



# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**FEBRUARY 2022**



**SERVING THE PARISHES OF**

**ALL SAINTS'**  
Baschurch

**HOLY TRINITY**  
Weston Lullingfields

**ST MARY'S** 50p  
Hordley  
Per issue

# Greens with Envy

## Gardening course

Walford Campus

SY4 2HL

Monday 21 February 2022

10:00-12:00



At a bit of a loose end on a Monday morning? Would you like to learn more about growing your own vegetables in the beautiful surroundings of our Walford Campus.

Not only would you be learning to grow your own vegetables, but also helping us to grow some food for the many animals who live at Walford.

You will also have the opportunity to help us with our gardens and learn more about plant growth, propagation and development with a local theme.

**For more information and to book a place please contact:**

**The Gateway Education and Arts Centre on: 01743-355159 /01743 562063**

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## SUBMISSIONS FOR MARCH MAGAZINE

Please send your stories, pictures or notices for the next issue by

**15th February 2022**

to: **churchfamilynews@gmail.com**

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*Front cover: Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden. See page 12.*

*Picture from the book reproduced by kind permission from the Bible Society/ Clare Kendall*

# THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to those I haven't seen.

I hope you will join me in praying that this year will be a better year and we will see a light at the end of this pandemic tunnel.

On behalf of the ministry team I would like to thank you for your cards, good wishes and gifts to us over the festive season, they were very much appreciated. Thank you also to all those who were involved in any way in Christmas events and services, without you all such things would not happen, or at least not in the way they do. It was good to be able to celebrate the birth of Jesus together and I hope you felt part of it, whether in church or at home and accessing our online services. The services are now streamed 'Live' each week at 11am from Baschurch thanks to our new Wi-Fi; however, do bear with us as we know the Church sits in a 'black hole' in terms of signal so it does occasionally drop out.

So where do we find ourselves at the beginning of 2022?

Some will say 'In the same place as last year' and by that they don't mean location, but the fact that our lives are still dominated by the pandemic. Others will say 'excited', especially those looking forward to getting married or the birth of a new baby. Or you might say you're 'not sure' as you find yourself at a crossroads.

This morning I was listening to Steve preach; it was a good sermon, you can check it out on the website under Rector's Reflections 16<sup>th</sup> January. It was based on the first miracle at the Wedding at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine, something I know lots of us would love to be able to do, and Steve did, well his version. The point of the sermon though was not about wine or water but about transformation, when heaven meets earth, our transformation through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Many people talk about their faith as 'personal' and to a degree it is, but we do actually have to let Jesus into our lives, it's a conscious decision and we have to allow him the room to work within us.

So what might that relationship look like?

Well, hopefully it is one that firstly invites Jesus in, Jesus longs to be part of our lives but he won't force himself in, he waits to be invited. Secondly it sees us getting to know Jesus more day-by-day as we read our Bibles and as we pray, that's every day and not just on a Sunday, it's as individuals and corporately together. Thirdly, it is a relationship that is open to listening to Jesus whether we want to hear it or not, and on occasions we won't want to hear what he has to say to us. Jesus wants to be a part of our whole life, to be our source of life, in our every thought and action. Jesus wants us to ask him to fill us with His Holy Spirit and when we do we will know our lives transformed.

Steve said when the people ran out of wine at the wedding at Cana all they had to do was ask Jesus to help. If you are at a crossroads in your life and don't know what to do, which way to go, ask Jesus. Allow Jesus into your life, let him be your source of life, and be open to that transformation. One of our confirmation candidates last year speaks passionately about how Jesus has totally transformed his life because he asked Jesus in.

Colossians 2:7 says this:

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.'

In other words that thankfulness will overflow because our lives are transformed and when they are we reflect Jesus to others, His light, His glory shines through us. That same confirmation candidate tells me often that he's not and never could be an evangelist, and yet he is because he just tells people how much his life has changed because of Jesus and how much it is still changing. He doesn't use fancy words he just speaks it as it is through his daily life. His transformed life overflows with thankfulness.

May 2022 be the year where we don't stand at the crossroads, but instead say yes to Jesus working in us and transforming us, and as he does, may we reflect His light, His love, His glory to others and see lives, our communities, our world transformed in His name.

As Jesus works in and through you this year you may find Him nudging you to try or take on new things. All our churches need more people to read the Bible on a Sunday or lead the prayers. Our coffee and flower rotas are always happy to have new people to go on them. Our church cleaning parties and churchyard maintenance rely on the same people, and would welcome more to ease the load. Our PCCs will be looking for new people to bring new ideas and to help the churches to grow and move forward as we emerge into a different world post pandemic, and Andrew is retiring as the editor of this magazine. Have you got skills or gifts to give any of these jobs a go?

If you feel the nudge and want to find out a little more before committing then give me a ring or drop me an email.

*Linda*

## Lent Course

Our Lent Course this year will be a joint course with other churches and communities in the surrounding area. We will be looking at **'Living in Love and Faith.'** A course commissioned by the Church of England that helps us to look at and discuss questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage and to think about how they fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ. What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

It is not about saying one person's view is right or better than another but about having open and honest conversations that allows us to live and learn together.

Do watch out for details of the course on notices, the website and Facebook pages. We hope to run it for 5 Monday evenings beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March on Zoom. If you would prefer a daytime and in-person course, let us know and we will see what we can do.

If you want to find out more about the course and explore some of the resources available then use the link below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

## LETTER FROM THE DIOCESE

I can honestly say that the greatest privilege of my job as the Diocesan Training Coordinator is being involved with Pathways. I love it.

Pathways is our course that has the tagline of 'a year of vocational reflection'. It's for anyone who is wondering about their calling/vocation/role/work (whichever word you want to use!) and who would like to spend some time thinking about this. It is truly humbling to hear people's stories and to encourage people to learn more about themselves and to embrace who they are!

We provide a space for you to ask questions, to discuss ideas and views, alongside talking about potential routes people could take after Pathways. Whilst we do look at ordination and reader training this course IS NOT just for people thinking about those paths. I always say to the groups that if someone gets to the end of the course and says 'Do you know what, I really feel I'm in the right place being a cleaner/teacher/shop assistant/CEO/stay at home parent/carer' then that's awesome and we've done our job right!

Pathways is for everyone – whether you are from the centre of the diocese, or the edge, whether you have never studied before or have a doctorate, whether you are theologically conservative or liberal – and everyone in between.

We run local groups across the diocese (numbers allowing) and an online Zoom group. The course consists of five evenings per term and three Saturday sessions. More information, including a video sharing comments from people who have previously done the course can be found on the diocesan website. You can also contact me via email at [helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org)

*Helen Scheven is Lichfield Diocese's Training Coordinator*

*Read more about Pathways on the diocesan website:*

[lichfield.anglican.org/pathways-to-ministry](http://lichfield.anglican.org/pathways-to-ministry)

## WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

“Well, Christmas was certainly different with no travel and no family visits”. That’s how I started the February 2021 article but this year there was one difference for us, because we had seen the family a few times through the year and made good use of Skype and Zoom for chatting and quizzing as last year. We have often spoken of the way that the internet, Skype/Zoom, social media and mobile phones have transformed the way we keep in touch with family and friends today. John and I can remember writing letters and walking to telephone boxes to keep in touch with parents, both at university and when we were first married. By the time our grandchildren were born it had all changed with computers and the internet.

Isn’t it interesting to see the different approaches to celebrating Christmas and New Year? Some families have opted not to meet to avoid risk of infection being passed on. Others have isolated in advance and taken lateral flow tests regularly in order to have some contact. And if we believe the media, it seems that very large numbers have taken the decision to celebrate anyway. It hasn’t been made easy as we have the medical advice on the one hand – which was not to meet – and the political decision not to increase Covid measures until after New Year.

We have continued to enjoy our walks both locally and at Attingham Park – especially the birds. In the last week of December we had a grand tally of 16 different species on one day. Some we see regularly – blue tit, great tit, robin, dunnock, nuthatch, blackbird, jackdaw, chaffinch, common gull, wood pigeon and Canada goose. But this time we saw goldcrest, jays, coal tit and a raven. We usually take some bird seed and nuts to place on logs (meant to be seats) and stand at a distance to watch. It was very interesting to watch the jay take stock, circle and land a few times and then come down to feed on the nuts – repelling all comers at the same time. The goldcrests were busy feeding on the yew and quite unmoved by being photographed.

It is nice to be able to record thanks to everyone involved in the fund-raising events for the church in spite of the effect of Covid restrictions. Events for the church and village hall have been organised by both committees (and it had to be said that some people are on both committees).



Weston benefited from a beer and harvest evening after the harvest service. The village hall had a successful Pie and Peas evening in November. The church had arranged another Carols and Christmas Cheer in December but new Covid restrictions and very bad weather affected numbers. Nonetheless they are undaunted and events are in hand for the New Year. There will be a weekend event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (4 and 5 June 2022) with afternoon teas in the village hall. The village hall committee has agreed that sales from the refreshments will go to the church. Let's hope that 2022 will be a turning point back to our usual routines.

**Anita Weeks**

## **CHURCH UPDATE**

Both the church and churchyard had their Christmas extras put up and looked very welcoming and festive. A big thank you to all the volunteers who gave up some of their time to get things done.

So far this winter the church building has survived well. Even after Storm Arwen there were no leaks or fallen tiles, just a spattering of old cobwebs and rather more dust than usual. Cleaning the church is now much easier but even so we could do with more help. We have a variety of teams of two who, at the moment, do two monthly stints a year. You don't have to be a church member, just want the building and graveyard to be there and fit to be used.

Storm Arwen rent its wrath in the churchyard. Part of a beech tree came down but thankfully did not damage any graves. Volunteers are slowly clearing up the debris which has saved the cost of getting in a professional. In line with keeping carbon dioxide levels as low as possible the brash has been stacked and the logs cut and stacked to dry. Beech does not burn well green but by Christmas 2022 should be ready to be used if anyone would like it for a donation towards church funds.

**Jane Ing**

# Baschurch News

## A Tree-Lined Christmas Fayre

During the first weekend in December All Saints Church opened its doors to “A Tree-Lined Christmas Fayre”. A combination of all that is festive to create a fabulous start to the Christmas season.

Church glittered with over twenty Christmas trees from Baschurch clubs, societies, schools, and church groups. The two trees voted as winners were Baschurch Primary School and The Bellringers.

There were several stalls selling the popular Home Made To You range of festive food, plants and crafts including wood turning and bespoke baby clothes. All of this was enjoyed with the opportunity to have a light lunch, tea/coffee and cakes or mulled wine and a mince pie. The Festive Hamper raffle was amazing and the lucky tickets drawn after the service on Sunday.

To complete the event we were entertained by Shrewsbury Concert Band and Shrewsbury Light Orchestra. Over £3,000 was raised over the two days.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event such a success and particularly to those who supported us. *See photos on page 35.*

### **Dawn Lake.**

#### **All Saints' 100 club winners**

##### **December 2021**

4 Sue Heard  
25 Heather Randall  
75 David & Moyra Morgan  
78 Mary Cox  
114 Dawn Lake

##### **January 2022**

51 Sue Broadhurst  
106 Ruth Hodson Walker

# HORDLEY NEWS

Already we are noticing the evenings drawing out and snowdrops and crocuses coming into flower, always a cheerful prospect and harbinger of better times ahead. The snowdrops in the churchyard are flowering and will be getting more numerous as the weeks go by.

In the last issue I mentioned carol singing in Tetchill. Well, although ten people were all set to go round the village on 13<sup>th</sup> December, sadly the weather had other ideas and heavy rain made this impossible. We were all disappointed.

We were, however, able to enjoy carols in church a few days later, but, due to Covid, no mulled wine and other refreshments. The Christmas Day service went ahead as usual but numbers were slightly down on previous years. Many people continue to keep to a restricted and cautious lifestyle.

At the PCC meeting in November, we were pleased to hear that in spite of Covid restrictions our financial position remains secure, thanks to our regular givers and to the generous supporters of the Ride and Stride and the Team Thomson walks. The Lottery provides a steady income and in 2021 the proceeds amounted to £324 thanks to all our participants and to Brian Sinker for his continuing organizing of this valuable resource. The winner of the lottery draw in December was Kathryn Lee with number 18 and in January it was Hilary James with number 42.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **Baschurch**

Maureen Hunt aged 87 years – died 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Jacqueline Willis aged 87 years – died 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Walter Downer aged 91 years – died 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### **Hordley**

Heather Bayne aged 77 years – died 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Derek Manford aged 94 years – died 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## St James the Least of All

### On how to survive a residential conference

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything. Conferences exist to provide another entry on your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless.

As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say no.' But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway.

There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic, and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that!

Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this, I became a butcher specialising in exporting of-fal to Saudi Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying.

Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you have to report back – and if the leaders use the word 'plenary', then by all means contemplate strangling them also -

you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them.

You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty, and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members.

No, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but you will return refreshed and eager to make the next booking.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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## **Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden**

Sarah Eberle is the most decorated RHS garden designer. She has won 18 RHS Gold medals at the Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. The garden, and its association with Psalm 23, is described in a booklet which is available from the Bible Society; necessary details may be found by logging on to *Psalm23 garden.co.uk*. It is only a small book: 52 pages, with many pictures. Price: £6.50.

The theme is Psalm 23 and how it has inspired the layout of the garden and how it relates to the stresses and strains that many have endured during the two years of the Covid 19 pandemic. The aim of the author is to encourage people around the country to create community gardens in which they can relax and restore their spirits.

*See the picture on the front cover.*

## Walford College newsletter

Our Walford Campus is set in a beautiful 220-hectare estate just outside the main village of Baschurch. The grounds also include not only the agricultural land, but also mature woodlands, new tree plantations, fishing pools and a rough game shoot.

The main reception in the Harris Centre welcomes visitors to the Walford Campus and is home to our Animal Care Centre with specialist facilities to cater for our 100 different species of animals including meerkats, birds of prey, alpacas, kookaburras and a wide range of reptiles, domestic animals and rodents. It is also home to our modern and friendly Learning Resource Centre.

On our site we farm 220-hectares of arable and pasture land alongside our herd of 300 Dairy cows and flock of Shropshire Sheep.



Adjacent to the Walford Farm is our Equestrian Centre which comprises a 60m x 30m indoor arena, outdoor school and stabling for 32 horses. The equine centre regularly runs shows, workshops and events with a small livery yard.

The Adult Learning team which is based at the Gateway Education and Arts Centre run Rural Skills courses (pesticides and chainsaw mainly) from Walford.

This year we are hoping to make use of the wonderful horticultural greenhouses and start up some gardening courses. These are aimed at local people, who would like to get out and meet people, share their existing skills and learn some new ones, in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

The initial gardening course will be on a Monday morning 10am until 12 noon. It starts on 21 February. There is no fee attached to this course.

Our gardening tutor, Helen, is looking forward to welcoming people to the campus and working with them to make best use of the greenhouses. We also have the opportunity to create an allotment. Initially we will be growing vegetables, but there is scope for much more. Including helping with the maintenance of the extensive gardens, and helping to feed our animals in the Harris Centre.



We are hoping to extend the range of short adult courses in time to include cookery, and perhaps some general engineering type work. We have the use of a small tractor, which needs renovating. We are open to ideas!

If you think that you would like to take part then please contact me on 01743-562063 or email: [lumleys@hlcollege.ac.uk](mailto:lumleys@hlcollege.ac.uk)

**Sarah Lumley**

The Tale of   
The Friend  
at  
Midnight



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD RUN OUT OF BREAD...

...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MIDNIGHT...

... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE DOOR - LOUDLY!

BLAM! BLAM!

WAKE UP!! I NEED SOME BREAD

PLEASE WILL YOU LEND ME THREE LOAVES?

GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!

OH GO ON... PLEASE I REALLY DO NEED SOME!

ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!

JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN KEPT ASKING'

'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS.'



## Bible Readings for Sundays in February

### Sunday 6th February

Isaiah 6:1-8 & Luke 5:1-11

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Revelation 4 & Luke 8:22-25

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Jeremiah 17:5-10 & Luke 6:17-26

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 & Luke 9:28-36

## Daily Bible Readings

Around the world Christians gather to pray and read their Bibles daily. It is comforting to know that there is always someone doing that, particularly if you are going through a time of struggle. The Church of England have a Daily Prayer App where you can follow and join in with daily prayer at a time to suit you. Check it out <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Many people like to have a set of readings for each day and use various Bible reading notes, which can be purchased from Christian Bookshops or websites. If you would find this useful below are the Morning Prayer readings for February, but they can be used at any time in the day.

DATE	READING	DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Matt 27:27-44	11	1 Tim 5:1-16	21	2 Tim 4:1-8
2	Matt 27:27-44	12	1 Tim 5:17-end	22	2 Tim 4:9-end
3	Matt 27:57-end	13	Acts 6	23	Titus 1
4	Matt 28:1-15	14	1 Tim 6:1-10	24	Titus 2
5	Matt 28:16-end	14	1 Tim 6:11-end	25	Titus 3
6	Acts 3:1-10	16	2 Tim 1:1-14	26	Philemon
7	1 Tim 1:1-17	17	2 Tim 1:15-2:13	27	1 John 3:1-3
8	1 Tim 1:18-end of 2	18	2 Tim 2:14-end	28	Galatians 1
9	1 Tim 3	19	2 Tim 3		
10	1 Tim 4	20	Acts 14:8-17		

## **Services in February**

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February (The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent)**

8am BCP Communion – Baschurch

9.30am Worship for All – Weston Lullingfields

11am CW Holy Communion – Baschurch

6.30pm Contemporary Worship – Baschurch

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February (The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent)**

9.15am Worship for All – Hordley

11am CW Holy Communion – Baschurch

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February (The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent)**

8am BCP Communion – Baschurch

9.30am CW Holy Communion – Weston Lullingfields

11am Worship for All – Baschurch

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February (The Sunday next before Lent)**

9.15am CW Holy Communion – Hordley

11am CW Holy Communion – Baschurch

4pm Forest Church – Baschurch (An outdoor service especially for families)

We have decided for now to cease our 6pm BCP Evensong service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month due to the fact that those who previously attended are no longer able to. We will review this situation after Easter. If you are concerned about this and it is a service you would like to attend please do have a conversation with Linda.

**Thursday morning Holy Communion** at 11.30am in Baschurch continues each week with or without the lunches.

It is, however, hoped that Community Lunches, The Café and Little Stars will have re-started by the time you read this.

### **Advance Warning of Services Coming Up**

#### **Ash Wednesday – 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

There will be Ash Wednesday services of Ashing and Holy Communion at Weston Lullingfields and Baschurch

10.30am – Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

7.30pm – All Saints’ Baschurch

#### **Mothering Sunday - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

9.15am Holy Communion – St Mary’s Hordley

11am Holy Communion – All Saints’ Baschurch

4pm Forest church –All Saints’ Baschurch

it is still to be decided about a service at Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

Palm Sunday – 10<sup>th</sup> April

Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April

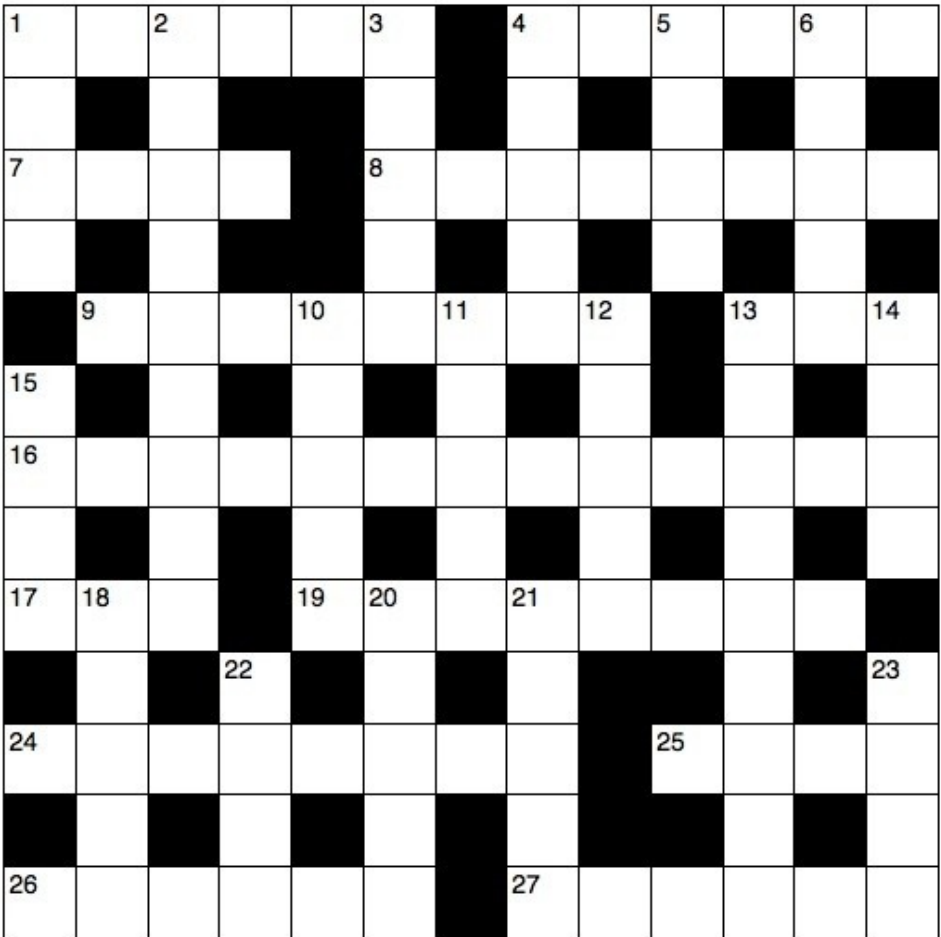
Easter Day 17<sup>th</sup> April

### **Magazine Subscriptions**

Dear Readers,

I hope you have enjoyed reading your magazine over the past year. Your distributor will soon be asking for your 2022 subscription, which remains unchanged at £5 for the year. Thank you for your continuing support.

Andrew Thomson, editor.



**Across**

1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)

4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)

7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)

8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)

9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)

13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)

16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)

17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)

19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)

24 Simon had (anag.) (8)

25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)

26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)

27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

## **Down**

1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)

2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)

3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)

4 Belief (5)

5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)

6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)

10 A seer (anag.) (5)

11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)

12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)

13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)

14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of

16 Across, — and Dolls (4)

15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)

18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)

20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)

21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)

22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)

23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

*(Answers on page 25)*



There are three woodpeckers native to the UK, Great Spotted, the rare Lesser Spotted and the largest of the three, the Green Woodpecker. Although they look similar, Green Woodpeckers are not closely related to the other two woodpeckers and most importantly they don't peck wood! Where other woodpeckers drum on hollow wood to advertise their presence, Green Woodpeckers have a loud, laughing call or 'yaffle'. Yaffle, Laughing Betsey and Yaffingale are all traditional names for this magnificent bird.

Green Woodpeckers can be seen in churchyards all year round and give a splash of colour in the winter months when there may not be much to be seen. They are bright green in colour with a yellow rump and red cap: look out for their swooping flight as they come to feed in churchyards.

The main food of Green Woodpeckers is ants, and they have an extraordinary tongue for pulling ants and ant larvae out of anthills. Their tongues are extremely long and sticky, for probing deep into the anthill and sucking up ants. Green Woodpeckers' tongues measure about 10cm, a third the length of the whole bird! When not feeding this long thin tongue is coiled within the birds' skull, resting behind their eyes and around their brains.

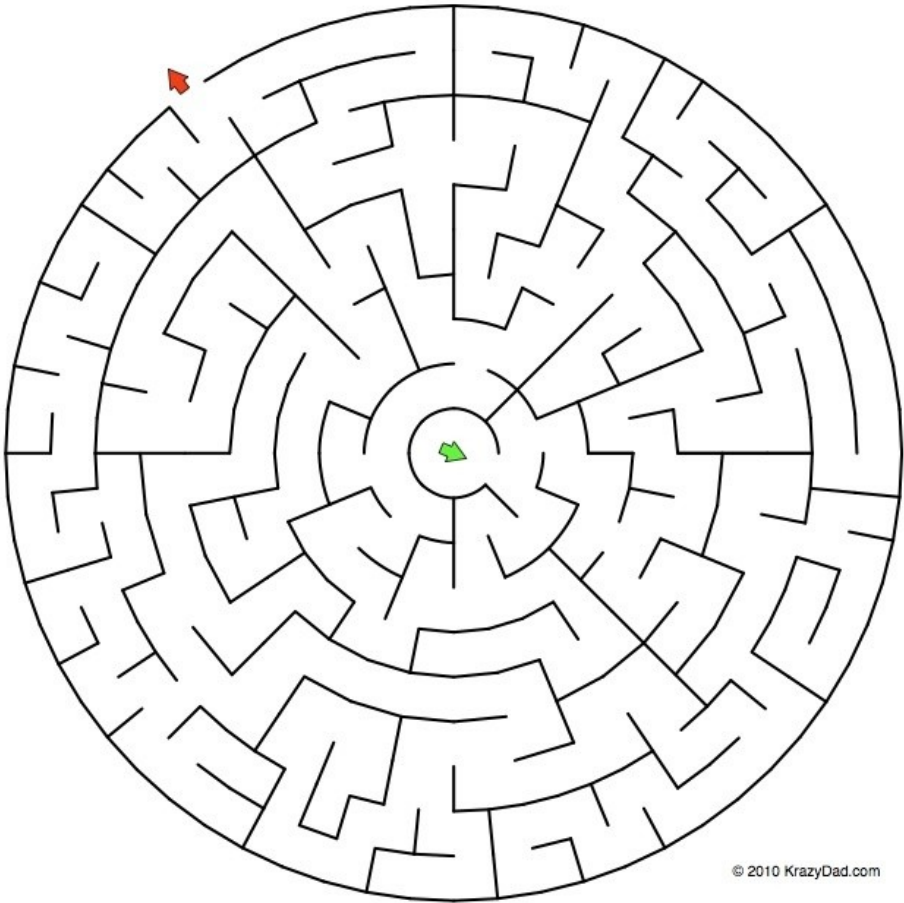
The yellow meadow ant which builds anthills in grassland is common in churchyards, so Green Woodpeckers have a year-round source of food. These anthills are a sign of ancient, traditionally-managed meadow so, although hard to mow around, they are really special, please look after them. As well as feeding the woodpeckers they often have different plants growing on them, so look out for the flash of green and red followed by the laughing 'yaffle' and then, in the spring and summer see what plants you can find on your anthills too.

All the best, Harriet Carty

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*, [harriet@cfa.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfa.org.uk),

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Can you find your way through this maze?



### **Rainfall in 2021**

As many of us have noticed, the weather in 2021 showed a most unusual pattern. I have been recording rainfall since 1991.

Without going into too much detail I can report that:

the wettest May recorded was in 1992 when 137mm fell, while the 2021 figure for May was 136mm. The May average is 64mm;

in November last year we had 8mm, the previous driest being 26mm in 2017; the November average is 74mm.

**Andrew Thomson**

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16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire.  
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**DOWN:** 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase.  
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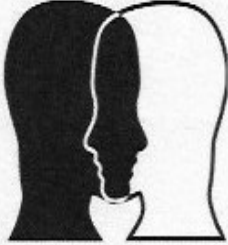
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Taken at the Baschurch Christmas Tree Fayre. See page 10.



Thanks to John Weeks for these pictures of a Jay and a Goldcrest.