

# New Leaves

May 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](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 2020**

### **From the Vicarage, May 2020**

Dear Friends

Many of us have been struck during the present Covid-19 pandemic by the huge contrast between the grim news of ever growing casualties and the beautiful spring we have been experiencing.

As I write this towards the end of April we have just heard that 20,000 people have died in hospital in the UK due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This grim figure doesn't include those who have died in residential care homes or in the community. It is a massive toll and we can't escape the sense of loss and sadness which comes with such a major epidemic.

And there's no doubt that more hardship lies ahead, not only for those who will still become seriously ill with Covid-19 but also for those suffering from isolation, from the results of other undiagnosed or untreated conditions and from the economic effects of the lockdown.

But... the blossom on the fruit trees has been stunning, and the quiet of the lockdown city has meant that the birdsong seems quite overwhelming at least where we live. Many of us have had additional opportunity to work in the garden and witness the miracle of new life in flowers, trees and birds. This experience of the

unconquerable power of spring reinforces the truth of Eastertide that even in the face of destruction and death new life is possible.

The question now pressing upon us is what difference this strange time will make to our common future? How will the 'new normal' be better than what we have left behind? Perhaps the most pressing questions of all are around the way in which environmental improvements can be built into the world as it wakes up from this enforced slumber? This epidemic has achieved extraordinary reductions in pollution and consumption of fossil fuels which would have taken years to achieve in other circumstances. Can these changes point us to good ways ahead in tackling the massive and long term challenges of climate change?

I think there are also more specifically spiritual challenges which might help us to build on the reflective time many of us have gained. Perhaps these are some areas we might think about in the face of Corona Virus and the beauty of spring?

giving value to what matters most  
giving attention to what is truly beautiful  
giving thanks for what is good

## **Pastoral Care**

I am most grateful to everyone who has been contacting other members of our churches and keeping in touch with them. Our phone networks seem to be fulfilling a real need and are picking up requests for prayer and help. We pray that these networks will continue to help us to keep in touch with each other and to be

channels for requesting help and offering support. If you have not been contacted by anyone, and would like to be, please let be know by phone or email.

## **Worship, prayer and teaching**

During this time of lockdown we will continue with a weekly mailing which will include information about keeping in touch and the prayers that are being offered. We will try to include an address every week along with the collect and gospel reading although the exact content may vary from week to week.

We will also try to publish a video including the preacher with appropriate readings, prayers and music on Youtube each Sunday.

We will stream morning prayers several days a week. This will be mainly through our two Facebook pages 'St David's Church Exeter' and 'Friends of St Michael's'. On the 'St David's Church, Exeter' page prayers will be streamed at the following times:

Sunday at 9.30am

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9am

On 'Friends of St Michael's' page:

Wednesday Regina Coeli and Mattins (BCP) at 9am

I will offer a Eucharist for Pentecost celebrated at the Vicarage on Sunday 31 May at 9.30am which will also be published through St David's Facebook page.

These services will appear at a later time on our Websites.

There will also be services published and posted online by the Church of England and by Exeter Diocese and accessible through their websites.

### **Christian Aid Zoom Breakfast**

Would you like to join us (virtually) in the Vicarage kitchen?

We were hoping to hold another Big Breakfast to raise some funds for Christian Aid again this year. We will try a Zoom breakfast instead on Saturday 16 May at 9.30am. I'm afraid that you will have to make your own breakfast and then log in to the Zoom meeting to enjoy some company and make a suitable donation to Christian Aid. Like most charities Christian Aid will suffer a large fall in income due to the lack of fundraising possibilities at the moment. If you would like to join in please email me and I will send you an invitation to join the breakfast a few days before hand.

### **Thanks**

My sincere thanks to Clive Wilson and Richard Barnes for keeping our websites updated. Please use them to find pre-recorded or broadcast services as well as our magazine. Also many thanks to Oliver Nicholson and Helena Walker for sending out our weekly emails and to others who are delivering notices to those not on e-mail.

### **Finally...**

As you may remember we are looking forward to welcoming Ash Leighton Plom as full time curate in July. We are not sure at the

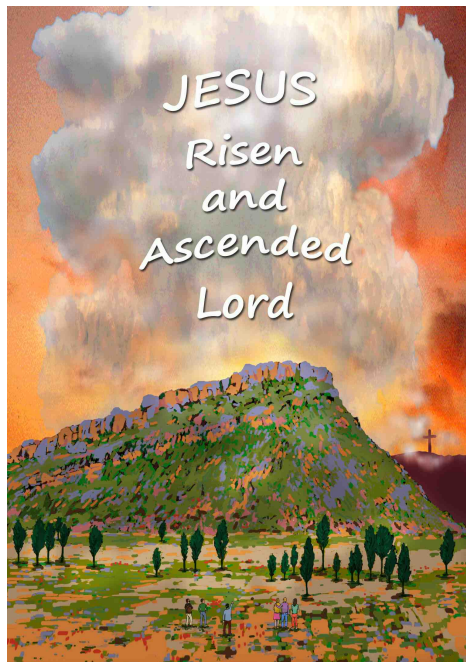
moment whether he and his family will be able to move to the curate's house before that but he will still be able to start in July as he already lives locally. Please keep Ash and his family in your prayers in this uncertain time.

Although we can't meet in person please don't hesitate to ring me or email me with any concerns, requests, or just for a chat. I am happy to pray over the phone with you if you would appreciate that.

May God protect you and those you love and help us all to know the power of his resurrection in our lives.

With every good wish and blessing,

**Nigel Guthrie**



# May 2020: As from St Michael and all Angels.

Who would have thought that one month or so on from Mothering Sunday that we would still be under the strange system of 'lockdown' and excluded from attending our spiritual homes? Or that we would celebrate Easter without the Easter Fire, procession and the joyful feast after the service? Instead we have to attend in two dimensions, using technology if we can. For those who do not have access or even limited skills, this notion has excluded people from the support of physical contact in worship and in receiving the Eucharist.

'This is the way the world ends

Not with a bang but a whimper.'

wrote T. S. Eliot in the poem 'The Hollow Men'. Eschatological literature as a genre pervades the Old Testament and is present with a somewhat different expectation in the New. Whereas, broadly speaking, the Jewish anticipation was of the Messiah coming to judge the world, so the early Christian Church believed that the Messiah had been amongst them and evil had been conquered. They awaited a different kind of 'last things'. Paul's Letters carry the theme, sometimes more noticeably than one would expect. By the time we get to the Book of Revelation, the images and symbols are curious and sometimes frightening. Albrecht Durer's engraving of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse clearly shows warhorses plunging into the world to destroy whatever is in their path. It is in strong contrast to a world in its last death weepings.

Many have predicted a violent conclusion to our world: nuclear war, invasions from outer space, destruction by meteor. The threat from a silent virus may have seemed a bit less dramatic; however, despite all the clichés offered in the present time, this is what people tell us will change the way we live, for ever. We will not be returning to life as it was: industry, agriculture, education, holidays, distribution of goods, import and export will all change. Perhaps it was time to shake us out of a complacent way of life; perhaps we should be grateful for the opportunity to make new pathways in a changed existence. Cultural variation will make the events

widely different in outcome. Alongside that, dearly-loved relatives have died, whether 'with covid-19' or 'from covid-19' and we have been unable to share those last moments with people we love. We used to treat 'prophets of doom' as a bit of a joke; we now have to make essential alterations to our daily living, some of which are going to be of benefit to others and to ourselves in a new order.

The Psalm for use last Wednesday, Psalm 30, set out Thanksgiving for recovery from illness. In the face of distress, the writer realises that God is the Rescuer and the One who allows 'joy to come in the morning' after the misery of suffering. People can and do recover from covid-19. Lives can be rebuilt, thanks to the tireless dedication of the NHS, and I believe, the constant love of God who is in the suffering and in the recovery.



**Stephanie Aplin.**



# **May Dates (virtual/online events) - St Michael's Church**

As you will be aware, all Public Worship and events are currently suspended in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and Church building must remain closed.

We hope your 'virtual/digital' Holy Week & Easter were 'an acceptable time' or perhaps even gave new insights.

Although they will NOT take place in Church, I list details of the Services we would have held in May for you to use as a framework for personal observance & prayer.

Fr Nigel will say the Daily Office at the Vicarage. On Wednesdays at 9am he will stream the Regina Coeli & BCP Matins on "Friends of St Michael's" Facebook a/c. The link is:-

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2227703237/>**

On other days, Morning Prayer will be on "St David's Church Exeter" Facebook a/c, and on Sundays at 9.30am i.e.

**<https://www.facebook.com/stdavidschurchexeter/>**

To include other preachers there will usually be a short recorded service on YouTube for Sundays and the link to these will be included, where possible, on the weekly mailing and on our Facebook pages.

For Pentecost/Whitsunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, there will be a Communion Service celebrated from the Vicarage.

Oliver will send weekly Pewsheets by email and I will put a copy on the website 'Events' – to be added to his list, please email [virtualsaintmichaels@gmail.com](mailto:virtualsaintmichaels@gmail.com) - note the spelling 'saint', not 'st', or cut & paste it.

We appreciate your support, and your prayers for all affected or anxious at this time in our communities, the health, care & food services and the wider world.

Please check the Website [www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk) especially 'Events', Twitter @StMikes\_Exeter , Facebook "Friends of St Michael's" or emailed Pewsheets for latest information.

REMINDER: No Services or Events in any Church until further notice.

**Sun 3 May, Easter III/4, Good Shepherd Sunday. Hymns 345: 280 : 486. Harris in F. Psalm 23, *Howard Goodall*.**

**Choral Evensong & Benediction. Smith Responses. Hymn 294. Psalm 29:1-10. Canticles: Wood in E flat No.2. Anthem: If ye be risen again with Christ, *Gibbons*. O salutaris hostia, Tantum ergo.**

Sun 10 May, Easter 5/IV Mass. Hymns 106: 296:120. Mass in C, Ireland. Ego sum panis vivus, Palestrina.

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May will be online – please support if you can.

Sun 17 May, Easter 6/Rogation Sunday. Hymns Processional booklet, 115, 262. Missa "O quam gloriosum", Victoria. Thou visitest the Earth & blessest it, Greene.

Thursday 21 May is Ascension Day. We would have had Sung Matins from the Gallery at 7am followed by Breakfast at 8. Sung Mass at 7.30pm with Hymns 352: 132 : 332. Byrd Mass for 4 voices. Finzi: God is gone up with a triumphant shout!

Sun 24 May, Sunday after Ascension. Hymns, 130 1st tune ; 134 : 443. Missa Brevissima, Casciolini. Come Holy Ghost, Attwood.

Sun 31 May, Pentecost/Whitsunday. Mass. Hymns 137 : Gradual seq : 138 :431. Missa "Ave Maris Stella", Victoria. Listen Sweet Dove, Ives.

If, as seems likely, we are still locked out from Church Buildings, Fr Nigel will lead a Communion Service from the Vicarage for Pentecost at 9.30am on "StDavid's Church Exeter" Facebook a/c.

**If and when we are allowed to resume Services, we will update information online.**



**Richard Barnes – 25/04/20.**

## Requests for Articles

**Many thanks** to those who submitted articles on “Living in the Lockdown.” Perhaps when you have read the following they will encourage you to share your experiences of these strange times.

If you wish to contribute to the June magazine in another way, by perhaps sharing a book you have read during lockdown or a piece of music or a poem which has inspired you or perhaps a recipe which has kept you going, then we will be delighted to hear from you. The closing date for our June online magazine is Sunday 24th May.

The Editorial team

27.04.2020



# Covid-19 Reflections from a Hospital Chaplaincy

As I write this, mid-April, I have been working for 7 days, on redeployment to the RD&E Hospital Chaplaincy.

In recent weeks, all of us in the community Speech and Language Therapy team have been asked by our managers to think about what kinds of work we would be prepared to do, as redeployment during the covid situation. I contacted Simon Harrison the Lead Chaplain, just as he was about to contact me! The Chaplaincy is operating with significantly fewer staff physically present in the hospital, for reasons such as age, and pre-existing health conditions. This is an area of ministry that I feel very much drawn to, and I wondered if I might have been able to help a bit in the team... I have now been working there Monday to Friday, for a week and a bit!



I surprisingly quickly fell into the routine of changing into scrubs as soon as I arrive at the Chaplaincy each morning. I am so grateful for the way that the laundry department brings us clean ones each day, and collects our bagged-up, worn scrubs at the end of every day.

So far, I have been working with another chaplain each day. Some of us are awaiting fit-testing for the full PPE which will enable us to visit patients who have the covid virus.

Hospital staff, family members and clergy continue to refer patients to the Chaplaincy; since visits from 'outside' are not currently allowed, our visits are generally appreciated. Some of the people we visit have a church background, and some don't. We check with the ward, whether they, or anyone on that ward, has covid, before visiting. Going onto any ward, we put on a mask; this can make communication difficult at times, as the mask

extends from just beneath your eyes, to under your chin. But, wearing them means that we can at least visit the wards. If the patient or ward has covid, then a higher level of PPE is needed, which includes goggles. We also offer to write and deliver cards and messages to loved ones in the hospital, from their families or friends. The family can ring us, and we have a supply of cards which we can write and deliver to the patient.

Another role, is supporting the staff across the hospital. We have made a list of departments and wards, and through the days, we're working our way through that. When we see staff, we ask how they're feeling, listen, and remind them that the Chaplaincy is here for everyone, staff as well as patients; the chapel is available as a place to sit peacefully, and we can be contacted if any staff member would appreciate a listening ear, away from their own department or ward. Chaplaincy members who are having to work from home, are supporting us with an on-call service, and are at the end of a phone line, if we have any questions or dilemmas to discuss – which is very reassuring.

Each day, the chaplains on duty pause and say prayers in the chapel – for the hospital, the world, and any particular patients who might have asked for our prayers. It feels as if now, perhaps more than ever, we need to be focussed, and grounded in prayer, lifting the situation and individuals and families to God, and acknowledging our need for God's strength, wisdom and guidance.

It has been a steep learning curve for me; I have a little chaplaincy experience, but never full time, and as with everyone else – certainly not in circumstances like these. But, more than with any job I have had in the past, in a curious way, it feels the most natural and normal thing to be doing. I feel so privileged to be here, now, and to have this opportunity to share whatever I may have to offer, in a great team, and wonderful hospital.



**Alison Whiting 18.4.20**

# Lockdown Reflections

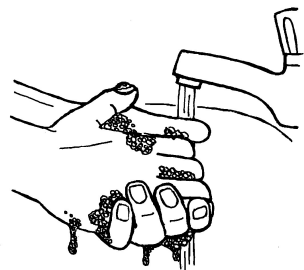
Almost a hundred years ago, in 1922 to be precise, T.S.Eliot published his masterpiece poem "The Wasteland". Divided into five sections, the first is called "The Burial of the Dead," and famously begins:

"April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land"

It now seems like a prophecy foretelling April 2020. It has indeed been a cruel month as the number of dead from COVID 19 passed 20,000 in the final weekend. Yet, in this land of the pandemic dead, Spring has been seen in all its glory in one of the warmest, driest Aprils ever recorded; flowers and plants have blossomed, breeding much more than lilacs. April has been a cruel month, indeed, but also a most beautiful and wonderful floral delight.

There are, then, times when you count your blessings. So far during this lockdown Avril and I have been fortunate. We are both vulnerable because of our ages and I also have type 2 diabetes, so we have self isolated. This means we haven't left the village of Silverton since Wednesday 18th March. But the blessings of our loving for each other, a lovely house and garden with a full view of Silverton Church, regular FTING with our family, the Church's online activities and, of course, the beautiful weather, we are blessed indeed. The roads around Silverton are empty and quiet so during the permitted "time for exercise" we will encounter a mere handful of people on our daily walk. No problem "social distancing".

Problems have occurred in the most unusual circumstances. I have wrinkled fingers from washing my hands almost obsessively - I mean ten times in an hour - soap manufacturers must be making a bomb. I did try ordering hand sanitisers online, unfortunately now my common way of shopping. They arrived from Switzerland, about three weeks after I had placed the order, and were in such small bottles, I thought they were to be used as drops for eyes. However they are 80% alcohol, very effective (I hope), but also very expensive. They save the fingers from becoming wrinkled. I've now mastered booking online delivery slots and at the time of writing have three booked. A fellow retired headteacher in the village



saw all this coming and by March 10th had booked fortnightly delivery slots through to the end of June. That's what I call forward planning.

One of the most strengthening and rewarding developments of the lockdown has been the regular time for worship and prayer which Avril and I have found. Apart from the online opportunities, we have worshipped and prayed together almost every morning and evening, mainly using the "Time to pray" app, which if you haven't yet discovered, I thoroughly recommend. Contrasting entirely with prayer are the opportunities we have found to do exercises, following the ever smiling figures on YouTube with "Exercises for the over 70s", though they hardly substitute for a "no golf" world.

The most important realisation which comes from these distressing times is the high value you place on relationships with your family and friends. However you are contacting them whether by phone, FaceTime, Facebook, Twitter, Zoom, Skype, Instagram, WhatsApp - the list appears endless - it is the most valuable contact, especially when you cannot actually see them. Virtual contact is no substitute for the real thing, but nobody underestimates its present value. St David's Phone Network consists of a group of our Church members keeping in contact with their own personal group of Congregation members. We keep each other informed as to whether there are any prayer requests or concerns using a WhatsApp chat line. Of course, we are at the same time supporting each other. Robin Thomas' "plant of the day" challenges us with a cryptic clue before he reveals in glorious colour a photo of his chosen plant - his "plant of the day" will live in the memory for many years.

The hope is that when life returns to something like the normal, lessons will have been learnt. Whatever your stance on the wealth versus health debate, surely we have realised the immense value of key workers, those who cannot work at home, those who work in caring environments, those who look after us as we isolate in these lockdown times. A clap every Thursday for carers is to be highly praised, but better respect and better pay in the new normal times would appear a "must do" decision for future governments.



**Bill Pattinson**

27.04.2020

# Reflections on Lockdown by Maggie Draper

Today I am wearing a watch and earrings as a treat - which is now how I differentiate the weekends from the weekdays!



This is because I am working at Hospiscare where I am one of the Assistant Directors - and strict handwashing, uniform, and “bare below the elbows” really matters as we want to make sure that we are protecting our vulnerable patients – but also trying to keep the workforce fit and healthy so that we can carry on caring for our patients. So, I take off my uniform each night by the washing machine before I touch anything and reflect on how different my last six weeks or so have been.

Yesterday I tipped out my (wiped clean) workbag and made a big pile of things that were half done at the beginning of March, key pieces of work that I was in the middle of doing – and have put them in a big box labelled “to be resumed”, and then have carried on with digesting the daily flow of government guidance, managing our PPE purchasing and delivery, and huge changes to how we deliver care. I have learned so much about the technical terms for PPE and the “burn” rate and “donning and doffing”, and how quickly we can re-design care – how amazing people can be when asked to do things differently, seeing what is really important, and things we can change really quickly when we have to.

I have never worked so hard in my life in a constantly changing situation and am very aware that we in the South West have been very lucky so far. I am responsible for delivering the bereavement care for the Exeter Nightingale Hospital, and for bereavement referrals from community and care homes, and it has been great to have Zoom meetings with colleagues all committed to sharing the work – but difficult to plan when we are not

sure of what lies ahead. I keep telling myself that it is a marathon and not a sprint -- and certainly the last week has been less frenetic as we begin to grapple with what is our new “normal”.

What have I learned so far: I have great colleagues, that time off is important, having a husband who can shop and cook and have a “g and t” waiting for me when I get home is so supportive. I have enjoyed meeting my neighbours (at a distance), going for walks, noticing the blossom, riding my electric bike to Topsham, and our street exercise class led by a neighbour!



I have begun to realise that the world of work will never be the same again (and some of that change will be good), and that for Hospiscare the huge challenge of funding will impact on us in the months and probably years ahead. I have been reminded that kindness and compassion from strangers is powerful, that I struggle with uncertainty and not seeing my mother or children except via a screen, and that I miss community and eating with friends. I look forward to the time when we can all be back at St David's once again.



**Maggie Draper**



# Lock-down & Out on Mount Dinham

I must preface this by saying that Lockdown has not been too hard for me so far. I can 'work from home', we're together as a family, and we've been successful in groceries delivery slot 'lottery' each week.

The dedicated work of all in hospitals & care homes, key-workers in areas we took for granted 2 or 3 months ago, chaplains & clergy adapting to new situations, all deserve our thanks, admiration & prayers.

It crept up on us rather quickly – the Coronavirus Lockdown. Lent 3 15th March was prophetic – the Choir sang “Like as the Hart desireth the streams... while they daily say unto me, where is now thy God? When shall I come before Thy presence?”

Tuesday Vespers was sung, but Choir Practice cancelled on ‘social distancing’ advice. Reading the signs of the times, we got our children home early from their Universities as Classes went online.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> I opened St Michael’s for an hour for Private Prayer, just me & God and the beautiful evening chorus of the birds.

We decided a 2 hour train journey to visit my aged mother was not wise.

Mothering Sunday, a good dozen of the faithful came to St Michael’s for well-spaced private prayers, responding with remarkable unanimity as Fr Nigel earnestly prayed the Prayer Book Litany, and the Angelus.

And that was it. Next evening the PM announced the Stay Home Lockdown, and the Archbishops told us to lock Church buildings and banished laity & clergy to be #ChurchAtHome.

Whether this year's Annunciation was a socially distanced exchange between Gabriel & Mary, or mediated via Zoom or Skype, we know not. Crucifixes & statues were not veiled on Passion Sunday, but no one was in church to worry, except the Angel hosts.

On Palm Sunday, with a cross saved from a previous year, I made a one-man Procession past our locked Church and around Mount Dinham, channelling memories & prayers. A Facebook broadcast of the Passion Gospel according to St Matthew was nicely done by members of St David's compiled from various homes.



It was slightly upstaged by the Cathedral's broadcast of Canon James Mustard singing Evangelist & all the characters to the plainsong we would have used at St Michael's!.

Things looked up in Holy Week, when Kim found a beautiful recording of Tenebrae from 2008 with Fr John Hughes reading "the foolish man said in his heart..." and Psalm 51 sung that year to the Alleghi Miserere, rather than the Palestrina.

By now Oliver was adept at electronic Pewsheets (emailed & on the website) with clickable YouTube Music links to help us in our personal attempts to keep the liturgical framework which supports a spiritual Triduum, if not a sacramental one this year.

In lieu of the Easter Vigil, we were blessed with 2 beautiful singings of the Exultet, that great and ancient Proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (to redeem this naughty world) & the symbolism of the Paschal Candle (and the work of Bees).

On Easter Day itself I tuned in to our Parish Eucharist, simply & sensitively celebrated by Fr Nigel and his family at the Vicarage.

Although missing the Liturgy, so far I find streamed 'Communion' services pretty unsatisfying.

The streaming of Morning Prayer at 9am, especially the longer BCP Matins on Wednesdays, feels more relevant & personal, even if I sometimes don't catch up with it till tea-time. Traditional sung Compline on Exeter Cathedral Facebook is also good, before the ending of the day.

Never mind 'Dress-down Fridays', I'm enjoying 'Dressing-gown Sunday

mornings'.

For Low Sunday I enjoyed Fr Nigel's Morning Prayer & Reflection on St Thomas; played some of the Music links from our St Mike's Pewsheets; then went to a German Evangelical Service in Exeter's twin town, Bad Homburg. I didn't make much of the Sermon, but a newly written worship song on 'Christ in Creation' and a familiar 'Würdig ist das Lamm' were well performed.

With so much online Worship, the world is your oyster, but if you want your local Church and clergy to be there when lockdown is hopefully over, please don't desert your local stream.

That was the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft. Then I realised I was suppressing how much I miss real Church, incarnate in the senses, the physical blending of voices in music & liturgy - not just brain prayer, clicking 'Like'.

God in the relationship of Trinity loved us so much that Jesus 'mattered' for 30-odd years. Gathering (safely) matters, buildings matter (because we use them), above all people matter.

## **Richard Barnes – 25/04/20.**

Some Lessons from Lockdown

Digital Denominations - the great thing about standards is, there are so many!

Charismatic Evangelicals seem to be on Instagram with Zoom Bible Study groups.

More Incarnational churches are on Facebook.

Those prophetic enough to pre-record Holy Week back in February put their Virtual Churches on YouTube.

Is there a higher proportion of High Church liturgy on Twitter, my preferred social medium, or is it just the omnipotent Algorithm?

A few are Broad Church, broadcasting on all the main streams.

Online Discovery - The Daily Office & the attraction of Compline.

Diocesan spin-doctors – there was not one word in their write up of Easter

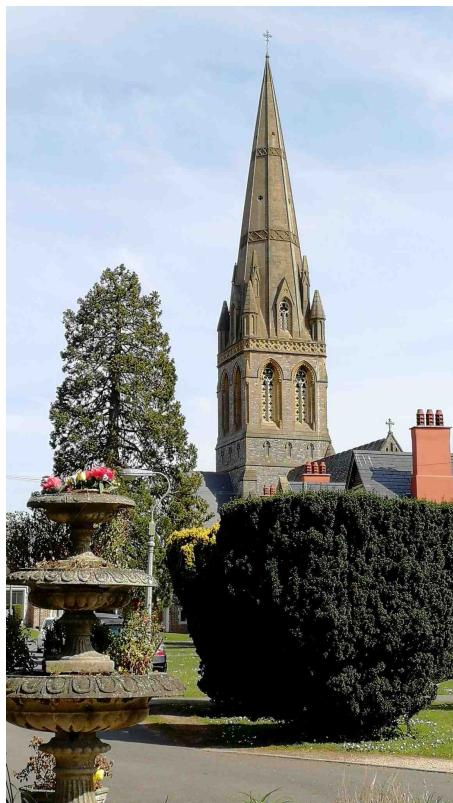
in Devon that virtually none of the Laity received Holy Communion.

Are we 'doing Church differently' as they like to say, or actually 'doing Church the same digitally'? The technicalities of worship may be 'creative' but the content seems to be much the same. In fact in the short term, without servers, choir, flowers, biscuits, it all seems rather clergy based.

House Church? - Yes, closing our sacred, much loved and used, Church buildings to public worship is necessary to help reduce spread of the virus. The Archbishop of Canterbury patronisingly tried to tell us it's like the early centuries of Christianity. No, it is not! Documents, archaeology and even the New Testament suggest the Early Church in each place gathered in the house of a well-off Christian, perhaps setting aside a large room for their worship and decorating it.

What are you Learning from Lockdown?

**Richard  
Barnes – 25/04/20.**



# Living in Lockdown – Life on the plot

As I had a cough and sore throat I was already self-isolating the week before the general lockdown. It was very mild. I felt well generally and I don't know whether I had COVID-19 or merely another of the myriad usual cold viruses that visit us every winter. Unfortunately it did mean I was unable to participate in the Hospiscare Men's Walk this year which was a pity as I really like the camaraderie of the event, not to mention the excellent pasty and Exeter Brewery's pint of Avocet at the finish of the walk. Now that we all are having to practice social distancing and may well have to be circumspect for a number of months yet, it is hard to envisage a future return to the warm embrace of a drink or meal with friends at a pub or restaurant.



I am very lucky however to have an allotment where I can go to exercise and carry on the normal spring activities of preparing the ground, sowing seeds and potatoes and tidying the plot. An allotment site is a place where

there is a natural separation of the tenants as they work their own plots. But they are also places where there is a natural social interaction over the growing of vegetables and flowers. They are very egalitarian spaces where nobody really cares what you do as a job or if you have no paid employment; whether you are retired or have an extremely stressful occupation and need to escape to your plot to recharge. Allotments have a wide variety of tenants far beyond the stereotypical old men in sheds (although I do qualify as one of those), and on our site there is approximately 50%/50% of men and women. Although the majority are white British we have a wide variety of other nationalities, many of them working in our NHS, caring and other essential services. Sometimes we like to think of ourselves as the only nation to practice or appreciate gardens and gardening but the French, Dutch, Polish, Romanian, Chinese and others on our site are equally adept at tending their plots and showing us different ways of doing things. Not everything is a success and some years there are failures of crops that normally are no trouble. (One year I managed to achieve the almost impossible of only harvesting a single courgette from several plants!) Neighbouring plots may well have an excess and so we share the produce out. Often there is a general excess and so neighbours where we live then benefit from locally grown vegetables. I've sometimes futively delivered bags of runner beans to their doorsteps so that they can't refuse to take them off my hands.

During the lockdown I have been going nearly every day and it feels just the same as before the lockdown. It is a normal place where I potter about with a spade or hoe and get on with the gardening tasks or repainting my two sheds a nice light blue. My neighbour remarked I only need some sand and they would be beach huts. Perhaps this summer they will have to stand-in for the seaside proper.



I have been posting photos daily on my Instagram account, logging the progress as first the pear tree blossomed , then the cherry and finally the apple trees. The broad beans are now growing away and their flowers are appearing, whilst the early peas have established and putting on growth. After a while I take a break at my patio on the end of the plot, next to the railway line to Exmouth, and look out over Exeter with a cup of tea and think how lucky I am to have this haven to escape to. Then my reverie is broken by the train whizzing past with very few passengers except those working in the NHS, essential shops and others who are keeping the fundamental structure of our society operating during these strange times.



**Clive Wilson, 24 April 2020**



# Living in Lockdown

We were asked to write about life under lockdown *in the parish*. I can't help with that as I live a couple of miles away and I have not ventured as far as the distant parish of St David's for some time! Lockdown means none of us goes very far these days. I could regale you with tales of crossing Topsham Road at rush hour without having to wait for the traffic lights, or of wandering down Heavitree Road and scarcely seeing a soul, but I'm sure we all have similar stories. Perhaps though I can offer a sprinkling of thoughts at this early stage of lockdown and not worry about the precise geographic requirement.

Let's take a positive view. Writing this in mid-April, we are only three-and-a-half weeks into lockdown and, while we are living through a genuine crisis, there is much to be thankful for.

Firstly, the weather. The lockdown has coincided with lighter evenings and some very fine spring weather. How much more miserable it would have been in the rain!

Secondly, the internet, which most of us have used more than ever lately. How much worse this situation would have been had it happened 15 or 20 years ago with the internet connections and mobile phones of the early 2000s! A lot more people would have needed either to go to work or simply not work. Online schooling would not have been feasible. I dare say online church services might have been a stretch as well.

Thirdly, ours is a comparatively light lockdown. The restrictions are tighter in our relatively near neighbours France (you need a signed form to go out), Spain, Poland and Italy (all with fewer permitted reasons to go out than we have and stricter enforcement), and colleagues in India tell me that there the rules are extremely stringent with severe consequences in some cases.

Fourthly, we are allowed out once a day for exercise! It's strange but true

that the fewer people you come across in the street, the more chance there is of receiving a cheery 'good morning'. Much better than the usual habit of people walking past each other without any greeting or even eye contact.

Of course, while we have much to be grateful for, there is no doubt that this is a serious crisis and the longer it goes on, the worse it will be. The lethality of the virus and the current and future economic damage can hardly be overstated. The news is a constant barrage of grim statistics and heart-breaking individual stories. The Bible teaches us not to worry about tomorrow. Quite difficult. I think it is natural to be frightened.

What do we hope for when all this settles down? I hope that, despite the sadly inevitable legacy of bereavement, economic damage and interrupted educations, the worst predictions do not come to fruition. I hope the kindness among neighbours that has flourished over the past few weeks continues beyond the crisis.

Nationally, I hope we are more alert to and better prepared for future epidemics.

I look forward to making it all the way to the far-off land of the parish of St David sometime soon!

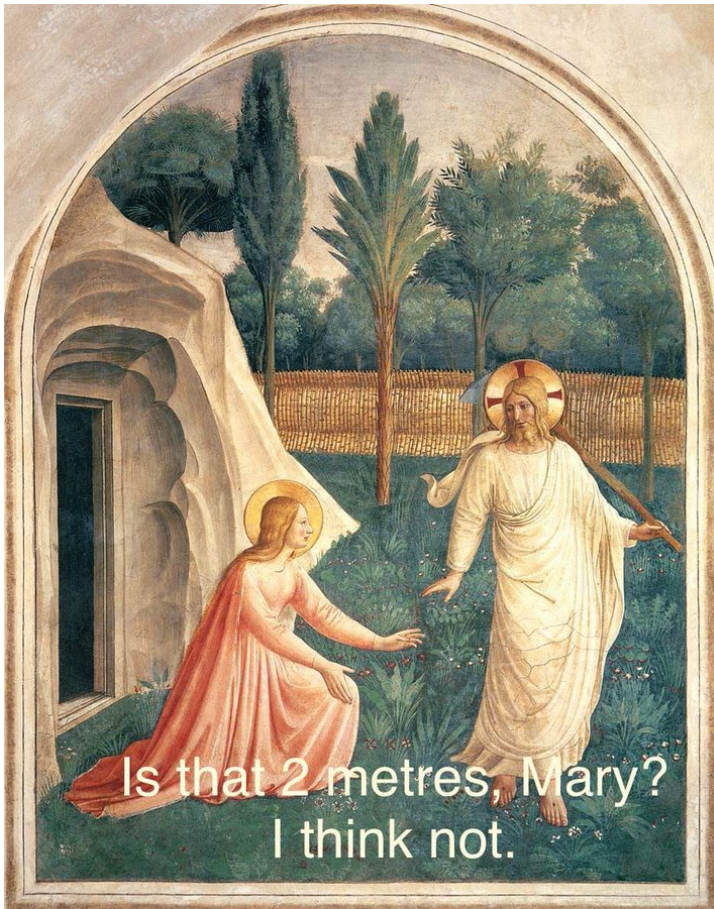


**Philip Walker**  
**16 April 2020**



# Lockdown Reflections

One of the nicest things I saw on Twitter after Easter was this 'meme' made by Esther Brazil, an Ordinand at Cuddesdon, based on the famous Fra Angelico painting.



It reminded me of words I wrote in 2016. I've updated the 3<sup>rd</sup> section for 2020.

Noli me tangere. Don't touch me!

Rabboni, Teacher, Lord, Master, Doctor, Gardener, Saviour, Jesus?

Why? Am I unclean, or you too pure for me to touch you now?

I, Mary Magdalene, washed your feet with my tears,  
And dried them with my golden hair just a month ago.  
Is your resurrection body still too new, too sensitive,  
Regeneration unfamiliar, unstable in this pre-dawn hour?  
Another week and Thomas gets the full guided tour, hands, feet, side.  
While I will be written out by time, translation, patriarchy.

Your Aramaic was not so brusque.

“Mary, you don't need to cling to me, I am always with you now.”

As John then wrote it μή μου ἅπτου - “stop clinging to me”.

Church Latin made it “don't touch me” with Jerome's Vulgate.

That old story, Roman excess spawning Puritan repression even then.

Fra Angelico's painting, or statue by Wynne in Ely, sealing my reputation.



This year, in fearful isolation and social distancing,  
In online prayer and virtual liturgy, we're all unchurched now,  
Staying home, like the very first Easter, disciples in lockdown.

Our wounded world wears a corona of thorns, pierced by a 2 metre spear,  
But we can weave a new and gentler crown held with compassion and care  
To place upon your bloodied head, our wounded Jesus, King of Glory.  
Faithful trees' first green tints, blossom bursting forth, birdsong in clear air,  
And multi-tracked joyful Eastertide declare that He is Risen! Be not afraid.

Another piece, perhaps a bit wordy, that I should have put in April's "New Leaves" is for St Mark whose Feast Day is 25<sup>th</sup> April, also written in 2016.

Mark, Evangelist, writer of the earliest Gospel, sparse, sharp as thorns,  
Your words well-turned, but of you we have only glimpses.  
On the periphery, watching, noting, not quite sure about yourself or Jesus.  
Not suited to the rough disciple's life, all that face-to-face witnessing,  
Running naked from Gethsemane's angry conflict,  
Flight, not fight, on your cowardly lion's golden wings.  
But later, still there, complementing bold outspoken Peter,  
Writing an action Gospel from his restored memories of that Jesus.  
Then gradually finding prayerful spoken words  
For your more thoughtful, thought through, faith in Him.

Brief mentions acting with the Apostles, Peter, Barnabas, Paul.  
Journeying through words as scribe, companion, preacher, to Egypt,  
Chosen as Bishop of Alexandria, that great city of library and learning,  
Pastor of growing North African flocks. No more shame, no more running.  
Martyred, revered across two thousand Aprils by all Christians,  
By Coptic Churches through times of flourishing, persecution,  
perseverance,

Now so needing our prayers and support.

Translated, in that other sense, your holy relics crossed the sea

Finding refuge in Venice, foundation of the gold domed Basilica di San Marco.

Fulfilling Pax tibi Marce, evangelista meus. Hic requiescet corpus tuum.

Much later, 1974, this holy God-sent day made such a mark on me,

Not quite a Damascus Road, but a renewed recognition

That I needed and had that faith based in beauty, forgiveness and longing,

And Jesus was giving me St Mark & St Andrew as guides upon the way.

For St Athanasius, Feast Day 2<sup>nd</sup> May, I offer a Limerick.

There was a young Saint Athanasius

Who worried about Credal haziness.

Against Arian fault

He said Quicunque Vult,

With theology that's still amazin'us.

Finally, as we 'do Church differently', what we need is a Worship Song for our time – Stream, Jesus stream.

Lord, the light of your love is streaming

In the midst of the lockdown, streaming

Jesus, look at us doing Church differently

Or still the same faithful Church only digitally?

Stream on me, stream on me

Stream, Jesus, stream, Fill this land with an online glory

Zoom, Spirit, zoom, Set our phones on fire

Skype, river, skype, Flood the networks with prayer and meetings

Stream forth your word Lord, and let there be Mbytes

Lord, you come in your online presence  
Kitchen Communion unto my settee  
Bread or no bread – that is the question  
'Because we all share in the one Br...' stream, faith?  
Oh well. Matins and Compline, stream for me

As we gaze on their Altared kitchen tables  
Faithful clergy give virtual Absolutions  
Ever changing guidance from Archbishops  
It's Church, Fr Jim, but not as we know it  
No theology, just stream on me

Stream, Jesus, stream, Fill this land with an online glory  
Zoom, Spirit, zoom, Set our phones on fire  
Skype, river, skype, Flood the networks with prayer and meetings  
Stream forth your word Lord, and let there be Mbytes



**Richard Barnes – April 2016/20.**



*Our church warden is not letting  
people into the church just now*

# Smilelines

## Lesson

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

## Parental excuses

These are actual 'excuse notes' from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

~ My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.

~ Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.

~ Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.

~ Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.

~ Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.

~ Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.

~ Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.

~ Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.

~ Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.

~ Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.

# **Chosen Readings for May 2020 @St David's**

Please find below the chosen readings for May. Please take this opportunity to read them on the Sundays. With Blessings

## **Sunday 3rd May 4th Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading: Genesis 6  
2nd Reading: Acts 2:42-end  
Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

## **Sunday 10th May 5th Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading: Genesis 8:1-19  
2nd Reading: Acts 7:55-end  
Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

## **Sunday 17th May 6th Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading: Genesis 8:20-9:17  
2nd Reading: Acts 17:22-31  
Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

## **Thursday 21st May Ascension Day**

1st Reading: Daniel 7:9-14  
2nd Reading: Acts 1:1-11  
Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-end

## **Sunday 24th May 7th Sunday of Easter/Sunday after Ascension Day**

1st Reading: Ezekiel 36:24-28  
2nd Reading: Acts 1:6-14  
Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11

## **Sunday 31st May Pentecost/Whit Sunday**

1st Reading: Numbers 11:24-30  
2nd. Reading: Acts 2:1-21  
Gospel Reading: John 20:19-23

## **Sunday 7th June Trinity Sunday**

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:12-17;27-end  
2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-end  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

# SAVE THE DATE

Autumn Parish Day Retreat

Sheldon Centre

Wed 14th October 2020

Speaker - Penny Warren

Subject - Celtic Spirituality

Cost - £25

(PS - This is a little more expensive than The Millhouse, where we have been for the past few years. But we thought it would be good to have a change - hence the advanced notice).

Howard and Helen Friend



# Peregrines' Progress

It's a strange Spring in the Peregrine nest box too.

You'll remember the old male peregrine left the area last Autumn and did not return. Over the Winter the female, also relatively old, maybe 15 years, found a fresh young male, but it seemed an on-off relationship.

As breeding season approached, the male was seen more often, but wouldn't enter the nest box. Eventually, nearly a fortnight later than usual, a first egg was laid on Spy Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. After a difficult time the female laid a 2nd egg on Easter Eve 11<sup>th</sup> April.

After a lot of shouting, the male started to get the idea of sharing some of the incubation duties in the nest box. Time passed and we thought that was it, but a week later a 3<sup>rd</sup> egg was unexpectedly laid.

What all this means for the viability of the eggs and likely hatching dates is pretty uncertain. Hopefully no more dramas, but, as I said, it's strange year on the Spire too.



**Richard Barnes – 26/04/20.**





Press release: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
For immediate use

## **Devon countryside charity's 2020 competitions provide a creative outlet for stay-at-home schoolchildren**

The Devon branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England hopes its 2020 art and writing competitions, open for entries from 18 May, will provide a creative outlet for primary schoolchildren across the county, many of whom are spending more time than usual indoors this spring because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

CPRE Devon's two children's competitions are a fun way to encourage youngsters to engage with the great outdoors, even if they themselves are stuck indoors! Children in Key Stages 1 and 2 are urged to use their imagination to create a piece of artwork or a short piece of writing evoking Devon's coast or countryside, or a favourite spot that's important to them. It could be a local park, a green space nearby, somewhere they have visited for a day out or even their own garden. The closing date for entries is 30 June 2020.

Last year the charity received fantastic entries from right across the county from girls and boys in KS1 and KS2, who had

captured their favourite outdoor space on paper. Pencils, pens, paints and sticking paste were all put to use to create artworks which showed the beauty and variety of Devon's natural environment.

The competitions are simple to enter. A top prize will be awarded to individual children in each key stage, as well as to their school. All entrants will receive a CPRE Devon 'Barney the Bull' gift. The top entrants from each school will win a Devon Countryside Ambassador Badge and a framed certificate. Winning schools will receive a plaque and £200 to spend on outdoor learning as well as CPRE membership for a year.

A leaflet with full details of both competitions is available for teachers. CPRE Devon has also produced a fun postcard for the writing competition with space for children to say why they think it's important to protect Devon's countryside. It couldn't be simpler!

If your child would like to enter, contact 01392 966737 or [info@cpredevon.org.uk](mailto:info@cpredevon.org.uk) or check out the website [cpredevon.org.uk](http://cpredevon.org.uk)

Please note, this year the charity will be accepting entries by email to avoid people having to make unnecessary trips to a post office to send their artwork or writing.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of CPRE Devon by If... Media Ltd.

**Media contact:**

Sharon Goble [sharon@if-media.co.uk](mailto:sharon@if-media.co.uk)  
01392 661062 / 07831 695913

**Attachments:**

Two of last year's winning entries in KS1 and KS2.



# Help protect your local cancer charity

To protect FORCE beyond the Coronavirus pandemic, chief executive Merial Fishwick has called on communities that the charity serves for their support.

This is her message to everyone who cares about FORCE: “We are thankful for the Government’s announcement of support for charities, particularly those like FORCE who are still providing services during the Coronavirus pandemic.

“However, we will have to put a really strong case to try to get a share of these funds and that’s where you can help.

“Quite simply we are asking people to write a paragraph on why Devon and its communities need FORCE Cancer Charity.

“We must send the decision-makers a clear message about just how important FORCE is to so many people.

“Help us fight for our survival by joining this campaign.

“Please encourage everyone you can to get involved and give us the people-power we need to fight for FORCE.

“You can email us at [connect@forcecancercharity.co.uk](mailto:connect@forcecancercharity.co.uk) or contact us via [Facebook](#) or other social media channels.

“Send your messages, spread the word and help save FORCE.

“THANK YOU.”

The charity’s income streams have almost entirely dried up but the Government has promised £370 million for small and medium sized organisations at the heart of local communities which are making a big difference during the COVID-19 outbreak.

With its support centres in Exeter, Okehampton, Tiverton and Honiton

temporarily closed, FORCE has redesigned its services to offer ongoing help and advice cancer patients and their families.

Patients are continuing to receive chemotherapy in Okehampton and Honiton – FORCE pays for the nurses who deliver treatment.

Information, including benefits advice, and counselling appointments are happening via phone and video calls.

If you or someone you know is affected by cancer and needs support, please call:

01392 406151 for cancer support and information, including benefits advice

01392 406168/406169 for psychological and emotional support



*The twins had been doing Messy Church at home.*

## Alleviation of Poverty



### Christian Aid Week Zoom Breakfast

Would you like to join us (virtually) in the Vicarage kitchen?!

We were hoping to hold another Big Breakfast to raise some funds for Christian Aid again this year. We will try a Zoom breakfast instead on Saturday 16 May at 9.30am. I'm afraid that you will have to make your own breakfast and then log in to the Zoom meeting enjoy some company and make a suitable donation to Christian Aid. Like most charities Christian Aid will suffer a large fall in income due to the lack of fundraising possibilities at the moment. If you would like to join in please email me and I will send you an invitation to join the breakfast a few days before hand.

Meanwhile, closer to home **Christians against Poverty** are active in campaigning for and serving some of the poorest people in this country. If you would like to learn more about their work or support them the link to their website and newsletter is here:  
<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk>

# St David's Community Help!

Exeter Community Centre and volunteers in St David's ward are here to help support our neighbours at this difficult & confusing time.

If know someone who is or you are self-isolating or an overloaded key worker needing help - please get in touch!

Collecting shopping, prescriptions & urgent supplies  
J Posting mail  
J Dog walking

Basic IT help to help you get online

Or you might just want to have a friendly chat! We'll do our best to help,

if we can't we'll put you in touch with others who can.

Volunteers will leave items on the doorstep, follow hand washing advice & keep their distance.

If you'd like to lend a hand in St David's please contact us too!

Tel: 01392 92 77 90

[Email: stdavidshelp@eccentre.org](mailto:stdavidshelp@eccentre.org)



## **St David & St Michael, Exeter Picture Quiz**

This was supposed to be for the quiz evening at St David's Church in late April, but as that is not now going to take place, Pete and Alice Francis thought they could set it as a challenge for this period of Lock Down. If you are able to go out for a stroll, it might give you something to do. If not, see what you can remember!

The 26 photos were taken within the area surrounding St David's Church. They focus on architectural features and signs, the sort of thing you pass daily and fail to notice! How many can you match with their location?

Please write the corresponding letter from the map underneath each photo. The closing date for entries is Saturday 9th May and annotated pictures should be sent to [vicar@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk) before that date.

They will be judged by Tina Guthrie and the winner will be drawn from the correct entries. The winner will have a bottle of red or white wine (their choice) delivered (with due care for social distancing) within the Exeter area.

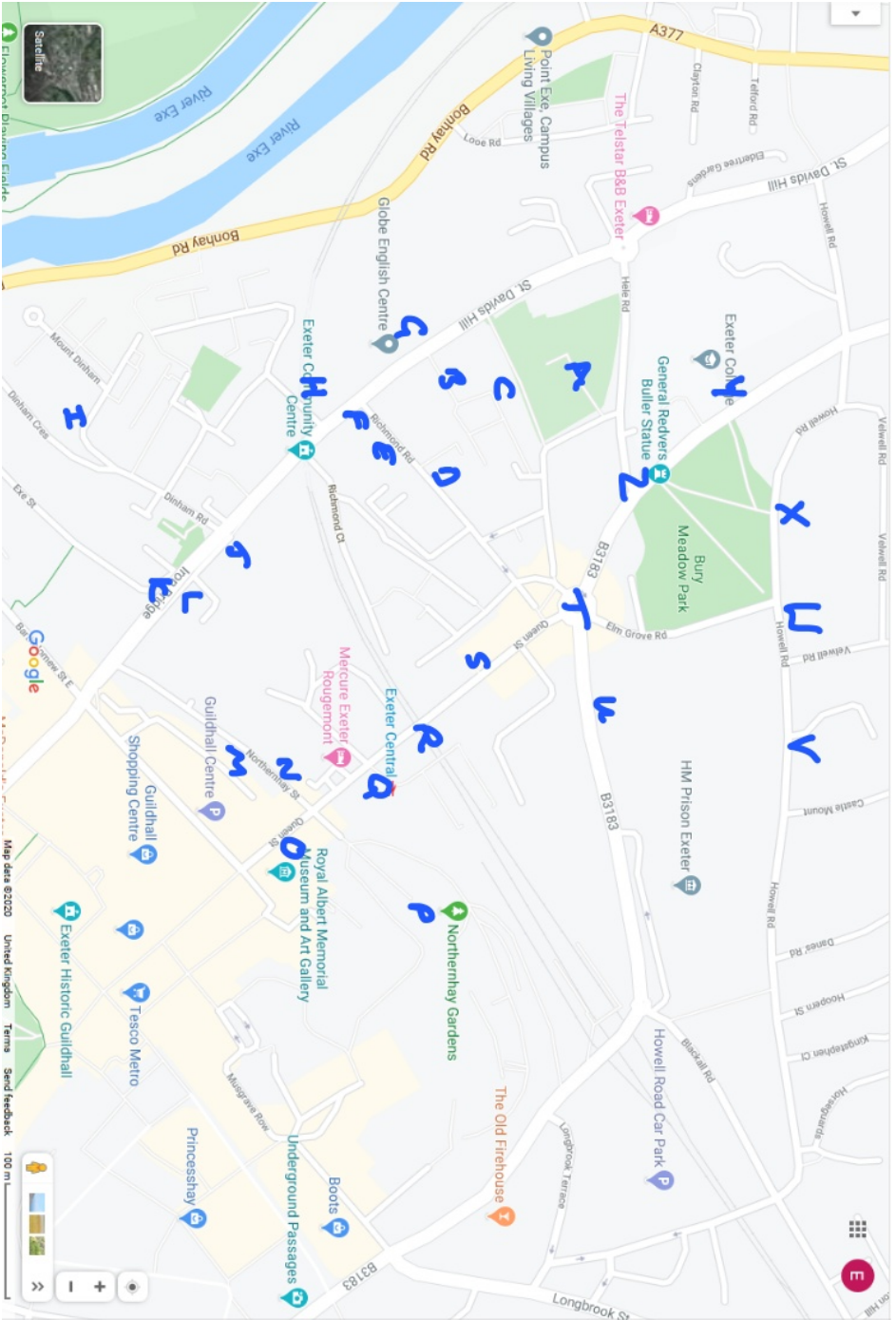
A huge thank you to Pete and Alice for providing this fun challenge. Enjoy!

The quiz, map and photos can also be downloaded from the St David's website at

<https://stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk/2020/04/28/st-david-st-michael-exeter-picture-quiz-closing-date-9th-may-2020/>

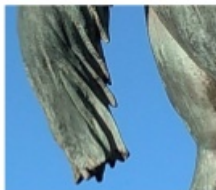
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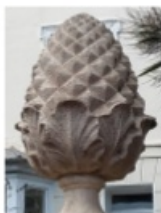
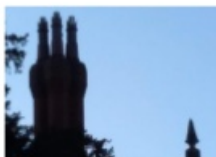




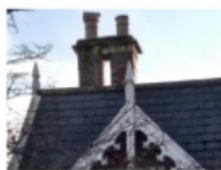
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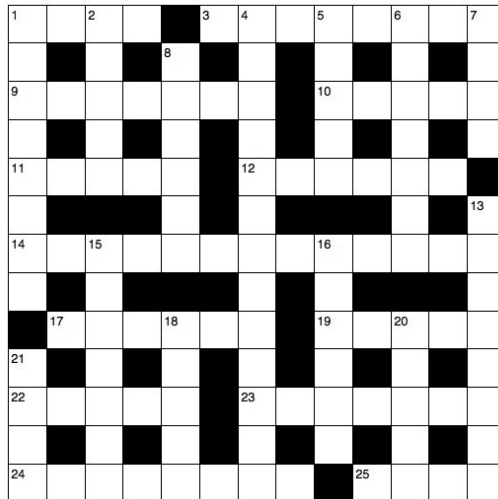
ANNEX



chm



# May crossword



## Crosswords Clues

### Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)  
 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)  
 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)  
 10 Group of eight (5)  
 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)  
 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)  
 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)  
 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)  
 19 Attend to (3,2)  
 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)  
 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)  
 24 Rule of sovereign (8)  
 25 Test (anag.) (4)

### Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where

- Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

## May Sudoku - Medium

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

# Days of Note - May

## **1<sup>st</sup> May - May Day: unbridled merriment**

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: 'for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?'

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

*The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower*

*We are here today and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour.*

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> May - Athanasius, the theologian who gave us the Nicene Creed**

This is the name behind the Athanasian Creed. Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was twenty-nine years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325.

Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council's debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, 300 bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is He the Son of God? Is He God or man or both together? Did He exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

The young Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a 'Saviour' created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding. It was his uncompromising stand for Nicene theology that gave rise to the familiar saying, Athanasius contra mundum, 'Athanasius against the world.'

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism. Of his many writings the most significant was his great study on the person and work of Christ; 'On the Incarnation of the Word of God', written before he was 30 years old. The whole Church of Christ is always in need of bishops, leaders and theologians in the mould of Athanasius.

### **8<sup>th</sup> May - Julian of Norwich, a voice from a distant cell**

*by Canon David Winter*

Many years ago, studying English literature at university, I was intrigued to be introduced to the work of Julian of Norwich. She was writing at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

Our lecturer was mainly concerned with her importance in the history of the language (she was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English). But I was more intrigued by the ideas she was expressing. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practise.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

### **16<sup>th</sup> May - Caroline Chisholm, helping the emigrants to Australia**

If you want an example of someone who can show you their faith through their works, Caroline Chisholm is a saint for you. This doughty little 19<sup>th</sup>

century English woman had such a compassionate heart that she helped tens of thousands of people, from India to Australia.

Caroline was born in Northamptonshire in May 1808. Her father William was a pig dealer, and already had 15 children, by four wives. When Caroline was about five, her father brought a poor maimed soldier into the family home and urged his children to look after the wretched man well, as he had fought for their freedom. This disinterested compassion for a poor struggling 'outsider' would become the lodestar of Caroline's life.

In 1830, when Caroline was 22, she married Captain Archibald Chisholm, of the East India Company Army. Out in Madras, Caroline grew alarmed for the young girls growing up in the barracks. She founded the Female School of Industry for the Daughters of European Soldiers, to provide a practical education.

After having two sons and working on the Indian subcontinent for a number of years, Captain Chisholm was granted a two-year furlough in 1838 on grounds of ill health. The family moved to the sunshine of Australia, near Sydney. Here Caroline was appalled at the conditions that faced emigrants, especially female, arriving in the colony. Many ended up working the streets, just to survive.

Caroline stayed for seven years in Australia, placing more than 11,000 people in homes and jobs, and in all, her Female Immigrant Home helped more than 40,000 people. Highly respected by the government, she gave evidence before Legislative Council Committees, but accepted money from no one. When Archibald left the army in 1845 he and Caroline toured Australia at their own expense, collecting more than 600 statements from emigrants that detailed the truth about the problems of emigration.

Back in England, the statements caught the attention and respect of Charles Dickens, the House of Lords Select Committees, Lord Shaftesbury, Sir Sydney Herbert, Wyndham Harding FRS and even Pope Pius IX. Caroline and Archibald went on to help more than 3,000 people *safely* emigrate to Australia, before moving back there themselves, where they both died in 1877. In his novel *Bleak House*, Charles Dickens is said to have partly based the character of Mrs Jellyby on Caroline Chisholm.

## **11<sup>th</sup> May - Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ**

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during

which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

**26<sup>th</sup> May - Augustine of Canterbury, apostle to the English**

Augustine, a 6th century Italian prior, holds a unique place in British history. He became the 'apostle to the English,' although it was with great reluctance.

In 596 Augustine was chosen by Pope Gregory to head a mission of monks whom he wanted to send to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons. Augustine was not a bold man, and by the time he and his band of priests reached Gaul, they wished to turn back. But Gregory would not hear of it, and he bolstered their confidence by sending some more priests out to them, and by consecrating Augustine bishop. Finally, the little party, now 40 in number, landed at Ebbsfleet, Kent in 597.

It would be fascinating to have a detailed description of that first meeting between Bishop Augustine and Ethelbert, powerful King of Kent. Whatever Augustine said, it must have been effective, for Ethelbert granted the 40 priests permission to stay in a house in Canterbury. He even allowed them to preach to his people, while he himself considered their message of Christianity. His wife, Bertha, was a Christian princess from Paris, but she does not seem to have played any role in the conversion of Kent.

By 601 Ethelbert and many of his people had been baptised Christians. The mission to the English was well underway. More clergy, some books, a few relics and several altar vessels arrived from Rome. At Gregory's wise urging, Augustine decided to consolidate the mission in one small area, rather than try and reach all of Kent. So, Augustine stayed in Canterbury, where he built the cathedral and founded a school. He left only temporarily to establish a see in London.

Also, at Gregory's wise urging, Augustine did not destroy the pagan temples of the people of Kent, but only the idols in them. In this way, familiar rites were taken over and used for the celebration of the Christian feasts. Meanwhile, before his death in 604, Augustine helped Ethelbert to draft the earliest Anglo-Saxon written laws to survive – and so influenced British law for centuries to come.

### **30th Josephine Butler, social reformer for women**

Josephine Butler is the 'saint' for anyone who believes in social justice. This remarkable 19<sup>th</sup> century clergyman's wife became a renowned campaigner for women's rights and for putting a halt to human trafficking.

Josephine was born in Northumberland in 1828, the daughter of a wealthy family of liberal politics and committed Christian faith. They had already been deeply involved in the abolition of slavery and the extension of the franchise. Such notions of equality instilled into Josephine a passionate desire to combat social injustice.

In 1852 Josephine married George Butler, the son of the Headmaster of Harrow, who shared her views. George was ordained in 1854 and they moved first to Oxford and then to Cheltenham. In 1863 tragedy struck when their daughter Eva fell to her death.

Josephine's grief found expression a few years later, when in 1865 George had become Headmaster of Liverpool College, and the couple were settling in Liverpool. Josephine was horrified at the lives of destitute women in Liverpool, and so she founded a 'home' to care for them, as well as a hostel to train them for suitable work. In 1869 she agreed to head a campaign against the Contagious Diseases Act of 1866, and by 1871 she had addressed a Royal Commission, explaining how this Act brutalised these women, already trapped in the slavery of prostitution. She got the Act rescinded.

By 1882, when George had become a Residentiary Canon of Winchester Cathedral, Josephine had not only founded a refuge for recovering prostitutes in Winchester, but she had also begun to fight sex trafficking across the world. This included freeing British girls from Belgian brothels. By 1885 Josephine had exposed the white slave trade in London, and had got Parliament to increase the age of consent for girls from 13 to 16, and to penalise those engaged in the transport of women for profit.

In 1890 George died, but Josephine continued her work until retirement to Northumberland, where she died in 1906.

All in all, Josephine Butler's deep Christian compassion transformed the lives of many tens of thousands of suffering women. She has been described as one of the most important early members of the feminist movement.

### **31<sup>st</sup> May - Not a Ghost but a Gift**

*By Canon David Winter*

We used to call it Whitsun – 'White Sunday' because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and

we've even changed its name. It's now 'Pentecost', which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.

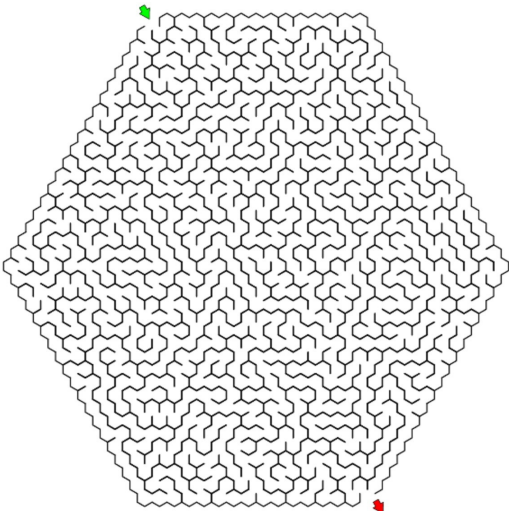


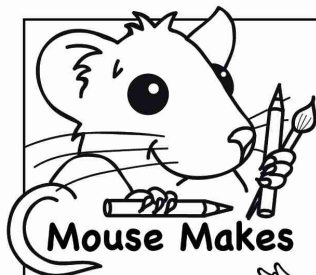
# Word search

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c	h	e	e	r	e	d	i	s	r	a	e	l

chosen	meeting	donkeys
crops	animals	sons
everyone	Israel	king
countries	cheered	hiding
leader	servant	found
luggage	daughters	land
palace	Samuel	Saul
rejecting	home	other

# Maze





"The fruit of the Spirit is  
love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, goodness, faithfulness  
gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also  
behave in accordance with the Spirit"

How many  
other words can you find  
using the letters from:

**FRUIT OF  
THE SPIRIT?**



**Read**  
*Galatians*  
5:13-26



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

Which  
symbol goes  
with which fruit?



**LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD**  
**AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST**  
**PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP**  
**GOODWILL • GENEROSTITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY**  
**FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE**  
**SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE**

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...

We want a king like all the other countries



God told Samuel

It's not you they are rejecting but Me.



If you have a king, he will take your sons to be his army and your daughters to work in his palace.



He will take the best of your land, your crops and your animals



We still want a king.

Samuel sent them home.



I was hoping he would choose me..

Saul and his servant were looking for some donkeys that had run off.



They decided to ask Samuel to ask God where the donkeys were



God told Samuel that Saul was to be the king



Samuel called everyone to a meeting and told them that God had chosen a king.

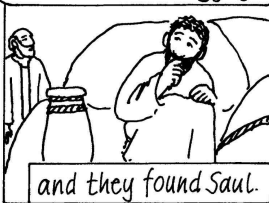


God told them that Saul was to be their king...



but Saul was hiding.

He's behind the luggage.



and they found Saul.

The people cheered!



Long live the King!

## Puzzle solutions

S	T	O	P		C	A	L	L	U	P	O	N
T		R		C		B		L		U		O
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I	N	N	E	R		H	U	D	S	O	N	
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## The deadline for inclusion of articles for the June issue of New Leaves is Sunday 24th 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.