

October 2022



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S
Hordley

50p
Per issue

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926—2022



“The Queen lived a remarkable life of faithful service and maintained strength, courage and grace as she led our country through countless changes and challenges. She has served all our communities tirelessly and lived a life the like of which we are unlikely ever to witness again.

“The Queen’s strong personal faith in Jesus Christ informed her sense of duty and her role as Defender of the Faith. We pray now that she finds rest and peace, assured by her faith, and for our cathedral and other churches across the diocese in the coming days and weeks as they offer a place of consolation for all those who mourn.

“We also pray for His Majesty King Charles III at the beginning of his reign and we pray that he may know comfort as he grieves his mother’s death.”

*Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave
The Bishop of Lichfield*

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SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

15th October 2022

To the new email address:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

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EDITORIAL

The season of Autumn—that ‘season of mists and mellow fruitfulness’ of which John Keats wrote in his most well-known ode—arrived all of a sudden after one of the hottest spells since records began. Keats died at the age of 26—so young—in the middle of February 1821, a fitting time for such a tragically young death. Who knows what he might have gone on to achieve if he had lived longer?

The nation mourned a very different death at the onset of this Autumn—our beloved Queen, Elizabeth II. Life will not be the same for us, but with the perspective of time passing we may remember her life as a remarkable, unique gift, notable for its fruitfulness, fitting to the season. As Jesus said, ‘By their fruits ye shall know them’. Our rector, Linda, gives a lovely tribute to the Queen in her letter on page 5.

The harvest is nearly all gathered in, and October sees its celebration in our Harvest Festivals in the three churches and the Harvest Lunch in Weston Lullingfields. All the details of harvest services are included in the schedule of worship and on page 16, and other harvest events in the news sections for each parish.

Apart from regular features, the Bishop of Lichfield, writing about Prisons Week, reminds us of the importance of praying for prisoners and families (page 13), there is more about the Ride and Stride for the Historic Churches trust (page 19), and an account of a visit to the archaeological dig at Nesscliffe Hill Fort (page 11).

New Email Address for Church Family News

Finally, due to technical issues, the email address of Church Family News has had to be changed. Please note that the new email address is:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

Please send all material to new address from now on.

Roger Paul (Editor)

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

As I write this letter we are adjusting to the deeply sad news that Queen Elizabeth II has died. Despite being 96 years old, and witnessing her ever-increasing frailty, it has come as a shock to us all.

Over her 70 years as our Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II has been a stable fixture in many people's lives. She was not only our head of our State but also head of the Commonwealth, Supreme Governor of the Church of England and Defender of the Faith. Her roles and duties were many and varied and she came into contact with people from all walks of life. She was the patron of over 600 charities and organizations ranging from opportunities for Young People, to preservation of wildlife and the environment. She maintained a deep bond with the armed forces throughout her reign and was committed to public service, which she fulfilled with dedication, stamina and resilience until the end.

Many people may wonder how Her Late Majesty kept going and why she didn't abdicate and hand the job over to her son. Well quite simply because of her faith in God and the vow she made on her 21st birthday

“I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.”

Her Majesty The Queen 21st April 1947

The Queen did not hide her faith, quite the opposite, she often spoke about how her faith gave her the strength to serve her country and to serve God. In her first Christmas broadcast in 1952, before her coronation year she asked the following of her people:

“Pray for me...that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.”

The Queen often quoted her faith in her Christmas broadcast and how it related to everyday life. In 2000 she said this:

“For me the teachings of Christ and my personal accountability be-

fore God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life.

I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.

I believe that the Christian message, in the words of a familiar blessing, remains profoundly important to us all:

**‘Go forth into the world in peace,
be of good courage,
hold fast that which is good,
render to no man evil for evil,
strengthen the faint-hearted,
support the weak,
help the afflicted,
honour all men.’**

It is a simple message of compassion – and yet as powerful as ever today, 2000 years after Christ's birth.”

The Queen never professed one favourite passage of scripture but did often talk about the Parable of the Good Samaritan and used that as an example of how we should treat each other and how each of us is the other's neighbour.

Queen Elizabeth II lived her life following the example of Christ, an example for us all to follow. Her duty is now done, Christ served her well, as she served Him.

As we head into autumn a time when we watch the leaves fall we might reflect on the end of an era that The Queen's death brings. October is also the month that ends with us remembering our own loved ones who have died in our Lights of Love service, an end of an era in our own families. 1 Corinthians 15 verse 36 onwards, speaks about how a seed put into the ground does not grow until it dies first. With the resurrection of the dead our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but are then raised to live forever, perfected through Christ's work. As our loved ones and The Queen are raised to new life in God's glorious kingdom, so we are left to begin life under a new era here on earth.

When we turn to Christ and follow Him, we are each offered the opportunity of new life. The Good News of Jesus Christ transforms us, we become changed more and more into the image of Christ. A Saviour who loves unconditionally,

welcomes all and serves us.

This year in the Lights of Love service we will be giving out Lily of the Valley, a symbol of rebirth and humility, The Queen's favourite flower. For the Victorians it signified a return to happiness.

Our Country and the Commonwealth have a new King, Charles III, he will need our prayers and our support as he follows in his mother's, The Queen's footsteps. King Charles has himself spoken about his faith and we will pray that God will guide and strengthen him and give him wisdom as he fulfills those duties now placed upon his shoulders. May the journey ahead see new life for us all as we follow the example of Christ in our lives and a return to happiness as we journey on without those we love.

Linda

HORDLEY NEWS

The main item of news from Hordley this month is The Ride and Stride for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. You can read something about it elsewhere in this magazine where you will see that, although some of us toured local churches on or before the 10th of September, the official date has been changed to the 24th out of respect for Her Majesty. Nevertheless, eleven participants enjoyed a hot supper together on the 10th and the money raised so far is £665. The final figure will appear in the next issue.

We are looking forward to celebrating our Harvest service on Thursday the 13th October in the grain-store at Red Hall Farm at 7:30 pm. Previous services held in the grain-store have been well attended and very successful. They were instigated during the pandemic by the kind invitation of Mr Edward Jones.

The winner of the lottery draw in September was Meryl Batho with number 6.

BASCHURCH NEWS

All Saints "100 Club" Winners

Sept 2022

No 85 Rita Markell

No 98 Tony Owen

Oswestry and the Borders Food Bank

For many years our Benefice has supported local Foodbanks, originally the one running at Ellesmere. Following its closure in 2020 we have regularly delivered supplies to the Oswestry Food Bank. In addition we now have the Porch Pantry at All Saints for villagers to access.

Members of the congregations have been very generous particularly during lockdown when there was enormous demand for the service. Over the last 2 years we have delivered carloads of supplies which have been much appreciated.

You will no doubt be aware from recent publicity that the demand for food is even greater now with the huge increase in the cost of living. Families face a desperate winter and Food Banks face running out of supplies.

This is an appeal to members of our congregations who may be able to donate a little more at this time of crisis. We collect donations at home (6. Westfields Close) and deliver to Oswestry every 3-4 weeks, usually on a Monday morning. If you need donations collecting or require any other information please contact us on 01939 261081 or at thepatdavies@hotmail.com

Please consider whether you are able to respond at this time of great need.

Pat & Glyn Davies

TEAM QUIZ NIGHT

A quiz with a difference – you will be able to buy answers, play a joker and try and beat other teams over 6 rounds on such topics as

Sport, Music, Geography, Famous Sons and Daughters of Shropshire & a picture round that's almost impossible....

Friday 7th October at Baschurch Village Hall

Teams of up to 6 are welcome, £6/team, all and any clubs, friends and neighbours who have ever got a question right on Pointless will be especially useful... There will be a cash bar and light refreshments to buy and all proceeds go to the Church.

Tickets from Andy on 07577646344 or tritriman@icloud.com

**All Saints' Church, Baschurch
Sunday 30th October 2022**

at
6pm

'Lights of Love'

**A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for all
those we have known and loved who have died.**

All are Welcome

**You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments
after the service.**

**An opportunity for private prayer
will also be available if you would like it.**

Harvest Lunch

All Saints Baschurch and Holy
Trinity Weston Lullingfields

Please note the change of
date to

**Sunday 16th
October at 1pm**

at Weston Lullingfields
Village Hall

Tickets available from
Ruth Lake and Anne Roberts
and All Saints Social
Committee

RUTH'S ART GROUP

Ruth's art group has started again in All
Saints' church on Mondays at 10.15 am.

All welcome.

Bring your own materials if you can,
but other supplies will be available.

All donations for tutoring will go to-
wards the cost of All Saints' church
roof repairs.

For more information please contact
Ruth Hodson-Walker on 01939 260257

NEWS FROM WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

Harvest Festival

Saturday 22nd October 2022

Church Service
begins at 6.00pm



Opening of the
Porch Pantry
All donations
welcome

And afterwards in
the Village Hall from
7.00pm

Band Night

THE LOCALS
LIVE MUSIC FROM THE
50'S TO THE PRESENT DAY!

Food
Bar *Raffle* *Entry £5 on the door*

Everyone Welcome at the Service or the Village Hall

Please note that the Harvest Lunch date is now Sunday 16th October 2022 in the Village Hall –see poster from last month for

Excursion to Nesscliffe Hillfort

In August we went to the Open Day at the archaeological excavations of the Nesscliffe Hillfort. The work there, a collaborative initiative, is led by archaeologists of Oxford University.

The hillfort is thought to have been built around 600 to 500 BCE. The team are hoping to find organic material which would allow carbon dating.



Whoever organized the construction was able to command a significant workforce. They hacked ditches down into the rock, leaving clear vertical marks showing the strokes of their pick-axes. Some massive blocks of stone were set in place as the foundation course of a wall. It would have need-

ed many, working together, to collect them, to move them and to put them in position.

The hilltop looked different back then. It was heathland, bare of trees and clad in heather. The tall conifers there today were planted by the Earl of Bradford, who once owned the hill. The fort would have made a powerful statement of its presence in the landscape. Post holes along their top suggest the ramparts were crowned with a wooden palisade. The edifice would have been visible for many kilometres around.

It has not been established whether the fort was continuously occupied by its builders, or whether it was a place of more occasional gathering – for rituals, for tribal meetings, for markets or for defence when threatened. A geo-physical survey hints there may have been a roundhouse within the ramparts. That will be investigated during a further dig next summer.

The archaeologists will be submitting a bid for National Lottery funding to continue their work, and to remove trees to restore the heathland environment of the hill.

Anita Weeks



'FOREST CHURCH'

What's it all about?

Humans were designed for relationship. Relationship with God, relationship with each other and relationship with the created world. In most church services we focus on relationship with God and each other and sometimes forget about how we relate our amazing world. This is where Forest Church comes in. On the fourth Sunday of each month, we have a short family friendly service in All Saints' churchyard – whatever the weather (almost!).

The service is very active and lasts about half an hour followed by hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows. In August there were over 25 of us and we used Psalm 8 to help us think about animals. We prayed, we sang, we searched for animals in the churchyard (we found nearly 20 different types from hedgehogs to birds to bees) and then we thanked Jesus for the amazing animal diversity in the world. Finally, we thought about endangered animals and asked for Jesus to help us care for the world better. We had a lovely time and some children made beautiful seahorses in between toasting marshmallows.



This is a service for anyone whatever your age, so come and join us in October, but bring a coat or brolly if it looks a bit cold or wet as we always aim to be outside. Next service 23rd October at 4pm, All Saints' Baschurch.

Revd Steve Alston, Assistant Curate



ON THE RECORD

Rt Revd Michel Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield, writes

October sees Prisons Week (www.prisonsworld.org), a reminder to Christians to pray for all those affected by crime and imprisonment. More than 80,000 people are incarcerated in the UK at any one time, but it is very easy for those of us 'outside' to forget

about these members of our society, as well as the officers, education and care workers, visitors and other members of the prison community – and the dedicated clergy and lay people who minister as chaplains and as chaplaincy volunteers. The Diocese of Lichfield has one of the highest numbers of prisons of any diocese of the Church of England, and whenever I visit any of them I am struck by the intense, isolated and often pressured atmosphere in these environments. Ministry in such situations is immediate, costly, and can be very demanding; it can also make dramatic differences in the lives of broken people. If prison life seems strange, distant and frightening to many of us, we should remember that for the earliest Christians it was often a present reality: 'Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them', the author of the Letter to the Hebrews wrote (Hebrews 13.3).

Churches and Christians outside can build a sense of connection with those inside in several ways. It is good certainly to learn more about the realities of prison life in order to inform our prayer and attitudes, to go beyond simplistic headlines and slogans in order to understand some of the real challenges facing people in our criminal justice system. The Prisons Week website, for example, has some good resources and links to help with this, and of course prison chaplains and visitors can speak powerfully from their own experience. I am impressed by the number of faithful church members who give of their time, energy and wisdom in supporting the work of chaplaincies and other prison departments as volunteers, helping some of the most helpless members of our society with friendship, encouragement and skills.

And of course there can be great opportunities for individual Christians and churches to be involved at what can be the most challenging points in prisoners' lives: their release from prison. In our diocese, I am proud of the Yellow Ribbon Community Chaplaincy, [Yellow Ribbon – Community Chaplaincy \(yellowribbonuk.org.uk\)](http://yellowribbonuk.org.uk), offering faith based support to people looking to change their lives by breaking patterns of criminality.

Another way in which churches can fruitfully engage with the criminal justice system is through hosting Community Payback projects. As part or a whole of their sentence, some people will be given orders to perform a certain period of unpaid work in a community setting. Such schemes are overseen by the Probation Service, who are very keen to look for partnerships with churches (and other faith groups) in offering suitable situations for this. Supervision is provided by probation officers, and the practical benefits for churches can be considerable – for example, in clearing or restoring churchyards or other areas of land; in redecorating or repairing halls or other buildings; in assisting with the setting up and running of Places of Welcome. Beyond the material results, though, there can be the opportunities to build new relationships of friendship, trust and appreciation with people for whom those values have often been in short supply. In one village, for example, a group of women in the parish started providing tea and buns for a group of young men working in the churchyard on a community payback scheme – a fitting response from what I often think should be renamed the 'Diocese of Cake'. Our own [Transforming Communities Together \(tctogether.org.uk\)](http://tctogether.org.uk) can advise on this, as can local probation offices.

Whatever feels the right way for you or your church to engage with Prisons Week and all it stands for, my expectation is that you will find it an opportunity to deepen and enkindle your faith as well as to support and encourage people whose needs can be acute. Those of 'outside' cannot and must not forget those 'inside'; and when we take the time and the confidence to build links, we will find our lives enriched in many unexpected ways.

+Michael

A Prayer for Prisoners and Their Families

Lord Jesus, you know what it is to be held captive. We pray for all those resident in prison and their families. May they be aware of your presence with them and may your spirit bring them peace and the hope of new life in Jesus Christ. Amen



In Praise of Composting

Many churchyards have composting areas, sometimes a built series of bays and sometimes a pile against a wall or hedge. Others use the council composting system, putting grass cuttings and other organic debris into green bins. For those who have a compost area within the churchyard there may be many creatures depending on it. October is a good time to remove compost for use on flower or vegetable beds, it is less busy than other months and animals which will use the compost heap to hibernate will not yet be dormant. So why not dig out the compost and distribute it amongst those who will use it in their gardens and as you do, see what you will find.

First of all, there are a great many creatures which feed on dying and dead plant material, and also those feeding on each other! Look for a wide range of invertebrates including slugs, snails, worms, wood lice, spiders and centipedes. You may also find larger animals such as frogs, toads and slow worms as well as mammals including hedgehogs as well as mice, shrews and voles.

In a few compost heaps near to fresh water you'll find hatched grass snake eggs, leathery-looking white shells where the female grass snake took advantage of the warmth of the composting vegetation to place her eggs. Compost heaps offer warmth, shelter and an excellent food provision and if it's possible to have one in your churchyard this will add to the rich biodiversity to be found there.

Even if you cannot manage your own compost heap then it is well worth ensuring that all vegetable matter goes into some sort of composting system such as the council green bins, rather than into landfill. As well as producing something useful, composting is also good for your carbon footprint. Composting uses oxygen to break down vegetable matter and, whilst some carbon dioxide is released, much of the carbon and the nutrients are locked into the compost. In addition, a soil with plenty of compost or other organic matter will store more soil carbon, so your garden becomes a better place for carbon sequestration as well as growing more vegetables! Putting plant material into landfill, by contrast, releases methane, a far stronger greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. So give a cheer for the humble compost heap, its helping us all in many ways!

All the best, Harriet Carty

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

Services for October

Sunday 2nd October *16th Sunday after Trinity*

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Worship for All – Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

6.30pm Contemporary Worship – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings:

2 Timothy 1:1-14 & Luke 17:5-10

Friday 7th October

1.30pm Baschurch Primary School Harvest

Sunday 9th October *17th Sunday after Trinity*

9.15am Worship for All – St Mary's Hordley

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings:

2 Timothy 2:8-15 & Luke 17:11-19

Thursday 13th October

7.30pm St Mary's Hordley Harvest in the Grain Store at Red House Farm Hordley

Sunday 16th October *18th Sunday after Trinity*

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am CW Holy Communion – Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

11am Worship for All – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings:

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 & Luke 18:1-8

Wednesday 19th October

2.45pm Weston Lullingfields Primary School Harvest

Saturday 22nd October

6pm Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields – Harvest Praise

Sunday 23rd October – Bible Sunday

9.15am CW Holy Communion – St Mary’s Hordley

11am CW Holy Communion with Baptism – All Saints’ Baschurch

4pm Forest Church – All Saints’ Baschurch

Readings:

Romans 15:1-6 & Luke 4:16-24

Sunday 30th October – All Saints’ Sunday

United Benefice Service **10.30am**

CW Holy Communion with Baptism—All Saints’ Baschurch

6pm at All Saints’ Baschurch – ‘Lights of Love’ – see poster for details

Readings:

Ephesians 1:11-end & Luke 6:20-31

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms:

Sunday 21st August at All Saints’ Baschurch

Matteo Raffaele Cipollaro

Louie Oliver Powis

Weddings:

Monday 29th August – Andrew Bunton to Victoria Woolf at All Saints’ Church, Baschurch

Funerals:

31st August – Peter Morgan aged 63 years at St Mary’s Hordley

New Testament Daily Prayer Readings for Morning Prayer in October

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Acts 18:22-19:7	17	Acts 26:1-23
2	Luke 12:1-12	18	Acts 26:24-end
3	Acts 19:8-20	19	Acts 27:1-26
4	Acts 19:21-end	20	Acts 27:27-end
5	Acts 20:1-16	21	Acts 28:1-16
6	Acts 20:17-end	22	Acts 28:17-end
7	Acts 21:1-16	23	Luke 14:1-14
8	Acts 21:17-36	24	Philippians 1:1-11
9	Luke 13:22-30	25	Philippians 1:12-end
10	Acts 21:37-22:21	26	Philippians 2:1-13
11	Acts 22:22-23:11	27	Philippians 2:14-end
12	Acts 23:12-end	28	Luke 6:12-16
13	Acts 24:1-23	29	Philippians 4:2-end
14	Acts 24:24-25:12	30	Luke 9:18-27
15	Acts 25:13-end	31	Revelation 1
16	Luke 13:31-end		

Ride and Stride

The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) was founded in 1991 for the purpose of raising money to help parishes in the county to pay for maintenance and repairs to their churches and chapels. They also organise the annual Ride and Stride event for this county; this is usually held on the second Saturday in September, but this year it was postponed for two weeks due to the death of the Queen. The total amount raised in 2021 by the Ride and Stride across the county was £30,788.

Despite the postponement many churches opened their doors on September 10th, but did not offer the usual refreshments. Mary, Lorna (our daughter) and I went ahead with our planned tour and visited seven churches in a circuit of some thirty miles to the south of Ellesmere taking in Hordley, West Felton, Pradoe, Baschurch, Myddle, Burlton and Cockshutt. Most of the churches we visited displayed a small table bearing a portrait of Her Majesty and a book of condolence for visitors to sign.

The book, Churches of Shropshire & their Treasures, by John Leonard is a mine of information and my principal source for this article. Below is a very brief description of each of the seven churches we visited; more information may be found on line by using Google's search facility. Please turn to page 35 to see photographs taken at these churches.

St Mary's, Hordley, is described as a small Norman village church with good Victorian stained glass.

St Michael's, West Felton, has a Georgian tower and a medieval nave. The tower fell down in 1782, the present one being built two years later.

Pradoe church does not belong to a parish but is a chapel-of-ease. It

was built in 1860-65 and prides itself on being always open. The main benefactors of this church have been successive generations of the Kenyon family.

All Saints', Baschurch has a long history, being mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The medieval church had a north aisle, but this was removed in 1789 because of the ruinous state of the church; this work was directed by the renowned Scottish engineer Thomas Telford.

St Peter's, Myddle appears to be medieval, but John Leonard's book assures us that this is not so. A rather time-worn stone near the south doorway tells us that the church was rebuilt in 1744.

St Anne's, Burlton was perhaps the most interesting church on our tour because it was so unexpected. It was built in 1891 as a Church Sunday School. It is tiny, seating 25 when full, but it has some stained glass windows that could grace a much larger church. Many of us have driven past it over the years without noticing it.

St Simon and St Jude, Cockshutt is a rather plain brick structure, built in 1777 to replace a medieval building that fell into disrepair. The present church contained a tribute to Her Majesty that held our interest in a charming and unexpected way. The display on the altar followed the usual pattern, but it was accompanied by a collection of sheets of paper with writing and drawings by pupils from the local primary school, starting with the very young children and working up to those ready to move up to secondary school.

The official Ride & Stride is now scheduled for September 24th and a report will be written for publication in November's magazine. Due to the generosity of our sponsors, St Mary's, Hordley expect to have raised over £700 for the SHCT, half of which will be returned to us.

Andrew Thomson



Remembrance

Friday 11th November – Armistice Day

All Saints' Baschurch

A short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial beginning at
10.50am

Sunday 13th November – Remembrance Sunday

St Mary's Hordley

9.15am A Service of Remembrance

All Saints' Baschurch

A Service of Remembrance will begin at the War Memorial at
10.50am with the Act of Remembrance and Wreath Laying
and then proceed into church for the rest of the service.

Members of the Armed Forces, past and present, Uniformed
Organisations and Royal British Legion, led by the Boreatton
Drum Corps, will parade from Prescott GP Surgery to the Church
via Nobold.

The parade will leave at 10.30am

There will be temporary road closures until the parade passes
and Nobold and parts of Church Road around the Church
will be shut during the service.

All are Welcome to any of the services in the Benefice

FLAGS AND BELLS

The flag that is customarily flown on churches is the George Cross, sometimes with the diocesan arms in the top corner nearest the flag pole, although there are occasions when another flag may be appropriate.

During the period of mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth, the flags on church towers were flown at half mast, to signify the period of mourning. However, some people were confused when flags were flown at full mast for 24 hours between Saturday and Sunday, 10th and 11th September. The reason for this interruption in mourning was to mark and celebrate the proclamation of the new King, Charles III, which took place at a meeting of the Privy Council on the Saturday morning.

The Royal Standard may only be flown on royal residences and certain other buildings when the monarch is in residence, and is always flown at full mast. Again this may seem strange at the time of the death of our Queen, but it signifies very powerfully the seamless continuity of the Monarchy, summed up in the words: 'The Queen is dead—long live the King'.

In church towers where a ring of bells is rung full circle (traditional bell-ringing), the practice in a period of mourning is to ring the bells muffled—either half-muffled or full muffled.

A bell is half-muffled using a concave leather pad which is strapped to one side of the bell-clapper (a bit like a hammer which swings freely from the top of the inside of the bell). This has the effect of dampening the sound of the bell, when it is struck by that side of the clapper. When the un-muffled side of the clapper strikes, the bell rings 'open'. The effect is a beautiful echo effect, with the bells first rung open (on the hand stroke) and then muffled (on the back stroke), most fitting for a period of mourning.

It is also possible to ring the bells full muffled by strapping two pads to each clapper, one on each side. The muffling effect then is on both strikes of the bell and is a slightly eerie sound. If the bells are fully muffled, it is customary for the lowest pitched bell (the tenor) to remain open (unmuffled). The effect is that the tenor sounds clearly, as if it is being tolled, with the muffled sound of bells between each toll. Again, a most beautiful sound, heard especially at Westminster Abbey during the period of mourning.

All over the country church bells were rung half or full-muffled to honour and mourn our late Queen, except for the 24 hour period after the proclamation of the King, following very much the same intention as for the flying of flags at full mast in that same period.

Roger Paul (Editor)

Saint of the Month—Thomas Traherne (10th October)

Thomas Traherne (1636 – 1674) is a good saint for anyone who loves our planet, and who wants to preserve Creation. This 17th century poet and clergyman wrote extensively about his love for nature, seeing in it a reflection of the glory of God.

Traherne was not of a literary family, for his father was either a shoemaker or innkeeper in Hereford. But Traherne did well at the Hereford Cathedral School and went on to Brasenose College Oxford. From there he became rector of Credenhill near Hereford in 1657, and ten years later was appointed to be the private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgement, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II, who lived at Teddington.

Throughout his years at Credenhill and then Teddington, Traherne led a simple and devout life, and his friendliness drew people to him. Aside from his beloved books, he seems to have possessed very little.

Instead, he poured his energy into his writings, which had an intense,

To walk is by a thought to go;
To move in spirit to and fro;
To mind the good we see;
To taste the sweet;
Observing all the things we meet
How choice and rich they be.

*From **Walking** by Thomas Traherne*

mystical, metaphysical spirituality. His poems and prose frequently mention the glory of Creation, and his intimate relationship with God, for whom he had an ardent, childlike love. Traherne has been compared to later poets such as William Blake, Walt Whitman and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and his love for nature has been seen as very similar to the Romantic movement, though he lived

two centuries earlier.

He is best known for his *Centuries of Meditations*, which has been described as “one of the finest prose-poems in our language.” Lost for many years, and then finally first published in 1908, it was a favourite of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Christian humanist Dorothy Sayers, and the writer C.S. Lewis, among others. C.S. Lewis considered *Centuries of Meditations* “almost the most beautiful book in English.”

Traherne died in 1674, and is buried in St Mary’s Teddington, under the church’s reading desk. Today he is counted as one of the leading 17th-century devotional poets.

Picture Parable

The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

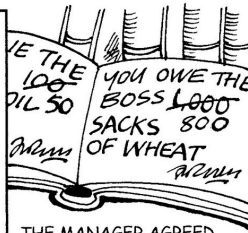


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

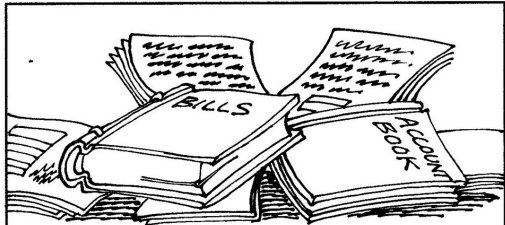
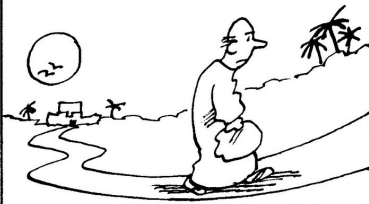


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



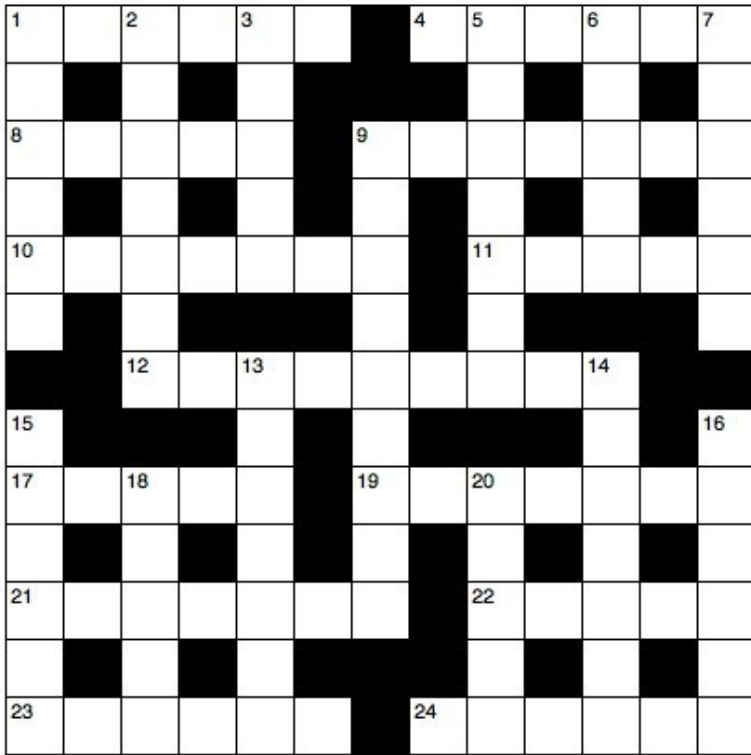
SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

CROSSWORD



Crossword Clues

Across

1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)

4 As balm (anag.) (6)

8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)

9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)

10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)

11 Banishment (Jeremiah 29:1) (5)

- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way'(1Corinthians12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den(anag.)(7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of —' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul's birthplace(Acts22:3)(6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin,cut it off'(Mark9:43)(6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track(Job41:30)(5)
- 20 Religious doctrine(5)

Solution on page 34

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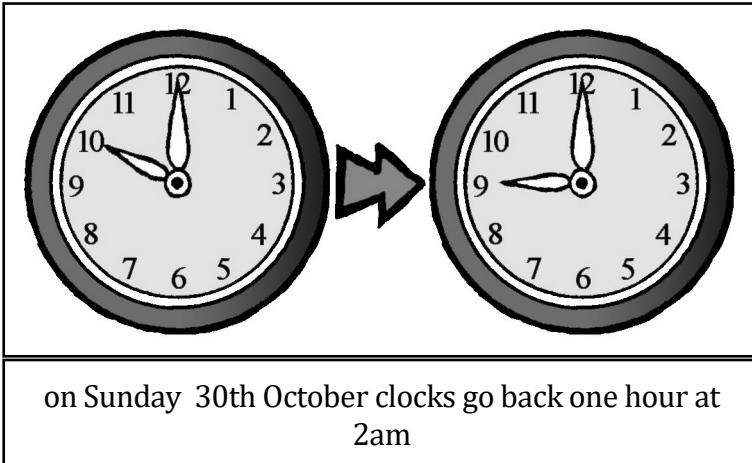
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Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Lawyer. 4, Balsam. 8, Caleb. 9, Jehoram. 10, Sparrow. 11, Exile. 12, Excellent. 17, Act in. 19, Endemic. 21, Slavery. 22, Galal. 23, Silent. 24, Tarsus.

DOWN: 1, Locust. 2, Welfare. 3, Ember. 5, Athlete. 6, Sarai. 7, Member. 9, Jewellery. 13, Condemn. 14, Temples. 15, Causes. 16, Scales. 18, Trail. 20, Dogma.

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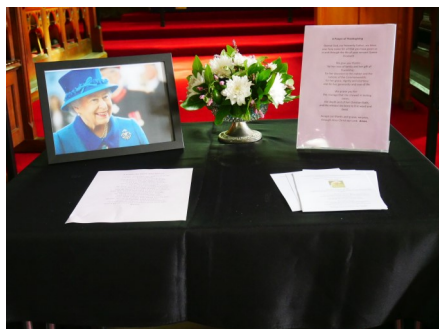
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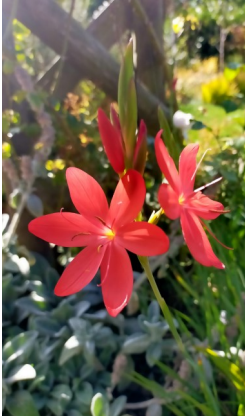


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TO AUTUMN



Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
 With fruit the vines that round
 the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
 And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
 For summer has o'er-brimm'd
 their clammy cells.



From 'Ode to Autumn'

By

John Keats

