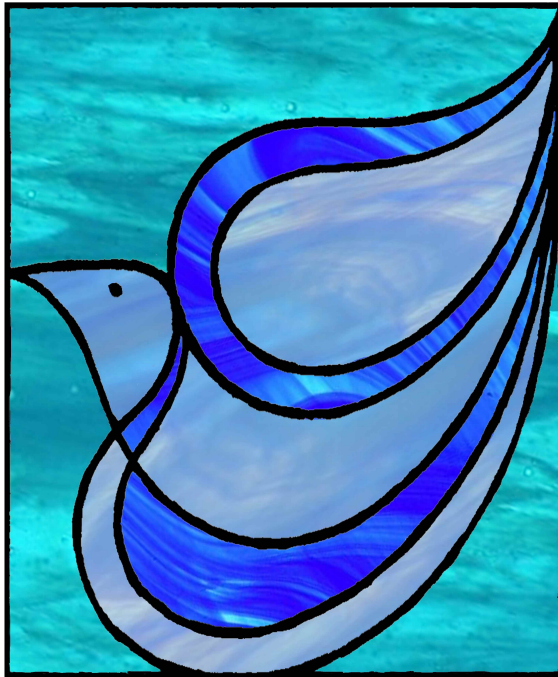


New Leaves

February 2020



**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

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

February 2020 From the Vicarage

I would like to begin by looking back to Advent and Christmas and say thank you to everyone who helped to make our services so inspiring and memorable. I would also like to thank those who cleaned and decorated our churches so that they looked very festive.

The catastrophic Australian bush fires have concentrated our minds even more on the challenges facing our global environment at the beginning of the year. Exeter Cathedral are hosting a 'Big Green Day' being run on Saturday 22 February. It is billed as 'A one-day festival of thought and action to join up faith and the environment – and inspire us to make a difference.' Full details of the event can be found on the Cathedral's website.

Then I would like to look forward to Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, 26th February. There will be services with the imposition of Ashes at both churches at 7.30pm on the evening of that day, with a Sung Mass at St Michael's.

This year we have decided to join in with the city centre churches for their Lent Groups. Details of all the groups will be available early in February. But we will be hosting two of them in our Parish; one at 2pm on Tuesday afternoons at the Vicarage and the other at 7pm on Wednesday evenings at two homes in Russell Terrace. All the city centre Lent Groups will be using the same York Course entitled 'Who are we praying to?' with some distinguished contributors. There will be just four sessions in each course beginning in the week of Tuesday 3 March. These two groups will be led by members from our own licensed ministry team. But sign up details for all the city centre groups will be available in our churches.

St Michael's will be offering a special lecture and study series led by Professor Oliver Nicholson on *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* by the Venerable Bede. Oliver's lecture will be at 7.30pm on

Thursday 27th February and will be followed up by five sessions at 7pm on Thursdays starting on 5 March. Copies of the text will be provided.

This year we will also be offering a special morning on Saturday March 28th at St David's which will be a practical exploration of three forms of prayer: Contemplative Prayer, Celtic Cord Drawing and Lectio Divina led by Helen Friend and Alison Whiting. There will be no charge for the morning but donations towards a simple soup lunch would be appreciated. Once again, there will be sign up sheets in our churches.

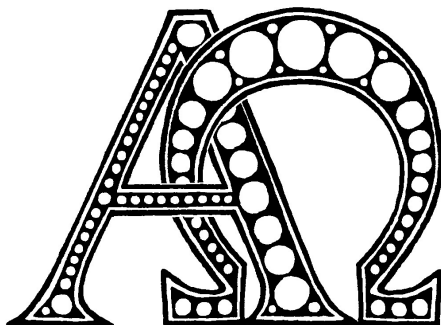
Additionally our ministers' team will be offering short homilies at our Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion service at St David's, which will be followed by discussion over coffee afterwards.

One year ago a Social Committee was set up at St David's and I would like to thank Tina and all the members for putting on some great events and raising some very welcome additional funds. There is a report on their activities elsewhere in this edition.

Finally, I would like to welcome Belinda Speed-Andrews to our parish team of licensed ministers. Belinda started her curacy in north Devon but her move to Exeter meant that she will be completing it with us. She was licensed by the Bishop of Crediton on Tuesday 7th January and welcomed on the following Sunday. We look forward to her ministry with us.

With every good wish and blessing

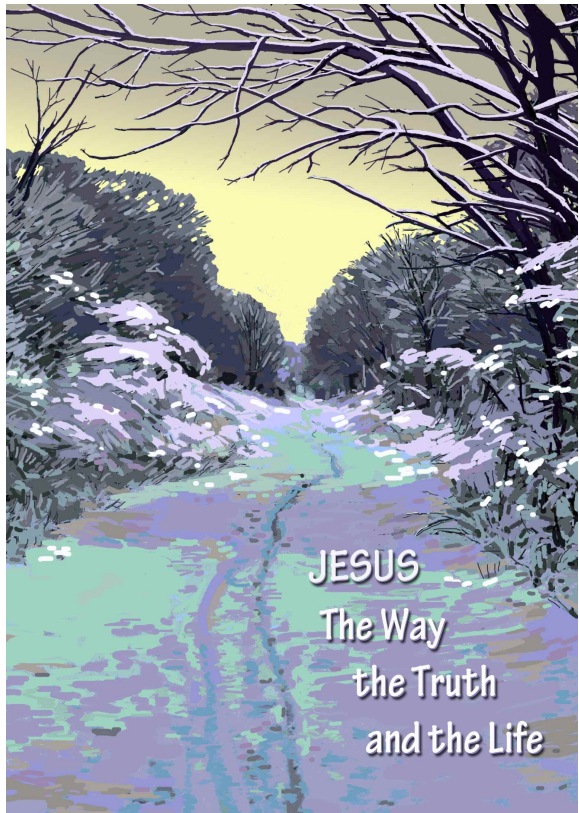
Nigel



An Introduction

I often wonder what I want on my headstone. I have been truly blessed by such an unusual life which has taken me to the other side of the world and back again, that for me it is very hard to condense into a few words a description of who I am. Like most of us we have many titles depending on the relationship, but I am a daughter, sister, Mum, Nana, priest, aunty, friend and colleague but above all I suppose I am a daughter of God, trying to live my life as Jesus calls me to live it. My life has been coloured by a childhood full of love, encouragement, opportunities and support but latterly in adult life by the vibrant colours, smells, taste and language (I am bi-lingual) ideas & opinions of South East Asia.

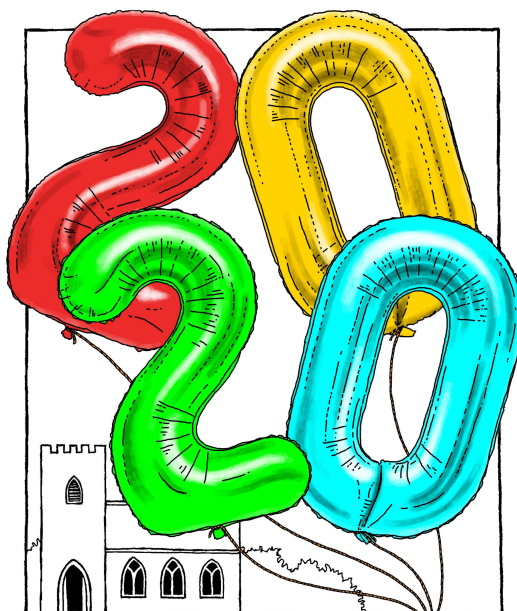
As some of you already know I live with my Mum, but I am also a Mum to six beautiful children, 3 boys and 3 girls and I already have six exquisite grandchildren too, again 3 boys and 3 girls ranging from 5 down to one year. I thought I wasn't ready to be a grandmother and yet the joy it brings is one that I cannot describe. 5 of my six children live in West Malaysia and I try and visit them once a year. My middle daughter is at Bristol UWE in her last year studying Biology. Most days we are in touch with each other on WhatsApp or such-like; in this sense I can say that the internet truly does have a positive side to it!!



A question that we are all often asked, is 'what is your passion?' For me, one of my passions is family; watching my children grow into adults, develop their own interests and ideas and thoughts and to watch them flourish. And now, the privilege of watching the same with my grandchildren, learning to walk, talk, be funny, learning to read & write, being humbled by the capacity of being human, God's creation made in His image. My biggest passion, the thing that gives me life, and the one that helps me to flourish, to be what God has called me to be, though, is my faith. My hope and my prayer is that in the relationships I begin to build with you all in our community, in St David's and St Michael's & All Angels, we will all continue to flourish and grow together, to be more Christ-like, learning to listen to each other, sharing our joys & our sorrows, growing in understanding and tolerant of the other to seek the Common Good. At the same time though, let us have fun and enjoy this journey.

Belinda Speed Andrews

24.01.2020



Returning to Devon

It feels like a long time since I was last at St David's! I was confirmed while I was with you, sang in the choir, rang the bells, was invited to people's homes for Sunday lunches and babysitting duties. I loved being welcomed into your community while I was at university in Exeter. I left to work for the Bishop of Coventry for a year – which meant doing research support, helping to organise services, and hospitality, and was a good way to find out more about the inner workings of the broader Church of England. After that, I worked in mental health administration for the NHS for a couple of years. I loved feeling as though what I was doing mattered to patients, and enjoyed working within a small and close-knit team.

I began training at Cranmer Hall, up in Durham, in September 2017. Over that time, I've done placements in inner city Newcastle, in rural Northamptonshire, spent time with Franciscans in Dorset, explored a Fresh Expression in Blackpool, and learnt how to record and edit a podcast! Alongside that, I've been learning about pastoral care and preaching, mission and ecclesiology, theology and worship, and so much more. I've also completed an MA in Theology and Ministry, and this year I am doing further research into the Church of England's engagement with the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. A heavy topic, but one I'm passionate about!

I am hugely excited to be coming back to Devon to serve my curacy, in the benefice of Tavistock, Gulworthy, and Brent Tor, with my Training Incumbent, the Very Rev'd Christopher Hardwick. I know that I will learn a lot over the 3-4 years that I am there.

But all the learning that I have done over the last few years has been shaped by the foundation of my time at St David's. It was your support and encouragement that made me feel able to offer myself for ordained ministry, and I am hugely thankful for you all. I pray that you continue to be a place of welcome and encouragement for all those who come.

Rosie Illingworth, 21/01/2020



Brent Tor church

February 2020 from St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham.

Here we are the formal end of Epiphany. Our Christmas tree at home comes down now, as does the Crib at St Michael's.

But does Epiphany end here? The Gospel reading for 19th January included the words 'What are you looking for?' When do we stop looking? There is something new to know and learn about our faith every day; it is not a final package, perhaps delivered by courier who asks for a signature and then goes away, leaving a parcel for us - or our neighbour- that we were expecting. In that case, we'll know pretty well what's in there, because we ordered it. It's only a partial revelation; the catalogue will have given some indication of what to expect. A gift is a different matter.

Much was made of the New Year in the media, especially the notion that this is a new decade. Despite my shouting at the newsreaders and announcers that it was not a new decade, no-one listened to me. The new decade will begin in January 2021; this year is the end of the decade. We count in tens, not nines or elevens. I was beginning to think I had not listened in arithmetic lessons many years ago, (that's probably true!) and that I was seriously wrong. My mathematical friends reassured me, though, and my confusion was dispelled. The new way to describe 'confusion' is, I understand, 'confliction'. We are not 'confused', we are 'conflicted.' So that's all right then, battles and conflicts are just another form of confusion... No, it's not all right. Conflict is war; it's damaging, bloody, destructive. Confusion, even whether or not to choose a flat white or a latte, can be sorted out with careful thought and logical discussion.

On Epiphany Sunday, (transferred to 5th January), Bill Pattinson asked us to consider the confusion of 12th Night. In the past, it was known as 'Misrule', when the whole of society enjoyed things being topsy-turvy for the last night the Christmas revelry, and then things had to return to normal, back to routine. The Wise Men, having travelled a long and perhaps confusing journey as T.S. Eliot's atmospheric poem suggests, expecting a King in a palace, saw a baby in a manger. Confusion - what were they looking for? They went to Herod, who put on his charming mode, hiding his really nasty murderous nature, to find out if he knew. Oleagiously he asked to be told

where the new king was, so he could pay his respects. Going from generous to ghastly, what was he looking for? Was this confusion or confliction? The Wise Men returned home 'by another way.' Some illustrations make this materially clear, showing them aboard ship, to make the difference obvious. Was the other way that they identified a physical route or a new way of looking at things? Did they find what they were looking for?

At Candlemas, we are offered a second formal Epiphany with the Presentation of the Infant Christ in the Temple. Simeon and Anna, having known of the generosity of God, had been looking for a long time for the sign of His presence. Now, having seen what they had been looking for, they could go their ways in peace, with the Light of the World to guide them.



If we have been looking for God, we will need to recognise what every epiphany is: a revelation, for us to recognise and respond to. It is rarely as we expect.

Come and see!



Stephanie Aplin.



St David's Eucharist February

Sunday 2nd February Candlemas/Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Reading 1	Malachi 3:1-5	Clive Wilson
Reading 2	Hebrews 2:14-end	Sue Wilson
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40	
Time of prayer		Glynis Harflett

Sunday 9th February 3rd Sunday before Lent

Reading 1	Isaiah 58:1-12	Hilary Todd
Reading 2	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Dylis Thorp
Gospel	Matthew 5:13-20	
Time of prayer		Helen Friend

Sunday 16th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

FAMILY SERVICE

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		

Sunday 23rd February Sunday next before Lent

Reading 1	Exodus 24:12-end	Ann Watts
Reading 2	2 Peter 1:16-end	Gina Redman
Gospel	Matthew 17:1-9	
Time of prayer		Belinda Speed-Andrews

Sunday 1st March 1st Sunday of Lent

Reading 1	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Charlotte Townsend
Reading 2	Romans 5:12-19	Lawrence Sail
Gospel	Matthew 4:1-11	
Time of prayer		Alison Whiting



Exploring ways of praying – a practical introduction

As part of our keeping of Lent St David's Church is offering a prayer workshop on Saturday March 28th from 10am to 1pm.

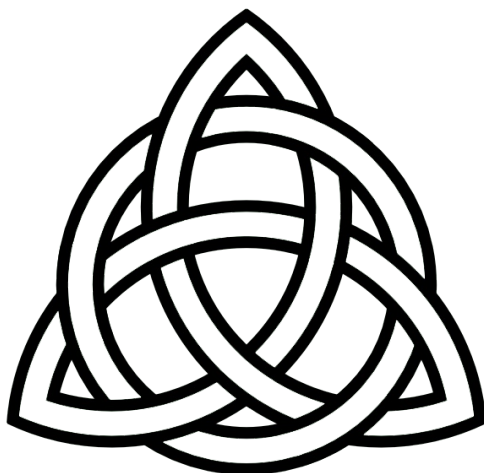
The morning will start with tea and coffee and there will be three sessions:

- Contemplative Prayer – praying with the desert fathers
- 'Drawing a Celtic cord or labyrinth as an aid to prayer and reflection'
- Lectio Divina – praying with scripture

The morning will end with a soup lunch together at 12.30pm.

The morning will be lead by Helen Friend and by The Revd. Alison Whiting.

If you would like to come along please sign the list at the back of St David's Church or e-mail nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com



Faithful Joseph.

Christmas – it's not over until the Old Man sings Nunc Dimittis (that's Simeon at Candlemas, 2nd February). But there's another man, traditionally middle-aged or old, who doesn't get much recognition in Nativity Plays or Carol Services, compared to Shepherds, Wise Men, Herod or even the Innkeeper (not mentioned in the Gospels), and that's St Joseph, foster-father of Jesus.

But this Christmas felt different. As the Lectionary returned to Year A, many of the Readings were from St Matthew's gospel, whose early chapters look at the birth of Jesus from Joseph's viewpoint. And the musical focus of the Carol Service at St David's Church was a vivid new poem by Richard Skinner, imaginatively set to music by Nigel Walsh.

**Journey's end, and weary Joseph
halts before his kinsman's door;
on his donkey's back is Mary,
close to tears and saddle-sore.
"I am of the house of David!"
Joseph cries, "so let us in!"
But the upper room is crowded,
travellers all, and all are kin.**



*Oh faithful Joseph, don't despair,
for in the silence of the night
the Child that Mary chose to bear
is Jesus, God's own saving light;
Christ Jesus, God's redeeming light.*

**Joseph pleading, Mary weeping,
shelter for the pair is found:
hens and straw and drowsy cattle,
beaten earth and muddy ground.
Mary aching, Joseph guarding,
as upon the straw she lies,
knowing that her time is coming,
waiting for a baby's cries.**

*Oh faithful Joseph, don't despair,
for in the silence of the night
the Child that Mary chose to bear*

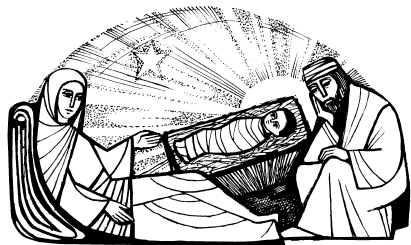
*is Jesus, God's own saving light;
Christ Jesus, God's redeeming light.*

Long the night and long the labour,
will the baby never show?
Women from the house now helping
as the birth-pangs come and go.
Menfolk hang around with Joseph
to distract him with their chat:
census, Romans, occupation,
livestock prices, this and that.

*Oh faithful Joseph, now give praise,
for in the silence of the night
the Child that Mary's called to raise
is Jesus, God's own saving light;
Christ Jesus, God's redeeming light.*

Dawn is breaking, baby's feeding,
Mary broods on what's ahead;
Joseph by the door is watching
as the eastern sky turns red;
what the future holds is hidden:
Joseph knows he cannot say;
baby cries but Mary's sleeping;
visitors are on their way.

*Oh faithful Joseph, don't despair,
for in the silence of the night
the Child that Mary chose to bear
is Jesus, God's own saving light;
Christ Jesus, God's redeeming light.*



The first time I've sung 'livestock prices' – but why not!

'Upper room full' is as good a translation of Luke's Greek as 'no room at the Inn'. The same word is used for the venue of the Last Supper, room enough then and Jesus the Host. But at his birth there was no room for the God of all creation, except (in today's terms) in the kitchen or utility room, the Lord of Absolution laid in a washing basket.

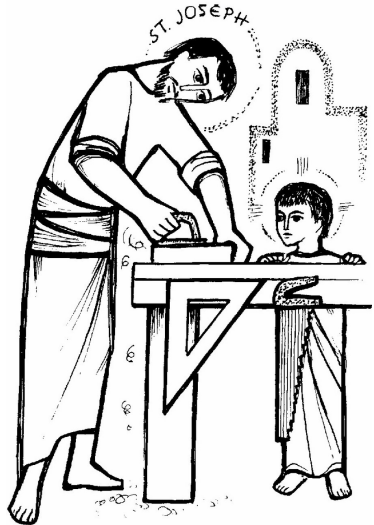
Joseph is patient, protective, proud of Mary and Jesus. Joseph's 'Fear not' messages from angels are a tough set of challenges, his perseverance an example if we feel confused or short-changed by God.

This new song was paired with 'O Sapientia: in honor of St Joseph', a poem by Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007), readily found on-line.

***It was from Joseph first I learned
of love. Like me he was dismayed.
How easily he could have turned
me from his house; but, unafraid,
he put me not away from him.
(O God-sent angel, pray for him).
Thus through his love was Love obeyed.***

***The Child's first cry came like a bell:
God's Word aloud, God's Word in deed.
The angel spoke: so it befell,
and Joseph with me in my need.
O Child whose father came from heaven,
to you another gift was given,
your earthly father chosen well.***

***With Joseph I was always warmed
and cherished. Even in the stable
I knew that I would not be harmed.
And, though above the angels swarmed,
man's love it was that made me able
to bear God's love, wild, formidable,
to bear God's will, through me performed.***

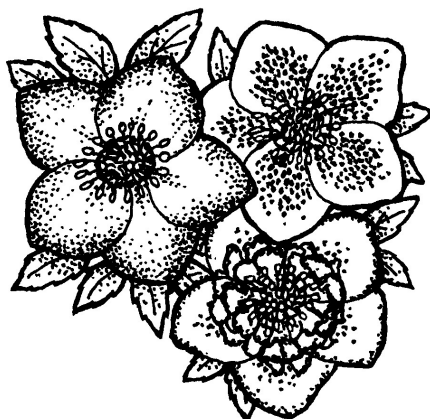


Here Mary's love for Joseph has an intimacy often denied or ignored. Having restored Joseph's position in the Nativity, I realised that, apart from Mary herself, there are no females in the Christmas narrative.

That's not quite true - it is framed by encounters with two strong women. The Visitation to Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptist, where Mary sings her manifesto of praise & social justice, the Magnificat. And the

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, where aged Anna prophecies and Simeon prays the other Evensong Canticle, the Nunc Dimittis. Which brings us back to Candlemas.

Richard Barnes – 23/01/20.



Sentences for Vivaldi's *Gloria*

[following No. 3, Laudamus te]

In the salt brightness of the lagoon, glory
In the worn cities and the hills, praise
In the local weather of love, adoration
In heart and mind, the working muscle of thankfulness

[following No. 7, Domini fili]

In the slow hours of reckoning, pain
In time, the sense of time misjudged
In riches locked away, the failure of love
In every war, the simple cruelty of the strong

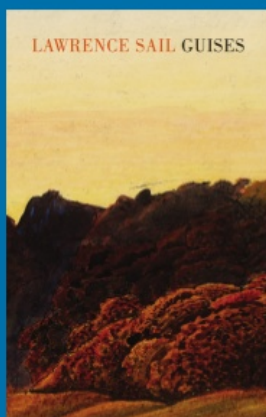
[following No. 10, Qui sedes ad dexteram]

In help and laughter, a grounded hope
In spite of nightmares, the dream of grace
In singers' exposed voices, trust
In the pulse of music, the quickening trumpets of glory

LAWRENCE SAIL

[from *Guises*, a new collection of poems published by Bloodaxe Books this February]

In writing these sentences, to be spoken at the points of the *Gloria* indicated, I have kept them short. Syntactically and rhythmically, they share the same pattern: I had the Psalms in mind. Each group of sentences takes up the mood of the preceding or following section. Thus the first group echoes the notes of praise of the *Gloria*'s first three sections; the second anticipates the penitential and redemptive elements of sections 8-10; and the final group, weighing darkness against light, is a bridge to the affirmation of the two final choruses. L.S.



Lawrence Sail poetry launch

Thursday 20th February 2020, 6pm at Exeter Custom House.

Join us to celebrate the launch of Lawrence Sail's new collection *Guises*. Lawrence will be reading from the collection and signing copies. Tickets £4/ £3 concessions, including refreshments.

Book now. Tickets available from the Custom House or online:

www.exetercustomhouse.org.uk



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Electric Cars?

We are now being bombarded with advertising for electric cars as the way forward. We need to ditch our gas-guzzling motors and drive these new, sleek, quiet less-polluting vehicles to save our planet. But are they less polluting and will they help us save our earth?



1. At the moment, electric cars are a niche market, but where will the resources, in particular the lithium, cobalt and nickel, come from when everyone wants one? How ecologically sustainable are their mining/production? Will car manufacture be more or less polluting than it currently is?
2. How long a life does a battery have? We are told about 10 years but few cars are as yet that old. Our mobile phone batteries, also lithium-ion, have to be recharged every day because of the functions we now want them to support and are losing power after no more than two years.
3. How will a second-hand electric vehicle be valued?
4. Will all parts be recyclable and who will do that? Will it be possible to refurbish a battery for reuse and will it be profitable enough for firms to do it?
5. What will happen if a battery fails? Can it be changed, bearing in mind it makes up a considerable proportion of the weight of the car?
6. Where will the electricity come from to power the batteries? Our whole way of life is moving from being oil- to electric-fuelled but electricity is

difficult to store and has to be produced, so will the hugely increased demand be met from renewables? Or from coal/gas/nuclear power stations?

7. Why have governments backed electric vehicles rather than, say, hydrogen-powered ones?

Are we in fact trying to answer the wrong question? For those of us who have a car, moving to an electric-powered one requires no change in our behaviour. Are we simply swapping one form of personal vehicle for another so that we can continue to live as we do? Or should we as a society be addressing how we live and organise ourselves, including the design of our towns and cities? If we poured even a small fraction of the sums spent on our vehicles into public transport, think how that might look. I bought a car a year ago and know from personal experience that yes, I can pack more into a day, but I also walk less and rush more! So is that a good thing?

What do you think? Would you be willing to be interviewed for a future item in the church magazine on this topic?

Hilary T

20.1.20



Journey Of a Lifetime – John O’ Groats to Land’s End (JOGLE) by bike – part 4 , Worcester to Exeter

My hosts in Worcester, Samantha and Nigel, were most welcoming and interested in my cycling experience. When I came down to the excellent breakfast Nigel had already left for work but had insisted that I should be well stoked-up for the day’s ride. Sam had been inspired by me to go for an early morning ride along the Worcester canal on bike inherited from her Mum. I was reluctant to leave such a warm and friendly B&B but had another long stage to Portishead near Bristol to complete so, like Sam, I set off along the canal down to the river Severn and the Diglis Basin. I was following Sustrans route 45 which would take me through Tewkesbury and then to Gloucester. South of Worcester I passed Croome Court which was Lancelot “Capability” Brown’s first landscape garden for which he built a mock ruin, Dunstall Castle. I was making good time bowling along minor roads parallel to the M5, passing Strensham, Bredon and Bredon Hill and soon entering Tewkesbury. During the whole of the trip, I was quite surprised and relieved to find that after a strenuous tiring day that next morning I was usually fresh with plenty of energy to remount the bike and pedal enthusiastically. Of course a good night’s sleep and a hearty breakfast help a lot!

I spent a little time exploring Tewkesbury Abbey which is a fine Norman building and stopped in the “Touching Souls cafe” for coffee and a cheese scone. (I’d posted a picture on Instagram mis-captioned with a rogue apostrophe as Touching Soul’s cafe to which my daughter Ellen had commented ‘Soul might not want you to touch their cafe, did you consider that?’). I was pleased to find that I could take a short cut via the Lode ferry over the Severn as it only runs Wednesday to Saturday and today was Thursday. The ferry was a small rowing boat manned by a student that I had to summon from the Lower Lode Inn opposite. Having just eaten, I neglected to call at

the pub and followed the Mercian Way across the Severn floodplains, which was very easy going, to soon arrive at the historic Gloucester dockyards. The 33 miles since Worcester seemed to have flown by. It was a lovely sunny day and Gloucester was quite busy with tourists; I needed to press on so only had a brief glance around the dockyards before lunch by the Gloucester and Sharpness canal which was Route 41 south to Frampton on Severn. On a nearby wall end there was a graffiti copy of the famous portrait of Einstein with his tongue out - captioned "it's all relative", which made me laugh.



Tewkesbury Abbey



I made good progress along the canal which was once the widest and deepest in the world, designed to provide safe passage to Gloucester, avoiding the dangerous tides and loops of the river Severn. It was opened in 1827 after being largely financed by a loan from the Exchequer Bill Loan Commission under the Poor Employment Act of 1817, an early "Keynesian" economic device to provide employment and build public works. The debts were finally paid off in 1871 and the canal became an important cargo route carrying oil to storage at Gloucester and was even navigated by two navy submarines in 1937. Soon I was passing through Frampton on Severn, which boasts the longest village green in England and is surrounded by very elegant Tudor and Georgian houses. At Slimbridge near the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, I met Ellen who was to cycle with me back to Bristol from where she had come by

train. She'd been asking every person she met on the towpath if they'd seen a tired-looking cyclist on a red bike. It was great to have some company again and we soon passed through Berkley, the birthplace of Edward Jenner the smallpox vaccine pioneer. It is said that his work has saved more lives than any other human. We had no time to stop at his museum or the nearby 12th century Berkley castle still owned by the Berkley family and the reputed location of the murder of Edward II in 1327. Edward had been deposed by his wife Queen Isabella of France and her ally Roger Mortimer, and placed in the custody of Mortimer's son-in-law, Thomas de Berkeley and Edward was imprisoned in the castle for 5 months before he was rescued by his supporters. However he was soon recaptured and soon after murdered in mysterious circumstances.

We continued south along the Vale of Berkley and by now could see Wales across the Severn estuary. A little further we passed the newer Severn bridge and then the original suspension bridge near Severn Beach station. After this it was a rather less attractive slog through the industrial units of Avonmouth before parting from Ellen and cycling alongside the M4 on the bridge over the Avon gorge and then heading west to Portishead where I was staying with Roger a friend. After carrying the bike up to his second floor flat we had a very pleasant evening meal and a beer and wine. I had now departed from the Sustrans JOGLE route which went via Glastonbury but I would join up again at Bridgwater.

Roger was to accompany me as far as he could manage on his bike the next morning. We set off in glorious sunshine and he led the way from Portishead through Weston- and



Walton-in-Gordano to Clevedon and then south to Yatton. Here we picked up the Strawberry Line cycleway. The railway line became famous for transporting Somerset strawberries from farms beneath the Mendips to markets in London before it fell under the Beeching axe in 1963. The cycleway was really great traffic-free cycling. We left it at Winscombe before the cuttings through the Mendips and made our way to the levels, stopping at the pub in Mark for lunch. Roger was feeling good so decided he'd carry on. However the wind had now got up a little so the section over the levels was a little bit more challenging with head winds at times. We passed through several Somerset villages with marvellous names such as Bawdrip and Chedzoy before a long sidestep along the River Parrett to Bridgewater town centre and back on the other side to the Bridgewater and Taunton canal. Roger left me to await at the M5 services for his lift back to Portishead whilst I sped along the canal. The canal is the site of the Somerset space walk sculpture trail.

Halfway to Taunton at Maunsel lock there is a scale model of the sun and in each direction at appropriate distances are the planets, with every millimetre on the ground representing 530 kilometres. The two models of Pluto, the farthest (9th) planet, are at Bridgewater and



Taunton being 11km from Maunsel. In Taunton I emerged to crowds of shoppers and tourists which was a shock after the peaceful canal. After a reviving tea I headed east along Sustrans route 3 via many byways and lanes to Nynnehead, a small village outside Wellington where I was to stop at my brother- and sister-in laws'. After a welcome shower and lovely meal and recounting my adventures to David and Sheila, I was soon dropping off to sleep.

The next day was the relatively short ride to Exeter where I was due to attend the wedding reception of a colleague of Sue's in the evening. From Nyngham I passed the medieval Cathay Manor and Gardens to pick up another canal ride along the Great Western canal near Holcombe Rogus. (Rogus was a lord of the manor in the Domesday book, nothing to do with Regis or kings.) At the start there are the Waytown lime kilns which produced agricultural lime which was shipped along the canal to Tiverton. I branched off at Sampford Peverell to cycle south through Willand, Cullompton and Hele to stop at Killerton for a tea break. Knowing the area meant far fewer stops to consult the map for the route so I made good progress. Sue had gone to see the couples' marriage at Topsham so the last few miles to home in Exeter I took at a leisurely pace and arrived soon after lunchtime. I looked forward to sleeping in my own bed if only for 1 night before the last leg tomorrow.



Clive Wilson
26 January 2020



The Strawberry line

St. David's Social Committee

A year ago I invited volunteers from the congregation to help me form a social committee to suggest and arrange a number of events throughout the year. A good number of people came forward and I am pleased to report that we have a jolly, keen and pro-active group comprising, Alan Baker, Sarah Black, Maggie Draper, Glynis Harflett, John Hartopp, Mary Quest, Robin Thomas, Sam Wellbelove, Emma White and myself as Chairman.

At our first meeting we defined the purpose of the committee as ;
Setting a social calendar for the year
Helping to build up a community spirit
Listening to suggestions and feedback
Involving the wider St. David's Community
Setting a target of raising £4,000

We have held four meetings during the past year and a number of most enjoyable social events have taken place.

Our first event in March was a Quiz Night ably organised by Peter and Alice Francis, who also acted as our quiz masters. Tables of eager contestants, from St. David's, St. Michael's and other Exeter churches, pooled their knowledge to answer questions on a variety of topics. It certainly helped if you could recognise flags of the World and could find hidden first lines of hymns. A ploughman's supper was served by committee members and there was an opportunity to buy drinks from the bar.

The profit from the Quiz Night enabled us to purchase crockery, cutlery and glasses for use at our own events and also when the Church is hired out for concerts and meetings.

In early May a concert entitled 'Glorious Harmony' performed by Bella Capella and The Devon Close Harmony Quartet, provided us with a memorable musical evening. Canapes and wine were served in the interval.

Money raised from this concert was put towards the provision of a cover,

kindly made by Carol Burrows, and a frame to facilitate easier movement of the grand piano, kindly loaned to St. David's by Dilys Thorp and her daughter.

In mid June we held a 'Call my Bluff' evening in conjunction with The Women's Group. Jeremy Lawford kindly acted as quiz master and some challenging, interesting and amusing definitions of a variety of words were given by teams of three. An enjoyable buffet was served by committee members in the interval.

The Summer Fete was held at the end of June and a glorious sunny day gave a good excuse for pretty summer dresses and Panama hats! The fete was, as usual, masterminded by Sam Wellbelove. Glynis Harflett arranged a 'dog show', kindly sponsored by St. David's Veterinary Practice. Keen competition from our canine friends saw a variety of dogs sporting blue, red and yellow rosettes. There were a number of stalls from both St. David's and St. Michael's. Music was provided by The British Rail Band and a group of enthusiastic drummers. Refreshments were available in the church and from a popular burger and sausage barbecue.

In September, after Evensong, we held a very well attended Harvest Supper. Musical entertainment was provided by various members of the congregation and their families and we all enjoyed delicious cottage pies and a variety of seasonal apple pies and crumbles. The back of the church looked very attractive as Sarah Black had kindly made a number of colourful table cloths.

On 9th November Lawrence Sail and John Mole, local poets, read poems from their books and Sarah Rimmington, Nigel and Tina Guthrie and Trevor Wiggins provided musical interludes on flute, piano and violin. Canapes and wine were enjoyed by all those who attended.

I hope that you have enjoyed these events, which have enabled us to relax and enjoy each others' company, whilst raising much needed funds for the Church. We already have a variety of events planned for 2020 including another quiz evening, an historical walk around the parish, the summer fete and a Victorian Evening.

I am pleased to report that, in total, we have raised over £5,000 this year and well ahead of the target we set ourselves.

I am very grateful for the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work of the Social Committee to enable these events to take place. Finally, and most importantly, thank you all for attending and joining in these activities.



Tina Guthrie (Chairman)

January 2020



Everything Passes

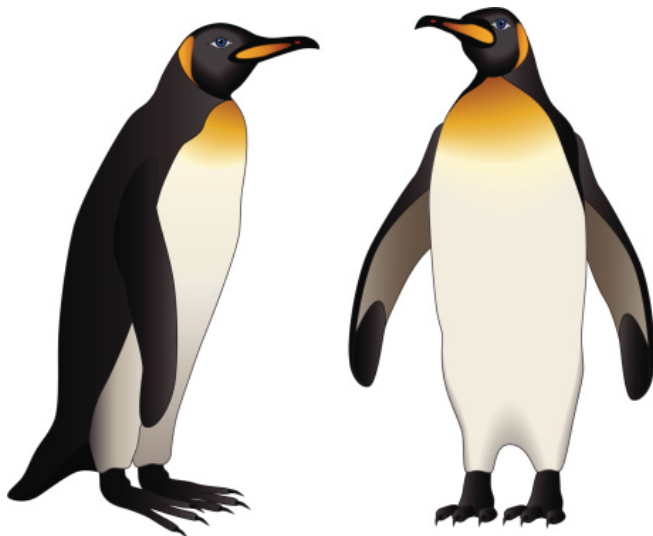
Amongst my Christmas cards was a brown tube addressed to me with no indication of whence it came. It was a poster of two penguins, holding flippers and gazing into each others' eyes. Underneath were the words "Everything will be alright". I liked it at once, thinking, "what a comforting thought." I would put it on the wall so that I could be encouraged daily. I texted my sons to ask who had sent it. Roger had, but it was a surprise gift for his wife and he would collect it during their visit in January. I was disappointed, but much cheered when he sent one for me. He wanted to reassure his wife that after Brexit, as residents in Spain, they would be fine.

It made me think that in my fairly long life, I have learnt an important lesson. "Everything passes." No matter how black life can seem, eventually we bounce back. A problem at 3am has lessened by daylight. There is always an "up" side, a compensation. You may not think so at the time, but when you look back, I hope you will agree. Let us expect the best, not the worst in 2020.



Eileen Jarman

18.01.2020



Dimpsy, dumpsy, smeech

Following Eileen Jarman's article last month on tranklement drawers, I asked whether anyone else knew of interesting dialect terms. Monica Darch talked to me after the Christmas Parish lunch. She remembered her mother talking about the light becoming *dimpsy* when twilight was falling. This is a Devon term, which when you go over the border to Somerset or Dorset becomes *dumpsy*.

Somehow "In the dimp, dimp, dimpsy
Out in the beautiful dimpsy"
doesn't quite have the same ring.

Monica also talked to me about the word "Smeech". A south west dialect term for dense, unpleasant smoke perhaps from a bush fire or bonfire.

I found these references

The received opinion was that the **smeech** from my pipe smoke laid down a screen that no lesser smells could penetrate.

WHEREVER you go round here you catch the fragrance of wood smoke and it truly is a fragrance, as opposed to the **smeech** that burning coal makes.

Perhaps you could write an article about dialect terms you know.

Bill Pattinson

21.01.20



February Events mainly at St Michael's

Regular times:- Sunday Sung Mass 11am. Choir Practice 7-8.30pm Tuesdays. Vespers is sung Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6pm. Matins & Low Mass are said Wednesdays at 9.30/10am.

There are still copies of "St Michael's Remembered – Articles from our 150th Anniversary" available for £3 donation.

Thanks to all those who helped make Christmas sparkle – congregation, choir, servers & clergy – especially the Aplins for the Christmas Tree and the Darchs for preparing the beautiful Crib.

February is a hinge month, starting with Candlemas (the end of the Christmas season) and ending with Ash Wednesday on the 26th (the start of Lent); there's plenty of good Liturgy and Music to celebrate and enjoy as we follow mainly the Gospel of St Matthew in Year A of the Lectionary.

Sun 2 Feb, Candlemas. 11am Sung Mass. Hymns 439, 408, 44. Stanford in C&F. Nunc Dimittis in B flat. From 12noon the Bountiful Table of Bakes, Preserves & Produce for Church Funds.

Sun 2 Feb, 6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction. Reading Responses. Hymn 475. Psalm 122 & 132. Canticles: Stanford in B flat. Anthem: O Nata Lux, Lauridsen. O salutaris & Tantum Ergo.

Wed 5 Feb, 7 for 7.30pm at St Michael's Alphington, Deanery Synod Meeting. Main topic: New Housing around Exeter.

Sun 9 Feb, Septuagesima. 11am Sung Mass. Hymns: 466, 302, 66. Mass in E, Darke. Motet: The Father's Love, Simon Lole.

Sun 16 Feb, Sexagesima. 11am Sung Mass. Hymns: 55: 355: 332. Mass in F, Rheinberger. Motet: Since by man came death, Handel Messiah.

Sat 22 Feb, 10am-4.30pm at Exeter Cathedral. Big Green Event on Climate Change – details & booking (£8) on Cathedral website.

Sun 23 Feb, Quinquagesima/Transfiguration. 11am Sung Mass. Hymns: 494: 234: 443. Little Organ Mass, Haydn. O nata lux, Tallis.

Wed 26 Feb, 7.30pm. Sung Mass for Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes. Hymns: 84: 70: 67. Missa Brevis, Lotti. Miserere Mei, Lassus.

Thursday 27th February St Michael's Lecture. Oliver Nicholson on *The First English Christians: Four ways of reading Bede* - introducing the book for this year's Lent reading group, which will meet at 7 pm. on Thursdays in Lent (see Poster/Pewsheet).

Sat 29 Feb, 9.30am. Men's Breakfast at the Farmers' Union.

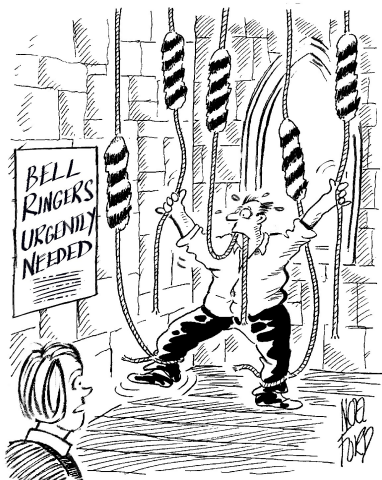
Sun 1 March, Lent I, St David's Day. 11am Sung Mass. Litany, Hymns 383: 406. Missa de Angelis, Plainsong. Hear my prayer . N.B. Bountiful Table is NEXT WEEK for Bakes, Preserves & Produce for Church Funds.

6pm Sun 1 Mar, Choral Evensong & Benediction. Responses: Byrd. Psalm 50:1-15 Hymn 377. Canticles: Walmisley in D minor. Anthem: If ye love me, by Wilby. O salutaris, Tantum Ergo.

Wishing you a festive February afore a frugal Lent.



Richard Barnes – 23/01/20.



"Ready when you are, George..."

Peregrine News

You may have noticed the Spire at St Michael's has been rather quiet these past several months. Last Spring's peregrine chicks fledged well mid June 2019, established a stand-off with the local gulls, were well taught by the adults, and by mid August were strong independent juveniles.

About this time the old adult male disappeared, sensing perhaps his days were numbered, and has not been seen since. The lone female has been absent from the Church for extended periods of several days or more, presumably ranging far afield looking for an eligible male in need of a mate.

In the Autumn one or possibly two male peregrines were observed at the Church but didn't stay, so it's been a lonely few months for our female. She returns to the Spire between trips and uses the nest box in bad weather.

On Sun 9 Jan Nick & Jason went up the Tower to service the nest box camera, and that afternoon again 2 mature peregrine males were spotted showing interest in the female.

Neither male settled here, but we are hopeful that as breeding time, mid February to mid March , comes around we will see and hear peregrine activity on St Michael's Spire once more.



Richard Barnes – 23/01/20.



Patronal Service Hat Competition March 1st 2020

Do you have a hat you rarely wear? It used to be a tradition for women to trim their bonnets for Easter Sunday. In the cold snap last year a number of hats were worn in church and noted. A suggestion has been made that a way of celebrating our patronal festival at St David's on 1st March would be to encourage as many of you who want to, to don a hat. This could be a hat lurking in your wardrobe, or one made for the occasion – paper, fabric, knitted, floral.

Last year at the summer fete we had a dog show for the first time. Perhaps at our Patronal festival brunch we could have a Hat competition.

Charlotte Townsend

January 2020

Smilelines

Church notices that didn't quite get it right...!

Mrs Thomas, of this church, wishes to thank all those members who so kindly assisted in the death of her husband.

The regular Monday night choir practise of this church will be held on Tuesday night instead of Friday night.

Children are normally collected during the Offertory Hymn.

The talk for next Friday night will be 'What is hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practise.



Exeter Cathedral
Sat 22nd Feb 2020, 10-4.30

A festival of thought and action to join up faith and our environment

Panel discussion + Workshops including:
Biodiversity, Climate Science & Adaptation
Creative Responses, Direct Action, Energy & Travel
Engaging MPs, Food, International Perspectives
Theology, Worship

**Keynote Speaker - Rt Revd Nick Holtam
Lead Bishop for the Environment**

£8 to cover speaker costs. U16s free
Please book here (and for more details):
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-big-green-event-tickets-86794132587>

Some changes to Bountiful Table dates at St Michael and All Angels

Please note the Bountiful Table sales for March and June have been transferred from the first Sunday to the second for both these months. You will be reminded again nearer the dates.

Thank you to all who generously support these sales, both by providing goods and buying them!

Elizabeth and Stephanie.



Church of S. Michael & All Angels,
Mount Dinham, Exeter, EX4 4EB
The S. Michael's Lectures Spring 2020



Thursday February 27th at 7.30 pm:
Oliver Nicholson
The Earliest English Christians, or Four Ways of Reading Bede



A Reading Group will meet to discuss Bede's *History*
in church at **7 pm** on **Thursdays** March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2
Copies of the book will be provided: **ALL WELCOME**

ADMISSION FREE Charity Number 1135776 RETIRING COLLECTION
Further information from <mountdinhamlectures@gmail.com>



The First Cut or Isabella's Revenge

A musical entertainment with lots of historical facts

Wednesday 11 March 2020

Gallery 20 7pm

Tickets £9 for Friends; £12 others [online](#)

The History of the Exeter Ship Canal Performed by Estuary Players with a musical accompaniment of the finest country airs and melodies performed by an ensemble of Topsham virtuosi.



John Trew (2nd left) convinces the Exeter Chamber that his canal with locks can work

RECOIL at the Intrigues of Countess Isabella! (right)

SHUDDER at the Violent Altercation between the Earl and the Mayor!

QUAKE at the Beheading of Henry Courtenay!

ADMIRE the Extraordinary Career of John Trew, Canal Builder

Topsham's Estuary Players presented the full stage version of this show in November last year, to sell-out audiences. They now bring a "chamber" version to RAMM, with all the songs and facts and most of the jokes. Exeter's Ship Canal was an engineering wonder, built by Exeter City Council with the first locks in Britain, 200 years before the Canal Age.



REFUGEE SUPPORT DEVON THE 400 APPEAL

Refugee Support Devon (RSD) provides valuable support in resettling 30 vulnerable families displaced by the Syrian conflict in Devon. They are offered access to 24-hour support for the first two weeks, eg to register with a GP, open a bank account, help with language learning, contacting schools and colleges, benefit and housing suppliers, learning about the local area and culture.

Currently 80 active volunteers, after a thorough induction and constant updates, usually work in pairs, listening, helping complete paperwork, making phone calls, signposting, home visiting, taking people to appointments and activities. Four OISC accredited individuals can now advise on more complex immigration problems. Each case (usually visa replacement or travel documentation) demands much form-filling. Some need referral to legal specialists. The success rate is high.

RSD provides impartial, expert and confidential support toward's every refugee's ultimate goal - self-sufficiency and independence – and this process can take years. Getting 400 people to sign up to a monthly direct debit of at least £10 per month will mean we can continue to provide our vital services .

We support refugees – Can you support us?

Fill in a form available in St David's or St Michaels or search for www.refugeesupportdevon.org.uk . Many thanks for your help!



Welcomes you to their Winter talks
Programme for January to April 2020

Wednesday mornings in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter.
Tea & coffee 10:00. Talks 10:45 – 12:00

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| January 8th | Chris Wiseman | RAF Exeter 1940-1945 |
| January 15th | Donna Kehoe | What does the Bank of England do and what is its view of the economy? |
| January 22nd | Dr Peter King, Organist Emeritus, Bath Abbey | The Life of a Mendicant Musician |
| January 29th | | Annual Lunch |
| February 5th | David Pugsley | Was Jane Austen's Aunt a Shoplifter? |
| February 12th | Dan Eatherley | Invasive Aliens: The Plants and Animals From Over There That Are Over Here |
| February 19th | Brian Banks | Meet the Antecessors - the story of human evolution |
| February 26th | Professor Tim Lenton | Climate Tipping Points |
| March 4th | Keith Badman | Narrow gauge rails in North Wales |
| March 11th | Major Nigel Bovey | The war between the Skeleton Army and the Salvation Army |
| March 18th | Marilyn Bishop | Fighting the Black Dog - Sir Winston Churchill |
| March 25th | Harry Barton | The Devon Wildlife Trust |
| April 1st | Professor Sir Denis Pereira Gray and Dr Kate Sidaway-Lee | Seeing the same doctor - does it make a difference? |
| April 8th and 15th | | No meeting |

Admission £3. Members free. Membership £13 from January to March.

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.

Email niki.thomas01@gmail.com

Website www.exeterforum.org

OBERRAMMERGAU 2020

ONCE EVERY TEN YEAR CHANCE TO BE AT THE WORLD FAMOUS PASSION PLAY!

The Pilgrimage to Munich and Oberammergau will be led by
Bishop Martin and Mrs Elspeth Shaw
Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May 2020

The performance of the Passion Play is on THURSDAY 21st MAY, starting at 2.30pm, with an interval at 5.00pm, finishing at 10.30pm.

The play was first performed in 1634. In 1633, the residents of the village of Oberammergau vowed that if God spared them from the bubonic plague, ravaging the region, they would produce a play 'for all time', every 10 years, depicting the life and death of Jesus. The town was spared! In 2010, there were 102 performances. Prior to our seeing the play, we shall be able to enjoy the picturesque village itself.

In the days before the play, we shall make a pilgrimage to ALTÖTTING, one of Germany's best known shrines. The HERRENCHEMSEE PALACE of Ludwig II is on the beautiful island of LAKE CHIEMSEE, which we will visit by boat, with a guided tour of the Palace and what was the Augustinian Monastery.

The HOHENSCHWANGAU AND NEUSCHWANGSTEIN CASTLES, which from photographs seem almost impossible, are much sought after attractions. We shall learn about King Ludwig II [1845-1886], who created them, his relationship to the Composer Richard Wagner and his huge generosity to those who lived on his land. Was he good or mad - or both? A particular picture of Europe just before the 20th century.

Price £1,229

Enquiries and Booking Forms: Bishop Martin and Mrs Elspeth Shaw.
amartinshaw@gmail.com Tel: 01392 663511.

Or

Directly to Pax Travel: Pax Travel Ltd, 2nd Floor, 102 Blundell Street,
London N7 9BL. Tel: 0207 485 3003.

Parish Lunch Club Dates- Spring 2020

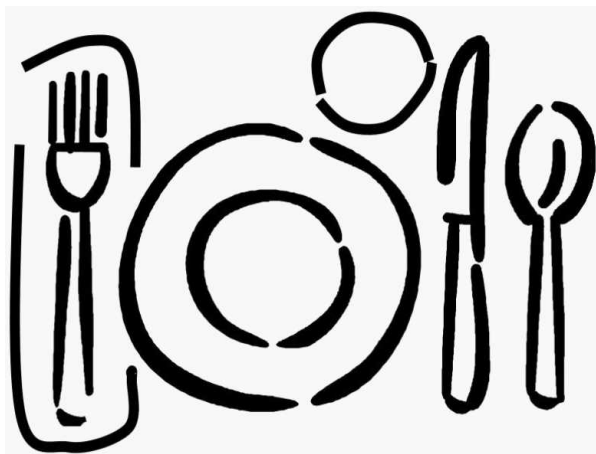
5 March

2nd April

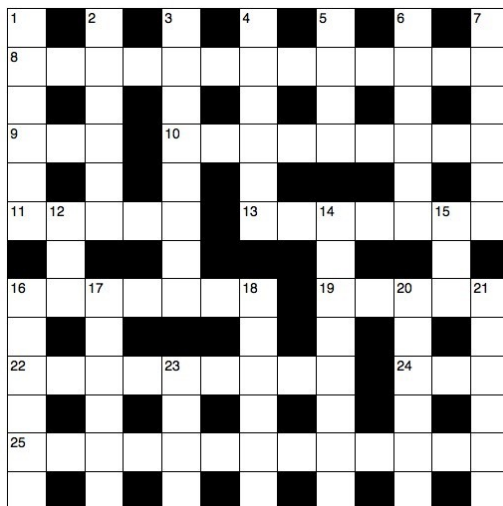
Both on a Thursday at 12 noon @34
Restaurant, Exeter College

Do join us for a tasty and reasonably priced
meal with friends from St David's and St
Michael's.

Details and booking sheets can be found at
the back of both churches. Please contact Sue Wilson on 01392 437571 if
you have any questions.



February crossword



Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)

25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

February Sudoku - Medium

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

Days of Note - February

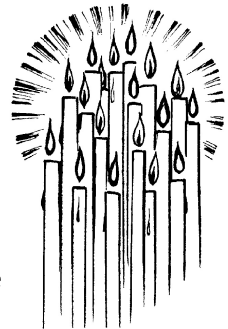
2 February - The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



14 February - The very first Valentine card: a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many

couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'



So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

17 February - Janani Luwum: Archbishop & martyr of Uganda

The Most Reverend Janani Luwum (d 1977) was the sitting Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and Boga Zaire when 35 years ago this month he was murdered by the dictator Idi Amin. At the time the Church in Uganda was on the verge of centennial celebrations of its birth through the seed of the early Ugandan martyrs, and so Luwum became the first martyr of the second century of Christianity in Uganda. A statue of him stands in Westminster Abbey London.

Janani Luwum was greatly loved in Uganda. He was by all accounts an exceptional leader with a great personal godliness, a holistic vision, pastoral compassion and evangelistic fervour. Janani was born in 1922 at Mucwini in the Kitgum District of Uganda. He spent his childhood and early youth herding goats. Given an opportunity to attend a local school, he learned quickly, and was soon a teacher himself.

Janani Luwum was converted to Christianity on 1 January 1948, started at theological college in Buwalasi the following year, became a deacon in 1955 and was ordained a priest in 1956. He served in the upper Nile Diocese of Uganda and the diocese of Mbale, and was consecrated Bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969 and Archbishop of Uganda in 1974, three years after Idi Amin came to power in a military coup. His death was mourned by millions in East Africa.

23 February – Polycarp: faithful servant who would not deny his Lord

Polycarp (c. 69 – c. 155) was one of the most important Christians in Roman Asia in the mid-2nd century, because of his link between the time of the Apostles and the earliest Christian Fathers. This disciple of John the Apostle became bishop of Smyrna and defended orthodox Christian belief against the heresies of Marcion and Valentinus, the most influential of the Gnostics. Irenaeus of Lyons, who as a boy had known Polycarp, praised his gravity, holiness and majesty of countenance.

Near the end of his long life, Polycarp paid a visit to Rome to discuss with the bishop there the possibility of agreeing a uniform date of celebrating Easter. When they found they could not agree, they amicably agreed to differ, and parted in good faith.

Polycarp returned to Smyrna, where a riot broke out at a pagan festival. The crowd suddenly turned on the Christians, whom they called 'atheists'. Polycarp was on a farm nearby, neither provoking nor fleeing martyrdom. When his captors arrived, he invited them to eat a meal, while he prayed alone for an hour. Then calmly, he agreed to go with them to his interrogation.

All the pagans' threats and promises did nothing to shake Polycarp. When ordered to execrate Christ, Polycarp gave this dignified reply: 'For 86 years I have been his servant and He has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my king who saved me?... I am a Christian: if *you* wish to study the Christian doctrine, choose a day and you will hear it.'

The crowd were outraged and cried first for the lions and then for Polycarp to be burnt at the stake. He was bound, but an official killed him with his sword before his body was burnt. Later, grieving Christians collected his bones and buried them. They also wrote an account of his trial and martyrdom, which is the earliest authentic example of its kind.

In England there are no ancient and only a few modern churches dedicated to this deeply courageous saint of the Christian Church.

25 February – Shrove Tuesday: Who's for pancakes?

Why do we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, as we call it

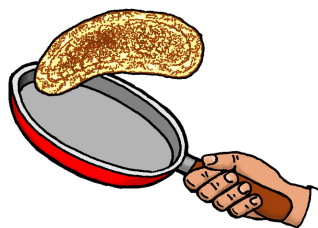
today? And what is Shrove Tuesday? And why do thousands of people feel it rewarding to race along a street somewhere tossing pancakes from their frying pans as they go?

Well, the answer to the first question is that it is the day before Lent begins and for well over a thousand years that has meant it was the last chance to enjoy meat, fat and other tasty dishes until Easter Day. The 'Lent Fast' was widely and strictly observed. The food in the larder wouldn't keep for six weeks so it had to be eaten. With all these rich foods no wonder the French call it 'Fatty Tuesday' – Mardi Gras.

So, what have pancake races got to do with all this solemnity? 'Shrove' is an old word for 'forgiven' and in those days to prepare for the rigours of Lent people would want to confess and seek forgiveness – not quite what you want at a party. The answer is quite simply enjoying yourself while you can! So, on Shrove Tuesday this year let's have some fun and make it last as long as possible.

The most convincing (and amusing) of the explanations of pancake races is of outwitting the Sexton who rang the curfew bell that marked the start of Lent. He was reluctant to do it while the race was unfinished. So, the revelry caused by dropped pancakes, postponed the inevitable.

Since the Reformation it has not been so rigorously observed in Britain, but still people will resolve to 'give up something for Lent'. Six weeks is about right as a duration and Sunday has always been exempt but make the most of those pancakes. They may well not reappear until April 12th!



26 February - Ash Wednesday: My memory of the Passover in Jerusalem

At the end of this month Ash Wednesday introduces the Christian preparation for Easter, which normally coincides with Passover, the major Jewish celebration of the year. It's near Easter because Jesus was crucified at Passover, having just shared this very meal with his disciples.

Passover celebrates and recalls the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. Led by Moses they crossed the Red Sea and 40 days later entered the

‘Promised Land.’ They shared the Passover meal at their last night in Egypt and have kept it all for nearly the past three thousand years or so that have followed.



Many years ago, when I was in Jerusalem to produce a radio programme, I was invited to join a Jewish family for their Passover meal. It was a great occasion, very like our Christmas, a family event with deep religious significance for those who seek it.

At the meal in Jerusalem we ate modest lentils and unleavened bread – Matzos as we now call it. We also drank plenty of wine but not from the cup at the end of the table. That is ‘Elijah’s cup’, only to be drunk from when the prophet comes to announce the arrival of the Messiah. At the last supper Jesus instructed His disciples to drink from that cup after supper, which may have shocked them at the time. The Messiah had come!

27 February - The Vicar’s a Poet

On this day the Church Calendar celebrates George Herbert. For those who are muttering ‘never heard of him’, just think of the hymn ‘Let all the world/ In every corner sing’, which he wrote, along with several other hymns which are still popular, even if they are well over 300 years old. In the course of his short life he was a graduate of Cambridge University, a favoured politician of King James, a distinguished poet of the so-called ‘metaphysical’ school, and a much-loved parish priest at Bemerton, in Wiltshire.

He was born in Wales but grew up in a wealthy family in England. As a student he felt called to ordination, but when he had graduated, he was drawn instead into the government of the time. As a protégé of King James (yes, the one of the ‘King James Bible’) he could have pursued a career in government, but that youthful call persisted and after a while he turned instead to the ministry of the Church of England. It was an era when many clergy were absentee incumbents, paying someone else to do the parish work while they lived elsewhere, but Herbert set himself to be a true

parish priest, noted for his pastoral care and practical support of his parishioners. The whole of his ministry was fulfilled in that one parish, until he died at 39 from what we would now call tuberculosis.

It is of course his hymns for which he is chiefly remembered today, though his Collected Poems are also regarded as jewels of English poetry.

29 February - Oswald of Worcester: the saint for Leap Year

There is a saint for Leap Year: He is St Oswald of Worcester, who died on 29th February 992. His family story was extraordinary, and full of some surprising 'leaps', all by itself. It provides a tantalising glimpse of what happened to at least one of those pagan Viking warriors who settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

For Oswald's great-uncle had come to England c 865, as part of the 'Great Heathen Army' of Viking invaders. But his son, Oswald's uncle, Oda, forsook paganism, and not only converted to Christianity, but actually ended up as Archbishop of Canterbury. From there, Oda was in a position to help his nephew, Oswald, which he did.

Oda sent young Oswald to be educated at the abbey of Fleury, then a great centre of learning. There Oswald absorbed the Benedictine ideals which would guide his later life and work. Back in England, he became bishop of Worcester in 961, and with the support of King Edgar, eagerly joined in major reforms of the Anglo-Saxon church. In 972 Oswald was made Archbishop of York, and seems to have taken a great interest in renewing the church in the Danelaw. He founded Ramsey Abbey, which became one of the great Fenland monasteries.

Oswald was popular as an archbishop, and always washed the feet of the poor every Lent. On 29th February 992 he had just completed this service at Worcester when he collapsed and died. In later years, Worcester adopted both him and Wulfstan to be its two chief saints: they flank the tomb of King John, which is before the high altar in the cathedral.



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli...

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



No, I didn't call you

It happened again.



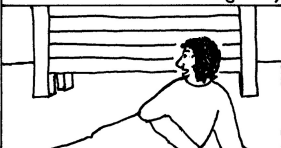
I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.

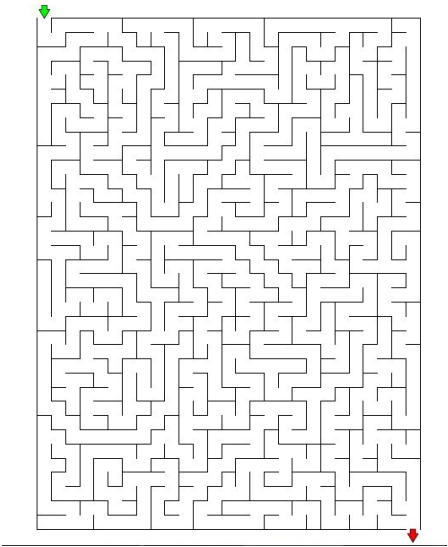


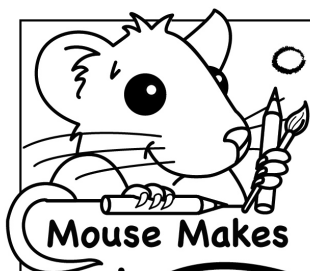
Word search

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|----------|---------|-----------|
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| Israel | right | speak |
| Shiloh | ignored | sons |
| stopped | priest | answered |
| night | brought | Lord |
| Eli | heard | listening |
| leave | sorry | Samuel |
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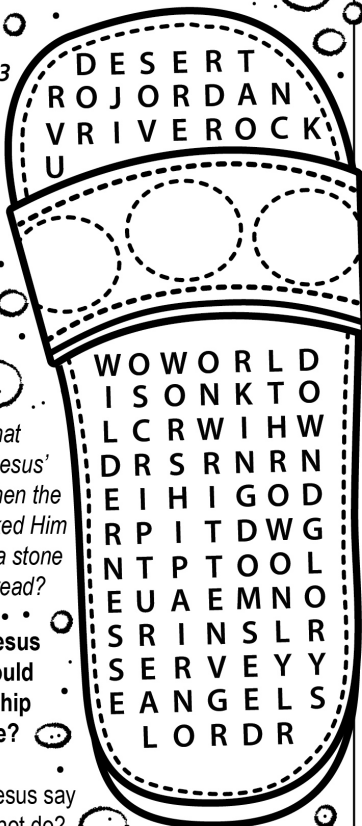
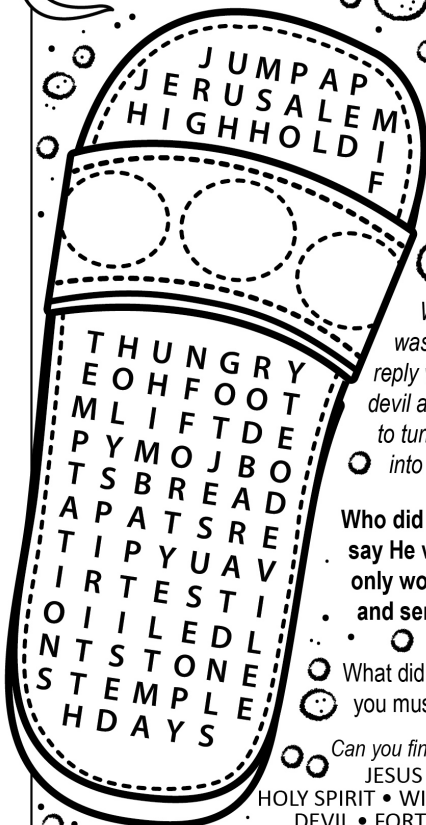
Maze





After **Jesus** was baptised He was led by the Spirit into the **wilderness** for **forty days** where he was tempted by the devil.

READ the story in Luke 4:1-13



What was Jesus' reply when the devil asked Him to turn a stone into bread?

Who did Jesus say He would only worship and serve?

What did Jesus say you must not do?

Can you find these words in the word search?

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • LED
 HOLY SPIRIT • WILDERNESS • DESERT • TEMPTATIONS
 DEVIL • FORTY • DAYS • HUNGRY • ROCK • STONE
 BREAD • WRITTEN • SCRIPTURE • ALL • KINGDOMS • WORLD • GLORY
 WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • ONLY • JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • HIGH • IF • SON
 JUMP • THROW • DOWN • ANGELS • HOLD • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST

Puzzle solutions

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

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the March issue of New Leaves is Sunday 23rd February

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

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.