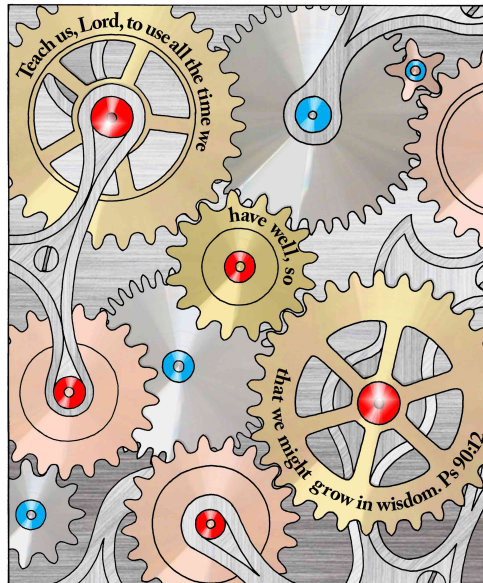


New Leaves

September 2021



**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

From the Vicarage September 2021

Living with uncertainty

This is the pandemic that keeps giving uncertainty. As I write this on 22 August there has been a marked rise in Covid -19 cases in Devon and this threatens to make planning for the autumn difficult. But we do have events planned and we sincerely hope that we will be able to go ahead with them in a safe way. And at the moment I can see only a gradual return to 'normality' in our worship. But I'm sure that it's better to proceed cautiously than to have to backtrack.

As we witness the terrible recent events in Haiti and Afghanistan our own troubles are put in perspective. But our personal and corporate lives have been immensely disrupted and we need to be reminded to persevere in a spirit of thankfulness for what we have in this country - not least in terms of vaccinations and health care.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Prize Draw; those who donated prizes, bought tickets or helped on the day. It is one of the few fundraising events we have been able to run in the past two years. It was lovely to welcome a suitably modest number of visitors to St David's for the occasion!

St David's Parish Room

We are also most grateful to Wilmott Dixon and their contractors who have now finished refurbishing the parish room at St David's. It is looking superb, clean and tidy, and it will be great to let it out again for community use.

Green Event at St David's

The planning for our environmental awareness morning at St David's on 11th September is going well and I hope that you will be able to join us for all or part of the event. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the scale of the challenges posed by climate change, but there is plenty that we can do. The event will start with a short open-air act of worship at 10am. I am

looking forward to the presentations and stalls. We hope that you will join us for a lunch of 'local produce' being arranged by St David's Social Committee. Tickets, priced £5, are now available after Sunday services for the lunch. We hope that you will be inspired and encouraged by our contribution to positive thinking and action about our environment.

Heritage Weekend at St Michael's

On the same weekend, 11-12 September we will be offering an open church with activities and refreshments at St Michael's tying in with the National Historic Churches Cycle Ride. Please have a look at the full programme elsewhere in the magazine and come along if you can!

Harvest Festival

In a spirit of thanksgiving for God's good gifts we will have Harvest Communion Service on Sunday 19th September at 9.30am at St David's. Details of a special collection will be in the weekly notices so please look out for those. At St Michael's we are planning to hold a Harvest Mass at 11am on Sunday 3 October and hopefully Choral Evensong at 6pm on the same day – which will be the first for a very long time!

Ordination of Ash Leighton Plom

We are also looking forward to the ordination of Ash Leighton Plom as priest which will take place at St David's Church on Sunday 26th September at 3pm with the Bishop of Crediton presiding. There will be three candidates as well as Ash so unfortunately numbers will be restricted to 20 from each parish. We will provide a sign-up sheet for those who would like to attend. We will also be running our usual morning services on that day. Please pray for Ash as he prepares for his ordination. We will be making a collection so that we can present him with something which he will use in his priestly ministry. Closer to the time we will advertise the collection which Glynis Harflett and Stephanie Aplin have kindly agreed to coordinate. Ash will celebrate his first Mass at St Michael's for Michaelmas on the evening of Wednesday 29th September at 7.30pm and everyone is warmly welcome to attend on that occasion.

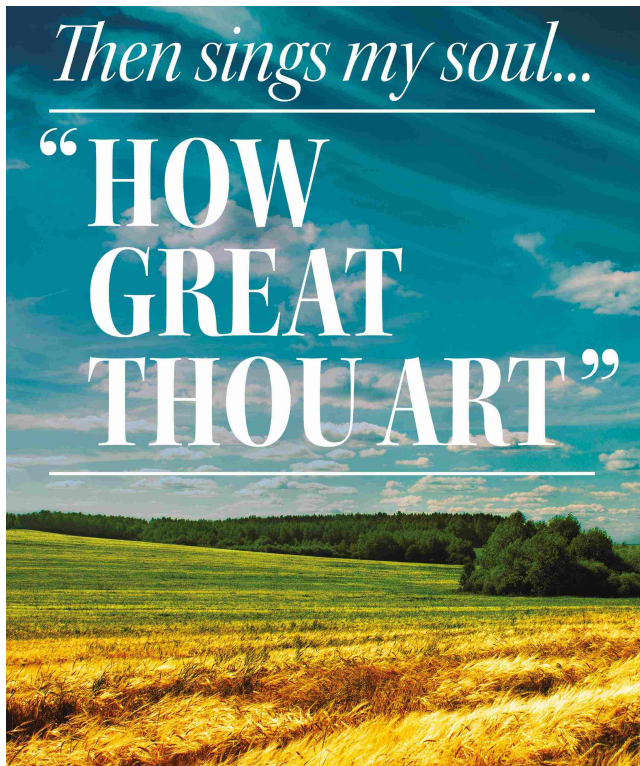
Thank you to Richard Barnes

Sadly, I must finish my letter with words of thanks and farewell to Richard Barnes who has made such a great contribution to this magazine over

many years. Richard has added his lovely tenor voice to the St Michael's choir for many years but has also been a PCC member and caretaker of the St Michael's website – as well as a key member of our magazine team. Richard and his family are moving to Scotland and we wish him Godspeed. Perhaps we can look forward to a future contribution from our Edinburgh correspondent?

With every blessing to you all,

Nigel



September 2021 from St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham

It's surprising how events are overtaken by other, unexpected events! Perhaps it should not be so, and we should be ever open to surprises. Would they then have the power to set us back on our heels? Or rock the stability which we think we live with? The rapid fall of Afghanistan seems to have taken us all by surprise and we have all manner of pundits offering advice and information about the aftermath of the event. Have the Taliban learnt to love the West? Have we learnt to tolerate the Taliban? Is Al – Quaeda closer then ever to world domination? Will we fall to China/Russia/climate change/Covid -19? The current situation could cause panic or careful analysis, but we are so used to being fed instant opinions and soundbites as if they were the words of considered wisdom. One can see journalists armed with microphones demanding thoughts and almost snatching the microphone away if the interviewee looks as if there could be a longer, more profound answer on its way, whilst in the background scenes of chaos/storm/traffic turmoil play out, suggesting that the whole world has collapsed. Many of the news-sites seem to have permanent loops playing and sometimes it is easy to see what has been played frequently before. During the pandemic, still with us, a watch-word became popular, apparently coined to deal with the harshness of covid; people had it on their T-shirts, it appeared in advertisements: Be Kind. This is not a new injunction. St Paul urged the Christians at Ephesus to do just that. 'Be kind', he wrote, (Ephesians 4:32) I've half a mind to get a T shirt with the words, but also giving the Biblical reference.

Prior to the Afghan horrors, I had been planning to write about the effectiveness of actions over words. 'Actions speak louder than words' is one of the first proverbs I recall my mother explaining to me. Oddly, some years later, when we visited St Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg for a service, she hissed in my ear that I did not need to make the sign of the Cross as the Crucifix was carried past us in procession. Being a dutiful child, I did not ask why not, and the stark Protestant church we attended for regular worship did not have any of 'that nonsense'. Icons and statues were misunderstood; I think, perhaps, because there was limited visibility of religious art altogether, there being no grand historical evidence of major

artistic expression such as one might find in European cities, Rome, Florence or Ravenna for example, the appearance of such things was a bit of a shock. It was certainly shocking to a friend who visited Malta and found himself in the midst of a Good Friday procession, seeing statues and banners being marched through the streets. 'Do they not know this is idolatry?' he wailed on Facebook, intransigent to explanation.

Making the sign of the Cross has become more important to me in my later years; I find it offers solidarity with others in the Christian family. It reminds me of the outstretched arms of Christ in both suffering and welcome on the cross. It concentrates my mind in prayer. It is a way of recalling the crux, the centre of the faith. The arms reach to the four cardinal points, thus embracing the whole world. The gesture, in my thinking, leads back to the position of the physical heart at the centre of our earthly being. We are signed with the Cross at our Baptism, becoming members of the faith. The Cross of Christ is more than words can express. It means more to me than bowing the knee in prayer. Orthodox Christians stand for prayer; making the sign of the Cross often includes sweeping the hand to the ground in front of one, linking earth with the spiritual intention of prayer, uniting earth and heaven. One stands as a free person before God, no longer a slave to oneself or any other power.

'Taking the knee' has become a divisive issue in sport and public meetings. Two White Americans, Tony Timpa and Angelo Quinto, are alleged to have died in the same way as George Floyd. They have not been commemorated. We now have a 'woke' brigade, demanding that everything that has been identified as racist, or any other -ist or -ism, be challenged. A plaque is to be erected by the statue of Francis Drake in Tavistock, on the roundabout leaving the town, explaining his connection to slavery. I think it could be more dangerous to stop and read it than to ignore it. The problem, as I see it, with extremes, is that the opposite extreme rises up, creating even more polarity and discord.

Back to Afghanistan. Twenty years ago, we are told, the Taliban was a very different animal. Now there has been the benefit of exposure to Western ideas; communications are much more developed than they were then; the Taliban has promised to allow some freedoms, which will be according to Shari'a law. But it is indeed Western thinking that is the problem for Shari'a. Democracy, such as it is the West, is not the way of much of the

world, where authority is vested in different people and practised in very different ways. Let us hope that the actions of the Taliban match their current verbal promises to respect women and girls, to allow education for all. Listen out for the qualifiers in all the statements. The Qur'an is clear about conditions for Jihad: women and children should not be harmed, the sick and elderly should not be injured and crops and trees should not be damaged, water and wells should remain unpolluted. Jihad should not be about forcing religion on unbelievers.

Let actions speak louder than words.



Stephanie Aplin



Photo by Brett Jordan on Unsplash

Richard Barnes

When a good and valuable friend leaves for other shores, it is always difficult to know what to say. On the one hand you want to wish him and his family well in their new home, while on the other you would much rather they were staying to give further friendship and support. However you learn early in life that “letting go”, although very often difficult, is always the best and selfless way forward. So I’m sure you’ll join me in wishing Richard, Sharon, Andrew and Esther joy and happiness in their new home in Edinburgh.

Richard has given me great support since we ventured forth in September 2016 as joint editors of New Leaves. As you may well know from his many magazine articles, Richard is a voracious writer and contributor to our monthly magazine. His many magazine contributions include a monthly article on music and events at St Michael’s, which I’m delighted to hear Tony Pugh is continuing. I especially enjoyed his series of articles on his bus rides around Exeter, where he highlighted the churches on the route. You may remember he named his first article “Orationibus- The Bus of Common Prayer.” He even extended these articles beyond Exeter, his Orationibus 3 entitled “London Omnibus Church Crawl.”

Richard’s ironic, wry sense of humour was often best seen in his articles based on the fictional church of St Pythagoras & All Angles in the fair city of Pychester. His articles were also often extremely informative whether considering locally known historical characters, such as Major Rohde Hawkins, designer and architect of St Michael’s Church, Mount Dinham, or lesser known Saints like St Joseph. His great love, of course, is choral singing in his beloved church of St Michael’s. Many of his muses concentrated on the interior of this church (see, for example, his article in this issue on the St Michael depictions in St Michael’s). He has been a chorister for 55 years now and I’m sure his lovely tenor voice will be greatly missed at St Michael’s. He loves to play around with the words of hymns. I especially laughed out loud on his take on “Shine, Jesus, Shine” in his “Lockdown Reflections” in the May 2020 edition:

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 prayers and meetings
Stream forth your word, Lord and let there be Mbytes.”

In March, April and May editions Richard would keep us well informed of the Peregrine Falcons’ Progress, carefully managing the camera which streamed videos on to the St Michael’s website. Indeed as well as penning his thoughts in this magazine, Richard kept the tweeters and Facebook aficionados well informed on events at St Michael’s, St David’s and in the Parish. What have I forgotten? Well Richard will tell me. I’ve forgotten, for example, to mention the St Michael’s lectures, of which Richard was a regular attender and, of course, he sometimes wrote about them.

So, Richard it is a huge “thank you” for everything you have done, written and sung in our Parish. You will be greatly missed, my good friend. God be with you in your new home.

Bill Pattinson

23.08.2021



Edinburgh Castle. Image by kolibri5 from Pixabay

Readings and Time of Prayer at St David's for September 2021

Sunday 5th September (14th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

2nd Reading: James 2:1-17

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:24-end

Preacher: Ash Leighton Plom Bible Reader: Gina Redman

Prayer Leader: Richard Johnson

Sunday 12th September (15th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

2nd Reading: James 2:1-17

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:24-end

Preacher: Bill Pattinson Bible Reader: Paula Lawford

Prayer Leader: Chris Gill

Sunday 19th September (16th Sunday after Trinity/ Harvest Festival)

1st Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

2nd Reading: James 3:13-4:3,7-8a

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Preacher: Bible Reader: Maggie Draper

Prayer Leader: Helen Friend



Sunday 26th September (17th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

2nd Reading: James 5:13-end

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-end

Preacher: Howard Friend Bible Reader: Richard Johnson

Prayer Leader: Mollie Curry

Sunday 3rd October (18th Sunday after Trinity/ First Celebration by Ash)

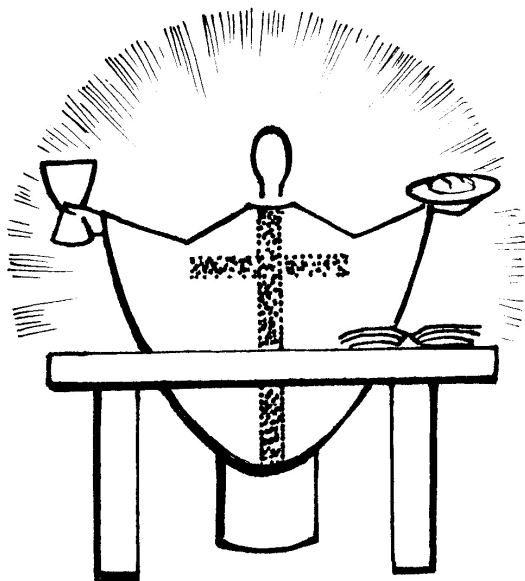
1st Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:2-16

Preacher: Bible Reader: Alice Francis

Prayer Leader: Deborah Leighton-Plom



What on Earth is the Church for?

This was the title of the Churches Together in Britain & Ireland Lent Course for 1986 - yes, 35 years ago.

The booklet came to light as I sorted through the boxes that pass for my 'Archive' as we prepared to move home to Edinburgh.

As befits 1986 there was ancillary material broadcast (not streamed) on local radio stations for one to record onto cassette tape.

The basic approach though was so familiar – Bible passages, personal experience, guided discussion, questions. There's not much new under the Sun.

I suspect it is much the same question that Rev Belinda and her working group are exploring, looking at how our Parish and Churches may develop fruitfully over the next 5 years, after the forced hiatus in much of the activities that can take place beyond prayer & worship to benefit the wider community.

A useful question to ask from time to time.

What currently annoys me is the way the Church of England's Archbishops and their consultants are constantly asking that question, hoping that the answer will eventually coincide with one of their ever changing initiatives. There used to be a new initiative each decade, which did a little bit of good and was then forgotten about.

From the 1970s I remember Partners in Mission, a reverse colonialism where Bishops came from Africa to make the dull C of E more colourful, vibrant and exciting with drumming and dancing.

In the 1980s that reluctant radical Robert Runcie tried to teach Margaret Thatcher humility & reconciliation, and the Church Urban Fund came forth from the Faith in the City report and endured.

George Carey's 1990s Decade of Evangelism saw decline in church attendance and is largely forgotten.

Lovely Rowan Williams in the 2000s might have given us a Decade of Dostoevsky and Spirituality. Instead he was blighted by the wealthy anti-gay evangelical churches they vetoed Jeffery John as Bishop of Reading. Under Justin Welby, new initiatives come every year, changing direction more frequently than one changes socks. Renewal & Reform, Glad to be Lay (I paraphrase), Resource Churches, invasive Church Plants, Vision & Strategy.

The final straw is the idea from the Gregory Institute for Church Multiplication (or should that really be Division) that Clergy and Buildings were the Key Limiting Factor to Growth, and that the CofE should start 10,000 Lay-led House Churches.

The current idea of House Churches is a misinterpretation of Acts and the Patristic period of the Early Church - they didn't drink Coffee and eat chilli con carne. They are also a recipe for narrowness, cliques and spiritual abuse.

My one line answer to the original question is:- The Church is Clergy and Laity being and sharing the Body of Christ in the world by Word and Sacrament.

There are many aspects one could add; prayer, worship, music, fellowship, education, service, caring, resources, giving...

If you've been involved with Church Committees, you may feel that there abide Policies, Risk Assessments and Safeguarding, these three, rather than Faith Hope & Love. Hopefully they will not stifle the latter.

For me though, it's the experience that is most important, the practice much more than the theory.

The first time I came to St Michael's, in July 2003, we arrived a couple of minutes late to find Fr Peter and the Servers processing towards us flinging Holy Water in all directions, but were warmly welcomed by Effie Gillard.

The children were given candles to light and hold at the Angelus, and ever after in our house St Mike's was known as the Candle Church!

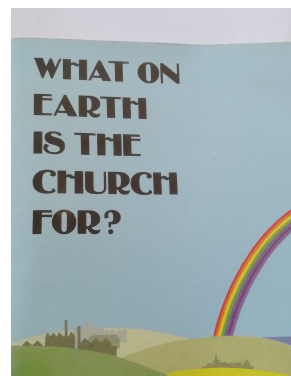
St Michael's has always been a place where the eccentric and slightly damaged, myself included, are welcomed and accepted.

I have always valued the welcome, hospitality, friendship and fun at St Michael's as well as the glorious music and liturgy.

I wish you all well for the Heritage Open Days, Michaelmas and the future, and great joy in being a uniquely special Church. Thank you for St Michael's!



Richard Barnes – 21/08/21.



Services & Events for St Michael's – September 2021

Our thanks to all who have joined us to keep St Michael's going over the summer months, especially visiting Clergy; and to Elizabeth for the Bountiful Table and all who have supported it.

At the time of writing and going to press we still have no further information about the further easing of restrictions and so we give below our regular patterns of worship in Church and on-line: -

Sundays 11am Sung Mass & Sermon, in Church only.

Wednesdays Matins at 9.30 and Mass at 10am, the latter is also broadcast to (and viewable later)

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

Plainsong Vespers led by Dr. Richard Parker on Thursdays at 6pm is public worship, also broadcast to

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

Friends of St Michael's Facebook Group.

Our website is <https://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/>

St David's Facebook page

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

will stream their 9.30am Sunday Eucharist and Morning Prayers on Thursday & Friday.

The weekly Parish Notices and pewsheets will keep you informed. Our thanks to Oliver Nicholson for emailing these each week.

Key dates – Sat 11th & Sun 12th Sept Heritage Open Days/Ride'n'Stride/Cream Teas and much more.

Wednesday 29th Sept Michaelmas 7.30pm will be our Curate Ash's first Celebration of Holy Communion.

Services and events for September are:

Wed 1 Sep, 9.30 Matins, 10am Low Mass. Giles of Provence, Hermit, c710.

Thu 2 Sep, 6pm, Plainsong Vespers. 1st Vespers of Gregory the Great, Rome, 604.

Sun 5 Sep, Trinity XIV, 11am Sung Mass. Bountiful Table of Bakes, Preserves and Produce to purchase for Church Funds.

Wed 8 Sep, 9.30 Matins, 10am Mass. Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Thu 9 Sep, 6pm Vespers. Charles Fuge Lowder, Priest, 1880.

Sat 11 Sep, 9am-6pm. Church open for Heritage Open Day and Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride'n'Stride. Do visit us. Books and other stalls, refreshments, music, exhibition, guided tour.

Sun 12 Sep, Trinity XV. 11am Sung Mass.

Also, Heritage Open Day, 10am-5pm. Stalls, refreshments, cream teas, music. Please support.

Wed 15 Sep, 9.30 Matins, 10am Mass. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258.

Thu 16 Sep, 6pm Vespers. Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, c432.

Sun 19 Sep, Trinity XVI. 11am Sung Mass.

Wed 22 Sep, 9.30 Matins, 10am Mass.

Thu 23 Sep, 6pm Vespers.

Saturday 25th Sep, 9.30 – 11.30am. Cleaning Morning at St. Michael's. Please come and help if you can and bring your own dusters, polish, etc. Further details from Mrs. Stephanie Aplin.

Sun 26 Sep, Trinity XVII. Sung Mass.

Please pray for our Curate Ash Leighton Plom, to be ordained Priest this afternoon at St David's Church.

Wed 29 Sep, Michaelmas, our Patronal Festival.

9.30 Matins, 10am Mass.

7.30pm, Solemn Sung Mass. Newly ordained Priest Ash Leighton Plom will celebrate his first Holy Eucharist with us this evening.

Please support Ash and his family on this special occasion. We hope there will be a Party with Refreshments afterwards.

Thu 30 Sep, 6pm Vespers. Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, 420.

We hope that you keep well and have enjoyed worshipping with us, and if new to the area that you will come and join us again. With the beginning of

the Autumn season, we hope to resume other activities such as the lectures and choir rehearsals but please make further enquiries as regulations alter. Finally, it is with much sadness that we say a fond farewell to our friend Richard Barnes as he moves away from Exeter. We are indebted to Richard for all that he has done for the Parish and, in particular, St. Michael's. Many things happen unseen and Richard has been a Church member who works in this way. As a choir member I will miss him particularly for his friendship and guidance musically and, also for his unique sense of humour. We wish Richard, Sharon, Andrew and Esther well in their new life in Edinburgh.



Anthony Pugh – 18. VIII. 2021



The Wildflower bed at St David's Churchyard

Green Matters – Co Cars

Shortly before Christmas 2018, someone crashed into my car as it was parked on my street, and wrote it off. It was a lovely car and I hadn't had it that long, so I was pretty sad. But as I was planning to spend a couple of months in Germany soon afterwards, I didn't replace it. There didn't seem any point in leaving a car standing by the kerb while I was out of the country. So I just travelled by bus and did more walking. Then, a month or so before I was due to leave, I somehow acquired a herniated disc in my back. I postponed the trip and continued not driving – my back couldn't take it and anyway, the walking was good for me. Lovely kind friends helped me with lifts and heavy shopping.

My back improved, but then the pandemic hit, and the world got smaller again. Two years or so on, though, I began to think it would be good to have a bit more mobility. But I didn't want to increase my carbon footprint more than I had to.

I'd been aware of Co Cars because they had offices in the co-working space I was using pre-pandemic, so I looked them up. It was very easy to join – all I had to do was confirm my details (for insurance purposes), provide a scan of my driving licence, proof of address and my National Insurance number, and pay the £25 annual fee. My application was processed fast and within a couple of days I was good to go.

Using the system is just as easy as signing up. You can book a car by the hour, the day or the week, and there is a choice of sizes (including vans, but I haven't used them yet). They're parked in bays at different locations around the city: there are five or six cars within half a mile of my house. They're mostly hybrid, but there are electric vehicles too: all low emission. If you decide you want to use a car, you open the app or go online and enter the day(s) and times you need a vehicle for, and the system shows what's available. Booking is just a tap on the app or a click on the website, and it's easy to change or update your requirements. You turn up at the vehicle (there's a map that shows where it's located) and touch your smart card to the reader on the windscreen to unlock the car. The keys are kept in the glove box. Then you drive where you want to go, and return the car to the same bay in time for the end of the session. You put the keys back in the glove box, take your things out of the car and touch your smart card to

the reader to lock it again. You're asked to leave the fuel tank at least a quarter full for the next user, but fuel cards are kept in the vehicles, so you don't have to pay for refuelling from your own pocket.

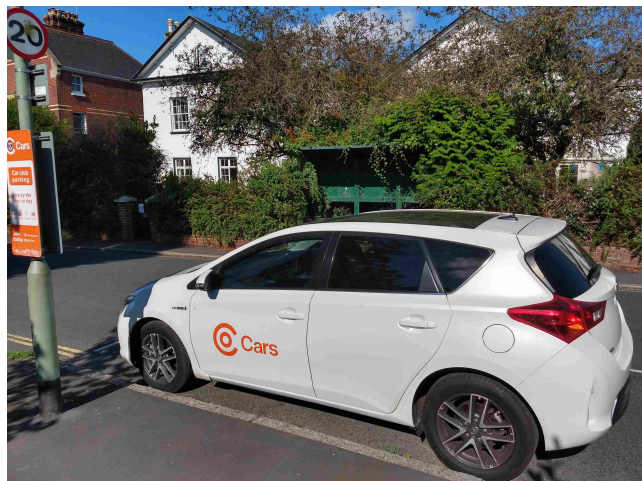
I get a monthly bill, which I pay by direct debit. Charges are based on an hourly rate (which varies depending on the size and type of car) and a mileage rate of 18p/mile (there's no mileage charge for electric vehicles). It's a lot cheaper than running a car myself – there are no insurance, tax, petrol, servicing, roadside assistance or repair costs. There's a helpline number that you can call if you have questions or get into any difficulties, or in the event of an accident, but thankfully I haven't needed to use that yet!

So as you can see, I've found it an entirely positive experience: convenient, flexible and great value. I've used cars for shopping and appointments and trips to the beach, and this coming weekend I'm driving in one to visit friends. I need to plan a bit more in advance, but that's no bad thing. It makes a whole lot more sense than having my own vehicle that I only actually use 3 or 4 percent of the time. Co Cars says that each of their cars removes between 6 and 10 private cars from the road. It's worth thinking about.



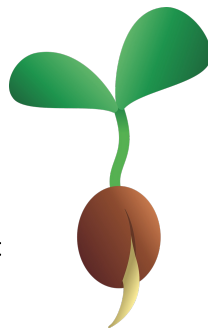
Sarah Rimmington

11 August 2021



Green Matters- Peat Free Compost

Record numbers of gardeners are switching to peat free compost and it is becoming more and more urgent that we do. It hasn't been easy up till now but the garden centres do seem to be selling more and the price difference is reducing too. A very good thing. Melcourt Sylvagrow has doubled its sales this year and Dobbies peat free compost is its most popular. The problem is that there is now a shortage of bark and coir used in peat free composts but we have to keep on trying somehow not to use peat.



Our peat bogs are the world's best natural carbon sinks and they lock away masses of carbon. When we dig up the peat from these bogs and wetlands, carbon is released into the air instead of being stored and this has serious harmful effects on the climate. Peat degradation in England alone releases 11 million tonnes of greenhouse gases per year – about as much as three coal fired power stations. (facts from Gardeners World magazine, January 2021)

If when we visit a garden centre or nursery we can't find peat free compost we must ask where it is and request that they begin to stock it. There are lots of bags of compost that only contain 50% peat but we really must try to buy 100% peat free if we can. Many nurseries now grow their plants for sale in such compost and that is a huge step forward if we are to be completely peat free by 2024 as the Government has promised.

I have found that seedlings, cuttings and plug plants etc have been perfectly happy in peat free compost and its quality has certainly improved since it was first introduced. Sadly it still costs more than the traditional peat composts but if we keep on pestering the garden centres perhaps that price difference will disappear – I'm an optimist! Let's all try to preserve our valuable peat bogs and wetlands and help in the battle against climate change.



Turner's Heir

Did you know that an heir to the painter JWM Turner is buried in St David's churchyard? Ash told the men's breakfast about his contact with a descendent who asked for the location when we were discussing Constable's Hay Wain (see last month's New Leaves). He has also corresponded with the president of the Independent Turner Society, Selby Whittingham.

Thomas Price Turner who died in 1868, aged 79 was a native of Exeter. He was a professor of music and sang at the cathedral from 1820 till his retirement in 1857. He sang at the 1834 2nd Handel Music Festival Commemoration in Westminster Abbey. This was noticed by his cousin JMW Turner on reading the programme.

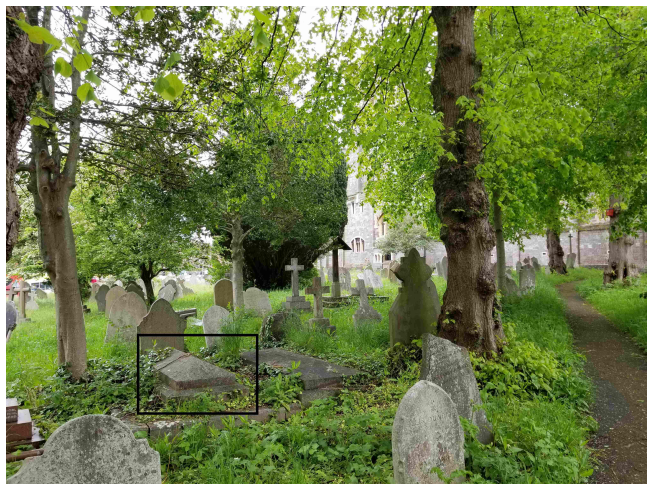
Joseph Mallord William Turner was one of Britain's greatest painters and when he died in 1851 bequeathed his paintings to the nation to be displayed together in a dedicated gallery. He also wished his small fortune to be used to support "decayed" artists and proposed an almshouse to be built at Twickenham. However the will was contested by Thomas Price Turner and four first cousins and after a court case, in 1856, they received part of the fortune, with £20,000 (about £1.6m today) given to the Royal Academy. This was used for the Turner Medal (not to be confused with the later Turner Prize) given occasionally to artists. The challenge to the will was coordinated by Jabez Tepper, son of Mary (Turner) Tepper and he argued that that Turner's philanthropic intention, which was to allocate most of his estate to the establishment of a charitable institution for impoverished artists, was illegal. Although the bulk of the estate went to the heirs, the court settlement decreed that all of Turner's artistic works be awarded to the nation not just the finished works mentioned in the will. This totalled nearly 300 oil paintings, 30,000 sketches and watercolours, and 300 sketchbooks. Unfortunately Turner's wish that a special gallery be built to show all the works together has never been realised and the collection can only be exhibited in parts, including the Clore gallery at the Tate.

Some of the descendants of the original heirs are still trying to rectify this, but the original settlement deprived the project of the necessary finances. Parliament passed an act 22 years after his death which allows the paintings to be lent outside Britain and so began the process of dividing the exhibition of them rather than being shown together as Turner wanted.

Thomas Price Turner's grave is on the north side of the churchyard, just off the path to Hele Road, about a third of the way down on the right. You can just about make out the inscription carved on the memorial gravestone. The church records this as

IN MEMORY OF
THOMAS PRICE TURNER
WHO DIED FEBRUARY 18TH 1868
AGED 79 YEARS
His end was peace

 **Clive
Wilson**
with information
provided by Ash
Leighton Plom and
Dr Selby
Whittingham
23 August 2021



Thomas Price Turner's grave is on the left

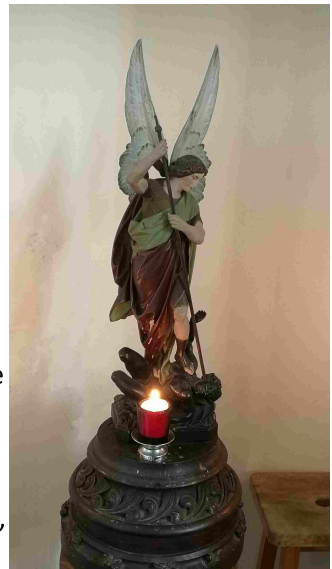
The St Michaels of St Michael's

How many depictions of the Archangel Michael can you find at St Michael's Church on Mount Dinham? Come along and see if you can find them all during the Heritage Open Days Sat 11th & Sun 12th Sept, or on Michaelmas Day for Rev Ash Leighton Plom's 1st Celebration of the Eucharist on Wed 29th Sept at 7.30pm, or any Sunday for Mass at 11am.
I can think of 7 or 8.

Inside the church are several different depictions of Michael defeating the Devil, as in Revelation 12. The Angel Screen below the West Gallery is some of the best carving in Exeter. The central roundel is a vivid image in stone of Michael overcoming Satan. The tall angels with outstretched wings either side are impressive too.

Down the far end of the North Aisle is the small Shrine of St Michael. The carving there of the same scene is contemporary with the Consecration of the Church in 1868, and produced in Germany. Apparently it used to be carried in procession at Michaelmas, much to the annoyance of the prevailing Low Church views among the diocesan hierarchy.

By contrast with these vibrant artefacts, on the wall between the North Aisle and Transept is the St Michael's Banner. It may have faded over the years, but now it's rather bland like some of the Church of England from time to time. It could remind us that even when we don't notice them, there are guardian angels and quietly praying Christians around, showing kindly concern for us.



The rather fit and good looking statue on the North side of the Crossing is indeed also St Michael, no wings but flourishing his sword. Perhaps he stood like that when banishing Adam & Eve from the Garden of Eden after their Fall from Grace, through pride and blaming others. Richard Parker tells me this was carved by a German refugee in St Ives in the 1950s, in



more enlightened times. Standing opposite of course is the Statue of Our Lady, Mary with the baby Jesus, where the Angelus is prayed. This reminds us that it has taken the humility & love of God in Christ and the obedience of Mary to undo the hubris of humanity's original and continuing sin.

At the present High Altar (1960s I think), a rather Arthurian Michael has another go at the Devil. Attending angels pour the lay and swing the censer; a visual echo of the kneeling angels on the West Screen. Above in the centre of the lower row of the Great East Window, the battle of what is good over what is easy is visible again, in glass.

I think St Michael's gives Coventry Cathedral a run for its money in the Archangel triumphing over Satan.

There is one more St Michael that you might not find. An Orthodox Icon of St Michael has blessed various locations, but currently I think it's in the Sacristy.



Outside, if you look just above the West Doors, the roundel between the arches shows St Michael in the centre with sword and scales, flanked by 6 other angels or archangels. I can't help wondering if the idea of the Archangel Michael holding the scales of judgement might link back, through the Hebrew people or the classical Greeks, to the Egyptian god Anubis who oversaw the weighing of souls in the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead. In Christian tradition, despite little biblical back-up, Michael has been seen from an early date as the one who leads souls to heaven, as in this line from the liturgy of the Requiem Mass.

sed signifer sanctus Michael repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam.
And let St. Michael, Thy standard-bearer, lead them into the holy light

And what do these St Michaels say to the clergy & people of St Michael's seeking a renewed future after the Covid constraints of the past 18 months?

Perhaps we can be more like St Michael, rejoicing in the Christian faith, fighting against evil and leading people to Christ. But this is also the Church of St Michael and ALL Angels. There are two dozen lesser angels around its walls who watch and pray and support the mission of this Church. God loves and affirms each person in their different needs and calling.



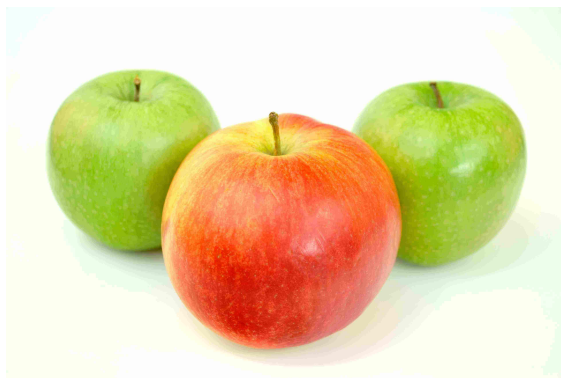
Richard Barnes – 21/08/21.



Apples, dates and Custard

Recently I had a series of mishaps while preparing a simple meal. The sort of annoying events that you tell yourself you will laugh about later. I'll describe the background. In the last months my mobility has decreased so that all my joints are painful. Lifting my arms to reach up or out and weakened wrists mean that everything is difficult to do. But, I shall not be beaten. I still like to shop for fresh food and cook it.

On this occasion my menu was easy - cook gammon, courgettes and tinned butter beans followed by stewed apples, dates and ready made custard. I opened the butter beans and put half in a bowl in the fridge. Veggies were put in steamer and gammon, in its foil, in the oven. Easy! Now to pudding. I assembled the goods. Firstly the sugar tipped over so I cleaned up the demerara. Weak wrists made it hard to peel apples. When I put the bowl in the oven I noticed the meat should have been on a baking tray. I gingerly handled the hot dish. With the apples now in the oven, I noticed I had forgotten the dates, which I still had to stone. When putting the bowl in the oven weak wrists meant that juice spilled on to the grill tray, so that had to come out to be washed. Sigh of relief! Still with me?



Now to the custard. I took a long time trying to remove the film so I stabbed it with a knife and my fingers were covered in custard. More delay! I poured half into a little bowl from Lakeland. Now Lakeland is wonderful, but their goods do have fiddly bits. Less than nimble fingers had to line up the sticking out bits of the lid with lumpy bits on the bowl and then line up everything and press down firmly. I then realised that a small square of plastic which should be in the

lid had gone AWOL (absent without official leave). I stood thinking before realising it was probably inside the bowl. So off the lid came and I stirred the custard and found the culprit. I washed and assembled the bowl and put it into the microwave. All well and good. When the meal was cooked, I realised that the bowl for the apples was sitting in the fridge full of beans. So I washed my cereal dish which I had used for breakfast.

Eventually all was eaten and I was exhausted. I made a cup of tea and settled into my armchair. Guess what? I fell asleep and the tea tipped out soaking my armchair as well as my shirt and trousers. . Having cleaned up I relaxed. I tell you my next meal will be a ready meal from Waitrose. Did I tell you it was Friday 13th?



Eileen Jarman (13.08.2021)

PS Talking of Lakeland and its liking for twiddly bits, I once bought a battery cheese grater. Worked a treat, but after washing it up, I couldn't put it together again. So I took the bits and a piece of cheese to the Lakeland shop and politely challenged the assistant to re-assemble it. She found it difficult but with the help of other assistants and advice from customers we managed it. It functioned for several more years.



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

Book Review: THE DIVINE DANCE by Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell

This was recommended to me as a spiritual classic so I acquired a copy and am being fascinated by it. The authors set out to persuade us that we might need a 'paradigm shift' in our approach to the mystery of God. We have to set right our sense of disconnection – from God, from each other and from our world. We treat God as a being far off, as the top of a pyramid. We must start with the Trinity; One is alone; Two implies preference; Three is Relationship – that is how we should see God, as Being, not 'a' being.

The whole book is an extended commentary on the Rublev icon, which Rohr claims draws us into the dance of the trinity. Salvation is willingness to stay in relationship. 'All love, goodness and holiness is a reflected gift. Our task is to trustfully receive and reflect back.'

We are continually told that God is Love. This is the gospel, the Good News, but we have not yet fully realised it. Remember the childhood favourite 'Lord of the Dance'? 'I'll live in you if you'll live in me...!



Consider how an 'anaemic and splitmind Christianity produces both fundamentalists and practical atheists and agnostics within the church. No wonder we have not yet saved the world'. Human strength is self-sufficiency; God's weakness is inter-being, mystery in mutuality.

We tend to see Jesus as rescuing us from an angry God (Deus is Zeus of the thunderbolts); but Rohr insists that he is not Plan B: not original sin but original goodness. What a wonderful idea! We tend to fear change, but we must let the river of God's love flow over us and enjoy it. God will be in the suffering as well as the well-being. Let's join the Dance!

Do read this amazing book for yourselves, even if you drown in it, as I am still doing.

Also by Richard Rohr: **FALLING UPWARD**, a spirituality for the two halves of life and how falling can be the foundation for spiritual growth



Margaret Roberts



GRAND DRAW 2021

Thankyou to everyone who bought draw tickets and everyone who donated prizes in these difficult times.both the local businesses detailed below and members and friends of the Congregation . The Draw raised £873.00 and the winners were:

1.£100	Imogen Walsh
2.Champagne.....	V.Cann
3.Chocolates	Eileen Jarman
4.Prosecco.....	Paula Lewis
5.Gin.....	Tina Guthrie
6.The Hair Hub voucher.....	Monica Darch
7.Wine.....	Bill and Avril
8.Amazon voucher.....	Barbara Allin
9.Whisky.....	Brian Coward
10.Whisky.....	Richard Barnes
11.Scented candle.....	Ruth Boyd
12.Wine.....	Bernie
13.Wine.....	Layla
14.Bayliss and Harding toiletries.....	Ellen Wilson
15.Roses chocolates.....	Geoff Crockett
16.Prosecco.....	Connie Cannon
17.chococo chocolate.....	Nigel Guthrie
18.Prosecco.....	Glynis Harflett
19.Wine.....	Richard Barnes
20.Chocolates.....	Jean Thomas
21.Plant.....	Moira Dale

22.Marks and Spencer toiletries.....	John Darch
23.Whittard mugs.....	Alfred Grimsey
24.Sanctuary Spa toiletries.....	Hilary Todd
25.Wine.....	Adrian Hewitt
26.Digital Clock.....	Clive Wilson
27.Scented Candle.....	Sybil Grimsey
28.Chocolates.....	V. Finnegan
29.The Coffee Shack vouchers.....	Clive Grimsey
30.Tin of chocolate cake	George Hexter



...er Vicar, it's about that flower Mrs Brindle's brought back from her foreign holiday...

The Green Event - Saturday 11 September, 10am-2pm

We are looking forward to holding this event in church and at the west end outside, subject to Covid precautions, and good weather. It will be our first social event since the pandemic and a chance to come together again.

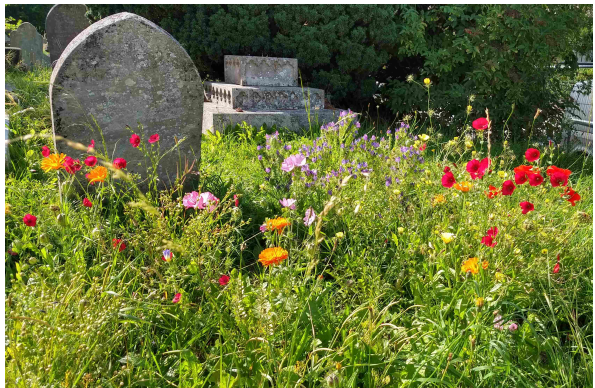
We have two talks : 10:45 Nick de Cent The Seven Ps of Rewilding, with examples from St David's neighbourhood;

11:45 Helen Scholes from Co Cars with an opportunity to look over a Co Car and try out an electric bike

There will be refreshments during the morning and a vegetarian lunch with vegan option (Tickets £5 from Tina).

We would be grateful for contributions for the produce stall - jams, pickles, vegetables, fruit, baking. These can be left at the church between 4:30 and 6pm on Friday 10th or brought along on the Saturday. Also if you have any unwanted garden or household tools these can be left on Friday for our recycling tools stall. We're having a magazine swap so any surplus copies of gardening, cycling, wildlife or other environmentally-related magazines are also welcome on Friday. Seeds or spare plants are welcome as well.

We have several interesting stalls and children's activities. Come along to enjoy, share, learn and bring your own ideas. Come along with friends!



**Sue & Clive
Wilson**

01392 437571

St David's Church 
Exeter



Green Event

Ideas for how we can live more
sustainably

10am to 2pm Saturday 11

September 2021

Vegetarian Lunch £5

Co Cars and Bikes

Wildlife talk

Becoming an Eco church

Greening the church

Churchyard Changes & Plans

Churchyard tours

Mending & making things - Knit &
Natter

Tea, Coffee and cakes

Traidcraft stall

Harvest produce

Participation table - bring your own
ideas

Children's activities

Helping hedgehogs

Exeter Cycling Campaign

Re-using & Recycling tools



St Michael and All Angels Church

Heritage Open Days

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September

- Visitors are welcome to wander around the Church,
- stop for refreshments, listen to the music or follow the guided tour.
- Saturday and Sunday, stalls of – produce – books and cards – bric a brac.

Saturday 11th

Church will be open from 9am – 6pm Refreshments will be served all day

- 2pm Guided Tour of the Church given by Dr Richard Parker
- 3pm Informal Organ Recital

Sunday 12th

Church will be open 10.00 – 6pm 11am Sunday Service

- 3 – 5pm Cream Tea while listening to an informal concert



St Michael and All Angels Church, Mount Dinham
Heritage Open Day

Sunday 12th September 3-5pm

Cream Tea and singing from Boys of the Old Brigade.



Tea with 2 scones, clotted cream and jam

£5

Fundraising for St Michael and All Angels Church- Charity number:1135766

Smile Lines

Why is it that everyone can remember their childhood phone number, but can't remember the password they set up yesterday?

Overall, chickens have probably flown further as an airline meal than they have as a species.

The sentence, 'Are you as bored as I am?', can be read backwards and still make sense.

It was our Harvest Festival Sunday. My husband had cut his ear while shaving. We arrived at the church just in time to sing: 'First the blade and then the ear'.

From a church report on renovations at a Youth Centre in Northants: 'The lift and the new windows are installed and the non-alcoholic bar is already plastered.'

From a church notice sheet: PLEASE NOTE: 'From this Sunday the evening service will begin at 8pm. This will continue until October.'

Gym?

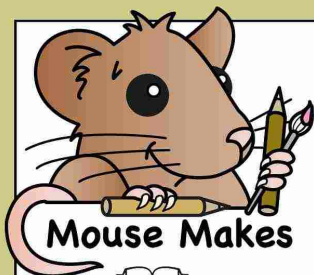
Before setting off on a business trip to Birmingham, I called the hotel where I'd be staying to see if they had a gym. The hotel receptionist's sigh had a tinge of exasperation in it when she answered.

"We have over 100 guests at this facility," she said. "Does this 'Jim' have a last name?"

Men and the TV remote

Men don't want to see what's on television. They want to see WHAT ELSE is on television.

Online meetings: Not muting your mic is the new Reply To All.



Read this story in
1 Kings 17:7-16

The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months, there was a drought in the land. God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the town of Zarephath. At the town gate he saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water and some bread," he asked her.



She answered "All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."

"Do not worry," Elijah said, "Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never ran out of oil until it rained again!



Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY

Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Kings 1:5-53

A short story from the Bible

King David was now very old, but he had still not said which son would be king. Adonijah decided to make himself king.

Adonijah had a big party at Rogel Spring for all his friends, including Joab and Abiathar, to tell them he was the king. His brother Solomon and Nathan and Zadok were not invited.

Nathan told Solomon's mother

You must tell King David. If Adonijah is king, he will kill you and your son.



You promised our son Solomon would be king, but Adonijah says he is now king.



Nathan told David



He's having a big party to celebrate right now!

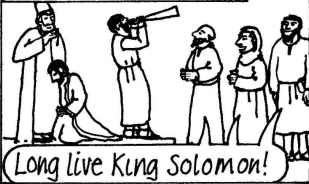
I will keep my promise! Solomon will be the next king. Zadok and Nathan, take him to Gihon Spring, anoint him and tell everyone!



So they went to Gihon with Solomon riding King David's own mule.



He was anointed king and a trumpet was blown.



Long live King Solomon!

At Adonijah's party they heard the noise.



What's going on?

David has just announced that your brother Solomon is now king.



Solomon was anointed and everyone is cheering.



Everyone ran away. Adonijah was so scared he ran to the sacred tent for sanctuary.

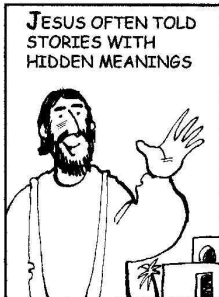


King Solomon sent for Adonijah.

If you don't cause me any trouble, I will not hurt you.



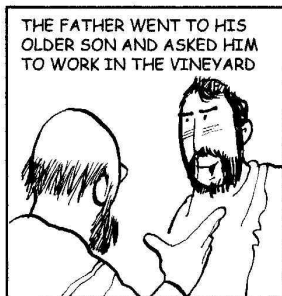
The tale of the Two Sons



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



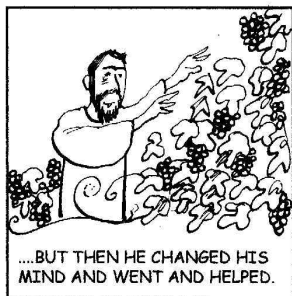
HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A
FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.



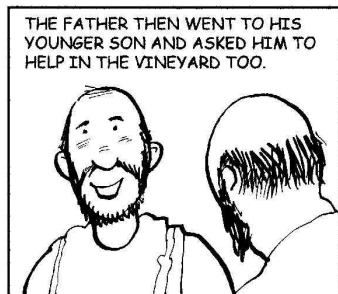
THE FATHER WENT TO HIS
OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM
TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD



'NO I WON'T' SAID THE
OLDER SON...



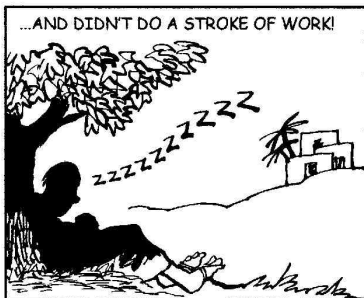
...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS
MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.



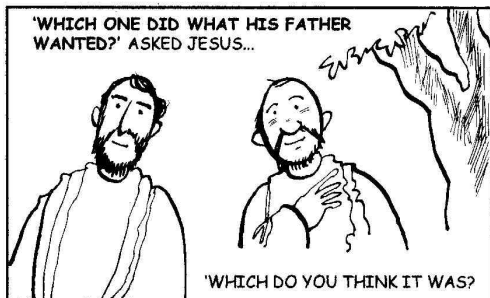
THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS
YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO
HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.



'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON, BUT
HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

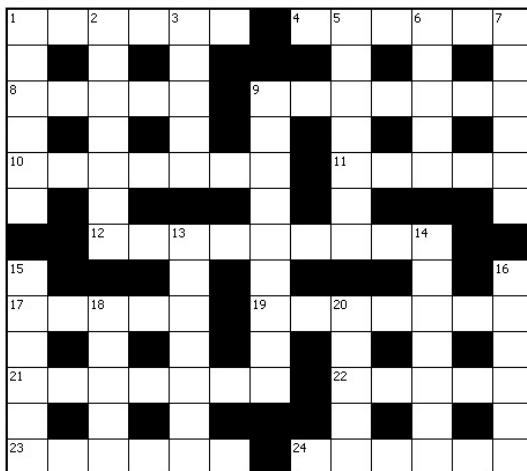
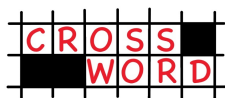


...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER
WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...

'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?



Clues Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Clues Down

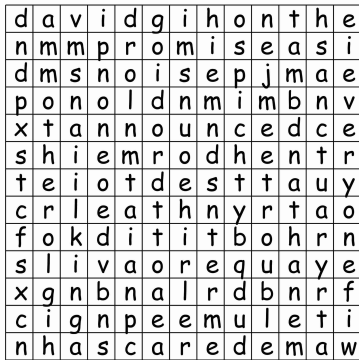
- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)

- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

Sudoku - Medium

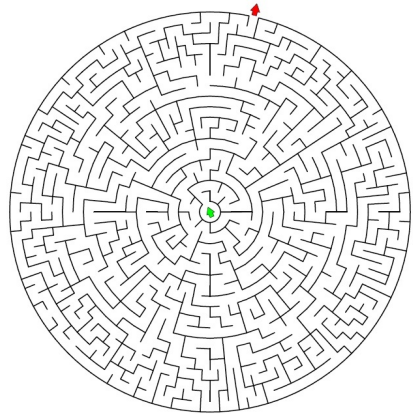
		7		6				3
1	6		4		3	9		
			1				8	
7	8							
9	2		8		4		6	1
							7	2
	1				2			
		8	9		1		3	6
2				3		1		

Word search



party	promise	David
trumpet	sanctuary	Gihon
everyone	Bathsheba	son
Adonijah	trouble	noise
king	mule	annointed
friends	mother	Solomon
invited	scared	celebrate
Nathan	announced	old

Maze



Days of Note - September

2nd September: The New Guinea Martyrs of 1942

The Anglican Church in Australia still honours the New Guinea Martyrs of 1942. These brave men and women, 10 Australians and two Papuans, refused to leave their missionary work on the island as the Japanese military forces advanced. As one tribute to them put it: *'They knowing full well the risk, elected to stay with their flock.'*

The missionaries were serving the people of Papua New Guinea as Christian priests, teachers, workers and medical nurses. All twelve were unarmed as they were going about their normal missionary work. They were probably killed for no reason at all, other than to pre-empt any possibility that they might be a danger to the Japanese in the future. Or perhaps they were killed out of some vague Japanese hatred of Australian Christians, who were poles apart from the then fanatical Emperor-worship that enveloped the whole military strategy of Japan.

The martyrs were:

In Gona, on the NE coast of Papua: May Hayman (medical sister), and Mavis Parkinson (teacher): both bayoneted to death.

In villages inland from Gona: Vivian Redlich (priest), Margery Brenchley (medical sister), Lillar Lashmar (teacher), Henry Holland, (priest), John Duffill (carpenter): all beheaded. Also, Lucian Tapiedi, an indigenous Papuan: axed to death. (A statue of Tapiedi now stands as a memorial above the West Door of Westminster Abbey.)

Outer islands: John Barge (priest), Bernard Moore (priest), boat sunk.

In open sea: Henry Mathews (priest), Leslie Gariadi (Papuan assistant): boat sunk and men machine-gunned in water.

Today the Church also remembers the more than 300 church workers of all churches who were killed in 1942, during the Japanese occupation of Papua New Guinea.

2nd September: St William of Roskilde - standing up for social justice

Here is a saint for anyone who thinks Christian leaders should stand up for justice – even at the risk of angering secular powers.

It all began when William was an English priest serving as chaplain to Canute, king of England, (1016-35), who decided to visit Scandinavia. William went along, and was so shocked by the ignorance, idolatry and superstition that he stayed on to help preach the Gospel. Eventually he became bishop of Roskilde (Zeeland), working tirelessly among the people as a beloved pastor.

But William's main challenge came in his determination to improve the conduct of the king, Sweyn Estridsen. The king had had some criminals killed without trial and in a church, violating sanctuary. William then forbade him to enter the church next day until he was absolved from the guilt of shedding blood unjustly. Courtiers drew their swords, and William showed himself ready to die. Instead, Sweyn confessed his crime and donated land to Roskilde church as a peace-offering. Thenceforward, until

the king's death, Sweyn and William worked together to foster Christianity in Scandinavia.

5th September: Laurence Giustiniani - the saint who knew how to help a beggar

You are walking down the road when a beggar approaches you for money. What do you do? If, instead of giving money, you buy him/her coffee or a meal, then you are in good company: you are following in the steps of the first ever Bishop of Venice.

Laurence Giustiniani (1381 – 1455) was born of a noble Venetian family, but he chose the austerity of the Augustinian monastery of San Giorgio on island of Alga. He became a priest in 1406, Prior in 1407, Bishop of Castello in 1433 and then in 1451 the first ever Bishop of Venice.

By then, Laurence had seen a lot of human nature, and was wise as well as good. Frugal in his private life, and happy to help the poor, he made sure that he gave *wisely* as well as generously. Hence the poor who came to him for help were given food and clothing - but only very occasionally small amounts of money. Bishop Laurence also devoted himself to peace-making and other pastoral work, for which his contemporaries held him in high esteem. As he lay dying on a bed of straw, very many clergy, laity, beggars and destitute folk came to grieve: he was greatly respected and loved. Wise giving and peace-making – Laurence's example still shines true today.

14th September: Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, to seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around

135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the Cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you, standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make You the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to Your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

21st September: St Matthew

Matthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been

depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles.

Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

26th Sept Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army

Wilson Carlile was born in Brixton in 1847, and did not set out to become an evangelist. Instead, he was brilliant at both languages and music, and excelled as a businessman. That is, until an economic recession and serious illness brought him crashing down and finished his career, aged only 31.

Not surprisingly, a serious breakdown followed, when Carlile questioned everything that he had been attempting in life. This search for a new meaning brought him to faith in Jesus Christ, and so turned his world upside down. He later wrote:

I have seen the crucified and risen Lord as truly as if He had made Himself visible to me bodily sight. That is for me the conclusive evidence of His existence. He touched my heart and old desires and hope left it. In their place came the new thought that I might serve Him and His poor and suffering brethren.

Wilson approached two Christians whose passion for ministry was already well known: the Americans evangelists Moody and Sanky, who were at that time in England. Wilson attended their meetings and supplied music via his harmonium. In return, he learned a lot about effective outdoor evangelism.

Carlile then prepared himself for a life of ministry. He was confirmed into the Church of England, studied at the London College of Divinity, ordained in 1880 and served his curacy at St Mary Abbots in Kensington. But Carlile wanted more than comfortable parish life, and soon began outdoor preaching again. He wanted to reach the poor, unchurched, of the community.

Carlile left Kensington to work in a slum mission, and by 1882 he was busy uniting the local Anglican parish missions into one organisation. Here his business skills in planning and organising proved invaluable, and soon he

had founded the 'Church Army.' He then founded two training colleges, to train both men and women evangelists. After slight hesitation, the Church of England agreed to incorporate the Church Army into its structure, and even created the office of Evangelist for the Church Army captains and sisters.

In the years that followed, Church Army has done great work in evangelism, as well as in social and moral welfare. It helped support the troops during World War 1. Carlile remained honorary chief secretary until retirement in 1926. He died in 1942.

29th September: Angels Unawares

By Canon David Winter

One of those surveys which some newspapers love to publish claimed recently that a large number of British people believe in angels – almost as many, in fact, as claimed to believe in God. They didn't tell us what people meant by 'angels'. I suspect quite a few were thinking of young children who die, who are often now said to be 'angels' 'up there'. They're not, of course. They are transformed human beings. Be that as it may, when Christians celebrate the feast of St Michael and All Angels later this month, there will be many of us, inside and outside churches, who will wonder exactly what or who we are celebrating.

Most simply, the word in the New Testament means 'messenger. An 'angel' is a being who brings to us God's message or his help. In the Bible angels are variously described. The familiar notion of wings and flight comes from a vision given to Isaiah in the Temple when he was being called as a prophet. The angel Gabriel, who told Mary that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah, is not described at all, but his words are recorded in detail. Angels speak to people in dreams (Joseph, the husband of Mary, for instance) and Jesus spoke of 'angels' who particularly care for children ('guardian angels').

Most people, even very devout ones, have never knowingly encountered an angel, I guess. However, the New Testament tells us that in 'showing hospitality to strangers' some of us have 'entertained angels without knowing it'. Clearly wings and eyes of flame are not obligatory. Just human care. 'Oh, go on, be an angel and make me a cup of tea!'

Puzzle solutions

A	C	C	E	S	S		B	L	I	N	D	S
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3	1	9	6	5	2	7	4	8
5	7	8	9	4	1	2	3	6
2	4	6	7	3	8	1	5	9

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the October issue of New Leaves is Sunday 26th September

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!

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