

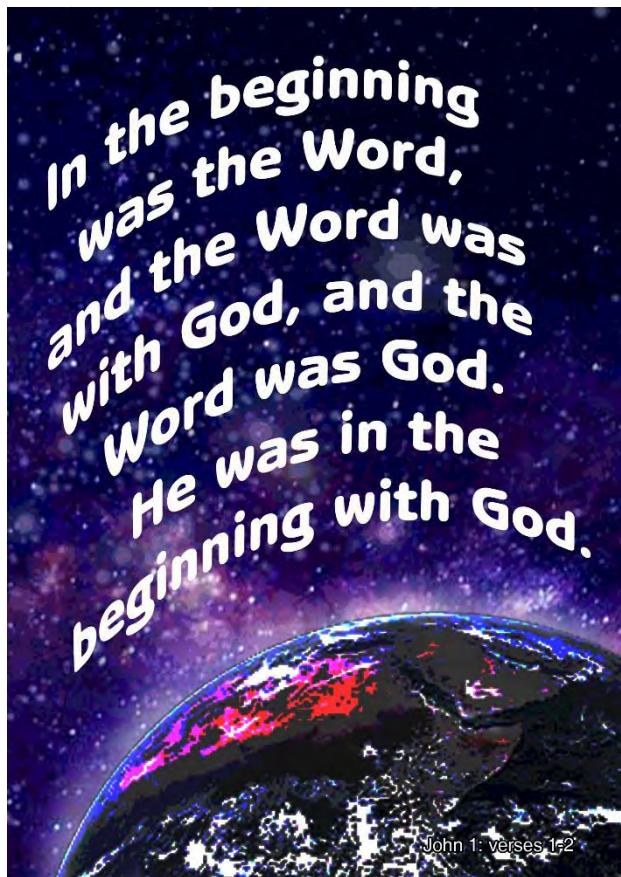


Ryburn
BENEFICE

November 2021

The Churches of:
St Luke's Norland
St Peter's Sowerby
St Mary's Cottonstones

Connected



Church Contacts

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Email</u>
<u>Vicar</u>	Revd Jeanette Roberts	01422 646 371	jeanette.roberts@leeds.anglican.org
Retired Priest & Magazine Editor	Revd Lesley Ennis		lesleyennis@hotmail.co.uk
<u>St Mary's, Cottonstones</u>			
Churchwardens	Jim Skelsey	01422822936	skelseyfamily@aol.com
	Miriam Asquith	01422 822534	miriam.asquith@hotmail.com
Verger	Contact Jim Skelsey		
Organist	Bill Ellis		
<u>St Mary's Community Centre</u>			
Bookings	Jim Skelsey	01422822936	skelseyfamily@aol.com
<u>St Luke's, Norland</u>			
Churchwardens	Jen Hallos	01422 832700	Jenhallos2@gmail.com
	Lynne Wheale	01422 834993	lynnewheale@hotmail.co.uk
Verger	Contact Churchwardens		
Organist	John Naylor	07977846285	john.r.naylor@live.com
<u>St Peter's Sowerby</u>			
Churchwardens	Ken Cuttle	01422 836487	kencuttle@aol.com
	Helen Gleave	07735537364	helengleave@talktalk.net
Verger	Contact Ken Cuttle		
Organist	Richard Barnes	01422 346215	
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Julie Hawksworth	01422 646371	
<u>St Peter's Community Centre, Sowerby HX6 1HB</u>			
Bookings	Ken Cuttle	01422 836487	kencuttle@aol.com

Church Services

Sunday worship services in our Churches have resumed, subject to the latest Covid-19 recommendations. We are now following a policy of leaving it to the individual with regard to mask wearing and social distancing. Sanitisers are available and use encouraged at the entry to the buildings. Congregational singing and refreshments after the service have resumed. Respect for each other's choices is our guiding principle as we welcome, greet and share worship with one another again.

Normal Sunday Worship times:

10am St Peter's Sowerby

11.30am 1st Sunday of the month, St Mary's Cottonstones

3.30pm St Luke's, Norland.

Social Events:

Community Café, Sowerby 9am-1pm Mondays, St Peter's Centre

Hub Café St Luke's, Norland 10am-3pm Wednesdays

Lunch Club, St Luke's, Norland 12 noon, 1st Tuesday in the month

St Luke's PCC meeting is in church at 7pm on Tuesday November 2nd

Remembrance Day Services:

Norland School Remembrance Service, Thurs 11th Nov. 9.15am Memorial Gdns.

Norland Community Remembrance Service Sun. 14th Nov. 10.45am Memorial Gdns.

St Peter's Church 10am Sunday 14th Nov.

Sowerby Parish PCC meeting on Monday, 15th November in St. Peter's Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Don't forget to look us up on the web & Facebook

www.ryburnbenefice.org



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

Vicar: Revd Jeanette Roberts tel 01422 646 37112

jeanette.roberts@leeds.anglican.org

Editorial Reflection ...

The word comes to us in ever more varied forms these days but in whatever form we receive it – magazine, Facebook, Twitter, TV News, Film, face to face, mobile, podcast – it has the power to impact us. The technology of the web and internet enables wonderful things, but it also gives power to those with ulterior motives to damage or destroy.

The recent televising of ‘The Trick’ on BBC 1 about the unjustified vilifying of respected scientist Professor Phil Jones is a case in point. The data he had compiled to support the incontrovertible evidence of climate change threatened the business and political interests of those most interested in keeping such knowledge out of the public domain – who still remain unidentified. The resulting ‘trial by media’ drove him to the edge of suicide when he was wrongly accused of lying and falsifying the evidence. Others in public life sadly have the same degree of character assassination and threats to person and family to contend with should they dare to air a controversial or challenging opinion.

It is into this complexity that ‘The Word’ is sent, according to St John’s gospel, which we quote on the cover. ‘The Word’ itself is a subject of controversy and condemnation in many parts of the world. Those who follow ‘The Word’ often end up being persecuted, vilified and murdered at the one extreme, mocked, side-lined and humiliated at the other.

Followers of ‘The Word’ of course, are followers of Jesus Christ, who was himself mocked, humiliated and murdered for the words he said – but it is not just about words, is it, but about deeds. Jesus didn’t just say he would rise from the dead, he did rise from the dead: that is what we believe. Professor Jones is now completely vindicated. What he said was quite true. However, those who believe that our Climate is in a precarious position don’t just need the words about the situation to be acknowledged as true – they need action to put things right. Let us pray that the words of those at the COP26 conference in Glasgow this week will be accompanied by such action, and that we will all join in to support the sacrifices needed to bring about this necessary change. We follow Jesus, after all, the Jesus who sacrificed himself for the world.

Lesley Ennis

Archbishop of York's tribute to Sir David Amess in the House of Lords

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, gave tribute to Sir David Amess in the House of Lords:

My Lords, on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops of the Church of England and, I'm sure all Christian people and all people of goodwill, I'm here to offer David Amess' family and the constituents of Southend West my condolences and the assurance of the prayers of the church. I am very grateful for all that has been said thus far and certainly we wish to associate ourselves on these benches with those comments.

As was said, I considered Sir David Amess a friend. Leigh On-Sea is my home town. Southend, now the city of Southend is where I grew up. This appalling murder happened in streets I know well, just around the corner from where my mum lives. It was characteristic of David, whom I got to know during my time as Bishop of Chelmsford that when I was appointed, he was one of the first people to congratulate me. When I was translated to York it was the same. He thought this was another way of putting Southend on the map. A boy who went to a secondary modern school in Southend was now the 98th 'Archbishop of York. He was so pleased. Last time I saw him he said could he have his photograph taken with me. I reckon now that Southend has been declared a city today, forget about a statue of Vera Lynn at Dover, we're going to put a statue of David Amess at the end of Southend Pier.

He was, and I know this from the work I did with him, a deeply deeply committed constituency MP and he exemplified what that means. He knew the people he served and in the constituency he was completely colour blind to political difference. He just served the people that he'd been elected to serve.

But I do want to say this -

Hate cannot win.

It may score many points.

It may land many punches.

But it can't win. Because trusting no one, hate just ends up with endless divisions and suspicions and in the end, it just consumes itself.

Sorry, I am going to go into sermon mode just for a moment, sisters and brothers.

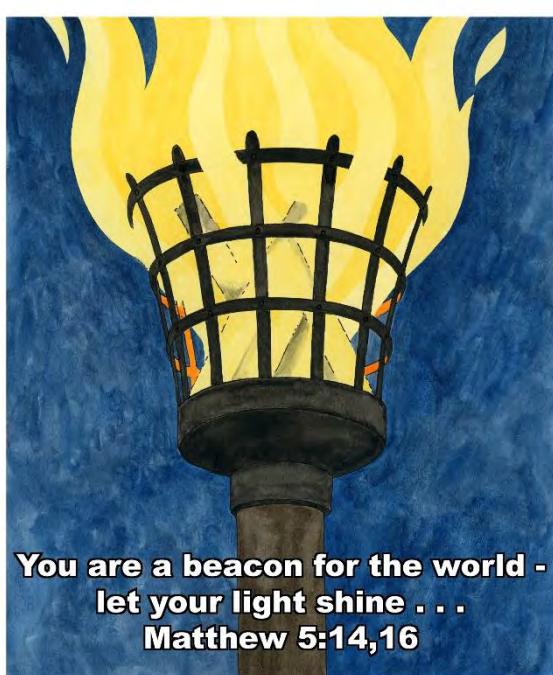
Love is always stronger. It's always more tenacious. Its patient endurance draws us together. And by love, I don't just mean warm feelings of well-disposed goodwill, but that deeply committed determination to get up each morning and live what you believe in, put the needs of others before yourself, recognise our common humanity - that's where the word kindness comes from, it is linked to the word kin, it means we belong to each other, we serve the common good, we know that our best interests are absolutely interwoven with the interests of others. And they lead to those things, those values, that vision which is worth living for.

Now, this love, is what we see, on these benches, in Jesus Christ. It was that love and that faith in Christ within the community of the church which was the source and sustenance of David Amess's vision and values. It was this that enabled him to reach across party political divides, get on well with everyone, and exhibit a good-humoured generosity and a kindness that is, sadly, sadly, often woefully lacking in public and political discourse today.

My Lords, these same values, this same vision are held in our democracy. They require us to listen and to love one another, especially those with whom we differ and disagree, and to attend to each other's needs and serve the common good.

They call us to speak kindly of each other, to think well of each other and to act generously. And it is because Sir David Amess so exemplified those things, regardless of what his politics happened to be, he exemplified these things and that's the reason that we are so easily able to come together to remember him, esteem his contribution to public life, mourn his death, but not be defeated by the hatred that killed him.

Could I conclude with some words I wrote in a newspaper yesterday about his faith: David Amess didn't actually wear his faith on his sleeve. He wore it in his heart and that is the best place for faith.
when you wear it in your heart, it shapes everything.



Bishops demand climate action at COP26

Bishops join leaders of other major faiths to demand climate action at COP26 in Glasgow

Faith leaders have been joining together to demand climate action ahead of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow (1st - 12th November).

Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, and lead Bishop on the Environment for the Church of England signed the letter alongside leaders of every major Christian denomination and representatives from Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities.

The declaration states: “We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights to protect the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity.

“We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change.

“Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations.

“To offer hope in the world we need to have confidence that those in power understand the vital role they have to play at the Glasgow COP26.”

The Glasgow Declaration pledges a response to the challenge set by the climate emergency through being “advocates for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future.”

Caring for Creation

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the COP26 climate conference

This month sees the eagerly anticipated COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. As Christians, we need to hold together two key insights, if we are to engage with the challenge of climate change:

The world is not ours:

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! If we understand this, we will rediscover the responsibility of our calling to care for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). This challenges our consumer mindset, that says the resources of the earth are both limitless and exist for our pleasure. As well as caring for the planet, we also need to care for its people, for it's the poorest who will suffer the most from climate change. According to the World Bank, 100 million could fall into poverty by 2030. We cannot properly address the climate crisis until we re-learn our place in God's world!

We belong to Christ:

We also belong to the one in whom: *'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.'* (Colossians 1:16). We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.

However great the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage in it with faith and not with fatalism!

Hello God ...

Prayer for November

Father,
In these short, dark days of
November, with all the
uncertainties and complications in
our new Covid 19 landscape, help
us to feel the reassurance of Your
presence in the gift of each new
day. Help us to be guided through the darkness by Your light – by Jesus,
who will never leave us or forsake us.



In His name – the name above pandemics and shortages and rising bills
and all anxieties – we pray.

Amen. *By Daphne Kitching*

Nigel Beeton writes: November is also the month of remembrance, made more poignant this year by the recent withdrawal from Afghanistan. Was it a waste? It's not for me to say, but the gallantry shown by our armed forces can never be a waste. We, like their families, are so proud of what they did in the name of freedom. I cannot think of a more appropriate poem than the one that I wrote in 2009 in response to the loss of our soldiers out there, O Gallant Youth:

O Gallant Youth

Through long dark years our young have fought and died,
In Freedom's name our country's foes defied;
Now in Remembrance they are glorified,
O Gallant Youth, we owe so much to you.

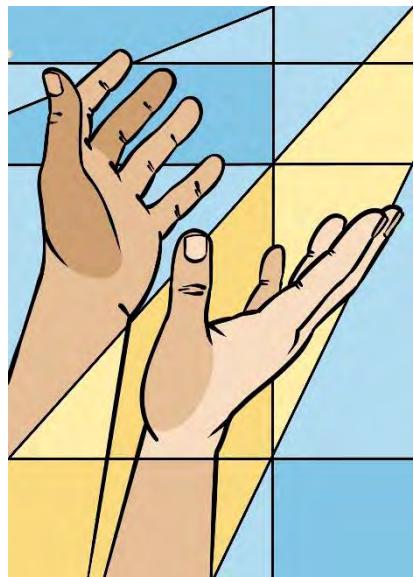
Though they were young, when came their country's call,
Ready they were to stand up strong and tall.
They did not flinch when asked to give their all,
O Gallant Youth, we give our thanks for you.

*Rows of graves, with headstones white
Tributes to our gallant men,
From Sun's rise till it sets from sight
We'll always remember them.*

Though they know well how high the price before –
Legions of men and women lost in war –
Our young today are standing firm and
sure!
O Gallant Youth, we are so proud of you!

*Desert sands, through wind or flame
Far flung seas, or skies of blue
Where you go in Freedom's name
We'll always think of you.*

Go, in our name, to duty or to fight,
Go, with our hopes into the darkest night;
The hand of God will lead into the light.
O Gallant Youth, we send our prayers
with you!



Follow your fellow men from ages past
Stand side by side with them, sincere, steadfast
Fight for the right until you come at last
Home, Gallant Youth, to those that wait for you.

By Nigel Beeton

Late last year a friend of Parish Pump lost her beloved dog to septic peritonitis. Megan Carter wrote this most moving poem as a result of that loss, but the poem expresses the grief of all bereaved dog lovers...

My Friend

Where have you gone my companion and friend?
Your bark, your look were with me each day,
But now there's such an empty space
You're no longer here; what is there to say?

Released from pain and now at peace,
Memories sweet will never depart,
Amazing how a four-legged friend
Can be so entwined within one's heart.

Of all God's creation His special touch
Is the gift of a pet coming into our care,
Loyal, loving, a constant friend
So we thank the Lord for the time that we shared.

By Megan Carter



When someone you loved is dead

Tony Horsfall lost his wife last year to cancer. He is a former missionary in East Malaysia and former retreat leader based in West Yorkshire. This is part one of a two-part series.

Since my wife passed away in July 2020, I have often been asked, “What are you learning from your grief journey?”

Here are a few standout lessons:

1. That grief takes longer than you think to work itself through, and it can't be rushed. It is a journey you must take slowly.
2. That when you lose your spouse, you lose not only the person you loved, but the person who loved you. This second loss leaves a hole in your heart, making you very vulnerable to new relationships.
3. That you will need to re-discover your identity as God's deeply loved child in this season of your life, as if you had never known it before.
4. That God can be trusted to help you rebuild your life, but trust may not come easily. It is better to focus on God's trustworthiness than on your ability to trust, which may be shaky.
5. That your experience of grief and your response to loss is unique and personal, so don't compare your journey to that of others.
6. That good friends can make the journey so much easier. Be prepared to ask for help.
7. That you will be ambushed by grief. Some things will take you by surprise, especially the little things.
8. That the loss of a spouse will leave you feeling very lonely, even when you are surrounded by family and friends. This is not a weakness, just a sign of what you have lost.
9. That loneliness is not a mental illness, just a natural response to being bereaved, and it will get better.
10. That moving forward is not a sign that you didn't care, but that there is still a life to be lived and not wasted.

To be concluded next month

Lest We Forget

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the horrors of war.

'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.



Remembrance.

'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.'

The Revd John Tyler considers what it means to remember.

Have you seen the film '*Saving Private Ryan*'? The first 20 minutes of the film is a powerful account of war, portraying the first landing crafts arriving at the Normandy beaches on D Day. The film successfully brings to life the events of that day, as a vivid act of remembrance.

From a biblical perspective, the word *remembrance* means making present a past reality, so that we can benefit from it today. On Remembrance Sunday we think about those who have given their lives in wars over the years, as well as those who continue to grieve over their lost loved ones. We want to make their sacrifice in past conflicts real for us today, so that we can engage with the horror of war and those enduring suffering today.

It involves dealing with the *why* question in the face of relentless tragedies and injustices: *why does God allow such suffering to take place?* One of the great themes of the Scriptures is that God identifies with the suffering. But the Christian faith goes beyond this! It affirms that in Jesus, God's Son, divinity became involved in suffering and death on the cross. It is at Calvary that we see how God Himself knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unprovoked attack. *'I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?'* (John Stott).

Although we don't fully understand the reason why God allows evil and suffering to continue, we do know what the reason isn't! It can't be that He doesn't love us! God so loved us and hates suffering that He was willing to come down and get involved in our hurting world. This can be a source of real strength on such an occasion.

However, how can we ensure that those who have given their lives are truly honoured, not forgetting those who are risking their lives in conflicts today? An appropriate response is to actively work and pray for justice in our world, especially where there is inequality and conflict. In a divided world we are also called to renew our efforts to work for peace. We need to be serious about being peacemakers, especially where it involves those close to us. As Jesus said, '*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God*' (Matt 5:9).

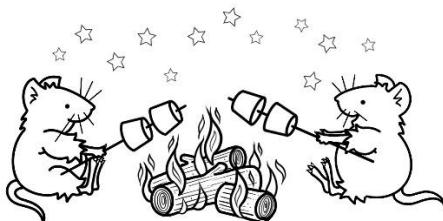
Know what to do

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 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.

Food

People at my workplace have started a funny new tradition where they give names to the food in the office fridge. Today I ate a sandwich called Mark, followed by some cake called Rosie.



What's on at St Peter's....

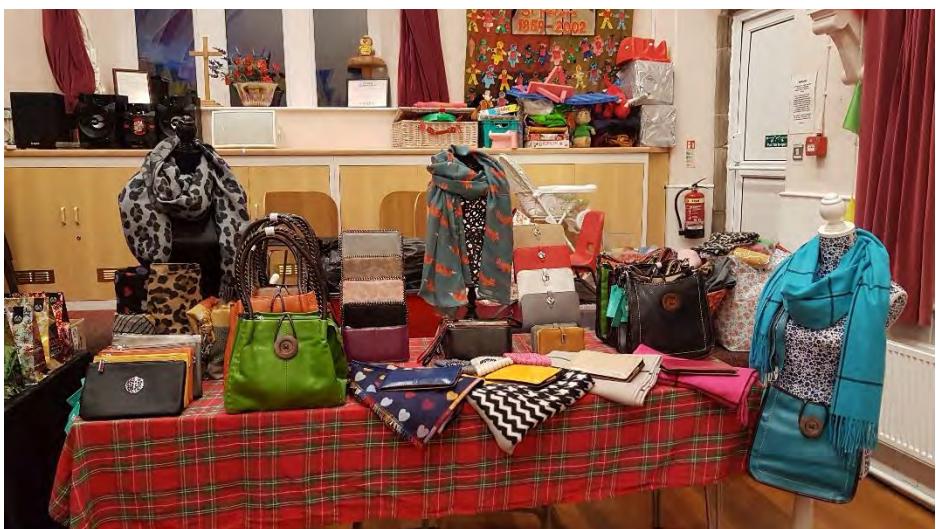
LADIES NIGHT

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Ladies Night shopping event on 13 October. It was fabulous to see so many people come there supporting our fundraising efforts and the local small businesses and crafters. Our stallholders loved being back after last year's enforced break, for some it was the first face-to-face event they have done since the pandemic put a stop to such things and they really enjoyed the interaction with customers again. They also each generously donated a prize for our raffle, so thank you to them for that. Also our thanks go to the ladies who organised the event, helped set up, served refreshments and sold raffle tickets – a brilliant team effort!

We raised £180.50 for church funds, so a very successful event.

Next up is the St Nicholas Day Festival and Christmas Fair on Friday 3 December..... put the date in your diaries now!!
Here are some photos of a very successful evening...





What's on at St Luke's...

Once again it was a very enjoyable evening with The Melody Bells who entertained us with 'Songs from the Shows' on Saturday, 16th October. A huge thank you to The Melody Bells and to all who attended, and to those who provided the raffle, wine and cakes.



Norland Act of Remembrance

Norland WI gardening group have tidied the Memorial Park ready for the Act of Remembrance on Sunday November 14th.

If you wish to attend, please meet in church at 10.45 to process to the Park for the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am.

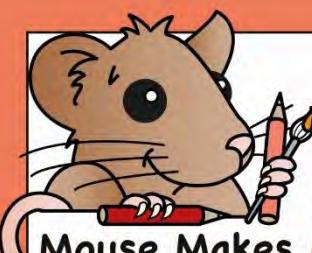
Refreshments will be served on church afterwards. There will also be a Service in church at 3.30pm.

The Lunch Club will meet in church on Tuesday November 2nd at 12 noon

Please let us know by Friday 29th of November if you would like to attend.

Tel no's: Jenny Longbottom 01422 831300 or Jen Hallos 01422 832700





Mouse Makes



**I AM
THE**

Read John 10:11 and 14



**I AM
THE**

Read John 15:1 and 35



**I AM
THE**

OF

Read John 6:35,51

**I
A M**

Seven times in John's Gospel
Jesus calls Himself "I AM"
- the same name that God calls
Himself when He speaks to Moses
in Exodus 3:14
Jesus is telling us who He really is.



**I AM
THE**

AND THE

Read John 11:25

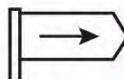


**I AM
THE**

AND THE

AND THE

Read John 14:6



**I AM
THE**

Read John 10:9



**I AM
THE**

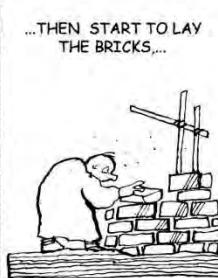
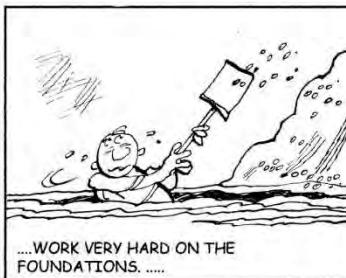
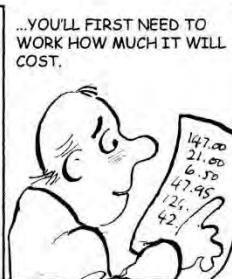
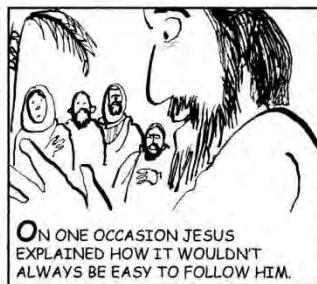
OF THE

Read John 18:12

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

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search

The tale of the Tower Builder



Saints you may not have heard about ...

Hubert and the stag

The morality of hunting has made the headlines in recent years, but here at least was one man who was converted while hunting. Hubert (bishop, d 727 AD) was out on Good Friday hunting stag when he came across a stag with a crucifix between its antlers. This so shook him that he converted to Christianity, and went on to become Bishop of Tongres-Maestricht. History does not tell us if he killed the stag or not, or if he ever hunted stag again.

The Kea to toothache?

Kea was an early Christian and a monk from a good family who left Glastonbury to work in Devon and Cornwall, where Landkey (Devon) and Kea (Cornwall) bear his name. He founded several Christian centres in the area before going on to Brittany to become the saint known there as ‘Saint-Quay’. It seems that Kea may also have tried a bit of early dentistry, as down the centuries since he has been invoked over the problems of toothaches.

#####
#

Iniquities

A keen young boy, attending his first Mass as an altar boy, was very attentive to everything the priest said. He was especially struck by the priest’s prayer: “Lord, wash away my iniquities, and save me from sin!”

In the sacristy afterwards he humbly asked the priest where he should pour the water from the ablutions bowl: “Please father, where shall I put your iniquities?”

Stewardship

Our church launched a new Stewardship Campaign, which instead of holding a series of events, decided to focus entirely on one big fund-raising event. The evening became known as “putting all our begs into one askit.”

Crossword Nov 2021

Across

1 In David's battle
with the Arameans,
700 of these were
killed (2 Samuel 10:18)
(11)

9 'No —, impure or
greedy person has any
inheritance in the
kingdom of God'
(Ephesians 5:5) (7)

10 City on the banks of
the River Nile (5)

11 Stamped addressed
envelope (1,1,1)

13 Taverns (4)

16 'Be on your guard;
stand — in the faith' (1
Corinthians 16:13) (4)

17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm
103:9) (6)

18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew
2:1–2) (4,4)

20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)

21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)

22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)

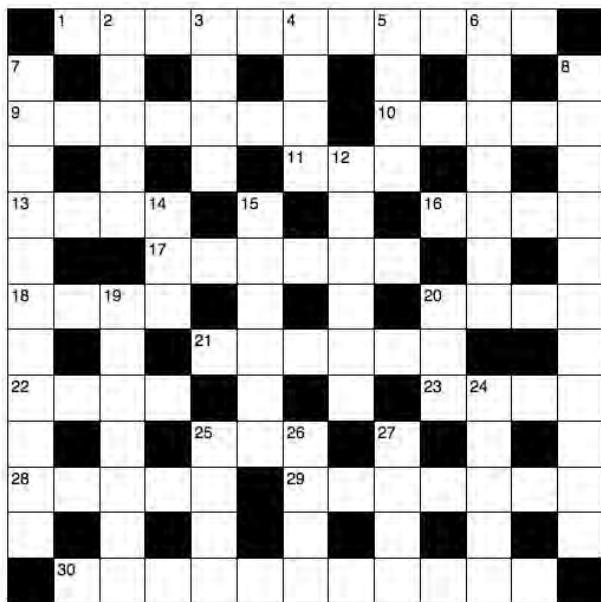
23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)

25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers'
(Luke 19:46) (3)

28 Annie (anag.) (5)

29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)

30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)



Down

- 2 ‘We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands’ (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 ‘You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me’ (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo (‘Behold the Man’) (4)
- 6 ‘He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead’ (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 ‘Our — is in heaven’ (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 ‘This is a day you are to —’ (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 ‘Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it’ (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 ‘Remember the — day by keeping it holy’ (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 ‘If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me’ (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across

#####
#

Family tree

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. “Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror,” observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, “What about you dear? Can you go back very far?”

“Not very far,” came the reply. “You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood.”

God in the Arts ...

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with El Greco's 'The Saviour'.

Picture Courtesy of 'El Greco, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons'

**'All you who
pass this way,
look and see'**

The philosopher Wittgenstein gave the following advice to people visiting an art gallery or exhibition: never try to rush through all the paintings on show, but instead choose just one painting. Sit in front of it for twenty minutes. Then get up and leave the art gallery. It is difficult advice to take to heart because we feel we want to get our money's worth from an exhibition, especially if we have paid an entrance charge. Once in the gallery we then feel so overawed by the number of paintings on show and the pressure of the crowd that we go quickly from one canvas to the next.



The rushing around at a gallery is part and parcel of the way we meet each day. We rush out of habit, and we rush because everyone else is rushing. Our world seems set in the fast lane. Carl Honoré in his book ‘In Praise of Slow’ tells how, as a busy journalist, he experienced a flashback to a time in his youth when life was unhurried. He reflects, with regret, that it was a better life then.

If we do want to take Wittgenstein’s advice seriously and find ourselves in the National Gallery in Edinburgh, we could do no better than choose to sit in front of this month’s painting: El Greco’s ‘The Saviour.’ El Greco was born in 1541 in Crete. From Greece he travelled to Venice and Rome and finally to Toledo in Spain where he died in 1614.

His art is a fusion of eastern and western traditions, given extra fervour by the Counter-Reformation and resulting in a unique style of painting. His canvases are peopled by elongated figures who seem always to be straining upwards, just as the Counter-Reformation was exhorting the faithful to set their sights on heaven as they made their journey through life.

In his early years in Crete El Greco trained as an icon painter, and that is much in evidence in ‘The Saviour.’ It shows a half-length figure of Christ – he was to paint a fuller figure later. This Christ like an icon is looking out at us, with his right hand raised to bless us and this world, while the left hand holds that same world in His care. We can see in the eyes an inner strength, but also the poignant sadness of longing for this is a Saviour who has come through suffering and death to bring us new life.

As we look and see, we find here in El Greco’s work a Christ-calmed steadiness amid the spinning world of rush and busyness. The nearer we draw to this Jesus, the slower we will find ourselves spinning. The duties and responsibilities that demand so much from us take their place in the wider perspective of the Saviour’s grace and love. Then we can begin to experience that peace which the world cannot offer, but which Christ can bring.

The first step in that process is to stop and look. The Curé d'Ars, a parish priest in France in the early 19th century, told how he noticed an old man sitting at the back of his church every day. He didn't seem to be doing anything, just sitting there in the same place at the same time, looking towards the Blessed Sacrament on the High Altar. Eventually the young priest became suspicious. He asked the man what he was doing. 'I'm praying,' came the reply.' Yes, but what exactly is it you do?' enquired the priest. 'Well, I look at Him and He looks at me.'

#####



God in the Sciences ...

This series is written 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.

Should We Have Faith in Science?

How do you feel about science after more than 18 months of pandemic: tired or interested, impressed or cynical – or a bit of everything? The response to COVID-19 has demonstrated how ideology or worldview are hugely influential in our interpretation and use of scientific data – and at times in the process of experimentation itself. Should we trial a vaccine in Spain or South Africa? Is this treatment safe enough to administer to the general public? Should vaccination be made compulsory? The data don't tell us what to do.

So, when we are encouraged to ‘trust the science’ in our ongoing response to the pandemic, or in the run-up to the COP26 UN climate change conference, how can the Church respond? The whole biblical story affirms that God is the only one in whom we can have complete faith. On the other hand, I do put a certain amount of trust in other things. I can have faith in a plane, a body of knowledge, or a person. This trust is within limits because I know that air travel involves hazards, a body of knowledge will contain some mistakes, and every ordinary human is fallible.

I trust science to some extent because it involves careful observation and measurement, collecting different kinds of evidence. Data is interpreted, and competing interpretations are tried out. We summarise our findings in general principles or mathematical equations. Scientists keep each other accountable by looking critically at each other’s work. Our knowledge is always provisional. You can’t prove anything scientifically because we only deal in evidence, not proof.

On the other hand, there must always be the potential to disprove a theory or it’s not science. Our aim is to keep getting nearer to the truth about the way

the world is. Overall, I believe this method is reliable and worth supporting, but that only God is completely trustworthy.

Psalm Eight reminds us both of the splendour of God's creation, and that He has placed us in a position of responsibility over it. Scientific knowledge can be part of what helps us to rule well. The process of doing science can be a bit like a blurry image coming into focus. The more we learn, the better we can usually see what's going on, and hopefully the easier it is to decide on a course of action. So in answer to the question 'Should we have faith in science?' I would say yes, when used wisely and within its proper limits.



#####

First Communion

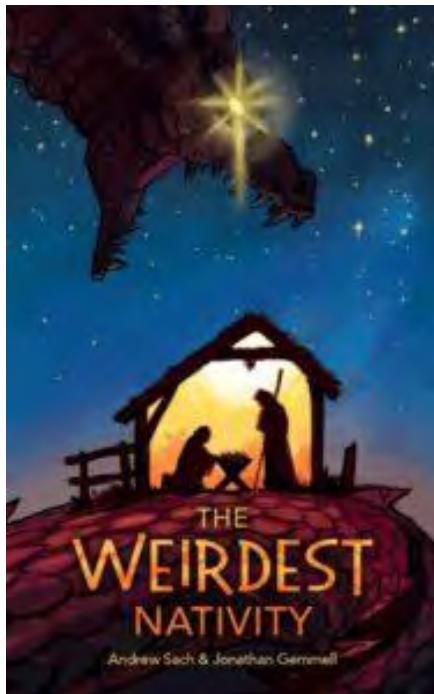
My three-year-old niece, Kelly, went with a neighbour's little girl to church for her First Communion practice. The minister had the children cup their hands, and then went solemnly down the line, giving each child a piece of bread, and intoning: "God be with you".

Apparently, this made quite an impression on my niece. She came home and told her mother to cup her hands and bend down. Kelly took a piece of bread from her sandwich, placed it in her mother's hands, and whispered, in her most angelic voice, "God will get you."

Book Review ...

The Weirdest Nativity

By Andrew Sach and Jonathan Gemmell, 10 Publishing, £2.99



This is a book for people who already know the *standard* nativity – the baby, the stable, the manger...

But it includes one character you were probably never told about – an enormous red dragon. We didn't make him up. His story is tucked away in the lesser-known pages of the Bible and his terrible deeds are verifiable facts of history. Though few people are aware of him, he is fighting a battle in which we all must choose sides.



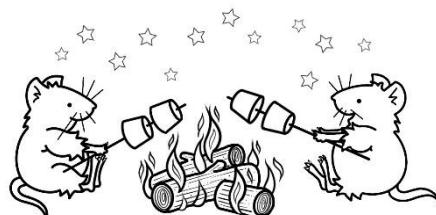
An epic struggle between good and evil
took place in the Vicarage kitchen



Daily Mail

At a recent church meeting, a Sunday School teacher requested that a notice be put into the weekly pew-sheet, asking for church members to bring in any old copies they had of the Daily Mail. She wanted the newspapers for a big Christmas project involving lots of paper mâché, and thought that the ink on the Daily Mail would be less messy.

The secretary made a rough note, and the notice went in: 'Wanted by our Sunday School teacher: lots of daily males.'



And Finally....

Miscellaneous musings on modern life...

/ In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify': I put 'DOCTOR.'

/ Member of the congregation to minister: "I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you."

/ Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

/ Where there's a will, there are relatives.

/ Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

– *Mark Twain*

/ Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you. – *Winston Churchill*

/ If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished. – *Anon*

Puzzle Solution November 2021



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

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 25th of the month. Anything submitted later will be held for the next magazine.

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, for kindly allowing us to use some of their material.