



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

July/August 2023



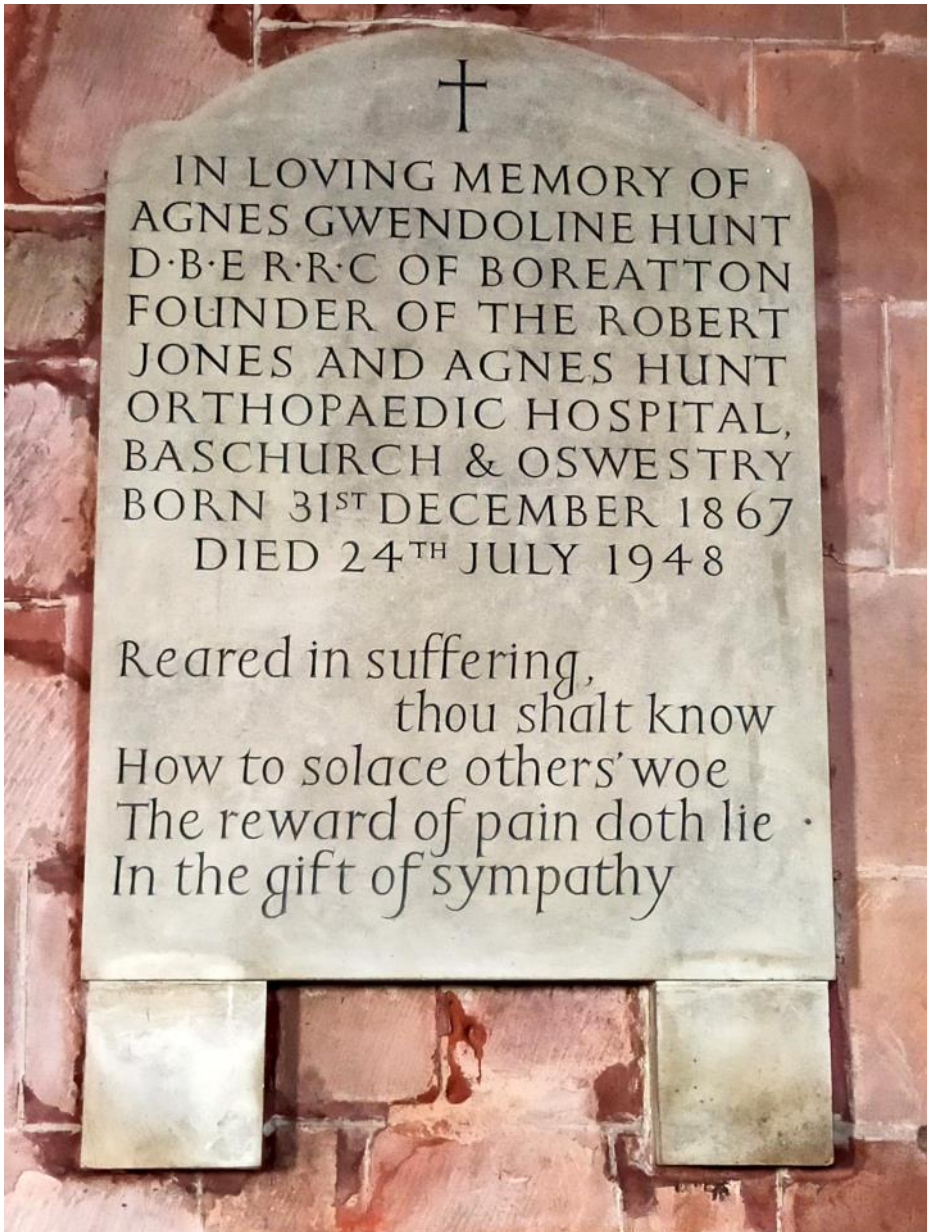
SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S
Hordley

50p
Per issue



**The memorial plaque to Agnes Hunt
in All Saints Church Baschurch**

Editorial

Here we are, once again, dear reader, with a new issue of Church Family News, which I hope you will find enjoyable and informative.

Dame Agnes Hunt is remembered with much respect and affection in Baschurch. She was a remarkable woman: determined, compassionate, visionary, ahead of her time in many ways. The performance of her life story by Alison Utting (22nd July at the Hermon Chapel, Oswestry) is something not to be missed (see pp 7 and 8). John Weeks also writes about the leadership role of women, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi, where they are at the forefront of fighting both poverty and the causes of war (see pp 21 and 22).

July and August are the classic holiday months, but before members of the General Synod of the Church of England can relax, they have the group of sessions to attend in York from 7th to 11th July - five days of intense debate and discussion. There is a brief look forward to it on pp 14 and 15.

So far this summer we have had prolonged dry periods, heavy thunderstorms and flash flooding. What next, we might ask? Well we have St Swithun's Day to come yet, on 15th July - I've never known the old superstition around St Swithun's day to have any relation to fact - but there is more to Swithun than being a Saxon weatherman (pp 22 and 23).

Our Churchyard Tree this month is one of the sycamores in Weston Lullingfields churchyard. Sycamores have a bad reputation, often referred to as weeds and an alien invader (albeit a few hundred years ago—like most of our ancestors...), but really they are very attractive trees, good for wild life, and providing a beautiful, light coloured, straight grained timber for all manner of woodworkers. Enjoy the pictures on our front and back covers!

See you again for the September edition.

Roger Paul (Editor)

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SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

15th August 2023

to the new email address:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

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CLERGY LETTER - SAY ONE FOR ME!

Prayer has been a bit of a focus in the Church in recent months. We are currently running 'The Prayer Course' and we also recently had a day of prayer when we prayed all around the benefice from Hordley to Weston Lullingfields before finally ending up on the village green in Baschurch. We were praying for more of the good things that God wants for us to be present in our community. On the Green we had a 'Say one for me board' where people could write their individual prayer requests and people of all ages from primary through secondary to pensioners all put things on the board. It turns out that many of us pray or at least want a prayer said for us or our loved ones.

As a priest and a scientist, I am convinced that prayer changes things, but there is much that is mysterious about it and others share my view. As Phillip Yancey noted *'When a doctoral student at Princeton asked, "What is there left in the world for original dissertation research?" Albert Einstein replied, "Find out about prayer. Somebody must find out about prayer."*

Since then, some academics have researched prayer, famously Professor of nutrition and heart disease William S. Harris led a study of the effects of prayer on recovery of patients from heart disease (for the scientists among you - this was a proper randomised, double blind medical trial). This study concluded that people who were prayed for, even though they were not aware of it, did significantly better than those who were not prayed for and that *'that prayer may be an effective adjunct to standard medical care.'* The scientific research done on the effectiveness of healing prayer is not that simple however, and while some studies agree with Prof Harris, others have found no positive effect. It seems that even with the best science can offer prayer is still a bit of a mystery.

In 2022 the Church of England commissioned a survey on the nations prayer habits and found that about half of adults admitted that they have prayed and this increased to 56% in young adults (18-34 years). Most people pray at some time and for many people it is a regular part of their lives. Most commonly people pray for family and

friends and people they know who are unwell – they are asking God to help, but there is much more to prayer than simply asking God for stuff.

For Jesus, prayer was vital and he would often disappear off alone to pray (Mark 1.35). His disciples realised how fundamental prayer was to him and asked him to teach them to pray. His response with that most famous prayer of all – The Lord’s Prayer:

He said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.” (Luke 11.1-4)

While it is good to say the Lord’s prayer in a formal way, as we often do in services, Jesus was not giving the disciples a set of magic words that must be uttered, rather he was giving them a pattern and attitude for prayer. In this pattern we are encouraged to ask God for our ‘daily bread’, to meet the needs others and ourselves, but there is so much more in this prayer.

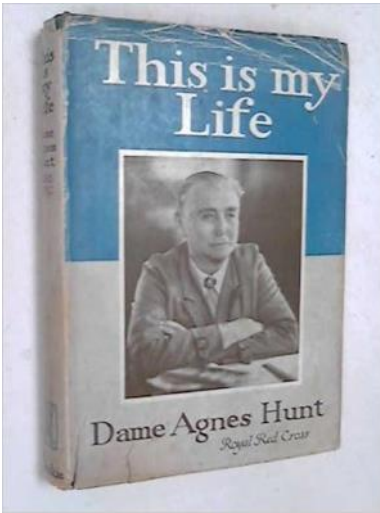
Jesus tells us that when we pray, we should see God as a perfect dad who loves to hear our voice and wants deep relationship with us. He tells us that God is holy and pure and will deal with the wrong stuff in our hearts and lives (not least unforgiveness) if we let him in. Jesus is explaining that prayer is, at its heart, relational and those of us who pray often have come to see that it changes things not just in the world, but also in our own hearts. God responds as we open our lives to him in prayer – Give it a try!

As the Bible says ‘The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 4.5-7)

For some great helps to prayer check out The Prayer Course website (prayercourse.org).

Rev. Dr. Steve Alston

AGNES HUNT



The inside front cover of this month's magazine is taken from a photograph of the plaque in her memory on the north wall inside All Saints Church Baschurch.

Dame Agnes Hunt is remembered as a pioneer in orthopaedic nursing and a forward thinking advocate for disabled people.

She founded the original orthopaedic hospital at Florence House in Baschurch, which opened in the year 1900.

After the Great War, she co-founded, with the surgeon, Robert Jones, the orthopaedic hospital in Gobowen, which we know today as The Robert and Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.

She went on to open Derwen College in 1927, to provide training for young people who were disabled, to give them the skills for earning a living. From very modest beginnings the college developed into the diverse, inspiring place it is today.

The inscription on the plaque refers to Agnes's own experience of being disabled and how it gave her the drive, empathy and vision to embark on her life's work:

Reared in suffering thou shalt know,
How to solace others' woe.
The reward of pain doth lie,
in the gift of sympathy.

This verse was written in her birthday book by the parish priest when she was 10 years old, when she was in great pain, with septi-

caemia and infective arthritis of the hip joint. Her illness led to her own disability and chronic pain. but out of this life changing experience she was determined to train as a nurse. And shaped her vision of patient centred care which is still the guiding ethos of the hospital today.

Agnes wrote her autobiography (This is my Life) in 1938, and second hand copies are still available. The autobiography has been used as the basis for a one woman play by Alison Utting (who is from Ellesmere) who is currently performing the play locally. She writes :

“Her autobiography, ‘This Is My Life’, is a story of courage and determination, full of larger-than-life characters and laugh-out-loud anecdotes.”

The next performance will be on Saturday, July 22 at 7.30pm at The Hermon Chapel in Oswestry. Tickets £7 available online at www.hermon-arts.org.uk/events/aggie or on the door.

Agnes died on 24th July 1948 at the age of 80 and has left a living legacy of care, vision and excellence which has changed the lives of many for the better. She is buried in Baschurch Churchyard.

Roger Paul

SEA SUNDAY IS ON 9TH JULY

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health.

Sea Sunday is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Go to: <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday> for more information.

HORDLEY NEWS

At the service on 9th July, David Hardham, the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust organiser of the Ride and Stride, will be presenting us with a certificate for raising the fourth largest amount for the Trust by our efforts last year. This is the second year running that we have achieved this. In 2021 we raised £945 and last year we raised £830. Altogether astonishing efforts for so small a parish. It is hoped that many of the Ride and Striders will be present on that occasion.

Keen Riders and Striders please note that the next event will be on Saturday 9th September. Mary Thomson will have sponsorship forms for you and there is the possibility of another supper in the evening. Yet to be discussed!

Re-decoration of St Mary's is planned for August, but at the time of writing the actual dates have not been decided. The churchwardens are hoping that the work can be done between services but if there is to be any alteration this will be communicated to our regular attenders and a notice put in the church porch and the churchyard.

We have not held a Harvest Lunch since before the Covid pandemic and felt somewhat apprehensive about resuming such a large event with a reduced number of helpers. An opportune invitation to join in a combined benefice meal with Weston and Baschurch solved the problem, so this was gratefully accepted. The date is Saturday 23rd September for a Harvest Supper in Weston Village Hall. Please add the date to your diaries; further details are yet to be decided.

The winner of the Hordley Lottery in May was Jack O'Hea with number 7 and in June it was John Willis with number 17.

All Saints Baschurch

All Saints "100 Club" Winners

June 2023 No 41 Stella Timmis

No 134 Jan Emerton

HOLY TRINITY WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

Appeal for volunteers

Can you spare some time to help out at Holy Trinity? Some of our current volunteers are on several of the rotas listed below. Even one or two occasions a year would make a difference. New volunteers could be paired with an existing one - so nothing too complicated is involved.

We are looking for more volunteers, please to cover the following rotas to keep Holy Trinity clean and attractive -

Cleaning Rota;

Flower Rota.

Volunteers are much needed too for -

Churchyard Working Parties;

The Reading Rota;

Leading prayers in services;

Sunday Service Sidespeople Rota.

Please think about this and ring Anita Weeks (261293), Anne Roberts (260633) or Jane Ing (Cleaning and churchyard working parties) 260100). Thank you.



Thomson family sponsored walks

In September 2020, when we were getting used to the restrictions imposed due to Covid, we planned to do a walk from Winchester to Salisbury inspired by the book *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier. As we were planning this we had the idea of making it a sponsored walk for charity. In the end we rented a cottage for a week roughly half way along the route and completed the walk over five days. The result of our efforts was £2568, divided between St Mary's, Hordley and the Severn Hospice. The team consisted of Mary, our daughter Lorna and me.

The Covid restrictions were still in force in 2021 so the team did a similar walk in the Cotswolds from Chipping Campden to Cheltenham, a daily distance of five or six miles over five days. On this walk we were again raising money for St Mary's but this time also for Marie Curie Nurses, in recognition of the wonderful care they gave to Mary's sister-in-law during her last days. This time our sponsors donated a total of £3015.

Among our Christmas presents for 2021 we received a little book from Lorna telling us about the Mary Jones Walk. In the year 1800 a fifteen year old girl walked from Llanfihangel-y-Pennant, near Tal-y-Llyn Lake, to Bala to collect a Welsh language copy of the Bible. Due to her poverty she did it in bare feet. This story inspired our son, Jamie, to come from his home in Australia to join us on this 28 mile walk to be completed over five days in, for him at least, bare feet. On this occasion we raised £2500.

This year, for our final(?) walk, we explored the beauties of south Shropshire as described in this magazine's June issue. Our generous sponsors contributed over £1500 to make our four year total all but £9600. We have also been delighted with the good weather and the way the family has bonded together on these occasions. I should like to convey my thanks to our sponsors for their generosity and making the whole effort so worthwhile.

While we have been raising funds for local causes Jamie has been collecting for an Australian charity that funds the treatment of women's obstetric fistula in Ethiopia; his total raised over the two years of participation in our walks has been around A\$12500, approximately £7000.

Andrew Thomson



Brimming with Butterflies

July is the month for sunshine, flowers and butterflies.

Butterflies are seen as indicators of a healthy, well managed habitat – if you have several species of butterfly it is likely that you have a rich variety of native plants. The UK has 59 species of butterflies – 57 resident species and 2 regular migrants (the Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow). Butterflies that overwinter as dormant adults include Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma and can often be seen in churches, chapels or outbuildings from which they emerge when the weather warms up.

While most butterflies are not choosy what plant they obtain their nectar from, they are particular about where they lay their eggs. For example, Skippers, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet all lay their eggs on grasses while Peacock caterpillars like munching on nettles, and Painted Lady on thistles. Brimstone choose buckthorn (purging or alder buckthorn) while Common Blue's caterpillars need bird's-foot trefoil, black medick, rest harrow or red clover.

Churchyards with their mix of sunny and shaded places can hold both grassland and woodland butterflies and if you see a butterfly high in the canopy of an oak it is probably a Purple Hairstreak. Speckled Wood is a common find in shady places, its caterpillars favour the coarse, tussocky grasses that you might have against a wall or hedge. Commas by contrast prefer shorter vegetation and will be emerging in July, so look out for the distinctive wing shape and tiny white 'comma' on the underside of the wing.



We would love to know what species you see – please visit our website to download spotter's guide to butterflies and see what you can find.

All the best, Harriet Carty

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

Will you join us for **RIDE AND STRIDE** day this year?

Church buildings are a great asset for our communities: for worship of course but many other things as well. Like all buildings they have to be maintained and this is usually undertaken by a dedicated band of volunteers. Can you help by raising funds for this work?

RIDE AND STRIDE is the sponsored event in aid of the Staffordshire and Shropshire Historic Churches Trusts. On the second Saturday of September every year, all over England, cyclists, walkers and drivers are sponsored to visit churches. Last year even saw pilgrims by pony and trap and rickshaw!

Churches open between 10am and 6pm to receive them. Half the money raised is used by the Trusts to make grants to churches of all ages and denominations towards the continuing cost of repairs and maintenance, the other half is given to the church of your choice to use in any way they think fit.

Ride and Stride day (9 September this year) is also of course the best time in the year to visit churches, find them open throughout the day, and remind yourself what a wonderful collection of church buildings we have in the diocese. Highly recommended this year is a group of nine churches in the southern border of Staffordshire and Shropshire – St Jude’s Wolverhampton, Tettenhall Wood, Patshull, Bobbington, Swindon, Trysull, Himley, Wombourne and Pattingham.

Would you consider getting involved as a cyclist/walker/driver or as a welcomer at your local church? For more information contact the county organisers (links at the end of this article).

Bishop Michael lends his support: “We are blessed in Staffordshire and Shropshire with an abundance of historic churches, passed into our stewardship through the generosity and faithfulness of past generations. The Historic Churches Trusts provide invaluable help in the often costly task of maintaining and safeguarding these buildings. The annual Ride and Stride event is indispensable to its continuing ability to offer this support; it is also an enjoyable and interesting day out.”

David Hardham is the county Ride & Stride organiser for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. For further information about the Historic Churches Trusts, visit www.shropshirehct.org.uk

JULY 2023 SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Our General Synod representatives in Lichfield Diocese will be busy preparing for the July Sessions which take place in York from Friday 7th to Tuesday 11th July. The mountain of papers - introducing debates, providing background information, reports on all manner of subjects (from the Standing Orders Committee through to social issues), proposed legislation, financial statements, questions and order papers - seems to be getting higher and higher. In the days when I attended the General Synod as National Ecumenical Officer, it was still in hard copy form (I'd need a shopping trolley to carry it around now), but nowadays its done electronically on tablet.

Among the staff serving the General Synod, I had the best role of all: to support the members of synod who were appointed by our ecumenical partners (including the Methodist Church, Roman Catholic Church, Pentecostal Churches - nine altogether), and also a number of international guests, representing other Anglican provinces and ecumenical partners from overseas.

It was a very privileged role, guiding these dozen or so church leaders through the complexities of General Synod procedures and the even more complicated campus of York University. I was also responsible for enabling them to share their insights with General Synod members, both through set piece events, and more informally. For me personally, it was an opportunity to learn - about their own churches, from their vast experience and perhaps most of all about the Church of England, by seeing myself and fellow Anglicans through their eyes. And when the synod was dealing with a contentious issue which threatened to split us further apart - quite a common occurrence - I was aware of them being a friendly, prayerful presence.

Matters on the agenda in July include:

- The Contribution of Faith to Prisoner Rehabilitation
- Continuing the Living in Love and Faith process—reports from

three working parties set up following decisions made in February's synod

- National Church Governance (reviewing current structures)
- Responding to the Climate Emergency
- Revitalising the parish for mission

as well as the usual mixed bag of in-house business.



The Central Hall on the University Campus, main venue of the General Synod

Meeting at York University gives a very different feel to the synods that are held in London. There is a greater intensity, as everyone stays on campus and eat together.

It is much more informal. There is greater scope for fringe meetings and exhibitions. I got the impression that members of synod preferred the York groups of sessions because there is scope for much more interaction, and these meetings are generally a more enriching experience.

If you would like to follow the proceedings of the synod, all the papers will be posted up on the Church of England website, at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/agendas-papers/general-synod-july-2023#na>

From here you will also be able to find the link which enables live streaming of sessions.

You can also find out more about the Lichfield Diocese's General Synod representatives at:

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/diocesan-secretariat/synod-committee-info/>

Roger Paul

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sunday 21st May 2023 at All Saints' Baschurch

Chelsea Mae Garrett

Ezra James Jude Garrett

Marriages

Saturday 3rd June 2023 at All Saints' Baschurch

Callum Mills and Hannah Kent

Funerals

Friday 26th May 2023 at Emstrey Crematorium

Michael Anthony Easter aged 84 years

Tuesday 30th May 2023 at Pentrebychan Crematorium

Joan Margaret Austin aged 84 years

CONSIDERING CONFIRMATION?

Have you thought about being confirmed?

If you have then please get in touch with Revd Linda Cox on 01939 260305 or via email. We shall be starting a new short course for both adults and young people who would like to be confirmed.

The course will have started by the end of June, but do get in touch with Linda Cox if you would like to explore this further.

Linda

SERVICES IN JULY 2023

Sunday 2nd July – 4th Sunday after Trinity

8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Worship for All – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Jeremiah 28:5-9 & Matthew 10:40-end

Sunday 9th July – 5th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Worship for All – St Mary's Hordley

11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

6.30pm Contemporary Worship – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Zechariah 9:9-12 & Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end

Sunday 16th July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Common Worship Holy Communion

at Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am – Worship for All – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Isaiah 55:10-13 & Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday 23rd July – 7th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Common Worship Holy Communion – St Mary's Hordley

11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

4pm Forest Church – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Isaiah 44:6-8 & Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday 30th July – 8th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am United Benefice Service of Holy Communion

at St Mary's Hordley

Readings: 1 Kings 3:5-12 & Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

SERVICES IN AUGUST 2023

Sunday 6th August – The Transfiguration Of Our Lord

8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Worship for All – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: 2 Peter 1:16-19 & Luke 9:28-36

Sunday 13th August – 10th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Worship for All – St Mary's Hordley

11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

6.30pm Contemporary Worship – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: 1 Kings 19:9-18 & Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday 20th August – 11th Sunday after Trinity

8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Common Worship Holy Communion – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am – Worship for All – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 & Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday 27th August – 12th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Common Worship Holy Communion – St Mary's Hordley

11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

4pm NO FOREST CHURCH

Readings: Isaiah 51:1-6 & Matthew 16:13-20

New Testament Daily Prayer Readings for Morning Prayer in July

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Romans 14:1-12	17	2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1
2	Acts 27:33-end	18	2 Corinthians 7:2-end
3	John 11:1-16	19	2 Corinthians 8:1-15
4	Romans 15:1-13	20	2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5
5	Romans 15:14-21	21	2 Corinthians 9:6-end
6	Romans 15:22-end	22	Luke 8:1-3
7	Romans 16:1-16	23	1 Peter 3:8-18
8	Romans 16:17-end	24	2 Corinthians 11:1-15
9	Acts 28:1-16	25	Luke 9:46-56
10	2 Corinthians 1:1-14	26	2 Corinthians 12
11	2 Corinthians 1:15-2:4	27	2 Corinthians 13
12	2 Corinthians 2:5-end	28	James 1:1-11
13	2 Corinthians 3	29	James 1:12-end
14	2 Corinthians 4	30	1 Peter 4:7-14
15	2 Corinthians 5	31	James 2:1-13
16	Acts 28:17-end		

New Testament Daily Prayer Readings for Morning Prayer in August

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	James 2:14-end	17	Mark 4:1-20
2	James 3	18	Mark 4:21-34
3	James 4:1-12	19	Mark 4:35-end
4	James 4:13-5:6	20	2 Peter 3:14-end
5	James 5:7-end	21	Mark 5:1-20
6	1 John 3:1-3	22	Mark 5:21-34
7	Mark 1:1-13	23	Mark 5:35-end
8	Mark 1:14-20	24	John 1:43-end
9	Mark 1:21-28	25	Mark 6:14-29
10	Mark 1:29-end	26	Mark 6:30-44
11	Mark 2:1-12	27	Revelation 1
12	Mark 2:13-22	28	Mark 6:45-end
13	2 Peter 3:8-13	29	Mark 7:1-13
14	Mark 2:23-3:6	30	Mark 7:14-23
15	Luke 11:27-28	31	Mark 7:24-30
16	Mark 3:19b-end		

AFRICAN WOMEN FIGHTING WAR AND POVERTY

There are passages in the New Testament which prescribe a subservient role for women. *Let your women keep silence in the churches* (1 Corinthians 14 .34) and *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands* (Ephesians 5.22).

Over time a number of arguments have been put forward to explain away those words – that they have been mistranslated, that they are contradicted elsewhere, that they were never meant to have universal relevance, and that they are later, uncanonical interpolations.

Whatever the case, in many African countries today it is women who are taking the initiative to restore peace and to tackle poverty. Women there are acting collaboratively in the absence of men, in some cases because their partners have perished in civil conflict and in some cases because men have fled family responsibilities leaving their wives to find livelihoods and to bring up their children.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, has been ravaged by conflict for nearly twenty years as its government contends with rebel forces. On the ground local women have been working together to record human rights abuses by combatants. At great risk to themselves they have gone in groups to rebel leaders to reclaim children taken to fight in armed groups. Peace activist, Liberata Buratwa, led a group of women to meet with a government General to press for action to stop intimidation and looting by soldiers stationed near their villages. In many cases they have been successful, because the fighters find it hard to dismiss women who are their mothers, the mothers of their comrades and women respected in the neighbourhoods from which they come.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. In its recent promotional material Christian Aid has been featuring the work being done by women there to overcome their own poverty and that of their communities. With help from Christian Aid women have been getting together to set up local savings schemes, to enable people in their neighbourhood to take out interest free loans. Women are setting up their own sustainable agro-businesses – for example planting

pigeon peas, a drought resistant legume that thrives in dry soil. Through those businesses women are improving the food security and nutrition of their own children, and, as they expand, creating jobs for local people. Christian Aid profiles the work of Esnart Daza, a single mother, who is increasing her business skills and boosting the yields of the crops she grows. The Rural Enterprise Assistance Project which Christian Aid supports helps many households in Malawi to develop networking and entrepreneurial skills: seventy percent of those households are led by women.

These women are neither silent, nor submissive.

SOURCES: The Visualising Peace Project: peace-dr-congo.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk.

Rural Enterprise Assistance Project, Malawi, 2022-2025: caweek.org/support.

John Weeks

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St Swithun (or Swithin) 15th July

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy sum-



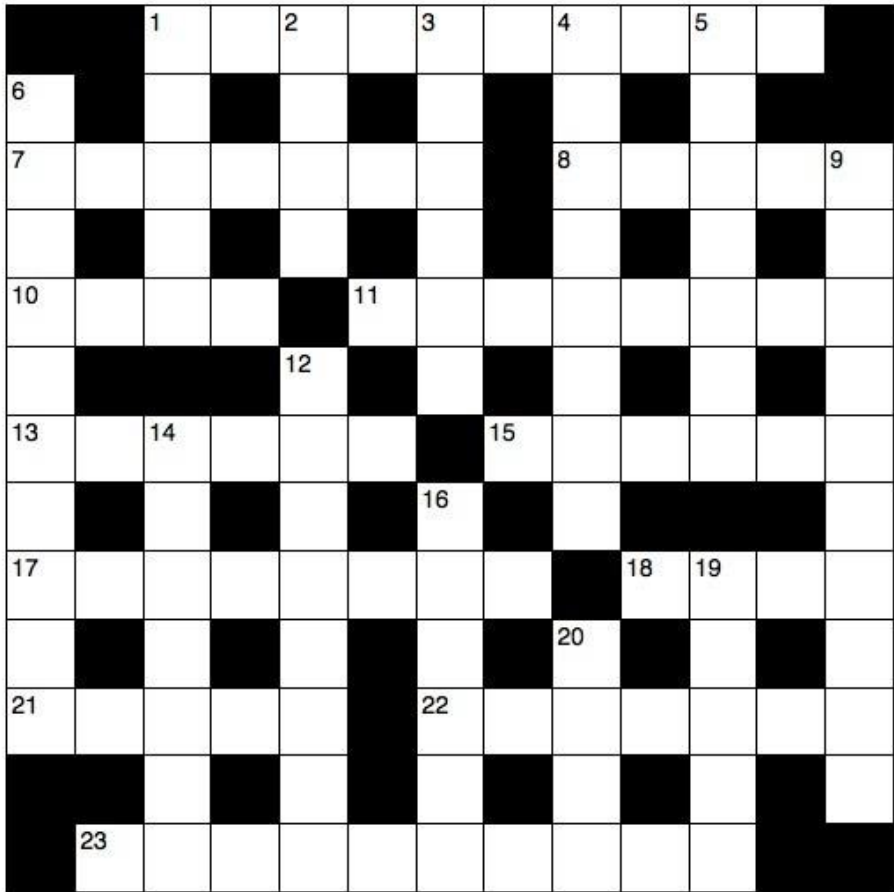
mers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

From Parish Pump

The photograph above is a detail from the stained glass window depicting St Swithun in the Church of St Swithun upon Kingsgate, Winchester. The whole panel, with its companion panel of St Ethelwold, is shown on the inside back page.

CROSSWORD



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)

- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1-6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1-11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

PICTURE PARABLE

The tale of
the
Tower
Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

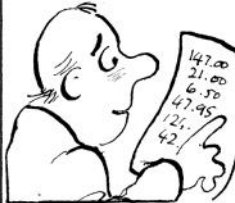


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



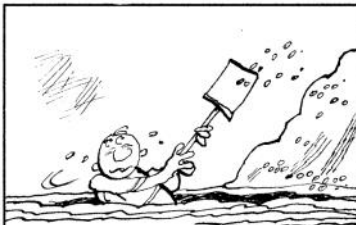
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



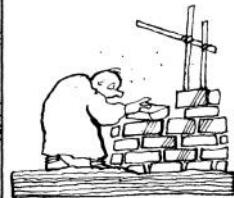
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

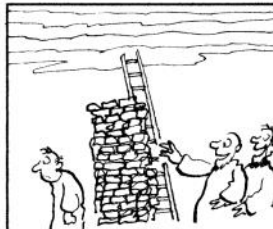


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,....



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!

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Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

DOWN: 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.

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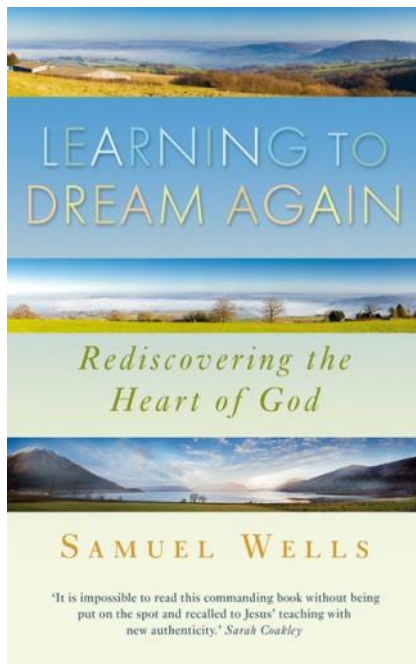
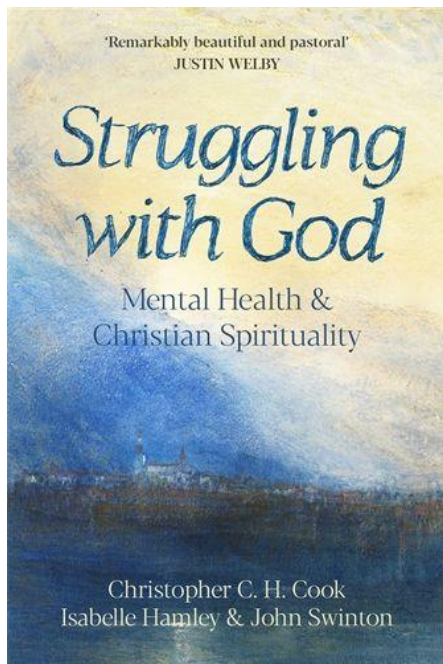
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Window in St Swithun's upon Kingsgate, Winchester



**Sycamore Tree in Weston Lullingfields Churchyard.
The little visitors on the leaves are aphids.**