

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

October 2023



From '**St Francis and the Birds'** by Seamus Heaney

When Francis preached love to the birds, They listened, fluttered, throttled up Into the blue like a flock of words Released for fun from his holy lips.

Right: St Francis preaching to the birds. Stained glass panel in St Mary's Church, Hordley



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'

Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY

Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S Hordley 50p

Per issue



or a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday, seeing that is past as a watch in the night (*Psalm 90*)

Sundial in Baschurch churchyard

Editorial

I must remember that the clocks go back to GMT in the early hours of Sunday 29th October. I always feel it is a sure sign of the season hastening on to winter, when, all of a sudden, it starts to get dark at 5pm, and the song of the blackbirds gives way to their roosting call of *'chuk, chuk, chuk'* through the gathering dusk.

Before then, we still have the whole month of October to look forward to—the wonderful colours (reflected in some of the photographs this month); the church and community gatherings and events; and some very special days in the church's calendar, chief among which must be the feast day of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October (*page 17*).

The stained glass panel of St Francis and the birds (with a rabbit gatecrashing the party) in Hordley Church *(front cover)* is also the title of a short poem by Seamus Heaney (included in his 1966 collection 'Death of a Naturalist'). Francis, like Heaney, was a poet rooted in the natural world, and is a voice, indeed a life, which we do well to hear.

Steve Alston writes this month about the painting by Holman Hunt, The Light of the World, most apt in this season of lengthening shadows (*page 5*). Steve's last service with us is on 29th October (*see page 21*), and we wish him well in his new ministry in Craven Arms.

Elsewhere in this issue, Carrie Blount, the Strengthening Communities Enabler in the Diocese, writes (*page 8*) about the Places of Welcome scheme, a national network of projects run by volunteers to provide safe, supportive and friendly spaces which are accessible to anyone who feels they need a bit of support. There is also a note about Prisons Week (*page 19*), running from 8th to 14th October, which aims to encourage Christian ministry in prisons.

Returning to St Francis, he was the master of the arrow prayer—a short supplication that could be used on the hoof. The prayer of Sir Jacob Astley before the battle of Edgehill *(page 14)* shares this brevity, and I commend it to all who bear great responsibility in their life and work.

Roger Paul (Editor)

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SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

15th October 2023

to the new email address:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

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FROM THE CLERGY

The impact of a picture

Hanging in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Hordley, is a picture. It is a print of a painting made by William Holman Hunt called 'The Light of the World.' The painting was inspired by the Bible verses below: 'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.' (Revelation 3.20) and

'He [Jesus] said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."" (John 8.12)

If you search for the painting on google, you will see the figure of Jesus holding a lamp and preparing to knock on an overgrown long unopened door - this is the door to your life. It is interesting that there is no handle outside the door, because only the person behind the door has the power to open it to Jesus. He will not force his way in. It must be our choice to allow Jesus entry to our lives.

In the past year we have been giving people a chance, in our Sunday services, to share a little of their own faith stories – of how God has been present in their lives. One person spoke of the importance of Hunt's painting in helping them open their lives to Jesus and since then several others have told me how it also helped them on their own journey of faith. It seems to be a special painting for quite a few people.

Hunt painted the picture three times, the original, finished in 1854, hangs in a chapel in Keble College Oxford and the final version, finished in 1904, hangs in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Why did he repaint the picture in 1904 nearly 50 years after the other versions? Well, it seems that Hunt was upset that Keble College was charging people to see the painting and so he painted the larger version that was hung in St Paul's in 1908. Hunt clearly felt the picture was more than just a work of art and commented, "I painted the picture with what I thought, unworthy though I was, to be divine command, and not simply a good subject." The painting came out of Hunt's relationship with Jesus and has been important to many people in their own journey of faith since its creation.

I and millions of others have found that the message of Hunt's painting to be true and life changing. Opening our hearts to Jesus, inviting him into our lives, does change everything – light, hope, freedom from fear and guilt become a lived experience.

The priest Simon Ponsonby notes one final very personal message from Hunt's 'The Light of the World.' He recounts that how when the painting was cleaned after many years hanging in St Pauls Cathedral the restorer found a hidden prayer in Hunt's own hand under the frame. It said 'Forgive me Lord Jesus that I kept you waiting so long.' Ponsonby then adds this challenge to us all, 'Jesus is amazing. He stands at the door of our lives, and knocks, and knocks for he desires to come in and be with us. Don't keep him waiting. Open the door of your mind, your heart, your life, and say 'Please Jesus come in." (Simon Ponsonby, 2020, Amazed By Jesus, p.198).

Rev Steve Alston

FROM THE REGISTERS

<u>Baptisms</u>

Sunday 3rd September 2023 at All Saints' Baschurch Grace Bradshaw

<u>Funerals</u>

Wednesday 23rd August at St Mary's Hordley Margaret Rose Evans aged 86 years Wednesday 13th September at All Saints' Baschurch Lucy Violet Hockenhull aged 91 years Friday 22nd September at Emstrey Crematorium Beryl Jones aged 79 years



Spying on your secret visitors!

Would you like to know what creatures visit your local churchyard when no one is about? How about setting up a simple camera trap to find out. These can be purchased at specialist suppliers –

the Natural History Book Service or NatureSpy for example, costing between £100 and £200. Perhaps a cluster of churches could buy one together?

To set up a trap, first find your location. It needs to be low to the ground so as to pick up small animals such as hedgehogs. Short grass is best, to avoid waving vegetation which will set off the camera which is activated by movement. The camera itself needs to be attached to something robust such as a tree, pole or building. Find a relatively secluded place where it is unlikely to be noticed by visitors, these cameras tend to be in camouflage colours and are rarely spotted, particularly if surrounded by vegetation or deadwood. Try to locate the camera in a place that animals are likely to use, along the line of a hedge or wall for example. Placing the camera to face a shallow dish with water in it might reveal many creatures stopping for a drink or a bathe, particularly in hot weather. You may even put out some food such as cat food or peanut butter to attract hungry visitors!

There is plenty of information on using camera traps on the internet, a little research will help you choose the right one for you. Once in place the camera will need checking and the video footage or photos can be downloaded and batteries recharged. Seeing what has visited is great fun, particularly enjoyable for people who might have re-

duced mobility so are less able to watch wildlife directly. Of course once purchased the camera need not only be used within your churchyard, it will shed light on the wildlife to be found in other churchyards or cemeteries, in gardens, school grounds and other locations, particularly at nighttime. You might expect to see birds and mammals such as mice, voles and squirrels. Fox-



es are likely visitors and hedgehogs cover a large area in the night so may well stop by, particularly if you are offering something tasty to eat!

If you do run a camera trap, please have a go at using the footage to make biological records via iNaturalist or iRecord, that way we can build a better picture of how important churchyards are for wildlife, and churchyard management can be tweaked to support the animals that you discover, many of which may depend on this special place.

All the best, Harriet Carty

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

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES



Carrie Blount *is the Strengthening Communities Enabler, and Places of Welcome Facilitator role for the Black Country area*.

She writes:

Following a recent review, the work of Transforming Communities Together has been integrated into the Diocese of Lichfield. The newly named **Strengthening Communities** team brings all its experience to the

diocesan team working to resource parishes, building on the 'Shaping for Mission' process. It's our mission to support your church as you live out your mission to respond to human need by loving service and to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation. These are the third and fourth <u>Marks of Mission</u>, goals set by the worldwide Anglican church.

Half of our small team is dedicated to enabling all who live with some kind of physical or mental impairment to fully live in their communi-

PLACE OF WELCOME ties and help others to understand how to offer support. One of those colleagues is specifically dedicated to families that live with dementia.

One way that we can work with you, is through the **Places of Welcome** network. Places of Welcome is a growing, national network of 'drop in' hospitality run predominantly by volunteers who want to make sure that everyone in their area has a place to go to see a friendly face, enjoy a free cup of tea and a good conversation, if and when they need it.

Together with my colleague, Lesley Bovington we support over 175 Places of Welcome teams throughout Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, the Black Country and northern Shropshire. Two thirds are faith-based, with others being hosted in community centres, libraries and even community gardens. Most recently Stoke City football club has opened one at their stadium.



St John's Walsall Wood Group outside Verbal 2

Our guests talk about the difference Places of Welcome make to their lives. Chris, a regular visitor to Woodside Internet Centre Place of Welcome, said:

"Being bipolar in the past I've often found it easy to isolate myself. In an attempt to tackle this going forward I received a referral to Woodside community centre and started engaging with the staff and projects there.

This led me to participating in the internet café at Woodside church and eventually assisting with the upkeep of the IT equipment and networking as a way to give back to a group that was both open and accepting when I first arrived.

I have also found that having a regular commitment that involves helping others is also a good motivational tool as part of my own mental health regime."

Places of Welcome connect with and strengthen their local communities in many ways, including:

- Providing safe, accessible, friendly spaces where the vulnerable and socially isolated can go, without the pressure of registration processes, commitment, or cost.
- Providing supportive, gentle, social space for the cared-for and their carers.
- Signposting those in need to other services and acting as information hubs.
- Connecting with local social prescribers, community mental health teams, PCSOs, social services, local councillors, social housing providers, etc.
- Encouraging their guests, at their own pace, to take part, for example by joining in with activities, by helping, by sharing their talents and knowledge.
- Providing a place to engage and empower all, where local voices can be heard and where support services and solutions can be better shaped, as a result.
- Churches supporting one another, across the Places of Welcome networks.

Carrie Blount



The national website for Places of Welcome is: <u>placesofwelcome.org.uk</u>

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

We seem to have had a really mixed bag of weather for the "summer" this year, no doubt spoiling holidays abroad and at home, and then September started with glorious sunshine, just as schools went back.

But we are looking ahead to have some great events through to the New Year and hope to see you at some of them.

RIDE AND STRIDE

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who contributed cakes for the day's refreshments and to the excellent team who helped during the day in the church to welcome walkers, riders and drivers.

A special thank you to John Heighway who came to church morning and afternoon and played the organ beautifully. A warm thank you too to members of the village and congregation who cycled and/or walked.

The extreme heat affected numbers inevitably but all visitors received a warm welcome and refreshments. We won't know the full total to be shared between the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and Holy Trinity Church until all the sponsor money is collected.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

A reminder that from October to March the Café will take place in Weston Village Hall and not in Holy Trinity Church.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTIES

Working parties will take place on Saturday 14th October, Saturday 11th November, and Saturday 9th December, all from10am to 12 noon. All are welcome to lend a hand!

Anita Weeks

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events in Aid of Holy Trinity Church Weston Lullingfields

'WHAT'S MY WINE?' (AND CHEESE)

Saturday 18th November, 7.00pm at the Village Hall

Test your knowledge during a fun evening of wine and/or soft drink and cheese tasting. There will be delicious cheeseboards, the bar will be open and plenty of entertainment from our resident compere!

Cost £15

FESTIVE FLORAL DECORATION WORKSHOP

Saturday 9th December, 10.30 am—2.30pm at the Village Hall

Refreshments on arrival, materials and light lunch included.

Cost £20

FLASH BACK TO THE 80'S at our New Year's Eve Party

8pm till 1am at the Village Hall

Fancy dress optional, disco, food and bar (cost to be decided)

For more information call Nicky Hey on 07443 939 451



ALL SAINTS BASCHURCH

Cleaners urgently needed for All Saints

Could you spare a maximum of 8 HOURS A YEAR to help maintain our beautiful building? The Church is now widely used for community activities as well as baptisms, weddings and funerals within the village. It is maintained by an ever-dwindling number of volunteers some of whom have recently had to retire. We urgently need new volunteers to clean for one month of the year and to clean the Church brasses. For 2 people together this would involve a maximum of 8 hours in the year or we could pair you with another person to cover just one month in the year.

Please consider if you could help your community in this way - so many villagers rely on the Church and its clergy at special times in their lives and if you could support the Church in this way we would be very grateful.

If you can help, please contact Pat Davies on **261081** or at

thepatdavies@hotmail.com

All Saints "100 Club" Winners

September 2023 No 8 Enid Whiston No 51 Sue Broadhurst



Confirmation Service

Sunday 8th October at 4pm

in St Mary's Ellesmere

We have 6 candidates from our Benefice who are to be confirmed by Bishop Sarah, the Bishop of Shrewsbury.

Jackie & Keith Jones from Weston Lullingfields

Pauline Baker, Lily Jones, Pat Owen and Chloe Owen from Baschurch

A SOLDIER'S PRAYER

The first major battle of the English Civil War took place at Edgehill in south Warwickshire (in the Parish of Radway, nestling just below Edgehill, on the edge of an area known as the Vale of the Red Horse).

On the eve of the battle, 22nd October 1642, one of the Royalist Generals, Sir Jacob Astley, commander of the Royalist infantry, prayed this famous prayer:

"Lorde, Thou knowest that I must be very busie this day. If I forget Thee, do not Thou forget me."

The battle was indecisive, and is remembered not as a glorious, but very bloody, battle. About 1,500 soldiers died, whether in the battle, or as a result of their wounds. One modest gravestone in Warmington Churchyard, marks the grave of one casualty of the battle— Captaine Goudin, who died on 27th October of his wounds. But most of the dead were buried in soldiers' clumps as they are known locally, recognized as large mounds covered with mature trees.

HORDLEY NEWS



Re-decoration of St Mary's is now complete. While the scaffolding was up *(see photo left)* it was possible to inspect interesting features not normally visible from floor level.

Some hard working volunteers undertook a grand cleaning and polishing of the church when the scaffolding had been removed. Our much-

loved place of worship will soon be looking at its best.

We are grateful for the grant from The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) and for the donations from several large funerals that have been put on one side for just such a purpose.

Ride and Stride

Nine Hordley people took part in the Ride and Stride this year, visiting churches in various parts of the county from the north-east to the south-west.

One participant promised to stride out round the deck as he crossed the Atlantic on his way to New York! That has to be a first, surely!

For the rest of us, when signing in at several small rural churches it was clear that we were the first and possibly the only people to visit, so we were especially glad to think that whoever took the trouble to open and put out refreshments did not do so entirely in vain.

At Hordley we were very pleased to have eleven visitors, mostly from other parishes. That is far more than usual.

One of the churches visited, Fauls church in the far north-east of the county beyond Prees.



Donation money is now being collected and will be divided equally between the SHCT and St Mary's. The total amount raised will be revealed in the next issue.

After a busy day twelve people enjoyed a very companionable hot supper in Tetchill, thanks to our hosts Roger and Jan Paul.

Harvest Supper and Service

We are now looking forward to the joint benefice Harvest Meal, in Weston village hall, on Saturday 23rd September, the first we have been able to hold for four years due to the pandemic.

Our Harvest Festival is on Thursday 19th October.





Come and join us

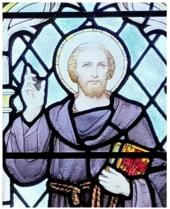
as we give thanks to God for His goodness

Thursday 19th October 7.30pm at St Mary's Hordley

Donations this year are for the Porch Pantry at Baschurch. This provision is well used by those who are struggling financially to feed themselves or their families.

The following items are suggested: Longlife milk; cereals; pasta; rice; tinned vegetables; tinned meat; tea; coffee; sugar; washing powder; soap; shower gel; washing up liquid.

The winner of the Hordley Lottery in September was Tim Smith with number 16.



Detail from window in Hordley Church

SAINT OF THE MONTH St Francis of Assisi (4th October)

Francis was born in Assisi in 1182, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant, Pietro Bernardone, and his wife, Pica. He was baptized Giovanni (John) but soon gained the nickname Francesco, because of his father's close trading links with France.

Francis' early years were not especially religious. He was a leader among the young men of Assisi, enjoying a good social life,

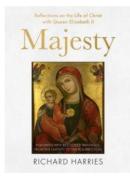
singing and partying. He didn't want to follow his father into the cloth trade; he wanted to be a knight. So at the age of twenty he joined the forces of Assisi in a minor skirmish with the neighbouring city of Perugia. He was captured and spent a year in a Perugian jail, until his father ransomed him. This became the first of a series of experiences through which God called Francis to the life which he finally embraced.

One of these experiences, at San Damiano, led to a rift with his father. Francis, in response to a voice from the crucifx in this tiny ruined church, began to rebuild churches; when he ran out of money he took cloth from his father's shop and sold it. His father disowned him before the bishop of Assisi, and Francis in his turn stripped off his clothes, returning to his father everything he had received from him, and promising that in future he would call only God his Father.

Francis spent most of his life on the move, though he interspersed his preaching with periods of withdrawal for prayer. It was during one of these times of retreat that he received the Stigmata – the marks of the crucified Christ in his own body. For the final two years of his life he suffered constant pain. He died in 1226, and as he died blessed his beloved city of Assisi. He was buried in what became the great Basilica of St Francis, and declared a saint by the church in 1228.



BOOK REVIEWS

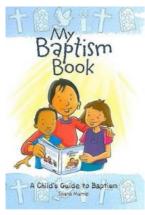


MAJESTY - reflections on the Life of Christ with Queen Elizabeth II by Richard Harries, SPCK, £17.99

Published in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, this beautifully illustrated book will be treasured by people all over the world who admired her for the grace and wisdom she demonstrated throughout her reign, and for the faith that she held so dearly.

Each of the paintings in this book, many of them from the Royal Collection, portrays an important episode in the life of Christ – from the joy of the nativity to the mystery and majesty of the resurrection.With helpful commentary by Bishop Richard Harries, interlaced with inspiring quotations from the Queen's Christmas broadcasts, this is a powerful presentation of the faith that sustained Her Majesty throughout her long and glorious reign.

'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing.' The Queen's Christmas Broadcast, December 2014



MY BAPTISM BOOK – a child's guide to baptism by Diana Murrie and Craig Cameron, CHP, £4.99

This book aims to help children understand one of the most important days of a child's life. It is a beautiful personal reminder of this special day and one that a child can return to again and again. It can be used by adults and children together, or in more formal baptism preparation and includes a number of inspiring ideas on ways to use the material creatively. This is an ideal gift for children aged 3+.

PRISONS WEEK - 8TH TO 14TH OCTOBER

Prisoners and their families need help, if they are to really repair and rebuild their lives.

And so it is that Prisons Week has been growing steadily, year by year. It currently has 25 Christian denominations and organisations working together to use "all our skills and gifts to see God's kingdom come and His peace be established in a place of suffering and weeping."

Prisons Week is supported by the Church of England, the Catholic Church, the Free Churches Group, and the Salvation Army. It is also supported by the prison ministry organisations including Prison Fellowship, Prison Advice and Care Trust, and Caring for Prison Leavers. Other supporting organisations include Bible Society, the Mothers Union, and Youth for Christ.

The week-long campaign each October aims to provide Christians across the country with information, expertise, resources, and encouragement for this particular, and challenging, area of ministry.

For anyone, or any group, who would like to support Prisons ministry, there are several campaign resources available at their website.

Above all, Prisons Week urges individual Christians to pray for prisoners and their families, that their lives might be rebuilt and renewed.

Prisons Week describes its aim as "relieving the human suffering caused by crime and imprisonment." For more info, please visit: <u>www.prisonsweek.org</u>



hile Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

Acts of the Apostles, chapter 12 verse 5

SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2023

Sunday 1st October - 17th Sunday after Trinity

8am BCP Prayer Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
9.30am Worship for All – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields
11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Philippians 2:1-13 & Matthew 21:23-32

Sunday 8th October - 18th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Worship for All – St Mary's Hordley
11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
6.30pm Contemporary Worship – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Philippians 3:4b-14 & Matthew 21:33-end

Sunday 15th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity 8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch 9.30am Common Worship Holy Communion – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields 11am – Worship for All – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Philippians 4:1-9 & Matthew 22:1-14

<u>Thursday 19th October</u> 7.30pm Harvest Festival – St Mary's Hordley

Sunday 22nd October – 20th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Common Worship Holy Communion – St Mary's Hordley
11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
4pm Forest Church – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 & Matthew 22:15-22

<u>Sunday 29th October – Bible Sunday</u> <u>10.30am</u> United Benefice Service at All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Colossians 3:12-17 & Matthew 24:30-35



Sunday 29th October

10.30am

United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at

All Saint's Baschurch

Come and join us as we say goodbye to Steve our curate and his wife Rosie, and wish them well as they journey on to pastures new.

Steve will be preaching and presiding for the last time with us before moving to his new post in Craven Arms.

Following the service we will host a 'bring and share lunch' – if you could bring savoury items, desserts will be provided.



HALLOWEEN - SOME STATS

Since 2013, UK consumer spending for Halloween products has more than doubled. It's gone from about £230 million in 2013 to about £687 million last year, according to the statistics website statista.com. Of that amount, we spent nearly £29 million last year on pumpkins alone. (Top-tip: If you get a pumpkin this year, consider leaving the carving of it until the day before, as pumpkins perish quickly when exposed to the air.)

As for the scary decorations, how seriously do people take them? A recent survey found that the over-55s are least likely to believe in real ghosts, while over half of 18-to-24-year-olds either do believe in them, or else are not quite sure.

NEW TESTAMENT DAILY PRAYER READINGS FOR

MORNING PRAYER IN OCTOBER

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Luke 11:37-54	17	John 13:12-20
2	Mark 14:1-11	18	Luke 1:1-4
			(Luke the Evangelist)
3	Mark 14:12-25	19	John 13:31-end
4	Mark 14:26-42	20	John 14:1-14
5	Mark 14:43-52	21	John 14:15-end
6	Mark 14:53-65	22	Luke 13:31-end
7	Mark 14:66-end	23	John 15:1-11
8	Luke 12:1-12	24	John 15:12-17
9	Mark 15:1-15	25	John 15: 18-end
10	Mark 15:16-32	26	John 16:1-15
11	Mark 15:33-41	27	John 16:16-22
12	Mark 15:42-end	28	Luke 6:12-16
			(Simon and Jude, Apos- tles)
13	Mark 16:1-8	29	Luke 14:1-14
14	Mark 16:9-end	30	John 17:1-5
15	Luke 13:22-30	31	John 17:6-19
16	John 13:1-11		

PICTURE PARABLE



CROSSWORD

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Crossword Clues (answers on page 26)

Across

1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)

4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)

7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)

8 See 19 Across

9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46)(8)

13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)

16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)

19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)

- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)

27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)

2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had avision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile inBabylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)

4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)

5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)

6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)

10 Ruses (anag.) (5)

11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)

12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)

13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)

14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)

15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)

18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)

20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)

21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)

22 Bats (anag.) (4)

23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

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Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

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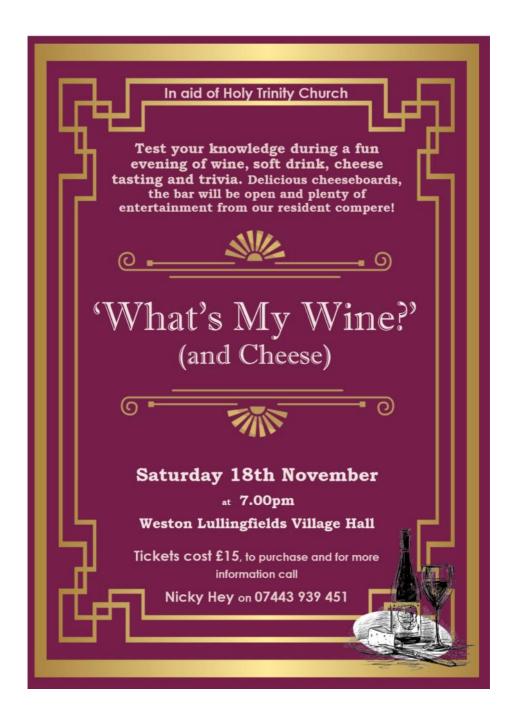
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Witch hazel (Hamamelis 'Diane') leaves on the turn



Beech Tree, in early autumn glory, by the gate into Hordley Churchyard