

# New Leaves

May 2019



**Parish Magazine  
of St David with  
St Michael and  
All Angels,  
Exeter**

*50p*

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# WELCOME



To all Readers of “New Leaves”, the magazine for the Parish of St David’s with St. Michael and All Angels.

**The editorial team invites you to submit appropriate articles which reflect Church, Parish or Community interest**

**Please send as Word documents to: [newleavesnews@gmail.com](mailto:newleavesnews@gmail.com)**

Please note that all articles will be printed with the author’s name

Enjoy this month’s read.

We will welcome critical comments on the magazine

Editorial Team: Bill Pattinson and Richard Barnes supported by  
Stephanie Aplin and Clive Wilson

# New Leaves

## May 2019

### **Farewell to Christopher and Jenny**

The timing of Christopher Durrant's announcement caused some problems for our publications department! Unfortunately the announcement of his appointment came just after the last magazine deadline and his farewell service will have happened by the time you get this edition! But I should report, for the record that Christopher was appointed as Rector of the Upper Itchen Benefice in Winchester Diocese. He will be instituted at Cheriton Parish Church on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May and fuller details are given below for those wishing to attend. His parish farewell service at St David's was held on Friday evening 26<sup>th</sup> April at which presentations were made from the parish and our two churches. Christopher had particularly requested an oil stock to carry the holy oils for anointing and this was presented as a joint gift from our churches.

I said in my address at Christopher's farewell:

'Christopher has been encouraged and guided here by Canon Tom Honey, by Prebendary David James and by me as official training incumbents and by Prebendary Alan Mac Donald who supervised his placement. But he has also been hugely encouraged and guided by many of you as friends and colleagues, as members of his support group and as members of our churches and the wider community. The past four years have been a time of considerable upheaval in our parish and yet Christopher has stuck at it and has brought great imagination and determination to his role. He has reached out to our local schools and college, establishing good patterns of working. He has committed himself to building positive relationships with other organisations like the YMCA and the Esther Community that are doing amazing work among young people who have faced difficulties in their lives.

And Christopher has given of himself generously in organizing and leading bible studies, quiet days and opportunities for prayer, like



our recent Brexit Vigil. And he has given much thought and brought much inspiration to his preaching and leading of worship at both of our churches.

We thank Christopher for his ministry here, especially the unseen conversations and care he has offered to many people. We will greatly miss Christopher and Jenny in our parish and will keep them in our prayers as they move on and begin a new life and ministry in Winchester Diocese.

### **Welcome**

Christopher's departure will leave a considerable gap in our provision of clergy to take services. I am delighted that Fr. Dominic Cyrus has agreed to help at St Michael's. Fr. Dominic was appointed last year as Vice Principal of the South West Ministry Training Course. He began his working life as a civil engineer and went to study for ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge whilst completing his PhD in Systematic Theology at King's College, London. He served as curate in a deprived parish in the Black Country before taking up his recent appointment in Devon. His work at SWMTC leaves him relatively free of Sunday duties and it has been a great joy to welcome him and his wife, Rashin, at St. Michael's and we look forward to his ministry with us.

### **Glorious Harmony**

On Friday May 3rd two entertaining close harmony groups will be coming together to give a concert entitled 'Glorious Harmony' at St David's Church. The church has recently received a grand piano on long-term loan and this concert hopes to raise money to pay for a wheeled frame so that the piano can be moved easily and safely for use in concerts. The two local singing groups are 'Bella a Cappella', of which Tina is a member, and DCHQ, a lower voice group. I'm sure that it will be an enjoyable evening. Tickets, including canapés, are £10 and drinks will be available.

### **Exeter Pride**

Exeter Pride has become an established annual event in the city. The Christian churches find it hard to agree (to put it mildly) on matters of

sexuality yet there are members of many churches who want to signal that all people, regardless of orientation, are welcome as part of church communities. Sadly this is not always apparent from Christians who are quite keen to throw the first stone (metaphorically) at people who do not conform to a perceived 'norm'. At the very least I wish our churches to be seen as safe places where people of all sexual orientations can come without fear of prejudice to find God's grace

St Michael's Church has for a number of years offered a service of Mattins before Exeter Pride, but the main organiser of that event, David Beadle, has now moved away. So I looked into the possibility of holding a service before Exeter Pride at a church nearer the parade and the PCC of Central Parish kindly offered St Petrock's for the service. This year there will be a somewhat shorter service of Blessing on Saturday 11th May starting at 10.45am at St Petrock's and finishing by 11.30 in time for participants to join the parade if they wish. The Revd. Hannah Alderson has helped to plan the service along with Phil Baker, Reader in St Thomas Parish. An address will be given by Canon Chris Palmer, Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral. Do please come and join in this service if you are able to.

**Christian Aid Week** runs from 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May this year. Following the success of last year's event we will be hosting another **Big Breakfast** at St David's Church, as part of the national Christian Aid Week appeal. Do come and join in the breakfast if you can on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May from 9-11am and support the amazing work of Christian Aid. And if you would be willing to donate food for this event or if you could help on the day please contact Pennie, who is coordinating the event, at [penniehartopp@googlemail.com](mailto:penniehartopp@googlemail.com).

### **Dedication of the St David's Church Rooms**

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Martin Shaw to dedicate the kitchen and meeting room at the back of St David's Church at Pentecost, 9 June 2019, at our 9.30am Parish Communion. There will be a celebratory brunch served afterwards.

It is likely that the rooms won't be entirely finished, but we hope that the

necessary parts will be there to be dedicated. At the time of writing some old oak pews have been obtained to provide material to finish off the job, and we thank John Wakely and Roger Beer for their continued efforts on our behalf. Also thank you to Tina Guthrie and Maggie Draper who have done a massive shop at IKEA to equip the kitchen with a full set of crockery, cutlery and glasses (with some of the proceeds of the Quiz Night).

### **Lighting Improvements**

You may also have noticed a considerable improvement in the lighting as Dave Allin continues to renew the lighting St David's. He has devised an excellent scheme which reuses the present high quality fitting but adapts them to take modern light bulbs that are efficient and easy to source and replace. We thank him (and Clive Wilson who has been seen up a ladder beside him!) for this work.

### **Confirmation**

I am aware that there hasn't been a confirmation in the parish for some time and I am delighted that the Bishop of Crediton has agreed to come and lead a confirmation service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am. If you would like to be confirmed or know someone who would value the opportunity please let me know as soon as possible so that we can plan our preparation.

### **Fete**

And finally, do check that you have Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June in your diary as the date for our Parish Fete! We look forward to this event which not only raise valuable funds for our churches but also brings church and community groups together to enjoy a happy day.

With every blessing

## **Nigel Guthrie**

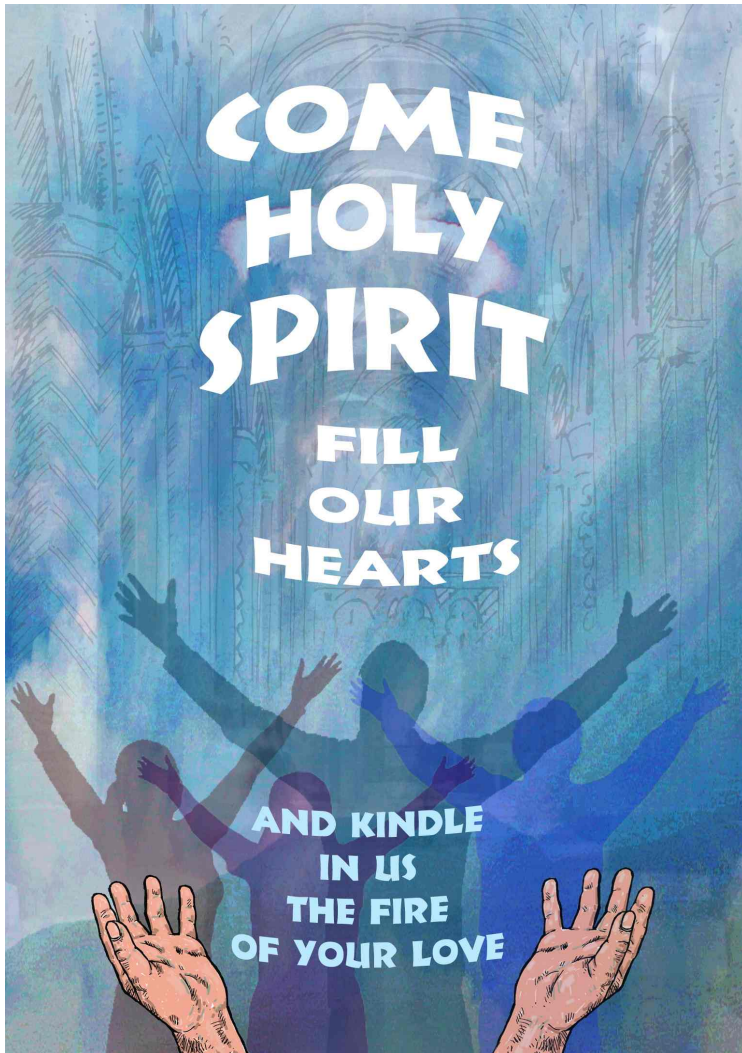
### **Information about Christopher Durrant's Institution Service**

Christopher's Institution Service will be held at St. Michael & All Angels

Church, Cheriton, Hampshire at 19:30 on Wednesday May 29th. The Bishop of Winchester will officiate.

There is no church car park, but parking on the village roads is free. The church is set back from the main green, up a short gravel slope path. Toilets are in the neighbouring village hall only.

*Please sign up on a sheet at the back of church if you will be able to attend so that we can let the churchwardens of Cheriton know numbers.*



# Farewell

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

As I sit in my study writing this article, I'm moved to reflect upon the plethora of words I've typed at this tatty desk. Looking up out of the window I see the now familiar trees and plants of our front garden, and try to remember that lost feeling of nervous excitement of moving house almost 4 years ago. I glance around me at the many 'thank you' cards I've kept over the years, framed photographs of gloriously vested clergy, unread books on shelves I thought would be helpful, and unsteady piles of well-thumbed and often annotated books that were helpful. The radiant glory of Our Lady looks back at me from the wall, including me with her gaze within the tender cheek to cheek intimacy she shares with her infant Son.

My interview for Rector of the Upper Itchen Benefice, Winchester Diocese was held on my birthday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. (I joked with the archdeacon how excellent it was for him to have thrown such great party for me.) Since accepting the position just a few days later, I knew I had to keep this secret hidden. Secrets bind people together, but also create distance between others. The date of my Institution Service (May 29<sup>th</sup>) was fixed early on, but the date of the announcement slipped later and later, meaning the time between became squeezed short. Indeed, my last few Sunday sermons and presidencies at St. David's occurred before the announcement, when only the clergy knew they would be my last. I exhorted the congregation to put aside scraps of scripture and to soak in the fullness of the Bible; to be intentional about prayer and worship in all rooms of the home, in each aspect of life. For what more can a priest faithfully desire for his people?

In my diaconal year, I overwhelmingly heard two things from the St. David's congregations. The first was clearly articulated - the importance of children. The second I discerned from what was not articulated – a need for teaching. Our Junior Church was, and is still, an excellent Sunday morning opportunity for children's fellowship and fun, of teaching and growth. Our early Messy Church experiments were positive and presented great potential, but a lack of volunteer

coordinators put this plan on permanent hold. Therefore, I focused upon our parish schools, building and strengthening our bonds with St. David's School and resurrecting the relationship with St. Wilfrid's School. I formalised and innovated the role of Chaplain to Exeter College, and gave precious ministerial energy to our resident youth communities of the YMCA and Esther. I feel I have served the children of our parish in the way God called and equipped me, both in His name and on behalf of the worshipping congregation.

To address the second priority, a hunger for teaching, I began to preach at every Eucharist. During the interregnum, this often meant four or five sermons a week! I valued these times of study and prayer, which satisfied my own hunger for correction of thought and guidance of action. I tried to be firm on matters of governance and behaviour; I fostered small group discussions, hoping to mimic in our faith seeking understanding that which formed Jesus' first disciples. Our Bible Study groups grew from this desire to soak in and debate scripture and church teaching. I rejoice in the depths of my heart the flourishing of these groups, now ably led by other licensed ministers of the parish.

My final Sunday celebration of Holy Eucharist and Baptism was on Easter Sunday at St. Michael & All Angels. How awesome it was to journey with you through the three days of passion, death, and resurrection of Our Lord. How rich the ritual, the music, the colour, the pain, the vulnerability of exposed feet, the endurance of spirit and testing of our souls; and how great the joy of the Exultet, and to be bathed at the last in Easter light! My feelings about moving on at that stage were too mixed, too sharp for any simple expressions of hope or loss. The Triduum was meaning for me in way I can't properly describe. But then, I don't need to for you were there – you know how awesome is our God.

Still within the Octave of Easter, we united again for my Farewell Eucharist at St. David's and for my Open House afternoon. Thank you all who sang, cleaned, read, served, preached, con-celebrated, prayed, laughed, ate, attended, and worshipped. As a consequence of our being soaked in the Gospel and as an outworking of our belonging within a common worshipping life, we know the importance of farewells. Love does indeed prove itself in the letting go. It is a

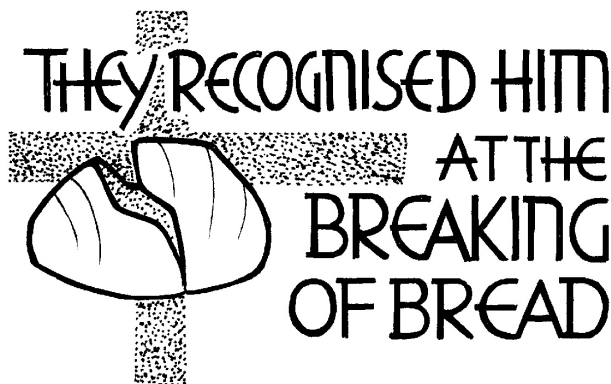
kindness to ourselves and honouring to God when we bless one another with words, gifts, or acts of service that witnesses to our thanksgiving, joy, and mutuality in ministry. I could not have desired a better farewell than to offer an holy sacrifice of thanks and praise at the High Altar; to offer an hospitality of tea and cake on the dining table of my home. I felt surrounded by so many dear people whom I love. You have formed me into the priest I am.

As I conclude, I'm in danger of becoming overly sentimental in style (my mixed and sharp feelings are ever near the surface). So again, I look about my study, and fix my gaze upon the familiar icon of Our Lady of tenderness. I wonder whom God will send as the next curate of the Parish of St. David with St. Michael & All Angels, Exeter, and I pause to pray for them. I pray for you too dear reader.

*By the powerful intercession of Our Lady, of St. David, and of St. Michael Archangel,  
Our Lord of kindness bless all children with everyday experiences of His love,  
Our Lord of patience bless His disciples with courage and knowledge of right teaching,  
and Our Lord of might protect you from all distractions and temptations that would separate you from stranger and neighbour alike.  
In the name of Him who shatters the altars of the pagans we pray.  
Amen.*

**Revd. Fr. Christopher**

28.04.2019



# @CurateDurrant

When Fr Christopher Durrant arrived some 3 ½ years ago as a newly hatched Deacon, he quickly started tweeting on the Twitter social media platform as @CurateDurrant.

It's been my duty & joy to follow, interact with and 'like' him on Twitter as @StMikes\_Exeter and also personally in his ministry among us at St Michael's Mount Dunham.

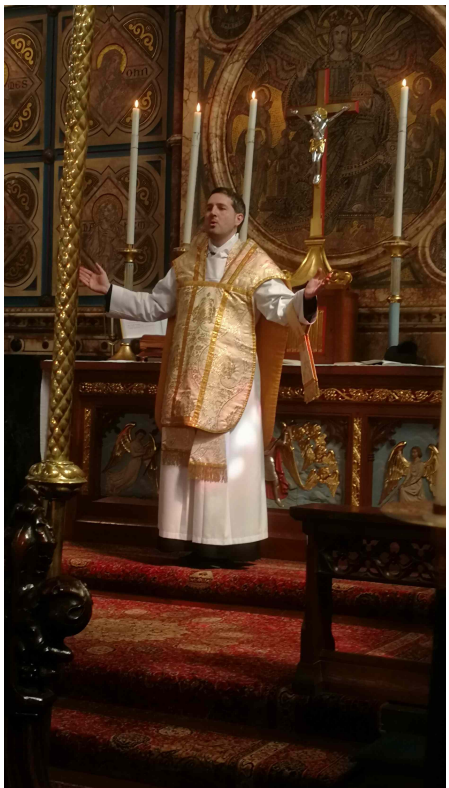
In some 1800 tweets, that's about 10 per week, Fr Christopher has documented his formation as our Curate and growth in Ministry, including:-

His continued training, such as New Testament Greek with fellow curates, inviting 'Fr' Matt from St Leonard's to preach for us one Candlemas; no return match, except with our St Mike's team for the TearFund Big Quiz.

His priesting @StDavids\_Exeter by Bp Robert, fine photos from his #WalkingtheParish, #SpottheSquirrel in St David's Churchyard, support for the St Michael's Lectures, everyday encounters with people by being #DogCollar visible in the community, learning to talk with and listen to all sorts and conditions...

Other activities apparent from Twitter include Assemblies for St David's and St Wilfrid's Schools, Chaplaincy work at Exeter College, active support of YMCA and practical support of Thursday Soup Evenings.

This Holy Week there was a classic tweet - "So... after mass, whilst buying my lunch from Co-op, I left the box of three oils on the counter... the staff thought it contained human ashes, & rightly passed it to the police... to claim back the oils, I





needed to explain their use to the desk sergeant... #ChrismMassMission :) “  
- getting over 60 Likes.

Sunday by Sunday, season by season, we have witnessed him growing in confidence and caring at St Mike's. Finding his singing voice with its unique modal scale. Sermons (not essays) preached without notes from head & heart – if he can put that much work into memorising what he wants to preach, perhaps we should put similar effort into remembering and applying it.

Wearing our exquisite, colourful vestments with joy, not because they are beautiful (though they are) but because they symbolise the functions of the priest – including the Maniple, symbol of the servant priest, waiting at table, dealing with the messiness of humanity, offering comfort and absolution.

Keeping faith with us as we weathered a stormy interregnum, so that we could stay faithful to St Michael's. And then providing ideas, like the Procession from St David's down the Hill to St Michael's, as we celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last Michaelmas.

A theme of the Catholic Growth study day we attended earlier this year, and which Fr Christopher 'live tweeted', was that worship should be done with well-organised informality, rather than disorganised formality. A recent comment on Facebook said “a record turnout for the Easter Vigil and so competently celebrated.”

It was indeed fitting, and a God-given blessing, that his final Mass as Curate at St Michael's on Easter Day included the moving Baptism of an adult candidate – the water of utility having been transformed into the water of sacrament.

And then at the Sursum Corda, Fr Christopher opened wide his arms in welcome, lifted his gaze joyfully to God and brought his hands together in prayer – may we continue to do likewise.

Now Fr Christopher is fully-fledged and ready to fly the nest of this excellent training Parish – no doubt with thanks to Canon Tom Honey, Preb Nigel Guthrie and all whom he has encountered over the past few years.

I'm sure he's just itching to start his new position as Rector, ministering the care and love of God to people across the Upper Itchen Benefice in the

Diocese of Winchester. And hopefully continuing to tweet about faith with a new Twitter handle.

Our love, best wishes and every blessing to Christopher & Jenny.



**Richard Barnes –  
22/4/19.**



# May 2019 from St Michael and all Angels

This month seems to pose a number of questions for me; I hope that by airing them some solutions may be found.

Firstly, following Oliver Nicholson's excellent exposition of the life and times of St Cyprian, the third century Christian bishop and martyr, as the terrible fire took the roof of Notre Dame in Paris, I wondered if a building could in some ways be a martyr? If it is living leading to the death, but not just the death, that becomes martyrdom, and if death is a changed state of being, then to me it is possible that the building, though not an animate being, could in some way be a martyr, a witness to the faith of those who built it and those who still see it as a place of worship and revelation. Its recognition, internationally, as a Christian place of worship, sets it as a witness. Leaving the building without restoration, or razing it, and building something else, would be a travesty of the years that Notre Dame has stood for the faith of millions. The great quality demonstrated by human martyrs was that of 'patientia', not just patiently waiting for something to happen, but knowing that ultimately there would be suffering and death, and embracing a life that would bring about exactly that. It is what happens during Lent, and especially Holy Week, an inevitability that brings us God's greatest gift, which we celebrate with Easter, and every Eucharist after as God's 'show and tell', as Dr Giles Fraser calls it.

My second question relates to the unwillingness of the media to use the word 'Christian' to describe those adults and children who died in some Sri Lankan churches at the hands of suicide bombers on Easter day. Is the faith implied by the place of their death? There was no hesitation in describing as Muslim those who were assassinated in a mosque in New Zealand. Our brothers and sisters are still being persecuted and killed for their faith, but acknowledging this seems to be beyond the secular reportage. Religious belief and practice spooks most of the journalists; Christianity, especially, since it is in the bedrock of Western culture, causes discomfort, an itch that needs scratching for some or eliminating for others. Julie Burchill in a recent piece says that she goes to church to be one of the ones who wants the faith to remain alive; some of its tenets she finds difficult, but it is more important to support Christianity than attempt to discredit it, she claims. It would seem that Kerry Stapleton, recently baptised here, has no

embarrassment over his faith. He addressed us during the ceremony to let us know clearly that he has found God. We welcome Kerry to our family of faith.

Thirdly, how do you say 'goodbye'? In some languages, there is an implicit prayer: '*adieu*' hands the recipient to God; '*goodbye*' has its origins in wishing that God would be with the person or people to whom one was saying it. There is also a sense of the future: the German '*auf wiedersehen*' or French '*à demain*' make this notion clear. Dave Allen, the late Irish comedian, ended his monologues with the words 'May your God go with you'. The sentiment can be threaded through with relief, with sadness, with joy, despair, grief... Saying 'goodbye' to Fr Christopher and Jenny Durrant certainly drew out many emotions. It is certainly a great sadness for us to see them leave our parish: so many people have been warmed by their ministry. However, as we have seen Fr Christopher grow in confidence in his ministry, it is absolutely right that he should move to a benefice where he can use the developing skills and talents of his work to bring the Christian faith to others, and therefore we wish them and the people of Upper Itchen much joy. Our goodbye to Fr Christopher and Jenny is not meant to be just an ending; it is also a prayer for them – and for us – that their moving will be of benefit to all in the peace of Christ.



**Stephanie Aplin.**



# St David's Eucharist     May

## Sunday 5th May 3rd Sunday of Easter

Reading 1	Acts 9:1-6	Debbie McNeile
Reading 2	Revelation 5:11-end	Philip Dale
Gospel	John 21:1-19	
Time of prayer		Alison Whiting

Junior Church:

## Sunday 12th May 4th Sunday of Easter

Reading 1	Acts 9:36-end	Helena Walker
Reading 2	Revelation 7:9-end	Cathy Knowles
Gospel	John 10:22-30	
Time of prayer		Helen Friend

Junior Church:

## Sunday 19th May 5th Sunday of Easter Family Communion Service

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		

## Sunday 26th May 6th Sunday of Easter

Reading 1	Acts 16:9-15	Gina Redman
Reading 2	Revelation 21vv 10 and 22, 22:1-5	Helen Friend
Gospel	John 5:1-9	
Time of prayer		Sarah Black

Junior Church:

## Sunday 2nd June 7th Sunday of Easter/Sunday after Ascension Day

Reading 1	Acts 16:16-34	Dilys Thorp
Reading 2	Revelation 22:12-14, 16, 17, 20-end	Hilary Todd
Gospel	John 17:20-end	
Time of prayer		Bill Pattinson

Junior Church



# Brexit Vigil

Brexit. Just a few years ago the word didn't exist, and yet now it seems to be everywhere! I'm writing this article on March 29<sup>th</sup> – that day that would have been Brexit Day – reflecting back a week to Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the day of our Brexit Vigil.

The Brexit Vigil idea emerged from my own need to pray. I found myself kneeling in our beautiful Lady Chapel whenever I felt confused, upset, or hopeful about Brexit. Kneeling in silence refreshed me, and I wanted to share this with others. Contemplation in the presence of God doesn't answer questions (necessarily) because being silent in the presence of God is more about remembering we exist in living relationship with the One who doesn't manipulate, delude, or harm us. Being silent with God is not like watching televised PMQ's on mute – there are no showy trades. Being silent with God unfolds unity through a common discipline, reconciles by His overwhelming invitation to be free, and comforts according to His steadfast love. The Brexit Vigil aimed to offer silence and prayer, not debate or discussion. And we did just that.

Although most of the vigil was silent, there was an opportunity within every 30mins for verbal prayer. My sincere and heart-felt thanks to all those who volunteered to lead one of these many prayer slots throughout the 12hrs. As I remained in church the entire 12hrs, from 08:00 Morning Prayer with Holy Communion until 20:00 Compline, I was privileged to participate in everything. I was proud of the integrity, sensitivity, and creativity of all our intercessors, both those who voted IN and those who voted OUT. Particularly profound for me was meditating on the chaotic and blinding image of a sand whirl-wind faithfully revealing bedrock beneath.

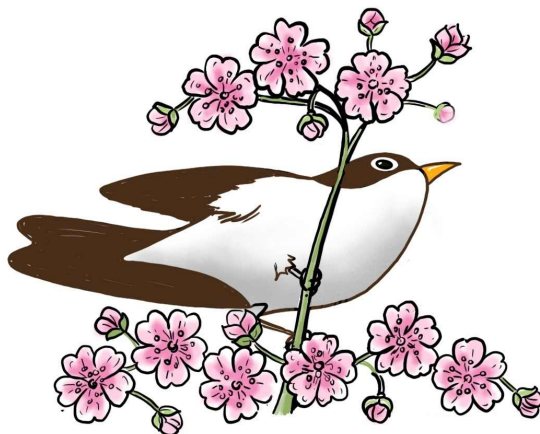
I counted almost 80 people who attended the Brexit Vigil. Some where known to me, others where new; some worshipped in our parish or neighbouring parishes, other people had just seen the feather flags and posters and walked through the open doors. Some people lit candles, others wrote their prayers on paper card. Some people stayed for hours, others for minutes. Some people came searching for something they did not know, others found the depth of silence for which they hungered. I believe that all who attended

were comforted. I was. And I have faith that God will touch all those whom we remembered before Him for the good.

In the quiet lull that always follows lunchtime, I found myself leafing through the Book of Common Prayer for the right words... before there was a European Union, and before Brexit, there was Cranmer:

*MOST gracious God, we humbly beseech thee, as for this Kingdom in general, so especially for the High Court of Parliament, under our most religious, and gracious Queen, at this time assembled: That thou wouldst be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations to the advancement of thy glory, the good of thy Church, the safety honour and welfare of our Sovereign, and her dominions; that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavours upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us for all generations. These and all other necessities for them, for us, and thy whole Church, we humbly pray in the Name and Mediation of Jesus Christ our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.*

**Revd. Fr. Christopher**



# A Green April

It's been a Green April – from buds bursting, through blossom to full leaf, and climate change protests.

The Magnolia flutes by St Anne's, the Orthodox Church, the cup taken, then clothed in new growth by Easter.

One thinks Holy Week will be the same – the choral heptathlon at St Michael's from Palm Sunday to Easter Day – but each year a couple of new thoughts slip in unexpectedly.

The Palm Sunday Gospel from St Luke stopped after Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem on the donkey (fulfilling a prophecy) – what happened next? (A Biblical question of Sport for you).

He could have whipped up the crowd to rebellion. In the synoptic Gospels he goes to the Temple and throws out the money changers & traders with righteous anger, we say – with some violence actually. (In St John's Gospel, for reasons of symmetry, Cleansing the Temple happens in Chapter 2 at the start of Jesus' ministry.)

But then he stops, as if scared by his own power. He debates with the authorities. Then he waits at Bethany to see what must happen next, as Fr Christopher reminded us. The corresponding sermon at St David's from a visiting preacher apparently stirred them up in the words of St Augustine to employ those daughters of Hope, Anger & Courage. A different interpretation.

My 'new thought'. Did Jesus change his mind from violent anger to peaceful self-sacrifice? And what, if anything, does this say to our turbulent times, with Christians engaging in direct action with members of the 'Extinction Rebellion' group.

I instinctively dislike protest. Growing up in the shadow of the Cold War, I was glad that CND existed to prick the conscience of those with a finger on the nuclear button, but equally glad that they failed in their aim of unilateral disarmament.

Sadly, I believe climate change protests are necessary, because for a generation politicians and many others, Christians included, have ignored or paid lip service to the scientific evidence that our world cannot cope with, or even adjust stably to, ever increasing concentrations of carbon



dioxide in the atmosphere – some is necessary, but too much and we overheat. Like a high TOG duvet in a heatwave.

The Met Office Hadley Centre for Climate Science & Services was set up at the behest of, and opened in 1990 by, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (I was there). We have had plenty of time to change things slowly, but like many a student and most humans, we end up with an essay crisis of our own making, and the task becomes ever harder.

Our old politicians (of every Party) and their old policies have failed, so children are now rightly taking a stand. The well-delivered speech by Greta Thunberg to our Parliament was largely predictable and largely right. One section stood out to me, particularly in light of the dangerous, but thankfully not disastrous, fire at Notre-Dame de Paris a week earlier, where fire-fighters and priests acted just in time to save the treasures of the Cathedral & World Heritage building.

“You don’t listen to the science because you are only interested in solutions that will enable you to carry on like before. Like now. And those answers don’t exist any more. Because you did not act in time.

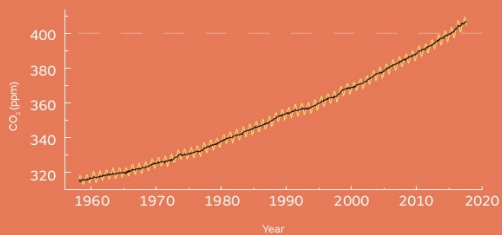
Avoiding climate breakdown will require cathedral thinking. We must lay the foundation while we may not know exactly how to build the ceiling.

Sometimes we just simply have to find a way. The moment we decide to fulfil something, we can do anything. And I’m sure that the moment we start behaving as if we were in an emergency, we can avoid climate and ecological catastrophe. Humans are very adaptable: we can still fix this. But the opportunity to do so will not last for long. We must start today. We have no more excuses.”

## Greenhouse gases

2016 was the first year in modern records where surface CO<sub>2</sub> stayed above 400ppm for the entire year.

Full Mauna Loa CO<sub>2</sub> record



\*\*\*Relative to preindustrial value of 280 ppm

Theologically, as Christ through his incarnation is the priestly bridge between God and Creation, so all humanity is called in Genesis to be the custodian, indeed the Priest, to all creatures of our God and King. As in any relationship, we should neither worship nor abuse Nature, but respect and cherish it.

Can we finally get those with the power to do so, and all of us, to act before it is too late?

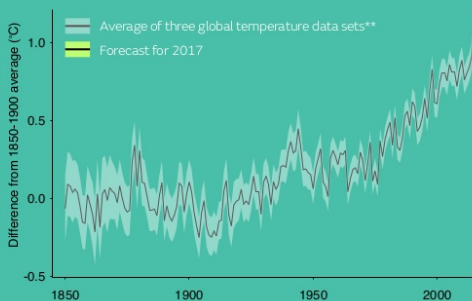
On a lighter note, the other new thought came in Fr Christopher's Maundy Thursday Sermon – why, he asked, is the Washing of the disciples' feet, which is so central a part of the Last Supper, not a part of our Eucharistic Liturgy every Sunday?! Well, most cultures regard feet with a certain disdain – but Christianity prides itself on being counter-cultural. Well, it would take too long... Or is it that a hierarchical Church can only cope with its Priests performing such a menial and lowly task in the Liturgy once a year? Discuss.

## Richard Barnes – 28/4/19

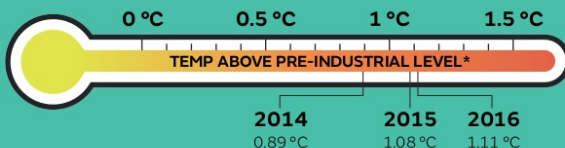


### Global temperature

2016 was the second year in a row where global temperature was more than 1°C above pre-industrial levels\*



2014, 2015 and 2016 all saw record global temperatures. 2017 is on track to be one of the top three warmest years on record.



\*Taken here as the 1850-1900 average

\*\*GISTEMP (NASA), NOAA GlobalTemp (NOAA), HadCRUT4 (Met Office & Climatic Research Unit)

# The Company of Servers

If you were asked to serve at Christ's table what would your reaction be?

To be a bit more specific how about serving at the celebration of the sacrifice which Jesus made on the cross so that we might be restored into a right relationship with God?



First reaction would probably be the tried and tested one used by so many of God's servants through the ages. Me Lord? Why me? I am not cut out for this kind of thing, I'll only make a mess of it! There are lots of other people who are much better suited to this than me!

Anyway to put this in to the context of St David's, after much thought and prayer Moira and I decided to just do it and joined the Company of Servers whose purpose is to help make the service go as smoothly as possible by assisting the Ordained and Lay Ministers during the Liturgy.

We work as part of a team and as such need good observation skills and timing so that we are in the right place at the right time, with the right item ready at hand. This is not quite so easy as it might first appear because we need to notice if something is likely to go amiss and be ready to put it right without anybody's attention being distracted from the service. Yes! mistakes, omissions, thoughtless oversights occur, but by looking out for each other we usually manage to sort things out!

When you think about it, this is a bit like the experience of life as a Christian, in that we do not attain a state of sinless perfection in this life, because we do get it wrong sometimes but God forgives us and Christ has paid the penalty for our sins by his death. Also through the example of the way we live our lives we show the power and glory of his Spirit not seeking the limelight ourselves. Being part of a team of Servers is a privilege as we try to embrace unity in the family of Christ. Peace be with you.

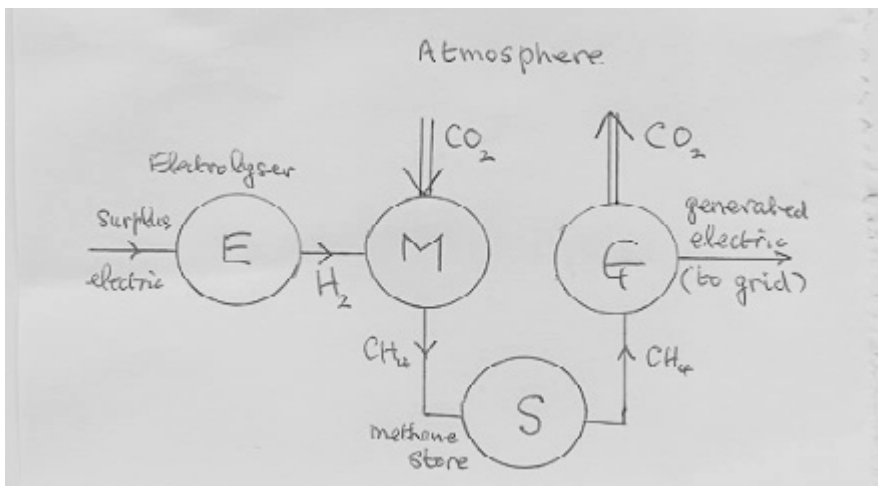


**Phil Dale**

# Towards Greener Energy

A basic problem is that whenever the supply of renewable energy exceeds demand (as it easily can on a warm sunny day), surplus energy will be lost unless it can be stored. In theory the storage problem could be solved in a carbon-free way as follows:

1. use surplus electrical energy to split water molecules into hydrogen ( $H_2$ ) and oxygen ( $O_2$ )
2. store the freed hydrogen for future use
3. when energy is required, burn the stored hydrogen in oxygen to form water
4. use the heat of combustion to generate electric.



One way to split water molecules is to heat them: if steam at  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  is heated, its temperature rises and will eventually reach a point where the molecules decompose into atoms – hydrogen and oxygen. However the decomposition temperature is roughly  $3,000^{\circ}\text{C}$  which would melt metal containers! Fortunately hydrogen can be extracted from water by electrolysis – a process where water is decomposed by passing an electric current through it (diagram, stage E).

Another problem is that gas appliances (such as central heating boilers)

might not be able to burn hydrogen especially if they are designed to burn natural gas (which is mainly methane). Possible solutions modify either (i) the appliances or (ii) the hydrogen. Option (ii) could exploit a process called “methanation” discovered in 1897 by the French chemist Paul Sabatier. In the diagram stage M is a methanator which is a pressurised chemical reactor that combines hydrogen with carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) to produce methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) which can then be stored underground in S.

If the demand for electric rises, methane from S is burnt to produce heat which is used to turn the generator G (a gas turbine). A combustion by-product is carbon dioxide which might be released into the atmosphere. But the whole system is carbon-neutral because, as indicated in the diagram, the absorption of carbon by M cancels any emission of carbon by G.

For more details I would recommend the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales ([cat.org.uk](http://cat.org.uk)).



**Charles Argall**



# Lost in Translation

When Stephanie asked me to translate the St. Michael's church guide into German and French, I didn't think I could do it, but said I would try. My BA in those languages was conferred in 1970, my teaching days are long over and my translation jobs were mostly the other way round – into English!

I was surprised to find that the tired and ageing brain was actually able to be jump-started after all. I rattled through the German quite quickly, since German words are so graphic and descriptive that one could almost make them up. For example, German pews are “Bankreihen” - rows of benches! What about a German incense burner? It is a holy smoke vessel...Weihrauchsgefaess... Perhaps I did make them up...

The difficulty with translating German/ English either way round, is that Germans tend to repeat themselves. They say what they are going to say, then they say it, and then they say what they have said. This makes the German version longer than the English. In order to fit it into the space available, I was forced to fiddle with the wording and sometimes just get the gist across.

Then I went to French, and again this seemed less terrifying than I anticipated. My Latin, last studied in 1965, came to the fore, so I was OK with the vocabulary. I had, however, forgotten how many accents there are in French. Not having a French keyboard and using a free knockoff of MS Word, called Open Office, I had to click on the pulldown menu, select Insert Special Character, select the version Latin basic extended, select each character and insert it in the correct place. I counted 207 accents in my translation, and I may have missed a few. Interestingly, the French version turned out to be a few lines shorter than both English and German. I guess all those hand gestures supply the difference?

After translating into both languages, I had to engage my husband William to scan and size the excellent drawing for the front page and insert it. Then I had to engage my son in America to tell me, by the miracles of modern technology, how to print the thing in brochure form without the back page coming out upside down.

It is a truly beautiful church with the old familiar traditional Mass and last but not least, very friendly and welcoming people. William and I (and puppy Min) find it very much worth the long drive from Cornwall.



## Luke 10, 38-42 The story of Mary and Martha

It's a story I've never really understood as I have always felt very sorry for busy Martha and slightly cross with Jesus for telling her off when she was trying to look after everyone. However, this morning (16.4), I was able to see it differently thanks to two scenarios that played out in my head having read the story anew.



So in scenario 1, Jesus arrives at the house of Mary and Martha with his disciples and is warmly welcomed in. He indicates that he has something to say to them and almost everyone sits or stands to listen, including Mary who sits quietly at his feet; all but Martha who is anxiously bustling about making sure people are comfortable, have something to drink etc. There's movement in the room and a bit of tension in the air. Martha's getting crosser and crosser about how much she has got to do and the lack of help from Mary and finally she complains to Jesus who stops speaking to listen to her.

Then the scene re-runs. Jesus arrives at the house of Mary and Martha with his disciples and is warmly welcomed in. He indicates that he has something to say and everyone sits or stands to listen, including the two sisters who sit quietly at his feet. The room is calm and expectant and everyone hangs on his every word. When he has finished speaking, he smiles down at the two sisters who realise this



is their signal, and get to their feet and start to serve those present, probably with the help of others as everyone is now talking about what the Teacher has been telling them. Maybe some of them go to fetch others to hear more.

And I suddenly realised that in the first scene, Martha, with her well-intentioned busyness, is a major distraction. While people are trying to listen to Jesus, she is going from person to person asking if they are comfortable or want anything. She is also winding herself into such a tizz that she probably hasn't heard a word of what Jesus is saying herself. Interestingly, nothing is said in the Gospel about what Jesus taught that day; maybe with all the bustle, no one listened well enough to recall it afterwards. No wonder Jesus rather sadly but very gently rebukes her. Suddenly it all made sense.



**MHWT (Hilary Todd) 16.4.2019**

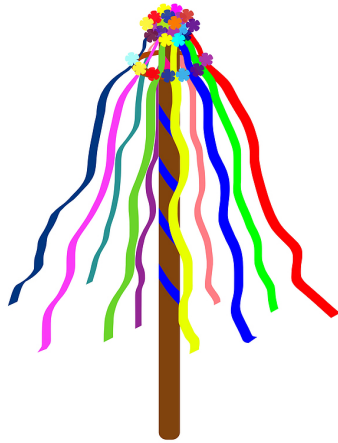
I would like to thank everyone who contributed to give Ben such a grand send-off on 29th. March

Margaret Grimsey



# May Day Celebrations

In the early 1960s I began teaching at a shabby church school in a Midlands town. The area was home to people who were mostly on low incomes. Feeding and clothing their children was a constant battle but parents supported the staff and everyone did their best despite drab surroundings. Then, in the Spring, I was told that we would be celebrating May Day with a procession and, wait for it, maypole dancing. This I had only seen in films or read about in books. Usually on a sunny day, on a village green, children dressed in pretty clothes would skip merrily.



At the school, a maypole appeared in a space, we had no hall, made by opening the partition between the two infant rooms. Two of the heaviest boys, in the top class, helped to support it on its metal stand. I was initiated in the Art by visiting the music teacher and Mrs.H, my colleague. The day before May Day, we found ivy and greenery in the Vicarage garden to decorate the May Queen's throne (an eleven year old girl from the top class had been chosen).

On May Day, I turned up in a white dress and was amazed by the transformation of the children. Every girl wore a pristine white dress with ribbons in their hair and every boy a Persil white shirt. We processed and danced. The effort made, I suspect mostly by mothers, was wonderful. May Day was definitely celebrated in this industrial town and I remember it every May 1st.



**Eileen Jarman**

11.04.2019

# May Events mainly at St Michael's

Many thanks to all who made Holy Week and the Triduum such a moving, intense and encouraging journey. With Easter being so late this year the only Feast Days to fall in May seem to be Rogation Sunday (26<sup>th</sup>) and Ascension Day (Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>), but there are several other Events highlighted below or in the Diary.

We are grateful to Stephanie Aplin for taking up the mantle of Chapel Warden at the recent APCM, and to Fr Dominic Cyrus, Vice-Principal of South West Ministry Training Course, who will be helping our Clergy team with Services now that Fr Christopher has finished his Curacy.

In the first few days of April, our Peregrine Falcon pair laid 3 eggs – we hope for chicks to hatch around 9-11 May.

We are glad that the “Exeter Pride” Service, started here a few years ago by David Beadle and encouraged by Fr Christopher, will continue this year at the more central venue of St Petrock's Church on the High Street, at 10.45am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May – do support this if you can.

The Institution Service for Fr Christopher Durrant as Rector of the Upper Itchen Benefice in the Diocese of Winchester will be on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in Cheriton Parish Church of St Michael & All Angels.

## Diary.

**Sunday 5 May**, Easter 3/II. 11Am Sung Mass. Hymns 345, 155, 486. Missa l’Hora passa, Viadana. Motet: Christ the Lord is Risen Again, Foster. We welcome Fr Dominic Cyrus as Celebrant and Preacher. At 12noon there will be our monthly **Bountiful Table** of baking, preserves & produce in support of Church funds.

**6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction.** Led by Fr Nigel Guthrie. Byrd Responses. Psalm 86. Hymn 294. Canticles: Dyson in F. Anthem: If ye be risen again with Christ, Gibbons. O salutaris 269, Tantum Ergo 268.

**Sat 11 May**, 10.45am at St Petrock's Church, High Street. A Service of Blessing & Solidarity with Exeter Pride led by Fr Nigel Guthrie, Rev Hannah

Alderson & Canon Chris Palmer – all welcome, of any faith, gender, sexuality or none.

**Sun 12 May**, Easter 4/III Good Shepherd. 11Am Mass. Hymns 362, 381, 457. Mass in F, Rheinberger. Psalm 23, Howard Goodall. Celebrant & Preacher, Fr Nigel.

**Sat 18 May**, 9-11am at St David's Church. Big Breakfast in support of Christian Aid – very worth our support.

**Sun 19 May**, Easter 5/IV. 11am. Hymns 484, 420, 445. Missa Lauda Sion, Palestrina. The Call, Vaughan Williams. We welcome Ven David Gunn-Johnson.

**Sat 25 May**, 9am. Parish Men's Breakfast in the Orangery at The Imperial.

**Sun 26 May**, Easter 6/**Rogation Sunday**. 11am. Hymns Processional booklet, 364, 342 (t178). Mass in C&F, Stanford. O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit, Tallis. Celebrant & Preacher, Fr Dominic Cyrus.

**Wed 29 May**, 7.30pm at Parish Church of St Michael, Cheriton, near Winchester. The Institution of Rev Christopher Durrant as Rector of the Upper Itchen Benefice.

**Thursday 30 May, Ascension Day**. 7.30am, Sung Matins.

**7.30pm Sung Mass of the Ascension**. Hymns 130, 332, 134. Missa Brevissima, Casciolini. Motet: God is gone up, Hutchings. Ven David Gunn-Johnson.

**Sun 2 June**, Sunday after Ascension. 11Am. Hymns 352, 355, 388. Mass in E, Darke. Come Holy Ghost, Attwood. Fr Nigel. Bountiful Table.

**6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction**. Led by Rev Alison Whiting & Fr Nigel. Reading Responses. Psalm 68. Hymn 63. Brewer in D. Lift up your heads, O ye Gates – Mathias. O salutaris 269, Tantum Ergo 268.

At St Michael's, worship is traditional, music is excellent, people are friendly, and all are welcome. Please join us. Pray for our continuing life & mission, and support your church with time, talents and giving.

The website [www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/) also lists Events

or follow @StMikes\_Exeter on Twitter.

A Joyful 50 days of Eastertide from all at St Michael's.



**Richard Barnes – 27/4/19.**



"...and then, as the organist hits us with a cool hip-hop riff, you kick off the wedding vows in a smokin' rap style..."

# SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Personal observations from over 30 years in New York

The Oath of Allegiance, pledges to *“support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States”*, and ends in *“So help me God”*. (1790)

The Constitution specifies in Article VI that *“no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification for any office of public trust under the United States”*. (1789)

The First Amendment states *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”* (1791)

Thomas Jefferson described this as the *“building of a wall of separation between Church and State”*. (1802)

Almost 200 years later, these still apply, and I experienced some of their effects. Working at public libraries, I did not expect to be forbidden to say “Happy Christmas” to anyone in public. No decorations were allowed and no religious holidays could be mentioned in publicity.

Our staff comprised people of many kinds of ethnic origin, religious affiliation, skin colour, speaking several languages. My neighbours were a microcosm of the United Nations. This was a perfect situation to observe, discuss and learn to understand why others do, think, believe, eat or not eat, what they revere and celebrate, and why. Among friends and neighbours there was no dissension. At work, in the staff room, we talked and learned a lot. For example, Jehovah's witnesses do not celebrate their birthdays, but might accept a piece of cake!

We discovered more similarities than differences, and became more tolerant of what had been seen as favouritism or excuses to take time off.

Christians were least likely to speak up, although they were the

majority . No allowance was made for Christians to go to church on Ash Wednesday; even at lunchtime we had to be back on time. This did not seem right, when Jewish colleagues were allowed to leave an hour before sundown on Fridays! Once we explained to each other why these concessions were important, we covered for each other.

Passover trumped the Christian Holy Week every time, until I explained to the largely Jewish bosses that Christmas (a federal holiday anyway) is not the High Holy Day of the Christian year. I asked for Christian employees to be given Good Friday off, but the Board closed the whole library for the day! Actually, with a large percentage of the local population being RC, people had been surprised to find us open on that holy day...

A Muslim colleague was rumoured as making the most of Ramadan by taking the day before off. She explained that after winding down to the long fast and sleeping from exhaustion in her car at lunchtime, she was weak to fast unless she stayed home to rest. After that her angry coworkers were understanding and helped her out.

This is a clear example of how understanding and education can defeat misunderstanding and ignorance that can lead to conflict.

In Utah I talked with a young Mormon. His ancestor was a discoverer of Zion National Park who found this the perfect sanctuary for the soul. I quoted Psalm 121 "I lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help", and he asked where on earth I had heard that! I thought this was because the Mormons are a pretty exclusive community- but I soon discovered that exclusiveness was everywhere.

My son went to publicly funded schools with no religious education at all, not even comparative religion. Children learned only their own faith at home, in religious schools and in places of worship. Luckily the children made friends and my son attended many Bar Mitzvahs,

acquiring a large collection of satin yarmulkes!

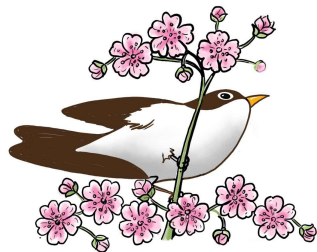
Reduction to the absurd came in the 1980s at primary school. On Hallowe'en children paraded around the school in the costumes in which they would later trick or treat. Mothers brought in cupcakes and it was a happy celebration for all. Then the Powers That Be decided that this might offend families whose religions and cultures included revering their ancestors. I asked my various Asian and Hispanic Catholic neighbours and friends, who all were unoffended and upset that the children's event was cancelled. Many pointed out that Hallowe'en was an ancient pagan festival and that the Day of the Dead was very important in the Mexican community. We failed. I do not know if it has been reinstated.

All this was surely well intended to avoid offending anyone by appearing to put more emphasis on any "side". It was to prevent persecution and ensure equal opportunity for all by creating laws that forbade prejudice to rule. When applied so minutely, however, it often felt like throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

I end with a question I asked a Jewish colleague many years ago. I have never forgotten her answer. I knew that Yom Kippur was the Highest Holy Day, the Day of Atonement. I did not know quite what to say as she was leaving work. "Happy Holiday", the officially approved version, did not seem appropriate! She replied: "A well wish should never be taken ill".



**Vivien Finnigan**





## New Piano Cover

Those of you in the know will have seen the new addition to the South Transept at St David's. A beautiful grand piano, on loan from Dilys. In order to protect it we have asked Carol Burrows to make a special cover for it.

She and I went shopping on the 1st April in the afternoon and by noon on the 2nd she needed to do a fitting. Her she is with her tools of the trade, piping ready made to pin onto the top.

Watch out for the finished product coming soon, (probably before the next New Leaves).

Thank you Carol



**Glynis Harflett**

02.04.2019



# PARISH FETE 2019

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 11.30 - 2.30 at St David's Church**

The City of Exeter Railway Band

Grand Draw

Stalls and Games

Refreshments

## CAN YOU HELP?

Are you able to ....

Bake or make something for the cake and produce stall

Grow some plants for the plant stall

Set aside some books, or nearly new items for the stalls

Buy as many draw tickets as you can

Donate some bottles

Run a stall, help set up or clear up

**CONTACT: Sam Wellbelove or sign up at the back of Church on Sunday.**

# Fateful Trophies

"Alan, we need to get into the office and open the safe"

Herbert Read was talking to Alan Pile, Read's foreman. It was four days after the Blitz on May 2nd 1942. Read's Workshop in Sidwell Street, now Guardian Security, had been bombed.

Having shifted some of the debris, the two of them managed to get into the remains of the office and opened the safe. The reason for doing this was to rescue a silver cup, for which Reads had been in the process of making a storage cabinet. The cup was a Sports Trophy belonging to All Hallows School in Ruisdon .

What met their eyes when the safe was opened was not a beautiful silver cup, but a heap of lead. The cup was a fake!! It was lead, covered with a silver coating. Herbert Read informed the school and the matter was forgotten. .

Ten years later, in the early fifties, a cup was presented to the school to replace the fake. I was given the job of making the cabinet to house it at St Hallows. I had been to the school several times to fix memorial tablets to old boys who gave their lives during the Second World War. So when it came to fixing the cabinet, I knew my way around, or so I thought !

Having been told which wall to fix it on, I got to work. Boys came and looked at it, made comments and passed by. With the cabinet fixed and dusted down, I locked the glass-fronted door, packed my tool bag and waited for Dick Read to transport me back to the workshop. Boys gathered around looking at the cabinet and making comments !

"It won't stay on that wall long " said one "fancy fixing it in the gymnasium"

Oh dear! Oh dear! SOME TROPHIES ARE VERY ILL FATED

HOPEFULLY THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE FOR THE  
FOLLOWING TROPHY

This trophy cup is in my sitting room having been presented to my wife Maureen. She is an outdoor and indoor bowler and plays for Exonia Bowling Club. This season she was in the Club's winning Team against Lincoln in the National Egham Trophy. She was the oldest member of the team, in her 90th year, while the youngest member was 20

Exonia's score was 85 and Lincoln's 40

Maureen has had a successful carpet bowling year. In Exonia Club Ladies competition she was runner up in the Singles, second only to her Club mate, who is the world's Ladies Bowling Champion. Not bad for an 89 year old. A mixture of great skill and Devon Air!



**John Wakley**

April 2019

## Smilelines

What is the difference between perseverance and obstinacy?

One is a strong will, and the other is a strong won't.

Do you know your hymns?

Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns

Weatherman's Hymn..... There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation

Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy

Golfer's Hymn.....There's a Green Hill Far Away

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered that it was Mary. The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little boy said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked what he meant. The boy said, "Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

# TRANSFORMATION PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

A projection of what is happening seems a good idea as the work nears completion.

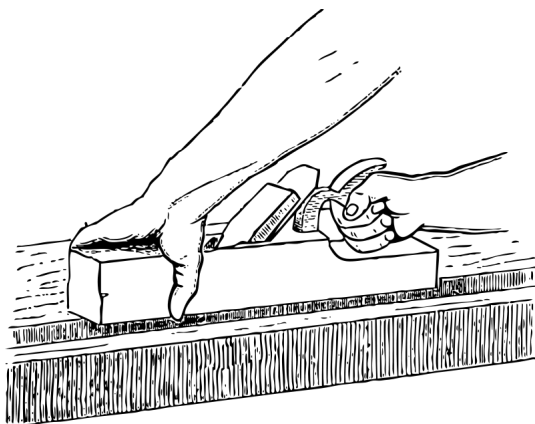
The last three pieces of joinery are now well underway and some of their components will be in place very soon.

The kitchen doors will be hung soon, with only the locking of them needing further sorting. There are still a lot of small pieces of wood to be shaped to fit in place and it will be difficult to be certain that their fitting can be achieved by June 9, when the Blessing of the Church and its Restoration takes place. Any of the large unfinished pieces of carving work will be put in position temporarily and then removed later for completion. I have arranged with Father Nigel for a table to be placed at the back of the Church to hold any small unfitted pieces so they may share the Blessing. It will also be an opportunity to see some of the finished items at close hand. Most of the remaining work is now a one-hander and being done in the workshop with Roger being on hand for the fixing



**John, Roger and Russell**

April 2019





### Talks Programme for May to July 2019

Wednesday mornings in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter.

Tea & coffee 10.00. Talks 10.45-12.00

May 1st	Dan Eatherley	Hunting the Snake: The Story behind the Bushmaster.
May 8th	Alex Leger	Blue Peter: Behind the Badge.
May 15th		Annual General Meeting.
May 22nd	Mark Richardson	Food Banks.
May 29th	Maggie Draper	Head of Supportive Care, Hospiscare.
June 5th	Dr David Jenner	All of a Flutter: Chasing Britain's Butterflies.
June 12th	Seona Ford	The Life and Works of Dorothy L. Sayers.
June 19th	Brian Freeland	Playing the Clown.
June 26th	Tom Cadbury	Roman Devon and the Seaton Down Hoard.
July 3rd	John Maclean	Standing on the Shoulders of Giants.
July 10th	Emily Macaulay	Centre Manager, Exeter Library. Libraries: More than you Think.
July 17th	Katie Hopkins	Fighting Back.
July 24th	Richard Haigh	Buon Gusto: The Story of Italian Food.
July 31st	Katherine Finlay	The Icelandic Adventures of Pike Ward.

Admission £3. Members free. Membership £25 for six months.

The Exeter Forum is a friendly social group for retired people which has been presenting interesting and entertaining weekly talks by leading local figures, experts and enthusiasts for nearly 50 years. We also have walks, outings and book and music groups.

All enquiries to Diana Taylor, Forum Secretary. Tel 01392 273732

email [exeterforum@btinternet.com](mailto:exeterforum@btinternet.com) website [www.exeterforum.org](http://www.exeterforum.org)

# **PILGRIMAGE TO SICILY**

Led by Bishop Martin Shaw

Tuesday 10th to Saturday 21st September 2019

- The pilgrimage will be travelling to and from Bristol airport.
- The cost is £1699.
- Extra single room supplement of £434.

Sicily is the largest and most populated island in the Mediterranean. Lying close to the mainland of Italy and just 90 miles from the African coastline, it retains Arab as well as Greek and Roman influences in its architecture and culture. Sicily is dominated by the dramatic landscapes around Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano.

Our pilgrimage will include tastes of the birth of Christianity in the Western World, beginning with St Paul and the architectural story of Christianity's artistic relationship with the Arab world.

The pilgrimage will include visits to Catania, Syracuse, Palermo, Cefalu, Monreale. There will be plenty of free time and opportunities to enjoy the local cuisine.

For further detail please contact Martin and Elspeth Shaw either by email:

**amartinshaw@gmail.com**

or telephone

**07980 191251**

or

**01392 663511**

## **To book, contact Pax Travel:**

Pax Travel

2ND FLOOR ,102 BLUNDELL ST  
LONDON

N7 9BL

TELEPHONE: 020 7485 3003

E-mail: [info@paxtravel.co.uk](mailto:info@paxtravel.co.uk)



## EXETER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

with the combined choirs of Exeter Philharmonic Choir,  
University Chapel Choir & St David's Singers

# THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS EDWARD ELGAR

Tenor: **Thomas Hobbs**

Mezzo Soprano: **Madeleine Shaw**

Bass: **Tim Murfin**

Conductor: **Brian Northcott**

**Exeter Cathedral**  
**7.30pm**  
**6 July 2019**

Tickets from Exeter Visitor  
Information (01392 665700)  
or through our website



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Supporting  
The Lord Mayor's Charity

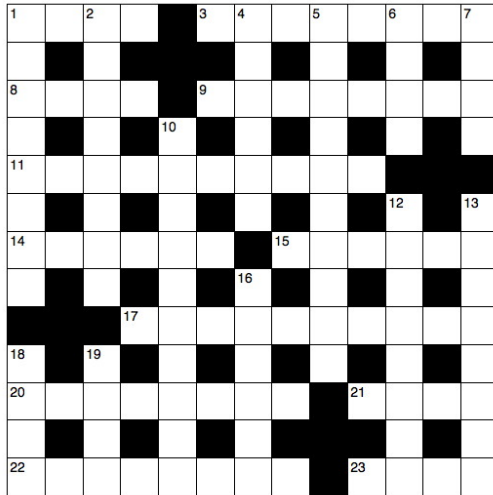


# Heritage Lottery Fund Lecture



*On Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>. May at 7.30 pm in  
St. David Church, Exeter  
there will be a talk by Martin Horrell  
describing this magnificent  
Reredos  
carved by Nathaniel Hitch.  
  
Followed by refreshments.*

# May crossword



## Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

## Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

## May Sudoku - Medium

8			4	2				
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# Days of Note - May

## **1<sup>st</sup> May - Philip, the apostle with common sense**

Is there someone in church whom you respect for their spirituality and common sense combined – someone you feel easy about approaching to ask questions? That person's patron saint should be Philip.

Philip came from Bethsaida, and was a disciple of Jesus from early on. He knew how to lead others to Jesus – he brought Nathanael (or Bartholomew) to Him in a calm, kindly way. He knew how to do some financial forecasting: at the feeding of the 5,000 it was he who pointed out that without divine help, even 200 pennyworth of bread wasn't going to feed that crowd. He was the one whom the Greeks approached when they wanted to ask Jesus to show them the Father, but didn't quite have the nerve to approach Jesus directly. People had confidence in Philip's spirituality, common sense and kindness. Such a person is a gift to any church! In art, the Apostle Philip has been represented either with a cross, or with loaves of bread.

## **1<sup>st</sup> May - James the Less: quiet son of Alphaeus**

One thing for sure: the apostles were not self-obsessed. In fact, many a church historian has wished that they had left us just a few more personal details about themselves in the New Testament. James the Less is an excellent example.

This is the name we give to James the son of Alphaeus, but – beyond that, who was he? Sometimes he is identified as the James whose mother stood by Christ on the cross. Sometimes he is thought to be the James who was 'brother of the Lord'. Sometimes he is thought to be the James who saw the risen Christ. He has also, and often, been called the first bishop of Jerusalem. And finally, sometimes James the Less has been thought of as the author of the Epistle of James.

But – who knows? If none of these identifications are correct, we know practically nothing about James the Less. So perhaps on this day we can simply recall ‘all’ of the James’ above, and thank God for the mother who stood by the cross, the brother that supported Jesus, the apostle who saw his risen Lord and gave his life to proclaiming the truth, the first bishop of Jerusalem, and the author of the marvellous Epistle of James. Whether it was one James or several, they were all faithful to Jesus, and proclaimed Him as the Messiah. So perhaps that should make them James the More!

James the Less has been given an unusual iconographic emblem: a fuller’s club. Tradition has it that he was beaten to death with one, after being sentenced by the Sanhedrin in AD62. In England there are only 26 churches which are dedicated to James the Less.

### **10<sup>th</sup> May - Comgall**

Here is a great saint for all teachers, head teachers and principals of educational institutions, and indeed anyone whose vocation is to train and equip others.

For Comgall (c 516 – c 601) was founder and first abbot of Bangor, which became the largest monastery in Ireland. And large means LARGE – for including several daughter houses, the total population is reckoned to have been 3,000.

If you have ever run an educational institution of 3,000 pupils (!), you will know it takes a special kind of person to cope with that, and Comgall seems to have been perfect for the job. A biographer at the time called him ‘the outstanding father of the monks in Ireland, known for his insistence on study and strict discipline.’

Comgall’s rule had what it took to succeed: it was ‘strict, holy and constant’, both ‘graced with the hope of salvation and made perfect in love’, according to the 7<sup>th</sup> century writer Antiphoner of Bangor. Above all, followers were to love Christ, and reject the love of money.

Comgall also had a gift for friendship, for on the death of a close friend, he wrote in grief: 'My soul-friend has died and I am headless; you too are headless, for a man without a soul-friend is a body without a head.'

Like heads and principals today, Comgall knew a lot of important people. He had trained Columbanus and knew Columba, whom he visited on Iona. They even preached the Gospel together in Inverness, to the pagan chieftain Brude.

## **24<sup>th</sup> May - John & Charles Wesley: evangelists & hymn-writers**

John and Charles Wesley were the founders of Methodism. Two of 19 children born to Samuel and Susannah Wesley of Epworth Rectory in Lincolnshire in 1703 and 1707, their father was the local rector, while their mother was a spiritual inspiration to her many children.

Both John and Charles went to Christ Church, Oxford (1720 and 1726). John was ordained, and Charles and some friends formed a "Holy Club" while still at college. It consisted of men who dedicated themselves to Bible study, prayer, fasting and good works. Such regular disciplines soon earned Charles the nickname 'Methodist'. The name stuck.

Both Charles and John felt called to the mission field, and so in 1735 they sailed to Georgia. Their time among Indians in America was not a success – they struggled for any real spiritual authority in their ministries. Feeling failures, they returned to England in some depression. John summed it up: 'I went to America to convert the Indians; but, oh, who shall convert me?'

Then the Wesleys made friends with some Moravians. They stressed that salvation cannot be earned, but must be received by grace through faith in Christ. Charles was the first to experience this 'true' conversion, when on Pentecost Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 1738, he wrote that the Spirit of God 'chased away the darkness of my unbelief.'

Only three days later, on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1738, it was John's turn. As he wrote in his journal: 'In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed.'

John and Charles Wesley then devoted the rest of their lives to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ – and turned England upside-down. When the established Church threw John out, he took to the fields, preaching to coal miners and commoners. His itinerant evangelism took him 250,000 miles on horseback and to preach over 40,000 sermons. His small "societies" attracted some 120,000 followers by the time of his death.

Charles became the most prolific and skilled hymn-writer in English history, writing hymns that are sung widely today, such as "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling." In all, he wrote more than 6,000 hymns.

The legacy of the two brothers lives on. As well as Methodism, their teaching has widely impacted the holiness movement, the Pentecostal movement, and the charismatic movement.

## **26<sup>th</sup> May - Rogation Sunday (Sunday before Ascension)**

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.



At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)



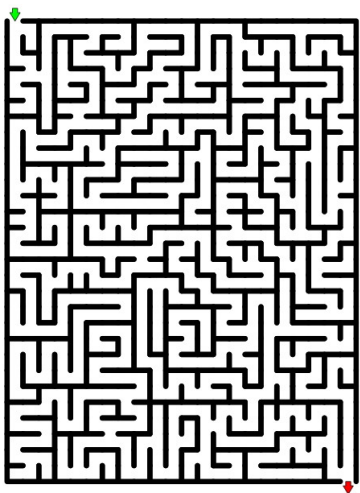


# Word search

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father  
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- Jesus  
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temple  
carry  
Bethesda  
leaders  
banned
- sick  
Jerusalem  
Jewish  
water  
festival  
Sabbath  
pool  
angel

# Maze



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
John chapter 5 verses 1-18

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival, and he visited the pool of Bethesda. People said that an angel sometimes made the water ripple.

Sick people waited for the water to ripple, because they thought that the first person in would be healed.



Jesus went up to a man who had been sick for 38 years.



Do you want to be healed?

I've got no-one to put me in the pool, so I can never get in first.



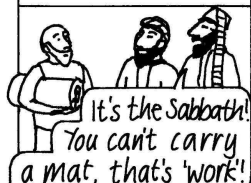
Pick up your mat and walk!



He was healed! The man picked up his mat and walked around. But it was the Sabbath.

God had given the law that the Sabbath day was a rest day (Ex 20: 8-11)... but to make sure it was kept, the Jewish leaders had made up rules, and then more rules so that anything that even might be work was banned.

The Jewish Leaders saw the healed man.



It's the Sabbath! You can't carry a mat, that's 'work'!

The man who healed me told me to carry it.



Which man?

I don't know.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple.



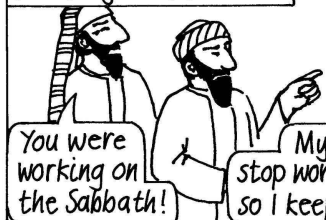
You are healed now, but don't sin any more, or something worse might happen to you.

Now the man knew who Jesus was...



he went straight back to the Jewish leaders to tell them.

and they went to Jesus



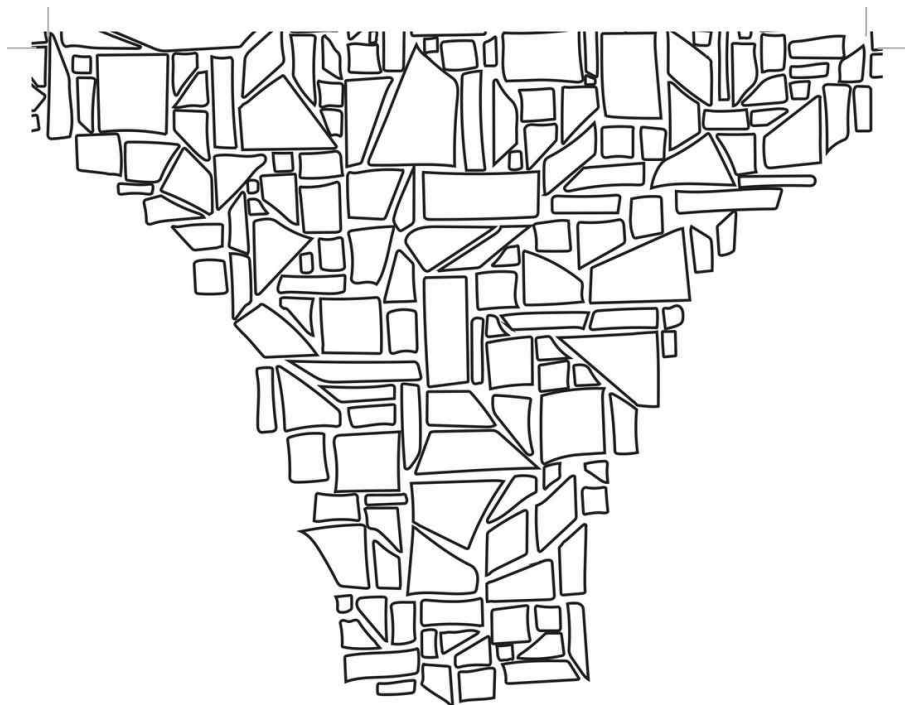
You were working on the Sabbath!

My father, God, doesn't stop working on the Sabbath so I keep on working as well

Not only does he disobey our Sabbath rules, but he says he is equal to God!



We definitely have to kill him.



COME  
AS YOU ARE.

ALL SHAPES AND SIZES.



Available as posters up to A0 size from [cpo.org.uk](http://cpo.org.uk)  
For more resources visit [cpo.org.uk](http://cpo.org.uk) or call us on 01903 263354

# Puzzle solutions

B	A	B	Y		S	T	I	M	U	L	A	S
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6	3	5	7	8	2	1	4	9
7	9	4	3	1	6	5	8	2

## The deadline for inclusion of articles for the June issue of New Leaves is Sunday 26th May

If you have images of any events of interest to the Parish community please send them to us. Any information and articles you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues should be sent to the new editorial team at:

**[newleavesnews@gmail.com](mailto:newleavesnews@gmail.com)**

Please send digital files via email and please make the subject header fit the content of the email - thanks!

Thank you to Graham Lerwill for organising the printing of this magazine

- his hard work is much appreciated.