

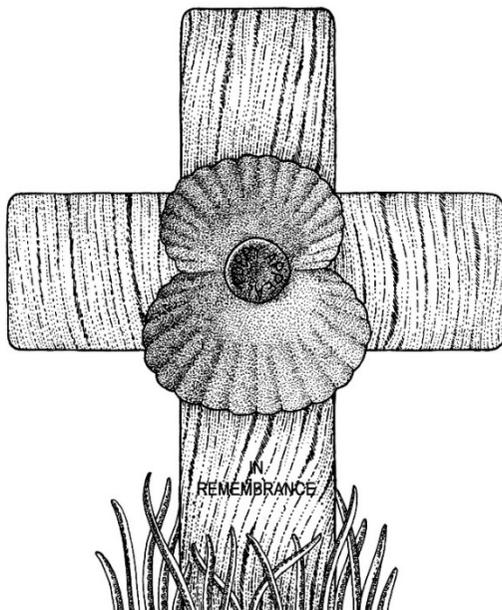


Ryburn
BENEFICE

Connected



November
2020



The Ryburn Benefice Churches:
St Luke's Norland, St Mary's Cottonstones, St Peter's Sowerby

Church Contacts

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Here's a thought ...

As we struggle to maintain worshipping communities in our local Churches, and to give effective support measures in our local communities to help others who are struggling, it all seems uphill work. It has been made especially difficult during the return of more lockdown measures, to feel the fellowship and experience the closeness we used to have with friends, colleagues and family members before it all started.

This year we've been remembering the Battle of Britain, described by Winston Churchill in August 1940 as *'one of the decisive battles of the war... never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'* It was a dramatic turning point in the history of the Second World War. The occasions for Remembrance this month will provide us times of gratitude for what was achieved in the darkest moments of war.

However, this year we are very aware of our own struggles with the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. We face an unseen enemy, but the effects on our lives and society are as almost as devastating as world war.

Remembering is not just about focusing on past events. It is also about making present past events, as we give thanks for all that took place. The Battle of Britain was fought by the Few and won in the skies over the Channel. In our battle with the virus, we can call to mind the victory of Jesus: *'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.'* (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus secured the victory of death by His cross and resurrection, so that we don't need to fear death, but trust in His loving purposes for our lives.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'

It is the faithful few battling on, who don't give up on God or on helping those around in whatever way they can, who in the end hold out and overcome.

Wishing God's blessings to you all.

Dates for November

Prayer Breakfast : Sat. 7th November 9.30am St Peter's

Parish AGM's:

Sowerby : Sunday, 15th November, 11.00am St Peter's Church

Sowerby Parish PCC Sunday, 29th November, 11.00am St Peter's Church

All Saints Day

Sunday 1st November



Remembrance Day Service

Sunday 8th November

Advent Sunday

Sunday 29th November



Poppy Appeal 2020

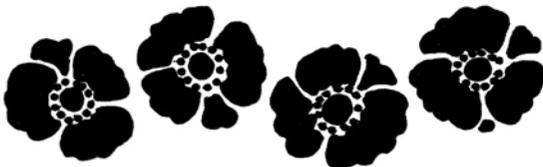
Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be 'point of sale donations'. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: "The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead", but that "the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised "not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present."

And yet the need is still huge: "Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them."



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.

Thank you.

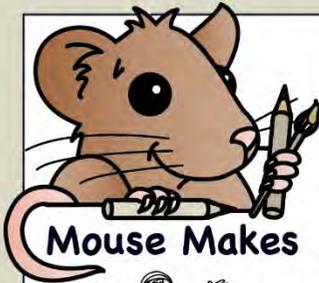
Don't forget to look us up on the web:
www.ryburnbenefice.org



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

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

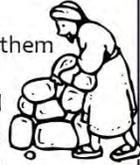
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REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

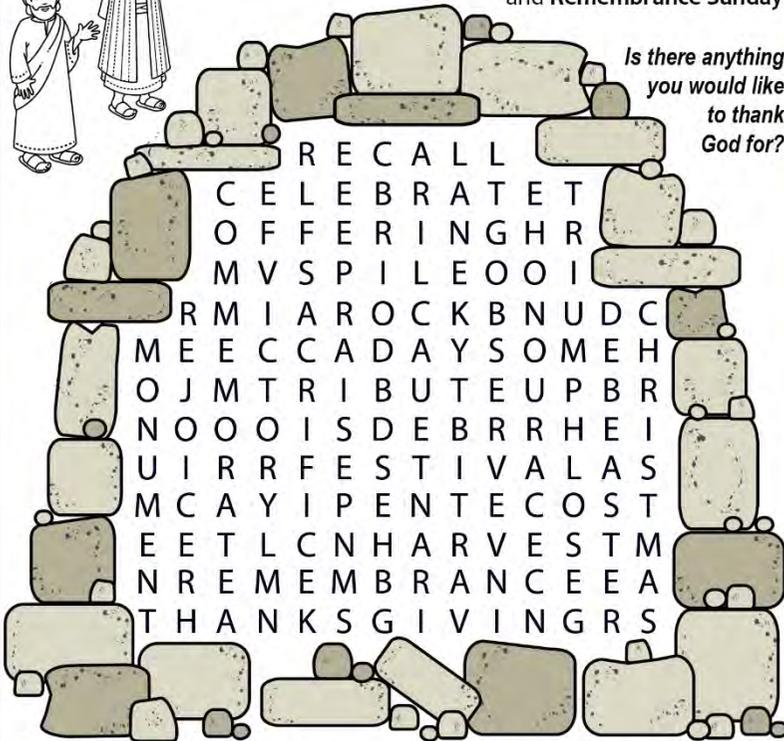


READ Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



Is there anything you would like to thank God for?



REMEMBRANCE • SACRIFICE • VICTORY • TRIUMPH • MONUMENT
 ROCK • PILE • OBSERVE • TRIBUTE • COMMEMORATE • RECALL • OFFERING
 HONOUR • CELEBRATE • PRAISE • REJOICE • THANKSGIVING • DAYS
 FESTIVAL • EASTER • PENTECOST • HARVEST • CHRISTMAS

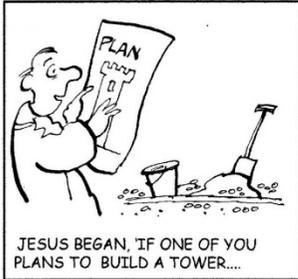
The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

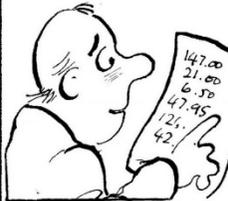


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



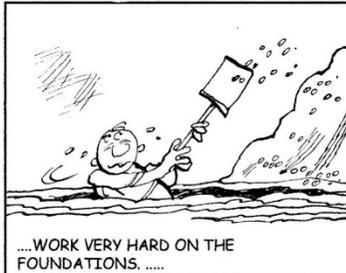
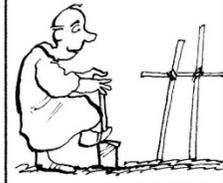
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



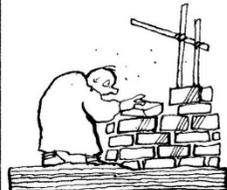
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS...

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,



...WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

Hello God ...

Nigel Beeton writes: Sometimes our problems seem like giants and sometimes they go unchallenged for far too long....

David and Goliath by Nigel Beeton

“Come out and fight!” – but they took fright

This mountain among men.

“Come out and die! You I defy!”

Goliath taunted them.

See how they shake, see brave men quake

Each one was sore afraid

No-one would dare to go out there!

The King was quite dismayed.

“Hear what I say – no tax to pay!

“So don’t be petrified!

“Go out and slay that man today

“My girl will be your bride!”

But no such trade could them persuade

To step forth from the line

To their disgrace no-one would face

The giant Philistine.

Then David came to bring some grain

And several loaves of bread;

“I wonder why this heathen guy

“Is not already dead?

“He struts about, I hear him shout

“He stays in fighting health

“I’ve faced bear’s paw and lion’s jaw –

“I’ll fight the man myself!”

“Well here’s the thing,” said Saul the King

“He’s very, very, bad!

“He’s fought with rage from early age
“And you are just a lad!
“He’s nine foot three, it seems to me
“To raise your chance’s rating
“Please put on now – I’ll show you how
“My royal armour plating.”

He put it on, but it was wrong
His strength did not improve.
The armour’s weight was far too great
Poor David could not move!
He gave a cough and took it off
“I think I’ll travel light!”
His sling he took, stones from the brook
“I’m ready for the fight!”

Goliath swore at what he saw
“Am I some kind of dog?
“That you employ a youthful boy
“For such a mighty slog?”
A stone did fling from David’s sling
It struck him on the head!
And with a roar he was no more
The giant fell down dead!

And so, because young David was
So faithful to his Lord
He won the day in God’s own way
Without a shield, or sword
And through His grace
whate’er we face
If we just stop and pray
Then we shall see the victory
Today, and every day!



All Saints' Day and Remembrance Day in November naturally turn our thoughts to death and what lies beyond...

The Blessed Dead

They lie at rest, our blessed dead;
The dews drop cool above their head,
They knew not when fleet summer fled.

Together all, yet each alone;
Each laid at rest beneath his own
Smooth turf or white allotted stone.

When shall our slumber sink so deep,
And eyes that wept and eyes that weep
Weep not in the sufficient sleep?

God be with you, our great and small,
Our loves, our best-beloved of all,
Our own beyond the salt sea-wall

By Christina Rossetti (1830-94)



29th November is the day of intercession and thanksgiving for the missionary work of the Church. This poem acknowledges that it is and always has been God's mission, not ours.

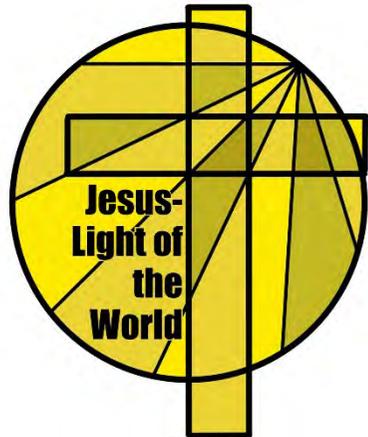
Sending

(Gen.1:1, Jn.1:1, Jn 20:21,22)

As it was in the beginning
Sending Lord,
Of your Son and your Spirit,
Of your people through generations,
Now, Lord, you send us
To where you already are,
Love-links
To the margins and the mainstream,
To the visible and the hidden needs
Of those in darkness.

As it was in the beginning Lord,
Speak the light
Of your word of truth.

Jesus,
Sent and sending,
Life and Light,
Switch us on
In the power of your Spirit,
That, sent, we might shine your
presence
And bring glory to the Father
And to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit.
Part of your mission
As it was in the beginning.



By Daphne Kitching

Back to school: Charities create tips for teachers to help young carers

The Children's Society and Carers Trust have been helping teachers give more support to young carers, as they came back to school this autumn.

Research suggests as many as one in five pupils in secondary schools in England are young carers. Because of the high numbers, the charities, who jointly run the Young Carers in Schools initiative, have produced a short, practical guide for school staff to enable them to help these young people.

During the coronavirus crisis, many young carers have faced a particularly stressful time. 58% of young carers aged 12 to 17 reported they were caring on average for an extra ten hours a week since the start of the pandemic.

Helen Leadbitter, The Children's Society lead for Young Carers, said: "For many young carers, lockdown was a very lonely time, as school was often seen as a place for them to have a break from caring roles and seek support from teachers and friends.

"It is vital teachers recognise the signs of a young carer and understand how best to support their needs."

The guidance, which has been issued to schools via the Department for Education (DFE) can also be found at <https://youngcarersinschools.com/covid-19/> Carers Trust and The Children's Society are available to offer support, free of charge. More info at: www.youngcarersinschools.com

One out of Ten

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbour's wife."

Criminals took advantage of school closures to exploit children

New figures for the second quarter of 2020 show children accounted for 346 out of 409 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism - the system for identifying victims of modern slavery - which related to concerns about criminal exploitation through so-called county lines drug trafficking operations. The overall number of county lines referrals for all age groups more than doubled from 199 to 409.

Iryna Pona, Policy Manager at The Children's Society, said: "We saw through our frontline services how criminals continued to cynically groom and exploit vulnerable children to traffic drugs during lockdown.

"They adapted their methods and took advantage of a situation in which many children were out of view of teachers, social workers and youth workers – meaning that even these shocking figures may be just the tip of the iceberg. Our research has also found that awareness of the NRM among professionals is patchy.

"Even when children are assessed to be victims of child criminal exploitation, the support they receive remains inconsistent and often insufficient. It's vital that all vulnerable children who are not yet in school, or in the event of future school closures, have access to a named trusted professional."

"The Government should introduce a national strategy to tackle child criminal exploitation."

Prayer

A little girl attempted the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is your name. Amen."

Safe Spaces launches to offer support to survivors



A new service providing vital support for survivors of church-related abuse has recently become operational.

Safe Spaces, commissioned by the Anglican and Catholic Churches in England and Wales, is to be run by Victim Support, a national charity with a track record of providing survivor support.

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England, Church in Wales or the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Safe Spaces comprises a team of trained support advocates, who have undergone specialist training in supporting survivors of sexual violence and who have received additional specific training in how the churches respond to abuse cases, and the particular issues affecting people who have had or still have, a relationship with the church.

The service is for those who may have experienced any form of abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse (including spiritual abuse), domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour.

The service will run for an initial two years, with a view to extending this. It has been paid for by the Catholic and Anglican churches involved, supported by a grant from Allchurches Trust.

Social lifeline to older people

It is not a surprise that older people are demonstrably happier when they can stay in touch with friends and family.

Now recent research by University College London (UCL) has found that people over 50 who use the internet for communicating with loved ones, have better mental health. But they tend to feel worse when they use the internet for information, such as job-hunting.

As one researcher said, the internet “does provide some substitute for face-to face communication, and does have a positive impact on mental health.”

Call for the Government to #KeepTheLifeline

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has joined more than 60 other anti-poverty charities to call on the Government to **#KeepTheLifeline**, and not lower the standard allowance of Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit by £20 a week in April 2021, to the level at which it was before lockdown.

A spokesman for CAP said: “We’re in this together. Our social security system will be vital to keep our society steady through the challenges ahead. This is our opportunity to choose to do the right thing: keep the lifeline and keep families afloat.

“For the people we help at CAP, an extra £20 a week goes a long way. It allows them to put food on the table, top up the prepayment meter or replace school shoes that are falling apart.”

Estimates are that 4.1 million people already in financial difficulty have seen a reduction in their income because of coronavirus, and that peak unemployment will hit more than 18% in areas with the highest proportion of low paid jobs.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) reported in June that these temporary changes to benefits were the reason that households in the poorest fifth had not fallen further behind, despite having been hit the hardest in terms of earnings (losing £160 per month on average).

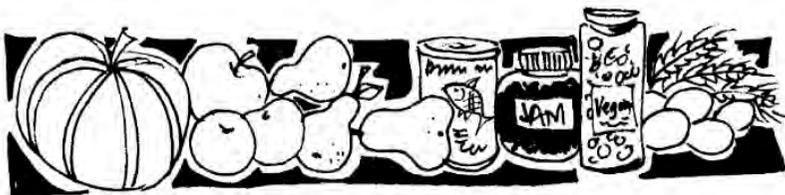
But this temporary increase is due to end in April 2021. “Dropping the lifeline will slash the incomes of roughly 16 million people overnight, cutting them adrift while the storm is still raging, and with further turmoil ahead,” said CAP.

Illtud – patron saint of NGOs?

Not many people have heard of St. Illtud, but perhaps we should make him the patron saint of all Christian NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) who work in emergency and famine relief.

Illtud did not set out to be an action hero – he was a gentle and learned abbot heading up a monastery in Glamorgan. Illtud spent his days reading the Scriptures and philosophy. Yet the year that famine struck the coast of Brittany, Illtud put down his parchments and became a man of action.

Illtud issued what must have been one of the earliest ‘emergency relief appeals’, and was able to collect a great deal of corn. Illtud loaded this corn onto several small ships, and set off across the perilous Channel in order to save the people of Brittany. Perhaps he had in mind the words of Christ: “I was hungry and you fed me...” (Matthew 25:35) Certainly, the people of Brittany never forgot Illtud’s kindness towards them: even today some Breton churches and villages bear his name. Many churches in Wales are also dedicated to this compassionate man.



We continue our occasional series on different common flowers by Kirsty Steele, a retired teacher and active church organist. The graphic is by Ruth King.

Green grow'th the Holly

A music manuscript from about 1515 and attributed to King Henry VIII has the words:

*Green grow'th the holly,
So doth the ivy,
Though winter blasts ne'er so high
Green grow'th the holly.*



The next three verses take us through spring, summer and autumn, so this is clearly not a Christmas carol, unlike the familiar 'The Holly and the Ivy'. What may not be known is that holly and ivy are two of the very few native evergreen trees, and in past times must have been especially popular in providing greenery during winter months.

With its shiny spiky dark green leaves, holly is surely one of the most easily recognised trees in this country. Though often bush like, holly can grow up to ten metres high with a straight trunk and pyramid shape. It is dioecious, meaning each tree is either male or female, explaining possibly why the one in your garden never has any berries. Nowadays we associate holly with Christmas wreaths and garlands, cards and carols. Pre-Victorian times saw holly branches used as Christmas trees, with the spiky leaves representing Christ's Crown of Thorns and the red berries as drops of blood. Holly brought into the house was regarded as protection against evil spirits and as a refuge for good 'faeries' who would guard the residents of the house in return. It is interesting to note that where no person or animal brushes by a holly, the leaves lack all spines except the one at the tip. This includes upper leaves on mature trees. A bit like people – be nice and they won't be scratchy!

Back to 'Green grow'th the Holly'. The final verse ends:

*The God of life can never die,
Hope! Saith the holly.*

How wise. Where would we be without hope?

Recipe Corner – Peanut Butter Chicken

One quirky change of life under Covid-19 is that for some reason, we are eating more peanut butter. According to a recent report in The Grocer, sales of the stuff rose by 35.5 per cent in the Spring. Peanut butter producer Kirstie Hawkins (Whole Earth brand) is delighted. “Peanut butter offers an easy way to add more nutrition to breakfast and snack choices.”

Whatever the reason, sales of peanut butter, at £98.9million in the past year, are now £2million more than those for jam.

Peanut butter is a bit like marmite, you either love it or loathe it. For those who love it here is a delicious-sounding easy peanut butter recipe to try:

Ingredients:

1 tbsp olive oil

2 chicken breasts, skinned and cut into small pieces

1 garlic clove, crushed

1 red chillies, finely sliced and deseeded (optional)

1 tsp fresh ginger, grated

1 tsp cumin

25g smooth peanut butter

200 ml coconut milk

400g can chopped tomatoes

1 small bunch coriander, chopped, with some reserved to decorate.

Serve with boiled rice, broccoli, garlic bread or Naan bread.

Method:

Brown the chicken in oil until golden and reserve. Fry the garlic, chilli and ginger, adding more oil if necessary, for 1 min. Lower heat, add cumin and fry for 1 min more.

Stir in the peanut butter, coconut milk and tomatoes, and bring to a simmer. Return the chicken to the pan and add the chopped coriander. Simmer for 30 mins until the sauce thickens and the chicken is cooked through, and serve.



Crossword for November 2020

Across

1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given —, he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)

4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)

8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)

9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)

10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)

11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)

12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)

17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)

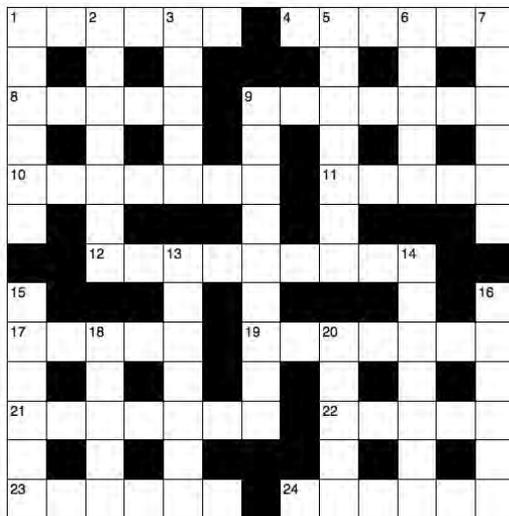
19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)

21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)

22 'And feeble as —, in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)

23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)

24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)



Down

1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)

- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

Fire in church

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread socially distanced, throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.

The congregation

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation was like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."



A bakery set up in a church kitchen to train refugee women in bread-making skills is now supplying its local food bank with more than 200 loaves a week following the coronavirus lockdown.

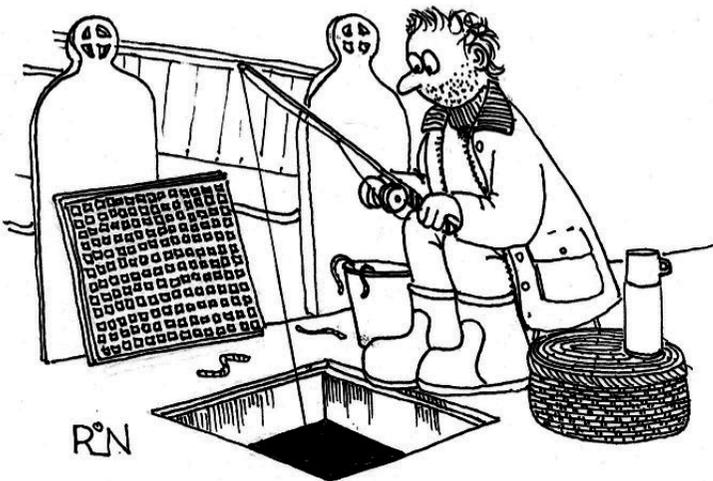
Proof Bakery in Coventry, founded two years ago in conjunction with the Church Urban Fund, is sending 250 loaves a week to Coventry Food Bank, paid for by regular customers – and increasingly donors from as far afield as Scotland and Singapore.

The bakery, specialising in sourdough but teaching a range of baking skills, meets in St Catherine's Church in Stoke Aldermoor, Coventry. So far 11 refugee women have graduated from the bakery's training programme, with three currently employed at the bakery. Two of its bakers are refugees from the conflict in Syria.

The bakery is aiming for 500 donated loaves a week for the food bank and people in need. "We are expecting demand to keep increasing as more people lose employment. And with the bakery restarting its training programme for refugees this month, there is no better time to support it."

November 2020 Crossword Solution

T	H	A	N	K	S		B	A	N	N	E	R
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Quarantining in church had its drawbacks. Two days in, the biscuits were gone, and Rupert was hungry.

And Finally.....

With the forthcoming US Presidential Election in mind...

A candidate came home in the small hours and gave his wife the wonderful news:

“Darling, I’ve been elected!”

She was delighted. “Honestly?” she demanded.

He laughed in an embarrassed sort of way. “Oh, why bring that up?”

*

Old politicians never die – they just run once too often.

*

A local council official said that he ran for office again because he thought his possible opponent, if successful, might be even more ineffective than he was.

*

Admirer to political candidate: “Great speech, sir! I really like the straightforward way you dodged those issues.”

*

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