

February 2023



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S 50p
Hordley
Per issue

EDITORIAL

Hello, dear readers, welcome to the first edition of Church Family News for 2023.

I hope you have enjoyed reading your magazine over the last year. Your distributor will soon be asking for your 2023 subscription—the good news is that this year’s subscription **remains unchanged at £5 for the year**. Thank you for all your continuing support.

On 2nd February we celebrate the festival of Candlemas, when we focus on the Presentation of Christ in Temple. This was when the old man Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and blessed him. There is a beautiful panel in the east window of St Mary’s Hordley depicting this story, a photograph of which adorns our inside back cover.

On 22nd of the month Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Lent is the old English word for spring, and although we often think of it as a time of fasting and discipline, it is also a time of spiritual growth, in which we may encourage each other, and also be encouraged by the many resources that are available.

On page 10, Linda Cox sets out the details of the Lent Study Course in the benefice, focusing on the important subject of difference. Deborah Coatsworth tells us about a new resource for reflection, suitable for Lent, produced by Nick Page of Open Doors. I have also dug out some information (see pages 17 and 18 and the back page) about a number of books that have been specially prepared for this year’s Lent. An interesting bunch this year.

In these days of remote working and meeting online, online praying is being taken up by many people. The news article on page 22, suggests that an estimated million people use the Church of England’s online daily prayer, while on page 20 there is a brief note about some of the online resources for prayer offered by the CofE, Methodist Church and Society of Jesus.

The resources we have on hand are immense, and possibly overwhelming. We must always remember our greatest resource is what is all around us: the people we meet, the wonder of nature, especially at this time of year when so much is beginning to wake up again, and the opportunities for silence even amongst the busyness and noise. If Susannah Wesley (see page 19) could find peace among her 19 children, then there’s hope for us all yet!

Roger Paul (Editor)

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SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

15th February 2023

to the new email address:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

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MESSAGE FROM THE CLERGY

Where has the last two months gone? As I write this letter, we have just put away our Christmas decorations, finished all the chocolates, biscuits and alcohol, and now we are thrust into approaching Lent, Ash Wednesday being the 22nd February! But before we start thinking about Lent and Easter, maybe it would be a good idea to look back on 2022.

Towards the end of last year, I undertook a course on ‘Spiritual Listening’. 6 days of learning how to hear God’s voice through scripture, pictures and silence. It also helped me to obtain ‘tools’ to enable me to listen to others well. We were introduced to ways which helped us reflect on people’s experiences and our own, looking for the *consolations* and the *desolations* as we listen and respond to what we hear or experience ourselves.

I probably need to explain what consolation and desolation mean – Consolations are the things or experiences we have which bring us closer to God; desolations are things or experiences which take us away from God. This is a very basic understanding of what these two expressions mean, however, I believe that they can help us to look back and reflect on the past year, seeing where God was and is at work in our lives and what things hindered our walk with God.

As Lent approaches may I encourage you to plan to put aside time to consider how you want to spend the Lenten period. Traditionally many see Lent as a time to give up things, for example, chocolate, alcohol and social media – money saved going to charity, or time saved spending more time with God in prayer or reading the Bible. Alternately, you could take something on such as reading scripture or a Christian book. May I encourage you to join the Lent group which will have been announced by the time you receive this copy of the magazine.

There are many Lent courses available in book form or on-line which you can access if you are unable to attend the course in person, one being a course written by Nick Page, Author and employee of Open Doors – a charity which works and supports the **Persecuted Church**. On the next page, you will find the poem on which Nick basis his reflections.

Last month (January) the Open Doors Charity launched their annual World Watch List in Parliament. This is the list which tells us of the 50 most dangerous countries to live in if you are a Christian. For a number of years, North Korea was number one until last year when Afghanistan became number one. We will know on the 18th January whether they remain number one. If you wish to know more about Open Doors and the persecuted church please contact me and I can give you copies of the Open Doors magazine and a copy of the World Watch

List. Alternatively, these are available by going to the resources page of the open doors website: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/>

We, here in the west are very blessed. We can worship God and go about our lives without fear of being threatened or persecuted because of our Christian faith. As we approach Lent please remember all our brothers and sisters who suffer for their faith, remember them in your prayers because our prayers in the west make a huge difference to those who suffer.

Every Blessing,, Deborah

Blessed are the risk-takers

Blessed are the risk-takers,
The rebels and the rule-breakers.
Blessed are the grieving and the broken,
Blessed are the brave and the outspoken.
Blessed are the hidden and disguised,
Who watch their words,
Guard their footsteps,
And fear for their lives.
Blessed are those in prison for their faith,
Blessed are those who are spied on by the state.
Blessed are the lied about and cheated
The unjustly accused, the abused, the mistreated.
Blessed are those who flee when they want to stay,
Blessed are those who remain, when they could run away.
Blessed are the refugee and the displaced,
The exiled and excluded, the shamed and disgraced.
Blessed are those who worship in secret,
Who whisper their songs,
Hide their Bibles,
Forgive those who do them wrong.
Blessed are those who are scared, but choose to follow just the same,
Blessed are those who are persecuted in Jesus' name.
Blessed are the risk-takers,
The rebels and the rule-breakers.
Blessed are those who have nothing but prayer,
For God is always with them
And the kingdom is theirs.

Nick Page © (Printed with permission)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms:

Sunday 4th December at All Saints' Baschurch
Patricia Owen

Confirmations:

Sunday 20th November (Christ the King) by the Bishop of
Lichfield at All Saints' Baschurch
Lisa Falconer
Harry Jones
Alison Peters

Weddings:

Saturday 31st December at St Mary's Hordley
Charles Parker to Jodie Wright

Funerals:

5th December at All Saints' Baschurch
William **David** Hockenhull aged 89 years

13th January 2023 at All Saints' Baschurch
Patricia Redworth aged 83 years

17th January 2023 at All Saints' Baschurch
John Bernard Embrey Blurton aged 87 years

30th January 2023 at Emstrey Crematorium
Geoffrey Raymond Jones aged 79 years

Thank You

Thank you to everyone involved in anyway with the services and events associated with Advent and Christmas. This includes readers, bakers, flower arrangers, musicians, leaflet deliverers, absolutely everyone; it is a real team effort. We had good numbers at all our services and social events were also well attended and enjoyed by all who came, so thank you. Let's continue to make the effort reaching out to our communities in the year ahead and in doing so strengthening the communities in which we live.

On behalf of the Ministry Team thank you for the Christmas Cards and gifts we received, they were very much appreciated. We hope that despite the various bugs going around that you had an enjoyable Christmas.

Thanks also go out from Holy Trinity and All Saints' for the donations received for the Porch Pantries. We know people have been very generous and those who have needed to access those pantries have been deeply moved by the generosity. We would also like to thank Baschurch Parish Council for the generous cheque to help us to continue to provide for those struggling especially during the next few months.

Any donations can be left in either of the porches at Holy Trinity or All Saints'. Holy Trinity Porch Pantry can be accessed at anytime as it is situated just inside the outer porch. All Saints' Porch Pantry can be accessed during the hours the church is open – most days that is 9am-4.30pm. Outside of these hours please contact the Rector.

Linda Cox

ALL SAINTS "100 CLUB" WINNERS

Dec 2022	No 45 - Jan McKnight	No 73 - Anne Samples
	No 75 - David Morgan	No 91 - Barbara Price
	No 113 - Sandie Gough	No 116 - Pat Hibberd
Jan 2023	No 79 - Steve Cox	No 134 - Jan Emerton

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday 5th February (3rd Sunday before Lent)

- 8am BCP Holy Communion - All Saints' Baschurch
9.30am Worship for All – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields
11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
6.30pm Contemporary Worship – All saints' Baschurch
(Please note this will be moving from the First to the Second of the month from May 2023)

Readings: Isaiah 58:1-9a & Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday 12th February (2nd Sunday before Lent)

- 9.15am Worship for All – St Mary's Hordley
11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Romans 8:18-25 & Matthew 6:25-end

Sunday 19th February (Sunday next before Lent)

- 8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
9.30am CW Holy Communion – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields
11am Worship for All – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: 2 Peter 1:16-end & Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday 22nd February – Ash Wednesday

- 10.30am Holy Communion with Ashing
at Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields
7.30pm Holy Communion with Ashing at All Saints' Baschurch

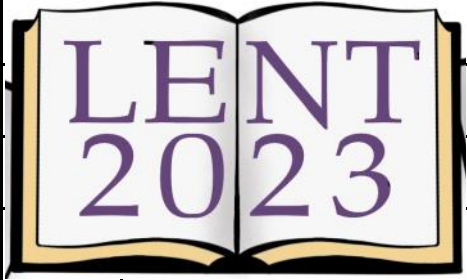
Readings: 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6;10 & John 8:1-11

Sunday 26th February (1st Sunday of Lent)

- 9.15am CW Holy Communion - St Mary's Hordley
11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
4pm Forest Church

Readings: Romans 5:12-19 & Matthew 4:1-11

New Testament Daily Prayer Readings for Morning Prayer in February

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	1 Corinthians 14:1-19	17	John 20:11-18
2	1 Corinthians 14:20-end	18	John 20:19-end
3	1 Corinthians 16:1-9	19	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
4	1 Corinthians 16:10-end	20	John 3:1-21
5	Acts 3:1-10	21	John 3:22-end
6	John 17:1-5	22	1 Timothy 6:6-19
7	John 17:6-19	23	John 4:1-26
8	John 17:20-end	24	John 4:27-42
9	John 18:1-11	25	John 4:43-end
10	John 18:12-27	26	Luke 18:9-14
11	John 18:28-end	27	John 5:1-18
12	Colossians 1:15-20	28	John 5:19-29
13	John 19:1-16		
14	John 19:17-30		
15	John 19:31-end		
16	John 20:1-10		

2023 Lent Course



Discovering the power of faith in a conflicted world.

We live in a messy world full of division from global conflict down to our own relationships. Difference equips you to **cross divides, navigate disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world.**

There are 5 sessions:

God's Call; Crossing Divides; Navigating Disagreement; Practising Forgiveness; Risking Hope

In each session we will listen to other's stories and see how the world looks through their eyes. We will encounter others with authenticity and confidence and we will find hope and opportunity in the places where we long to see change.

Each session will include video clips, passages from the Bible and discussion

Course Details

Monday 27th Feb, 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th March at 7.30pm on Zoom

Or

Thursday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th March at 2.00pm in

All Saints' Church

Contact the Rector for further details and to receive the zoom link.

HORDLEY NEWS



In the very cold spell before Christmas it proved difficult to warm the church for the Christmas services. However, everyone wrapped up extra warmly for the Carol service, tried to sit over the under-seat heaters and had the benefit this year of some hot refreshments afterwards. The church looked as lovely as ever to celebrate the coming of Jesus, so the bride and groom, who were married on New Year's Eve, had the benefit of the decorations.

Snowdrops and crocuses are beginning to peep through and show some colour so it won't be long before we can enjoy the spring flowers that can be seen and enjoyed in our gardens and as we travel the lanes in our lovely countryside.

The next PCC meeting is scheduled for 16th February and we hope it may be possible to plan some social events for the coming year. Let us hope that the Covid situation remains under control so that life can return to a semblance of what we used to call normality

The winner of the lottery draw in December was Lucy Lee with number 23 and in January it was Kathryn Lee with number 18. A lucky time for the Lee family, who I see also won in December 2021! On checking the records I see that the last time my number came up was in April 2012, nearly eleven years ago!

Mary Thomson



HOLY TRINITY WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

Flowers

We were delighted when we heard that there was a group of ladies interested in flower arranging who had offered to decorate the church for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we were knocked out by



the results. The church was just as delighted when the same group of ladies also decorated the church for harvest and for Christmas. Warm thanks to all of them for making the church look so beautiful. The theme was a different Christmas Carol for each window and the arrangements all reflected the carol brilliantly.

Electrics

Unfortunately in November we were told that the electrics in church were not to be used which affected all the December services. Two services only were held on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day and some of Weston's congregation joined services in Baschurch for the rest of the month. A quotation for the work has been accepted and I know that there have been some offers of help with the costs, for which we are extremely grateful. Details of how to contribute will be available soon.

Anita Weeks

A Personal View

My Dad was the last LMS (London Missionary Society) missionary to Botswana following in the footsteps of David Livingstone, who was the first. So I've been brought up within a Christian family but never had religion thrown at me. If we wanted to join him at church we did, if we didn't he never minded. His philosophy was it's how you live

your daily life that matters. It's not about coming to church and then all week not caring what you do, what you say and how you behave and how you treat others. We did go to church when we wanted to. In Botswana the churches are always full.

It's very much like that in our small village. We have a church, and we don't have to go along, but when we need the church it's there for us. Dad used to say, "I'm here for hatches, matches and despatches!" (that is, baptisms, marriages and funerals). But in the meantime the church, both the building and the services it provides, needs maintaining. And that happens primarily through the generosity of people of the village, who give their time and money.

Similarly, the village has recently been given a defibrillator by Sally, who set up The Henry Angell-James Trust in memory of her husband, who died of a heart attack. We are very fortunate to have been given this. Like the church it could be needed by any one of us. However, the defibrillator will also need maintaining and it is up to us in the village to do this so as to guarantee that it is there for us when we need it.

I suppose what I'm trying to say is - we see the Church and the Defib and until we need them it's not a priority to support them. So we all need to do the right thing, as one day it could be any one of us needing the facility and it might not be available.

*Gill Jones RGN
(Weston Lullingfields Committee member)*

IN FEBRUARY

175 years ago, on 21st Feb 1848, the Communist Manifesto was published in London.

100 years ago, on 16th Feb 1923, British archaeologist Howard Carter opened the sealed doorway to Tutankhamen's tomb.

70 years ago, on 28th Feb 1953, British scientists Francis Crick and James D Watson announced that they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.



Candlemas Bells

Many snowdrops found in churchyards and monastic sites have been planted as a symbol of purity and hope.

The first known cultivation of snowdrops in the UK was recorded in 1597 and, while it is thought that pilgrims originally brought this beautiful flower to our shores, it was the Victorians who enthusiastically planted them in churchyards and cemeteries.

Snowdrops go by over 30 different local names including Dew Drops, Eve's Tear and February Fair-maids. They are also known as Candlemas Bells.

In the Middle Ages Candlemas (held on the 2nd of February) was the day when everyone in the parish brought their candles to church to be blessed by the priest. This was to ward off evil spirits. After a procession and the blessing, the candles were lit and set before the statue of the Virgin Mary. The snowdrop was the flower gathered to decorate the church at that time, so took on the name of that ancient tradition.

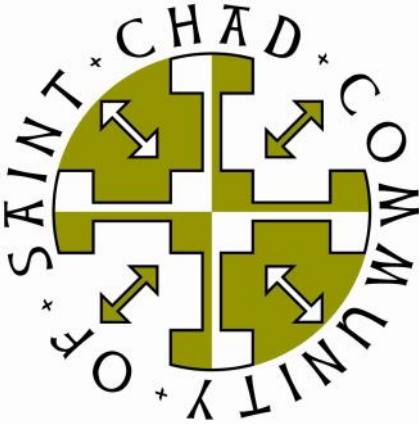
Snowdrops were used as a cure for headaches in the past, although the bulbs are poisonous. Today a compound from the bulb has been used to develop a dementia treatment.

The sight of snowdrops is often viewed as a welcome herald of spring. As they bloom so early, they do not rely on insects to pollinate them and tend to spread by bulb division. Insects which emerge early, particularly queen bumblebees, may find them a welcome source of food. Many churchyards have a good show of snowdrops and these early pollen sources can help insects that emerge unseasonably early in the spring due to changing weather patterns. Try to use any flower beds or pots you have to provide pollen and nectar from February through to the October.

All the best, Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor,
harriet@cfga.org.uk,





I Got Rhythm

The Community of St Chad

The Community of St Chad was formed around ten years ago. It is a dispersed community, open to anyone living throughout Lichfield Diocese and beyond, with over 90 official members, and many more who use the Community Handbook and prayer resources. Ours is a commu-

nity founded on companion groups of three people who meet to pray together and who live out five Rhythms of Grace.

Rhythm One: By God's grace, I will seek to be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

Each and every one of us will interpret this statement slightly differently, and it is our responsibility to work through the implications for ourselves. Perhaps living out this first rhythm would look like being honest in all we say and do, speaking and acting positively, checking in with ourselves on what material things we covet more than we should.

Rhythm Two: by God's grace, I will be open to the presence, guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

I live this second rhythm out by being open to the nudges of the Spirit. For example, as you walk past an unknown house there is that nudge to knock on the door. When someone says they are okay, the nudge to ask 'are you really?' God's Spirit is at work all around us and by being intentional we notice the things God is doing that we can join in with.

Rhythm Three: by God's grace, I set aside time for prayer, worship and spiritual reading.

Our corporate worship is fed by our individual devotion. Reading the Bible, using commentaries and study notes, and reading Christian

books all feed us on our spiritual journey. There is now a plethora of apps including The Bible Project, PrayasyouGo, The Daily Prayer App, and Lectio 365 which enable us to be fed wherever we are.

Rhythm Four: by God's grace, I will endeavour to be a gracious presence in the world, serving others and working for justice in human relationships and social structures.

I find this rhythm to be the one that opens the armour around people's hearts and where transformation happens in our communities. Working for justice means we do not shy away from conflict, but challenge unjust circumstances with grace and truth. Our generosity and our willingness to give and receive the gifts of God's abundance leads us into deeper relationship with God and the communities we serve.

Rhythm Five: by God's grace I will sensitively share my faith with others and support God's mission both locally and globally.

The church can be inward looking, and this fifth rhythm encourages us to lift our heads and seek out the bigger picture of God's mission in the wider world. It encourages us to be imaginative in the way we present the gospel, to help our neighbours near and far as we live out our calling to share our faith.

These five Rhythms are not rules that dictate our behaviour, instead they form a foundation of self-examination helping us to see how we can grow as disciples of Christ. St Chad's Day is 2nd March 2023. If you'd like to join the special service of recommitment at Lichfield Cathedral on 5th March at 3.30pm, or want to find out more about the community of St Chad, please email thecommunityof-stchad@gmail.com.

If you'd like to join us in prayer online on Tuesday evenings at 6pm, or Friday mornings at 9am, the Zoom details are on our website, [lichfield.anglican.org /community-st-chad/](http://lichfield.anglican.org/community-st-chad/)

The community of St Chad is led by Revd Chris Precious, vicar of Kinnerley with Molverley, Knockin with Maesbrook and Maesbury together with Revd Rosanne Wilshire, vicar of St Stephen's Willenhall

BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR LENT

Looking for something to read to help you through Lent? To cheer us all up, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York offer us books entitled 'Failure' and 'Godforsaken', but despite the titles, the books look as if they might be more about hope. The third book looks as if it could be fun as well as thought provoking, 'All's Well that Ends Well'. Yes, you are right, it's a journey through Lent with Shakespeare. See the reviews below for more information.

FAILURE: WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT SIN, MISTAKES AND MESSING STUFF UP

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2023

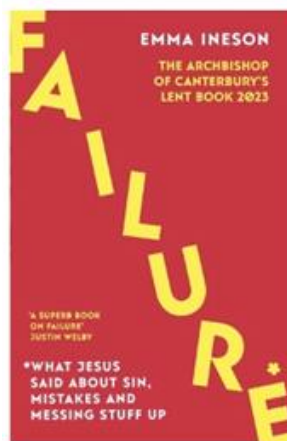
By Emma Ineson, SPCK £8.99

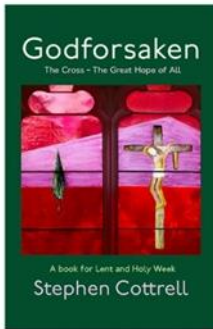
In 2019, Emma Ineson wrote about ambition and what it means for Christians to be successful. And then there was a global pandemic . . . Suddenly failure began to feel very much more familiar than success.

But what is failure? What did Jesus think of it? What did He say about sin, mistakes and generally mucking things up? At the start of this wonderfully humorous and encouraging book - which will end at the cross - it's suggested that our tendency to lump all kinds of failure together could be a bit unhelpful. A more nuanced understanding of what sort of failure we're dealing with might just allow us to make friends with it and respond more appropriately.

This idea leads us 'Towards an (Imperfect) Theology of Failure', based on key Christian thinking, and Emma poses the question of whether sin is an individual or corporate thing. Looking at the church, we consider, what is God's purpose for it? And in the light of key concerns such as safeguarding and racial justice, how might we re-examine concepts of success and recognise and measure failure?

We are reminded of our calling to live life to the full, to take risks despite our fears. We are bound sometimes to fail! Yet gazing at Jesus - who looked like the greatest failure of all - we may discern in the heartache, vulnerability and humility of failure, the glory of the cross.





GODFORSAKEN: The Cross, the Greatest Hope of All
by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York,
John Murray Press, £14.99

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell explores Jesus' final words on the Cross in this powerful new book. In the Gospel of Mark's account of the Passion narrative, Jesus calls out from the cross 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which is the Aramaic for 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' - the first line of Psalm 22. It's an anguished expression - traditionally ascribed to King David - of defeat, failure, abandonment and despair.

This series of reflections, written for Lent and Holy Week 2023 by the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, ponders the significance of these words. What does it mean for Jesus to have quoted them, at the very end of his life? What do those words mean for us?

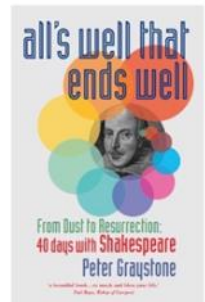
This is a beautiful and compelling exploration of the dark, suffering side of the Passion - and how Jesus' words lead us to the greatest hope of all.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL -

Through Lent with Shakespeare

By Peter Graystone, Canterbury Press, £12.99

Few writers have a deeper understanding of the foibles of human nature and life's absurdities and tragedies than William Shakespeare. This makes him a fascinating companion for the season of Lent, a traditional time for a spot of self-examination.



This engaging, wise and often amusing Lent book sets quotations from Shakespeare's characters and poems alongside biblical passages and reflects on the resonance between them - one reflection for each day of the season.

It starts with dust on Ash Wednesday ('Golden lads and girls all must, As chimney-sweepers, come to dust', from Cymbeline) and ends with resurrection as Easter Sunday approaches ('It is required you do awake your faith', from The Winter's Tale). In between, it considers many rich spiritual themes: mercy, love, loyalty, trust, good vs evil, guilt, forgiveness, ageing, grief, death, hope and more.

Each day's reflection opens with a quotation from Shakespeare and explores its ideas in conversation with the Bible and Christian thought.

PRAYER ON THE GO

The practise of being able to pray as we go through our everyday lives is not a new idea. When George Herbert, 17th Century Anglican poet and priest was vicar of Brereton in Hampshire, he rang the church bell as he was about to say his daily offices, and encouraged his parishioners, on hearing the bell, to pause for a moment in what they were doing to offer up prayer as well.

Brother Lawrence, 17th C Carmelite lay brother, learnt how to pray while he worked in the busy kitchens of his monastery. His little book *'The Practice of the Presence of God'* is stuffed full of wisdom and practical help for busy people down the centuries, who want to deepen their life of prayer.

Susannah Wesley, mother of John and Charles, and 17 other children, ran a busy, boisterous household in the 18th C but she was also a woman of deep devotion and prayer. She would pull her apron up over her face, which was the sign that she wanted a moment's quiet to pray, and was not to be disturbed by the children. They learnt to respect her wishes!

It is there for all of us to pray while we go about our daily lives—especially when we are travelling (maybe, though, not when driving!), doing household tasks, gardening, walking and so on. We can learn to make the most of snatches of peace and quiet, wherever and whenever we may be given them, even though we may be surrounded by noise and activity.

These days, there are so many resources to help us pray in our daily lives, to pray on the go, as it were. One relatively new source of help is the many prayer apps that can be downloaded on our mobile phones and other portable devices—so many, it is an almost bewildering choice. We are all different, and have different needs when it comes to seeking help to pray.

On the following page are a few suggestions for exploring what's available. All of them are free to download and use and are from sources which can be trusted.

Prayer Apps available

A good place to start is to find out what the mainstream churches offer.

The Church of England provides a range of apps to meet various needs and which are linked with Common Worship material, both online and in book form. The **Time To Pray** app and podcast presents everything you need for Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer in contemporary form (Common Worship). It is available as an app (with integrated audio) or as a podcast.. You can use it to follow a simple pattern of daily prayer that varies according to the season and day of the week. To see more details, and to download it, go to:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/time-pray-app-and-podcast>

The Methodist Church provides a weekly meditation on their Take Time App, which is based on prayerful scriptural reading and imagination (*lectio divina*) to explore a bible passage. More information is available at: <https://taketime.org.uk/> from which the app may be downloaded.

From the **Roman Catholic Church**, the most widely used daily prayer app is **Pray as you Go**, which is produced by the Society of Jesus within the British Isles. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one session for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer. It is founded in Ignatian Spirituality and uses the imagination to enter more deeply into prayer.

Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection.

I personally have found this the most helpful resource of its kind, and used it especially during the period of the lockdowns, when churches were closed for worship. The app can be downloaded from:

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Editor

NEWS FROM PARISH PUMP

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

2.6 million seek help from churches and faith groups

Nearly three million adults in the UK are estimated to have sought help from church or other religious organisations since the start of last year, as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, according to research published.

New findings show that, overall, almost four in 10 (38 per cent) of UK adults sought help last year because of the squeeze on living costs. Family and friends were the most common source of help, at 24 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

However, the polling by Savanta, for the Church of England, also found that five per cent of UK adults, approximately equivalent to 2.6 million people, sought help from churches or other religious organisations.

Six in 10 of those who sought help from churches and other religions said they had received free food or groceries (60 per cent). Half said they received low-cost food or groceries (50 per cent) or hot food (48 per cent), and four in 10 (40 per cent) said they had been provided with warm spaces.

The survey showed that, overall, 61 per cent of UK adults said they had *not* sought help in 2022 as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, but this figure fell to 24 per cent of 18-to-24 year olds and 30 per cent of 25 to 34-year-olds.

When early last year the Warm Welcome campaign was launched, it was supported by thousands of churches and other public buildings, which are opening their doors this winter to provide a warm space for people amid surging energy bills.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on welfare issues, said: "Churches have been providing a lifeline to people struggling to balance their household budgets

and provide for their families through food banks and food clubs and other forms of hospitality for many years.

"The cost-of-living crisis has seen churches step up this support, with many providing warm spaces through the Warm Welcome campaign this winter for people struggling to heat their homes.

"The figure of nearly three million people seeking help from church or other religious organisations since the start of this year is almost certainly an underestimate of the extent of the support, as many visit church-run food banks and food clubs in order to provide for their families and wider households."

MORE THAN ONE MILLION PEOPLE PRAY ONLINE

with C of E podcast and app

The number of people using the Church of England's Daily Prayer audio service has recently passed a million, as the podcasting revolution begins to reshape how people worship.

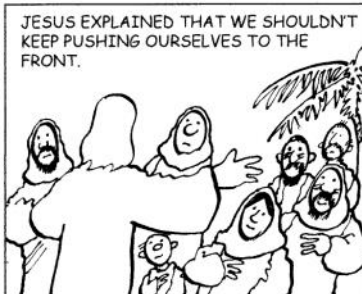
The podcast, also available as audio on the [Daily Prayer app](#), follows the Church of England's traditional cycle of Morning and Evening Prayer, with a range of voices and music. The short atmospheric services feature prayers and readings following the pattern set out in the Church of England's Common Worship services, recorded by volunteers across the country.

It was launched in March last year after churches across the country reported large numbers tuning into prayer services broadcast online during Covid restrictions.

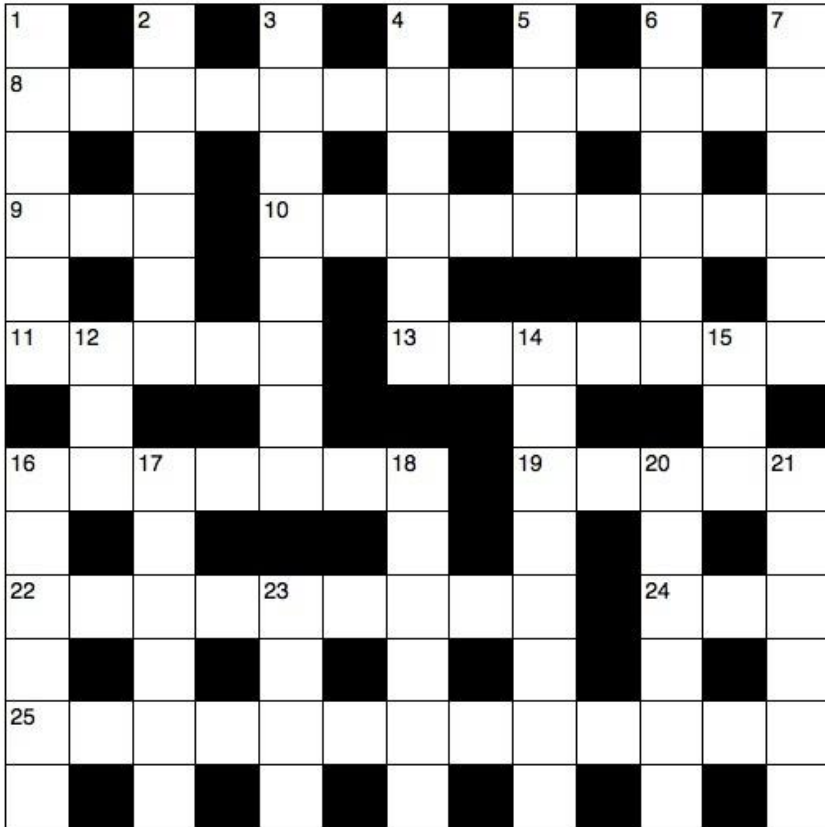
So far, the Daily Prayer podcast has reached one million listeners, with around 8,000 listening every day. In total there have now been five million downloads since its launch in March 2020.

Daily Prayer is one of a series of prayer and discipleship apps and podcasts available from the Church of England, including 'Time to Pray', which won Gold for Best Use of Audio at the 2021 Digital Impact Awards.

PICTURE PARABLE



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Clues Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Clues Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Answers on page 33

THE GENERAL SYNOD - FEBRUARY 2023

The General Synod of the Church of England meets from Monday 6th to Thursday 9th February at Church House in London. The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England Synod and considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England, formulates new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

The Synod consists of three groups of members, called 'houses'. The **House of Bishops** includes all 42 diocesan bishops plus a number of suffragen bishops, elected by their peers. The members of the **House of Clergy** are elected by their fellow clergy within their diocese respectively. The **House of Laity** consists of lay members from every diocese of the Church of England. Nearly all lay members of Synod are elected by deanery synods .

On the agenda for the February group of sessions, apart from legislative business, the synod will consider **Resourcing Ministerial Formation** , and will debate the **Cost of Living Crisis**. A major part of the time will be spent returning to the process known as **Living in Love and Faith**, which is a long term project , led by the House of Bishops, which is considering in detail questions around sexuality, gender and identity in relation to the Christian Faith. This process has drawn upon work done in each diocese and by local groups.

One of the liveliest sessions of the synod is often the questions session, usually on the first day of the meeting. Any member can table a question on any matter, for a bishop or a chair of a committee to answer. There are often far more questions than can be answered in the time. But the mood of the synod can be judged particularly by the follow up questions that are asked (rather like Prime Ministers Question Time). This can be unpredictable and quite heated!

One feature this time is the so-called '**Loyal Address**' by one of the Archbishops, following the accession of King Charles III to the throne.

I hope we shall receive a report of proceedings for the March CFN.

Editor

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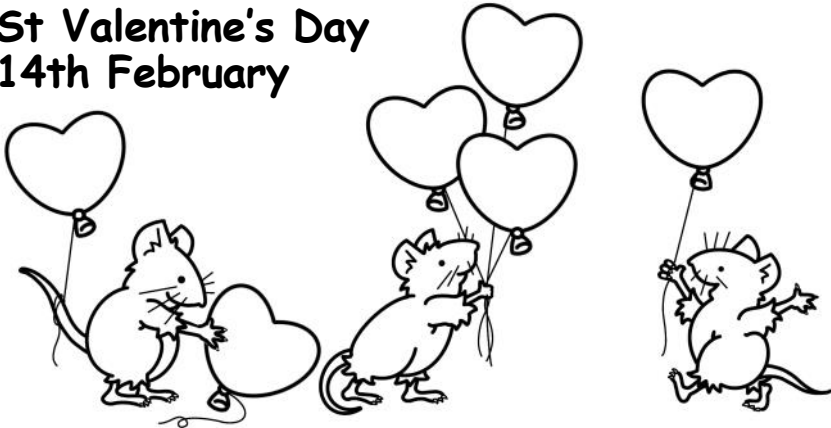
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**St Valentine's Day
14th February**



ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

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The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Candlemas

Thursday 2nd February
2023

The Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou
thy servant depart in
peace: according to
thy word,

For mine eyes hath
seen: thy salvation,

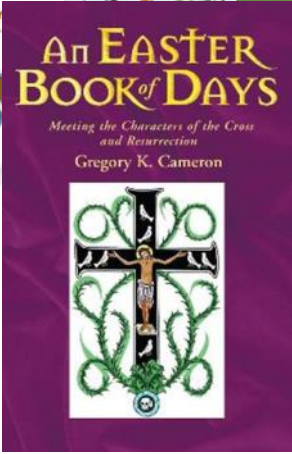
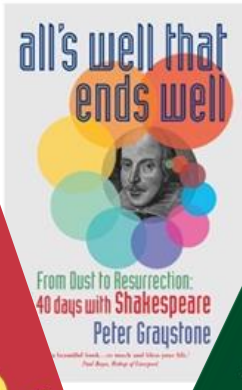
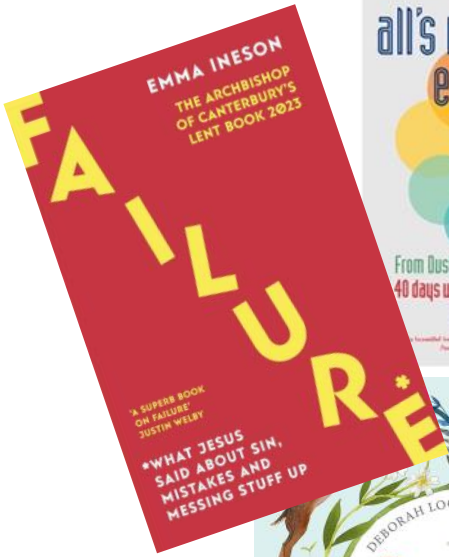
Which thou hast pre-
pared: before the face
of all people;

To be a light to lighten
the Gentiles: and to be
the glory of thy people
Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

Book of Common Prayer

From the East Window, Hordley Church



Books for Lent 2023