

CHURCH PAMILY NEWS

November 2022



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITYWeston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S Hordley 50p

Per issue

Editorial

I always feel that November is a sombre month - the clocks have changed and the evenings are drawing in. The month begins with the celebration of All Saints Day and the commemoration of the departed - All Souls - a time for treasuring memories of those who have gone before us,.

Then the days quickly pass on to Remembrance Day, and the remembering, honouring and lamenting all who have died in war. A time also for reflecting on the immense human sacrifice that war entails - there is nothing glorious about it, the cost is so great, as the war in Ukraine shows day after day. Details of all Remembrance services are on page 9.

The front and back covers this month feature the war memorials in Baschurch and Weston Lullingfields, and the inside back cover some of the features of the headstones marking war graves in our churchyards. There is a short note about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which maintains war graves all over the world (page 16).

Religious persecution is a brutal fact in so many countries of the world and in our own history. Pat Davies reports on page 6 on a conference of the Open Doors charity which supports persecuted Christians in many places, and Anita Weeks tells (on page 25) of a visit to Harvington Hall, which was a safe house for persecuted Catholic Priests in Elizabethan times. Thankfully, Anglicans and Roman Catholics have found over the last half century that they share so much in common and can walk together in friendship.

The autumn term at school is well under way, and we have a report from the Headteacher of Weston Lullingfields School on page 15. Its good to hear that the autumn term is going so brilliantly at the school.

Advent this year begins on the 27th of the month. It combines so many rich themes - the vast sweep of the story of God's self-revelation in the Bible, the way that even in the darkest places the light of hope shines, the sense of anticipation as we prepare for the coming of Christ. The Sunday before Advent used to be known as 'stir up Sunday'. It's not just about stirring the Christmas pud, but about us being stirred up to get ready for the coming of Christ - 'Stir up, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people' goes the old collect .

Finally, I should like to thank Mary Thomson for coordinating the advertisements in Church Family News over a number of years. She felt it was time to hand over the baton - and I am pleased that Angela Mayes has agreed to take up this crucial part of the work. Thank you to both!

Roger Paul (Editor)

CONTENTS

CLERGY MESSAGE	4
STANDING STRONG—OPEN DOORS CONFERENCE	6
FROM THE DIOCESAN ENABLING ALL ADVISOR	7
REMEMBRANCE SERVICES	8
BASCHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL	10
FOCUS ON CHURCH BASED GROUPS	11
COMMUNITY LUNCH	
LITTLE STARS	
THE CAFÉ AT ALL SAINTS	13
HORDLEY NEWS	14
WESTON LULLINGFIELDS SCHOOL NEWS	
COMMONWEALTH WARGRAVES	
CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE	17
SERVICES IN NOVEMBER	18
FROM THE REGISTERS	
DAILY READINGS	
CROSSWORD	22
SAINT OF THE MONTH - ST MARTIN OF TOURS	24
HARVINGTON HALL	25
WALKING TOGETHER - ANGLICANS AND ROMAN CATHOLICS	
INDEX OF ADVERTISERS	33
WHO'S WHO	34

SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

15th November 2022

to the new email address:

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CLERGY MESSAGE

Shameless audacity when talking to God?

The story is told of a young soldier during the American civil war whose brother and dad tragically died on the same day and so he needed to return home to help his mum and sister on their farm. His commanders would not let him go so he decided to seek permission from the president and he set off for the White House. However, no matter how much he pleaded, the guard at the White House gates wouldn't let him in and harshly sent him away.

The soldier left disheartened and sat on a park bench nearby when a little boy came up to him and asked him why he was looking so unhappy. The soldier explained his situation and need to see the president and to his surprise the little boy said "I can help you, soldier". The boy took the soldier by the hand and led him back to the front gate of the White House where they walked straight in with no comment form the guards. They then walked right past generals and high-ranking officials and still no one said a word. The soldier couldn't understand this. Why didn't anyone try to stop them?

Eventually he got to the Oval Office and the little boy didn't even knock, he just walked right in and led the soldier in with him. There behind the desk was Abraham Lincoln and his Secretary of State, looking over battle plans that were laid out on his desk. The president looked at the boy and then at the soldier and said, "Good afternoon, Todd. Can you introduce me to your friend?" Todd Lincoln, the son of the president, said, "Daddy, this soldier needs to talk to you." The soldier pleaded his case before Mr. Lincoln, and right then and there he received the exemption that he desired.

This story reminds me of something Jesus said in Luke 11 about approaching God when his disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. Jesus tells a parable about a man who needs help from his friend in the middle of the night and he says that the man gets the help he needs because of his 'shameless audacity'. The book of Hebrews similarly tells us, 'approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.' (Hebrews 4.16)

What gives humans the right to come straight into the presence of the holy and almighty God despite all our frequent failings and weaknesses? The answer is Jesus, he is our Todd Lincoln. He is the son who has the right to lead

us straight into the throne room of God.

Often, we feel that there is no way that we could connect with God – 'he just wouldn't want to know me' we think. But this could not be further from the truth. God loves us and we are his kids. We might not feel good or clean enough to stand before God, but Jesus, through his death and resurrection, has opened the door for us to know him. Luke 11 is clear, God is a perfect dad, full of loving-kindness, who wants to hear you, talk to you and help you.

When we pray God doesn't expect special words or for us to be in a special place like a church (although we would love to see you sometime!). All you need to do is simply find somewhere quiet and tell him what is going on in your life and ask him to speak and guide. Millions of us can testify that amazing things happen when we pray. Your heavenly Father longs to hear from you and do you good, so take a moment and come with 'shameless audacity' into his presence this day.

Rev Steve Alston, Curate

PRAYER

by George Herbert (1593-1633)

Prayer, the Churches banquet, Angels age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth;
Engine against th' Almightie, sinner's towre,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six daies world-transposing in an houre,
A kinde of tune, which all things heare and fear;
Softnesse, and peace, and joy, and love, and blisse,
Exalted Manna, gladnesse of the best,
Heaven in ordinarie, man well drest,
The milkie way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bels beyond the stars heard, the souls bloud,
The land of spices, something understood.

STANDING STRONG

Deborah Coatsworth and I recently had the pleasure of attending the Open Doors Annual Conference, "Standing Strong" in Nottingham.

The first part of the day involved two seminars, the first led by Bishop Daniel of Iraq and the second by two Christians from Afghanistan, "Lydia" and her daughter "Hannah" (names changed to protect their identity). All three spoke movingly of the persecution of Christians in their home countries.

Christians in Iraq

In 2014 thousands of Christians in Iraq were forced to flee from their homes to escape Al Qaeda and ISIS and many were sheltered by the Church in summer temperatures of 50 deg. Houses and churches were burned and schools and hospitals destroyed.

1600 people alone were supported by Bishop Daniel's church with resources from Open Doors. These allowed rebuilding to take place with new schools and trauma healing centres. Many people never returned and in the face of such brutality many lost their faith in Christ.

Today the Church in Iraq, although diminished in numbers, remains strong and many have been ignited by the fire of faith. The Church offers spiritual guidance and a safe space for children and in Father Daniels's words " puts a smile on peoples faces" He emphasised how much the Christian Iraqis are sustained by the prayers of Open Doors and fellow Christians, they mean so much.

Christians in Afghanistan

Lydia and Hannah spoke movingly of the day in August last year when the Taliban once more took control of Afghanistan and in an instant the 20 years of peace and hope they had experienced was taken away. Both are devout Christians, Lydia married to a Church pastor and their lives and those of their fellow Christians are now in peril.

All the women in Afghanistan lost their jobs - police officers, lawyers, teachers etc - and all their rights were removed. Hannah spoke of a baby girl born that day who they took to be a sign of hope for the future.

Their faith remains strong however and in Hannah's words "in the midst of it all Jesus walked with us" The events of the last year have drawn people closer and within the Christian community there is an emphasis on looking out for each other, knowing where everyone is and how to call for help when danger arises.

Small projects are helping women to support themselves as witnessed by an Open Doors worker who sat in a room of women stitching with their children playing at their feet in a safe environment. Lydia and Hannah both spoke of how important the prayers of Open Doors and Christians worldwide are to them, they are sustained in their darkest times by the outpouring of love and prayers.

The Conference ended with prayers and songs and no-one could fail to be moved by what we heard. Hopefully the audience were as inspired as Deborah and I to continue to support our fellow Christians facing persecution, through our daily prayers and through the work of Open Doors.

Pat Davies

From the Diocesan Enabling All Advisor ARE WE ACCIDENTALLY 'ABLEIST'?

It's been a weird time lately hasn't it? The woman who embodied the strength and pride of a family of nations, succumbed, as we all must, to the destiny we all share, in the shedding and resting of the body which has worked hard in the carrying of hopes, fears, service, power and children.

The last six months of speculation about the Queen's failing health, being kept discretely out of sight lest anyone think less of her, has taken me back to a time when I couldn't face going to the one place

and gathering where my comfort, strength & hopes were most readily found - church.

I stayed away for about 18 months... it was just too embarrassing, too difficult. I couldn't face not blending in, not standing up (like you are told to) for those hymn verses (HOW many?!). People would think I was either disrespectful or a nuisance, causing a fuss etc. It was best for everyone if I stayed at home, kept the mobility aids I begrudgingly used out of sight, just like Her Majesty and her PR team chose to do.

I wonder if anyone dared to challenge the Queen's thinking about this? I am glad that someone challenged me. In the way that perhaps only good friends can, she 'socked it to me' straight!! She told me that I was being prejudiced about being seen as disabled. She called me "ableist"! I was mortified - because she was right.

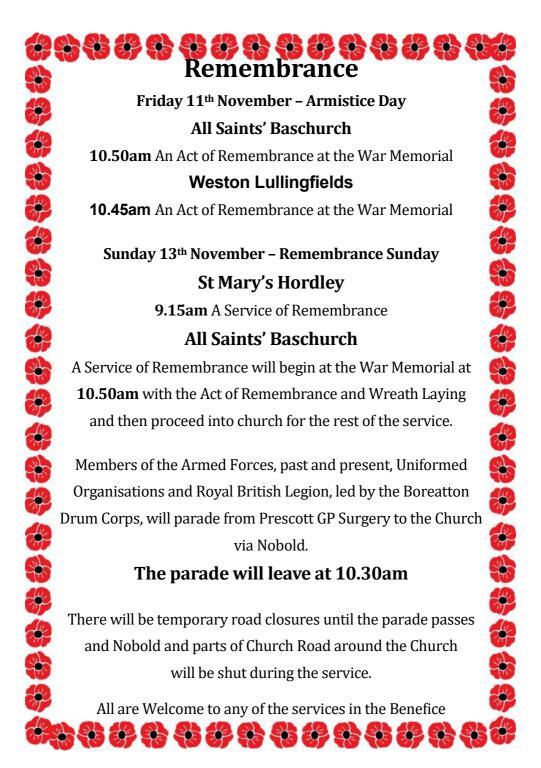
Fast forward 10 years and using a walking stick and wheelchair in my full time work and ministry as a vicar and someone who helps churches to put things in place so that nobody feels like a nuisance or a bother. Our churches are places of invitation, where people may find comfort, strength to face difficult days, friendship and hope which transcends the struggles of our frail, limited bodies and lives.

So now I recognise the prejudice, the 'ableism' in myself, the world around me and in the church I have made vows to faithfully serve. As

Christians this isn't yet another 'ism' we are afraid to be caught out being - accidentally or otherwise. It's something we should help one another to change so that nobody would be too embarrassed or ashamed to seek prayer, worship, comfort and fellowship in their parish church.

There are actually loads of simple and cheap ways to begin this journey in our churches. I'd love to share them with you so why not join a growing network of parishes learning together how to be the one place people can come truly as they are and find the grace we all need.

Revd Zoe Hemings is the diocese's Enabling All Advisor and vicar of Newport.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



All Saints' Church Sat 26th & Sun 27th November 11am to 4pm

Shrewsbury Concert Band - Saturday pm Shrewsbury Light Orchestra - Sunday pm

If you would like to display a tree or would like a stall contact Mary Cox 07807001739 01939 261329

FOCUS ON CHURCH BASED GROUPS

Many different church based groups meet on a regular basis during the week in our benefice, but what do they do, and who goes to them? In the pages that follow, we focus on three groups. Although they all meet in All Saints Baschurch, they are open to people from all three parishes. Other groups will be featured in future magazines.

Community Lunch.

The Community Lunch at All Saints' has been running on Thursday lunch times for several years now. It begins at about 12.15pm. Volunteers provide a light lunch of soup and rolls, cheese and biscuits and usually fruit and cake.

The lunch is open to all ages and is free of charge although a small donation (maximum £3) is welcomed if people wish to donate.

During the pandemic and COVID lockdown the lunches had to stop, but I am pleased to say that they are now up and running, fully. Friends, old and new, are welcome to join or re-join us now that we are all able to meet freely together.

We would very much like to encourage anyone who wishes to take advantage of good food, good company, warmth and excellent conversation for an hour or so to come along.

As <u>all ages are welcome</u>, we would be delighted to welcome anyone from children and young families to our Senior Citizens

We would also love to hear from anyone who has a small amount of spare time and would be willing to volunteer at the lunches. At present each volunteer provides the lunch about every 8 weeks and in addition helps at one other lunch during that period. Any donations given help to pay for the food and any monies left over go into the church funds and is used to help pay for heating and other church needs.

Lynne Siviter

(Community Lunch Co-ordinator)

LITTLE STARS

Little Stars, our baby and toddler group at All Saints' finally restarted in Sept 2021. It was perfect timing as families were emerging from isolating lockdowns which had been preventing them from meeting up with other parents and young children. It was quite evident that this was a much needed group as parents were telling us there was nowhere locally offering a group such as this.

Week by week we were getting more newcomers and currently we have had over 40 parents and grandparents bringing along their little ones, not all coming every week thankfully, as this has posed a bit of a problem as we are outgrowing our social area, but good in another way as its given us the need to think how our church can be re-modelled to cater for the needs of the community as well as our regular church congregation.

We also see Little Stars as a mission opportunity to reach out to members of the community who might not, for a number of reasons, attend regular worship. We now have some of the families attending our Forest Church which is held every month.

At each session of Little Stars we offer a friendly space where parents can chat over a cup of tea or coffee, served by Fred who also does tasty snacks for the children. We have lots of toys and there's always a creative activity, play dough and colouring activities to keep everyone amused. Each session includes a simple Christian story, choruses and a prayer along with singing nursery rhymes and songs with lots of music making with the instruments.

So if you have a pre school child or know of anyone who has, do invite them to come along to All Saints' every Wednesday in term time from 9 til 11 am. We'd love to see you.

Mary Cox



THE CAFE at All SAINTS'

The Cafe has been running for almost 5 years now. Originally it was held on a Monday afternoon with just a few attending but switching to Monday morning it has now has a good regular attendance.

We have our regulars each week and also people calling in who are just passing by, some are visiting the area, some call in to look at the church and stop for a coffee and then we have mums and grandparents bringing their children for a cuppa and play, so it's always a surprise how many we get.

If you're new to the village it's a good way to meet other members of the community. Tea, coffee and cake is served at every Monday morning from 10.15 to 11.45 hosted by a team volunteers who kindly give their time once in a while to help run it. Where else can you get tea/coffee and cake for £1!

Mary Cox

All Saints "100 CLUB" Winners - October 2022

No 16 Rachel Lugg; No 19 Angela Price; No 130 Clare Tunnadine





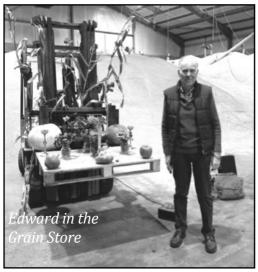
HORDLEY NEWS

Eleven members of St Mary's were out and about for the Ride and Stride this year, enjoying themselves and raising money for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and our own church in Hordley. Between us we visited forty-three churches, extending from Kingsley, north of Chester, to Snailbeach, in the south.

It is always a pleasure to find items of interest in a church one has not visited before. Of particular note to us was the small church at Newtown, near Wem, which had intriguing windows and a set of hemispherical bells; also of note were the beautiful box pews at Worthen.

We thank all our sponsors who contributed and encouraged us and as a result £830 was raised, half of which will go towards the grants given to needy churches and half will be returned to St Mary's.

Our Harvest Service was held in the grain store at Red House Farm, a



practice that was begun during the pandemic and found to be a noteworthy experience! This year it was even better attended with thirty-three present, who all stayed to enjoy the refreshments. We are grateful to Edward and Anne Jones for making this possible and to John Willis and Charmaine Hollis for assistance, not forgetting the providers of tasty food and the actors in the dramatic sketch, always a highlight!

The next PCC meeting will be on Wednesday 16th November.

The winner of the lottery draw in October was Doreen Kennerley with number 21.

Mary Thomson



Hello from Mrs Madin, headteacher at Weston Lullingfields CE Primary

The Autumn Term at Weston Lullingfields CE Primary is going brilliantly. The children are working extremely hard and really getting stuck into their learning.

In our Thursday celebration assemblies we share what we have been learning about during the week, our highlights and, of course, who our Stars of the Week are. We are always so very proud of their achievements, whether it is mastering a new skill, like learning a times tables, or showing one of our school values, such

as being kind to our friends. Our children, some of whom flexi school, also share what they have been up to outside of school and bring in things to show us that they are proud of which always adds to the interest.

Our new group of worship leaders had a fabulous day at the church in Kinnerley with our other schools and our whole school has explored the subject of prayer with Rev Steve.

We have had a few sporting events too - net ball, tag rugby and bowling so far!



Our Values

Weston Lullingfields has courage at its heart -

Courage to persevere when faced with challenge.

Courage to show kindness and respect to all we meet.

Courage to take responsibility for our own actions.

Courage to experience and express joy as we learn and grow.

Courage to forgive and accept forgiveness.

Small school, Big Family, with God

We have lots of exciting things coming up - making Mr and Mrs Apple Heads as we prepare for our Harvest Service in the church, and of course Christmas and all its associated fun will be here before we know it.

Staff are busy creating new curriculum plans too as we seek to keep building and enhancing our curriculum offer. We will be having more exciting new themes coming after half term to keep our children learning and happy.



Enjoying Autumn leaves!

Mrs Madin, Headteacher



War Graves in our Churchyards

On or near the gate of each of our churchyards in the benefice, you will see assign indicating that there are war graves there. The headstones on each grave are easily identified - all have a simple cross and the insignia of the regiment in which the person buried there served. All the headstones are also a distinctive shape, which

makes them stand out amongst the other graves.

The war graves are cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, whose work is to 'honour and care for the men and women of the Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars, ensuring they will never be forgotten. Funded by six Member Governments, our work began more than a century ago building cemeteries at 23,000 locations all over the world.'

On the inside back page, you will see a selection of the insignia found on the headstones of the war graves of our parishes.

Editor



Looking at Lichens

November can be a quiet month for wildlife spotting apart from fungi, but have you ever taken a closer look at the lichens growing on the monuments within your churchyard? Forming a mosaic of colour these vary from simple, powdery scatterings and crusts to more elaborate leafy or

even bushy structures. They are particularly rich and varied in unpolluted sites with clean air.

Lichens consist of two or more organisms living together as one. This is usually a fungus which forms the visible part of the lichen and within, protected by the fungal threads, are algal cells which can photosynthesise and provide food for the whole lichen. So, the fungus gets food and the algae gets shelter!

Churchyards are outstanding for lichens; there are approximately 2,000 lichen species in the UK, over 700 of these have been found in churchyards with half of them rarely if ever found elsewhere. Churchyard monuments provide a range of rock types with nooks and crannies caused by the monument shape and the carving of words and symbols. All of these nooks and crannies may have slightly different conditions of substrate, light, moisture and temperature which may suit different lichen species.

Lichens start to colonise as soon as something is set still, be it stone, wood or even rubber dustbin lids! Take a look at your older monuments and think how long the lichens may have been slowly growing there. The British Lichen Society has surveyed most churchyards so visit our atlas of biological records (<u>burialgrounds.nbnatlas.org</u>) and see how many have been found in churchyards near you.

Lichens don't need us to look after them but do need unchanging conditions so please encourage people to resist scrubbing them off, which also scratches the stone and makes it erode quicker, try and prevent ivy from smothering them and if a monument needs moving, try and erect it in the same orientation so that the conditions of light and shade remain constant. Other than that, take a magnifying glass and slip into the amazing miniature world of lichens......

All the best, Harriet Carty

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

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 6th November - 3rd Sunday before Advent

8am BCP Holy Communion at All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Worship for All at Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingifelds

11am CW Holy Communion at All Saints' Baschurch

6.30pm Contemporary Worship at All Saints' Baschurch

Readings:

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-end & Luke 20:27-38

Friday 11th November

Acts of Remembrance at the War Memorials

10.45am Weston Lullingfields (near the school)

10.50am at All Saints' Baschurch

Sunday 13th November – Remembrance Sunday

9.15am Remembrance Service at St Mary's Hordley

10.50am Remembrance Service at All Saints' Baschurch

The Service begins outside at the War Memorial before moving into Church for the remainder of the service. The Parade will leave the GP surgery at 10.30am and come via Nobold.

Readings:

Micah 4:1-5 & Romans 8:31-end

Sunday 20th November – Christ the King

8am BCP Holy Communion at All Saints; Baschurch

9.30am CW Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am Confirmation service with Bishop Michael

Readings:

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Colossians 1:11-20 & Luke 23:33-43

Sunday 27th November - Advent Sunday

9.15am CW Holy Communion at St Mary's Hordley

10am CW Holy Communion at All Saints' Baschurch

Please note the earlier time, due to Christmas Tree event

4pm Service to end the Christmas Tree Festival

Readings:

Isaiah 2:1-5 & Matthew 24:36-44

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms:

Saturday 24th September at All Saints' Baschurch Elliott Shaun Stealey

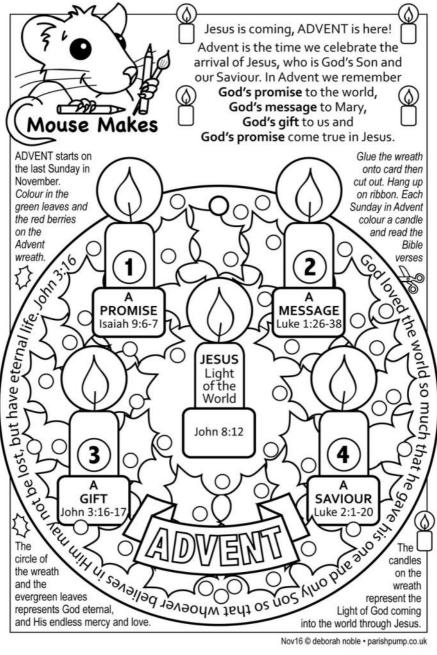
Funerals:

Friday 23rd September – Lilian Kelly aged 89 years at All Saints' Baschurch

NEW TESTAMENT DAILY PRAYER READINGS for Morning Prayer in November

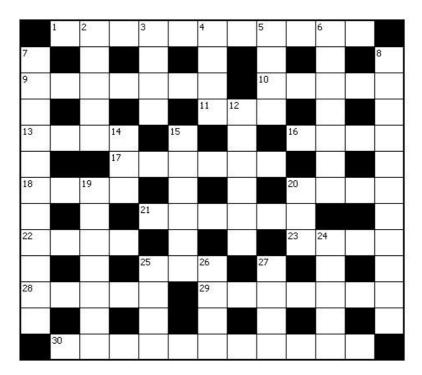
DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Luke 9:18-27	16	Revelation 11:15-end
2	Revelation 2:12-end	17	Revelation 12
3	Revelation 3:1-13	18	Revelation 13:1-10
4	Revelation 3:14-end	19	Revelation 13:11-end
5	Revelation 4	20	Zechariah 6:9-end
6	James 3: 13-end	21	Revelation 14:1-13
7	Revelation 5	22	Revelation 14:14-end of chapter 15
8	Revelation 6	23	Revelation 16:1-11
9	Revelation 7:1-4, 9-end	24	Revelation 16:12-end
10	Revelation 8	25	Revelation 17
11	Revelation 9:1-12	26	Revelation 18
12	Revelation 9:13-end	27	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
13	Matthew 13:44-52	28	Revelation 19
14	Revelation 10	29	Revelation 20
15	Revelation 11:1-14	30	John 12:20-32

MOUSE MAKES—ADVENT



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CROSSWORD



Clues Across

- $1\,$ and $20\,$ Down 'Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy' (11,3)
- 9 Mosesí question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)
- 11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but $_$ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather

- than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
- 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Clues Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3 Way out (4)
- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14 Frozen (3)
- 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
- 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
- 20 See 1 Across
- 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25 Time (anag.) (4)
- 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)

Solution on page 33.

St Martin in Hordley Church in the act of cutting his cloak

SAINT OF THE MONTH St Martin of Tours

This winter, when many may be feeling the cold, think of Martin of Tours. This monk bishop, born in Pannonia (now Hungary) became one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages.

Martin's father was a pagan officer in the Roman Army, and Martin was intended for the army as well. But from an early age Martin wanted to be a Christian, and felt that as a Christian he could not serve the Roman Empire. Martin was imprisoned for this early 'conscientious objection', and not released until 357, when he was nearly 40.

One day Martin met a nearly naked beggar at Amiens. He took off his cloak, cut it in half and gave the half to the beggar. Soon after this, he had a dream in which Christ appeared to him, wearing the half of the cloak which Martin had given away.

Martin was the pioneer of western monasticism: he founded the first monastery in the whole of Gaul about 360. He was made bishop of Tours in 372 – by popular demand of both his clergy and his people.

As bishop, Martin continued his simple life as a monk and evange-list. Christianity had been largely confined to the urban centres of population, but Martin went further, and took Christianity to the country-side. For the next 25 years this greatly loved bishop travelled his diocese by donkey and by boat, preaching the good news of Jesus Christ. He was sought out for his healing prayers for the sick, and also his defence of the faith against heresies.

Martin's emblem in English art is often that of a goose, whose annual migration is about this time of year. 'St Martin's Summer' in England is a spell of fine weather that sometimes occurs around 11th November.

HARVINGTON HALL

We recently visited Harvington Hall, situated in Worcestershire between Bromsgrove and Kidderminster. It is a moated medieval and Elizabethan manor house in Chaddesley Corbett. It is now owned by the Roman Catholic Church, the Archdiocese of Birmingham and still has a chapel which is regularly used for mass. It was



gifted in 1923 by a catholic lady named Mrs Ellen Ryan Ferris. It is currently half of its original size because two additional wings were demolished around 1700.

Humphrey Pakington inherited the estate in 1578 and is responsible for many of the features which are well known today. He was a Catholic during the harsh Elizabethan penal laws. He was a *recusant* which means that he refused to follow the practices of the Church of England – such as attending a church service on Sundays. There were heavy fines for anyone not attending church. Initially it cost 12p a week but increased to £20 per month (about £4000 today). In 1585 it became illegal for Catholic priests to be in England. Humphrey had numerous priest hides (or priest holes) in the Hall to protect Catholic priests or visitors. There were over 30 in all but only 7 remain today and our guided tour included 5 of them. Some of them were constructed by the master carpenter Nicholas Owen, a Jesuit lay brother. If the authorities caught a priest in the house or anyone listening to the mass in Latin the consequences were terrible torture and execution.

We had an excellent guided tour but there are freeflow tickets too. Our tour took us from the kitchen at the bottom (complete with a well in the kitchen floor) up through several floors, seeing dining rooms and bedrooms. There are also some rare Elizabethan wall paintings, original wall paintings, original panelling and floorboards.

We were joined for our picnic lunch by a number of optimistic ducks!

Anita Weeks

WALKING TOGETHER - Anglicans and Roman Catholics

Anita Weeks' article on the previous page refers to the religious persecutions of Roman Catholic recusants in the 16th Century, for whom Harvington Hall was a safe house. There is a stark reminder of the cost of being a Catholic priest in England at this time in the Venerable English College in Rome, which was set up in the 16th Century to train English Catholic priests. It depicts the journey of a newly ordained priest back to England, and how it would inevitably end with capture, torture and martyrdom.

The long period of Catholic exclusion from public life continued until the Catholic Emancipation Act in 1829, which led to the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in 1850. St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham was one of the first of the new Catholic Cathedrals, being consecrated in 1841, and raised to the status of cathedral in 1852. It is one of Augustus Welby Pugin's finest architectural achievements.

In the present day, the Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham is the Most Revd Bernard Longley, whom I had the pleasure of working with when he was co-chair of the English Anglican - Roman Catholic Committee, which serves to promote unity and understanding between our two churches in practical ways. Archbishop Bernard is also the current co-chair of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), which was set up in 1969, following the historic meeting between Archbishop Michael Ramsey and Pope Paul VI in 1966.

ARCIC has worked steadily and meticulously over the years through the issues which have historically divided Anglicans and Roman Catholics, and has demonstrated that on essentials the two churches stand on common ground and that much of the disagreement arises over misunderstanding. Under Archbishop Bernard's wise leadership, the commission is now looking closely at authority in the Church and the ways local churches, perhaps within a nation or region, relates to the Church Universal. - touching on the most sensitive areas of our differences.

We have come a long way since Elizabethan times and there is a way to go towards the visible unity of the Church, but we may still walk together. Pope Francis said in May 2022, "Catholics and Anglicans are called to walk together, moving forward, leaving behind the things that divide, past and present, and keeping our gaze fixed on Jesus and the goal that he desires and points out to us: the goal of visible unity between us."

Roger Paul



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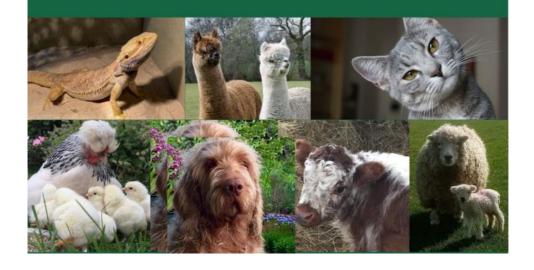
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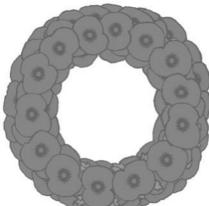
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Answers to Crossword on pages 24 and 25

ACROSS: 1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16. Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.

DOWN: 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

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