



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

June 2023



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S
Hordley

50p
Per issue

FLOWERS FOR THE CORONATION AT WESTON



EDITORIAL

Welcome, dear Readers, to our June magazine. Congratulations again to the team of flower arrangers, and Jackie Jones, for more beautiful creations in Weston Lullingfields Church—as you can see in the photographs of the Coronation displays opposite. Post coronation, Linda Cox reflects further on the nature of service—our service of others begins by finding common ground with them (page 5). We might begin by considering the plight of refugees, as John Weeks reminds us to do on World Refugee Day on 20th June (p. 9).

June is the month when many young people sit exams. Fr Philip Gration, Chaplain at Ellesmere College, helps us to understand the pressures on our young people today (p. 20). Schools are also under pressure, especially when it comes to Ofsted inspections. Mrs Bond, the new headteacher of Weston Lullingfields School, reports (p. 15) of the positive feedback from their Ofsted inspection in January. We should be very proud of them!

The trees in our churchyards are nearly in full leaf, and look amazing. This month we focus on the majestic Scots Pine in Baschurch churchyard—see the photographs on page 35.

Finally our saint of the month is St Columba, who landed on Iona in the Western Isles in 565 AD. It was from this small island, that the Celtic monk missionaries re-established Christianity in Scotland and northern England, leaving an indelible mark on the spiritual and cultural memory of places like Whithorn, Lindisfarne, Whitby and Durham, which with Iona are still places of pilgrimage for so many people today.

Roger Paul (Editor)

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 begin towards the end of June, dates and times to be confirmed.

Do get in touch even if you think the dates might be difficult. *Linda*

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SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

15th June 2023

to the new email address:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

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From the Rector

Dear Friends,

We have just witnessed the Coronation of King Charles III, which ended with a day of volunteering across the country. It's been a hectic few weeks for us all, with Lent, Easter and then the Coronation. We've seen people coming together and smiles on faces as two Kings have been proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, and King Charles III. Both Kings said they came '**not to be served but to serve**' and the day of volunteering following the Coronation was to encourage us all to think about serving and to get involved in something locally, serving the communities in which we lived or worked. Here, I want to expand on this subject of service.

Reflecting on what Jesus calls us to do

We are heading into the part of the Church year that is known as Ordinary time, you'll notice it by the Green Altar frontals and the stoles worn by priests. It is that long period of time over the summer months and into Autumn; the time of year when we watch the earth bloom in all its glory and people stop and have a break and do something different with their days. They might take a holiday, spend time in the garden, go for some walks in the beautiful countryside, or simply visit family and friends. It's a time to stop and look at our lives, to be thankful for what we have and the chance if needs be to make some changes. As Christians it's good to think about what Jesus calls us to do, to relook at the examples Jesus gave us in how to live and treat each other. When we do those things, when we take time for such reflection, when we listen to that still small voice of God speaking to us, we find ourselves growing spiritual.

Finding common ground with others

On the 6th Sunday after Easter we had readings from Acts 17:22-31 and John 14:15-21. In the passage from St John's Gospel what Jesus is saying is that His followers show love for him by obeying him and that showing love is about more than 'nice' words, it's about commitment and conduct. It's also about living by Jesus' standards, which Jesus himself showed us how to do. Alongside that in the reading from Acts we have Paul giving us an example of witnessing to others, the first step of which is establishing a common

ground with those we are witnessing to. Only having done that are we able to gently move people towards making a decision about Jesus themselves.

We love our neighbours by serving others

Jesus calls us to 'love our neighbours' and to follow his example and serve others. Jesus gave us the ultimate example of service to others. He lived amongst us, He served and He gave his life for us.

It was King Charles's own choice to have those words we heard at the beginning of the Coronation service. He's had a good example of service and serving throughout his life from his mother, our late Queen, an example she set because of her own beliefs of what it means for us as Christians to follow Christ. I believe that serving is our way of showing love to our neighbours. To serve well and effectively we need to establish that common ground, to meet people where they are. As we serve people, as we walk alongside them, we begin to get to know them and as we do, we are living and sharing the Gospel story.

What might serving look like for us?

Volunteering is an act of service and volunteers are needed in all walks of life. The Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, the king's representative in this County, is passionate about it and has said it is something she has done all her life. Many of the things that happen in our communities happen because of the goodwill, passion, dedication and commitment of volunteers. We saw how good and how well this worked during the Pandemic, not only did things 'get done' but people got to know each other and began to share stories. There are many ways in which people can volunteer, not all require people to be physically active. To give an example, earlier today I was having a conversation with a family who were so grateful for the volunteers who ran the Little Stars baby and toddler group in Baschurch. The group had been for them a real welcome to the village and it helped them to feel part of the community. The group was a place of common ground and in the midst of that was woven very gently the story of Jesus.

Over this Ordinary time in the church year as you stop and reflect on your life, on your journey with Jesus, think about how you are showing love, how you are serving and in doing so how you are witnessing for Jesus in your community.

Yours in Christ, Linda

HOLY TRINITY WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Holy Trinity held their APCM on Sun.16th April, following the morning service, when we were delighted to welcome Peter Bridge as an additional Church Warden.

Church Open Again!

During the winter months, we had been forced to close our church for a complete new electrical installation. Some of our congregation have attended services at All Saints where we were warmly welcomed. On 30th April we were at last able to host the United Service. Our thanks go to those who made the effort to come to Weston. We appreciate that it is not easy for some due to the limited parking and difficult access.

Drop In

Our monthly Drop-In coffee morning returned to the church in April. Some of our regular visitors stay for the full 2 hours but if you are a busy person with less time to spare, please feel free to drop - in briefly as the name suggests.

Coronation Celebrations

A spectacular display of floral crowns and arrangements filled Holy Trinity Church, Weston Lullingfields for His Majesty The King's Coronation.

The Church flower ladies worked together as a team to provide Coronation floral crowns and patriotic arrangements to be displayed and enjoyed by the congregation and the community. The ladies spend considerable time meticulously planning and preparing for all special events. To walk into the Church and see the wonderful displays was simply magical! In addition to the flowers was a wonderful Coronation blanket skilfully crocheted by local parishioner Trish Bridge of Stanwardine Hall. The blanket design was inspired by the life of His Majesty The King.

A big thank you to Jackie Jones and the team of flower arrangers!

- at the School

On Friday 5th May, everyone in the village was invited to a Coronation Celebration by the school. The children entertained us with traditional country dancing. They were then invited to be crowned in pairs by Margaret Bridge, using crowns which they had made for themselves. Tea and an abundance of cake completed the afternoon. This was a lovely event and our thanks go out to the staff and children of Weston School'.

- at the Village Hall

Nicky Hey organised a Band Night at the Village Hall on Saturday 6th May as part of the celebrations. The evening was enjoyed by 70 people with proceeds donated to the church. Thank you Nicky for yet another very successful event.

- at the Church

The Coronation weekend was rounded off with our Sunday morning worship. Thank you to John Heighway for creating a wonderful atmosphere with rousing organ music and to Steve and Linda for a memorable service.

In the Churchyard

The May churchyard working party looked at the plants flowering where they worked so they could start a list for Churches Count on Nature (see May magazine). It was an enjoyable extra which we will continue in June. Anyone interested in looking at plants or animals are welcome.

Also, on Thursday June 29th the scything team from Caring for God's Acre will be in the churchyard 10.00am until about 2.00pm cutting the rougher patches of grass that have been left to flower. The team welcomes visitors to watch or help or even try out cutting. They use Austrian scythes which are easier than English ones.

Anne Roberts

(with additional material by Jackie Jones, Jane Ing and Anita Weeks)

WORLD REFUGEE DAY – TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2023

It is thought by Biblical scholars that the Book of Exodus was composed and compiled over a lengthy period of time, by many different authors.

One of those authors urged the Jewish people to show compassion towards refugees, by reminding them of their own experience as vulnerable aliens in a foreign land, during their enslavement in Egypt. He wrote:-

**Thou shalt neither vex a stranger,
nor oppress him, for ye were
strangers in the land of Egypt. (Exodus 22.21)**

In Britain today some of those seeking to turn away refugees have grandparents and great grandparents who found refuge here from foreign lands. That exhortation to show humanity on the basis of shared experience seems still to be needed.

If you feel inclined to mark World Refugee Day as more than just a few words on the calendar, one way of doing that would be to make a donation to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. You can also read about the excellent work they do (currently) in Afghanistan, D R Congo, Horn of Africa, Bangladesh (the Rohingya), South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela.

The statement on their website says

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. We lead international action to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

John Weeks

ALL SAINTS BASCHURCH

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!

All Saints, is a church serving the people of Baschurch and we would really welcome your views and ideas as we seek to improve the facilities within our church building. Little Stars group are rapidly outgrowing the space, toilet and kitchen facilities need improving. The entrance needs to be more accessible.

Come and share your ideas

Wednesday 14th June
at 7pm in the church



ALL SAINTS "100 CLUB" WINNERS

May 2023

No 13 Mort Smith

No 116 Pat Hibberd

PCCS AND ELECTED OFFICERS FOR BASCHURCH, WESTON LULLINGFIELDS AND HORDLEY

The round of Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) in the benefice has been completed. One of the key functions of these meetings is to elect the Churchwardens of the parish, Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and Deanery Synod representatives.

Churchwardens and Deanery Synod representatives are also members of the PCC by virtue of their election to these roles.

The Rector, Associate Minister and Curate are members of all the PCCs.

The officers of the Parochial Church Council are elected by each PCC at its first meeting following the APCM.

A prayer for the PCC members:

Almighty God you have given your Holy Spirit to the Church to lead us into all truth: bless with the Spirit's grace and presence the members of our PCCs; keep them steadfast in faith and united in love, that they may manifest your glory and prepare the way of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

ST MARY'S HORDLEY PCC

Churchwardens:	Edward Jones and John Willis
Deanery Synod Rep:	Mary Thomson
Elected PCC members:	Christabel Edwards, Judith Faulkner, Charmaine Hollis, Anne Jones
Treasurer:	Christabel Edwards
Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	Christabel Edwards
PCC Secretary:	Anne Jones
Vice-Chair:	Edward Jones
Electoral Roll Officer:	Jan Paul (not on PCC)

HOLY TRINITY WESTON LULLINGFIELDS PCC

Churchwardens:	Anne Roberts and Peter Bridge
Deanery Synod Rep:	Sandra Birchall
Elected PCC members:	Jan Baker, Nicky Hey, Claire Ing, Sarah Richards
Treasurer:	Sarah Richards
PCC Secretary:	Jan Baker
Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	Nicky Hey
Vice Chair:	Anne Roberts
Electoral Roll Officer:	Bina Darling (not on PCC)

ALL SAINTS' BASCHURCH PCC

Churchwardens:	Martyn Lake and Angela Price
Deanery Synod Reps:	John Siviter; Lisa Falconer
Elected PCC members:	Mary Cox; Fenella Davies; John Davies; Dawn Lake; Peter Naylor, Lynne Siviter
Treasurer:	John Siviter
PCC Secretary:	Lisa Falconer
Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	Aileen Watts (not on PCC)
Vice Chair :	John Siviter
Assistant Treasurer:	Peter Naylor
Electoral Roll Officer:	Peter Naylor

Regardless of whether or not a Safeguarding Co-ordinator is a member of the PCC, all Safeguarding Co-ordinators have to give a report at every PCC meeting, even if there is nothing to report.

The swearing in of Churchwardens takes place at the Archdeacon's visitation on Monday 12th June at St John Baptist Whittington at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend the service.



Queens, sunny spots and sticky tongues

Old churchyards and other burial grounds have become a refuge for the Yellow Meadow Ant, *Lasius flavus*, a species found in permanent pasture and meadow, now both rare habitats. You can tell if you have this lovely species in your site as it creates soil mounds or anthills over its nest, often against gravestones and facing the sun. The Yellow Meadow Ant is harmless, and the anthills are quite something, growing larger and larger over the years. Actually, the bulk of the ant nest is below ground, sometimes reaching 1m in depth. Within the nest the ants are protected, with temperature and humidity kept relatively constant. Here the ants are farmers, tending aphids which feed on the roots of the meadow grasses and then produce 'honeydew' – food for the ants.

Each of these mounds is started by a queen ant who lands in a warm sunny spot and starts a new colony. She lays eggs which hatch into worker ants who then go out to forage for food and make the nest. This is done by excavating in the ground and carrying innumerable particles of soil above ground level to build a series of chambers. As the number of workers increase so does the size of the mound. The little passages they make and travel through, are above and below ground. In the winter the whole colony retreats further underground away from the cold.

Anthills can be up to 100 years old and form a mini-habitat of their own. The ants need the warmth of the sun and so they trim back the grass growing on the mound surface and this encourages plants like lady's bedstraw and wild thyme. You may spot plants on ant mounds that are not found elsewhere within your churchyard. Whilst the anthills give the ants a level of safety, green woodpeckers feed on them, visiting the mounds and using their extraordinarily long, sticky tongues to feast on the ants.

When you next visit a burial ground, look out for anthills, large or small, and on a sunny day you will see the ants busy at work. If you see an anthill you can make a biological record for Yellow Meadow Ant even if you don't see the actual yellow coloured ant. Try using the iNaturalist app and photographing it. This is a useful species to record, as it is an indicator of ancient grassland, suggesting that your churchyard may hold many other treasures waiting to be identified.

All the best, Harriet Carty
Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor



News from Weston Lullingfields School

It is wonderful to be able to share what has been happening at Weston Lullingfields CE Primary School.

In January, we welcomed a new head teacher, Mrs Nicola Bond. Mrs Bond has had links with the school since June 2017, when Weston Lullingfields became a member of the Westcliffe Federation of schools. Mrs Bond is also the Executive Head Teacher of the Westcliffe Federation.

In early January we were visited by Ofsted who praised the school:

- Pupils are safe and happy at this school.
- Pupils and parents and carers talk about it being a 'small school, big family'.
- The school provides many opportunities for pupils.
- Pupils behave well and are considerate to one another.
- Bullying does not occur.
- Reading is a top priority. From early years to Year 6, pupils read often and are increasingly confident.
- Leaders work to improve the quality of phonics teaching has had a positive impact. Staff follow an agreed way of teaching that helps them know exactly which sounds to teach and when.
- Leaders ensure that the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are met well. When difficulties with learning are identified, pupils usually get the support they need at the right time.
- Pupils' behaviour is friendly and kind. Staff model the behaviours they expect to see.

- Pupils' personal development is a high priority at the school.
- Governors have a good understanding of their roles. They have developed suitable action plans to support them in setting the strategic vision for the school. Governor visits are focused on holding leaders to account.
- The safeguarding culture in the school is strong.
- Leaders are ambitious for what they want pupils to achieve while at Weston Lullingfields Church of England School.

We are very proud of our school and will continue to ensure that all children have opportunities and are supported to achieve their very best.

We continue to work closely with the Church. Reverend Linda and Reverend Steve attend school on a weekly basis. The children held an Easter service at Holy Trinity Church and designed Easter gardens to be displayed.

The school has taken part in numerous sporting events and tournaments over the last term and a half. These have included; tag-rugby, hockey, athletics, rapid cricket and rounders. We are very proud of our children and because we only have small cohorts of children they sometimes have to play for the entire time as we don't always have substitutes. They are true team players.

Well what can we say about the wonderful Coronation celebration that we had, linked with the wonderful community of Weston Lullingfields. Such a special afternoon that will live in all our memories, especially the children, or should I say, our Kings and Queens. It was so wonderful to have so many parents and members of the community to join us.

We look forward to sharing more of our journey with you all!

Weston Lullingfields Staff and Pupils.

SERVICES IN JUNE 2023

Sunday 4th June – Trinity Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Worship for All – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end & Matthew 28:16-end

Sunday 11th June – Barnabas the Apostle

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: Acts 11:19-end & John 15:12-17

Sunday 18th June – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Common Worship Holy Communion –

Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am – Worship for All – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Exodus 19:2-8a & Matthew 9:35-10:8

Sunday 25th June – 3rd 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: Jeremiah 20:7-13 & Matthew 10:24-39

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism of **Wilfred Hector William Monro** on 23rd April at All Saints' Baschurch

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

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Romans 2:17-end	16	Romans 8:18-30
2	Romans 3:1-20	17	Romans 8:31-end
3	Romans 3:21-end	18	Acts 23:12-end
4	John 17:1-11	19	Romans 9:1-18
5	Romans 4:1-12	20	Romans 9:19-end
6	Romans 4:13-end	21	Romans 10:1-10
7	Romans 5:1-11	22	Romans 10:11-end
8	Romans 5:12-end	23	Romans 11:1-12
9	Romans 6:1-14	24	Luke 3:1-17
10	Romans 6:15-end	25	Acts 27:1-12
11	Acts 4:32-end	26	Romans 11:25-end
12	Romans 7:1-6	27	Romans 12:1-8
13	Romans 7:7-end	28	Romans 12:9-end
14	Romans 8:1-11	29	Acts 11:1-18
15	Romans 8:12-17	30	Romans 13:8-end

**BASCHURCH, WESTON LULLINGFIELDS
& HORDLEY**



the
prayer
course

**An eight week journey
through the Lord's Prayer**

prayercourse.org

Starting 30th May 2023

Weekly on Tuesdays 7:30pm to 9.00pm

Location:

Ash Grove, Petton Lane, Weston Lullingfields. SY4 2AA

The prayer course is an excellent resource which has helped many people develop in their prayer life. It is written by Pete Greig and consists of a series of eight interactive sessions based on The Lord's Prayer, covering topics such as intercession, dealing with disappointment, learning to listen and spiritual warfare. More details can be found at www.prayercourse.org

Each session will feature small group discussions, reflection on scripture, practical ideas to help us pray, and the chance to pray together.

The prayer course is open to all, whatever your experience of prayer, if you would like to attend, please contact Rev Linda Cox (01939 260305, linda@allsaintsbaschurch.com) or Rev Steve Alston (07523960646, steve@allsaintsbaschurch.com)

SUCCESS OR FAILURE

As exam season begins to loom, one of our school chaplains in the Diocese considers how we can all act when tested.

June is exam season: Pass or fail. Succeed or fall flat. Hit or miss. Survive, thrive, or go under.... These are the thoughts running through our student's minds. Oh, and, 'when will it be over!'

But the students aren't the only ones who are under pressure, subject to self-scrutiny, and hoping for the best. Teachers are seeing the fruits of their labours, sometimes over many years, and waiting, and hoping, and praying, that students have 'taken ownership' of their learning, disciplined themselves and arrived at the exams ready, eager, and relaxed. Parents too are pushing down their own anxieties so that they can better 'be there' for their children.

Student, teacher, and parent alike are coming to the end of their power, they are coming to the end of their control over outcomes, they are beginning to move into uncertainty, vulnerability, and – hopefully – humility. And when we can't control the future, we begin to critique the past. We rake, mull, and sit in judgement over what we have already done. Questioning, doubting, realising that we probably haven't done everything we could to prepare ourselves, our students, and our children.

In these moments we have at least three choices: we can rest in God's forgiveness and grace, we can ignore our failures and feign ignorance when things go wrong, or we can give in to despair by enthroning ourselves as judge over the past.

Clearly the first option is preferable! But how do we get there? And I say we because it's not only students, teachers and parents who have to face uncertainty, let go of past failures, and find a way to face the future with hope. We all do. In fact, we are daily confronted with our lack of power, and with the unforeseeable consequences of a life that's never quite what it should be.

As a parent, as a teacher, and as a student I have drawn great, and I mean great comfort from the story of the triumphal procession – the story told on Palm Sunday. On that day Jesus rode into Jerusalem and

the crowds praised him – as they should. As the Christ entered his city on a donkey the crowds exulted in the arrival of the Messiah – as they should. When his people saw the Word made flesh, they welcomed him – as they should. But they were praising the one they thought would overthrow the Romans, they were exulting in a victory through violence, and they were welcoming worldly freedom, not spiritual new life – individual liberty, not the rule of God.

So, they were right, and they were wrong. We, too, are often right and wrong in our worship - at the same time. So often our worship centres on what God has done for us but fails to move to who God is in himself. We thank him for boosting our self esteem and supporting our plans but forget to listen to his cross-shaped vision for our lives.

It's the same with our whole lives: we're trying to get it right, but we're getting it wrong at the same time. We're a jumble of mixed motives, half baked commitments, and covert self-centredness. Whether we're studying, teaching, parenting... however we're trying to serve God in the world. We should expect that because what we do with our lives is part of our worship.

So, what does God do with the wrong-headed but rightly directed praise of the Palm Sunday crowd? He uses it to scare the authorities into crucifying Jesus, he used it to save the world! God transformed the shades of grey in their lives into the technicolour of an eternal Easter. The longing to see Rome vanquished from Israel is woven into Gods victory over sin, the violent victory envisioned by the crowds creatively contributes to the death of death on the cross, and the hope for personal autonomy becomes part of God's display of his own sovereign freedom.

So, as we let go of children, students, exam results, and control over the future we can find peace in the knowledge that God will weave all of our successes and our failures into his perfect plan. We can marvel at the power and compassion of Him who goes through death in order to draw the threads of our stories into one glorious his-story. And knowing what kind of God we have, we can choose humility, rest in God's grace, and find forgiveness as we give the future to Jesus.

Fr Phillip Gration, Chaplain of Ellesmere College

SHROPSHIRE WAY DIARY

As reported last month, Team Thomson are walking again—along part of the Shropshire Way in the south of the county. Here is their walk diary, as sent in bulletins to their supporters.



Day 1 - We have been blessed with a glorious summer day in south Shropshire, and wonderful views in all directions. Seven miles were achieved from Bridges to Linley. The walkers reached the end of the day in good heart, and Jamie's bare feet stood up well to the harsh terrain of the Stiperstones, although gorse thorns had to be removed with tweezers.

Day 2, Sunday, dawned rather dull and cold but dry, and later sunny. The walk was from Linley to Reilth Top, a distance of just over seven miles. The Shropshire Way veers west into Clun Forest, an area of narrow lanes, remote hamlets, farms and few people. Bluebells were flowering in drifts across the hillsides and other wildflowers adorned the edges of the path.

Day 3, Monday, dawned cloudy and cool, but mercifully dry. As the day progressed the sky cleared giving us some extended periods of sunshine which lit up the lovely views that are widely associated with south Shropshire. The walk today was from Reilth Top to Three Gates, a distance of some five miles.

Day 4, Tuesday, was a rest day for the senior pair while Jamie and Lorna covered the 4 miles from Three Gates to Clun. Exploration of the delights of Clun revealed charming gardens, fascinating houses, a death-trap of a narrow bridge and a welcome and excellent tea shop.

Day 5 - On Wednesday 6 miles were covered by the team. The route took us up hills, down through valleys with many ancient oak trees and past an iron-age hill fort, Bury Ditches, to Kempton.

Six miles on Thursday to Craven Arms, and Journey's End. Thank you to all our sponsors—all money raised is in aid of Severn Hospice.

Team Thomson

SAINT OF THE MONTH

COLUMBA OF IONA—9TH JUNE

In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Isles. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c. 521 -97) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada. He lived there for the rest of his life.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's mission. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

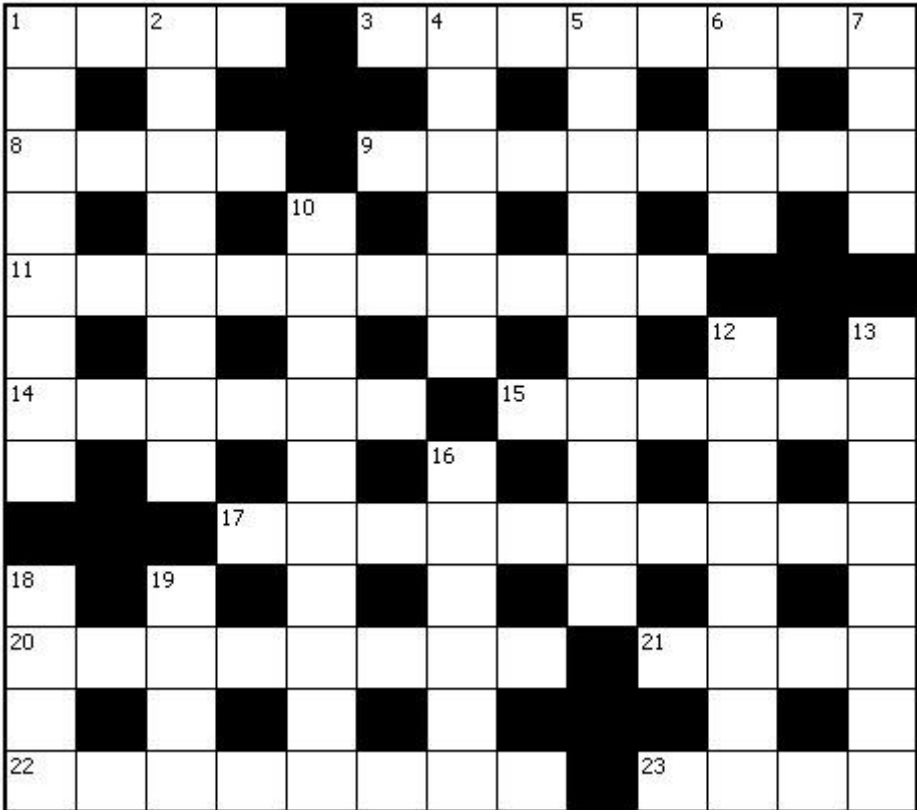


Part of the Cathach of Columba

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Edited from Parish Pump

CROSSWORD



CLUES

Across

1 See 23 Across

3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)

8 Invalid (4)

9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)

11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)

14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)

- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

Answers on page 27

PICTURE PARABLE—THE RICH FOOL

The tale of
the
**RICH
FOOL**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

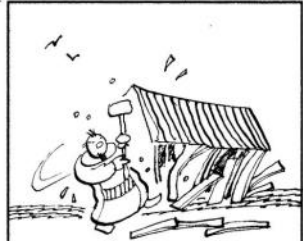


ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



I KKNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN
MY BARN'S AND BUILD
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS
OLD BARN'S...

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD
NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST
MAN IN THE TOWN!



I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN
EAT, DRINK AND BE
MERRY!



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,
THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S NOT
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE
THAT'S IMPORTANT

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 care; 3 paradise; 8 null; 9 profaned; 11 legalistic; 14 closed; 15 stores; 17 missionary; 20 covenant; 21 Thai; 22 trade-off; 23 Eden

Down

1 conflict; 2 religion; 4 arrest; 5 affliction; 6 Iona; 7 Eddy; 10 allegiance; 12 preached; 13 Assyrian; 16 a son of; 18 Scot; 19 DVLA

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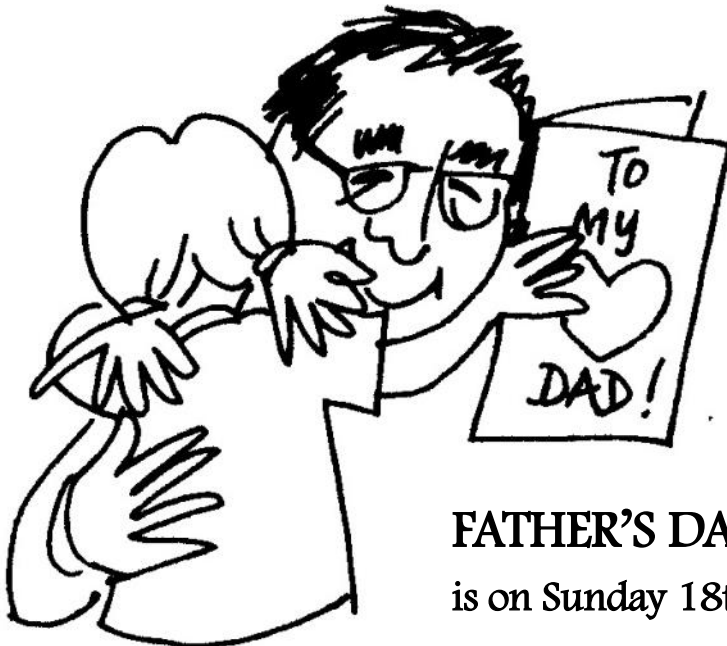
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We're on the Web - Check out our website where you'll find up-to-date information about the three parishes and much more!

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SCOTS PINE IN BASCHURCH

Top left, this majestic Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) crowns the old extension to the churchyard at Baschurch.

Middle right, shows the long pine needles with a new cone forming in the centre.

Top right shows a series of bat boxes placed up the north side of the trunk.

Bottom left is a view of the inside of the crown.



**At the top of the Stiperstones
on the route of the Shropshire Way**

Photo by Lorna Thonson