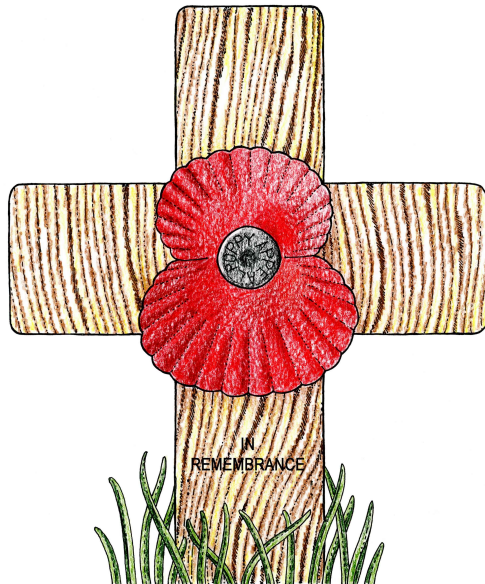


New Leaves

November 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

New Leaves - From the Vicarage - November 2020

Living with it – adapting to new restrictions

I am rewriting this letter on 1st November and it is clear that churches are going to be closed for public worship for the coming month. This will be very painful to many Christians and those of other faiths. But we are all called upon to play our part in helping to reduce the transmission of Covid.

Last month when I wrote Covid cases were rising in Exeter but it seems that the University has done a very effective job in keeping the lid on the infections there. Indeed we have a huge amount to be grateful for in Exeter, living in an area which has escaped the worst ravages of Covid-19. But as I write cases are rising rapidly across the country and now tougher restrictions have just arrived for us all.

So ... as far as any of us know at the moment we will be returning to online worship for at least four weeks. We are still awaiting clarification of the Governments restrictions but it looks as if we will be able to offer a time of private prayer each week which will probably be for an hour at St Michael's on Wednesday morning from 9.30 - 10.30am and an hour at St David's on from 10 - 11am Thursday morning. I will confirm these arrangements in our weekly mailings.

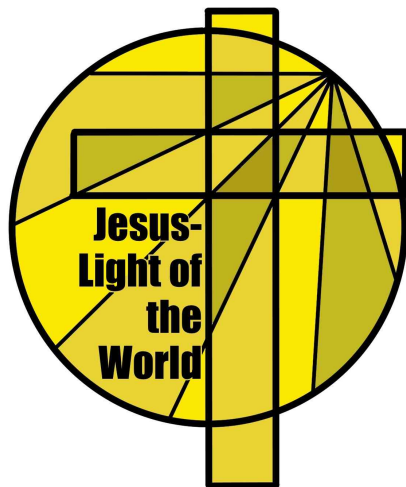
We shall make online services available either by streaming them live on Facebook or by posting them to Youtube with links to our Facebook pages. In recent weeks our Sunday services from St David's have not only been streamed live on Facebook but have also been made available afterwards on **Youtube** through the St David's website. These acts of worship are available now just by going onto

the website and clicking the Youtube button. You will see a range of past services there. I am indebted to Clive Wilson for setting this up for us and hope that you will find the facility useful, especially in these coming weeks.

Do try and join us for Morning Prayers at 9am on Tuesdays and Fridays on the St David's Facebook page, and 9am Wednesday Mattins on the St Michael's Page. It would be good to have your company in prayer. I will also try to lead Compline once a week, usually at 9pm one evening, but it depends on my schedule for the week. I will always try to flag that up in the weekly notices. If you do follow us on Facebook please join in with comments if you would like to or suggest prayers which we can offer then, or later.

There are also certain exemptions for the use of churches by therapeutic groups and Foodbanks, so I hope that we will be able to continue providing Tuesday packed suppers to the Great Western Hotel during this time.

It is very important that we continue to encourage and support each other in prayer during this uncertain and troubling time and, of course, to pray for wisdom for those who have to make very difficult decisions on our behalf and to pray for protection for those caring for others on the front line.



Pastoral Support

Many of you have appreciated phone calls from other members of the church community. If would like to be phoned by someone and haven't

had any contact please let me know at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com or by ringing me on 01392 660226 or Ash on 07855305519.

We will also be continuing to send out weekly notices with readings and sermon by email and if you would like to be added to the circulation list (or removed) please let us know.

The PCC has a long-standing Pastoral Fund to help in situations of hardship. We have four trustees who administer grants and if you know of someone who needs help you can either contact Ian Cartwright directly or go through me, or one of our Wardens, Clergy or Readers. The fund can't pay cash to individuals but it can be used to pay directly for a wide range of goods and services to help people in need. To be eligible people either need to live in the parish or to have a connection with the parish (for instance through St David's School). Please don't hesitate to come forward if you know of someone who is in need who might qualify. We should be using this fund! I know that Ian Cartwright will be able to give clear advice about whether an application would be valid.

Psalms by Zoom

There are two more sessions of our 'Psalms by Zoom' study coming up this month. We will be offering these on Tuesday afternoons 3 and 10th November at 2pm. I will publish the Zoom link in our weekly sheets, and it would be great to see you if you would like to join us.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended on 27th October and those who stood for office. Emma White and Glynis Harflett were re-elected as our Churchwardens and Stephanie Aplin as Chapelwarden and we appreciate their generosity in serving in this critical role. I would especially like to thank our PCC secretary, Helena Walker, who made it possible for people to join by Zoom. This seemed to work remarkably well and is certainly a first for the parish!

Advent Fair, Saturday November 28th

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the proposed Advent Fair. But thank you for all the offers of support already received and we may try to set something up in the New Year once future regulations are known.

Shoeboxes for Moldova

For many years we have, at St David's Church, been supporting CREE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe) by sending Christmas Shoe Boxes to Moldova. We are doing it again this year. Our boxes need to be ready by **Sunday November 29th** for transport to Moldova.

For further information about box preparation can be found at: www.cr2ee.org.uk Please ring Ann Watts 01392 276948 for further information and look out for stories elsewhere in this magazine.

If you would like to prepare a box please bring it to St David's Church during private prayer time on Thursday morning or leave it in the porch at the Vicarage (95 Howell Road) and I will make sure that it gets blessed and collected.

A Story of Refugees

Whatever the rights or wrongs of refugees trying to get to Britain by boat, no one could be unmoved by the death of the young Kurdish-Iranian family who died in rough seas in the channel in the last week of October. It is hard for most of us to imagine what such families have been through on their travels. But an insight into the experience of refugees came to me recently through a powerful novel 'The Beekeeper of Aleppo' by Christi Lefteri. The author draws on the experience of spending two summers as a volunteer at a UNICEF-supported refugee centre for women and children in Athens. The story follows the journey of Nuri a beekeeper and his wife, Afra, an artist. After the tragic death of their son they finally decide that they must leave Aleppo and the novel tracks their emotional as well as their physical journey. It is a harrowing tale but finishes on a note of hope. I felt that the author's own experience gave this book a ring of authenticity and would certainly recommend it

Chaplaincy at Exeter University

To finish with some happy news...! I mentioned last month that we are covering services in the Mary Harris Chapel during the maternity leave of the Lazenby Chaplain, Hannah Alderson. I am delighted to report that Hannah's baby arrived on the feast of St Simon and St Jude and is named 'Jude'.

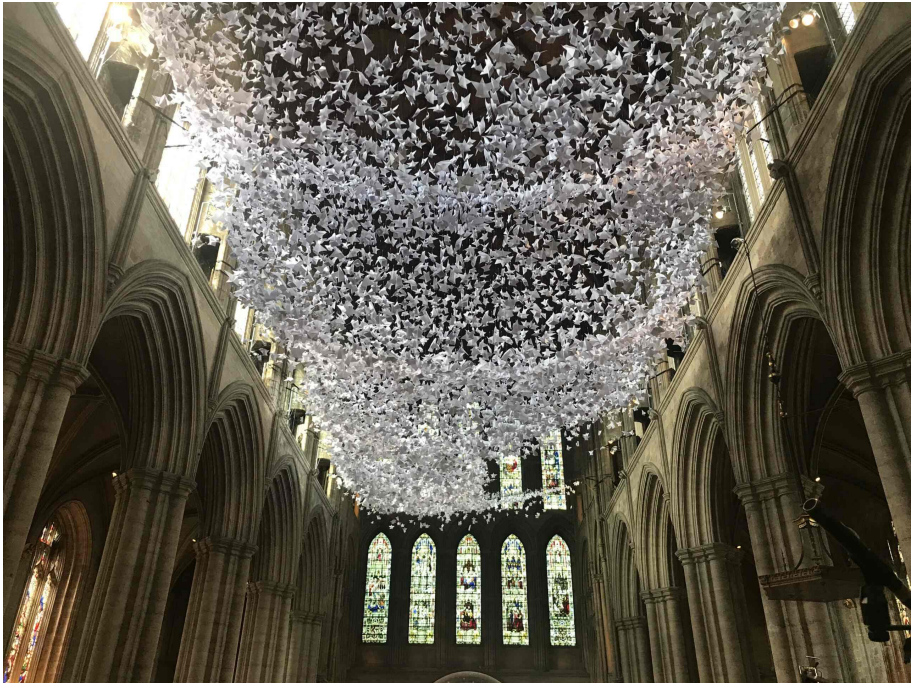
With every good wish and blessing,

Nigel



November 2020: St Michael and All Angels, Mt Dinham

The Nave of Ripon Cathedral has an awe-inspiring display of 10,000 origami angels, designed and made during the first days of lockdown, entitled 'A Wing and A Prayer'. It was planned to support the



community through prayer. Last Sunday's Epistle underlined this really clearly: 'Through prayer, supplication and thanksgiving, be joyful in the Lord' wrote Paul to the Philippians. It's sound wisdom, especially in these times. This morning, Fr Nigel made it clear that this joyfulness is not a kind of Pollyanna attitude; it doesn't ignore the sorrow or relentless bad news, but looks for the light in the dark, for the underlying strength in the pervasive weakness.

I'm always surprised (though perhaps I shouldn't be) by reports of 'new' ideas to make our lives more comfortable. Today's (25th October) Telegraph carries an article about living well in these difficult times. 'Hygge', last year's dream concept, has been replaced

by another Nordic notion which aims to help us with darker (physical and metaphorical) days. In the main, the message is to go with the flow, not to fight, but to have resistance by way of warmth, light and comfort to cheer up the dark. The Nordic mind-set accepts winter and cold as normal; we are not so keen, and yearn for the warmth, but we can learn to live with the colder part of the year and find joy in it. All of this is endorsed by psychotherapist Julia Samuel, who wrote 'This Too Shall Pass' with the statement that the only way through is to grow hope, which she says is the 'alchemy that turns a life around'... Having ditched traditional Christianity, this generation now finds that the essence of the faith is just that: hope which is essential to life.

A few days ago, the Rev Lucy Winkett admitted to finding the news so dreary that she switched to other channels of information for beauty in nature, music, birdsong and all sorts of other refreshing. The great discovery is of hope in all these elements. If there is any good thing, contemplate it joyfully, to paraphrase St Paul writing to the Philippians.

I must thank John and Monica Darch for bringing to my notice a news item that I had missed; I think a number of journalists missed it: who wants to know about prayer, anyway? We can be spiritual, but not religious, mindful, but not too piously prayerful, and caring but not overtly Christian, according to the media. Woe betide us if we don't fit the pre-conceived notion, held by the non-religious, of what a Christian should do, think or say. The item I'm referring to is about the building of a wall containing a million bricks, each representing a prayer answered. It will be known as the *Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer*, in the shape of an infinity loop. It will be larger than The Angel of the North and will be seen in Coleshill, on the outskirts of Birmingham. It is inspired by the Rev Richard Gamble, a former Chaplain to Leicester City football club. The wall will have a visitor centre, a café, a bookshop and 24-hour on-site chaplaincy. Already there are heart-warming stories of prayers answered and of course, a need for funding. Richard Gamble does not doubt that the structure will be completed by 2022.

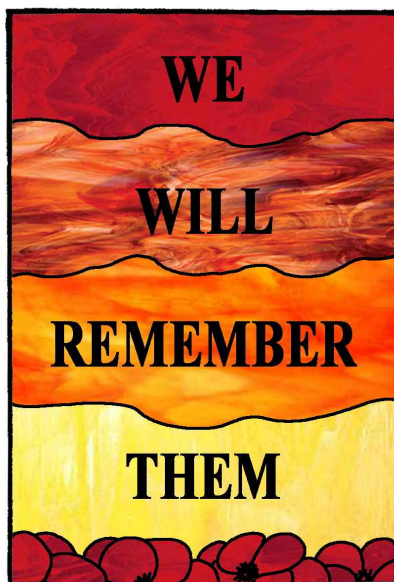
Prayer, supplication and thanksgiving. All we need for our spiritual lives to grow in the hope of grace.

November brings the days of Remembrance, both of those who have died and of those who have fallen in battle in the World Wars and other conflicts. All too soon, these will be historical curiosities, and there will be few people left who have any direct connection with the wars that have shaped our cultures. Our current battles are of very different kinds. We live in times when political decisions are questioned, sometimes in innocence, at others in deliberate ignorance, again at others to be unwholesomely provocative. The lives lived by our late families and friends give us examples to live by; an obituary I read recently stated the person who died peacefully had been sustained by her 'faith, family and friends.' What a wonderful tribute to a life well-lived.

Prayer, supplication and thanksgiving. The recipe for a good life. Lived by the grace of God.



Stephanie Aplin.



Chosen Readings for November 2020

@St David's

Sunday 1st November All Saints Day

1st Reading: Revelation 7:9-end
2nd Reading: **1 John 3:1-3
Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12
Preacher: Belinda Speed- Andrews; Bible Reader: Alan Baker
Prayer Leader: Nigel Walsh

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday 3rd Sunday before Advent

1st Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16
2nd Reading: **1Thessalonians 4:23-end
Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-13
Preacher: Bill Pattinson ; Bible
Reader: Alice Francis
Prayer Leader: Belinda Speed-Andrews

Sunday 15th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

1st Reading: Zephaniah 1:7;12-end
2nd Reading: 1Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30
Preacher: Ash Leighton Plom ; Bible Reader: Helena Walker
Prayer Leader: Robert Mitchell

Sunday 22nd November Christ the King Sunday next before Advent

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24
2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:15-end
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-end
Preacher: ; David James ; Bible Reader: Ruth James
Prayer Leader: Ian Cartwright

Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday

1st Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-end
Preacher: Nigel Guthrie ; Bible Reader: Geoff Crockett

Prayer Leader: Richard Johnson

Sunday 6th December Advent 2

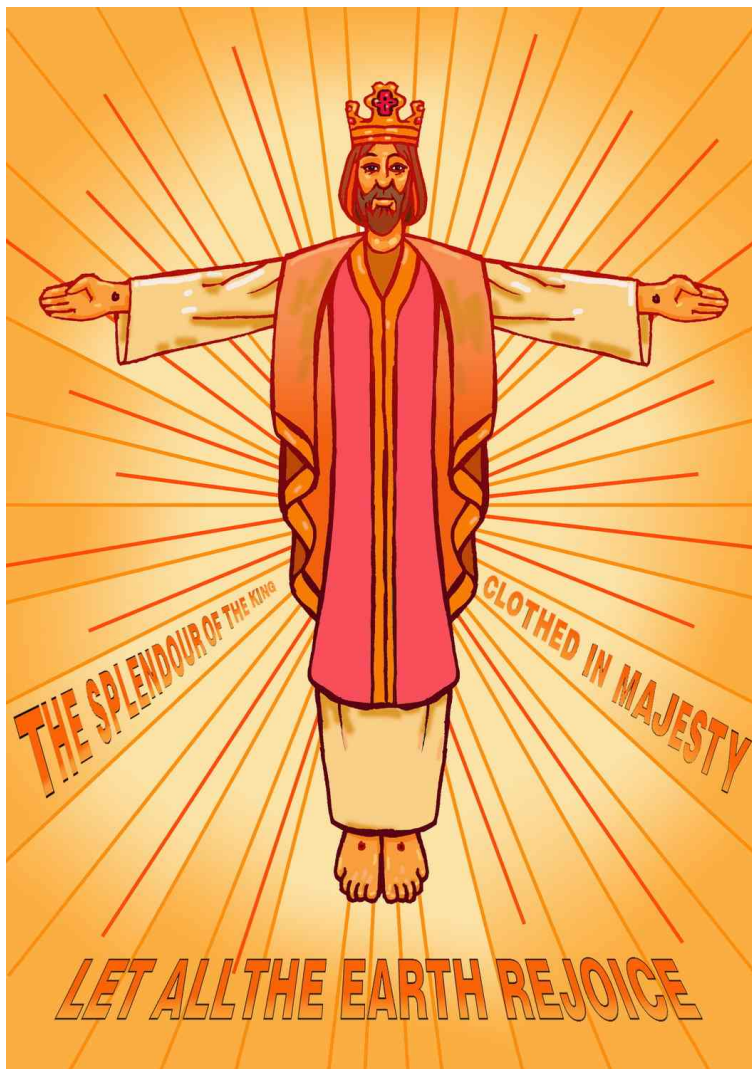
1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

Preacher: Nigel Guthrie Bible Reader: Jean Thomas

Prayer Leader: Glynis Harflett



Services, Music & Events for St Michael's

- November 2020

It's been good to hear some SATB singing in St Michael's again during October. Thanks to Natasha Goldsworth for directing & Matt Clark on the Organ, as a rota of well-spaced Choir members brings more music to our Sunday Masses.

It was especially good to be able to have Choral Evensong & Benediction on 4th October, with 10 in the congregation as well as well-spaced Clergy, Choir, Organist & Server 'up front'. Thanks to you all. First Sunday 6pm this month will be a Sung Requiem for All Souls.

The first Sunday in December, 6th at 6pm, will be our Advent Procession & Carol Service, with as much Candlelight, Music, Readings & Prayer as we can manage.

Wednesday morning Matins & Mass continue at 9.30/10am, with that Mass streamed to "Friends of St Michael's" Facebook group.

As well as the "Friends" Facebook group for social interaction online, St Michael's now also has a Facebook page for more official information and Service etc will be streamed here too. Its address is:-

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter/>

Please continue to observe Covid Guidelines when you come to Church . All are welcome, but please do not come if you feel unwell or are particularly vulnerable.

Sunday Eucharists are streamed from St David's Church at 9.30am on their Facebook page, and are available later on YouTube

Owing to the new Lockdown in England, there will be no Services in Church from 5th November. Hopefully we can return on Sunday 6th December. Please check online, Facebook etc. for updates, and for streamed Services.

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter> Persevere in Hope.

The Services we will have are listed below; Music will depend on resources & Covid rules.

Sun 1 Nov, All Saints' Day. 11am Sung Mass. We welcome Fr Robin Eastoe.

Sun 1 Nov 6pm Sing Requiem Mass for All Souls' Day (transferred from 2nd). A blend of Plainsong & movements from Faure Requiem, as resources allow. The names of the Faithful Departed will be read & prayed for.

Wed 4 Nov, 9.30 Matins, 10am Low Mass (monthly Requiem) also on "Friends of St Michael's" Facebook.

Sun 8 Nov, Remembrance Sunday. N.B. 10.55am. Act of Remembrance and Sung Mass. Fr Nigel Guthrie.

Wed 11 Nov, 9.30 Matins, 10am Low Mass, also on Facebook. We remember St Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397.

Sun 15 Nov, Trinity XXIII, 11am Sung Mass. Fr Dominic Cyrus.

Wed 18 Nov, 9.30 Matins, 10am Low Mass, also on Facebook. We remember St Elizabeth of Hungary, 1231.

Sun 22 Nov, Christ the King, 11am Sung Mass. Fr Nigel Guthrie. Howard Friend preaching. Also St Cecilia Day, patron of musicians, martyr, 230.

Wed 25 Nov, 9.30 Matins, 10am Low Mass, also on Facebook. We remember St Catherine of Alexandria, 4th century martyr.

Sun 29 Nov, Advent Sunday, 11am Sung Mass. Fr Dominic Cyrus.

Wed 2 Dec, 9.30 Matins, 10am Low Mass, also on Facebook. Monthly Requiem.

Sun 6 Dec, Advent II, St Nicolas. 11am Sung Mass. Fr Robin Eastoe.

Sun 6 Dec 6pm, Advent Procession & Carol Service.

As we continue to keep faith, hope & love incarnate through this covid-19 crisis, November is a month of remembrance in both the Church and the Civic sphere.



Richard Barnes
– 27/10/20.

Cree and Christmas shoe boxes for Moldova

At St David's, we have tried for a good few years to share some of our Christmas joy and good fortune by filling shoe boxes with presents for families in Moldova,

IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THIS YEAR

The following is a quote from Hugh Scudder of CREE:

"What a strange year 2020 has turned out to be. We have struggled with a myriad of rules and restrictions, but thankfully most of us have, so far, avoided succumbing to the terrifying power of this invisible enemy. Sadly the people of Moldova, Europe's poorest country, did not have the luxury of remaining at home during lockdown. For them, no work equals no money, and no money, no food. As a result the pandemic has been the cause of enormous stress and and anxiety

Schools have been closed since March, but have now reopened. Throughout the summer the children, and all the families in the village, have been working in the fields, but have seen little rain and despite the many hours of arduous labour, the harvest is terrible which spells utter disaster to everyone.

IT IS THEREFORE NOT AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THIS CHRISTMAS APPEAL IS POSSIBLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE CREE HAS EVER HAD."

The weather in winter is very cold indeed and this affects everyone, especially the elderly. It can be so cold they can be actually terrified by death. The day time temperature can be minus 17 degrees. (Our freezers register minus 18 degrees) . Wood to light a fire is more important than food, and may have to be dragged long distances. Any donations to help provide fuel would be very welcome and could be life saving.

BACK TO THE CHRISTMAS BOXES

In a country with so little, a simple shoebox is such a beacon of hope. Receiving a present from someone you have never met makes Christmas very special even more so if it includes a signed card. These boxes will not only give great pleasure to the recipients, who would probably otherwise receive nothing and who will immediately want to share toys and crayons, but also their parents and grandparents who are so delighted to see the children receive what they cannot provide. It is not just the children who love their boxes. The elderly and the lonely enjoy theirs very much also.

POSSIBLE CONTENTS OF BOXES

Boxes can be for all ages and either sex from babies to grandparents

Label as appropriate

Boy Age about Girl Age about

Man. Woman. Family. Grandparents. Grandmother. Grandfather

Basic needs

These are an expensive luxury and therefore very welcome

Soap. Toothpaste. Shampoo. Face cloth. Hairbrush Comb

No Bubble Bath as most people will be washing from a bowl with water collected from the well

Education equipment

Pens pencils rulers rubbers notebooks ,jotters, sharpeners ,rucksack. colouring Pens and books, paints, sticker books

Clothing

Hats scarves gloves shirts, shorts, jumpers dresses jackets trainers etc

Jewellery.

Necklaces earrings hair bands and clips

Toys

All sorts. Nothing sharp or dangerous. No toy guns or swords,no batteries, no playing cards, no medicine

Food

Biscuits, sweets, package soup, chocolate etc

Boxes need to be in church by the morning of Sunday November 29 th to
be picked up for their journey to Moldova
There will usually be some spare boxes in church
Any questions ask Ann Watts

Please take part if you can . You will enjoy it too



Ann Watts

23.10.2020

For further information please visit
<http://www.cr2ee.org.uk/>



Via Social Media – Golden October

In October, the month of Harvest home, the traditional broadcast media gave me more interesting food for thought.

Reflecting the themes of secularisation and world history, on University Challenge neither team knew the date of the Annunciation. Guessing dates in December showed a lack of biological knowledge too. But they were all over the 1590s, knowing that North African Arabs were attacking the black Africans of Mali, that China was defending Korea against Japanese attacks, and the Mughal Empire regained Kandahar. So, not just white Europeans behaving badly.

I'm sure most decades are interesting, but the 1590s seem particularly so. They would see William Byrd compose his celebrated Masses for 3, 4 & 5 voices.

"William's next job could be in hiding"

And he already knows it.

Recusant, Stay Alert, Reformation.

Bowls and bad weather continued to help England's Navy against the Spanish. A plague epidemic in Malta was contained by lockdown measures.

Nothing much changes.

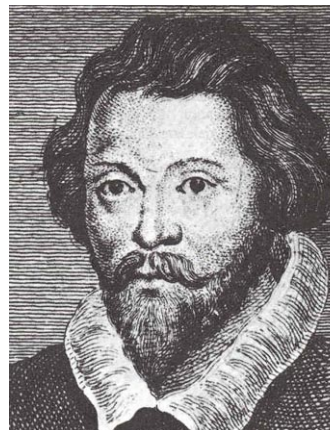
A fascinating, if necessarily selective, short series was "The Secret History of Writing" presented by Dr Lydia Wilson of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies at Cambridge.

It could well have been called 'The Sacred History of Writing'. Hieroglyph means 'sacred carving' and it annoys me that the writings in the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead are called '(magic) spells' by Egyptologists. They look like 'prayers' to me, albeit pagan.

It was accountancy that brought the earliest writing and tallying out of the temples, so let's hear it for Church Treasurers. It was possibly Canaanite miners who made the first moves from pictorial words to an alphabet for spelling words.

By good fortune or providence, printing, starting with Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz, flourished first in western Europe because the Latin alphabet is much easier to 'set' in movable type than the Arabic or even Cyrillic ones, not to mention Chinese scripts.

It was her thesis that allowed the Reformation, Enlightenment, and



Industrial & Scientific revolutions to happen first in the West.

The progression from cheap papyrus in Egypt & Rome, through expensive vellum illuminating the 'Dark' & Middle Ages, to the arrival of paper from China into the West was a strong influence on levels of literacy. History driven as much by technology as by ideas; though education helps, of course, too.

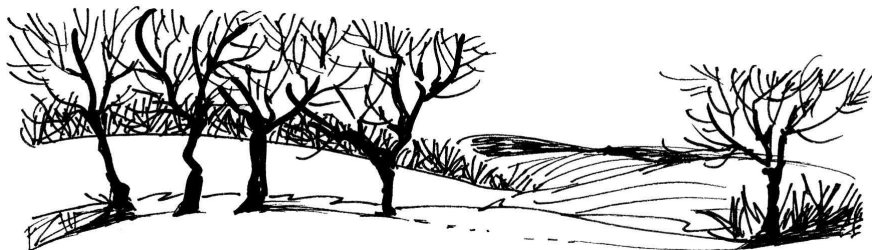
I assume it was an ironic coincidence that "Dave", a repeats channel, showed the film of Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code" the evening before Bible Sunday! An entertaining but utterly spurious distortion of the Gospels and Church History.

This month Bishop Olivia Graham made a nice YouTube video encouraging the good people of Oxford Diocese to be more environmentally conscious, a passion of hers, timely & necessary, But her unorthodox Big Bang Theology, extending Christ's Incarnation to include the whole of the Cosmos, was noted on Twitter as being well on the way to Pantheism. She issued a 'clarification' (bishops don't apologise) and the Universe kept evolving.

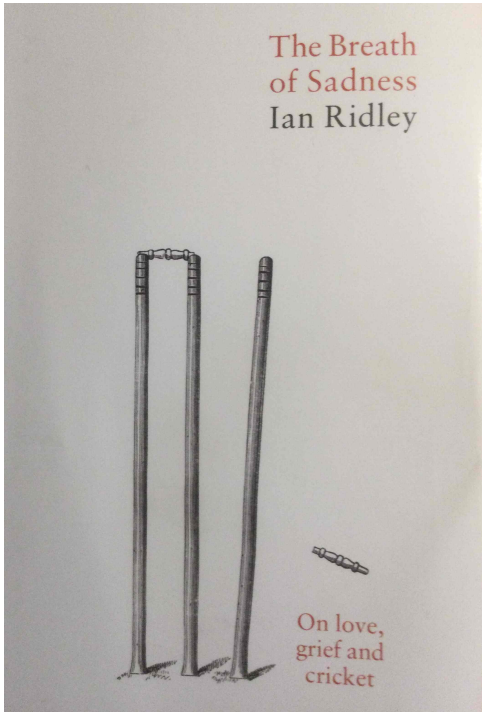
As your Twitter representative, I would dispute the idea that Twitter is only for a certain (oldies) demographic. There may not be much young TOWIE traffic (the only way is evangelical). But there is certainly a lively group of youngish, intelligent, intellectual, musical and theologically literate people on Twitter. Christians who were desperate in lockdown for real sacramental worship. And are so grateful for both online and Covid-secure Liturgy.



Richard Barnes – 27/10/20.



The Breath of Sadness by Ian Ridley



I don't always buy in to the saying, "Never judge a book by its cover." A plain white cover, with a picture of a set of old-fashioned looking cricket stumps, one bail on and the other in the process of falling to the ground, is the simple front cover of the book I've just read. The title, written in red above the stumps, is "The Breath of Sadness" and the author's name in black is "Ian Ridley". "On love, grief and cricket", also written in red, appear below the tumbling bail. It is a perfect reflection and description of the poignant read ahead where Ian Ridley intimately shares his

grieving and loving of his well known sports journalist wife, Vikki Orvice, the maiden who bowled him over. Watching county cricket in 2018, the year of her death from cancer at just 56, became for Ian "a destination and activity, a peaceful place where I could grieve in solitude with humanity still at hand." It's a quite brilliant read and I so related to the quiet, unobtrusive way you can watch county cricket with so many other thoughts going on in your mind.

The headline for Vikki's obituary in the Times dated February 21st 2019 read: "Pioneering sports journalist who confronted male chauvinism in football and worked relentlessly through her illness." There's a photo of her interviewing David Beckham in 1998 and she also reported for The Sun on all Olympic Games since Sydney 2000. So it helps to read this book if you are a keen sportsperson, enjoying cricket especially, because for brief moments you can leave Ian's heartfelt grief and be reminded of the sound of leather striking willow. Yet the book will be valued by all who have

grieved or who are grieving (is there a difference?), for it is so full of love, life and hope, making you smile as well as cry.

Ian makes reference in his book to CS Lewis's "A Grief Observed" which begins, "No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear." He describes this fear well, often needing to return to his empty home earlier than planned where he is able to find and talk to his beloved partner. We read of times shared, favourite places visited, music memories and those special sporting occasions. We are left in no doubt that Vikki and Ian loved each other greatly, even listening in to Vikki saying, "I really do love you" with an emphasis on "do". All life is here, but love is the prominent character in this remarkable read, which I fully recommend.



William Pattinson

30.10.20



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:22-23

A Visit to St David's Cathedral

Recently Sue and I spent a few days holiday in Pembrokeshire, walking and sightseeing along the coastal path. It was our first visit and of course we had to visit St David's and its cathedral sunk in its hollow below sight of invaders. The cathedral is approached from the car park at the back across the River Alun passing the ruined Bishop's Palace, or more dramatically from the town (now city!) centre Cross square, through the Tower gate and down the 39 article steps (after Thomas Cranmer's 39 tenets) into the hollow.



St David founded a monastery on the site c600 AD, although the present cathedral dates from 1181 and there were several attacks and looting of the monastery buildings and St David's shrine in the 5 centuries between. Two bishops, Morgenau and Abraham, were killed by Viking invaders in 999 and 1080, and there was an earthquake in 1247. Bishop Gower built the Bishop's palace and the rood screen in the 14th century. During the reformation St David's shrine was stripped of its jewels and the Bishop confiscated the relics

of St David and St Justinian in order to counteract "superstition". He also dispersed the monastic library. He wasn't only a destroyer though as the magnificent timber nave roof was built during his time, but he strongly disapproved of the splendour and opulence of the Bishop's palace and moved out. The lead was stripped from the roof which hastened its decay. Further destruction came in the Civil War with Commonwealth troops ordered to strip the Cathedral of its lead. Stained-glass windows were smashed, the bells stolen from the tower, and the organ damaged beyond repair. The eastern part of the Cathedral was left unroofed and fell into ruin. At the end of the eighteenth century John Nash, the Prince Regent's architect, was employed to restore and stabilise the west front, a commission which restored his reputation nationally following bankruptcy and a divorce. Continuing structural problems were eventually tackled by Sir Gilbert Scott who discovered that the cracking of the tower was due to seepage from the river Alun. He braced the tower, moved the internal vault upwards to allow in more light and restored most of the cathedral. The Lady Chapel was restored later in 1901 and like our church has stained glass by Kempe.



Despite its turbulent history you are immediately struck by the serenity as you enter the cathedral and walk up its sloping nave floor towards the rood screen and above the magnificent Father Willis organ, which thankfully was silent and not disturbing the peace. Light

streams in from the upper windows. To welcome back visitors after the lockdown the Cathedral has a Praying Hands Pilgrimage, a journey with 6 stations offering space and peace to reflect and pray. (See

https://www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/Prayer%20Hands%20Pilgrimage-DESKTOP-H9FFNM0%20%28002%29_0.pdf)

They use elements of St David's teaching, 'Be joyful; keep the faith and do the little things.' We both felt St David's is a special place. In the prayer leaflet it is described as often called a 'thin place' where the distance between heaven and earth is as thin as gossamer and therefore a place where God's love can touch our lives and those whom we love.

At St David's shrine we were surprised and pleased to see that there were two memorial dedications to people we knew about. The first was to the parents of a good friend William, and the second to the church architect Peter Bird. He



was the architect of St David's, Wells, Winchester and Exeter cathedrals, as well as our church, St Davids. He was also an old friend of Sue's brother; they had met at university.

After an excellent lunch in the refectory we left refreshed both spiritually and bodily.



Clive Wilson

29 October 2020

Harvest 2020

Some thoughts on the words of a popular harvest hymn NEH 262

We thank thee then O Father
For all things bright and good,
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.

This hymn was written towards the end of the 18th century before the industrial revolution when society was largely agrarian. In our situation now at the beginning of the 21st century I found the words very thought provoking.

Last month at Harvest Thanksgiving I would have had some reservation about singing this hymn – apart from Covid restrictions. Our human activity has damaged the environment to such an extent that our life, our health and our food are all put in jeopardy.

The demand for cheap food (chickens raised on soy-based feed derived from deforested land) and easy living (who remembers ice on the inside of the bedroom window on winter mornings– no central-heating then; or scrubbing out waste bins – no plastic liners!) and travel (cars and aeroplanes are the major contributors to atmospheric pollution) has resulted in climate change and loss of biodiversity. David Attenborough has been telling us this for years and his recent programme, 'Extinction', leaves no doubt about the crisis we face.

No gifts have we to offer
For all thy love imparts,
But that which thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

It is right and good to give thanks, but we do have gifts to offer – our brains and knowledge to cooperate with nature rather than oppose it. And our approach to nature has scarcely been humble as we have sought to outdo and conquer nature. We don't really like untidy hedges and scrub, preferring a managed landscape. I know I am guilty of this in my own garden.

It is now hard for the young today to appreciate the wealth of wild flowers,

butterflies, other insects and wildlife in the countryside 60, or even 40, years ago. Natural wild areas are essential for a balanced ecosystem and biodiversity. It is good to see that now much is being done in rewilding. In the Lake district, for example, sheep will be prevented from grazing in some areas to allow the natural vegetation to flourish. I saw this in Iceland 40 years ago when I visited as a member of a schools expedition. An area near our camp was fenced off to keep the sheep out.

The science of genetics has enabled the production of grains and plants which give a higher yield. But these often require large applications of fertiliser and pesticide to thrive. Because a pesticide found to harm bees was banned in the UK the oil-seed rape harvest has largely failed this year. The breeding of livestock which give greater milk yield and improved quality of meat has meant supplementary manufactured feeding rather than relying on pasture. However organic farming is making a comeback and we need to appreciate that our food cannot be obtained cheaply without damage to our environment.

In July 2007 in this magazine I wrote about the Garden of Eden. It is a story of the rise of human beings to conscious awareness of self and of God, our creator. (Original blessing, not Original sin).

We found the Tree of Knowledge, now we are on the quest for the other tree in the garden – the Tree of Life.

Constance Cannon

23.10.2020



Don't Panic

In my younger days, I was a panicker, if there is such a word. At the slightest hint of a crisis, however small, I would go into full Drama Queen mode. But, my husband would be calm, and joke that little could not be solved with a Swiss army knife and a piece of baler twine (a coarse red



string, much used on farms and often found lying in hedges). We had little money so for our car we usually had old “bangers” kept running by my brother, Pete, a mechanic. Once, in the depths of the country, the silencer fell off and it’s illegal, I think, to drive without one. Alan happened to have a piece of twine and we got home. Another time, the radiator leaked and we couldn’t travel onwards. He used the dog’s bowl to fetch water from a nearby stream and, to my great surprise, produced a tin of spice from his tool kit and poured it into the radiator. It was something that Peter had said, would stop water leaking until we got home. On a lonely Scottish beach, we were enjoying the sea and sand with our three boys, when I noticed the tide coming in and we got in the car. Unfortunately the car had sunk in the sand. Panic! Alan had noticed a farm at the end of the lane and ran to it and came back with a farmer plus tractor. Safely on the lane we hurried off. Suddenly, someone asked, “Where’s Tim?”, our four year old. Horrified, Alan drove in reverse, down the lane. Of course, I’d got Tim drowned. Luckily, he was sitting, calmly reading his book, sitting on a rock. Like his father, he had not panicked.

One Sunday, we all drove into Shropshire for a picnic. We found a spot by a stream. The boys paddled and tried to dam the stream. (They were unsuccessful.) We settled down



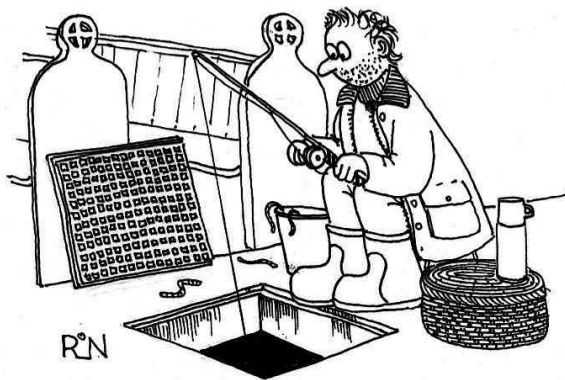
with our newspapers until teatime. Oh dear, I had forgotten the tea pot and picnic mugs – no drink. As usual, Alan had an idea. We had a large tin of pineapple, which he opened with his trusty Swiss army knife and we ate the fruit and then rinsed it in the stream and boiled water on the camping stove – tea and sugar were emptied from their coffee jars and , hey presto, tea. There are lots more tales and I shan't tell you about his attempts to open a tin of sardines with a bicycle pedal. Since I've been widowed I don't panic but do my best to cope on my own or ask for help. Most problems have a solution. Just have Faith.



Eileen Jarman

12/10/2020

PS. He *did* manage to open the sardines making a hole big enough to scrape out the fish.



Quarantining in church had its drawbacks. Two days in, the biscuits were gone, and Rupert was hungry.

Pychester Lockdown – Chapter 4

Apologies, dear Reader, that last month's instalment made rather more assumptions than just the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven; that any jewels were uncut and unpolished, hidden in rough-hewn ore. As usual the ingredients had been mulling in the slow cooker of my mind for a while, but they were ladled onto the page rather hurriedly.

In the Palace kitchen, Felicity, the Bishop's wife, is watching the soup and Bishop Ric gently simmer. It's nearly lunch break in the House of Bishops' latest Zoom Meeting. The Agenda is an autumnal alphabet soup of CofE acronyms – BCP, IICSA, LLF, BLM, R&R, V&S, PANTS. Acronyms to sweeten the bitter taste of critical and contentious reports.

First, do we need a new BCP – Book of Covid Prayer – to gather all this year's new Resources?

Secondly, the abuse scandals, an appalling read. At last some honesty & openness instead of cover-up & reputation management.

LLF, Living in Love & Faith (why not Faithfulness?), will be coming out in November, with resources for understanding gender & sexuality better, even though society and most of the church have moved on or moved out.. Later an Anti-Racism Commission.

It's all 20-30 years too late really. It's not that the Church is worse than other organisations – just that we are institutionally institutional.

From previous embarrassment Ric makes sure he's muted, but that doesn't stop Felicity coming and waving her ladle at the HoB to remind them it's lunchtime. She glances at the screen.

What's PANTS? Patristics and New Testament Studies?

No. I just made it up to see if anyone would ask what it stood for.

And did anyone?

Of course not. One has to be seen to be totally on message these days.

R&R, Renewal & Reform? Is that still rumbling around, it's so 2010s.

Still rockin'n'rollin', but the new ABY's 2020 Vision & Strategy is the new 5 year plan.

The Press Release will be as bland as blancmange – the bishops reflected and affirmed... - but it's an important meeting.

Still, we have a good crop of Ordinands for mid-September. The Deacons went in 4-by-4, in 4 separate Services. Bishop Cindy's back to share the Liturgy so we can try to keep it personal. Cathedral intimacy rather than majesty.

Just different ends of the same spectrum, dear. Ordination book? How

about C S Lewis, “Till we have faces”?

In Quires and Places where they sing, music has gradually returned. First a Cantor, now a gallop. With many churches adopting a 3-day eventing pattern, Sunday plus a midweek Service, equestrian metaphors come to mind. Not to forget the supreme Three Day Event of Crucifixion, Descent and Resurrection.

At the Cathedral, the spaced Procession of clergy, servers & choir requires the precision of dressage; the Nave Choirstalls have been separated and now look like a show-jumping course.

Now is the time to dust off those Venetian Polychoral Masses by Gabrielli et al for 3 or 4 quartets placed in different corners of San Marco’s.

At St Pythag’s and the like, it’s 4-in-hand, a voice at each corner of the choirstalls relearning to sing with one’s ears, and if you listen very carefully the congregation may be humming quietly behind their masks.

Newly minted Deacon Lee, the Uhura of the Deanery, is settling in at St P’s, bringing strong communication skills, both personal and technological.

There is a paradox in prayer as well as in worship. The informal, ex tempore type requires more concentration by the people, leaving less ‘bandwidth’ for personal response. The more formal, liturgical frees one to take a more personal route, and not be lost when one returns to the script. Best of all is writing or reverencing an egg tempera Icon.

There is of course no formal liturgy for the “All God’s Creatures” Gathering, formerly known as the “Pets’ Service” before animal rights came to the fore. So its spontaneity needs thorough preparation and prayer. St Francis falls on a Sunday this year, All life is welcome at Little St Pythag’s, the Mission Shed on the Allotments Down by the Riverside. An outdoor Service so no special Covid precautions, but if you bring a small horse, please Mascarpone. Fortunately viruses are not living creatures, so no need to bless the Covid.

The Youth Church, ‘Unleashed’, at St Geoffrey Arches Church, is also adding a midweek ‘Gathering’ (as we should now call our Services – though is it not a fair paraphrase of ‘ecclesia’). Socially distanced, it’s branded ‘Unsquashed’. They serve their demographic with dedication too.

Bishop Ric presides at the Patronals for St Michael & All Angels and for St Francis. Prepare ye the way for the Holy Trinity Trumpton juggernaut, the Chinos for Chasubles Resource Church is on its way. Church planting is nothing new – Celtic monks, St Augustine of Canterbury, Victorian Anglo-

Catholic slum priests – but Ric still worries this seems more like church poaching. And the Team Ministry post for that old Council Estate is still vacant.

In 1993 we started singing “Beauty for Brokenness (God of the Poor)” and prayed for social justice. And good, holy people still hum it as they volunteer in the Pychester foodbank.



Richard Barnes – 27/10/20.



"Given the state of our heating system, you'd think the vicar would be all for it!"

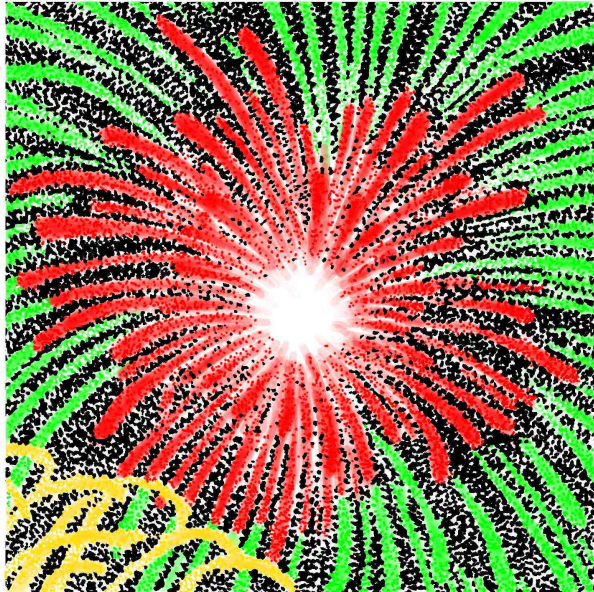
thrive
at St. David's Church



THE ADVENT EXPERIENCE:

The Meaning of Christmas Your space for peace, questions, and growth

Sundays at 4pm from 29th November to 20th December



Devon Live Project

History enthusiasts are being sought to join an exciting new project taking place in Exeter.

Our Big Project is a part of a St David's community and National Lottery Heritage Funded project, to restore the dilapidated top floor of Exeter Community Centre. The project also aims to encourage the community of St David's and wider Exeter - to learn about and celebrate the history and heritage of the Centre building, and of the St David's parish within which it sits.

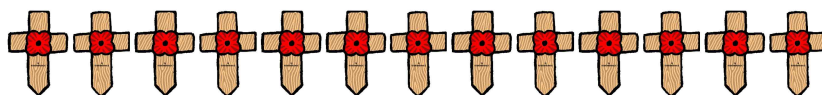
The project now needs local residents to get involved as community research volunteers to take part in historical research into the St David's ward, in four key areas - Death, Epidemics and Disease, Plants, Parks and Pleasure Grounds, The Changing Face of Charity, and The Community Centre Building - St David's History and Heritage.

The Centre is looking to recruit between 20-30 research volunteers. After the research is complete, it will then be collated and edited to become a permanent archive available online

Further information can be found on link below

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/volunteers-wanted-help-celebrate-exeters-4568210>

Ash Leighton Plom



The tale of the Tower Builder

BUILDING SITE FOR SALE

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



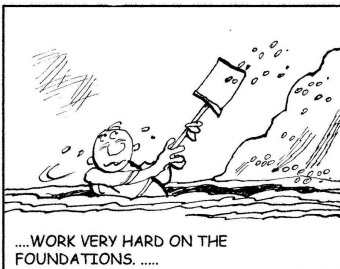
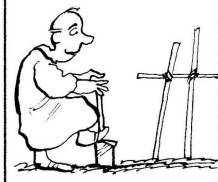
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER...

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



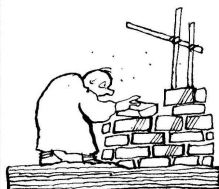
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS...

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

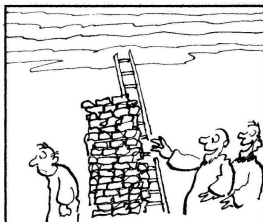


...WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



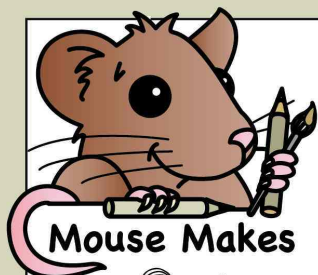
...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!

TOWER TO BE CANCELLED
BUILT HERE

WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

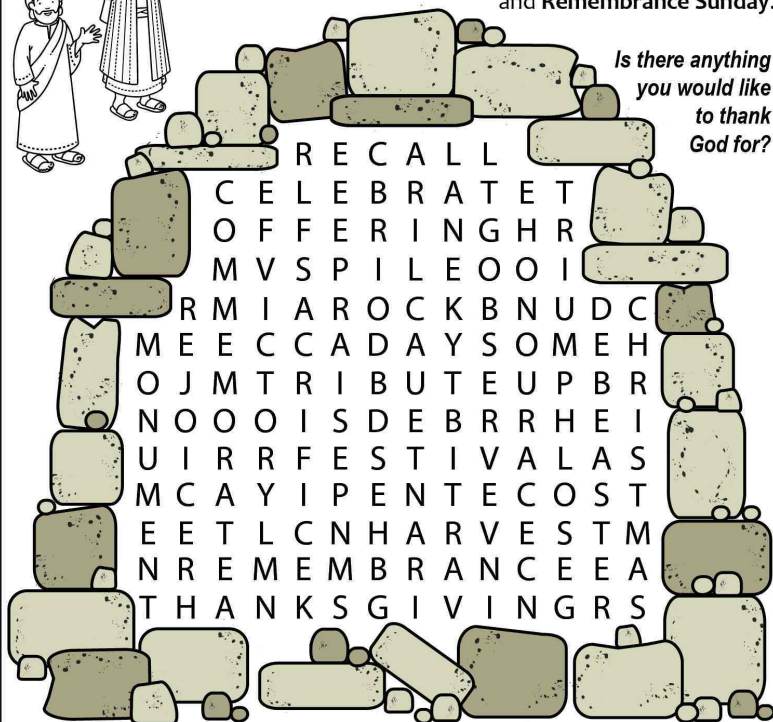


READ Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



*Is there anything
you would like
to thank
God for?*



REMEMBRANCE • SACRIFICE • VICTORY • TRIUMPH • MONUMENT
 ROCK • PILE • OBSERVE • TRIBUTE • COMMEMORATE • RECALL • OFFERING
 HONOUR • CELEBRATE • PRAISE • REJOICE • THANKSGIVING • DAYS
 FESTIVAL • EASTER • PENTECOST • HARVEST • CHRISTMAS

Smilelines

The congregation

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation was like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."

Miscellaneous musings modern life...

In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'

Member of the congregation to minister: "I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you."

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then, your body and your fat are really good friends.

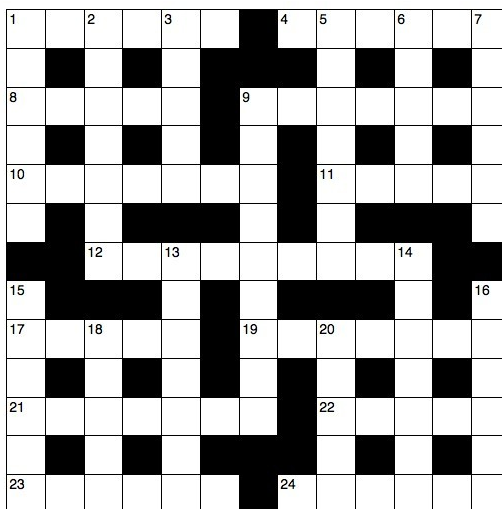
Where there's a will, there are relatives.

One out of Ten

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbour's wife."

Rooms

When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, Mike has his own room, Jemma has her own room, and Bobby has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."



Across

1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)

4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)

8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)

9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)

10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)

11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)

12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)

17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)

19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)

21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)

22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)

23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)

24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

Sudoku - Medium

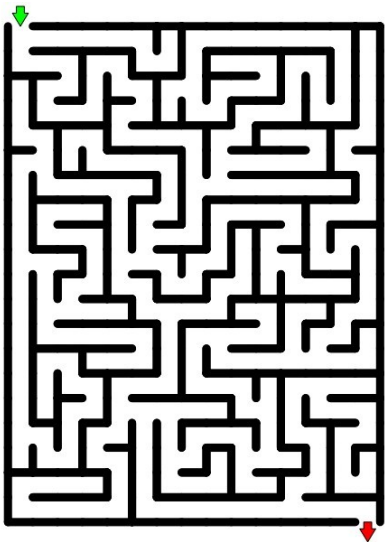
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Word search

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k	g	d	d	p	o	w	e	r	e	k	f	y
t	p	b	a	f	r	a	i	d	d	y	t	t

come	girl	woman
feet	knelt	stood
cloak	twelve	afraid
Jairus	leader	house
power	faith	healed
something	waited	Jesus
mourning	believe	touched
daughter	laughed	parents

Maze



Masks of the week

Now we are attending church with masks we thought we would award a "Mask of the Week" (no monetary value though!) Here are four from September. See if you can identify the owners - answers at the back.



A



B



C



D

Days of Note - November

1st November: All Saints' Day – the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost;
The several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet....

The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

**(Maurice Frost (ed.), Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern*

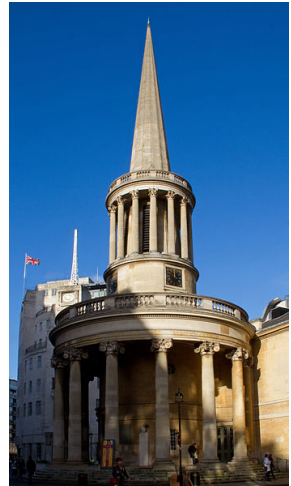
(London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.

2nd November: All Souls' Day – a time of reckoning with the past

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.



All Souls Langham Place

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

5th November: The Kea to toothache?

Kea was an early Christian and a monk from a good family who left Glastonbury to work in Devon and Cornwall, where Landkey (Devon) and Kea (Cornwall) bear his name. He founded several Christian centres in the area before going on to Brittany to become the saint known there as 'Saint-Quay'. It seems that Kea may also have tried a bit of early dentistry, as down the centuries since he has been invoked over the problems of

toothaches.

6th November: Illtud - patron saint of NGOs?

Not many people have heard of Illtud, but perhaps we should make him the patron saint of all Christian NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) who work in emergency and famine relief.

Illtud did not set out to be an action hero – he was a gentle and learned abbot heading up a monastery in Glamorgan. Illtud spent his days reading the Scriptures and philosophy. Yet the year that famine struck the coast of Brittany, Illtud put down his parchments and became a man of action.

Illtud issued what must have been one of the earliest ‘emergency relief appeals’, and was able to collect a great deal of corn. Illtud loaded this corn onto several small ships, and set off across the perilous Channel in order to save the people of Brittany. Perhaps he had in mind the words of Christ: “I was hungry and you fed me...” (Matthew 25:35)

Certainly, the people of Brittany never forgot Illtud’s kindness towards them: even today some Breton churches and villages bear his name. Many churches in Wales are also dedicated to this compassionate man.

10th November: Justus – leading the Church in troubled times

Does this sound familiar? An Archbishop of Canterbury tries to bring unity and calm to a Church split down the middle over seemingly irreconcilable differences, and all the while to promote the Gospel to the wider non-Christian society, in the face of widespread ignorance and even hostility towards Christianity.

This isn’t Justin Welby, though. It was Justus, a 7th century archbishop of Canterbury. Like Justin Welby, he had a passion for mission – he began as one of the Roman missionaries sent in 601 by Pope Gregory the Great – to reinforce Augustine. Once in England, he was quickly put to work – becoming the first ever Bishop of Rochester, in 604. It was then that he joined with other church leaders to urge the Irish and British (Celtic) Christians to repair the great church divide of the time – to conform their

customs to those of Rome. (They were largely ignored.)

In 616 things got worse. There was a pagan reaction in Kent and Essex, and without any support from the pagan King Edbald, Justus and Mellitus knew it was time to get out – quick. They escaped to France, and the whole English mission seemed in peril. Then – an unexpected breakthrough occurred – the king was converted. So back came Justus, to become Archbishop of Canterbury in 624. Pope Boniface V had faith in his ability and courage – he bestowed on him both the pallium and the power to consecrate bishops in England.

When Justus died in 627, he was buried at St Augustine's monastery. Then, in the 11th century, Justus was moved to a site in Canterbury Cathedral, behind the high altar.

19th November: Hilda - Abbess of Whitby

Hilda played a key role in the early English Christian church, and she may even have been the first to encourage the writing of Christian poetry.

She was born a princess, into the Deiran (Northumbrian) dynasty, and her sister became Queen of the East Angles, with whom the Deiran had connections.

In those days East Anglia had close ties with the Gallic Church, and because of her sister, Hilda came under that influence. She was actually on her way to take her monastic vows near Paris when the Bishop of Lindisfarne, Aidan, called her back to Northumbria.

Back home, she went into seclusion for a time, before being sent to be abbess of a religious house in Hartlepool in 649.

Eight years later, Hilda felt moved to establish a religious community at



Streanaeshalch (later renamed Whitby). Her community was a royal establishment, a double monastery (both men and women) and became famous for its learning, with even five bishops trained there.

Whitby was also, of course, the venue for the famous Synod of Whitby in 664. With Hilda acting as hostess, the Synod met to decide upon the date of Easter. The issue at stake was greater than that, though, for the decision would sway the Church in Britain to adapt either the Celtic or Roman traditions. Although Hilda defended the Celtic church customs, she accepted with grace the decision of the Synod to accept the Roman date for Easter, and she then worked to unite the Church throughout the land.

22nd November: St Cecilia - patron saint of musicians

If you are going to any concerts before Christmas, spare a thought for St Cecilia - the patron saint of musicians.

Cecilia is one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs of the 2nd century. As far as is known, she was born a noble lady of Rome who, despite her vow of virginity, was forced to marry an older pagan nobleman named Valerian. During the wedding, as the musicians played, Cecilia sat apart singing to God in her heart, and for that she was later declared the saint of musicians.

When the time came for her marriage to be consummated, Cecilia told Valerian that watching over her was an angel of the Lord, who would punish him if he sexually violated her but would love him if he respected her virginity.

Understandably startled by this, Valerian then asked to see the angel for himself. Cecilia replied that to do so, he must go to the third milestone on the Via Appia and be baptised by the Bishop of Rome. Valerian seems to have been a good-natured husband, because the story goes that he followed her suggestion, was baptised a Christian, and sure enough, saw the angel protecting his wife.

Being a Christian in those days was dangerous, and when the next wave of

Roman persecutions began, Valerian and Cecilia were among those arrested. It is said that they died at the hands of the Roman prefect Turcius Almachius, perhaps in Sicily sometime between 176 and 180 AD.

One story goes that Cecilia was struck on the neck with a sword, and as she lay dying, asked that her house be converted into a church. Certainly, an early Roman Christian church, Santa Cecilia, was founded in the fourth century in the Trastevere section of Rome, reputedly on the site of the house in which she lived.

In the centuries since then, a number of musical compositions have been dedicated to her, and her feast day has become the occasion for many concerts and musical festivals.

St Cecilia is frequently depicted playing a viola, a small organ, or other musical instrument.



30th November: Andrew – patron saint of Scotland

The apostle Andrew is patron saint of Scotland. According to the Gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called. 'Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' (Matt 4:18,19)

Without more ado, they obeyed. 'At once they left their nets and followed him.' The story is touching for the simple but total faith that they had in Jesus.

Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew's name is always in the first four. Rather than a boisterous leader of men (like Peter), he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people.

It was Andrew who helped introduce a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and Andrew who offered Jesus the five small barley loaves and two small fishes when Jesus challenged them to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8) His faith in Jesus over small things was richly rewarded, and this faithful, kindly Galilean fisherman turned disciple went on to become one

of the 12 apostles of the Christian Church.

Andrew never settled back in Capernaum by Galilee. Instead, his 'fishing for men' seems to have taken him far. One ancient tradition links him with Greece, where both Scythia and Epirus claimed him as their apostle. Another place in Greece, Patras in Achaia, claimed to be the place where Andrew was eventually martyred, in about AD60.

Like Jesus, he was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to the people about Jesus. Andrew was not afraid of death on a cross – he had seen it before, and knew one thing for certain: because of Jesus, there was nothing but eternal life ahead of him.

In the West, Andrew's feast-day was universal from the 6th century, and hundreds of churches were named after him in Italy, France and England. But how did he end up as patron saint of Scotland?

Well, according to one ancient legend, his relics were taken from Patras to Scotland in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife, where a church dedicated to him was built and became a centre for evangelisation and later pilgrimage. As Andrew was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint.

But Andrew did not stay in Scotland. After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, it is said that the Crusaders took his relics to Amalfi. From there the despot Thomas Palaeologus sent his head to the pope in Rome in 1461, where it became one of the most treasured possessions of St Peters, until it was sent to the church in Constantinople by Paul VI.

In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross 'X', commonly called St Andrew's Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century.

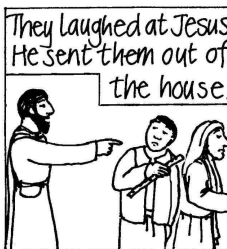
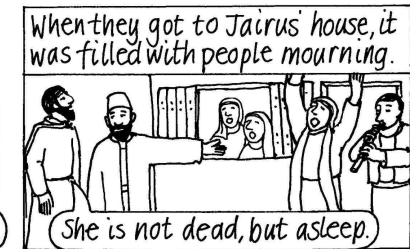
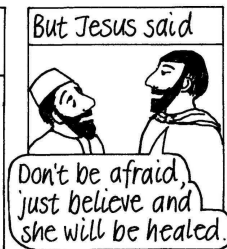
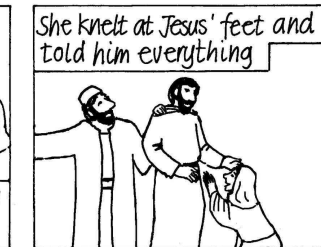
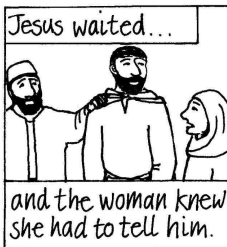
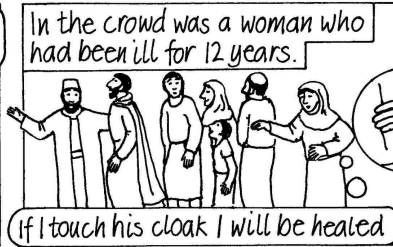


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...



Puzzle solutions

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

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

Masks of the week:

A Avril Pattinson B John
Sansom C Maff Glover D
Samuel Tamuro-Omie Gogo

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the December/January issue of New Leaves is Sunday 22nd November

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.