

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace in our hearts,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

InSpire



The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley
Free of charge - donations welcome in honesty box in wall

Dorking Area Foodbank

has now been operating for 10 years and The Parish of Capel and Ockley are running a project to support this, called

'DONATE TEN'

Could you donate ten items to the Foodbank,
or maybe make a direct debit for £10 each month or arrange
a one-off donation?

Thank you for the amazing response to Sylvie's recent appeals.

Below is a list of items they would currently appreciate:-

**Tinned Soup
Tinned rice pudding
Longlife milk
Longlife fruit juice
Washing Up Liquid
Chocolate**

Do you have any plastic carrier bags you can spare?

Please do continue to donate non-perishable food,
personal hygiene including shampoo, body wash and disposable razors
together with sanitary items, amongst other things.

ALL items are gratefully received.

If you would like to hear more regarding this project
please contact: Revd Liz Richardson - 01306 711260
or Pastoral Assistant Sylvie Beckett on 07711 849338



You may find the following links helpful:

<https://dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> (shows a list)

<https://dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

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"I expect to pass through this world but once - therefore, if there be any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do to any fellow human being, let me do it today; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

William Penn

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You can register to receive **InSpire** via email each month OR download individual issues!

www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine

This issue is sponsored by

**Tina & Peter Fairbrother in celebration of
their 58th Wedding Anniversary
and
John Dale in loving memory of Margaret**

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* See our **Safeguarding Notice** in 'News from the Pews' each month *

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CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2025 at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7th Trinity 12
9.30am Matins - Ockley
10.30am Family Communion - Capel

Sunday 14th Trinity 13
9.30am Holy Communion CW - Ockley
11.00am Baptism - Ockley
10.30 Cafe Church - Capel
3-5pm Capel Church Teas

Sunday 21st Trinity 14
9.30am Parish Worship - Ockley

Sunday 28th Trinity 15
9.30am Harvest Festival - Ockley
10.30am Family Communion - Capel

OCTOBER

Sunday 5th Trinity 16
9.30am Matins - Ockley
10.30 Family Communion - Capel
3-5pm Capel Church Teas

October 12th
9.30am Holy Communion (CW) at St. Margaret's, Ockley
10.30 am Cafe Church, Capel

October 19th
9.30am Matins at St. Margaret's, Ockley
10.30am Parish service at St. John's Capel (Harvest with Scott-Broadwood School)

October 26th
9.30am BCP Holy Communion at St. Margaret's, Ockley
10.30am Family Communion at St. John's, Capel

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

Don't forget you can logon to our church website to see the Weekly notes that are published each week,
together with our monthly magazine InSpire, OR you can subscribe online to receive any or all of the publications:-
<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/subscribe/>

Revd Liz writes

September's letter

Dear friends,

Writing this on what is predicted to be the hottest day of the year thus far, it is rather pleasant to think that September is only just over 2 weeks away! I am thinking of cooler days and mellow September days and nights. It is of course the start of the Autumn term for our children and young people. Many preparing to leave home for the first time for further education, others starting 'proper' school if there is such an expression; and even more children moving into a new class as the new school year begins once more. The season is changing and as in all our seasons it feels like a time to reset, to begin a new thing.

Here in our parish of Capel and Ockley we will be settling down as we begin to think about harvest - the end of the month for St Margaret's and later on in October for Capel. We will be collecting harvest gifts as usual so please do drop them into our churches if you would like them to be included. Gifts will be going to Dorking Foodbank from Capel Church and gifts left at St Margaret's will be distributed locally. With the harvest comes our annual murder mystery play and supper and so through the next few weeks there will be a group of people rehearsing for our next production. More info further on in this magazine (see page 16). This year the play will be on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th October. Please do book early as we do get sold out!

I am looking forward to our Capel Show, again as I write this, and I am sure it will be a huge success. I enjoyed going to the Okewood, Ockley and Forest Green show recently as well. We are so fortunate to have such talented people in our village communities both entering classes for their fruit and veg and everything else you can think of, as well as those who work so hard on our behalf to make sure everything runs smoothly and safely.

Our little 3 year old granddaughter enjoyed watching Punch and Judy and running in various toddler races at Okewood. I was somewhat bemused and relieved to see that the Punch and Judy man debriefed us all following his show! Just in case we thought that Mr Punch had obliterated his wife, baby, doctor, policeman, crocodile plus sausages for ever!!

Finally, this September we will be looking again at how best we can serve God in our parish. One of the priorities we set a couple of years ago was the setting up of an after school church club at Scott-Broadwood. This has been a great success and one which we will continue to run either in Capel or at The Weald. We have now heard that the school will not move site until Autumn next year but as yet no formal decision has been made by the DofE. Do you have any thoughts about our priorities as churches in our villages? How can we best serve our communities going forward? Please do let us know. The Christian faith is all about doing a new thing - that has been made possible by God's precious son Jesus. We give thanks to him and bless his holy name.



As far as Reg could tell, the burglar had
disturbed nothing in the vestry

With all my love and prayers as ever,

Liz

Revd Liz

Vicar St John the Baptist, Capel and St Margaret's, Ockley vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk 01306 711260

From the Registers



Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family of the Church

Scarlett Allegra Ayling
on
Sunday 3rd August 2025

Holy Matrimony

We celebrate the marriage of

Carina Lynn Thiessen and Alexander George
Mitchell

Saturday 26th July 2025

In Memoriam

We remember with love

Barbara June King

24th July 2025

May she rest in peace and rise in glory

PCC Members 2025

Vicar and Chair: Revd Liz Richardson (ex-officio)

Curate: Revd Gill Christie (ex-officio)

Churchwardens

Joy Harman (ex-officio) St John the Baptist

Stuart Cole (ex-officio) St John the Baptist

Andy Carr (ex-officio) Deputy Churchwarden, St John the Baptist

James Lee-Steere (ex-officio) St Margaret's

Deanery Synod:

Andy Carr (ex-officio) St John the Baptist

Shirley Dean Webster (ex-officio) St Margaret's

Elected members:

Helen Burt (Hon Treasurer)

Gordon Lee Steere

Wendy Goddard

Suzanne Cole

Sarah Pusey

David Silliman

Jessie Sutcliffe

Leigh Smith (Safeguarding Lead)

Hon Secretary:

Sir Richard Winter- Stanbridge,

Electoral Roll Officer:

Rosemary Relf

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Leigh Smith

Parish Church Council (PCC) Meetings 2025

All in St John the Baptist, Chapel

29th September

24th November

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

This notice will appear each month in InSpire

'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 07732 825908 leighdesouza@yahoo.com or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

Diocesan contact number for reporting safeguarding concerns: safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk or call: 01483 790379 **and the contact details for our Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding contact will be published in our weekly pew sheets as well as in the Church Contacts section in each issue of InSpire. (Updated August 2025)**

Café Church— SEPTEMBER 2025

Finding Your Way Home

And just like that.....the summer holidays are over! We've had the last Bank Holiday before December, the kids are back at school or preparing to head off to university, the nights are drawing in, trees are starting to change their colours and we can confidently expect to see the first displays of Christmas gifts in the shops very soon!

September also sees one of the great annual Christian festivals take place. In addition to Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, Harvest is the yearly opportunity to give thanks for the food that we enjoy and so often take for granted. This year the Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 28th September at St. John's. So, here's the question. Are you going? Statistically I'd say that you're probably not. The average number of people attending the weekly services at our beautiful parish church amounts to about 1% of the population of Capel. Yes, that's right, 99% of the village never attend the church that has been a central part of village life for the best part of 1,000 years. For the most part it seems that village folk only see the church as being important when they have their children baptised, they get married or they arrange the funeral of a loved one. On each of those occasions it seems important to come to God's house and give thanks for a new life, a new partner or for a life well-lived. But surely you have things to be thankful for on a daily basis? We know that life is not always easy, and some of us have greater day-to-day challenges than others, but there is always at least a little something that carries us through. How do you express your thanks then?

Harvest would appear to be a perfect time to thank God for all His goodness to us, not to mention the incredible work that our farming community do to help put food on our tables every day. Living in the centre of the village as we do, the extraordinary efforts of our farmers are all too clear as we hear the tractors driving past our house at all hours of the day a night as they gather in the harvest.

These are the words of Jesus as recorded in the gospel of Mark, Chapter 4.

"This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." Has it ever occurred to you that over the past 1,000 years, our village church has been "sowing" spiritual seeds in the community? Even today the 1% in the church pray every week for the 99% outside the church that they would know blessing, healing, peace and relief from the pressures that life brings. Maybe you feel that you'd like to join with them this Harvest? Maybe you're even part of that harvest which the church has been sowing? Well, that would certainly be something that we would all give thanks for.

Bob Cranham



Remembering Eric

Eric meant the world to us — and we know he meant so much to so many. Going forward, Eric's family would still love to collect your memories, photos, and stories.

Please could you email a special address we have set up: rememberingeric1932@gmail.com. Whether it's a moment you shared, a word he said, or something he taught you — it will help us to remember the fullness of who he was.

With best wishes from

Jessie and family



Help UK Air Ambulance Services by recycling your Used Postage Stamps!!!

The UK's Air Ambulance Services are charities which receive no government funding and rely entirely on charitable donations to continue flying and responding to life threatening medical emergencies.

All funds raised will be donated to the Association of Air Ambulances to be distributed equally to all UK Air Ambulance Services.

Whether they're British or overseas, new or used, send them to the address below and we'll turn them into funds to keep the UK Air Ambulance Services responding to life threatening medical emergencies.

All you need to do is cut or carefully tear the stamped corner from any envelope or packet that you receive in the post and start a collection.

Once you have a large bundle, bag them up and send them to us at the below address (or put them in church if you prefer):

Air Ambulance Appeal
59 Mitre Copse
Bishopstoke
Near Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 8QE

Editor's Note: As a church, we used to collect used stamps which Debbie von Bergen sent off to a charity for us. However, this is no longer happening. Some of our local friends have benefitted from the Air Ambulance service and it seems appropriate to be able to support them.

I will put a labelled box in St John the Baptist, Capel for anyone who would prefer to contribute in church and will then send them off when we have a decent number to contribute. Thank you Suzanne

PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

For a harvest shared by all

St Francis of Assisi,
your whole life sang in harmony
with God, nature and others.
With you, we praise God for Brother Sun,
full of beauty and splendour,
warming the earth,
summoning shoots
from darkness into daylight.
We praise God for Sister Water,
so useful and humble,
precious and pure,
greening arid ground,
growing life in desert places.
Pray for us Francis, that, like you,
we may care for all that exists,
until Brother Sun and Sister Water
produce a harvest shared by all,
in love and solidarity,
justice and peace.

Amen.

Kathleen O'Brien/CAFOD

*"God speaks in the silence
of the heart. Listening is
the beginning of prayer"*
Mother Teresa

John 10:10

Life in abundance; life to the full
This is the promise made to us all.
No buts or exceptions,
This pledge is sincere
A gift from our Father,
Who holds us most dear,
Rejoice in His goodness
Give thanks to above
And share with your fellows
The fruits of his love.

M J. Brison

From The Friendship Book 2011

"We bless Thee for our creation"

The Book of Common Prayer

Prayer for September 2025

Heavenly Father,

September is the month of new starts for so many.
New starts can be exciting, but they can also be
daunting. We don't always know what to expect
and sometimes we feel as if we are on our own in
a strange new place, or situation.

Help us to know that, as your people, we are never
alone. You promised, through Jesus, to be with us
always and You gave us Your Holy Spirit to
empower us.

In some ways every day is a new start – a new gift
from You. As we unwrap the gift of each new day,
this September, encourage us to receive it
confidently and expectantly.

Help us to know that we can do all things, through
Christ Jesus, who strengthens us. We can! In Jesus'
name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

God of our life,
there are days when the burdens we carry
chafe our shoulders and weigh us down;
when the road seems dreary and endless,
the skies grey and threatening;
when our lives have no music in them,
and our hearts are lonely,
and our souls have lost their courage.
Flood the path with light,
run our eyes to where
the skies are full of promise;
tune our hearts to brave music ;
give us the sense of comradeship
with heroes and saints of every age;
and so quicken our spirits
that we may be able to encourage
the souls of all who journey with us
on the road of life, to your honour and glory.

Amen

St Augustine

*"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, Ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"*

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Editor: Here are some highlights from the Archbishop of York's recent address to General Synod.



Archbishop of York's Presidential Address to General Synod

Archbishop Stephen delivered the Presidential Address at the opening of the July General Synod group of sessions in York:

I think it was Graham Greene who said, 'If you are going to jump, make sure the water is deep.'

As I have spent a working lifetime of ministry reflecting on both the theology and the practice of evangelisation and mission, wanting, more than anything else, to share the good news about Jesus Christ, I have often returned to this: the deep waters of faith; the embracing waters of baptism where we die and rise with Christ, the calling of the Church of England to be centred in Christ, and from it the deep and profound spiritual and theological renewal which must follow.

Moreover, recent research like [The Quiet Revival](#) encourages us and challenges us in equal measure, since it appears to be those churches that offer a depth of tradition that are noticing new people in their midst.

We need then to renew the disciplines of prayer, the liturgical life, the contemplation of scripture as the wellsprings of those aquifers of faith, that alone sustain all ministry and mission. This must be our priority: a Christ-centred Church.

For this to happen, we need clergy and lay leaders who are formed spiritually and theologically so that we can nurture Christian discipleship and be able to teach and defend the Christian narrative in an increasingly fractious, sometimes hostile world.

It is that compelling narrative that will enable us to withstand utilitarian tides of opinion that risk making, for instance, assisted dying a reality in our national life, changing forever the contract between doctor and patient, pressurising the vulnerable, and assuming an authority over death that belongs to God alone.

Likewise, our complacency in the face of climate crisis, the challenges of racial justice, and the appalling inequalities of wealth and opportunity in our country, for me, point to the widening gap between what we say about Jesus Christ and how we actually live the gospel.

I thank my colleague Bishop Sarah and other Lords Spiritual for their principled opposition to the Assisted Dying Bill in Parliament; to the Church Commissioners for their groundbreaking witness in transition pathways on climate change and with people like Georgia Boon and Bishop Rosemarie Mallett and the work of Project Spire for racial justice, and, yes, hopefully, even for Living in Love & Faith (LLF), because although we seem no nearer a settlement that can hold us together, how many other organisations would go this far with such disagreement?

I therefore believe the Lord is calling us to profound spiritual renewal, to be a church of prayer, deeply rooted in the gospel and in this year of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, even more deeply rooted in the inheritance of faith.

Well, God has humbled us in so many ways this year. It hasn't been easy, but if it has made us more penitent, more determined to put victims and survivors first, more resolved to sort out all things to do with clergy discipline, terms of service, independent safeguarding, and other things besides, then, Synod, God the Redeemer who believes in His Church is at work among us.

It is my pastoral experience, on an almost daily basis, in the conversations I have with people on trains, in taxis, on pilgrimage, and even chatting with tourists, that people are longing for something more; for something to hope in. They are frightened by the wars and conflicts of the world.

Therefore, let us be bold in sharing this gospel; being a Church of welcome, hospitality, humility, reflection and peace.

Continued on page 11

The Quiet Revival research is telling us that a more spiritually-aware generation of younger people exploring faith and younger people in our churches now want to know more about the Christian faith. We need to respond to this.

Church of England, General Synod, we need to reset the compass. Jesus Christ calls us to follow Him. 'If you drink of this water,' says Jesus, 'you will never be thirsty. The water that I give will become a spring gushing up to eternal life' (see John 4.14). We then give from the overflow of all that we have received. Sisters and brothers, there is no other mission.

General Synod approves redress scheme for survivors of Church-related abuse

General Synod has recently given final approval to a comprehensive redress scheme for survivors of Church-related abuse.

Designed to address the profound harm caused by Church-related abuse, the new, independently administered scheme will offer not only financial redress but also formal apology, acknowledgment, therapeutic support, and other forms of bespoke redress.

The scheme has been developed over the past four years in response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), with over 160 policy decisions taken with survivor input. The Church Commissioners have already committed £150 million, underscoring the Church's dedication to its implementation and long-term sustainability.

With input from survivors and safeguarding professionals, it aims to embody a trauma-informed and person-centred approach.

Phil Johnson, a survivor of Church-related abuse and a member of the Redress Project Board, welcomed the vote: "It will make a huge difference in the lives of people."

A key principle of the scheme is its independent administration, ensuring that decisions are made by trained assessors, free from influence by Church officials or bishops.

A public website opened in July, enabling prospective applicants to register their interest and receive advance notification of the scheme's official opening date once it is known. Please go to: www.redresscofe.org.

Synod approves transformation of Church governance

A major overhaul of the Church of England's national structures has recently been approved by the General Synod.

The National Church Governance Measure, which will bring together separate national church bodies, received final approval in a vote at Synod in York this summer.

The Measure, which now requires Parliamentary approval, is the product of a four-year process designed to simplify and transform the Church's national structures to better serve, support and encourage local churches.

Two existing bodies, the Archbishops' Council and Church of England Central Services (known as ChECS) – which oversee a wide range of the church's national functions – will be replaced by a new charity called Church of England National Services (CENS).

It will also take over the non-investment functions from the Church Commissioners and most of those of the Offices of the Archbishops at Lambeth and Bishopthorpe Palaces.

The measure was the product of a major review of the Church's governance structures which called for an overhaul to rebuild trust and deliver greater transparency.

Ancient Anglo-Saxon text sparks 5,200 per cent Instagram follower surge

“Hlyst nu!”

That’s Old English for “Listen up!”

And that’s exactly what’s happening, as a video with an unexpected subject has captured the attention of hundreds of thousands of viewers around the world.

A video of Everyday Faith Editor Alexandra Zhirnova reading the Nicene Creed in Old English has exploded across the Church of England’s digital channels, and beyond, racking up nearly half a million impressions and sparking a global wave of engagement.

The video opens with a short introduction: “What you’re about to hear is the oldest English translation of the Nicene Creed, written in the year 992 by a monk called Ælfric. Ælfric lived a thousand years ago, but his world was not so different from ours. He believed that understanding the word of God would give people hope and guide them in their lives.”

Ælfric translated the Creed, along with parts of the Bible, from Latin into his native tongue; what we now call Old English. While much of the language is unfamiliar to modern ears, some words remain recognisable, and viewers are encouraged to listen closely and share any they spot.

The response to the video has been nothing short of extraordinary. Since its release, it has generated over 400,000 impressions across the Church of England’s social media channels, with over 37,000 engagements including likes, comments and shares.

On Instagram, the video has become the most saved piece of content the Church has ever posted, achieving the highest reach and the second-highest number of impressions of any video on the platform to date. Meanwhile, on TikTok, it has quickly climbed the ranks to become the second most viewed video, with the highest number of comments and shares ever recorded on the Church’s account.

Before joining the Church of England as Everyday Faith Editor, Alexandra completed a PhD in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge. Her academic work focused on Anglo-Saxon Christianity, with a particular interest in the role of women in the early Church - making her uniquely placed to bring this ancient text to life for a modern audience.

The video's success has also translated into a dramatic surge in followers. In just seven days, the Church saw a 583 per cent increase in new followers compared to the previous week. Instagram alone has seen a staggering 5,200 per cent jump, while TikTok followers have grown by 1,600 per cent. Overall video views across all platforms have risen by 90 per cent in the same period.

And reception has been overwhelmingly positive with the video reaching an international audience, and German, Dutch, and Scandinavian language speakers responding to appreciate how similar Old English sounds to their native languages.

This viral moment comes as the Church marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, a cornerstone of Christian belief since AD 325. So, if you haven’t already, why not have a listen and tell us how many words you recognise?



NEWS FROM THE BELFRY



Steeple Keeping

Bell ringing can take you to many different places, learning new skills along the way, not always those you would expect. Learning to ring is free to all, including the use of the equipment and the teaching and practice time. The equipment includes the ropes which are used to ring the bells but also the bells themselves, the clappers, wheels, headstocks, stays and other essential items found in the bell chamber. These require regular checks but are more or less maintenance free. The pulleys, ropes and wooden parts need checking for wear and all nuts and bolts need checking for tightness especially in hot weather when they may loosen up considerably.

The stays act as a stop to hold the bells when they are rung up so that they may be left standing upside down, resting on the stay. It is also a safety mechanism designed to break to save the bell if overpulled. These are made of ash and take some knocks so need to be checked for damage as a fragile stay may break unexpectedly and cause injury to the ringer at the end of the rope. At the time of writing the stay on the 5th bell has been removed and cut down to replace the 2nd which has a split in it. A new stay has been fashioned for the 5th adjusting its dimensions to alter the standing position. Time will tell if there is any noticeable benefit.

We undertake these checks to help keep the bells ringing and safe to use, and as a service to the church as the owner of the bells but we are not experts. In the past we have had work carried out by professional bell hangers but this is not cost effective for general maintenance. Our local ringing association runs an annual Steeple Keeping course. It is being held at Ockley this year for the first time because there is a good space alongside the bells to stand and watch. This will hopefully give us some assurance as well as some hands on experience under expert guidance for the students.

Bellringing is an art which has developed and passed from generation to generation in Britain for over three hundred years. It is a wonderful blend of sport, music, exercise, friendship, a challenge of wits and skill which gives great satisfaction when it goes right. If you would like to find out more, please come along. Practice nights are 7.45pm to 9pm at St. Margaret's, Ockley, every Wednesday except the first in the month which is at Capel.

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

Quote from Martin Luther King

"Cowardice asks the question - is it safe? Expediency asks the question - is it popular? But conscience asks the question - is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because it is right."

We welcome Rev Gill's regular contribution to InSpire magazine ...

Deacon's diary

Wow, what a summer it has been!

A three day retreat at Storrington Priory ahead of ordination at the end of June was to provide the thirteen new curates (of which I was one) in the Guildford diocese an opportunity to get to know each other. We will all be attending the same monthly training days over the next four years and here was our chance to meet.

In practice this was a little harder than I had anticipated, as we were put into SILENCE from 7pm on the Thursday until 5pm on the Saturday...

Sunday 29th June dawned a beautiful day as we headed to Guildford cathedral. By this time we had, at least, introduced ourselves to each other!

This was the culmination of all those: hours of study, essays, discussions, days spent on chaplaincy placement (mine had been walking the canals and waterways meeting the communities who live aboard their boats), weeks of parish placement (mine had been spent at St. Saviour's, Guildford with a different context from that of Capel and Ockley), the prayers, the meetings of the Parish Support Group and the constant support and encouragement from Rev. Liz.

The highest point of the wonderful service was when Bishop Andrew laid his hands on my head – the actual ordination itself. At this moment, at the invitation of the Bishop, my family, friends and others from this parish who had made taken time and effort to come to the cathedral, stood up thereby signifying their support. With our backs to the congregation we 13 could not see who stood but we heard the swish of movement as those kind, dedicated supporters stood up!

The most moving point of the service was when we turned round and were, as a cohort, presented to the congregation as their deacons – the applause and cheers were immense!!

Now, with my collar on as curate (this year I am a deacon and hope to be ordained a priest next summer), I am getting to know the parish a little more.

I have lived in Ockley for nearly 18 years with my husband and two sons and have thoroughly enjoyed being part of this rural community with the annual rounds of pantomimes, summer shows, cricket matches, harvest festivals, murder mystery plays, the different Christmas festivities, the regular meetings of smaller groups such as Toddlers and Village Teas, and being part of the community of Scott Broadwood School, previously as a governor and now as part of the Church club team.

I am very aware that so much goes on in different parts of the villages among people I do not yet know, but whom I would like to meet. This is the community I am here to serve and pray with.

I hope you will see me around in the villages and in church over the forthcoming weeks and when you do, please do say "hello!"

Rev Gill



Editor: In a series of articles, Kenneth Harrod, Head of Theology and Media at Release International, the voice of persecuted Christians, considers the different ways Christians experience persecution—and how that impacts our response.

How do persecuted Christians cope with the stress?

In the fourth of a series of articles, Kenneth Harrod, Head of Theology and Media at Release International, the voice of persecuted Christians, reflects on how Christians respond to being persecuted.

None of us likes to read, or hear of, Christians suffering persecution. Stories of people being imprisoned, being forced to flee, or seeing loved ones martyred can be challenging.

Often when we hear such stories we might be tempted to think, ‘How do they keep going?’ If the story highlights a persecuted Christian standing resolute in their faith, and perhaps showing a forgiving attitude to persecutors, we might well also think, ‘I’m not sure I could react in such a godly way if that were me.’

Here, ironically, is where stories of persecution can actually become an encouragement to us!

For whenever we hear of a suffering, persecuted Christian standing strong in faith, and showing a Christ-like attitude, we need to realise that there is *flesh and blood evidence of the grace of God*. I have seen it personally. ‘God is in control.’ ‘I have forgiven.’ ‘I pray God will change their hearts.’

Persecuted Christians are not ‘super-human’. They are ordinary folk like you. We shouldn’t put them on a pedestal. The only thing we put on a pedestal is the amazing grace of God.

The writer of Hebrews encourages his readers:

‘Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.’ (Hebrews 4:16; ESV)

In time of need. So, no, God doesn’t show us *now* how we would respond in such situations. That’s not how grace works! But we believe God is sufficient—as He continues to demonstrate in the lives of those who suffer for Christ and the gospel.

That means we here in the UK can learn valuable lessons of discipleship from our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world—which is one of the convictions of Release International.

Release International seeks to love and serve persecuted Christians, not only raising their voice, but giving them the resources and support they need to live faithfully for Christ. Will you join us? To find out more about how you and your church can be involved in caring for persecuted Christians, go to: releaseinternational.org.



O taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man that trusteth in him

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine hearts.



The Pavilion Café

**Every Wednesday at Ockley Cricket Club Pavilion
9 am until midday**

Come and enjoy a warm welcome and a delicious range of homemade cakes and savouries - including gluten/dairy free. Bacon butties every fourth Wednesday and freshly made teas and coffees.

The Pavilion Café was originally the idea of Kindred Spirits, the women's outreach group from Ockley, Okewood and Forest Green Parish, 11 years ago.

It is run by a team of volunteers in support of charities, local charitable causes and Ockley events.

If you would like to volunteer, please let Liz know on either 07951 710176 or lizthorne2053@hotmail.co.uk

Harvest Supper – The Murder Mystery Play Returns Again

Tickets for the Harvest Supper entertainment, which will once again be a murder mystery play, are available from 22nd September. Murder in the Library written by Janet Smith and directed by Sylvie Beckett will be performed in Ockley Village Hall on Friday 24th October and in Capel Memorial Hall on Saturday 25th October. The box office is Corinne Jay on 07718 346294. Tickets cost £17.50 for adults and £9 for children under 16.

Doors open at 7pm for curtain up at 7.30pm and a two-course supper will be served on both evenings. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Get your team together or join others on the night. Book your tickets so that you can come along and see people you know taking on roles, play a large part in the proceedings yourselves and have a go at guessing "whodunnit". Don't leave it too late and be disappointed!

This is an amateur production presented by arrangement with Scripts for Stage.



Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers ...

Reflecting Faith: First Impressions

This series has recently been looking at the opening and closing words of most church services.

They usually go something like this:

(In) The Lord be with you. And also with you.

(Out) Go in the light and peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.

This month let's consider what's pretty much the very next thing we generally do / say at the start of the service.

We acknowledge how great God is: the recognition of His power and might, His goodness and mercy as well as His ability to give us never-ending love. This makes us realise how 'little' we are and how we have not been as loving and forgiving to others – and indeed to ourselves – as we could have been.

This is sometimes called the 'Prayer of Humble Access'.

In a way it mirrors the prodigal son when he returns to his father. The son had demanded his inheritance NOW and then rushes off to have a good time in all the 'usual' ways, followed by poverty and having to work in the lowliest of jobs just to keep alive. Eventually he realised that even the pigs in his father's house lived better than he did – so he decides he will humble himself and return home. He doesn't expect to go back to his previous standing, but rather to beg forgiveness and ask to be a servant.

It's the ending of this story that is so exciting. The prodigal's father is told of his wayward son's approach, and everyone is expecting him to turn away. Instead he rushes out to meet and greet him. Not waiting for an apology or a begging word, the father covers him in rich clothes, holding him (no doubt) smelly body close and just loving him.

And spiritually that is what God does to each of us, as we come deliberately and consciously into His presence and turn to Him. He holds us close and forgives us.

This month

Next time you go to a church service, take note of the words you are asked to say close to the beginning and the wording of 'forgiveness' said over you. Then having been forgiven, try not to stir whatever it was up again – God won't.

Local Event

An Evening with Rob Parsons - Reflections on the journey

In *An Evening with Rob Parsons*, we invite you to step into the untold stories from Rob's lifetime of overcoming obstacles, letting go of childhood labels and discovering that the past doesn't have to define us.

You'll hear about ...

- Building confidence to move past the labels others put on you
- Finding hope beyond shattered dreams
- Enduring the hard times you just can't fix
- Being inspired to take on new challenges
- Why tomorrow doesn't have to be like yesterday

See and hear Rob Parsons at **Kingdom Faith Church, Foundry Lane Horsham RH13 5PX Horsham on 4th November 2025.**

To book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-rob-parsons-horsham-tickets-1446916358779?aff=webpage>

Editor: We continue our series on prayer by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.

Praying with the Prayers Of The Bible - Learning to Pray by Example

Luke 11:1: 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

Luke tells us that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray after He had just prayed. This is very important. In His preaching Jesus had spoken about prayer; (e.g. Matt. 6:5-8) He had also included prayer in His teaching; e.g. Luke 18:1. But it was neither His preaching or teaching on prayer that inspired this request from His disciples; it was His *example* in prayer. Also, Jesus had sent His disciples out to preach, yet their request was not, 'Lord, teach us to preach.' They had witnessed the mighty miracles that He performed and saw the astonishment of the crowds (Luke 9:43), but they did not ask Him, 'Lord, teach us to perform miracles.' No, they asked instead, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

The disciples were beginning to learn that there was a direct link between the prayer life of Jesus and His Spirit-anointed ministry. We need go no further than what we find here in Luke's Gospel to see the consistent prayer life of Jesus. As news of His mighty ministry spread far and wide, 'great multitudes gathered to hear and be healed' (Lk. 5:15). This was 'high noon' in the ministry of our Lord and as the crowds gathered to hear Him, 'He withdrew to the wilderness and prayed' (v.16).

The next chapter tells us that Jesus made a habit of having whole nights of prayer. 'In those days He went out into the hills to pray, and He continued all night' (6:12). A little later the evangelist records that immediately following the feeding of the five thousand, the disciples were with Jesus – and He was praying (9:18). When Luke recounts the Transfiguration of Jesus, he says the Lord took Peter, John and James up the mountain 'to pray' (9:28).

Luke wants his readers to know about the prayer life of Jesus. At every step of His ministry we see Jesus praying. He prayed early in the morning before the day began; He prayed late in the evening after hours of demanding ministry; He prayed in secret; He prayed with His disciples, and He often prayed all night. He prayed in homes; He prayed by the roadside; He prayed on mountains; He prayed in boats; He prayed in the wilderness; He prayed in the synagogue; He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane; He prayed on the Cross.

No wonder that Jesus' example in praying prompted His disciples to ask, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' As we read and study the life and ministry of our Lord, we will be likewise moved to ask Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

Dr Herbert McGonigle, now retired, was Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

I would like to thank our sponsors of this joint September/October 2025 issue - Tina & Peter Fairbrother and John Dale. Both are stalwarts of our church family, as was Margaret, John's wife who sang in our church choir for many years. Do see the lovely photo of a young Margaret on page 23 which John has kindly shared with us. Thank you to Tina, Peter and John for your sponsorship and to all our other sponsors who continue to support this church publication and keep it free of charge for our readers. Soon it will be time to appeal for sponsors for the 2026 issues!

I shall aim to keep this letter as brief as I can going forward as we now have Rev Liz's letter, Bob Cranham's Café Church letter and a lovely new addition of the 'Deacon's Diary' from Rev Gill. We are well served by letters from those who lead our services so I think it's time I cut mine down! I hope you enjoy all the usual articles and puzzles that this issue contains and I look forward to producing a November issue once we are back from our tour of the East coast of the USA in Boston, New York and parts of New England.

Wishing everyone all the very best if they are moving on to different places of study, work or similar in the next month. It is a time of change for so many from those starting school to students starting at University and living away from home for the first time. I wish all of them, every blessing in their new beginnings and to anyone else that is known to you as you are reading this.

With my very best wishes,

Suzanne

inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

NB: Apologies for not crediting the article on 'Chapels in Dorset' last month. The article was kindly written by my husband Stuart Cole.



Abiding in Jesus



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

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

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

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

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

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

Church service

A minister, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the minister, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because" the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."



What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: 2 Corinthians

'For anyone operating under the naïve presumption that joining a Christian church is a good way to meet all the best people and cultivate smooth social relations, a reading of Paul's Corinthian correspondence is the prescribed cure' (Eugene Peterson).

Paul sent four letters to the Corinthian church: one mentioned in 1 Cor. 5:9; 1 Corinthians; a 'severe' letter mentioned in 2 Cor. 2:3-4; and 2 Corinthians sent around AD 55 around a year after 1 Corinthians.

Paul had a number of reasons for writing this letter:

To express the joy he felt at their response to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9,12-13).

To share his troubles in Asia (1:8-11) and why he changed his travel plans (1:12-2:4).

To ask them to forgive those who had offended him (2:5-11).

To warn them not to be "yoked together with unbelievers" (6:14-7:1).

To explain the true nature of Christian ministry (2:14-7:4).

To encourage them in giving and completing the collection for the Jerusalem Christians (chs. 8-9).

To deal with the opposition (chs. 10-13) and prepare for his coming visit (12:14; 13:1-3,10).

In this very personal letter Paul defends his leadership against accusations of inconsistencies in motives and credentials. A major theme concerns the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit. His opponents argued that Paul *suffered too much* to be a Spirit-filled apostle.

Paul responds by saying that his sufferings embody Christ's death and his endurance reveals God's glory: *'He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.'* (2 Cor 12:9).

Capel Church Teas 2025

At St John the Baptist, Capel

From 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Sunday 14th September

Sunday 5th October - Harvest

Sunday 2nd November - All Soul's Day

Service at 3pm * Teas start at 4pm

Sunday 30th November

First Sunday of Advent

in aid of The Friends of St John the Baptist, Capel

Editor: Our series on the Nicene Creed continues this month. Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that Jesus is the Son of God. This series will run until the end of the year.

The Nicene Creed part 4: The Ascended and Returning Jesus

[On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures](#); He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

This month we are looking at what the Nicene Creed says about the present and future ministry of Jesus.

'On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures': Jesus' resurrection is central to the Christian Faith, for as Paul says, without it *'our preaching is useless and so is your faith.'* (1 Cor 15.14). The Resurrection demonstrates the triumph of Jesus over sin and death, as well as recognising the breaking in of the new creation and Jesus as Lord over creation. The Creed affirms that it also fulfils the promises of Scripture, as Jesus explains on the Road to Emmaus: *'And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.'* (Luke 24:27).

'He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father': In the Creed, the Ascension is given equal weight to the Cross and Resurrection, as Jesus is restored to the place of honour alongside His Father. With Christ seated on the throne, there is now *a man* on the throne who is also God the Son. In His absence on earth, Jesus sends His Spirit to live in believers, *'Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.'* (Acts 2:33). He remembers His people, *'because He always lives to intercede for them'* (Hebrews 7.25).

'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end': Jesus will return in judgement as *'the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.'* (Acts 10:42). God will put all things right, punishing all evil and establishing His full reign over everything. In contrast to human judgment, which is always partial and subject to error, this final judgment will be utterly true and right, because God knows our hearts completely.

How much does the idea of judgment help make sense of the fate of evil in the world?

Which old bore?

A tired minister was at home resting, and through the window he saw a woman from his church approaching his door. She was one of those too-talkative people, and he was not anxious to talk with her. He said to his wife, "I'll just duck upstairs and wait until she goes away."

An hour passed, then he tiptoed to the stair landing and listened ... not a sound. He was very pleased, so he started down calling loudly to his wife, "Well, my dear, did you get rid of that old bore at last?"

The next moment he heard the voice of the same woman caller, and she couldn't possibly have missed hearing him. Two steps down, he saw them both staring up at him. It seemed truly a crisis moment.

The quick-thinking minister's wife answered, "Yes, dear, she went away over an hour ago. But such good news - Mrs Jones has come to call in the meantime!"

Capel Church Garden of Remembrance



We are pleased to say that a new Garden of Remembrance is to be created in the grounds of Capel Church for the burial of ashes.

The reasons for this are that many people are now choosing cremation over burial. The burying of ashes within the church graveyard is preferably within a designated Garden of Remembrance. In addition, the adjacent civil cemetery is nearing full capacity. This will provide a solution to these issues.

The location will be in the southwest corner of the graveyard. The proposal is to provide a grassed area where ashes will be buried in the ground, not in urns. The burials will be recorded in a Book of Remembrance retained in the church. There will also be a memorial wall within the Garden on which a small plaque may be fixed with the person's name. Residents of Capel and the immediate surrounding area will be able to make use of this facility.

The grass areas will incorporate paths which will be suitable for wheelchair access. This will be a quiet area of reflection and remembrance. It will include planting to separate it from the other areas of the church graveyard. Benches will also be included and a central area for planting.

The construction of the Garden will commence at the end of September and will take approximately 4-5 weeks. We are very grateful that most of the funding for this has been made possible by private legacies, the John Ede Fund, the Capel Parish Council and the Friends of Capel Church. However, we are seeking further contributions for benching, planting, the book of remembrance, ongoing maintenance, etc.

Should you have any questions or wish to contribute to this community asset please contact Liz Richardson or David Silliman.

Donations to:-

Capel & Ockley PCC
89053287
09-01-53



Thanks to John Dale for sharing this special photo of Margaret. He wrote a note with the photo ...

"I met Margaret at Capel School. She was 5 and I was 6. I could never understand how Margaret's Mum was called Mrs Parkes as Margaret was Margaret Bushell"

Thank you to John for his shared sponsorship of this issue.

Editor: by Canon Paul Hardingham

New Beginnings

September is the time of year when we get back to our routines after the summer break. As whole-life disciples (lit: *learners*) we are all called to learn from Jesus and live like Him. God wants us to make a difference in our workplaces and schools, and with family and friends. As Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' (Colossians 3:17).

'WHATEVER you do': God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn't be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which all of our lives are available to Him.

'Whatever YOU do': God wants to use us to share God's love as we serve others around us, wherever we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

'Whatever you DO': We work for God alone, in responding to God's love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do is hard, unrewarding, or even unappreciated by others?

A man standing on a train platform was asked one day: *'Who are you?'* He replied, *'I am a Christian thinly disguised as an accountant.'* If we were asked the same question ourselves, how would we respond? As disciples of Jesus Christ, our identity is rooted in God and His call upon our lives. For each of us, September means learning from Jesus about how we might live for Him in the different places we find ourselves.



What time you should stop drinking the night before

If you drink alcohol after 10pm at night, you may still be over the limit by 9am the next morning.

So says IAM RoadSmart, a road safety charity. It has warned that drinking alcohol late into the night can pose a 'serious threat' to your safety as a driver the next morning. And even if you are within the legal limit, still a 'groggy head' means a slower reaction time at the wheel.

Chief Constable Jo Shiner, the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for roads policing, has said: "There is simply no excuse for getting behind the wheel when you are impaired through drink or drugs, and this includes the morning after."

Drinkaware, the drink-driving charity, says that on average, alcohol is removed from the body at a rate of one unit per hour.

Book Reviews

We Believe – Exploring the Nicene Creed **Various authors, Church House Publishing, £3.99**

Here you can join with believers around the world in celebrating 1700 years of the Nicene Creed, one of the most enduring statements of Christian faith.

We Believe offers 24 daily Bible readings and reflections to help you pray and reflect on the Nicene Creed's timeless truths. Taking each line of the Creed in turn, it provides a short Bible reading, a reflection, a question to help you grow in faith, and a prayer, drawing you deeper into the Creed's meaning and significance for your life.

Whether you have been reciting the Creed for many years – or are exploring Christian faith for the very first time – this beautifully illustrated booklet will offer you new insight and inspiration.

Giver of Life – the Holy Spirit in the Creed and in Christian Life Today **By Jane Williams, SPCK, £15.99**

Here is a clear, fresh and inspiring introduction to the vital role of the Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed and in the lives of Christians throughout the world today.

Renowned theologian Jane Williams traces the rich theology behind the Spirit's titles and explores the deep connection between the Spirit and the life of Christ. At the same time, she invites you to consider the role of the Spirit as the one who brings you into the divine life of God, shaping your relationship with Jesus and guiding your faith.

This book may help anyone seeking to enhance their appreciation of the Holy Spirit's transformative work in the world and in the life of every Christian - past and present.

Faith Habits and How to Form Them – 21 seasonal practices **By Emma Timms, SPCK, £11.99**

Here is a no-nonsense guide to building adaptable rhythms and practices to bring you closer to God. The pace of the modern world with its constant demands and digital connection can make it tough to form a rich spirituality, and though many of us long for a nourishing connection with God, we often struggle to form habits that cultivate and sustain it.

Here, retreat guide and spiritual director Emma Timms shares 21 spiritual practices that will both feed your soul and fit with the life you are actually living. Drawing from the

Bible, the saints and mystics of old, as well as contemporary psychology, this book will help you uncover God's already-active presence inside you and help you form rhythms and practices to connect more deeply.

The book will help you understand the importance of habits in forming a life-giving spirituality; how to apply spiritual practices that have been used throughout the ages; how to make a daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, and seasonal plan for your spiritual life; and how to adjust your spiritual practices to the season of life you're in.

God's Big Picture, a Bible Overview **By Vaughan Roberts, IVP/10Publishing, £6.49**

66 books, 40 authors, written over nearly 2,000 years, in many different genres. A worldwide best-seller published in countless translations and languages. A book that has been sworn by in court, fought over, and quoted in arguments.

Clearly, the Bible is no ordinary book. So how can we begin to read and understand the Bible as a whole?

In this excellent overview, Vaughan Roberts paints the big picture, showing how the different parts of the Bible fit together. He points us to the Bible's supreme subject, Jesus Christ, and the salvation God offers through Him.

Learning to Lament – Our Heavenly Father's Embrace When We Grieve **By Paul Mallard, Union Publishing/10Publishing, £8.49**

Lamenting in the face of grief and loss is therapeutic. It is also theologically sound. So why then don't we lament? Or at least, why don't we lament well?

The author guides us skilfully through the Bible's teaching, introducing us to key characters whom we can emulate. He shares from his own wealth of personal and pastoral experience, as we work through our tears to a place of confidence and trust.

This life-giving book will meet you where you are in an experience which is no less raw and painful for being universal. Here you find empathy and deep comfort. You are held securely in your Heavenly Father's warm embrace.



Danny Kruger's extraordinary speech in the House of Commons

What does the MP for Devizes in Wiltshire have in common with the Anglo-Saxon king Athelstan?

It became clear this summer, during an extraordinary speech Danny Kruger MP gave to an all but empty House of Commons on the eve of the summer recess.

First, some background: this month (4th Sept) marks the 1100th anniversary of the coronation of Anglo-Saxon King Athelstan, in 925AD. As grandson of King Alfred the Great, Athelstan became the first King of all England.

And his coronation revealed his decision that England should be a Christian kingdom, living under a version of the Law of Moses. So, like Alfred before him, Athelstan took oaths reminiscent of the 'blessings and curses' of Exodus 21 and 22, and promised to bring his young kingdom into the blessing of the Christian God, by means of obedience to His commands.

Danny Kruger reminded Parliament of this sacred oath made by the first king of all England this summer. The MP's call for the restoration of our national Christian heritage has since been viewed more than three million times, and has been called a 'roadmap' for a Christian counter-revolution.

For Kruger called for the country to remember **Athelstan's** ancient Covenant.

He said: "Uniquely among the nations of the world, this nation - England, from which the United Kingdom grew - was founded and created consciously on the basis of the Bible and the story of the Hebrew people. In that sense, England is the oldest Christian country and the prototype of nations across the West."

He went on to say that the impact of "one thousand years" of the Christian common law tradition – is the demand "that power should arrange itself for the benefit of all the people under it, and specifically for the poorest and weakest.

"In the absence of the Christian God", he said, "we do not have pluralism and tolerance, with everyone being nice to each other in a godless world". Instead, we have "catastrophes of social breakdown, social injustice, loneliness and emptiness on a chronic scale."

Kruger stresses that "in abandoning one religion we simply create a space for others to move into." He identifies Britain today as being "a combination of ancient paganism, Christian heresies and the cult of modernism".

Kruger has written on the idea of spiritual warfare as reflected in the dynamics of law-making in Westminster in his book, *Covenant: The New Politics of Home, Neighbourhood and Nation*. He writes, "The culture war ... is a religious conflict about the right gods to worship. As such, it is more than a series of skirmishes for the tokens of identity, for flags and statues and the history curriculum. It is a battle for the strongholds of society itself."

In his speech in the House of Commons that day, he developed this theme of 'strongholds'. He attacked the votes of MPs to decriminalise abortion and legalise assisted suicide. He said they had authorised "the killing of unborn children, of nine-month-old babies" and to "allow the killing of the elderly and disabled," describing these votes as "a great sin."

He went on: "The fact is that the strong gods are back, and we have to choose which god to worship. I suggest we worship the God who came in the weakest form, Jesus Christ. This God is a jealous god—it is Him or nothing—and we have to own our Christian story, or repudiate it."

Kruger believes strongly that secularist religion "must be banished from public life - from schools and universities, and from businesses and public services."

Instead, he has called for a "restoration" and "a revival of the faith." He warned: "a wind is blowing, a storm is coming and when it hits, we are going to learn if our house is built on rock or on sand."

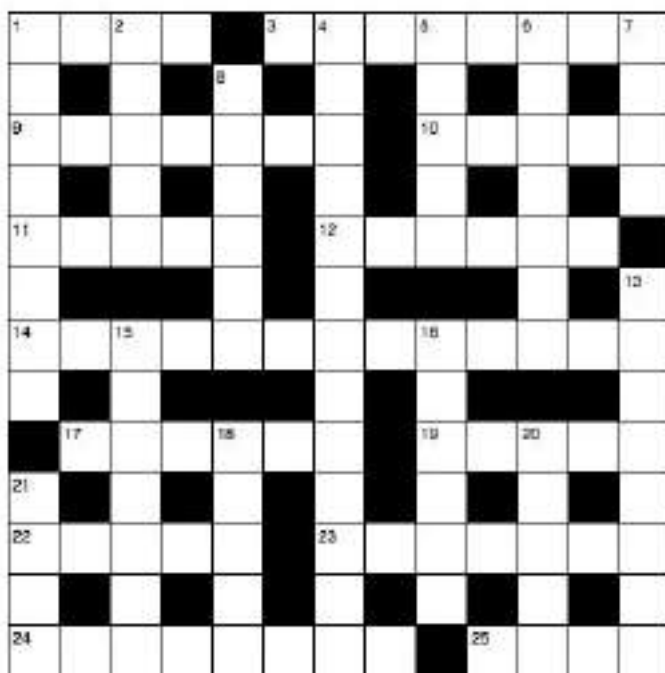
Editor's Note: Please note that this article, as with others contained in InSpire are not the Editor's personal view, but are a non-biased reflection of news articles available to use for church magazine editors. Thank you.

Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)



Puzzle solutions on page 30

Schools to teach children that being worried is not a mental health condition

More children and young people are in danger of confusing the normal anxieties of life with a genuine mental health condition.

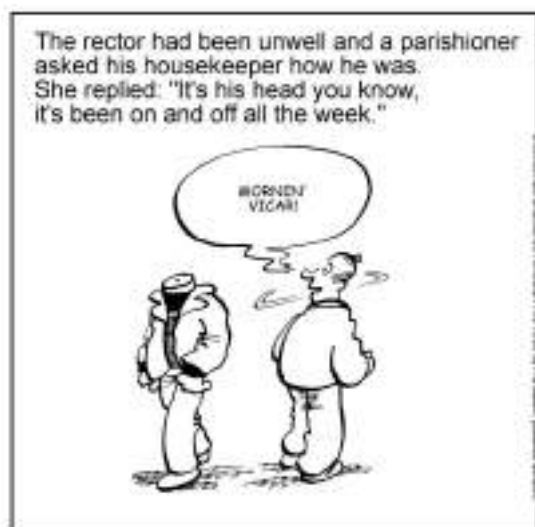
So says the government, and it has issued new guidance to schools to try and correct the trend.

The guidance states that pupils should be taught "that worrying and feeling down are normal, can affect everyone at different times and are not in themselves a sign of a mental-health condition".

Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary, believes that too many children are relying on social media to learn about managing their moods and emotions. Instead, she says that they need more balanced guidance from their parents, teachers and trained professionals.

The new government guidance comes in the face of a soaring amount of young people being signed off as too ill to do anything. The number of 16 to 24-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training (Neet) has surged to a near-decade high of a million.

And so it is that schools have now been instructed to make sure that lessons help pupils understand and differentiate between genuine mental health conditions and ordinary feelings.



Easy Sodoku

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

Medium Sodoku

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

Remembering Albert Schweitzer

Sixty years ago, on 4th September 1965, Albert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. He was winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.

Schweitzer was a devout Christian with a passionate allegiance to Jesus. His key philosophy was “reverence for life”: no-one, he felt, should harm or destroy life unless it was absolutely necessary. It was this philosophy that gained him the Nobel Peace Prize, and led him in later life to campaign against nuclear weapons.

He was born in 1875 in Alsace, where his father was a Lutheran-Evangelical pastor, and he made an impression first in the world of music, becoming a musical scholar and organist, as well as dedicating himself to the restoration and study of historic pipe organs.

In 1903 he became Principal of the Theological College of Saint Thomas, from which he had graduated. In 1906 he published his key work, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, which was published in English in 1910.

Schweitzer made a proposal in 1912 to work at his own expense as a physician in the Paris Missionary Society's mission at Lambaréné on the Ogooué river, in what is now Gabon, in Africa, then a French colony. He would not go before a committee to have his doctrine examined, but met committee members individually and was eventually accepted, raising his own funding partly through concerts. His wife, Helene, served as an anaesthetist for surgical operations.

There was some criticism much later of the informal, spartan arrangements (patients living on the hospital grounds during treatment, for instance), but his biographer – also a volunteer surgeon – pointed out that surgical survival rates were as high as in many fully equipped western hospitals.

Schweitzer died at Lambaréné, his grave marked by a cross he made himself.

Exhibition of Queen Elizabeth II's wedding dress and fashion to celebrate centenary

Next year, the largest-ever exhibition of Queen Elizabeth II's clothes will be staged at Buckingham Palace, in honour of the centenary of her birth.

Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style, will include some 200 items – around half of which is to be displayed for the first time.

As well as clothing, jewellery, hats, shoes, and accessories, there will also be design sketches, fabric samples and handwritten notes that give a glimpse of the process involved in dressing the late Queen for her many public appearances.

Caroline de Guitaut, the exhibition curator and surveyor of the King's Works of Art, said: “Her distinctive style became instantly recognisable around the world, bolstering the British fashion industry and influencing generations of designers and couturiers.”

The exhibition will include her wedding dress from 1947, her Coronation dress from 1953, and a number of the formal evening dresses she wore for banquets and visiting Heads of State. But there will also be the riding jackets, tartan skirts and silk headscarves that made up her well-known practical everyday style.

‘Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style’ will be at The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, from spring to autumn 2026. Tickets on sale from this November.

Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku Easy Solution

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

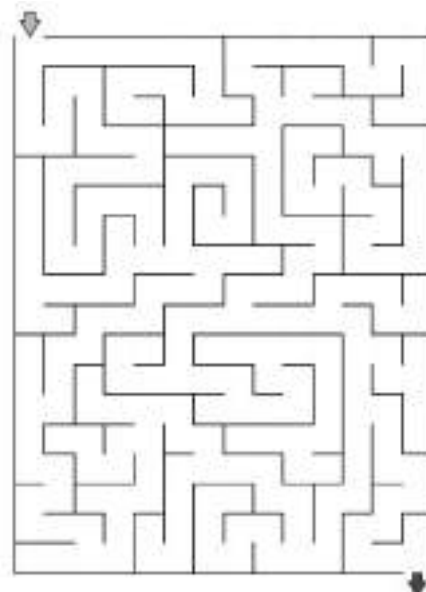
Sudoku Medium solution

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

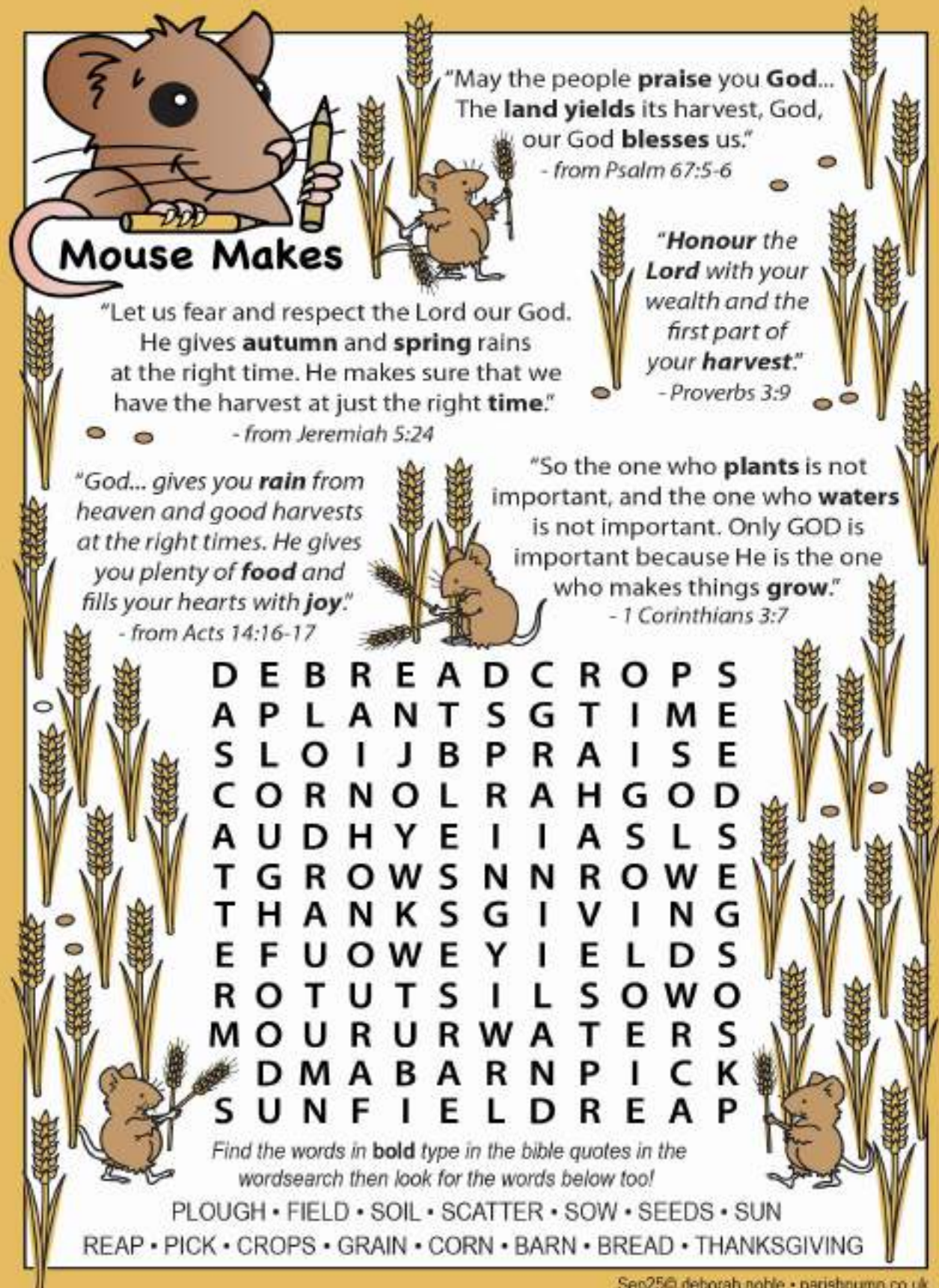
Crossword Solution

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

Can you find your way out of the maze?



Junior InSpire



Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."
- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."
- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."
- from Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

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CAPEL SHOW



This year's successful church Burger & Hot Dog stall at the Capel Show 2025. Thanks to those who organised the stall and all the volunteers who took part. We raised approximately £2,000 for church funds.

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