



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

MARCH 2022



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S 50p
Hordley

Per issue

The gardener and the Vine

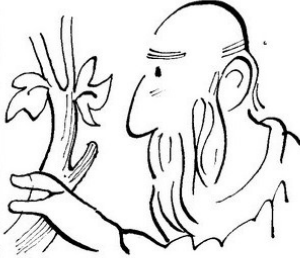


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

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



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...

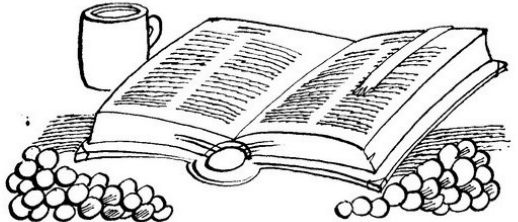


...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



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

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



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

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SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL MAGAZINE

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

15th MARCH 2022

to: **churchfamilynews@gmail.com**

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THE CURATE'S MESSAGE

Lent and the human heart

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday (2nd March) and lasts for 40 days until Easter. It reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism. During Lent many of us abstain from certain foods or drinks, like chocolate or wine, but we are also encouraged to 'examine ourselves'. This is not a medical examination (!), but a spiritual one. It is about looking at our hearts (our mental, spiritual and emotional centre) and dealing with the issues we find. The Bible says some tough words about the human heart commenting that *"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"* (Jeremiah 17.9-10).

When we look at human behaviour throughout history this certainly has more than just a ring of truth about it, but it is also true for us as individuals more often than we like to admit. It is so easy for us to rationalise our poor attitudes and behaviours when deep down we know we should be different. To find full life and real joy we need our hearts to be healthy and filled with grace for others, that is why God says he will test and search our hearts and transform them if we allow him to. In the book of Ezekiel God says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36.26).

Many things make our hearts hard and stone like – hatred and unforgiveness are two examples that are well illustrated by sociologist and Baptist minister Tony Campolo. He describes the experience President Bill Clinton had when he first met Nelson Mandela:

Clinton said: "When you were released from prison, Mr. Mandela, I woke my daughter at three o'clock in the morning. I wanted her to see this historic event. As you marched from the cellblock across the yard to the gate of the prison, the camera focused on your face. I have never seen such anger, and even hatred, in any man as was expressed on your face at that time. That's not the Nelson Mandela I know today. What was that all about?"

Mandela answered, "I am surprised that you saw that, and I regret that the cameras caught my anger. As I walked across the courtyard that day I thought to myself, They've taken everything from you that matters. Your

cause is dead. Your family is gone. Your friends have been killed. Now they're releasing you, but there's nothing left for you out there. And I hated them for what they had taken from me. Then, I sensed an inner voice saying to me, 'Nelson! For twenty-seven years you were their prisoner, but you were always a free man! Don't allow them to make you into a free man, only to turn you into their prisoner!'

And Campolo then reminds us,

"An unforgiving spirit creates bitterness in our souls and imprisons our spirits. A failure to forgive imprisons us." (T. Campolo, *Let me Tell You A Story* (Thomas Nelson, 2000) pp. 66-67)

For me forgiveness has been a key to change and freedom from past hurts and behaviours. I remember the transformation I found when I finally forgave a person who had wronged me 20 years previously and telling a friend that the change was like 'magic' – 'suddenly it was as if my whole spirit was free.' However, it is important to say that forgiveness is not saying 'it's OK, it doesn't matter'. Forgiveness is much more than this because wrongs done always matter and justice needs to be done. Wrong must be confronted and dealt with. Forgiveness is about the heart; it is about giving up the desire for personal revenge.

Jesus gives us an important insight when he was asked about forgiveness:

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven." (Mat 18.21-22)

Jesus is not telling Peter that the maximum number of times that we should forgive is 490 and after that stop. He is asking us to be people who never give up making forgiveness and reconciliation our goal. This is not easy in a world so full of injustice, but the God who, on the cross, uttered the words '*Father forgive them, they do not know what they do*' will help us if we ask him.

Philip Yancey summarised well what is happening when we forgive: *'...forgiveness is an act of faith. By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am. By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all issues of fairness for God to work out. I leave in God's hands the scales that must balance justice and mercy..... Though wrong does not disappear when I forgive, it loses its grip on me and is*

taken over by God, who knows what to do. Such a decision involves risk, of course: the risk that God may not deal with the person as I would want.'

(P. Yancey, *What's so amazing about Grace* (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1997) p. 93)

God wants us to find joy and freedom this Lent. So let us make space to examine our hearts and ask God to help us remove the stones that prevent the flow of grace and life. For some of us that will mean the process of forgiving.

Rev. Steve Alston (Curate – Baschurch, Weston Lullingfields and Hordley)

HOLY TRINITY FLOWER FESTIVAL

4 AND 5 JUNE 2022

On 4th & 5th June 2022 Holy Trinity Church, Weston Lullingfields, will be having a Flower Festival within the Church to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

Whilst we have a number of volunteers, one of the things the team needs is additional flowers from people's gardens, donations etc. We will need the flowers to be freshly cut on Friday 3rd June.

If you can provide any flowers from your garden (any colours) or wish to donate any flowers then please give Jackie Jones a call on 01939 260946. Jackie will be very pleased to speak to you.

Jackie Jones



LETTER FROM THE DIOCESE

Welcome Home

Parishes all over the country are seeing new houses being built. These range from a few houses to whole estates, meaning the shapes of our villages and towns are changing. All developments, big or small, will have an impact on their local community. Developments of less than 500 new homes will be expected to access existing amenities, while developers of over 1000 houses will often have an obligation to provide extra community provision. New housing can create enormous opportunity but also challenge to communities and churches. Some greatly welcome the opportunity to provide affordable, much needed housing and embrace the thought of new neighbours and relationships. For some it can be more challenging, and some struggle with the thought of stretched amenities or have concerns about environmental issues. How churches respond and engage with the new housing agenda will depend according to size and circumstances. There are many levels of engagement from dropping welcome leaflets right through to intentionally planting people to live within these new communities. There is a role for all churches to play in these new developments. Here are some simple ideas to consider.

Start now

Get involved as soon as you can to maximise your involvement in the earliest stages. Often land allocation and community/education provision are decided at an early stage. Your local planning authority is a good starting point. They can also support if you are thinking about using a new building for worship. At the stage when houses become occupied it can be useful to look at the demographics of the new estates. Are they being occupied by young couples commuting out, families, retired people?

Pray

Pray and encourage prayer for the new development at all stages. Prayer walking around the area is a good way of engaging existing congregations with the new estate.

Resources and gifts

Identifying who, in your existing congregations, are likely to be in or near these places and prepare them to be missional. Consider developing a strategic group, to identify future housing projects and to co-ordinate work and mission in the new developments.

Create a welcome pack

This could be anything from a leaflet with church information on, to community information and new house gifts. Tea, coffee, cake or new household items are all lovely to receive and give an opportunity to make contact with new residents.

Explore ‘third space’ places

Have a fresh look at your local community, both buildings, community spaces and open and outdoor spaces to look for potential places to engage with new residents or for potential new worshipping spaces.

Listen to the community

Moving into a new estate is different from an existing one and pioneering can become influential very quickly. If we want to bless the community it is important to listen to what the community wants rather than imposing our own ideas.

*If you would like to explore the area of new housing further, please contact
Laura Edwards from the diocese’s Mission team. Email
Laura.edwards@lichfield.anglican.org or phone 07838127921*

PORCH PANTRY

We all know how life can be tough and with the rise in the cost of living and the soon-to-be-applied rise in fuel bills, many people in our parishes are currently, or likely to be in the near future, struggling to keep afloat.

Within the next few days there will be a 'porch kitchen' set up in the porch of All Saints'.

Boxes containing food will be found in the porch providing items needed to produce a meal for those in need. There may also be toiletries.

These items are free of charge and anyone wishing to take items from the porch are welcome to do so.

In order to make sure that the boxes are kept topped up we also need people to bring items into church to put into the boxes. If you have any spare food (particularly fresh or tinned goods) or toiletry items please put them into the boxes provided.

Mary Cox

Mothering Sunday - A brief history

During the 16th century, people in the UK used to return on the 4th Sunday in Lent for a service to their 'mother church' - the main church or cathedral of the area. Eventually the religious tradition evolved into the Mothering Sunday secular tradition of giving gifts to mothers.

In the USA Anna Jarvis originated Mother's Day when, on May 12, 1907, she held a memorial service at her late mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia. Her mother had organized women's groups to promote friendship and health - Mother's Day, a holiday in honour of mothers that is celebrated in countries throughout the world.

Ellesmere Deanery Lent Course

This year we are running a joint Deanery Lent course for all our Parishes



LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH

A five-week course using material from the Church of England, exploring Christian teaching and identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

Aim: To help us understand the wide range of perspectives

(It is important to remember those attending will have a range of views and experience, all are important and to be respected)

More information can be found under Living in Love and Faith on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

Course Dates: Monday Evenings 7-8.30pm

7th March, 14th March, 21st March, 28th March & 4th April via Zoom

To find out more and/or reserve a place
please contact Linda on linda@allsaintsbaschurch.com or
Rev Pat Hawkins, revpat.hawkins@gmail.com

A prayer for the course:

God, whose name is Love,
Whose gift is life,
Whose word holds all in being;
Bless Living in Love and Faith to your church
As we seek to grow together
Into the truth of our humanity and longings,
Into communities where all find welcome,
Into the fullness that is your image in us;
Through the Word made flesh,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen



...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!

From the Registers

Funerals

Baschurch

Eleanor Vernon aged 79 years – died 22nd December 2021

Anthony 'Tony' Daniels aged 63 years –died 11th January 2022

Rose Owen aged 63 years – died 16th January 2022

Audrey Hanmer aged 85 years – died 1st February 2022 Funeral service at All Saints' on Wednesday 2nd March at Midday

Roy Arthur aged 83 years – died 8th February 2022

Funeral service at All Saints' on Friday 4th March at 2pm

Baptisms

Baschurch

Florence Bridle and Elliott Wilkinson on 6th February 2022

An amazing family story from WWII

We don't usually watch the BBC midland news but I happened to see an item at the end of the bulletin in mid-January. A man in Gloucestershire, Scott Booth (SB), has undertaken to restore a Spitfire using such components as he can from a heap of wreckage recovered from a crash site in France; it was flown by Piotr Laguna (PL), a Polish pilot, in 1941 when it was shot down; PL did not survive the crash. As soon as I heard that name a loud bell rang in my head.

When the Germans invaded Poland on September 1st 1939 the Poles put up a gallant, but ultimately futile, defence and were eventually defeated. Many of those who could, moved their families eastwards away from the invaders but, of course, towards the Russians. On September 17th the Russians invaded Poland from the east in order to halt the German advance. Large numbers of Polish soldiers and airmen fled the country and made their way firstly to France and then to Britain, where they made a considerable contribution to our war effort against the Germans. Among these was PL, whose wife Wanda and children (Ewa age three and Jan age two) stayed behind in Poland and were then taken into custody by the Russians and transported to a concentration camp in Siberia.

On arrival in Britain the pilots were formed into squadrons, with their own officers but also with British officers to assist with integrating them into the RAF. Among these on the Polish side was Piotr Laguna and on the British side was my father, a fighter pilot with experience of Spitfires and Hurricanes. I have in my possession his pilot's flying log book which shows that he joined 302 (Polish) Squadron based in Yorkshire in July 1940 and that he was flying Hurricanes with them until December of that year, when he was posted to a Spitfire squadron in Essex. 302 squadron also had the use of some Miles Magister training aircraft in which he made several flights with PL listed in the log book as 2nd pilot.

PL and my father soon found a common interest in that both had a wife and two small children of similar ages. PL would never see his family again and, so I understand, he poured his love on to my sister Penny, then aged about 18 months, and me, about three months old. He gave Penny a teddy and to me he gave a toy elephant on wheels.

After hearing the news programme I did a bit of research and found the name and telephone number of SB and so I rang him up. We had quite a long chat and he was very keen for us to meet and to pass each other information of mutual interest. He told me that Jan Laguna is now a retired radiologist aged 83 and lives in Canberra, barely a mile from where my sister lives with Teddy. We invited SB round for coffee and a light lunch during which he gave us a lot of the history of PL and his family. It quite made his day when I introduced him to Jumbo, who now lives, in a rather time-worn state, in my attic.

When the Germans invaded Russia in 1941 the Russians released their Polish captives from the camp in Siberia; that is they opened the gates and said “off you go”. It seems that Wanda had an unopened food parcel which she offered to a railway official, at a station she had somehow managed to reach, with the words “I don’t know what’s in this, but it’s yours if you can get me on a train out of here”. By some unexplained process she made her way through Siberia, central Asia, Persia and into India, then under British rule and so safe for her. All this time PL had made numerous attempts to trace his family and on the morning of June 27th 1941 his efforts were rewarded when he received notification that she and the children were safe. On the afternoon of **the same day** the squadron was sent to attack German positions near Calais, and PL was shot down and killed. Wanda, at this time living in Bombay, was not officially informed of his death until May 1943.

Penny and Jan have now met in Canberra with Teddy in attendance. I expect a good supply of clean handkerchiefs was required on that occasion.

There is to be an event at the end of June to commemorate the life of Piotr Laguna and all that he stood for. The location for this has yet to be decided but it will be at an airfield somewhere in England and Jan is intending to come from Australia; I shall make every effort to attend and to introduce him to Jumbo.

Andrew Thomson

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS MOTs

“Remaining physically active is vital to overall health and well-being, but as we age we’re more likely to be less active, resulting in a loss of strength and balance and an increased risk of falling.

Functional Fitness MOTs are programmes to help to reduce the risk of falling for older people. Activities include one-to-one fitness tests measuring strength, balance, flexibility and stamina. There is also information on how to reduce the risk of falling – with a demonstration of how to get up from the floor after a fall –plus a free taster exercise class.

The MOTs are open to people aged 60 – 95. Places are limited and booking is essential. Attendance is free.”

Andrew and I were recently invited to attend one of these MOTs in St Martins. The session was 2 ½ hours long and was well organised and attended. It comprised three parts.

A video highlighted various hazards around the home and the falls that could result from such things as standing on a wobbly stool to change a lightbulb, not holding the handrail on the stairs etc. We discussed various things to watch out for and how to improve one’s safety. A demonstration followed of how to get up from the floor after a fall.

Individual fitness tests measured strength, balance, flexibility and stamina. Much to our relief we proved to be mostly towards the top of the normal range and in some cases above the top! We were asked about our usual weekly physical activities.

Our results were recorded on graph sheets, which were given to us to take home, together with an action plan for improving our level of fitness. We will be contacted in six weeks’ time to discuss how we are getting on.

Lions Message Bottles were distributed in which to record our emergency information such as our medication, name of doctor, family/carer contact details. The bottle is to be kept in the fridge where the emergency services personnel know to look for them.

ICE. We were also encouraged to programme our phone memory with an ICE (in case of emergency) number of the person to be contacted in the event of an emergency.

Finally we enjoyed a taster exercise class.

We recommend this service and for more information call 01743 360641 or go to enquiries@community-resource.org.uk

Community Resource is an operating name of the Community Council of Shropshire, 4 The Creative Quarter, Shrewsbury Business Park, SY2 6LG.

Mary Thomson.

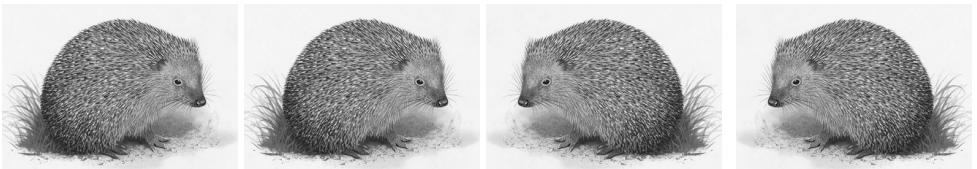
Hordley News

At this quiet time of the year there seems little to report. At the time of writing a PCC meeting is awaited at which there may be suggestions for future social events now that the Covid restrictions are easing. However, the virus is still active in this area and consequently many people continue to feel cautious, particularly about mixing indoors.

Out of doors the signs of spring are all around us with snowdrops and crocuses flowering and daffodils just beginning to come out. Aconites are flowering in the woods. So we look forward to the longer days and better weather to enjoy being in our gardens and on our walks.

The winner of the lottery draw in February was Mrs Muriel Manford with number 48.

Mary Thomson



WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

A reminder that the social events committee are going ahead with their plans for a weekend event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (4 and 5 June 2022) with afternoon teas in the village hall. The village hall committee has agreed that proceeds from the sale of the refreshments will go to the church. Let's hope that 2022 will be a turning point back to our usual routines. Can you spare the time to help with fundraising for the church? Some of our regular social committee members have stood down and we would be happy to welcome new people. The money raised from social events is much needed for the upkeep of the fabric of the church and the payment of our Parish Share.

I am writing this on a cold, wet and windy day in February. But it is also the month of my favourite flower – the snowdrop – also known as fair maid of February, Candlemas Bells, Mary's taper, Snow piercer and Dingle-dangle. The snowdrop walk at Attingham and other local woodland walks are coming to their best time. We also have a fine carpet of snowdrops at the back of the churchyard. Although it is regarded as a wild flower, most of its colonies probably started as garden escapes. They were first found growing in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire in the 1770s. They have long been accepted by the Catholic Church as a symbol of Candlemas (2 February) the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary and they are often associated with churches and monasteries.

In Monkton in Wiltshire the Reverend J Brinsdon planted snowdrops in the churchyard in the shape of letters to help the children he was teaching to read. They have since spread all over the churchyard. There are places where snowdrops are celebrated with Snowdrop Open Days or annual Snowdrop Festivals with a brass band concert in the churchyard. The most northerly site is in an old graveyard on the Black Isle, Easter Ross in Cromarty.

(Some of the snowdrop information is from Richard Mabey's *Flora Britannica*.)

Anita Weeks

New Testament Daily Bible Readings for Morning Prayer

| DATE | READING | DATE | READING | DATE | READING |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1 | Galatians 2:1-10 | 12 | Galatians 6 | 23 | Hebrews 6:13-end |
| 2 | 1 Tim 6:6-19 | 13 | Romans 11:13-24 | 24 | Hebrews 7:1-10 |
| 3 | Galatians 2:11-end | 14 | Hebrews 1 | 25 | Hebrews 7:11-end |
| 4 | Galatians 3:1-14 | 15 | Hebrews 2:1-9 | 26 | Hebrews 8 |
| 5 | Galatians 3:15-22 | 16 | Hebrews 2:10-end | 27 | 1 Peter 2:16-end |
| 6 | Luke 5:27-end | 17 | Hebrews 3:1-6 | 28 | Hebrews 9:1-14 |
| 7 | Galatians 3:23-4:7 | 18 | Hebrews 3:7-end | 29 | Hebrews 9:15-end |
| 8 | Galatians 4:8-20 | 19 | Hebrews 4:1-13 | 30 | Hebrews 10:1-18 |
| 9 | Galatians 4:21-5:1 | 20 | John 17:1a, 11b-19 | 31 | Hebrews 10:19-25 |
| 10 | Galatians 5:2-15 | 21 | Hebrews 4:14-5:10 | | |
| 11 | Galatians 5:16-end | 22 | Hebrews 5:11-6:12 | | |

Services in March

Wednesday 2nd March – Ash Wednesday

Services of Holy Communion with Ashing

10.30am – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

7.30pm – All Saints' Baschurch

Sunday 6th March (1st Sunday of Lent)

8am BCP Communion – Baschurch

9.30am Worship for All – Weston Lullingfields

11am Holy Communion – Baschurch

6.30pm Contemporary Worship – Baschurch

Sunday 13th March (2nd Sunday of Lent)

9.15am Worship for All – Hordley

11am Holy Communion – Baschurch

Sunday 20th March (3rd Sunday of Lent)

8am BCP Communion – Baschurch

9.30am Holy Communion – Weston Lullingfields

11am Worship for All – Baschurch

Sunday 27th March (Mothering Sunday)

9.15am Holy Communion – Hordley

9.30am Songs of Praise for Mothering Sunday - Weston Lullingfields

11am Holy Communion – Baschurch

4pm Forest Church – Baschurch

Every Thursday at 11.30am in Baschurch

A short service Holy Communion

Weekly Activities at All Saints' Baschurch

The Café 10.15am – midday on Monday

The opportunity to meet with friends old and new over a cup of tea or coffee

Little Stars 9am- 11am on Wednesday

Parent and child group – a place for little ones to meet and play.

Community Lunches 12.20 – 1.30pm on Thursday

A soup and roll lunch with cheese and biscuits, fruit and cake.

Our events are open to all. There is no expected cost to any of these but donations can be made to cover costs if anyone is able to. The suggested donation for lunch is a maximum of £3.00.

Bible Readings for Sundays in March

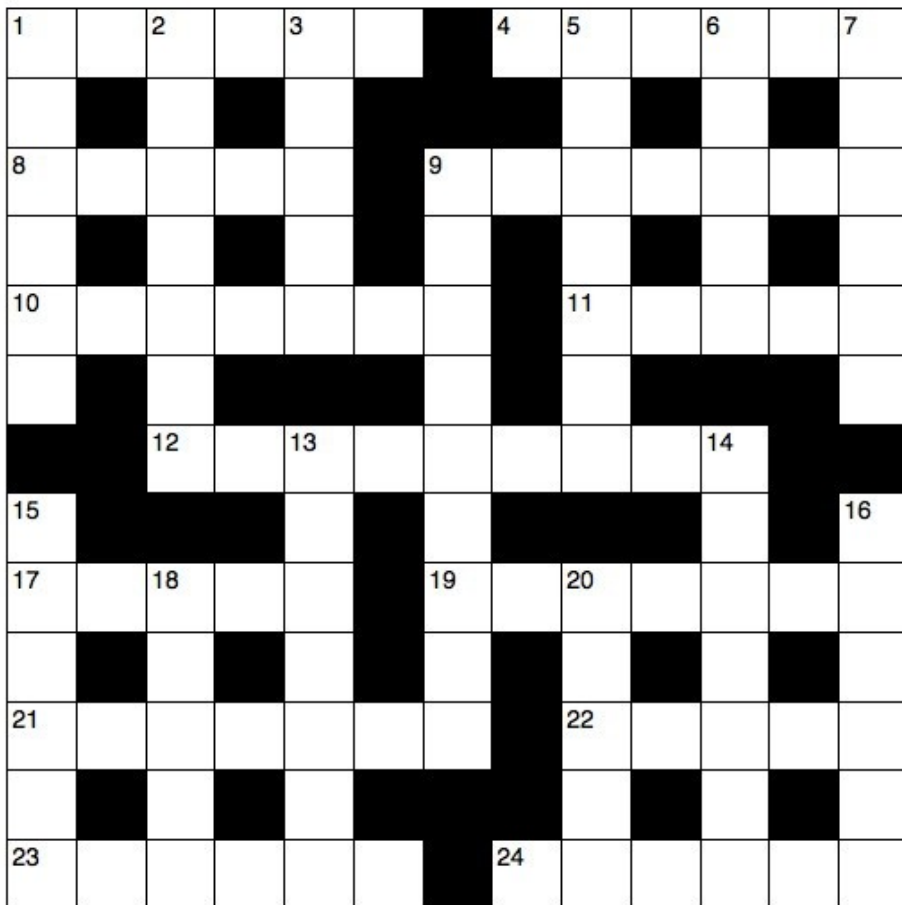
Sunday 6th March - Deuteronomy 26:1-11 & Luke 4:1-13

Sunday 13th March - Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 & Luke 13: 31-end

Sunday 20th March - Isaiah 55:1-9 & Luke 13:1-9

Sunday 27th March - Exodus 2:1-10 & Luke 2:33-35

The Church of England Daily Prayer App where you can follow and join in can be found at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>



Across

1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)

4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)

8 ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)

9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)

10 Jewish (7)

11 Dirge (anag.) (5)

12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)

- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

Answers on page 25.

St James the Least of All

On how to sabotage a music festival

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It seemed such an innocent suggestion. A local farmer announced he wanted to arrange a Spring music festival. I could already hear Mozart string quartets being played in our Lady Chapel, and arias from Donizetti operas being sung *al fresco* in the Glebe field, while we sipped champagne in the warm Spring sunshine and admired the flowers.

Unfortunately, our farmer was thinking of a heavy metal weekend in one of his fields. The teacups began to rattle when village talk turned to portable lavatories, mobile catering vans and using the churchyard for overflow camping space. Then the police arrived to discuss crowd control and drug policy. At James the Least of All we tend more towards congenial dinner parties, with drinks labelled Bollinger or Glenfiddich.

That was the point when Colonel Trubshaw began to search out his old shotgun. His wife even stopped serving coffee after Mattins, in order to patrol the perimeter of their estate with their arthritic spaniel. On the other hand, Miss Little went a little mad. She exchanged her usual tweeds and brogues and pearls for a red bandana, long patchwork dress and peace beads. She must have enjoyed the 1960s.

It was time to take action, so I told our farmer that St James the Least of All would support him to the hilt. Our ladies would of course do flower arrangements for the stage, and our sidesmen would greet the campers as they arrived. We would provide a full choral Evensong on Friday night, to help set the tone for the weekend. When the farmer gasped something about heavy metal, I was able to reassure him. "Heavy metal? We're doing that Saturday morning from about 6am, when our bellringers will give a three-hour exhibition of change ringing." The farmer pleaded something about singing, and I was able to reassure him on that point as well: "On Sunday we'll do a Songs of Praise, and not to

worry, your campers can choose their favourite hymns from ‘Ancient and Modern’.”

I was thanked profusely, but the following week, our dear farmer wrote to tell me he had decided to graze sheep on his field after all. Shame about that.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CHURCHES (DFC) update

Jeremy Stretton of Ellesmere is leading DFC sessions on Zoom that some of you might be interested in joining. They are for the churches in the deanery and other community contacts and take place every third Monday from 2.30 to 3.30 pm. The next dates are 14th March and 4th and 25th April.

At the event in January, for example, two short videos featured Sarah Thorpe, the Diocesan lead, talking about key stages of dementia development and how best to help people living with dementia, and their carers. The main messages of each video were discussed. The four stages of dementia require different approaches. Topics discussed included: the importance of listening; not contradicting; trying to avoid direct questions; and engaging with unexpected moments of recognition.

For further information and the invitation to join one of the Zoom meetings, please contact jeremy.stretton@icloud.com

Mary Thomson

In a radio broadcast in October 1939, Winston Churchill said:

“I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma”.



Hairy-footed Flower Bee

March can be a cold month and not one we associate with insects, the majority of which will emerge a little later in the year. Bumblebees are amongst the first to appear as their hairy bodies give them some insulation against the changeable weather of March; but have a look for another bee, which looks at first glance like a small bumblebee, but which is actually the delightfully named Hairy-footed Flower Bee. The males emerge first and can be found from late February onwards. The male is a rusty brown with a yellow face and long hairs on the middle pair of its six legs. It is these long hairs that give the bee the name of 'hairy footed'. About two weeks later the females emerge, looking completely different. Females are mainly black with orange hairs on their back pair of legs which act like little brushes, collecting pollen as they visit flowers. Hairy-footed flower bees have a long tongue which they use to probe into flask-shaped spring flowers such as primrose and lungwort (or pulmonaria). It is worth checking primroses and lungworts for this little bee, they have a faster, more zippy flight than a bumblebee and also a shrill buzz.

As spring progresses, have a look at the walls of your church or churchyard if they are lime mortared or cobb. The female will nest within the mortar of an old wall, making a small hole in which to lay eggs. These are 'solitary' bees, so they do not nest in a colony like honey bees and bumblebees.

Hairy-footed flower bees are a good example of the need to provide a range of flowers for pollinators, including both spring and autumn blooms. This bee is active until June and relies on early pollen to give them energy for their brief breeding season. Most churchyards contain primroses and perhaps you can include lungwort and comfrey in flower beds or planters as well. Please let us know if you see a hairy-footed flower bee, for those who love a phone or computer app, take a look at iNaturalist (uk.inaturalist.org) to confirm your identification and make a record of your spot.

All the best, Harriet Carty

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

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ACROSS: 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge.
12, Testimony. 17, Psalm. 19, Indulge. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as.
24, Beggar.

DOWN: 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten.
9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses.
20, Drake.

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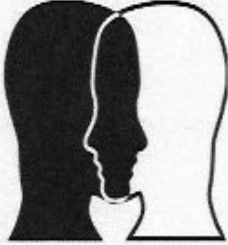
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NEW EDITOR URGENTLY REQUIRED.

At the moment no-one has offered to take over the production of this little magazine in its present form. We have received an offer to produce an online newsletter for which we are extremely grateful. However, it will be a sad thing if the printed version ceases to be available for use in people's homes and in the churches and other public places. There are many people who like to have the paper copy to read at their leisure and to have to hand for reference. Some people would not, or indeed could not, access a newsletter online.

During the last six years the production of this magazine has, at times, been a challenge, but also an achievement and it has brought me considerable satisfaction. Your kind comments have always been most welcome.

I would like to encourage the budding writers and editors amongst you to consider seriously "having a go". I am very happy to offer such assistance as might be needed to help a new editor to get started. All the copy is supplied and no articles or editorials are necessary. For more information please contact me, at churchfamilynews@gmail.com or on 01691 622198.

Andrew Thomson.



Winter aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*) seen in The Plantation, Ellesmere.

This beautiful little flower, a member of the buttercup family, is listed in my wild flower book as a three-star rarity. It may be seen among the snowdrops from January to March.