



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

February 2024



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

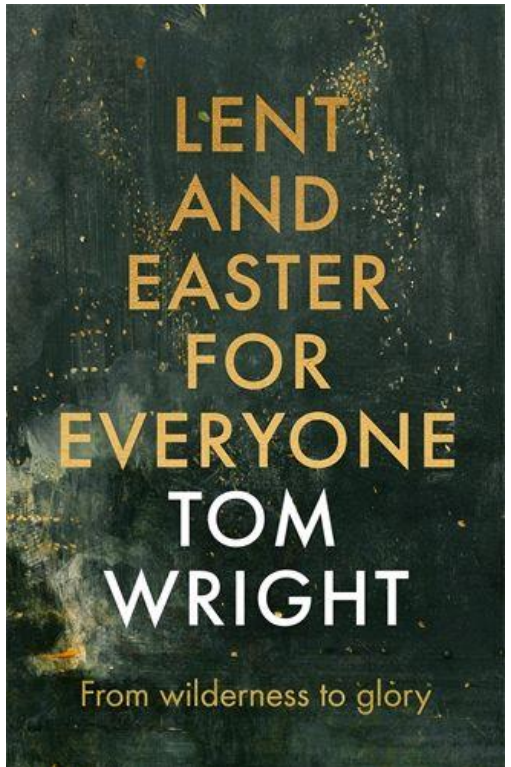
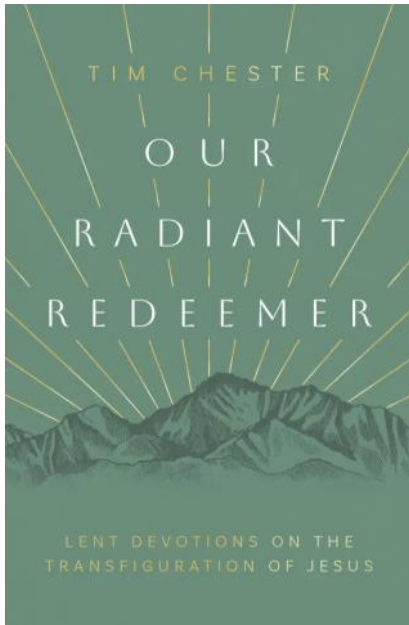
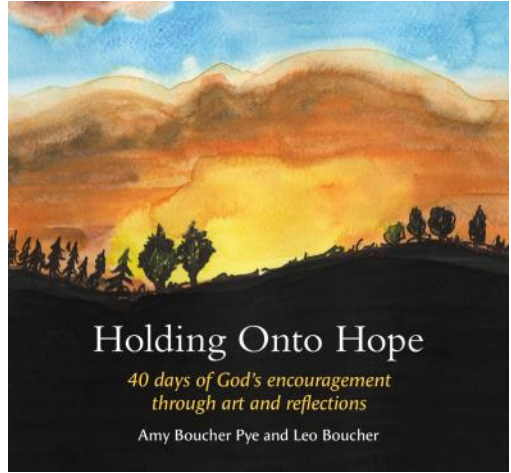
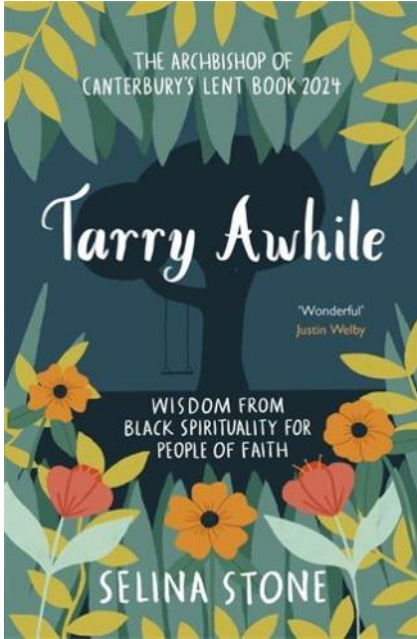
HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S
Hordley

50p
Per issue

BOOKS FOR LENT

See pages 22 and 23 for reviews of these new books for Lent.



EDITORIAL

Hello, dear readers, welcome to the first edition of Church Family News for 2024. I hope you have enjoyed reading your magazine over the last year. Your distributor will soon be asking for your 2024 subscription—the good news is that we are still able to keep the year's subscription **unchanged at £5 for the year**. Thank you for all your continuing support.

The calendar for February this year is full of interesting juxtapositions. The month begins with Candlemas on 2nd and then we are hot footing it to Lent. As 2024 is a leap year, the extra day added to the end of the month will make it feel less of a breathless sprint into March. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls on 14th February, which also happens to be St Valentine's Day and the Feast of St Cyril and Methodius.

The latter two saints were brothers (in the 10th Century) from Greece, who were sent as missionaries to the Slavic peoples. They are mostly celebrated in, for example, Serbia, Russia and Ukraine as giving the Slavic languages the Cyrillic alphabet. How to keep Ash Wednesday as a penitential day, while enjoying a romantic meal with one's 'Valentine' and remembering the linguistic achievements of a pair of 10th Century monks is a challenge beyond most of us!

Lent is very much a time for reflection, and for deepening and growing, and help is at hand for us to work our way through it. On the page opposite are pictures of the front covers of some new lent books. I like the look of *Tarry Awhile* particularly. My work with Black Churches made me realise that we have so much to receive from these churches. See the reviews on pages 22 and 23. On pages 12 and 13 are also details of the Lent Course, which is to be highly commended for tackling some thorny questions about prayer.

Finally, I am most grateful to Andrew Thomson for sharing his rainfall measurements for last year (see page 15) - there lies a story and a challenge, not just for Lent but for us now going forward and generations to come.

Roger Paul, Editor

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SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

15th February 2024

to the CFN email address:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I hope and pray that Christmas was a time of peace and a chance for you to celebrate the birth of the Christ child and what that means for you today. I always find it a strange time of year with the run up beginning earlier and earlier and the true focus being lost, or at least for a good number of people as they focus more on parties and shopping. Now don't get me wrong, I love a good party and I love to buy and give gifts, but the most favourite part of Christmas for me is the midnight service where we welcome in during those quiet and often still small hours, the Son of God, a gift of true and unconditional love. Yet as quickly as we welcome him in the secular world has forgotten him and decorations are removed and life continues. This year with Lent and Easter coming early it almost feels like the church is also rushing through the celebrations. Of course we are not and the Christmas season doesn't actually finish until Candlemas when Jesus is presented in the temple (2nd Feb – celebrated on Sun 28th Jan), which is why in churches and in many homes the Crib remains on display.

As I said Lent begins early this year, 14th February being Ash Wednesday. That date is also known in society as Valentine's Day, and in one way feels a fitting day to begin Lent as we walk with Jesus, God's unconditional gift of love to us, to the cross and his death for us. I am reminded of the verse from John 15:13 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.' The following verse begins with the words 'You are my friends...' Jesus calls us friends and Jesus took upon himself our sins and went to the cross, so that we might have salvation.

Walking with Jesus is not an easy journey and Jesus never said it would be. Firstly, Jesus wants us to turn to him and to repent of what we have done wrong, in other words to admit our failures and our mistakes, and we all make them even if they are just thoughts in our heads. Acknowledging our imperfection is not an easy thing to do, but none of us are perfect. Ash Wednesday offers the opportunity to do that and to receive a sign of the cross made in Ash upon our foreheads, a visible reminder to us that we are not perfect.

Secondly, staying on the journey with Jesus is hard especially when we face times of trial, struggle or suffering, it is then that we can be left with questions. One of the most often asked questions by people who do not have faith or whose faith has wavered is 'Why does a God who professes to love us leave us to face these times of struggle and pain?' It's a question which if we are honest I'm sure many of us have asked or at least wondered about.

John 15 can offer us a helpful reminder when those questions begin to invade our thoughts. Verse 11 reminds us that true joy transcends the ups and downs of life and that the joy comes from a consistent and living relationship with Jesus. A reminder that Jesus promised to be with us always, through the good and the bad and that in those difficult times that he continues to walk with us, even carrying us.

We are also reminded that as Jesus loves us we are also called to love others and be there for them. In times of difficulty whilst Jesus walks with us we also need the support and comfort of those who are physically present with us. Of course this doesn't stop us from wondering or asking those difficult questions, we are human, but Jesus made the first choice, to love and die for us. We are called to make the next choice, to accept or reject his offer of being there for us, without Jesus' choice we wouldn't have a choice to make.

If you wondering about some of these questions or you don't know how to answer family and friends who have asked them of you, come and join us on our Lent Course this year. It is the second of the prayer courses entitled, 'Unanswered Prayer', where we ask where God is in the struggles of life, why our prayers do not seem to be answered, or even how do we get through such difficult times.

Across the Benefice this year we are using the strap line 'Come and See.' So 'Come and See' if you have questions and invite others to also 'Come and See.' God sent His Son to Come and See the world He created, to Come and See what it was like to live on earth, to feel pain, sadness, joy, to know what it was like to have family and friends, but also to be alone and feel as though you have been deserted. God did that because he loves us. So 'Come and See' this year what God is calling you to, or even what it is all about.

Linda

THANK YOU!

Dear All,

On behalf of Deborah, Sandra and Myself, I would just like to offer some thanks. Firstly, to everyone who sent cards either physical ones or electronic ones and gifts to us during the festive period, they were very much appreciated by us all, so a big thank you.

Thank you also for my Birthday good wishes and plants. I had in fact totally forgotten my birthday until Baschurch reminded me, so thank you for that!



Christmas Lunch at All Saints'

Our biggest thanks though go to everyone who was involved in anyway with all the services and events that happened in Advent and at Christmas. It is a big undertaking but appreciated by all who come through our doors. We received many comments about how beautiful the churches looked and how welcoming they were and that is down to everyone. Numbers were good over Christmas as we welcomed families from both near and far, some visiting for the first time as people move into our communities.

Our biggest thanks though go to everyone who was involved in anyway with all the services and events that happened in Advent and at Christmas. It is a big undertaking but appreciated by all who come through our doors. We received many comments about how beautiful the churches looked and how welcoming they were and that is down to everyone. Numbers were good over Christmas as we welcomed families from both near and far, some visiting for the first time as people move into our communities.

If there was something you would like to see happening in our churches at Christmas, but which didn't happen in 2023 then please do let us know. We can't guarantee we could make it happen in 2024, it is often about who we have available, but we can certainly have a look at any ideas which are forthcoming. The earlier you let us know your thoughts and ideas the easier it is for us, and of course if you would like to offer to help then please do speak to us.

Linda Cox

HORDLEY NEWS

At the beginning of another year it is time to pay our magazine subscriptions to whoever delivers our copies. The price remains at £5 for the year and we hope you consider it to be good value. We aim to ensure that the standard keeps improving by providing interesting articles to read each month, unusual photographs and, of course, information about the three parishes.

Our treasurer, Christabel Edwards, has sent reminders to all those who take part in the Hordley Lottery on a regular basis. There are several spare numbers so if you don't already take part, please do consider joining in with this annual fund-raiser for parish funds. Each number costs £12 for the year; the winner is the holder of the bonus ball in the National Lottery on the first Saturday of each month. The winner receives £30. During 2023 our lottery raised £216 for St Mary's funds. With more participants, more money would be raised. please contact Christabel at christabeledwards@btinternet.com for further information,.

It is pleasing to be able to report that our Christmas services were well attended this year, with the benefit of an organist for the carol service.

We are indeed blessed with our two dedicated and hard-working churchwardens, Edward and John. They would like to thank all those stalwart members of our congregation who give so willingly of their time to maintain our church in its beautiful condition: cleaners, flower arrangers, brass polishers, music providers, coffee makers, grass mowers, hedge cutters, gutter clearers, all those who keep the churchyard and burial ground tidy and not forgetting the riders and striders and all those who help to raise the money necessary to keep St Mary's solvent. Especial thanks this year must go to John and to all those who put in extra effort to organise and supervise the re-decoration of St Mary's that has made such a difference to the internal appearance of our 850-year-old building.

The winner of the Hordley Lottery in December was Mrs Meryl Batho with number 40.

ALL SAINTS BASCHURCH

All Saints "100 Club"

Winners

Dec 2023. No 14 Yvonne Sadler
 No 52 Dean Robinson
 No 130 Clare Tunnadine
 No 133 Peter Ford
 No 138 Gaynor Revans

Jan 2024. No 27 Jean Gasser
 No 103. Andrew Downton

ALL SAINTS SPRING CLEAN

We will be holding a Spring Clean of All Saints on Sat 9th March from 9.30 - 1.00. We would welcome the support of anyone who could help (male or female!!) even for just part of the morning. All tools provided but if you could bring polish and a duster that would be helpful. Tea/ coffee and cakes provided!! Any queries please contact Pat Davies on 261081 or at thepat-davies@hotmail.com

Murder Mystery Evening

Friday 23rd February
 7pm at All Saints', Baschurch

**Filled spuds & puds!
 Bring your own drinks!**

£10 To book your tickets
 Martyn 01939290777
 Fenella 0776271687

Book tickets from
 Martyn 01939290777

All Saints' Programme of Future Social Events		
Event	Dates	Venue
Murder Mystery Evening	23rd February	All Saints Church
Ukrainian fund Raising	16th March	All Saints Church
RBL - Shrewsbury Brass Band	27th April	All Saints Church
Church Fete	6th July	Village Green
RBL Orthopedic Male Voice Choir and Of One Accord	19th October	All Saints Church
Quiz Night	October TBC	

HOLY TRINITY – WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

News bulletins for home and abroad on TV, social media and in daily newspapers are peppered with a lot of truly bad news – unusually bad weather and flooding; the devastation of the war in Ukraine and loss of life; the terrible fighting in Gaza and other parts of the Middle East and the desperate plight of the Palestinian people ; the consequences of Climate Change - flooding, storms and droughts; Violence against women; crime – I could go on.

But we don't always see or hear the good news side to some of the stories – the people who step up and volunteer to help clear up after flooding; those who support victims of crime; people who donate food to food banks to support those on low incomes; the people who volunteer to sort and distribute donated food in food banks. There are people who volunteer to visit lonely elderly people or help with gardening and repairs. Others drive people to hospital appointments.

People can and do donate money, food items, clothing, medical equipment. Some people offer to drive a vehicle to deliver donations abroad or to help distribute donated food at home. And as a nation we have a record of donating generously to a whole range of charities, both routinely and in response to specific appeals.

In all three of our churches there are people who volunteer to keep the churches clean; to provide and serve refreshments in our churches; to serve on PCCs and other committees; to assist the clergy at services; create rotas; visit people who are housebound; give lifts to church or social events; to join working parties to keep the churchyards tidy and safe; provide food and raffle prizes for social events. Many go above and beyond to keep our churches in good repair and organise events to help with church finances.

We have so much to be thankful for. So this is a BIG thank you to all those in our benefice who work hard to support our clergy and parishioners in maintaining our buildings, supporting our congregations and the life of our churches. But ... of course all three churches would welcome new volunteers who would like to join in this important work, part of our mission to the benefice.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

DROP IN LUNCH – 12.00 to 2.00 pm at Holy Trinity Church
We will be serving soup, rolls and cakes. Donations welcome.

SATURDAY 9 MARCH

As Holy Trinity does not have a service on Mothering Sunday, 10 March, there will instead be a service in church on **SATURDAY 9 March at 3.00 pm** followed by tea and cakes. All welcome.

Anita Weeks

PARISH WEBSITE

Do visit the Parish Website at <https://allsaintsbaschurch.com/> for helpful information and news about the parish and details of worship for all three churches. You can also access both current and past issues of Church Family News.

The website is maintained by Fenella Davies, and she asks that if you have any photographs, posters or articles that you would like to be posted on the church website please send them to fenelladavies@gmail.com

From the Registers

Burial of Ashes

7th December 2023 at St Mary's Hordley

Sarah Austin

Baptisms

10th December 2023 at All Saints' Baschurch

Maeva Lucie Price

Lent Course 2024

unanswered prayer

the prayer course II

A five week course running throughout Lent gives us an opportunity to process life's most painful questions.

Session 1: Four Big Questions

Monday 19th February at 7pm / Tuesday 20th February at 2pm

God on Mute: Engaging the Silence – ‘An honest look at the 4 big questions we all ask when confronted with suffering.’

Session 2: How?

Monday 26th February at 7pm / Tuesday 27th February at 2pm

Maundy Thursday: How? – “How do I get through this?”

Session 3: Why?

Monday 4th March at 7pm / Tuesday 5th March at 2pm

Good Friday: Why? – “Why aren't my prayers working?”

Session 4: Where?

Monday 11th March at 7pm / Tuesday 12th March at 2pm

Holy Saturday: Where? “Where is God when heaven is silent?”

Session 5: When?

Monday 18th March at 7pm / Tuesday 19th March at 2pm

Easter Sunday: When? “When will my prayers be answered?”



Each session will feature a video followed by questions and discussion.

It is a course for exploring together, not one where we are necessarily expected to have knowledge or understanding, or even the answers. It is open to all.

If you would like further information then please do contact the Rector Revd. Linda Cox on 01939 260305 or at linda@allsaintsbaschurch.com

Monday evenings will be in All Saints' Church Baschurch

Tuesday afternoons will be at Ash Grove Petton Lane Weston Lullingfields.

Six Honest Serving Men by Rudyard Kipling

I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.
I send them over land and sea,
I send them east and west;
But after they have worked for me,
I give them all a rest.



A Parliament of Rooks

Although February usually feels far from spring, it is the month when rooks usually start to build their nests, although sometimes they start in January. Many churchyards contain rookeries, situated within tall deciduous trees and a great deal of fun can be had in watching the antics of the rooks. Rooks make their nests from small branches and twigs and can be seen flying in with suitable material but also pinching particularly nice ones from the neighbours! A winter storm can seriously disrupt this nest building activity and send them back to the beginning with a great deal of chatter and fuss.

Rookeries may contain a few nests or sometimes up to a thousand and, once established, a rookery may last for centuries in the same location. Rooks are sociable and as well as nesting together they often feed in groups, eating a wide variety of foods including invertebrates pulled from the soil by their large, strong beaks. They will also eat fruit, seeds, acorns and grain and can visit garden bird feeders, taking hold of them with their feet rather like a parrot. Mixed flocks of rooks and jackdaws can be seen flying around, calling prior to going to roost. The collective nouns for a group of rooks are a parliament, congregation or clamour!



Rooks and crows can appear quite similar until you look and listen closely. A rook has a domed forehead and greyish face, its leg feathers give it 'baggy trousers'. Crows are sleeker, tend to nest singly and are often seen in twos or threes but rarely in larger flocks. Both birds have a cawing call, but crows have a harsher note and tend to repeat the call three times, whilst rooks use a wider variety of sounds and pitches including some clicks and wheezing sounds. Rooks and crows belong to the Corvid family which also includes ravens, jays, magpies and choughs. Take a look at the Caring for God's Acre website for a Spotter's Guide to Corvids [HERE](#).

Please let us know if you have a rookery within your local churchyard or cemetery and take a moment to think how many generations of rooks may have nested there.

All the best, Harriet Carty

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

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

RAINFALL FIGURES FOR 2023



In 1990 I was living at Ellesmere College and was given a rain gauge for Christmas and have been keeping the rainfall figures ever since. From 1996 to 2017 Mary and I were living at Rednal and started attending Hordley church. We moved into our present house in Ellesmere in 2017 and have continued keeping these figures.

The year 2023 saw several new records set including 1022mm (40 inches) for the whole year, the yearly average for the period being 792mm (31.2 inches). A truly remarkable figure of 67mm (2.6 inches) in the space of just two hours was recorded on June 12th in an otherwise unusually dry month. We saw the driest February on record with no rain at all; this has also been seen in April and October of previous years. Overall, 2023 was wetter than average in 10 out of the 12 months of the year.

2024 has started with some flooded fields locally and forecast of more to come; we shall just have to wait to see how the year turns out.

Andrew Thomson



SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 4th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

8am BCP Prayer Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Worship for All – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Colossians 1:15-20 & John 1:1-14

Sunday 11th February – Sunday next before Lent

9.15am Worship for All – St Mary's Hordley

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

6.30pm Contemporary Service

Readings: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 & Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes –
Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

7.30pm Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes –
All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10 & Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday 18th February – 1st Sunday of 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: 1 Peter 3:18-end & Mark 1:9-15

Sunday 25th February – 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.15am CW Holy Communion – St Mary's Hordley

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

4pm Forest Church – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Romans 4:13-end & Mark 8:31-end

**NEW TESTAMENT DAILY PRAYER READINGS FOR
MORNING PRAYER IN FEBRUARY**

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Matthew 27:57-end	16	Galatians 3:1-14
2	Matthew 28:1-15	17	Galatians 3:15-22
3	Matthew 28:16-end	18	Romans 10:8b-13
4	Matthew 6:25-end	19	Galatians 3:23-4:7
5	2 Timothy 4:1-8	20	Galatians 4:8-20
6	2 Timothy 4:9-end	21	Galatians 4:21-5:1
7	Titus 1	22	Galatians 5:2-15
8	Titus 2	23	Galatians 5:16-end
9	Titus 3	24	Galatians 6
10	Philemon	25	Galatians 3:1-9, 23-end
11	2 Corinthians 3:12-end	26	Hebrews 1
12	Galatians 1	27	Hebrews 2:1-9
13	Galatians 2:1-10	28	Hebrews 2:10-end
14	1 Timothy 6:6-19	29	Hebrews 3:1-6
15	Galatians 2:11-end		

GENEROUS HOPE

Jonathan Hill, Lichfield Diocese's Director of Finance contemplates an alternative understanding of 'giving up for Lent'

We so easily misrepresent Lent as a miserable time of depriving ourselves – of giving up sweet treats or alcohol, other nice things and even joy. But it is really about reflecting Jesus time in the desert in contemplation and resisting temptation, preparing himself for the years of his public ministry that were about to start.

It is a great time for us to each reflect on our own ministries – we all have them, to family, friends and communities around us: some are very public as clergy and lay ministers, others very quiet through supporting neighbours or words of encouragement or praying for others.

It is often said that the last part of a person to be converted when they come to faith is their wallet, yet tales of generosity and advice on using whatever little wealth we have are the most common topics in the Bible.

Some preachers vehemently call for each of us to give exactly ten percent of our income to support the local or global church; a number that comes from the Old Testament: others simply urge considered generosity, following the instruction of St Paul to the Corinthians – “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). The Church of England recommends giving 5% to the local parish and 5% to other Christian mission. What we each actually give is up to us, unknown to the vicar or PCC or anyone else.

What we do know is that our churches, despite the challenges of a secularising nation and reduced voluntary activity across the country, remain key to many communities providing practical and spiritual services. Many people who rarely enter the church value the pres-

ence of our buildings at various points in life. And keeping them open relies on the tithes of the faithful and the generosity of visitors.

There is good news here – the average regular giver in the Church of England contributes about £15 each week. In Lichfield Diocese the figure is £11.15, not terrible in a diocese with significant pockets of deprivation and amazingly 7% up on pre-pandemic, pre-cost-of-living-crisis levels.

To those who remain faithful givers, both diocese and parishes are very grateful. However, the number of regular givers has fallen, meaning budgets in parishes generally are squeezed.

I find it hard to process the numbers and detailed spreadsheets without a cup of coffee in my hand, and enjoy buying from a well-known retailer on my way to work. But after a few scribbles on the back of a coffee cup, I realised that if I gave up one cup per week and gave its cost to my parish and every other giver did the same, we'd solve the cash-flow issues in our parishes at a stroke. I have resolved to do that with a direct debit through the Giving Direct scheme which sends funds directly to your chosen parish.

So my challenge to you this lent is to review your generosity – to your parish church and elsewhere.

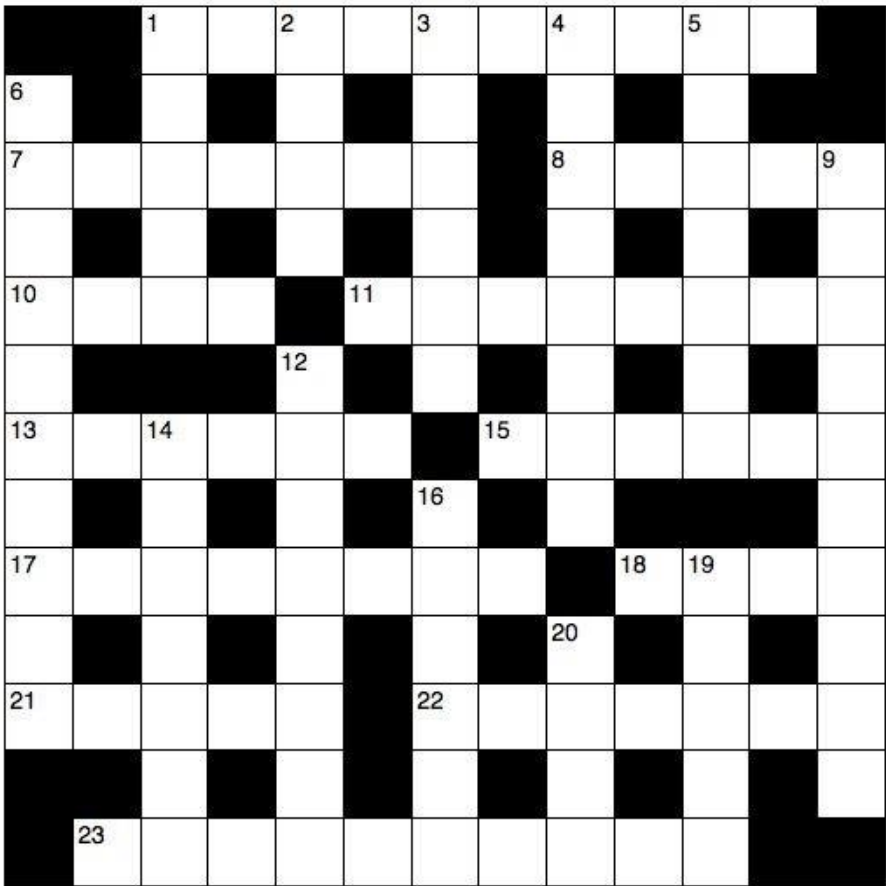
Jonathan Hill is Lichfield Diocese's Director of Finance.

The diocese offers three ways that help people give to their parishes:

- *through Giving Direct standing orders which ensure parish receives both the gift AND recouped Gift Aid within 14 days;*
- *through our Just Giving account; and*
- *the Donate Now scheme, for one-off gifts, can be added to parish websites.*

More information at lichfield.anglican.org/receiving-donations-online.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)

13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)

15 Breakwater (6)

17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)

18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)

21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)

22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)

23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)

2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)

3 So rapt (anag.) (6)

4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)

5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)

6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)

9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)

12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)

14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —'
' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)

16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)

19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)

20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

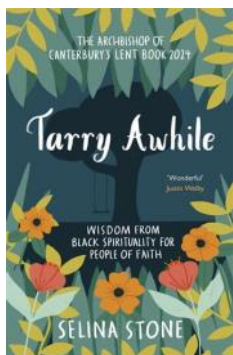
Answers on page 26

BOOKS FOR LENT

Here is a selection of new books to help us through Lent 2024.

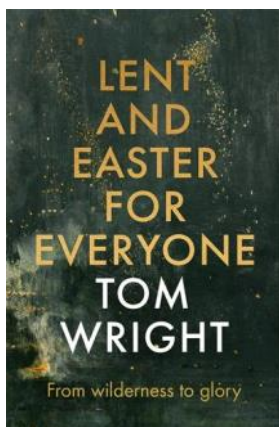
TARRY AWHILE: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for People of Faith

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2024 By Selina Stone



Tarrying is a Black Christian spiritual practice in which believers actively wait to experience the manifestation of God's presence. It answers yes to the question Jesus once asked His disciples: will you tarry here and watch with Me? Whether in the vibrancy of music and singing, or in the hushed silence of the congregation, people of all ages anticipate an encounter with God that will transform what they know, feel and experience day to day.

This book makes the wisdom of Black spiritualities and faith available for all people. It focuses on seven themes: darkness as a place of encounter with the divine; the unity of all things; movement, belonging and migration; the Spirit as one who moves in unexpected ways; quiet contemplation as essential to spiritual growth; healing in community; and weeping that turns to joy. *Tarry Awhile* offers wisdom for all who hope to encounter God in the midst of wearying times.

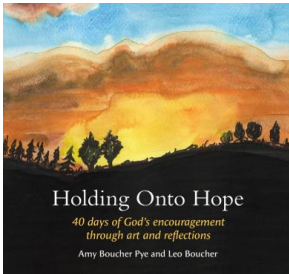


LENT AND EASTER FOR EVERYONE - from Wilderness to Glory By Tom Wright, SPCK, £10.79

Join Tom Wright on a transformative journey through the Gospels, as he explores the life and impact of Jesus. Offering seven weeks' worth of daily readings and reflections, the book enables you to relive Christ's journey - from His temptations in the wilderness to the darkness of the cross and beyond, into the glory of Easter.

Whether used individually or in groups, *Lent and*

Easter for Everyone can be a trusted companion, encouraging spiritual growth, deepening understanding, and fostering a renewed sense of hope and purpose in your Christian journey.



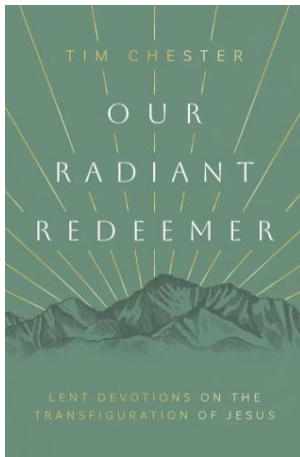
HOLDING ONTO HOPE: 40 days of God's encouragement through art and reflections - By Amy Boucher Pye & Leo Boucher, BRF, £12.99

Here is a 40-day journey exploring the themes of hope and new life, through vivid biblical images.

It starts with how all creation praises God, from the flowers of the field to the streams in the desert and the trees clapping their hands. It then explores the agricultural pattern of sowing, growing and harvesting, before moving to the gracious promises and invitations God makes to His people, such as how He writes eternity onto our hearts.

There are compelling images of God as our help and refuge, our shade and rear guard. God also changes His people – clothes us, renews our minds and strengthens us. Finally, we focus on our new life in Christ through images such as new wineskins, the imperishable seed and the City to come.

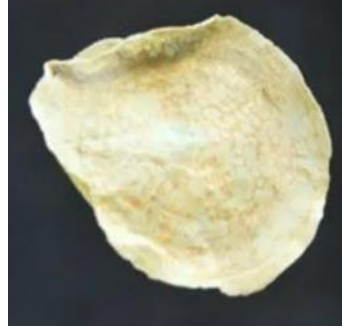
OUR RADIANT REDEEMER - Lent Devotions on the Transfiguration of Jesus - By Tim Chester, 10Publishing, £7.54



This devotional book looks at the transfiguration of Jesus in depth, giving readers a glorious lens through which to view Jesus during Lent and Easter. As we see Jesus in His glory, we are reminded of how marvellous He is and how brilliant our future with Him will be. We will be moved to worship Jesus with our whole lives, giving thanks for all that He is and all that He has done. Each of the 40 devotions includes prompts to reflect and to pray.

SHROVE TUESDAY, PANCAKE DAY TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.



So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.



Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

PICTURE PARABLE

The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

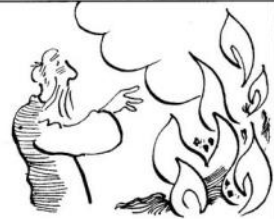
... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...

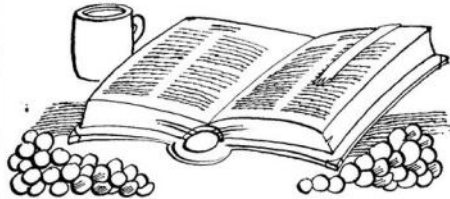


...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

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Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins.
8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti.
13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navi-
gate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22,
Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

DOWN: 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pas-
tor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6,
Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12,
Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue.
19, Hades. 20, Rome.

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mission of BRF and John Capon*

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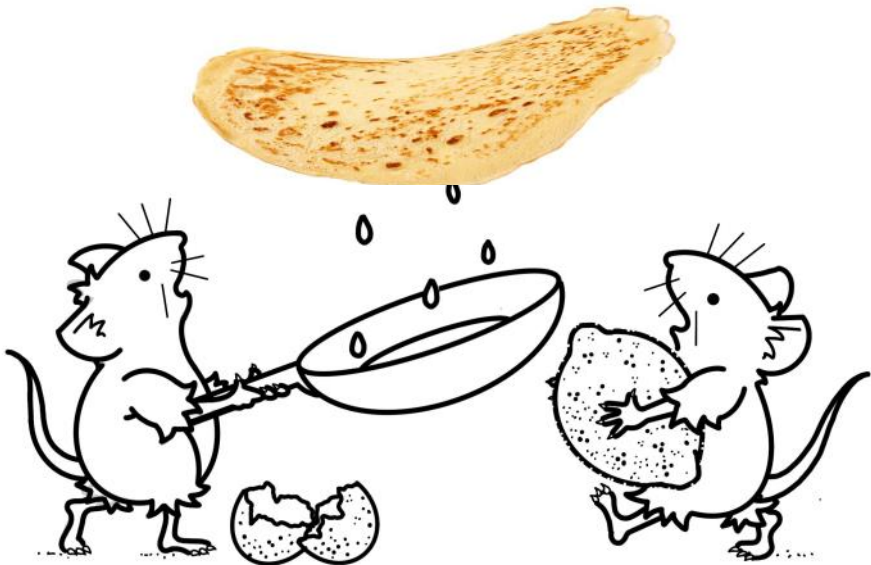
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Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day

Tuesday 13th February

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We're on the Web - Check out our website where you'll find up-to-date information about the three parishes and much more!

www.allsaintsbaschurch.com

UKRAINE - TWO YEARS LATER

Although Russian troops were massing near the borders of Ukraine in February 2022, we naively believed their denial that an attack was imminent.

Since then, an all-out war has resulted in tens of thousands of civilian deaths, and hundreds of thousands of military casualties. A quarter of the Ukrainian population has been displaced. Eight million are now refugees, spread across Europe.

Few of us realised that a war between the two countries really started in 2014, when pro-Russian regions of Ukraine rebelled and Crimea was annexed.

Hostilities between the two countries had begun even earlier. Ukraine had joined the Soviet Union in 1922 and ten years later lost more than a million of its population in the 'Holodomor' famine, now widely regarded as genocide inflicted by Joseph Stalin, the Soviet leader. Relationships between the two countries have always been turbulent, and Russia's possessive attitude towards its neighbour is deeply resented.

Ukrainian refugees in the UK are mainly women and children, for their men are needed for war service. So, they have organised themselves into self-help groups, painstakingly learning to read and write in English, as well as working full or part-time and keeping up their morale by organising groups for young and old. Choirs have sprung up, often assisted by British musicians. One member wrote movingly of how singing helped her cope with the mental trauma of her homeland fighting for survival.

Ukrainians are unceasingly grateful for our hospitality, but they fear our compassion may wear thin, as our attention has been diverted by news of the barbarity between Israelis and Palestinians. That conflict also has a long history of smouldering hatred on both sides. Wars rarely solve disputes. When wearied people recognise their futility, settlements may be negotiated. Forgiveness takes longer.

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**Midwinter spring is its own season
Sempiternal though sodden
towards sundown**

**Now the hedgerow
is blanched for an hour with transitory blossom
of snow**

From Four Quartets: Little Gidding by T.S. Eliot