the term 'Godspell', a word that may mean 'good news' or 'news about God'. It was an apt way to refer to the new faith when it reached them. (Hence 'Godspell' as the name of the West End musical about the life of Jesus.)

Mark opens the action not with the birth of Jesus, but rather with His baptism by John. Then the action moves swiftly towards the crisis of the cross and resurrection. Within this framework, the material tends to be not in chronological order, but rather grouped by subject. The book bustles with action and details. It gives far more detail than Matthew's in the accounts of what Jesus did, but deals more briefly with Jesus' teaching.

Mark does not have much that is all his own – in fact - only four paragraphs in all! This is because both Matthew and Luke borrowed heavily from him when they came to write their gospels. And yet we still have something unique in Mark: moving pictures of Jesus in action, convincing us by what He does that His claim to be the Son of God was true. There are fewer stories in Mark than in the other gospels, but these stories are longer, and the detail in them hints of Peter's remembered eye-witness accounts.

World Leprosy Day 2024 – 28th January

World Leprosy Day is always the last Sunday of January. It aims to raise awareness of a disease that is at least 4,000 years old, making it one of the oldest diseases known to humanity.

Leprosy still exists! Around 200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy each year, and many millions are living with leprosy-related disabilities, particularly across Asia, Africa, and South America.

The good news is that leprosy is curable with a combination of antibiotics known as Multi Drug Therapy (MDT). This treatment is available for free across the world.

How did Christians first get involved? That began in 1869, when Wellesley Bailey, a teacher from Ireland, went to India to work. It was there that he saw the appalling living conditions and the social isolation of people with leprosy.

Describing this moment, he later wrote: ‘if there was ever a Christ-like work in the world, it was to go amongst these poor sufferers and bring them the consolation of the gospel.’

Bailey’s compassion and energy soon birthed The Leprosy Mission. At the time, there was no known cure for leprosy, and the bacillus that causes the disease was not even identified until 1874.

Yet that first year, Bailey’s friends raised £600, and Wellesley Bailey was appointed the first secretary of the mission. By the late 1870s the Mission was caring for 100 leprosy-affected people in north India.

Nowadays, Leprosy Mission brings healing, inclusion, and dignity to leprosy-affected people around the world. It now believes that “we can be the generation that finally ends the transmission of leprosy – our target is zero transmission by 2035.” It costs £24 to find and treat someone with leprosy.

More info at: www.donate.leprosymission.org

Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 - 27th January

‘Fragility of Freedom’ is the theme for this year’s Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), as 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust explains that only “49 years after the Holocaust ended, 19 years after the genocide in Cambodia, the world stood by as Hutu extremists shattered the fragile freedom in Rwanda, following decades of tension and violence, culminating in the murder of over one million Tutsis in just one hundred days.

“Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable, and we cannot be complacent. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all. Together we bear witness for those who endured genocide, and we honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.”

There is guidance for HMD activity organisers across the UK this year, in light of the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza and the impact this has had on community relations in the UK. Please go to: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

27th January was chosen for Holocaust Memorial Day, as it marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

Bible Society runs trauma healing programmes in Gaza and Israel

Bible Society teams in the Middle East are working among traumatised people on both sides of the conflict.

Alongside food and other essentials, they are offering a Bible-based trauma healing programme that gives damaged people a chance to talk through their experience with trained facilitators. Through this programme, thousands of refugees are experiencing the Bible in a new way.

The programme was first developed in America to help child soldiers in Africa, and it now runs in 70 countries and is in more than 170 languages. The programme is based on the Bible, mental health practice and science.

Bible Society explains: “When a person is traumatised, the way their brain works changes. People struggle to regulate their emotions and behaviour. But scientific evidence shows that when people speak out their pain and, crucially, feel listened to, the brain can begin to heal.

“Trauma healing doesn’t ‘cure’ people – we don’t claim that. But creating space for refugees to be heard can help them take the first vital steps towards healing.”

Victor Kalisher, who leads the main Israeli team, said: “We’re providing essential practical items, as well as a portion of Scripture, a full Bible, or an Old Testament or a New Testament, depending on the openness and readiness of the person. We desire to sow a seed of salvation and eternal life in the lives of these suffering people.”

Nashat and his team, who share the gospel among the Palestinians, have stepped up their outreach in Gaza and those parts of the West Bank most affected. They’re giving out food, water, blankets and medication, along with family Bibles. Nashat is passionate about the Bible’s potential for impact there. “The gospel has no borders or boundaries,” he said. “It’s the bridge to all.”

If you would like to support this work, please go to: www.biblesociety.org.uk

6th January - Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn’t a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew’s gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

It is true that in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew’s gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: ‘Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.’ So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba’s story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon’s Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the Magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine ‘from the East’.

Crisis Appeal from 'Embrace the Middle East'

The Christian charity 'Embrace the Middle East' (Embrace) has launched a crisis appeal to raise support for its Christian partners in Gaza and Israel, as they seek to help those affected by the war.

Embrace reports that the recent pause in fighting has given its partners on the ground time to take some action:

Al Ahli Hospital has been able to procure much-needed medical supplies, and some patients were safely transported to the European hospital in Khan Younis.

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Middle East Council of Churches has managed to get 300 food parcels to the Latin church in Gaza City, and it is currently procuring more to send to the Orthodox Church. But the DSPR has sustained huge damages to its building and a lot of the stock, including fuel, has been taken.

Caritas Jerusalem and the **Palestinian Bible Society** have also been supplies to those sheltering in the churches in Gaza City, including blankets and clothing. Like DSPR, Caritas has sustained huge damages to its building. The stories of people turning up to work are incredible - one nurse lost 13 members of her family, yet still came to treat people at the clinics over the weekend.

The charity asks of its supporters: "Please hold Israel, Gaza and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) in your prayers." More at: www.embraceme.org

See also Tearfund's Emergency Middle East appeal details on page 13

HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS - 2nd January - St Basil the Great, champion of the Church

Basil was most people's idea of the perfect diocesan bishop. He was a theologian of distinction, who as a monk devoted himself to much prayer and teaching. He leapt to the defence of the Church from the persecution of the Arian emperor Valens, but also appreciated great secular literature of the time, gave away his inheritance to the poor, knew how to run a soup kitchen, and counted thieves and prostitutes among his converts. Not your everyday bishop!

Basil (c330-79) came from a distinguished and pious family, and he had the best education available at Caesarea, Constantinople and Athens. He decided to become a monk with Gregory of Nazianzus, and settled as a hermit near Neo-Caesarea. He became bishop of Caesarea in 370, with 50 suffragan bishops to look after. It was the time of the great Arian heresy, and Basil would come to be seen as one of the great champions of the Church, defending it from secular encroachments.

Basil loved his people and was known for his generosity and care for the poor, both through food and medical care. He was a great preacher – preaching both morning and evening to vast congregations, and organising services of psalms before daybreak.

He was interested in monastic legislation, and to this day, nearly all monks and nuns of the Greek Church follow his rule. His emphasis was on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual work, rather than on solitary asceticism. His rule allowed for almsgiving, hospitals and guesthouses. Basil also wrote some important works on the Holy Spirit.

He died at 49, worn out by austerities, hard work and disease. He was so loved that even strangers mourned his death, and in the centuries that followed, many artists painted pictures of him. His cult spread rapidly in the West, through Greek monks in Italy and through St Benedict admitting that his rule had been inspired by "our holy father Basil."

How to keep those New Year Resolutions

We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. How come we fizzle out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

Be realistic. If you have a number of goals, do NOT attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

Be specific. For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

Write it down. There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!

Tell other people. If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

Focus on GAIN, not loss. Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

Give yourself rewards. If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

Break your resolution into steps. Some goals will take months to achieve. So – break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

Finally, don't let failure defeat you. You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again, and to keep going. Only if you stop are you *really* defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.



All in the month of January

It was:

700 years ago, on 8th Jan 1324 that Marco Polo died. This Venetian/Italian merchant, explorer and writer is best known for his book *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which detailed his travels along the Silk Road in Asia.

200 years ago, on 8th Jan 1824 that Wilkie Collins, British novelist and playwright was born. Best known for *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone*, which is regarded as the first modern British detective novel.

175 years ago, on 13 Jan 1849 that the Colony of Vancouver Island was established. It became part of Canada in 1871.

150 years ago, on 25th Jan 1874 that Somerset Maugham, British playwright, novelist and short story writer, was born. One of the most popular writers of his era.

125 years ago, on 20th Jan 1899 that Clarice Cliff, British ceramic artist, was born.

100 years ago, on 10th Jan 1924 that Columbia Pictures, the American film studio and production company, was established.

Also 100 years ago, on 21st Jan 1924 that Vladimir Lenin, Russian Communist leader, died. He was the architect and first head of the Soviet Union.

Also 100 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1924 that Ramsay MacDonald became Britain's first Labour Prime Minister.

Also 100 years ago, on 26th Jan 1924 that the Russian city of St Petersburg was renamed Leningrad. Its name was changed back in 1991.

80 years ago, on 17th Jan to 18th May 1944 that the WW2 Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy, took place. This Allied victory is regarded as the hardest-fought and bloodiest battle of the war, with around 250,000 casualties.

Also 80 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1944 that Edvard Munch, Norwegian artist, died. Best known for *The Scream*.

75 years ago, on 10th Jan 1949 that RCA launched the 7-inch 45-rpm vinyl record, commonly known as the single.

Also 75 years ago, on 26th Jan 1949 that the 200-inch (five metre) Hale Telescope at the Palomar Observatory in California was used for the first time. It was the world's largest optical telescope until 1976, and it is still in active use.

65 years ago, on 12th Jan 1959 that the Motown record label was founded in Detroit, Michigan by Berry Gordy.

60 years ago, on 11th Jan 1964 that the US Surgeon General published a report which concluded that cigarette smoking caused lung cancer and chronic bronchitis. This was the first official US government report on the health issues of smoking.

Also 60 years ago, on 13th Jan 1964 that Bob Dylan's album *The Times They Are A-Changin'* was released.

50 years ago, from 1st Jan to 6th Mar, 1974, a three-day working week was introduced in the UK, in order to conserve coal supplies (used by power stations) during a miners' strike.

40 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1984 that the first Apple Macintosh computer went on sale.

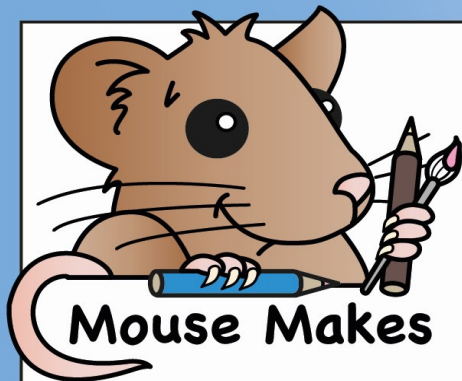
25 years ago, on 1st Jan 1999 that the euro officially became the new currency in 11 European countries.

15 years ago, on 3rd Jan 2009 that the cryptocurrency Bitcoin was launched.

Also 15 years ago, on 20th Jan 2009 that Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the USA.

10 years ago, on 27th Jan 2014 that Peter Seeger, American folk/protest singer died. Best known for *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* and *If I Had a Hammer*.

Junior InSpire



EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.

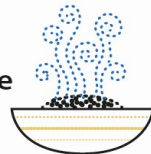


Where was Jesus born?

 Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?



 and -----
 Luke 2:11



Who was the king?

 Luke 2:1

Where did the wise men come from?

the -----
 Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?
 In a -----

 Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?

a -----
 Luke 2:2



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



Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

- JESUS
- WISEMEN
- WORSHIP
- SHEPHERD
- KING • JEWS
- CHRIST • CHILD
- BORN • RULER
- ISRAEL • REJOICE
- JOY • HOUSE • MARY
- GIFTS • EPIPHANY

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

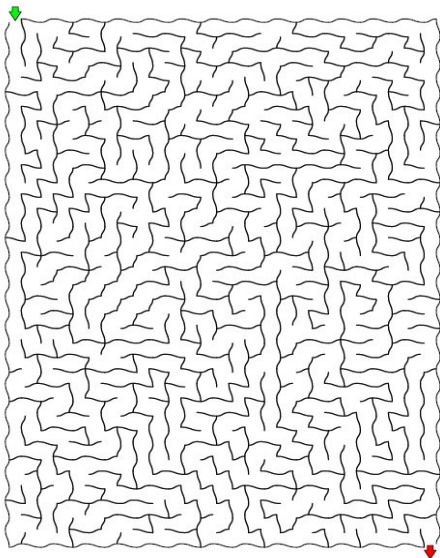
CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3) 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)
- 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)
- 18 Opposite of evens (4)
- 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 23 Beat (anag.) (4)
- 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)
- 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)
- 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)
- 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

DOWN

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)
- 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)
- 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)
- 5 Tidy (4)
- 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)
- 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)
- 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)
- 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)
- 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)
- 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)
- 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)
- 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)
- 24 Rarely used musical note (5)
- 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)
- 26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)
- 27 See 26 Down



	1	2		3		4		5		6		
7												8
9								10				
						11	12					
13			14		15					16		
			17									
18		19								20		
				21								
22										23	24	
				25		26		27				
28						29						
	30											

A bit of fun ... (and not from the Editor of InSpire to the readers!)

A New Year Promise to our readers – from the Editor of this church magazine

Some of you have noticed a few typos in the magazine now and then. To improve this, for 2024 I am using a new set of rules for editing. They are as follows:

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
5. Avoid cliches like the plague. (They're old hat.)
6. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
9. Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
10. No sentence fragments.
11. Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
12. Foreign words and phrases are not *apropos*.
13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. One should NEVER generalise.
15. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
16. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
17. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
18. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
19. The passive voice is to be ignored.
20. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary.
21. Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.
22. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
23. Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth shaking ideas.
24. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
25. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
26. Puns are for children, not groan readers.
27. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
28. Even IF a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
29. Who needs rhetorical questions?
30. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.



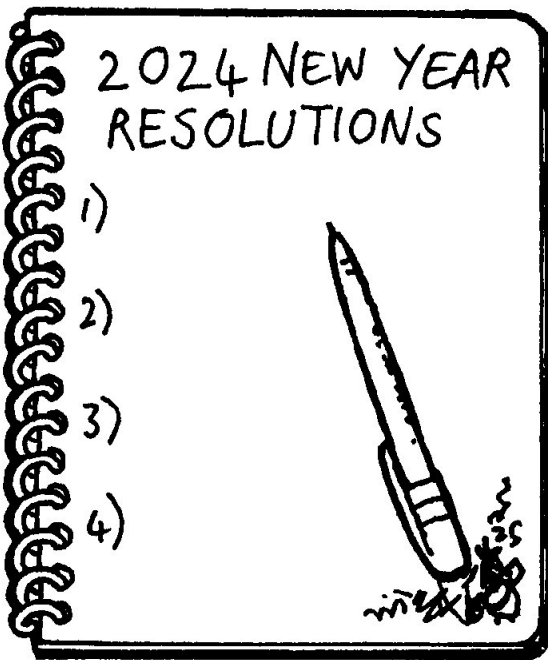
Puzzle Solutions

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Godlessness. 9, Egotism. 10, After. 11, Eat. 13, Sort. 16, Plan. 17, Escape. 18, Odds. 20, Idem. 21, No fear. 22, Idle. 23, Abet. 25, Ail. 28, Eaves. 29, Achieve. 30, Grasshopper.

DOWN: 2, Odour. 3, Lair. 4, Same. 5, Neat. 6, Settled. 7, Gershonites. 8, Grandmother. 12, Apples. 14, TES. 15, Octopi. 19, Deliver. 20, Ira. 24, Breve. 25, As is. 26, Lash. 27, Whip.



"The vicar really is taking all of January off to recuperate, then."



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



Important Update from The Good Shepherd Trust



October 2023

Merging of the Local Committees

Following the merger of the leadership of both Scott Broadwood and The Weald schools, the Good Shepherd Trust has decided to merge the two Local Committees with immediate effect.

This is to support Mr Baguley in his role as Head Teacher for the two schools and will allow parents, staff and community members from each school to be represented. The changes to the composition of the LC are purely for efficiency purposes to better support the school and community in a coherent way. Were any other changes to be considered in the future there are strict guidelines on consultation processes and timelines.

Mr Poulton has been invited to lead the newly merged Local Committee and has kindly agreed to take on this role. He has children at both schools and will provide essential support to Mr Baguley in making school improvements at both sites to deliver the best possible outcomes for the children of the community.

The Good Shepherd Trust would like to thank the Local Committee members for their work in recent years and for their continued efforts during this period of transition.

Mr James Friend
Chair of the Trust Board

Mr Paul Kennedy
Chief Executive Officer

The Academies Office, Larch Avenue, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1JY. Tel 01483 910210
(a charity exempt from registration and a company limited by guarantee no. [8366199](http://www.goodshepherdtrust.org.uk/))
<http://www.goodshepherdtrust.org.uk/>

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

Happy New Year!



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