

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

2024



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S
Hordley

50p
Per issue

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the March 2024 issue of Church Family News. This month, the Women's World Day of Prayer (1st March), International Women's Day (8th March) and Mothering Sunday (10th March), all celebrate and support the role of women in all aspects of life, as Anita Weeks reminds us in her reflection from Weston Lullingfields (pages 11 and 12). While Deborah Coatsworth's clergy message (pages 4 and 5) focuses on our journey through Lent, Holy Week and Easter, which this year is quite early, on 31st March. She asks the question 'Why did Jesus have to die?', and finds some compelling answers in a very well written, thoughtful book by Dr Paula Gooder (an Anglican biblical scholar and theologian) *Journey to the Empty Tomb*.

Thinking about the date of Easter varying annually from around the end of March to the last week of April, I am reminded of a conversation I once had with a prominent leader of the Church of England. He asked me my opinion about fixing the date of Easter on a date which all churches world wide could agree on—at present the Western Churches (using the Gregorian calendar) keep a different date to Orthodox Churches (this year 5th May according to the Julian Calendar). He argued that this would be a great sign of Christian unity. I replied it would be a great mistake to fix the date. Jesus met with his disciples for his last Passover meal on the Thursday before his trial and execution, and would have crossed the Kidron Valley to Gethsemane by the light of the full moon—the same full moon that we see sometime in the week before Easter. We would weaken that connection if we cut loose from the lunar cycle that determines the date of Easter, (in whichever calendar we use). The eminent church leader replied, 'Huh, you are an incurable romantic'. I take some satisfaction, however, that his idea has bitten the dust!

So, on Monday 25th March, under the full moon, let us place ourselves with Jesus in that poignant walk to the Garden of Gethsemane, stay with him through the days of Holy Week and Good Friday, and then to celebrate the discovery of his empty tomb on Ester Sunday and the message of the angels, 'He is not here. He is risen!'

Roger Paul, Editor

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

15th 2024

to the CFN email address:

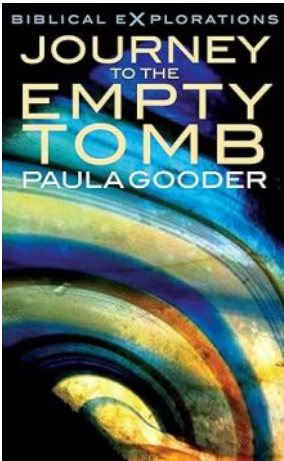
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LETTER FROM THE CLERGY

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe how fast this year is going already! By the end of this month of March we will be into Holy Week, celebrating Jesus's Resurrection, Easter Day being the last day of the month! As we continue our journey through Lent, having begun on Ash Wednesday, some of us may have questions, questions such as, 'Why did Jesus have to die?' This question I found in a Lent book written by **Paula Gooder**, titled, '**Journey to the Empty Tomb**', where she discusses this very question in her Epilogue.



'Why did Jesus die?

He died because he arrived in Jerusalem at the time of Passover, a time when the Jewish and Roman authorities were more nervous of sedition (revolt) than at any other time of the year.

He died because his conflict with the Jewish authorities became so great that there was no other outcome possible.

He died because Judas handed him over to the authorities and no one tried to intervene in his arrest.

He died because Pilate was outmanoeuvred and frightened.

He died because the people of Jerusalem got caught up in a group frenzy and lost all sense.

However, on the more positive side:

He also died so that the Centurian, and all like him, could recognise that He was the Son of God. He died so that the Temple curtain could be torn in two, and God Himself could break out of the temple and be at large once more in the world. He died because He refused to save Himself and by doing so saved us. He died so that His glory could be revealed throughout the world.

All of these – and more – answer the question of why Jesus died.

However, *the real important point is not why Jesus died but **that He did.***

*Jesus died because of **LOVE.** God's love for the world was so overwhelming that He could not stop pouring it out on the world. Jesus died because His love for His Father **and for us** drove Him to express that love in the most sacrificial way possible. His expression of love drove Him to reveal the brokenness of the way in which we normally do things, and humanity could not bear the weight or consequences of that revelation.*

Why did Jesus die? He died because He loved us!

If you have questions like that, please come along to the services throughout Lent where some of these will be tackled, you may even find the answer you seek, but if not do talk to us and we can explore further together. It's not too late to join our Lent groups where we are considering the questions surrounding an answered prayer – why does God appear not to answer some of our prayers. If you are interested, please contact the Ministry Team, you would be very welcome to join us. I would also encourage you to attend some of the services in Holy week, joining us as we follow the account of Jesus' Passion which culminates with His crucifixion. In between Palm Sunday and Easter Day, we have Good Friday. If the events on Good Friday didn't happen, then we wouldn't have Easter Day.

Lent is not all gloom and doom! In the natural world we have so much evidence of new life – the Spring flowers, the new lambs in the fields and so on. This encourages us as we see these signs of new life pointing to the warmer days of summer. The period of Lent draws us towards God, renews our relationship with Him and calls each one of us to a new life in Him for all Eternity. This is why Jesus died!

May each of us find that new life in Jesus, this Easter.

Deborah

SERVICES IN MARCH 2024

Sunday 3rd March – 3rd Sunday of 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: Exodus 20:1-17 & John 2:13-22

Saturday 9th March

3pm A Service for Mothering Sunday followed by Tea and Cake
Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday

9.15am Worship for All – St Mary's Hordley

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

6.30pm **NO** Contemporary Service this month

Readings: Colossians 3:12-17 & John 19:25b-27

Sunday 17th March – 5th Sunday of Lent

(Passiontide begins)

8am BCP Holy Communion - All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am CW Holy Communion - Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am Worship For All – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34 & John 12:20-33



Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

9.15am CW Holy Communion – St Mary's Hordley

9.30am Palm Sunday Praise – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

4pm Forest Church – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Mark 11:1-11 (Liturgy of the Palms) & Mark 14:1-end 15 (Liturgy of the Passion)



SERVICES IN HOLY WEEK

Monday 25th March

7pm 30 min service of Reflection –
All Saints' Baschurch

Tuesday 26th March

7pm 30 min service of Reflection –
Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

Wednesday 27th March

7pm 30 min service of Reflection –
St Mary's Hordley

Thursday 28th March – Maundy Thursday

11.30am Morning Worship – **No** Holy Communion at Baschurch

7.30pm Service of Holy Communion with Foot Washing (optional)
at All Saints Baschurch

Quiet reflection will follow the service for those who wish to stay.

Friday 29th March – Good Friday

9.15am An Hour at the Cross –
St Mary's Hordley

11am An Hour at the Cross –

Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am An Act of Outdoor Witness –

The Green (opposite the Spar), Baschurch

1pm Stations of the Cross – All Saints' Baschurch

2pm An Hour at the Cross – All Saints' Baschurch



EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 31st March – Easter Day

Come and Celebrate with us!

6.15am Dawn Service with Holy Communion and followed by breakfast – All Saints' Baschurch

8am BCP Holy Communion - All Saints' Baschurch

9.15am CW Holy Communion – St Mary's Hordley

9.30am CW Holy Communion - Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Acts 10:34-43 & Mark 16:1-8



NEW TESTAMENT DAILY PRAYER READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER IN MARCH

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Hebrews 3:7-end	17	Hebrews 12:18-end
2	Hebrews 4:1-13	18	Hebrews 11:17-31
3	Philippians 1:1-26	19	Matthew 13:54-end
4	Hebrews 4:14-5:10	20	Hebrews 12:3-13
5	Hebrews 5:11-6:12	21	Hebrews 12:14-end
6	Hebrews 6:13-end	22	Hebrews 13:1-16
7	Hebrews 7:1-10	23	Hebrews 13:17-end
8	Hebrews 7:11-end	24	1 Corinthians 2:1-12
9	Hebrews 8	25	Luke 22:1-23
10	John 9:1-25	26	Luke 22:39-53
11	Hebrews 9:1-14	27	Luke 22:54-end
12	Hebrews 9:15-end	28	Luke 23:1-25
13	Hebrews 10:1-18	29	John 18-19
14	Hebrews 10:19-25	30	John 2:18-22
15	Hebrews 10:26-end	31	2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2
16	Hebrews 11:1-16		

HORDLEY NEWS



It is that lovely time of the year when we can look forward to longer days and enjoy the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils in the churchyard and elsewhere. Both Chirk Castle and Attingham have delightful displays of snowdrops and are well worth a visit.

We are pleased to be able to tell you that we are to have an organist for the fourth Sunday of each month, which is usually the communion service. It will be very nice to hear the organ again on a regular basis.

There is shortly to be a meeting to discuss the opening of John Willis's garden at Broome Farm for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) on Sunday 2nd June. Provided the weather is reasonable there could be a large turnout and the



church will benefit from 50% of the proceeds. Tea will be offered and any cakes that can be provided would be gratefully received. Plants will also be available for sale so if anyone has plants to split and share or seedlings to plant out, please let John know and bring them

along. The church will also be open on that day for anyone who wishes to view our lovely church.



The winner of the Hordley Lottery in January was Emma Goddard (Faulkner) with number 41 and in February no-one had the winning number 46.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

This month on 8th March it will be International Women's Day and on Sunday 10th March it will be Mothering Sunday.

Today we are used to seeing women in roles and situations which in the past were regarded as "Men's work". We can celebrate the breaking down of barriers allowing women to work in a wide spread of areas – going up into space; piloting passenger aircraft; taking on positions of management and leadership; doctors; solicitors; bus drivers; farmers; rescue services like the RNLI. In our diocese we have the Right Reverend Sarah Bullock as the Bishop of Shrewsbury. Linda is the second female Rector in our parish. Deborah is our Associate Minister and throughout the diocese many clergy roles are held by women.

But there is still a long way to go. Violence against women remains prevalent. A recent study by the education charity, Teach First, revealed that 54% of girls in Britain lacked confidence in Maths and 43% feel insecure about science.

These opportunities for women are often not seen all round the world and in fact in Afghanistan today education for girls has been closed down and women are no longer allowed to work, even in essential supportive roles. In some Middle Eastern countries women cannot go out without a male chaperone. In Africa and India women often combine childcare with home working and labouring in the fields.

It is interesting to look at the ways Mothering Sunday has been regarded and celebrated. Mothering Sunday was originally thought to be a day for honouring "mother churches" – the church where one was baptised. In the Catholic Church it was a day to celebrate the Annunciation to Mary by the Angel Gabriel. 25 March is exactly 9 months before the 25th December when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Later on Mothering Sunday became a day when servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, often with their own mothers and family members.

Mothering Sunday is always the 4th Sunday in Lent, also called mid-Lent Sunday or Refreshment Sunday. This Sunday has been a day of respite from fasting, half way through Lent.

You can look at the word Mother in several ways –Mother Church; Mothers of Earthly Homes; The Mother of Jesus; Gifts of Mother Earth.

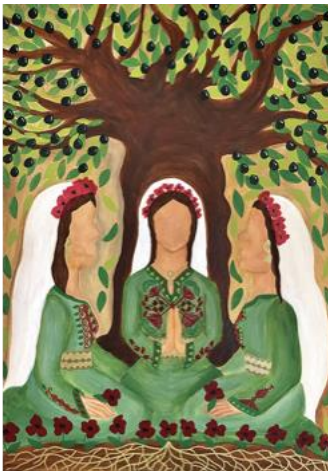
Today secularly society more frequently call it Mother's Day, perhaps through American influence, and in countries around the world it is held on different days, often in May. It is an occasion where we can celebrate motherhood – remembering all that our own mothers (and other female family members) have contributed to our lives.

Wishing a very Happy Mothering Sunday to all in our three parishes who nurture and care for us.

Anita Weeks

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer, which takes place this year on Friday 1st March, is a global wave of prayer led by women. This year, worship and prayer resources have been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Palestine, who completed their work before the current crisis in Gaza. The title of their theme is



I beg you,

bear with one another in love

A service will be held within Ellesmere
Deanery

on Friday 1st March at 7pm

at Ellesmere Methodist Church,

Trimpley, Ellesmere, SDY12 0AE,

prepared by an ecumenical group in Elles-
mere, using the international resources.

ALL SAINTS BASCHURCH

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 thepatdavies@hotmail.com



16 MARCH 2024 TICKETS FROM MARTYN : £20
DOORS OPEN 17:30 ☎ 07703845805
EVENT: 18:00-20:00 WINE BAR WILL BE OPEN

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
BASCHURCH
SY4 2GD

UKRAINIAN FUNDRAISING EVENT

LIFE STORIES

FOOD INCLUDING
VEGETARIAN

SONGS & DANCES

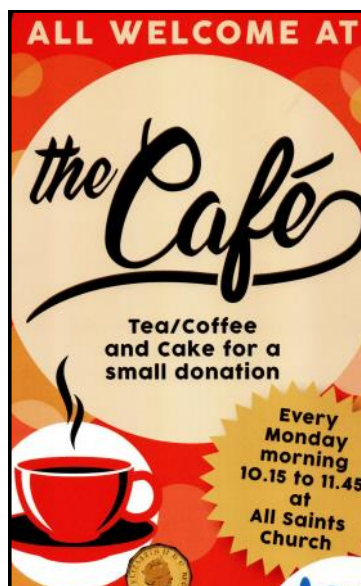
TRADITIONAL CLOTHES
AND SOUVENIRS



All Saints Church

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Every Thursday 12.30pm



ALL WELCOME AT

the Café

Tea/Coffee
and Cake for a
small donation

Every
Monday
morning
10.15 to 11.45
at
All Saints
Church

100 Club winning numbers for February will be published next month.

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. The three remaining sessions in March are:

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 are held in All Saints' Church Baschurch

Tuesday afternoons are held at Ash Grove Petton Lane Weston Lullingfields.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

We are coming up to the time when our churches hold their Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM for short). This year the parishes are continuing with the form of meeting held before the pandemic—all three meetings held concurrently on the same night. The combined annual reports will be circulated in advance, so don't worry about how long the meeting will be. The business is dealt with efficiently!

The date for this year's meeting is the evening of Tuesday 16th April in Weston Lullingfields Village Hall.

THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

A crucial part of the running of the parishes, as well as the diocese and the Church of England of England as a whole, is the Church Electoral Roll. This is your parish church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), and the Deanery and Diocesan Synods.

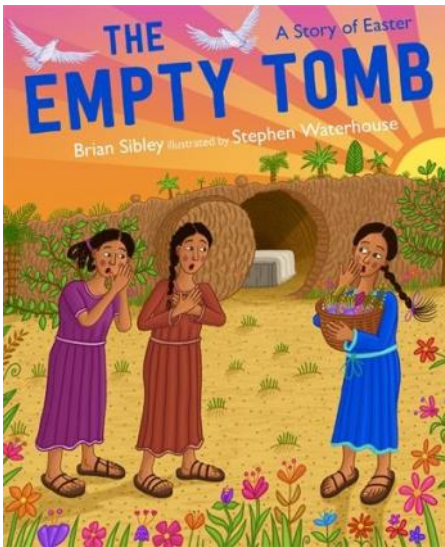
You can, of course, be a full and active member of your parish church without joining the Roll. Being on the Electoral Roll does not entail signing up to any additional commitments; however, it does help the church to show its strength. For example, the number of PCC members that can be elected depends on the number on the Electoral Roll.

There are few requirements needed to join the electoral roll—you must be baptised, 16 or over and live in the parish OR if you live outside the parish, you should be an habitual worshipper at the parish church. Members of other churches are also welcome to be electoral roll members (and to serve on church bodies like the PCC).

Each PCC appoints an electoral officer to maintain the electoral roll and to make sure it is accurate and up to date. The Church Electoral Roll is revised every year prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and notices about this will soon be put up on the church notice boards giving full details about how to apply. Every six years a completely new Electoral Roll is compiled. The next full revision will be next year in 2025. Note that your details held on the electoral roll are subject to data protection laws.

Each year, the revised electoral roll is made available for inspection prior to the APCM, but you can check that you are on it, and your details are up to date at any time, by contacting the electoral roll officer. *Editor*

BOOK REVIEW



The Empty Tomb – A Story of Easter

By Brian Sibley, SPCK, £6.99

This easy to read and engaging retelling of the Easter story is a perfect introduction for 6+ year-olds to the stories of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the death and resurrection of Jesus, His Ascension, and Pentecost. They are written to be read alone or read aloud.

Learn about the procession of the singing crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem, and the moment Jesus shared the bread

and the cup at the Passover meal. Discover how the disciples sorrow turned to joy and wonder when they saw Jesus once again in their presence after His death, eating and drinking with them. Be immersed in the excitement of Pentecost and the inspiring speech by Peter that led to the baptism of 3,000 people.



The Storm Cock sings in March

March is a great month to search for and listen to mistle thrushes. They start to breed in February and by March can be heard proclaiming from the tops of tall trees. Unlike other thrushes such as song thrush or blackbird, mistle thrushes are known for singing during stormy weather, hence the name storm cock. They are also called Throstles, an old word for thrush. By perching high to sing, they amplify their already loud song which can be heard up to 2km away. Compared to other thrushes the mistle thrushes song is more monotonous and piercing but still a joyful sound to hear and a herald of spring. You can identify the three thrushes by their song and once you have learned the difference they are quite easy to separate. Have a listen on the RSPB website as a starting point.

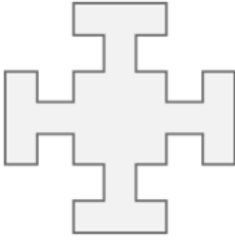
Mistle thrushes favour parkland conditions with big trees and grassland, where they feed on a wide variety of invertebrates. Churchyards and cemeteries can be perfect for them having mature soils full of invertebrates, few or no pesticides and mature trees for perching and nesting. Many burial grounds contain evergreen trees which were planted during the nineteenth century, these are now mature and offer excellent habitat for thrushes as well as other birds and animals.



Mistle thrushes are currently in decline in the UK and churchyards and cemeteries may be important strongholds for them. We would love to know how many churchyards have mistle thrushes breeding in them, and if you hear one singing, this will be a male who is proclaiming his territory so a good indicator of breeding. Please let Caring for God's Acre know by making a record on iNaturalist, you can do this by recording the song or taking a photo of the bird. Alternatively you can email wildlife@cfga.org.uk.

All the best, Harriet (*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*)

THE LENTEN JOURNEY



‘Following Christ in the footsteps of St Chad’

Claire Whitney writes about the inspiration of two saints we celebrate in March.

March begins with the celebration of the lives of two saints; on 1st March we have St David, (or Dewi Sant) 6th Bishop of Wales and on 2nd March we have St Chad, 7th first Bishop of Lichfield and our patron.

These days punctuate Lent, giving us an opportunity to pause and reflect on how the holy people of old patterned their lives on that of Christ. We might consider how we may learn from their ancient wisdom at this point on our Lenten journey. It’s a journey which has a distinctive shape, beginning with a purposeful focus on discipline, fasting and intentional holiness; it moves inexorably toward the intensity of its conclusion in Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the Cross.

Yet during these middle weeks of Lent we find ourselves with Jesus in the wilderness, a place of desolation and abandonment; yet paradoxically, it’s potentially a time of great spiritual

ST CHAD

Chad was born to a noble family around 634, he was educated on Lindisfarne and spent time as Bishop of York and Abbot of Lastingham. When he was appointed Bishop of Mercia, one of the most powerful Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, Chad chose to centre his administration in Lichfield. He founded a church and a community there in 669 which became the religious heart of the kingdom.

Chad died in 672, much loved and revered. The shrine of St Chad grew quickly in importance and became one of the three most important centres of mediaeval pilgrimage in the country.

‘A holy man, of modest character, well-read in the Scripture, and diligently practising those things which he had learned therein.’

The Venerable Bede’s Ecclesiastical History of the English People (731).

growth, if we dare to withdraw, to enter deeply into a time of self-examination and keep company with Jesus. We are invited to dwell, abide, to wait, to 'tarry', to slow down in our journey. We can learn much from the Celtic saints who lived the monastic life for whom these practices were embedded in their 'Rule of Life'.

Earlier this year, I chose Jeremiah 6:16 as a guiding verse: "Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'" It seems to me that Lent is indeed a good time to pause at the crossroads and look to those ancient paths and perhaps heed the prophet's words to take them?

One of the distinctive characteristics of both these saints, Dewi and Chad, is that they were encouragers of others in their mission. As founders of monasteries, they built communities of learning; but they also lived lives of discovery and adventure, spreading the Christian message and gathering disciples as they went. They recognised the wisdom of taking time out to rest, pray and study. We owe them, and so many others, much gratitude for their legacy of Christian practice.

In our Chad Foundations programme we have sought to embed some of these principles and practices in preparation for public ministry.

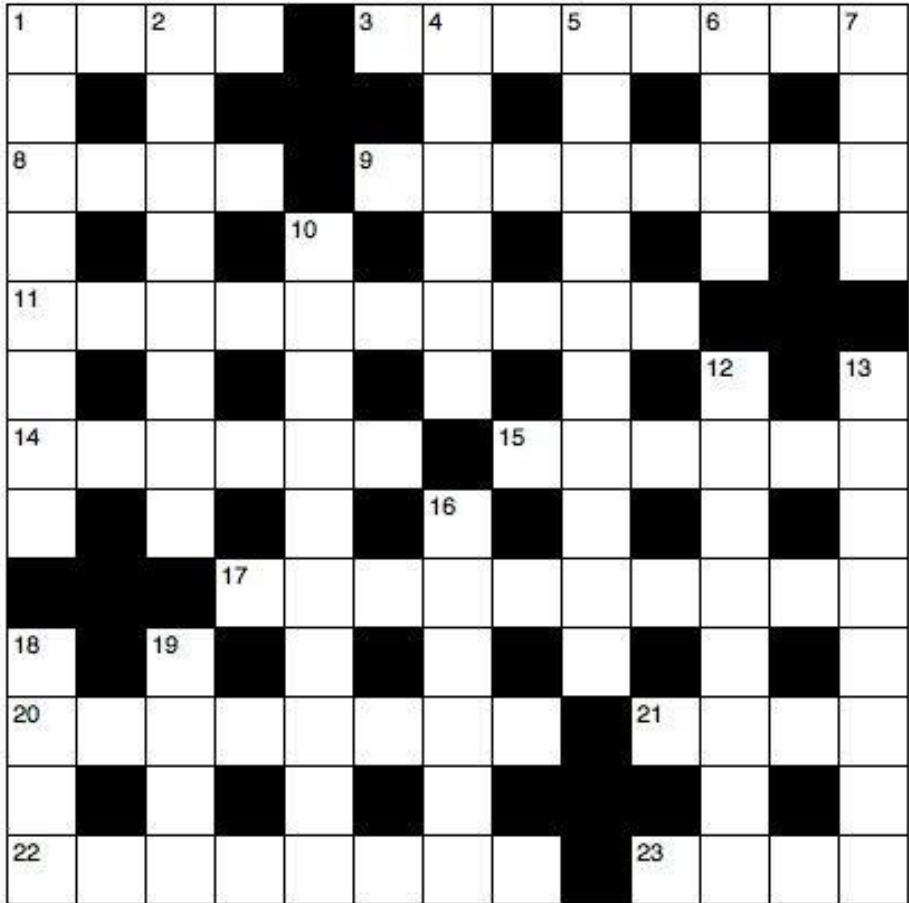
The Chad programme allows those taking the first steps into ministry to explore what it feels like to be part of a learning community, albeit mostly online, in the virtual world of Moodle; yet we also take time out to pray, eat, study and enter into retreat together on our gathered days. We travel as companions together in small groups.

Chad aims to be a journey of adventure and discovery, of exploring ministry and mission, where we can examine that vocational question, 'What is it Lord, that you have called me to do?'. As we each continue on our individual Lenten journeys, I wonder if that question is one that saints like Chad and Dewi might help us answer?



*Clare Whitney -
Lay Ministerial Learning and Development Officer*

CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — —' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)

- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4) 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

DRAMATIC DECLINE OF RELIGION ON TV

There is less television being devoted to religion and ethics than there used to be. A *lot* less, according to the latest report from Ofcom.

The latest statistics from Ofcom, the industry regulator reveal a dramatic reduction in television programmes about 'religion and ethics' broadcast by the public-service broadcasting networks (PSBs): BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5.

Comparing 2022 with 2011, peak time hours of 'first-run' UK origination output fell by 85 per cent; while peak-time hours of 'all origin' output (that is, including bought-in material) fell by 76 per cent. Channel 4 dropped from being the most prolific network to providing no output at all; and the BBC output fell by 65 per cent.

Roger Bolton, a former BBC and ITV executive and independent producer, wrote recently in the Church Times:

"All this has happened without a peep from Ofcom or the boards of the PSBs, who are supposed to protect the public interest. There have been no peeps, either, from religious leaders. They seem to be asleep, or preoccupied with their own internal issues, unaware of this wanton destruction."

"In my opinion, television commissioners ... underestimate the power of religion and the continuing interest in it. They also seem to forget that people are moral creatures, often keen to do the right thing, but wishing to discuss and debate what that is."

From Parish Pump

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot. 15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Stye.

DOWN: 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Iscariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18, Loaf. 19, Unto.

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.



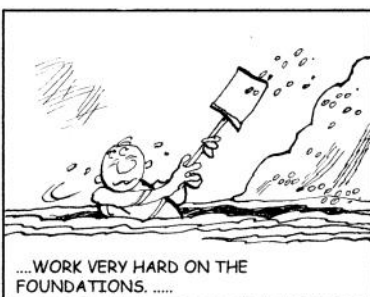
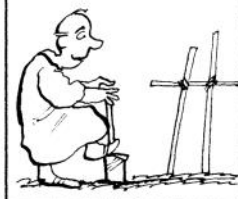
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU
PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

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



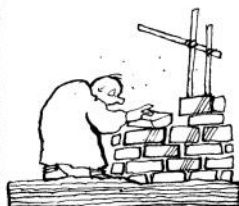
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A
START,

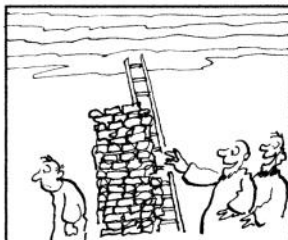


...WORK VERY HARD ON THE
FOUNDATIONS.

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



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT
OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH
AT YOU!

TOWER TO
BE
CANCELLED
BUILT
HERE

WE NEED TO REALISE THAT
ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING
JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING
TO DO; IT'S ALSO A GREAT
CHALLENGE.

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Snowdrops in Baschurch Churchyard in early March
photo by Martyn Lake