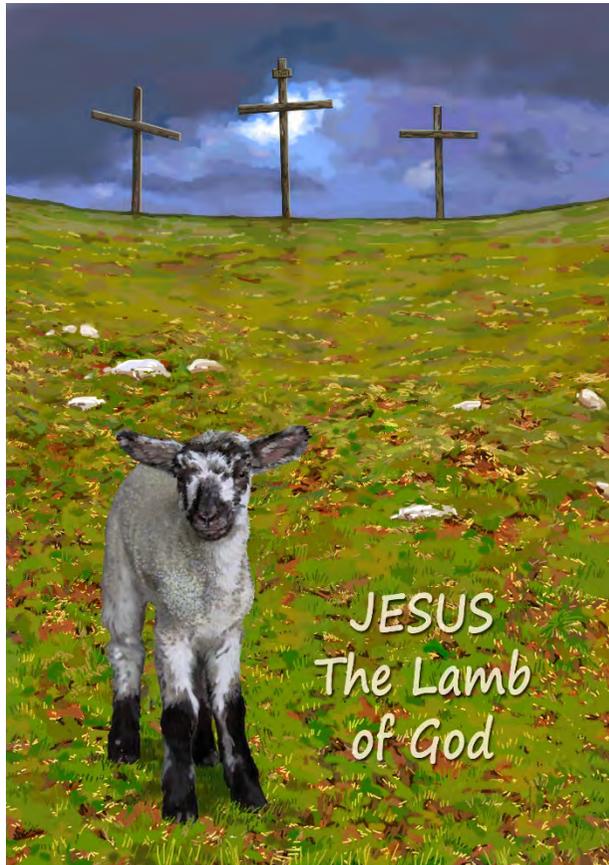




Ryburn  
BENEFICE

October  
Magazine  
2020

# Connected



**The Ryburn Benefice Churches:**

**St Luke's Norland, St Mary's Cottonstones, St Peter's Sowerby**



## Here's a thought ...

As we acknowledge Bible Sunday this month, it's a good opportunity to ask the question: *why should I read the Bible?*

The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself!

This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to be the primary way by which God speaks to us: *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and presents itself as a *manual for life*, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives: *'the Spirit will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible with the words *'the most precious thing this world affords'*. Does this reflect our own attitude to the Bible?

\*\*\*\*\*

### Ten Commandments

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she said: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered: "Thou shalt not kill."

## Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?

For the Christian, the Bible is God's word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

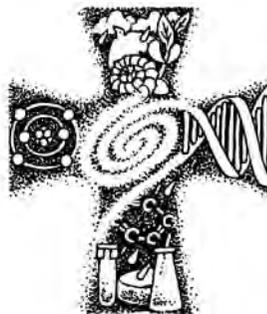
It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren't intelligent, but because science as we know it wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out

what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.

*by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*



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## ***The Upper Room* writing competition 2020**

Calling all aspiring Christian writers! The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) is offering aspiring writers the opportunity to see their work in print in *The Upper Room*.

Published in 35 languages, *The Upper Room* is unique in that its readers are its writers. After the success of the 2017 competition, this is another chance to write for the publication.

Go to [brfonline.org.uk/urwritingcompetition](http://brfonline.org.uk/urwritingcompetition) for full details on how to enter and tips to get you started. *More details from:* [eley.mcaish@brf.org.uk](mailto:eley.mcaish@brf.org.uk) or [iris.jenkins@brf.org.uk](mailto:iris.jenkins@brf.org.uk)

## Dates for October

### Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 9.30am, St Peter's, Sowerby

### Harvest Festivals

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Festivals

All celebrated at the usual times In all our 3 Parish Churches.:

St Peter's Sowerby 10am

St Luke's Norland 3.30pm

St Mary's Cottonstones 11.30am

### Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October St Luke's Patronal Festival

3.30pm St Luke's Church, Norland

Please note. This will be a Joint Benefice Service, and as such, the only service to be held that day within the Ryburn Benefice.

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## Angels – Messengers of Hope

In conjunction with Local Schools we are launching our Autumn project 'Angels Messengers of Hope, so we need help. We need volunteers who can crochet, knit, paint rocks, & angel templates so we can place them around our communities. Please let the Vicar or Churchwardens know if you can help.

Thank you.



# The Regular Church Calendar

**At the time of publication, whilst Sunday worship services in our Churches have now restarted, subject to social distancing measures, and the wearing of face masks. Meetings in Church and Community Centres are being reconsidered in light of the government guidelines, but are currently in abeyance. However, for those wishing to enter the Church buildings for a time of private prayer please contact the church wardens of the respective Churches so that the Church can be opened for you. We trust you will continue to observe the current social distancing guidelines and health precautions for your own safety and those of others who use the building.**

**Those wishing to book a wedding or funeral please contact the Vicar for further details as these are now permitted, subject to restrictions.**

Don't forget to look us up on the web:

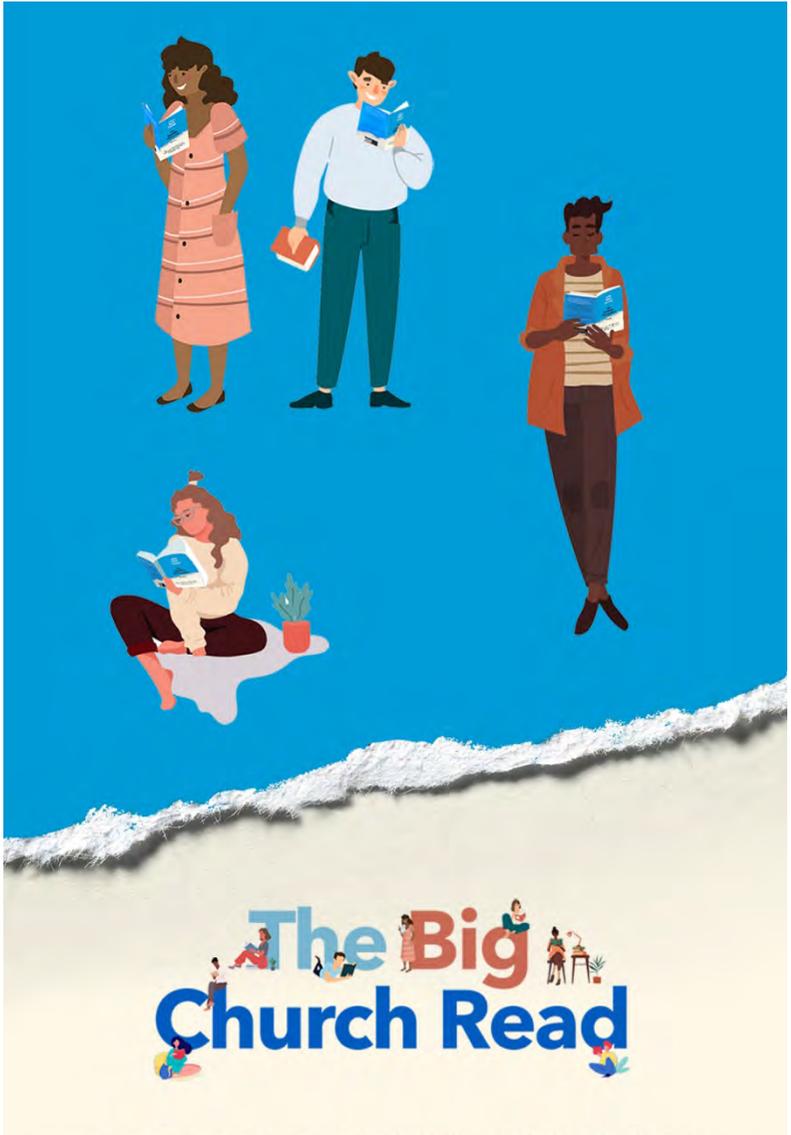
**[www.ryburnbenefice.org](http://www.ryburnbenefice.org)**



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

*For Funerals, and other matters  
please contact the Vicar:*

*Revd Jeanette Roberts tel 01422 646 371 [jeanette.roberts@leeds.anglic](mailto:jeanette.roberts@leeds.anglic)*

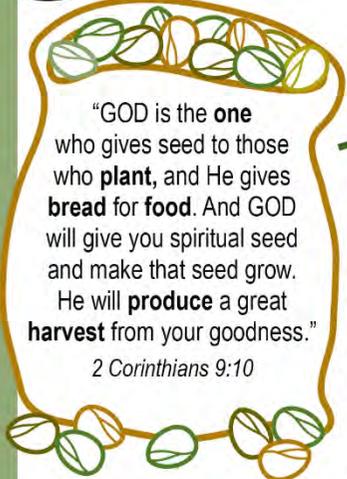
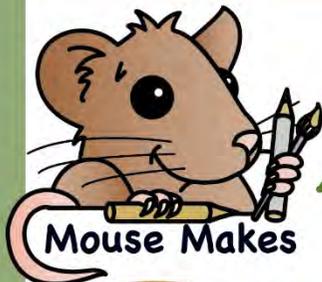


# The Big Church Read

*(STARTING  
FROM )*

# READ WITH US THIS SEPTEMBER

[thebigchurchread.co.uk](http://thebigchurchread.co.uk)

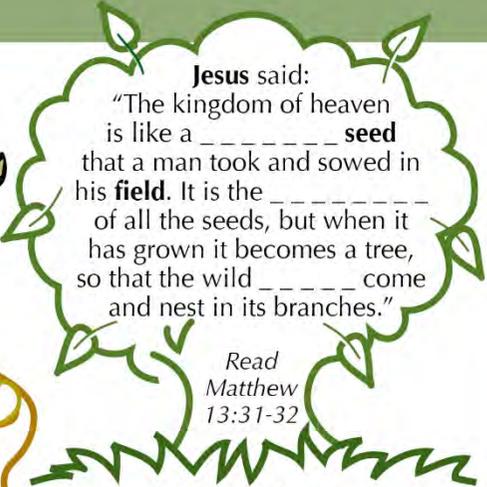


"GOD is the **one** who gives seed to those who **plant**, and He gives **bread** for **food**. And GOD will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will **produce** a great **harvest** from your goodness."

2 Corinthians 9:10

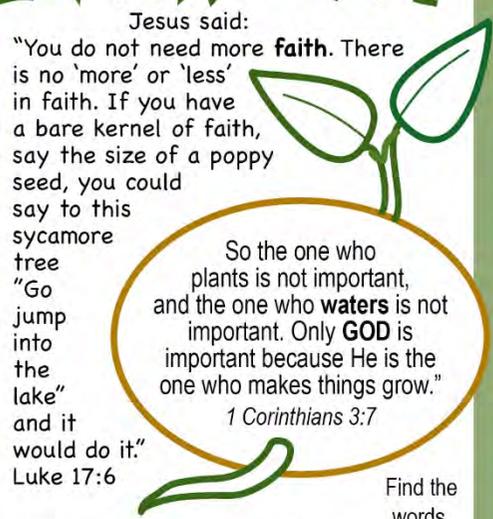
Look out for seeds in the park and garden and in your kitchen store cupboard.

How many different seeds can you find?



Jesus said:  
"The kingdom of heaven is like a \_\_\_\_\_ **seed** that a man took and sowed in his **field**. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild \_\_\_\_\_ come and nest in its branches."

Read Matthew 13:31-32



Jesus said:  
"You do not need more **faith**. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree "Go jump into the lake" and it would do it!"  
Luke 17:6

So the one who plants is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only **GOD** is important because He is the one who makes things grow."  
1 Corinthians 3:7

Find the words in **bold** on this page in the word search

H A R V E S T W O E S  
F I A F T P L A N T B  
O F A I T H A T E E R  
O O J E S U S E E D E  
D E U L O U G R O W A  
P R O D U C E S G O D



## Roast Pumpkin & Bramley Apple Soup courtesy of Sheina Smith.

*Serves 4 Preheat oven to 230 deg. C / Gas mark 8. Cooking time; 1 hr*

1 large pumpkin

2 tablespoons olive oil

25gm/ 1oz butter

1 small onion, finely chopped

670 ml/ 1 ¼ pints chicken stock

1 small Bramley cooking apple, peeled and finely diced

salt & freshly ground black pepper

Quarter pumpkin, scoop out & discard seeds.

Brush flesh with olive oil, place in a roasting tin, roast for 25mins until flesh is soft. Once cooled, scoop the flesh out of the skin.

gently fry onion in the butter in a pan for 10 mins, without colouring.

Add stock and pumpkin flesh, cover, simmer gently for 15mins.

Add the apple, cover, simmer for a further 5 mins until tender.

Blend a third of the soup until smooth

Return the blended soup to the pan, season to taste and stir well.

Cook for a further 2 mins and serve.



## Guardian Angels – keeping an eye on us

The teaching of Jesus encourages us to believe in guardian angels. He once said, ‘See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.’ (Matthew 18:10)



The existence of angels was suggested in various Old Testament texts, Jesus mentioned them explicitly, and the early Christians accepted their existence and work (Acts 12:15).

In England, devotion to the angels, both in Anglo-Saxon times and later, was strong. In modern times, the great American evangelist Billy Graham has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels.

Alcuin described them as intercessors (in the 11th century Leofric Missal); Herbert of Losinga, bishop of Norwich (d 1119) specially praised them, and his contemporary, Reginald of Canterbury, wrote prayers in their honour.

Honorius Augustodunensis (d 1151) clarified the existing belief of the time by asserting that each human soul, when infused into the body, is entrusted to the particular care of a single angel, who protects both body and soul and offers prayers to God.

For many centuries Christendom was satisfied with the feast of St Michael (and all Angels), but the special feast of the Guardian Angels was introduced in Austria, Spain and Portugal in the 15th – 16th centuries. Guardian Angels were then seen as guardians of particular towns or regions, or of each individual. Pope Clement X made the feast day universal in 1607, fixing its date to 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

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# Hello God ...

## Need for healing

Heavenly Father,

We bring to you all those struggling with their mental health just now.

We pray:

For everyone who is smiling, when inside they're in pain.

For everyone who is saying they're fine, when inside they feel drained and empty.

For everyone struggling with fear and worry as the easing of the lockdown brings new anxieties.

Be with them in their suffering, as so much of their world has been stripped back and emptied.

When loved family and friends have been taken by illness,  
Or made distant by lockdown.

Pour your healing balm into their pain and sadness.

May you walk with them besides still waters

May you speak to them in a still small voice.

May you heal them, and fill them, and bless them with your abundant love and fullness of life.

And may they know that they are loved by you for the beautiful unique person that they are, created in the image of their heavenly creator and loving Lord.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Amen.

*The Revd Peter Crumpler, Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and former communications director for the C of E.*

# Fruit of the Spirit

*(Gal 5:22,23, Ps 34:8)*

## Opportunities

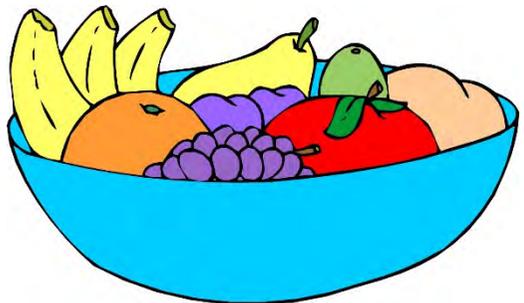
To ripen your fruit in our lives,  
Lord, give us opportunities.

To grow in your Spirit,  
Know your warmth  
And your light,  
Allow the segments of  
Self-control, gentleness,  
Faithfulness, goodness,  
Kindness, patience, peace and joy  
To be lubricated and sweetened  
By love,

Showing the world  
Your nature transforming  
Our natures,  
In the fruit bowl of our lives  
In Jesus.

Lord give opportunities  
For the hungry to taste  
Your ripening fruit in us,  
See that you are good  
And come to you.

*By Daphne Kitching*



*Nigel Beeton writes: 'Followers of my poems will possibly recall that I have something of a problem with litter. I completely fail to understand how anybody thinks it's OK to just drop stuff for some kind of fairy to come along later and clear up. I admit that I am probably turning into a grumpy old man, but now, due to a completely unnecessary and avoidable side-effect of the virus, I'm grumpier still!'*

## **Litter Virus**

A face mask is a helpful thing –

It traps those nasty germs!

An extra message I must bring

In these poetic terms:

When you've finished with your  
mask

A bin is simply found

So drop it in – an easy task!

Don't leave it on the ground!



*By Nigel Beeton*

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## **Telling the time**

The cable repairman was on my street and asked me what time it was. I told him it was between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

## The toll of lockdown on low-income families

Coronavirus has left low-income families struggling with a significant deterioration in living standards and high stress levels. So warns a new report from Child Poverty Action Group and the Church of England.

The report, *Poverty in the pandemic: The impact of coronavirus on low-income families and children*, is based on a survey of families with children who are eligible for free school meals.

It found around eight in 10 respondents reported being in a worse financial position than before the pandemic, and half were much worse off because their income had fallen while costs have risen.

Nearly nine in 10 respondents reported spending substantially more than before on food, electricity, and other essentials – usually because they have been at home much more. Many families also said that the cost of food had gone up significantly during the early part of lockdown.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on matters relating to children and families, said: "In these unprecedented times, we all need to ask ourselves urgently how we can help our neighbour. It is also imperative that the Government does all that it can to protect families and children."

Alison Garnham, Chief Executive of Child Poverty Action Group, said: "Low-income parents have been living under a cloud of anxiety in lockdown - trying to find money for family basics as their costs have been rising. That's taken a very heavy toll."

## Why singing in church is the same as shouting at the pub

How dangerous is it to sing in church, when it comes to spreading coronavirus? About the same as it is to speak loudly in a pub.

So say researchers at the University of Bristol. They have found that speaking loudly and singing generate about the same amounts of aerosol droplet – tiny particles of liquid – which are thought to carry Covid-19

Of course, the louder you sing or speak, the more the aerosol droplets.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Struggling towards relinquishment by Tony Collins

I confess, I am a petrolhead.

I don't have the dosh to buy the cars that truly quicken the pulse, but buying and selling at the tragic end of the market as I do, I get a lot of pleasure from cars with toys – rear view cameras, wing mirrors which fold in when you lock your vehicle, decent air conditioning. Because the machines I buy are routinely six years old and the veterans of hard use from sales reps, these toys tend to break off in my hand, causing me unreasonable levels of irritation.

But the craving for the dream motor persists. I've had five in two years. "You change your vehicle more often than your underpants," observed my golf partner.

Thanks to their nifty algorithms, my Facebook feed is full of adverts tailored to my taste in cars. They know an addict when they see one.

Fourteen years ago, however, I married Penelope Wilcock, a lady deeply committed to another rhythm of life, for whom simplicity is not so much an aspiration as a world view. Pen has raised five daughters,

served as a Methodist minister, conducted hundreds of marriages and thousands of funerals, and written more than twenty books, so she is no stranger to intense activity.

But she has set her face firmly, over the decades, towards the goal of minimalism, and – through the metamorphosis which occurs as you grow close to someone – I have been caught up in her wake.

Pen has succeeded in getting rid of most of her possessions. I built her a wardrobe, perhaps three feet wide, which contains virtually all she owns. Both of us have Kindles, which accommodates our love of books. Her goal is that when she dies it will take not more than a morning to sort out her estate.

She takes the same attitude to other matters. Her diary is uncluttered. She is generous with her modest income.

Now Pen has set out her ideas for living more with less in a new book, *Relinquishment*. Subtitled *Making space for what really matters*, it develops the premise that you cannot achieve simplicity in any sphere of life without relinquishment. Where your treasure is, there will be your heart, as Jesus observed.  
*Tony Collins.*



# The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS

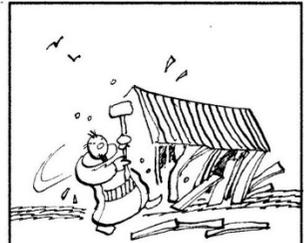


ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN  
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH  
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO  
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



I KKNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN  
MY BARNs AND BUILD  
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS  
OLD BARNs...

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD  
NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST  
MAN IN THE TOWN!



I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN  
EAT, DRINK AND BE  
MERRY!



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,  
THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS  
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S NOT  
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,  
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE  
THAT'S IMPORTANT

## Average debt fell by £2,000 during lockdown

Covid-19 has brought one good thing to some of us: the average amount of personal debt has reduced by nearly £2,000, according to a recent study by Experian. It recently stood at £9,681 (without mortgage), as opposed to £11,615 (without mortgage) in March.

As a spokesman for the credit-checking agency explained: “For some people, a reduction in spending on living costs and commuting have enabled the repayment of existing borrowing.” And he urged that as the UK returns to something like normal, people should try and continue with the good financial habits picked up during lockdown.

But Dame Gillian Guy, chief executive of Citizen’s Advice, said that while some people have been able to pay off some of their debts in the pandemic, many others have not. Instead, they “are behind on essential bills, building up arrears they may struggle to *ever* pay back.”

\*\*\*\*\*

*This article is adapted from a book by the late Canon Richard Bewes, formerly of All Souls Langham Place, London, ‘The Top 100 Questions’ (Christian Focus)*

## What is the origin of evil spirits?

Halloween is the month of ghosts and witches and evil spirits. Have you ever wondered where evil spirits come from, and how we are to view the unseen world of evil and occultism?

The Bible tells us that evil spirits come from the created angelic order. They were not created as evil beings, for all of God’s creation was good (Genesis 3:1). The Bible tells us that a number of angels, headed by Satan, or Lucifer, rebelled against God’s authority and fell (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

The serpent, Satan, is leader of the fallen angels, and opposes himself to God. But evil and good are not co-equal. 'Dualism' (belief in the equal and permanent existence of evil alongside the good) has no place in the Bible. Unlike goodness, evil has a beginning and will have an end. Satan's final destruction is already assured. (Revelation 12:12; 20:10).

The world of the occult (from the Latin: occultus, 'secret', 'hidden') is the intrusion into the forbidden territory of superstition, fortune telling, magic and spiritism. Its downfall is finally assured through Jesus. His early ministry established a bridgehead against the evil unseen world; hence the hostile, and sometimes violent, reaction of the demons. (Mark 1:23-27; 32-34).

Jesus had no fear of demons, and nor need the believer. It is important that Christians avoid becoming obsessed by the unseen world – to the extent that we become either intimidated, or fascinated. After the showing in London of a film featuring the occult, a number of cinema viewers went for counselling. They were under the impression that they had been 'taken over' by evil spirits. They had not. All 20 recovered after a course of prescribed tablets. They had only been victims of suggestion.

We are wise, then, not to imagine, as some do, that every sin, habit, illness or misfortune is due directly to the activity of the Devil and must therefore be 'exorcised'. Terrible damage has been done in this respect by well-meaning but uninformed Christian leaders.

Faced by Christ's authority, the kingdom of spirits has no option but to shrink and retreat. Magic spells and charms have no power over the true Christian (provided we do not open ourselves to their influence), for 'the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world' (1 John 4:4). If we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7). All occultism is to be ruthlessly shunned (Leviticus 19:31; 1 Samuel 28; Isaiah 8:19, 20; Acts 19:18-20).

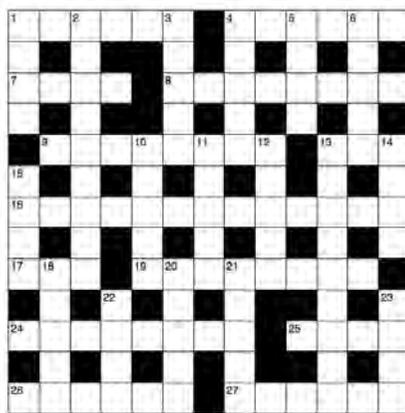
## A spirit guest?

When new neighbours moved in next door, they held a House Warming party and invited the entire road. My husband and I were glad to go along, as our daughters were both five years old. But next morning I was taken aback when my daughter told me that the mother had taken her into the kitchen and given her 'a spirit guest', which my daughter had really enjoyed. Now she wanted me to get her 'a spirit guest.'

I was wondering how to contact the local vicar for exorcism when I realised that my daughter meant 'asparagus'.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Crossword for October 2020



### 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' (Psalm 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 a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon 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)

*(Solution on page 23)*



...I've moved with the times - I've now got a solar-powered radio microphone...

\*\*\*\*\*

October 2020 Crossword

Solution

D	E	A	C	O	N		A	P	P	E	A	R	
A		F				E		G		R		L	
W	I	T	S			H	E	A	V	E	N	L	Y
N		E				U		I		Y		T	
	A	R	G	U	M	E	N	T			M	O	B
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E		O		R		O		C		A		Y	
R	A	N		S	U	D	D	E	N	L	Y		
	L		S		N		R			W		G	
O	B	S	T	A	C	L	E			J	O	H	N
	A		A		L		A			R		A	
E	N	A	B	L	E			M	A	R	K	E	T

## And Finally.....

The police officer asked me where I had been between 5 and 6. He seemed irritated when I answered "kindergarten."

\*\*

I just saw a local burglar kicking his own front door in. I asked him what he was doing.

He replied, "Working from home."

\*\*

Aliens probably fly by earth - and lock their doors.

\*\*

### Put it this way...

\*\* A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

\*\* A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.

\*\* My wife really likes to make pottery, but to me it's just kiln time.

\*\* A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.

\*\* I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.

\*\* Marriage is the mourning after the knot before

*If you have enjoyed reading our magazine, and would like to advertise the activities of your group or business in our next edition, please contact the editor, Revd Lesley Ennis tel 01422 832747, or email your request to [lesleyennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lesleyennis@hotmail.co.uk)*

*For voluntary organizations there will be no charge. For commercial organizations, £2 per issue or £10 per year, for a quarter page insert. All articles are accepted subject to Sowerby PCC editorial policy.*

***Cut off date for items for the next issue is 15th of September.***

*If you would like to receive future editions (in PDF format) direct to your email box, please email the editor with your details, which will be used solely for this purpose only.*

*Grateful acknowledgement is given to all our magazine contributors, and also to the contributors of the website [Parishpump.co.uk](http://Parishpump.co.uk), for kindly allowing us to use some of their material.*