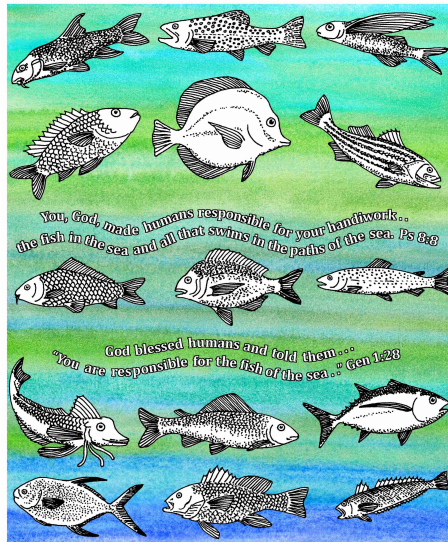


New Leaves

July/August 2022



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 Clive Wilson supported by
Stephanie Aplin

New Leaves



From the Vicarage July 2022

A Great Fête!

Saturday 25th June dawned reasonably bright and the sun shone for most of the time with a little 'liquid sunshine' added into the mix. We were grateful to Councillor Amy Sparling, who was elected as one of our new St David's Ward Councillors last year, who opened the fête for us.

A great deal of work had gone into collecting plants, cakes, books, bric-a-brac and other goodies to make attractive stalls and your efforts were rewarded with plenty of customers. The indoor refreshments and barbecue also did brisk trade. And the Fun Dog Show also attracted many entries and brought different people into the fête and added a lot of enjoyment. Our thanks to St David's Vets and to their staff for supporting and judging the show. And thank you to everyone who worked so hard and gave such generous support to the event.

It was also good to welcome members of the Devon Mental Health recovery learning courses who meet at St Michael's Church and who offered some ukulele music and African drumming during the day.

It looks as if the fête raised over £2,300 for our two churches which will be great help as we face (like everyone) increased bills for heating this year. But perhaps more significantly it was a great opportunity to show that we are alive and well in our community.

Meeting with Archdeacon Andrew Beane

Andrew has now written to the PCC inviting us all to a meeting at St Michael's Church on Wednesday 20 July at 7.30pm. He will speak about the possible ways forward for ministry in the parish following his proposals last autumn and the subsequent survey of views of the St Michael's Church Community. Please do come if you can to join in this important consultation.

Parish Lunch – Summer Dates

While the College Restaurant is closed Parish Lunch will continue at other venues. On July 14th Lunch will be at the Dinosaur Café and on 18th August it will be at The Farmers' Union. Do look out for the sign-up sheets and join us if you can.

Heritage Weekend

On the weekend of 10-11 September we plan to offer great activities and delicious refreshments at St Michael's Church. Please keep the date and come along.

Green Day

We are also planning an environmental awareness morning at St David's for 24th September with speakers, stalls and a lunch of 'local produce' being arranged by the Social Committee.

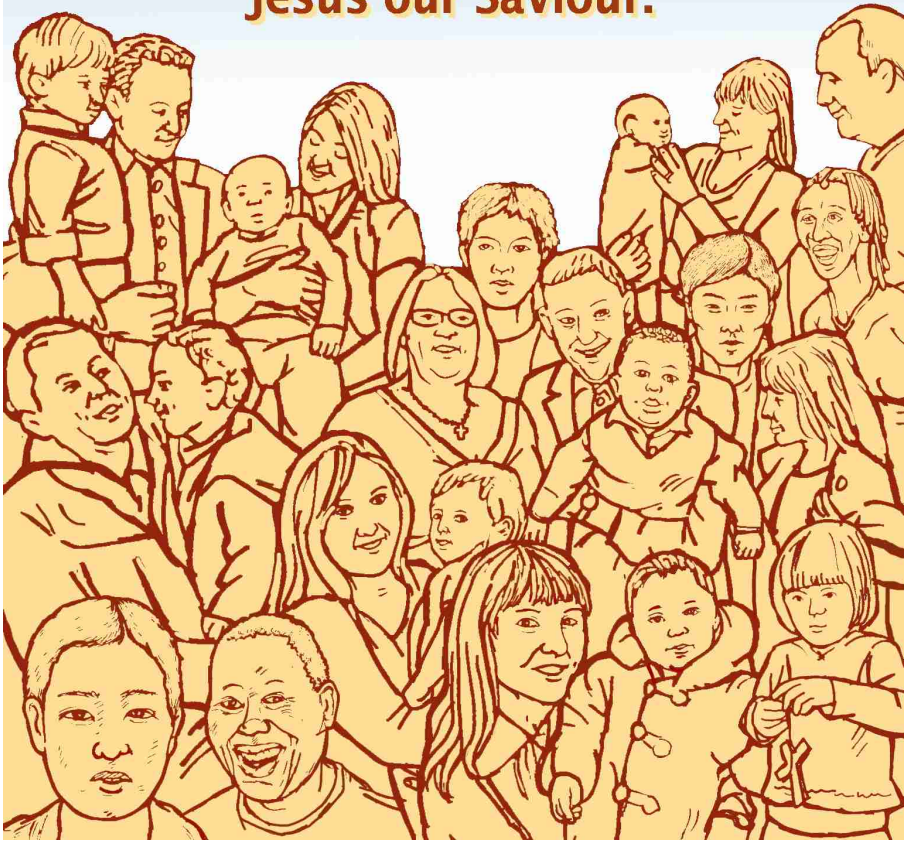
Prayer for Ukraine

Thank you to everyone who has offered prayers by writing on one of our 'peace doves' at St David's Church. In view of the continuing appalling conflict we will keep our peace doves in view as a way of signalling that we hold the people of Ukraine in our prayers, both those still living in the country and the millions who are now refugees. Lord, have mercy.

With every blessing,

Nigel Guthrie

**Father God,
as you made us in your image,
may we see you in all those we meet
and serve you in all that we do,
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of
Jesus our Saviour.**



July/August: some thoughts from St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham

From my much younger days, I recall a song my mother loved to sing. '*Three Little Words*' had actually hit the world of sound in 1930. Many artists since then have recorded cover versions of the song, but the earliest publication was by The Rhythm Boys, Duke Ellington and Bing Crosby. I hadn't realised it had been around that long.

The power and influence of 'little words' set me thinking about how two little words have changed our lives. The first, the conjunction 'and', caused the division between Eastern and Western churches; the second, the definite article 'the', appears to have been dropped from the description of the Monarch's role as Defender of the Faith. They would not seem to be very important in communication, but I think they are central. One is in the past, one has been subtly much closer to our own time.

Historically, the inclusion of '*filioque*', 'and the Son' to express the Double Procession of the Holy Spirit from God and the Son, Jesus Christ, caused serious spiritual and theological division as far back as the fifth century. It is important as a concept to help us to understand the notion – and need – of salvation. The Early Church accepted three levels of experience of God: dominion, communion and possession, God over us, God with us and God in us, the idea given poetic form in St Patrick's Breastplate, the traditional hymn for Trinity.

The second word, 'the', was commented on some time ago by HRH Prince Charles, suggesting that he would rather have the title 'Defender of *Faiths*' when it was his time to become King, not Defender of THE Faith, which would mean only Christianity. Immediately letters were dashed off to broadsheets and the *Church Times*, but all the fuss died down. The recent celebrations of the Jubilee made me listen more closely to the descriptions of the Queen's role: she was described as 'Defender of Faith' and it was as such that Archbishop Justin Welby presented her with an award recognising her own personal faith and dialogue with other faiths. What was engaging during the televised discussions was that Robert Lacey, the royal biographer, clearly understood Her Majesty's position and was not all embarrassed in

describing it. We have been fortunate indeed to have such an example of service and faith.

Two 'little words' which have such power to change the world.

July is a crucial one for our congregation and for the parish. We have a meeting with the Archdeacon on the 20th at which the plans for the future of the church and therefore the parish will be discussed. We are all anxious about this event for various reasons. In my gloomiest moments I cannot see how we could ever be independent; so many unforeseen events are in the mix now, including a war in Ukraine which has caused fuel prices to leap, increasing our projected costs enormously. Our congregation is much reduced; the pandemic has affected all church-going, not just locally and some of us are wearying in battle. We need great injections of faith, not just cash, to keep going.

Pray for us.



Stephanie Aplin



Readers and Leaders in Prayer for July/ August 2022 at St David's

Sunday 3rd July (Thomas the Apostle)

1st Reading: Habakkuk 2:1-4
2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:19-end
Gospel Reading: John 20:24-29
Preacher: Belinda Speed-Andrews Bible
Reader: Keith Postlethwaite
Leader in Prayer: Alistair Macintosh

Sunday 10th July (4th Sunday after Trinity/ Sea Sunday

1st Reading:
Deuteronomy 30:9-14
2nd Reading:
Colossians 1:1-14
Gospel Reading Luke
10:25-37

Preacher: Howard Friend Bible Reader: Charlotte
Townsend
Prayer Leader: Geoff Crockett



Sunday 17th July (5th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a
2nd Reading: Colossians 1:15-28
Gospel Reading: Luke 10:38-end
Preacher: Nigel Guthrie Bible Reader: Emma White
Prayer Leader: Ian Cartwright

Sunday 24th July (6th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Genesis 18:20-32
2nd Reading: Colossians 2:6-15
Gospel Reading: Luke 11:1-13
Preacher: Ash Leighton-Plom Bible Reader: Maggie
Draper

Prayer Leader: Richard Johnson

Sunday 31st July (7th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Ecclesiastes 1-2,12-14;2:18-23

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:13-21

Preacher: Bill Pattinson Bible Reader: Cathy Knowles

Leader in Prayer: Deborah Leighton-Plom

Sunday 7th August (8th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Genesis 16:1-6

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:32-40

Preacher: Ian Cartwright Bible Reader: Geoff Crockett

Leader in Prayer: Helena Walker

Sunday 14th August (9th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:49-56

Preacher: Howard Friend Bible Reader: Clive Wilson

Leader in Prayer: Nigel Walsh

Sunday 21st August (10th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-end

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12:18-end

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17

Preacher: Nigel Guthrie Bible Reader: Jeremy Lawford

Leader in Prayer: Chris Gill

Sunday 28th August (11th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7

2nd Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1,7-14

Preacher: Bible Reader: Ann Watts

Leader in Prayer: Glynis Harflett



Services & Events for St. Michael's - July and August 2022

Our thanks to all who have joined us in worship at St. Michael's during the month of June and special thanks to our visiting organists. As I type this, I recall that since the last magazine was published, we celebrated Pentecost/Whitsuntide on Sunday 5th June, when we also marked the Platinum Jubilee of the reign of our Queen. We have seen the beginning of the period of Trinity and the Festival of Corpus Christi. What a beautiful evening that was in all respects – particularly as we held a procession around the grounds of Mount Dinham Estate bathed in wonderful sunshine! The continued success of the Bountiful Table on the first Sunday of the month is due to the organisation of both Stephanie Aplin and Elizabeth Hughes and to those that support them in cooking and providing goods as well as those who buy them! Thanks, also, to Barry Mather for the organisation of the newspaper collections. The bookstall, organised by Vivien, is also worth a browse as the stock is always changing. The lecture on 22nd by Professor Peter Allsop on Teodorico Pedrini and the Ruin of the Mission to China was, I understand, well received. Please continue to support these ventures.

A final note of thanks to all who contributed towards the Parish Fete on Saturday 25th June – whether in time, contributions of goods and/or finance and general effort.

At time of writing Oliver Nicholson is, no doubt, working on organising further lectures. If you would like more information and to join the lectures mailing list, please send an “e-pistle” to: [**mountdinhamlectures@gmail.com**](mailto:mountdinhamlectures@gmail.com)

Below are our regular patterns of worship in Church and on-line:-

Sundays 11am Sung Mass & Sermon

First Sunday in the month – 6pm Evensong & Benediction (check regular notices for variations)

Wednesdays Breakfast at 9.00am followed by Matins at 10.00am and Low Mass at 10.30am (during school terms – see weekly notices for other detail on this).

Plainsong Vespers led by Dr. Richard Parker on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm is public worship, also broadcast to <https://facebook.com/groups/2227703237>

Friends of St. Michael's Facebook Group - details on the Church website <https://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk>

The weekly Parish Notices and pew sheets will keep you informed. Our thanks to Oliver Nicholson for typing these and sending them out by e-mail each week.

Choir rehearsal – this takes place immediately after Vespers on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. If you are interested in joining the choir please contact Tasha Goldsworth – Musical Director or speak to a choir member.

Services and events for July and August as follows but please note that during August Vespers and both Wednesday morning services are suspended for the holiday period –

Sunday 3rd July – The Third Sunday after Trinity

11am – Sung Mass

Setting: Mass in F – *Darke*

Motet: Lead me Lord – *Samuel Wesley*

6pm Evensong and Benediction

Responses: *Reading* Canticles: *Brewer in D*

Motet: Come Down, O Love Divine – *Harris*

Wednesday 6th July – Remember Thomas More and John Fisher
(Reformation Martyrs)

10.00am Matins

10.30am Low Mass

Sunday 10th July – The Fourth Sunday after Trinity
(Also Sea Sunday)

11.00am – Sung Mass

Setting: Missa l' hora passa – *Viadana*

Motet: Ave Verum Corpus – *Sir Edward Elgar*



Wednesday 13th July

10.00am Matins

10.30am Low Mass

Sunday 17th July – The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

11.00am – Sung Mass

Setting: Mass in Phrygian Mode – *Wood*

Motet: O Lord Increase Our Faith - *Loosemore*

Wednesday 20th July

10.00am Matins

10.30am Low Mass

7.30pm Visit of the Archdeacon of Exeter to hear further plans for the future

Friday 22nd July – Remember Mary Magdalene

Sunday 24th July – The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Sung Mass

Monday 25th July – Remember St. James the Great – Apostle

Tuesday 26th July – Remember Anne and Joachim – Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 27th July

10.00am Matins

10.30am Low Mass

Sunday 31st July – The Seventh Sunday after Trinity – Also remember Joseph of Arimathea

Sunday 7th August – The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Sung Mass

6pm Evensong and Benediction

Sunday 14th August – The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Sung Mass

Monday 15th August – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 21st August – The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Sung Mass

Sunday 28th August – The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Also remember Augustine, Bishop of Hippo

11.00am Sung Mass

The DRC Courses continue during the remainder of the Summer Term:

Tuesday Noon - 2pm Ukulele for Your Recovery

3pm – 5pm Taking Your Recovery Further

Thursday 10am – Noon Yes, You Can Sing!

1pm – 3pm Introduction to Rhythms for Recovery with Djembe
Drumming

3.30pm – 5.30pm Taking Recovery Further with African Djembe
Drumming

Booklets about the DRC Courses are to be found in St. Michael's Church or you can find out more by looking on the website: www.devonric.co.uk or simply telephone EXETER (01392) 677067 (between 10am and 2pm Monday to Thursday).

Looking ahead to September, the Heritage Days for St. Michael's and All Angels will be held on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September. Further details of events no doubt to be published at a later date. Please put these dates in your diary and on your calendar!

In the meantime, enjoy the summer and your holidays, whatever you decide to do.



Anthony Pugh – Midsummer Day, 2022





The Venerable Andrew Beane

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Revd Preb Nigel Guthrie
St David's & St Michael's Churchwardens & PCC

23rd May 2022

Dear friends,

St David's & St Michael's Moving Forward

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my profound thanks for your honesty, candour and passion shown in the many responses to the informal survey regarding the future working together of your two churches.

There is clearly no simple solution to the two churches' ongoing relationship and sustainable governance. Considering that conversations have been going on for nearly as long as the churches were consecrated, this is no surprise. We asked you to consider the four possible proposals I suggested in November, namely:

- Affirmation and acceptance of women's ministry at both churches;
- Exploring becoming part of the Churches Conservation Trust network of churches;
- Explore the practicality of setting up a standalone single parish benefice for St Michael's and All Angels;

Create a formal link with a Society Parish.

Reflecting on the comments, many of which express people's frustration and hurt, there is no clear way forward and little energy for accepting the necessity for change to the current unsatisfactory arrangement.

One helpful suggestion is that we commend these matters to God in prayer; this would have the advantage of giving us all time to reflect further, to research more fully the options and their implications and allow me to prepare a more detailed proposal for consultation. Therefore, I invite you to continue to pray for your two communities, your working together, and for difficult conversations, as we seek a realistic and acceptable way forward.

Revd Prebendary Nigel Guthrie and I would like to invite you to a further opportunity to meet on Wednesday 20th July, 7.30pm at St Michael and All Angels and until this time to pray faithfully, sincerely and courageously about the future, whilst celebrating and rejoicing on the past.

Prayer of Sir Francis Drake

*Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.
AMEN*

Once again, my profound thanks for your honesty, candour and passion for the life of St Michael's.

With every blessing,

Andrew

Andrew Beane
Archdeacon of Exeter



Looking back in order to look forward

Stephanie's article in New Leaves (May 2022) took me back 30 years to the notes I had written when considering how to vote at my Deanery Synod meeting on 26.2.1991 and what I had concluded. I reproduce them here as they are still what I believe, even more so now with the experience of the intervening 30 years:

1. I believe we are created in the image of God, equal.
2. Male and female are two parts of one whole.
3. If God calls men and women to serve him, and their vocations having been tested are found to be true, they should be able to do the work before them. It is not for us to place obstacles in their path.
4. To argue that an institution has always been so and therefore should continue is no argument at all. In a world like that there is no possibility for change – no votes for women, no abolition of slavery, no admission of women to the bar, no evolution of Parliament, democracy etc.
5. I do not see or understand God as wholly male. His love and cherishing, caring and concern are all more usually considered female qualities. He is all. He became flesh, as it happens as a man. He was born of woman. Thus both played a part. Jesus had many women as friends, not in accordance with the prevailing mores of the time; they feature in his stories – Jairus' daughter, the woman with the haemorrhage, Lazarus and his sisters, his caring for his mother.
6. Emotionally, some part of me is uneasy with the idea of a woman priest but could that not be the result of custom and fear of change? [30 years on, yes, most certainly it was!]
7. Man historically seems to have understood subordination of women in terms of repression, however some argue it. If we are all subordinate to each other in love, the qualities of women in the spiritual realm should be acknowledged and drawn on rather than feared. The church should not be seen as a male bastion being stormed by outraged women. It should be a body within which all meet as equals and where the gifts of each are drawn on and developed for the greater glory of God whatever the calling made."

Even more strongly than then, I believe that vocation is alive and well in our current society. God is greater than we can possibly imagine and he calls

whomever he wants to his service in whatever capacity he wants, be it nurses and doctors, teachers, artists, writers, engineers, inventors, social workers, administrators ... priests. The current 'Defender of the Faith'? A woman, Her Majesty the Queen, for me the ultimate example of a vocation, albeit unlooked for but sanctified at her coronation and faithfully lived out in the full glare of public life over the last 70 years, something we have been celebrating in style this past weekend (2-5 June). As she has made clear increasingly publicly in her Christmas broadcasts, her faith has been the bedrock of her life and she continues to draw strength from it as she serves our country and the Commonwealth.

For those who feel they are being called by God to be priests, the Church has processes for discernment and the testing of vocation. If, via those processes, a vocation is tested and found to be true, who are we as mere mortals to put blocks in the path of its fulfilment? As Charles Argall said, if it is wrong, why are there now so many shining examples of female ministry, to which I would add not least our own Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London?

Stephanie writes as though the Anglo-Catholic wing of the church rejects women's ministry. But that is not so - witness St John the Divine Kennington where I worshipped and sang before moving to Exeter, and St Mary's Primrose Hill, where I was baptised, where the Rev Preb Marjorie Brown has been in charge since the translation to Exeter of one Robert Atwell, both churches full of people and beautiful music.

Going back to 1991, I still have the pages on which we were invited to write our thoughts in a church debate from that time and the comment that really struck home was written by a dear friend, Elizabeth:

'I don't see how the authenticity of God's calling can be denied. Again and again one sees women of evident gifts suffering the pain of exclusion. I pray for the healing of the suffering of all deeply concerned over this issue, and for the eventual acceptance of women to the priesthood and episcopate.'



Hilary Todd

08.06.2022

The Gender of Priests (ii)

Some thinkers have suggested that one reason for Jesus choosing only male disciples was the need to minimise sexual distraction in what would be a closely-knit group. (I say “minimise” because not all men are heterosexual.)

Another suggestion is that the male frame seemed better adapted to countering violence perhaps from bigots feeling the pain of having to re-think their core beliefs.

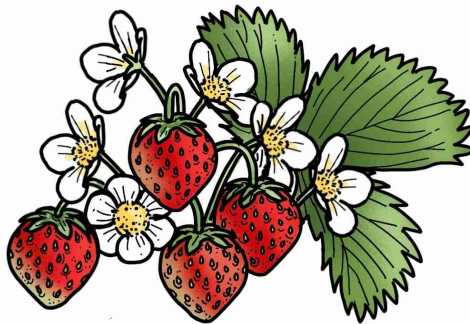
I find it helpful to consider the difference between the two situations:

- (1) Today's churches of St David and St Michael which both have regular indoor services led by ordained priests.
- (2) An itinerant group of Christian disciples living together in a hostile environment 2,000 years ago.

Suspecting that the all-male constraint was meant for (2) but not (1), I would be happy for women to celebrate Mass at St Michael's.



Charles Argall



Bridges between Life and Death

A wonderful book has recently come out, written by a clairvoyant Romanian psychiatrist / psychotherapist who works with people near the end of their lives and, in particular, after they have died (Iris Paxino - Bridges between life and death, Floris Press 2022 - £12.99). This may sound unique and bizarre but only for our strange age, when Reductionism / Materialism prevails, and, in the West, people have no concept of surviving death – whereas the reality is, it is difficult to realise when one is actually dead. You speak to people and they do not reply, they seem not to hear you, as if you are not there. You do not need to open doors to enter rooms. You try to pick something up, it remains where it is. You think of somewhere – you are there! This can be puzzling, and even disturbing, particularly for an atheist materialist. And it helps them greatly if you tell them (aloud or silently) “you are now dead!”

At the time of someone's death it can also help greatly to say the Lords Prayer. Iris Paxino recalls: “

I once drove past a very bad road accident. Several cars were wedged into one another, one more was overturned and another was further away on the embankment. Police, fire brigade, and emergency doctor and several ambulances were already in attendance. The scene of the accident had been cordoned off and I could see police officers co-ordinating what was going on. Other people stood in small groups around the vehicles. Then I passed the accident site. At the next opportunity, I stopped and got out of my car. I contemplated on the scene of the accident to see whether any seriously injured or deceased person needed help. I saw the figure of a young man floating a few metres above the scene. He looked at the events from above and did not seem to fully understand what had happened. Suddenly I saw a warm beam shining toward him from below. This ray came from an older woman who stood next to the accident on the side of the road, quietly reciting the Lords Prayers. She had not seen the spiritual form of the young man, only his body as it lay covered on the roadside. Filled with compassion, she said this prayer for the unknown dead young man who perceived it as a gleaming ray of warmth. It pacified his soul and he was able to take his eyes off the scene of the accident. As soon as he did, he saw several angelic beings gathered around him and after a few moments he left with them.”

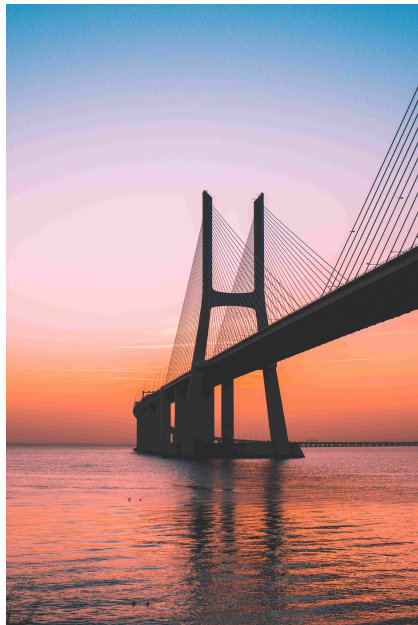
Iris Paxino adds: “It is by no means requirement that we must be able to “see” the deceased person in order to help them. Just a knowledge of such connections and a direct action is enough to make a difference.”

In the book Iris Paxino indicated the different kinds of soul conditions one experiences in turn in the spiritual realms: those of the etheric (life-force), soul and spirit. Like Dante in his Divine Comedy we pass through those three realms: Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso. Iris Paxino may not quite not have Dante’s sublime poetry but in one respect she exceeds even him, for she indicates (after the Cosmic Midnight Hour) the journey we then take is back to pick up and construct a new destiny, a new karma, in another incarnation on earth to take forwards our and its vast evolution.

In this age it is hard for those who love us and cross the threshold before us, and are there longing to communicate with us. We must make space for them in our thoughts and hearts!



John Hammond - June 2022



Letter from Edinburgh - The Music of Genesis

I'm not thinking of the eponymous rock band, though that is my era, but of Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" first performed in Vienna in 1799.

My old Novello choral score shows that I first sang Creation in March 1973, in the Sixth Form at Sir Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester.

I have sung the well-known chorus 'The heavens are telling the glory of God' from Psalm 19 many times, and the whole work half-a-dozen times since, but not for at least 20 years.

So, listening to an excellent performance at the end of May by the Edinburgh Royal Choral Union at St Cuthbert's Church in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle, the music was both familiar and fresh.

I would thoroughly recommend it for Summer music listening.

This is not a Concert review; rather a few tangential thoughts that arose during and after the joyful and exciting experience.

The performance was in English (with good diction I might add) but I had always assumed Austrian Franz Joseph Haydn had composed "Die Schöpfung" in German, with an English translation made later for the flourishing British Choral Society market.

As ever, History is not that simple.

A long anonymous English poem based on Genesis and Milton's Paradise Lost had been around for decades. Handel had rejected it as too unwieldy.

It was offered to Haydn during his successful 1790s concert tour of Britain. His librettist Gottfried van Swieten produced usable parallel texts in both German and English. Following the success of Handel's Messiah and Israel in Egypt, van Swieten based the recitatives on the English Authorised Version of Genesis, while the arias veered more towards a German poetic style and word order.

So the original publication of Haydn's Creation in 1800 was bi-lingual.

The music itself is such fun and delightful to listen to, with vivid sound-

painting of the unfolding of each new day of creation.

It's like a Capability Brown garden in words & music. There is meteorology, landscape, birdsong and a carnival of animals.

As I tend to do, I noticed parallels in certain passages with other more recent works.

The 'Big Bang' of 'Let there be Light' reminded me of the climax of 'Also sprach Zarathustra' by Richard Strauss, but there's only so much one can do with a classical orchestra.

Despatching the powers of darkness to the abyss may have inspired Elgar's Demons in his Dream of Gerontius; Creation would have been a staple at the three Choirs Festival.

The way the earth brings forth animals from its fertile womb felt like how Aslan sings forth the creatures of Narnia in C S Lewis's 'The Magician's Nephew', the prequel to 'The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe'.

The section about Adam & Eve is perhaps the weakest and rather sentimental to modern ears.

Like some comedy programmes from my youth, it might now carry a warning of outdated cultural & sexual references. But our soloists pulled it off with relish.

Haydn composed Creation at the peak of Enlightenment optimism, so the emphasis is on the order that God has put into his handiwork with Man as the supreme example of God's purpose – the crown of creation.

In my view, a gross simplification, the 18th century Enlightenment, like the Reformation before it, was largely a Boys' Club. It would take the Victorians to start to restore to women some of the education, religious independence and ministry that those of the right status had enjoyed in the medieval Church. E.g. I find I have been writing this on the Feast of Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, a powerful woman of her time.

So it is Adam's arched brow sublime that signifies wisdom and purpose, while Eve is his graceful consort whose tender looks bespeak him love and joy and bliss!

Haydn's depiction of Genesis stops there. There is no mention of the Fall and Man's expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Just a single short warning before the final chorus that they would be happy, if not for their desire to know more than is right for them.

Salvation is a story for another day.

Finally, I wondered if there is a modern, i.e. from the past 60 years, equivalent of Haydn's Creation? Can you think of any, other than beloved science documentaries?

I may be done for heresy here, but isn't Rice/Lloyd-Webber's Jesus Christ Super Star the rock opera form of the Bach Passions? And Stephen Schwartz' gentler Godspell musical the update of Messiah.

From the book of Genesis we have Rice/Lloyd-Webber's popular Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

The story of Noah's Ark & the Flood has been set to music by Benjamin Britten and by Flanders & Horowitz.

Coming full circle to my school-days, shortly after our Creation performance, a few enterprising pupils wrote their own rock musical "Paradise Unlimited" based on Milton, and performed it in the earthy splendour of Gloucester Cathedral rather like a modern day Mystery Play.

There is one more that I know of. Schwartz, now best known for Wicked, a musical that parallels The Wizard of Oz, also wrote the lesser known "Children of Eden". This is a sympathetic exploration of Humanity's relationship with their Father God through the crises of the Fall and the Flood.

I gather there are performances of Children of Eden planned for Easter 2023 in Crediton.

Meanwhile I hope you have time and space to enjoy creation and recreation this summer.



Richard Barnes – 23/06/22.

Green Matters

We are planning to apply for Eco Church certification and hope to have achieved at least Bronze status before the Green event on 24th September.

We plan to have some logs placed in the churchyard as informal seating.

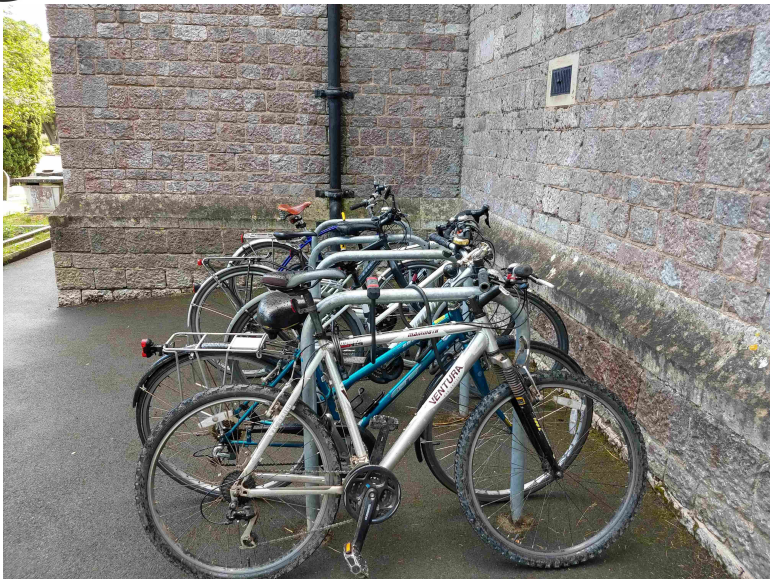
We will be exploring an expanded car-share scheme in the Autumn following on from the travel survey.

Exeter Churches Green Network had a stall at Respect Festival over the weekend of June 11th-12th. The theme of the festival this year was the environment and Dilys, Clive and Sue volunteered on the stall. It was run very much like the Participation Stall at our Green Event, with lots of discussion and ideas about what we can do in Exeter, both individually and collectively. It was good for St David's to have a presence at Respect and to get to know members of the network from other churches.



Clive Wilson

29 June 22



Well-used bike racks at our Sunday Parish Communion service

Green Links July 2022

Following on from last year's articles on Soul Gardens, here are a couple of books recommended by David Curry, our Diocesan Environmental Adviser.

The God of the Garden: Thoughts on Creation, Culture and the Kingdom. By Andrew Peterson

God in the Garden: Weekly Bible Reflections for the Gardener's Year. By Philip Eley.
Available from Eden.Co.UK

A volunteer opportunity! Support for DEFAN (Devon Earth & Faith Network)

Does anyone know a young Christian (under 30) who would like to facilitate a workshop or deliver a presentation at the 18th September Interfaith Creation event? Please contact defandevon@gmail.com or lizknightbridge@hotmail.com so we can explain in more detail what we are looking for.

Recordings of the recent Land and Nature webinar series are now available here: **Webinars on land and nature, for Churches Count on Nature | The Church of England**

There is also a single YouTube playlist of the 2021 and 2022 videos here: **land and nature webinars - YouTube**

Particularly recommended are:

- the one by Helen Stephens on Eco Church Land, which will really help churches wondering where to start with the Land section,
- the one by Caring for Gods Acre on "Blooming and Beautiful", which covers the practicalities of managing their grass to encourage wildflowers.
- the one by Pete Brotherton on "Becoming Nature Positive -tackling the joint crises of biodiversity loss and climate change". This one gives you the big picture, covers both this year's COPs, and links these issues to action the Church could take.

◦ the one by the Church Commissioners on how they are managing their rural estate for climate and nature. You'll also find oceans, trees, bats, urban wildlife, growing food to grow mission, biological recording, and Nature Recovery Networks. All the speakers generously gave their time for free.

The Great British Beach Clean is happening 16th-25th September. Why not find an event happening near you, or set up your own and help maintain our beautiful coastline. Next time you are at the beach, could you try a **#2minutebeachclean**?

Plans to help the Church of England's 16,000 local churches and 4,500 schools reach Carbon Net Zero by the end of the decade will be considered by General Synod on 8th July. Please pray for their deliberations. You can find out more information, case studies, videos and related documents **here**.



*Not everyone has a natural gift for
rural ministry*

Perspective

At school, more years ago than I like to remember, a favourite lesson was art. One day, we had a lesson on perspective. The teacher showed us how to draw a line of trees or a fence that could look as if it were disappearing over the horizon in the distance i.e. the trees were



taller at the front and then grew smaller and closer together. I eagerly put avenues in any pictures that I drew. Later in life I realised that putting things into perspective was important to my well-being. Here is a recent example. One evening I reached up to the shelf and knocked the pepper-mill onto the worktop below. As is my luck, the top was loose and, are you with me ?, peppercorns splattered onto the objects below. These were one toaster, one mug tree, one drinks dispenser, one tin of coffee, one small jug, a tea caddy, a cake box, a biscuit barrel, a bread box, a sugar bowl, a cereal box, a kitchen roll holder, a pile of plates, Uncle Tom Cobley and all. You can see the challenge, to collect them all. To make things even better, the cutlery drawer was partly open and a few nestled among the spoons etc. I managed , after some rude language, to clear them all up and, firmly, shut the drawer till I felt stronger. Reciting this, on the phone to my friend, S.W., she said “What are a few peppercorns in the cutlery drawer in the great scheme of things?” And she’s right. We should get events into perspective and grasp any chance to enjoy our lives. If the opportunity arises to spend time with friends and family, or have an outing, or just relax, do it. Over the years, I’ve realised that if I leave the dusting, washing up or the laundry, the world does not stop turning or lightning strike. We have one short life – enjoy it.

Eileen Jarman 28/5/22



PS Yes, a few days later , my conscience bade me clean out the cutlery drawer.

Prayers from the Hermitage

Early morning prayer walk

Bruce Allinson

In this hectic world

Stop,

Breathe,

Let the signs

Fill your being

Breathe in the life-giving air

Breathe deeply.

Breather slowly.

Rest.

Let the creation play with your soul

Give love,

Give praise,

Give thanks,

To the Father with all his love.

Dance with the spirit,

Holding hands with the Son.

Living your life in His name. Amen

Pilgrimage to Romania and Moldavia

Martin and Elspeth Shaw have made the difficult decision to cancel this pilgrimage because of security reasons. They apologise if this decision has caused any inconvenience.

Bill Pattinson
01.06.2022

Pictures from our recent Fete which was very successful. The Dog Show was popular!



Parish Lunch Club Date- Summer 2022

Our monthly Parish Lunchs are at different locations as at @34 Restaurant, Exeter College is closed Both at 12 noon on:

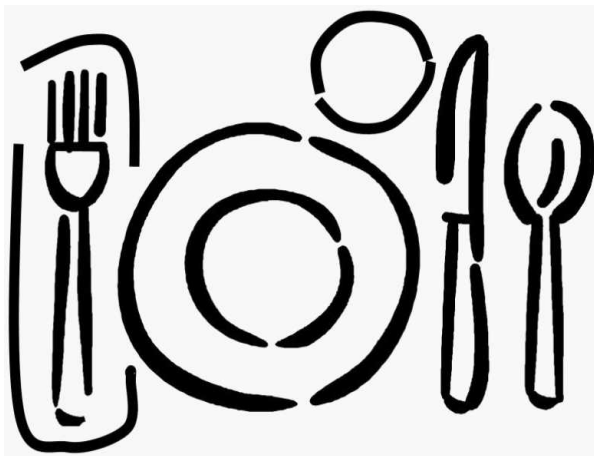
July 14th at The Dinosaur Café

August 18th at The Farmers' Union

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



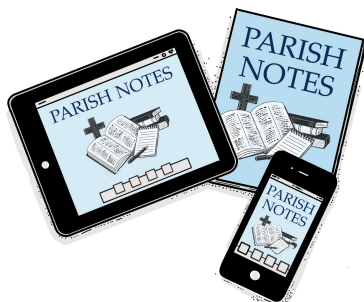
Details and booking sheets can be found at the back of both churches.
Please sign-up . Any queries please contact Sue Wilson on 01392 437571.



Handel MESSIAH

Saturday 16th July 2022 at 7pm
St David's Church, Exeter

Handel "Messiah" sung by the 'choir in a day' chorus and orchestra with: Elizabeth Drury (soprano), Alice Risdon (mezzo-soprano), Andrew Henley (tenor) and Owain Browne (bass). Conducted by Laurence Blyth. Tickets £15 from www.laurenceblyth.com/messiah



CHORAL CELEBRATION

With the premier choir of The Salvation Army



INTERNATIONAL
STAFF SONGSTERS

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/international-staff-songsters

Saturday 17 September 2022 at 7:30pm
EXETER CATHEDRAL

TICKETS £15 Under 18s go free

BOOK TICKETS ONLINE

<https://internationalstaffsongsters.brownpapertickets.com>

or a limited number are available from Exeter Temple Salvation Army tel: 01392 216 553 email: exeter.temple@salvationarmy.org.uk



Event sponsored by

THE SALVATION ARMY
TRADING COMPANY



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!

Exeter Forum programme – June to September 2022

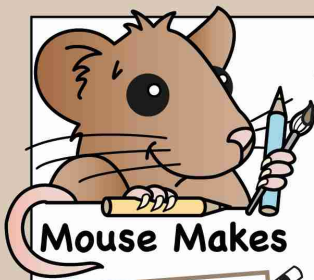
The weekly programme of Exeter Forum talks from Wednesday 1 June to Wednesday 28 September is listed here. Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT starting at 10:45am. It is best to arrive 15 minutes earlier for registration. There is a fee of £3 per talk for non-members.

Full descriptions of talks and speakers appear in the weekly newsletter sent to Forum members.

Any programme changes are always updated on the Exeter Forum website.

Date	Speaker	Title
Wednesday 1 June	No meeting	Spring Bank Holiday week break
Wednesday 8 June	John Davidson	Exeter Rocks! The building stones of Exeter John will provide a short introduction to the geology of Exeter and East Devon to explain the origins of local building stones. His talk will then look at the major building stones used in the City from Roman times to the present day.
Wednesday 15 June	Brian Freeland	The view from the Wings A slightly saucy talk about the theatre from a stage manager's view. Brian will draw on his own experience from variety (Butlin's Holiday Camps and the London Palladium) to the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, Scottish Opera and Sadler's Wells Ballet.
Wednesday 22 June	Richard Parker	Victorian Architecture in Exeter Exeter is often noted for its Mediaeval and Georgian buildings, but the city also has many examples of fine Victorian architecture. Historic Buildings Consultant Richard Parker will look at examples of Nineteenth Century buildings in the City, and why they are so important and worth celebrating.
Wednesday 29 June	Mark Richardson	The Exeter Food Bank and the challenges of recent months Mark will describe the current work of the Exeter Food Bank which is based alongside the Mint Methodist Church. He will look at the challenges of Covid, the cost-of-living crisis and other uncertainties, and how the food bank has responded.
Wednesday 6 July	Professor Bill Harvey	Exeter's Mediaeval Exe Bridge - an insight into historic bridge building and design Exeter's Mediaeval Exe Bridge is one of the most significant historic bridges in Europe. Bill's talk will look at arch bridges in general and then specifically at aspects of the site and construction of the Exe Bridge.
Wednesday 13 July	Bob Ball	King Arthur – Man or Myth The many legends of King Arthur are well known, but how many of them are true, and what are the links with the West Country and particularly Cornwall? Bob will look at the historical and literary evidence to provide a picture of this fascinating King.
Wednesday 20 July	Professor Jeremy Black	British and the Grand Tour History Professor and renowned author Jeremy Black makes a return visit to the Exeter Forum to talk about the Grand Tour. He will describe some of the many stories about the British abroad during the two centuries of the Grand Tour and its importance and cultural significance.

Wednesday 27 July	Marilyn Bishop	The Dutch Forger Marilyn's will tell the fascinating story of the Dutch Forger, <i>Han Van Meegeran</i> , who deceived the world and in particular Goering, the Nazi, into paying millions for a fake Vermeer painting.
Wednesday 3 August	Keith Lewis	The Exeter Civic Society and its work The Exeter Civic Society celebrated its 60 th anniversary in 2021. Keith will describe its work and its many achievements. As well as providing information on Exeter's geography, history, natural history and architecture, the society keeps records of existing Blue Plaques, scrutinises planning applications to ensure they are of high standard and good design and puts forward comments on current developments to the press and city planners.
Wednesday 10 August	Ashley Leeds	Young Lives vs Cancer Ashley will give an overview of the work of the Young Lives vs Cancer Charity (formerly CLIC-Sargent) drawing on personal experience. The charity helps families to find the strength to face everything that cancer throws at them, and the talk will look at the many ways this is achieved.
Wednesday 17 August	Hannah Ruby	Positive messages from music and songs - a musical entertainment by Hannah Ruby Local musician Hannah Ruby will sing a selection of songs accompanied by various instruments and tell us why these songs matter. Hannah's choice of music will take us on a journey from the 1960s to the present day.
Wednesday 24 August	No meeting	Summer Holiday break
Wednesday 31 August	No meeting	Summer Holiday break
Wednesday 7 September	Speaker tbc	The roles and rescues of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust Devon is very fortunate in having a long-standing air ambulance service. This talk will look at the major roles of the Devon Air Ambulance and some recent rescues. The talk will include examples of how the latest technology is being employed, for example to enable rescues to take place after dark.
Wednesday 14 September	<i>To be confirmed</i>	
Wednesday 21 September	<i>To be confirmed</i>	
Wednesday 28 September	<i>To be confirmed</i>	



Mouse Makes

Cross out all the X
to find the bible verse:

NXOXWXTXHXEREXA
XRXEXMXAXNXYOXT
XHXEXRXTXHXIXNXG
SXTXHXAXTXJXEXSXU
XSXDIXDX.WXEXRXEXE
XVXEXRXYXONXEXOXFX
TXHXEXMXTXOXBEXXW
XRXIXTXTXENX,IXSXU
XPXPXOXSXETHXAXTX
TXHXEXWXOXRXLXDXI
TXSXEXLFXCXOXUOLD
XNXOXTXCXOXNXTXAI
XNXTXHXEXBOXOXKXS
XTXHXAXTXWXOXULX
DBXEXWXRIXTXTXEN
X.JXOXHXNX2X1X:2X5X

What did Jesus turn
water into?

John 2:1-11

Who's mother-in-law
did Jesus heal?

Matthew 8:14-15

How did Jesus get out
to the disciples
in the boat?

Matthew 14:22-27

Who did Jesus raise
from the dead?

John 11:38-44

How long had the
woman at the synagogue
been disabled?

years

What did she do after
she was healed?

Luke 13:10-13

Who did Jesus
heal when his ear
was cut off?

Luke 22:47-51

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus fed thousands
of people from a
few loaves and fish,
... not once but twice!

READ

Matthew 14:13-21

AND

Matthew 15:32-39

In each story...
How many loaves
and how many fish
did Jesus have?

How many people
were fed?

How many baskets of
broken pieces were
left over?

DID YOU KNOW?

There
are over

37

miracles of Jesus
recorded in the Gospels.

How many of them
do you know?

Find these words
in the word search

JESUS • MIRACLE

DEAF • HEAR • BLIND • SEE

PARALYSED • WALK • SICK

HEALED • DEAD • RAISED

MUTE • SPEAK • DEMONS

CAST OUT • STORM

CALMED • WATER • WINE

FISH • MULTIPLIED

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

The Doctor and the Sick



THE PEOPLE JESUS CHOSE TO BE HIS CLOSE FOLLOWERS WERE OFTEN QUITE UNUSUAL.



ONCE JESUS STOPPED BY A TAX-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO A MAN CALLED 'LEVI'.



LEVI'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY MEETING JESUS.



LEVI WANTED ALL HIS FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS TOO, SO HE CALLED A BIG PARTY FOR HIS TAX COLLECTOR FRIENDS



IN JESUS' DAY TAX COLLECTORS WERE VERY UNPOPULAR. THE PEOPLE THOUGHT JESUS WAS MIXING WITH A BAD BUNCH!

...BUT I AM HERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!



SURELY IT IS THE UNWELL PERSON WHO NEEDS THE DOCTOR - NOT THE WELL?!



see Luke 5:27-32

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 2 verses 41 to 51

Every year Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem
for the Passover festival with their family
and friends. This year Jesus was twelve.

The women and children went
in front to set the pace



Next year, Jesus, you'll be walking
at the back with the men.

The Passover feasting
lasted eight days...



..and then they set
off for home again



but without Jesus.

Mary and Joseph didn't find
out until the evening



(I thought he was with you!)

So they walked back to
Jerusalem and started
searching for Jesus....



(Sorry, I haven't seen him.)

..and the next day,



then on the third day

they went to the temple



He was talking with the
teachers.



You must be very proud
of your clever son



But Mary was not happy.

How could you treat your
father and I like this?



Didn't you know I'd be here?



I needed to be where my
birth father, God, is working.

Mary thought about
this all the way home



...and all her life.

Smilelines

Advert in local paper: 2016 Nissan Micra for sale. Reverend owner from new, never missed a service.

Solar power

Somebody finally invented a solar-powered laundry dryer. It's called a 'clothes-line'.

Baptism

A couple took their five-year-old young daughter to church. During the service, the minister conducted the baptism of a tiny infant. The little girl watched in wonder as he held the baby, said solemn words, then poured water over its head, and then carefully wiped it dry. Finally, she turned to her father. "Daddy, why is he brainwashing that baby?"

Heaven help me

One Sunday in church a little boy was 'acting up' during the morning worship. His parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew, but it was a losing battle. Finally, an exasperated father picked up his son and strode sternly down the aisle. Just as the church doors closed behind them, the little boy cried loudly to the congregation: "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

Summer guide to modern science around the house

If it's green or it wiggles, it's Biology.

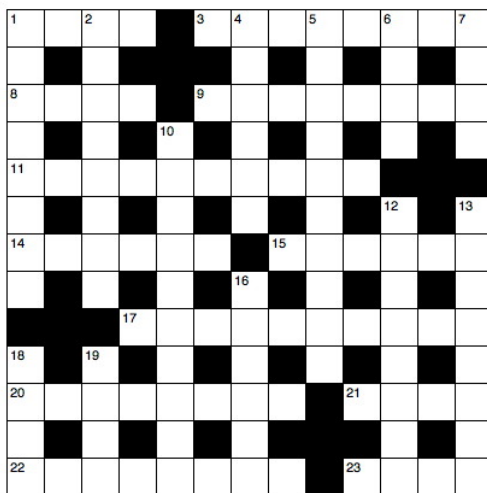
If it stinks or explodes, it's Chemistry.

If it doesn't work, it's Physics.

Pay for what you get

A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip, miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church. The father forgot to bring any cash, so he reached in his pocket and gave his son 10p to drop in the offering plate as it was passed. As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. "The service was too long," he lamented. "The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key."

Finally the boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for 10p."



Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom!Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
19 Rear(anag.)(4)

Sudoku - Medium

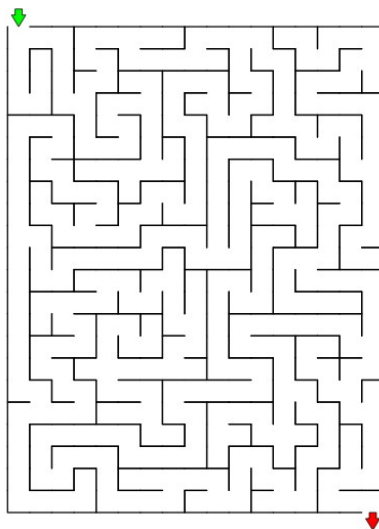
								3
	3	1		2				8
			5		9		1	
5			6					
1		4				2		9
					2			7
	5		7		8			
7				1		9	2	
6								

Word search



temple	men	Jesus
festival	Jerusalem	twelve
Mary	camp	Joseph
evening	Passover	third
teachers	feasting	walking
searching	talking	clever
son	father	working
home	women	children

Maze



Days of Note - July

3rd July St Thomas the Apostle, confused and doubting

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff).

Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.

14th July Phocus of Sinope – the brave gardener

Many of us are gardeners, but not many of us are buried in our gardens.

Phocus was a fourth century Christian gardener who ran a little guest house in Sinope, on the Black Sea (now part of modern Turkey). He used the produce from his garden to welcome and feed any visitors who came by, as well as giving anything left over to the poor.

In a time of persecution, the governor of the district sent soldiers to kill him because of his Christianity. But when the soldiers arrived at Phocus's guest house, they did not recognise him. Phocus politely fed them and invited them to stay the night, during which he crept out into his garden to dig his own grave and prepare for death. In the morning, Phocus divulged his true identity, rather to the dismay of the soldiers, who did not want to kill this kindly man. But Phocus assured them that he considered martyrdom the highest honour, and humbly bent his head to their swords. And so, the soldiers killed him and buried him in the grave he had prepared.

The news of Phocus's martyrdom spread far and wide, drawing many

pilgrims to his garden. His calm courage and faith in God were widely admired and in time Phocus became the patron of sailors in the Black Sea, and then the whole Eastern Mediterranean.

Phocus's life echoes that of many Christians today, who go calmly about their daily mundane jobs in lands of persecution, and who do not avoid the call to Christian martyrdom, however it may come to them.

22nd July The 'Other' Mary

As the traditional Easter story is remembered again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus but Mary of Magdala, who stood by her at the cross and became the first human being, male or female, actually to meet the risen Christ. That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils'. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman', a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus. And while there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman', the contrast is sublime: Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity and Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to Him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it was Jesus.

She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the male disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – and they couldn't believe her.

But Mary's words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

25th July St James the Apostle, apostle to Spain

James and his brother John were sons of Zebedee and fishermen from Galilee - the 'sons of thunder', as the gospel writers describe their impetuous characters and fiery tempers.

James stands out on three accounts: he was one of the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus took him, along with Peter and John, to 'watch' with Him in the garden of Gethsemane. Finally, he went on to be the first apostle to die for the Christian faith, when in AD 44 King Herod Agrippa put him to the sword in Jerusalem at Passover time.

In the centuries following his death, James became associated with the evangelising of Spain, and as a powerful defender of Christianity against the Moors. The heyday of the cult of Santiago de Compostela was from the 12th to the 15th century, and the pilgrimage to Compostela became one of the most important of medieval Christendom. This in time transformed the iconography of James, and his emblems became the pilgrim's hat and the scallop-shell of Compostela. Over 400 English churches have been dedicated to James.

25th July St Christopher, patron saint of motorists

The legend goes that St Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first, he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and His Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that He was in fact Jesus Christ, and that He carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who He claimed to be.

After some time more of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So, Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well-loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: ‘Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety’.

A kind of daily insurance policy against death - this was so good that in due course St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular.

When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear-view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there!

29th July Olaf, king & patron saint of Norway

If you led a ‘wild’ life before your conversion, then Olaf is the saint for you. Indeed, anything you have done could hardly match him, for he was a brigand and pirate who roamed the Baltic and Normandy around 1015 AD,

maiming and killing, stealing and destroying, feared by all.

Then on one particular raid off Normandy, Olaf met his match: he boarded a ship with Christians on it and was converted to Christianity. The shock of this sent him inland, off the ships, to England, where he joined forces with Ethelred II for a time. But soon his entrepreneurial spirit was asserting itself, and an ambition was born: to return to Norway and convert the country to Christianity.

Olaf was never a man to do things meekly: he sailed for Norway and, helped by his own military ability and the flight of his rivals, seized power and became King. Once king, Olaf gave his subjects peace and security. He remade old laws, and insisted on their just execution, ignoring all bribes or threats.

Above all, Olaf began to convert the country. He was helped by a number of Viking converts and English monks who were missionaries to Norway. But the old paganism was strong in many places, and soon there was a rebellion. Olaf was exiled in 1029 and died the following year in a battle to regain his throne.

He was buried, but his story did not end there. For Christianity had established a foothold that would grow and grow. And it was soon reported that springs of healing water flowed from Olaf's grave, and miracles happened. So Grimkell, the English bishop of Trondheim, built a chapel on the site of his grave and declared him a saint. Olaf's cult grew in popularity until by 1070 his feast day was celebrated throughout Scandinavia. He was popular in England too, with about 40 ancient churches dedicated to him, possibly due to benefactors of Viking origin.

30th July William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson

During the 18th century many people in England were involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. The Church of England remembers especially William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson - three very different but all tireless campaigners against the evil practice.

Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) was an Anglican clergyman and one of the

most prominent of the anti-slavery campaigners. In 1787 he helped form the first Abolitionist Committee, and his energy and hatred of injustice made him a 'moral steam-engine'. He travelled hundreds of miles, gathering evidence from people caught up in the slave trade, from ship captains to doctors.

Olaudah Equiano (1745 – 1797) had been kidnapped in Nigeria, sold into slavery and sent to the West Indies. When he finally escaped, he made his way to London and became one of the most prominent black campaigners. His brutal autobiography of 1789 ran to nine reprints, and was translated into many languages, bringing home to people the horrors of the slave trade.

William Wilberforce (1759 – 1833), of course, became the main figurehead in Parliament. He came from a wealthy family in Kingston-Upon-Hull, and represented the town in Parliament. He was recruited by Thomas Clarkson, who saw the need for a brilliant advocate within Parliament. Wilberforce was an inspired choice: not only wealthy and well-connected, but a gifted orator with a social conscience, especially after his conversion in 1785. He made his first speech in Parliament against slavery in 1789, but it was not until 1807, after a debate that raged for many years, that the Abolition Act was finally passed.

31st July St Joseph of Arimathea, the man who buried Jesus

Have you ever suffered from gossip? Ever discovered that people are saying some really wild things about you? If so, Joseph of Arimathea would understand - and sympathise with you. This decent, godly man of the gospels seems to have fired the imaginations of all sorts of odd people down the centuries.

Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council - the Sanhedrin. Mark's gospel describes him as having been 'waiting for the kingdom of God' for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion.

When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority needed to approach Pilate for the body - and get it. Near to where Jesus had been

crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it - and it was still new and empty. So, Joseph laid Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone - Nicodemus helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind.

Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history - and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff.

The mind boggles at what Joseph would have made of it all. One suspects he would have preferred to stick to the simple, but far better, true story: as having had the immense, unique privilege of laying the body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. Even if Jesus didn't stay very long!



Puzzle solutions

W	I	F	E		T	O	B	A	T	T	L	E
O		E				R		C		Y		Y
O	B	A	L		D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E
D		S		D		E		U		E		S
B	I	T	T	E	R	N	E	S	S			
I		D		D		T		A		G		A
N	I	A	C	I	N		A	T	T	A	I	N
E		Y		C		E		I		D		C
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W	E	A	K	N	E	S	S			D	E	E
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4	2	5	1	8	7	6	9	3
9	3	1	4	2	6	5	7	8
8	6	7	5	3	9	4	1	2
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1	7	4	8	5	3	2	6	9
3	8	6	9	4	2	1	5	7
2	5	9	7	6	8	3	4	1
7	4	8	3	1	5	9	2	6
6	1	3	2	9	4	7	8	5

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the September issue of New Leaves is Sunday 21st August

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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