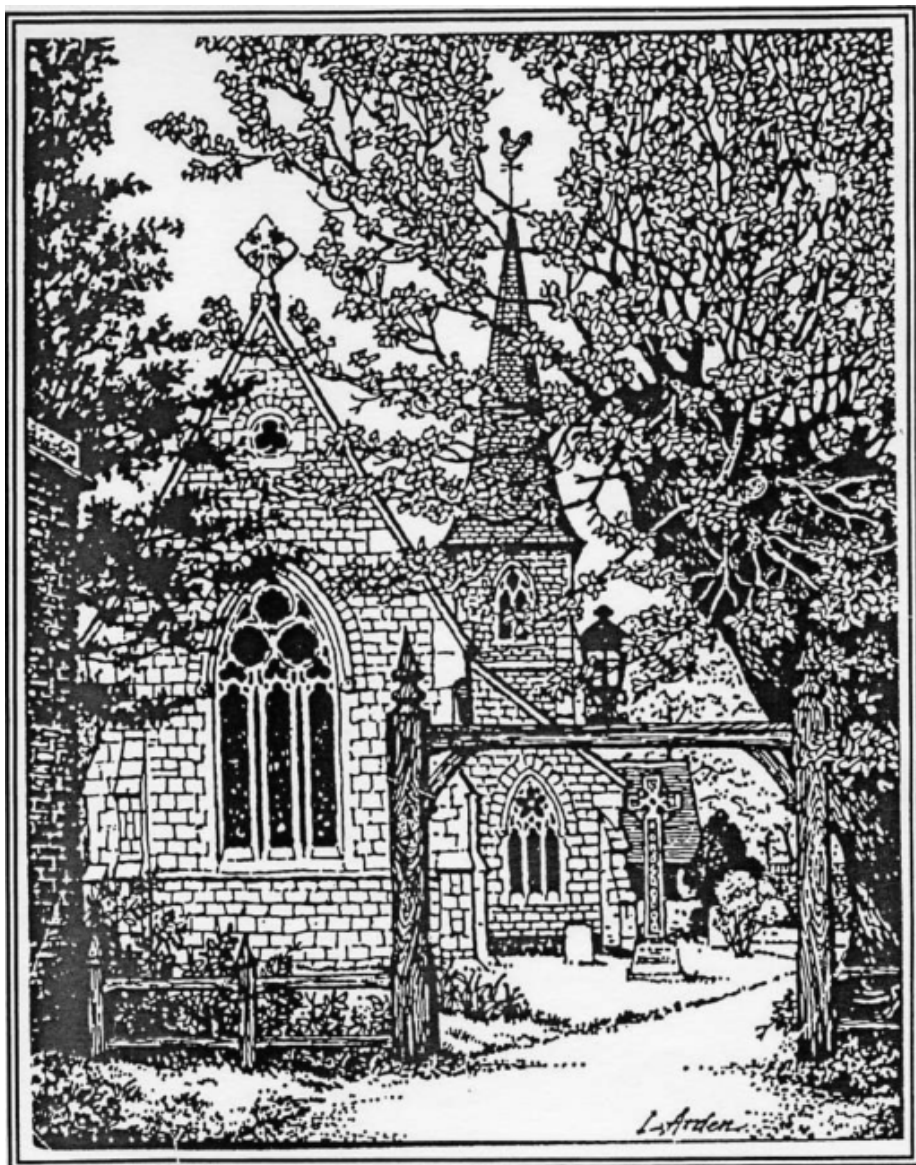


**The Parish Church of  
St. James, North Cray**

**50p**

**November, 2019**

*(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)*



## St JAMES, NORTH CRAY PARISH STAFF

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**Parish Safeguarding:** Rhonda Collins 020 8300 3797

**Magazine Editor:** Steve Blake  
sblakestjames@virginmedia.com

### **St James Sunday Service**

9.30am Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

## TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER NOVEMBER 2019



### ***REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING***

Over the last few days, I have begun preparations for our church services for November, the Memorial Services where we remember loved ones who have died, and the Remembrance Services where we honour the memory of those who have lost their lives as the result of armed conflicts.

And so, I have been thinking about memory, and about remembering. There are many different types of 'memory'. We can learn to do certain tasks, such as speaking a language, riding a bike, or playing a musical instrument, and generally speaking, we will remember how to do these things forever. As we begin to be more experienced in performing those tasks, it becomes possible to unconsciously repeat them. Maybe you can think of a time when you have driven some considerable distance quite safely, but without actually being aware of the process of driving your car!

Other types of memories require something the experts call intentional recall. This means that we need to think about these things to remember them, things like our first teacher's name or the way to make a favourite recipe. And there are also not such nice memories, things that we maybe would rather not bring back to our minds, but which stays there stubbornly, like the time a big ginger-headed boy called Paul pushed me over in the infants school playground!

Some of us will have reached that age when those childhood and early memories are sharp and vivid, but we can't remember where we left our glasses! We might joke about 'senior moments' and about our lack of ability to remember which does seem to be feature of advancing years. Some measure of forgetfulness can be a normal

part of aging. As we get older, changes occur in all parts of the body, including the brain. As a result, some people may notice that it takes longer to learn new things, they don't remember information as well as they did, or they lose things - like their glasses! These usually are signs of mild forgetfulness, not serious memory problems, like Alzheimer's disease, which can be quite devastating.

Joyce, the mother of a close friend developed this cruel condition. My friend was hugely distressed when Joyce had deteriorated to the point that she did not even recognise him, her only and much-loved son. He continued to ensure that she was well-cared for in every way, and visited frequently but this emotional distance broke his heart. That is, until a wise nurse explained that it was all to do with perception. She explained that he had aged over the years, as we all do! He no longer looked the same as he had done when he was a young man. And because of Joyce's condition, it was as a very much younger man that she remembered him. 'If you could walk into her room, looking as you did when you were twenty' said the nurse, 'she *would* remember you, she has not forgotten that.' Those wise and gentle words helped my friend tremendously, and reminded him that he was still the same much-loved son that he had always been.

So in this season of remembering, as we hold before God those we love and who are no longer with us, and those who have lost their lives in armed conflicts, let us remember also those for whom remembering is difficult, those for whom memories are full of pain, and also those whose memories are blurred and misted because of ill health or age.

In all these things, God holds us. He does not forget us.

**Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)**

contact me at Joydens Wood Vicarage,

6 Tile Kiln Lane, Joydens Wood, Bexley, DA5 2BB

01322-528923

[renharding@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:renharding@hotmail.co.uk)

## The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the persecuted'

*By the Rev Paul Hardingham*

*'Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'* (Matthew 5:10).

Somebody once described a Christian as one who is '*completely fearless, continually cheerful and constantly in trouble.*' Living the life that Jesus presents in the Beatitudes will not necessarily make us universally popular. We must be prepared for opposition, insults and ridicule or even worse. Of course, persecution is the daily experience for Christians in many parts of our world today.

Jesus didn't tell us to seek persecution, but He did say that when it comes, we should regard it as a blessing:

***Firstly, because we are identifying with Jesus:*** If we identify as fully as we can with Jesus, then we will experience suffering like Him. It is '*because of me*' (v11) we are opposed or criticised.

***Secondly, it shows our faith is genuine:*** To suffer for our faith is typical of God people, '*for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*' (v12).

***Thirdly, because of our reward in heaven:*** we will not lose out in the future, as Jesus reminds us that '*great is your reward in heaven*' (v12).

To what extent do we suffer for being a Christian at work, with our friends or family? Although we don't seek it, Jesus describes suffering as authentic Christian experience.

We might like to ask these questions as we reflect on this:

How many people with whom we have contact know that we are a Christian?

How far are we helping to give them a true picture of what Christianity is about?

How far do we demonstrate the presence of Jesus in our daily lives?

*If we were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict us?*

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS



Every five years the church and churchyard undergo an extensive inspection conducted by an Architect who then presents a Quinquennial Inspection Report to the PCC recommending areas that need action to be taken either immediately or within the next couple of years. It's always a time of trepidation waiting for the report and then going through its findings to see what needs to be done and then obtaining quotations for the work involved.

Our last Quinquennial Inspection revealed some extensive and expensive work needed to be undertaken on the spire, which has unfortunately been taken over internally by parakeets causing much damage to the church roof, where some tiles are missing or have slipped down, needing repairs to the guttering. The spire needs to be completely re-shingled, which is going to be extremely costly and will require fund-raising and applications for grants. However, the roof tiles and guttering can be dealt with now and work was due to begin in late October. We also discovered a leak from the roof into church during the very wet weather, and this could be dealt with at the same time.

The work will require the use of scaffolding by the roofers. As the pathway through the churchyard is close to the church, the PCC decided for safety reasons to close the access whilst the work is being undertaken. We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience to all those who use the pathway but hope you understand the need to keep everyone safe.

\* \* \*

The church was recently visited by Nigel Morgan, Emeritus Honorary Professor of the History of Art, University of Cambridge, and photographer Chris Parkinson, who is working on the volume of the *Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi* for the County of Kent to be published

by the British Academy, which will provide a detailed catalogue of all Medieval and Early Modern (up to 1700) stained glass in Kent.

St James Church is very fortunate in having some beautiful 17th century stained glass which was photographed and catalogued. Professor Morgan kindly explained some of the detail in the glass to me and I intend to use the information and photographs in a new booklet about St James Church and the churchyard we are planning to publish next year. If anyone has any interesting historical information about the church and its interior, please contact me via email – maxinejheath@gmail.com.

Maxine & Suzy, Churchwardens

### **PAST CASES REVIEW**

We are committed to making our church a safe space for all. Churches across the Diocese of Rochester are currently undertaking a comprehensive safeguarding review to establish that all known past cases of concern relating to church abuse have been considered and dealt with appropriately. If you are concerned about something you have experienced in a church, now or in the past, or you are worried about another person - perhaps a vulnerable adult or a child – there are people you can talk to and you will be taken seriously. Anyone who needs to come forward with information or make any disclosures regarding church related abuse are encouraged to make direct contact with the Diocese of Rochester's Safeguarding team on: 01634 560000 or visit: [www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding/) Recognising that this may not feel safe for those with a lived experience of abuse from within the church, a dedicated telephone helpline, operated independently from the church, by the NSPCC, is available. Calls can be made free on 0800 80 20 20

## **A voice in the night**

*By Tony Horsfall*

*‘The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.’ Isaiah 50:4*

Awake in the early hours, and my thoughts fluttering here and there, the name of a friend dropped into my mind as if from nowhere together with the words: “Tell her, ‘God is aware of you.’”

Eventually I fell asleep again but when I woke in the morning the words were still there. I had a busy day ahead but as I ate my breakfast, I felt I should text her straight away with what I had been given and trust it would make sense to her.

Midmorning I received a message back. I knew nothing of her circumstances, but both she and her husband were facing major difficulties in their work situations. As they prayed together the night before she asked the Lord to send her a word of encouragement. As she started her day my text arrived. She was so encouraged, and so was I.

As I ponder this event two things stand out to me.

(1) God is intimately aware of each one of us, and knows our circumstances. He sees us, He knows what we are going through. He will help us find a way through. And give us the strength and guidance we need. As you read this, He says to you: ‘I am aware of you.’

(2) If God drops the name of someone into your mind take it as an indication to pray for them. If words are given to you for them, then share them – either personally, or via a written note or a text message. It may be just what they need to hear.



## **MIDWEEK COMMUNIONS for the TEAM**

Starting from 4 December 2019  
the churches of the Bexley Team  
will be having a JOINT Midweek Communion  
at 10am every Wednesday.

Please note our new pattern!

at St John's Bexley  
on the *first* and *third* Wednesday of each month  
at St Mary's Bexley  
on the *second* and *fourth* Wednesday of each month.

In the months when there is a *fifth* Wednesday  
we will be having our midweek communion  
at St James North Cray (North Cray Road)

Please let a member of the Clergy Team  
know if you need a lift.

There is also an informal 'House Communion'  
at 53 Woodlands Park, Joydens Wood  
at 10am on the third Thursday of the month.

TEAM RECTOR  
Reverend Ren Harding  
01322 528923

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# News and Issues



## **Ministry statistics published**

The number of female clergy in the Church of England continues to rise with more women than men entering training for ordained ministry for the second year running, according to recently published statistics.

More women, 54%, than men began training for ordained ministry in 2018, for the second year running. Just under a third, or 30%, of the estimated 20,000 active clergy in the Church of England were female compared to 27% in 2014, according to Ministry Statistics for 2018.

The report also shows the proportion of senior posts such as dean or bishop occupied by women rose from 23 per cent to 25 per cent over the last year. The figures do not take into account six new appointments of female bishops this year, bringing the total so far to 24.

The proportion of people identifying as from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds starting training for ordained ministry in the Church of England rose to 8% in 2018, compared to 4% in 2016.

Around a third, or 33%, of people beginning their training last year were under 35 years old and more than half, or 53%, were under 45.

Meanwhile the number of men and women ordained as deacon rose from 485 in 2016 to 535 in 2019.

The figures have been released as the Church of England seeks to fulfil a key target of a 50% increase in the number of candidates for ordination as part of its programme of Renewal and Reform.

Mandy Ford, Interim Director of the Ministry Division of the Church of England, said: "I am thankful for the hard work and prayers of the parishes and dioceses in helping us to increase the numbers of people coming forward for ordained ministry, a key aim of the Renewal and Reform programme."

## THE BOTHY

**Are you looking for a small hall for a function?**

**The Bothy (in St James Church Grounds) has all the facilities you need and can seat 35 people.**

**If you need further information please contact  
Lynne Meads on 07966 315518**



*A Quiet Day of Creative Reflection for Advent*

*Enjoy a time of peace and refreshment before the rush of Christmas preparations.*

*It is at St Barnabas Church, Joydens Wood on Saturday 30 November from 9.30am to 3pm*

*Take time to think about why and who we celebrate at Christmas.*

*Come and enjoy craft activities, creating your own art work, quiet reading, prayer or creative writing. You are welcome to come for all or part of the day. Bring a packed lunch and coffee and tea will be available.*

*For further information contact Judy French 0794617174*

## How Armistice Day began, 100 years ago

*By Tim Lenton*

It was 100 years ago, on 11th November 1919, that the first Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day) was marked in the UK. King George V had issued a proclamation calling for a two-minute silence at 11:00am to remember the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The two-minute silence was in fact adopted from a South African idea that had spread from Cape Town through the Commonwealth in 1919. The first minute was dedicated to those who died in the war, and the second to those left behind – families affected by bereavement and other effects of the conflict.

The Cenotaph was erected temporarily in Whitehall for a peace parade for Armistice Day in 1920. After a tremendous nationwide response, it became a permanent structure, and in the following years war memorials were created in other British towns and cities.

In 1939, the two-minute silence of Armistice Day was moved to the nearest Sunday to 11th November, so that it would not conflict with wartime production. This tradition continued after World War II – Remembrance Sunday is still marked with a national service, and by special services in most churches throughout the country and beyond. Americans mark Veterans Day instead.

### *From the Web*

The Inquisitive Mind of a Child  
A poem for Remembrance Day  
by John F. Willcocks (1918-2007)

(Google: The Inquisitive Mind of a Child)

## **Bexley Village Cricket Festival 2019**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September

### **TEAMS**

St Barnabas Joydens Wood  
St James The Great, North Cray  
St John The Evangelist. Bexley  
St Mary The Virgin Bexley

### **RESULTS**

#### **GAME 1**

St Mary's 250 – 1  
St Johns 251 – 1  
St John's scored 6 off  
last ball to win.

#### **GAME 2**

St Barnabas & St James 261 - 0  
St Mary's 237 - 1  
St Barnabas & St James WON

#### **GAME 3**

St John's 264 – 0  
St Barnabas & St James 256  
St John's WON

Overall 2019 Winners **St John The Evangelist Bexley**





# **MEETINGS and Events 2019**

*Watch this space  
for future events*

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## FROM THE MEADOWS

How glorious our meadows are looking. The colours would rival the palette of any impressionist artist and the smells of Autumn have matured into an earthy, rich treat for all of our senses. All combining to create the sombre ambience for the month of Remembrance.

As I write this article the cygnets are starting their practice flights in preparation to leave for the winter, I'm not sure what the male swan will do... will he go with them perhaps? Each time I watch him his loneliness since his partner was killed breaks my heart.

The Footscray Meadows Action Group and the Friends of Footscray Meadows strive constantly to protect and enhance this area for use by everyone and as winter approaches we would encourage continued use of this natural resource. A lovely walk and fresh air, whatever the weather, can not only make you fitter but has also been proven to help mental wellbeing.

As this magazine is distributed in November my final comment is a request for consideration with the use of fireworks. Check bonfires for hedgehogs and if you have elderly neighbours or those with pets please just let them know if you are planning anything in your own garden so they can be prepared. Thank you.

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## SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2019

### **Saturday 2nd November**

9.30am Prayer Meeting at St Barnabas:- Intercessors  
Master Class

*For those who want to find out more about praying for others, both in your private prayers, and leading in public worship. ALL WELCOME*

### **SUNDAY 3rd November**

9.30am MEMORIAL SERVICE with Holy Communion  
Remembering those who have died

If you wish to have the name of a loved one read out, speak to Rev Ren

### **Wednesday 6th November**

10.30am Joint Team Communion at St John's, Bexley

12noon Gentlemen's Lunch at The Anchor Bexley

### **Thursday 7th November**

10am Daytime Housegroup at 53 Woodlands Park,  
Joydens Wood

\*\*\* Please note change from usual Venue

### **Saturday 9th November**

8.30am St Barnabas Men's Breakfast

### **SUNDAY 10th November      REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

9.30am Remembrance Day Parade Service

10.55am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

### **SUNDAY 17th November**

9.30am Holy Communion

12 for 12.30pm Team Lunch at the King's Head Bexley.  
(book with Ren)

### **Wednesday 20th November**

10am Joint Team Communion at St Mary's Bexley

8pm St James PCC meeting in the Bothy

### **Thursday 21st November**

10.00am House Communion at 53 Woodlands Park,  
Joydens Wood



**SUNDAY 24th November      FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**

9.30am                      Holy Communion

4.00pm                      Sunday @ 4 Service for all ages at St Barnabas

**Wednesday 27th November**

7.30pm                      Institution and Induction of Rev Mark Blakely  
as Vicar of Holy Trinity Lamorbey

**Thursday 28th November**

7.30pm                      Deanery Synod meets at The Bothy

**Saturday 30th November**

Advent Quiet Day at St Barnabas Church  
led by Judy French and Reverend Sue Twynam

**SUNDAY 1st December**

9.30am                      Holy Communion

6pm                          Team Advent Carol Service at St John's, Bexley

Bexley Team Gentleman's Lunch on the first Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm at The Anchor, Bridgen Road, Bexley

*Further details, Julia Wickham, St John's Bexley, 01322 556686*



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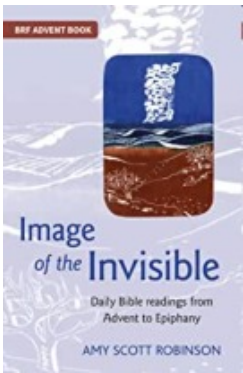


# Book Mark



**Life with St Benedict: the Rule reimaged for everyday living. By Richard Frost, BRF, £9.99**

The *Rule of St Benedict* has been described as inspiring, supporting, reassuring, and challenging. Benedictine communities use a well-established pattern of daily readings to enable the entire *Rule* to be considered over a four-month period. *Life with St Benedict* follows this pattern. Divided into four, there are 122 readings and reflections in each period. In a time when many are seeking space, silence and spiritual depth, *Life with St Benedict* provides daily reflections on the *Rule* as an aid to enabling personal spiritual growth and prayer.



**Image of the Invisible: daily Bible readings from Advent to Epiphany. By Amy Scott Robinson, BRF, £8.99**

As we look towards celebrating the incarnation at Christmas, we consider how God chose to express Himself, in a moment in history, as a tiny baby. But what other images describe God in the Bible, and what can we learn about his character through them? How does an invisible God reveal Himself to us in scripture and in Jesus? Amy Scott Robinson, a poet and storyteller, answers this question with imagination and a close reading of the text.

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## **ALL IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

150 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 1869 the Suez Canal was officially opened.

Also 150 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1869 the British clipper ship Cutty Sark was launched in Scotland. It was one of the last tea clippers to be built, and it is now on permanent display at Greenwich in London.

100 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1919 the first Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day) was marked in the UK, after King George V issued a proclamation calling for a two-minute silence at 11:00am on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The event remembers the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.

30 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1989 the Berlin Wall fell. East Germany reopened its border with West Germany, allowing its citizens to pass freely through the checkpoints. Workers began demolishing the 28-year-old wall the next day.

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## Peace

On the eleventh day of the eleventh month  
The guns had ceased and peace had come,  
Another war with so much loss  
As brave men fought and victories won.

We honour those who gave their lives  
And took up arms against the foe,  
Not knowing if they would return  
But faithful to the call to go.

Battles rage throughout the earth,  
It seems that wars will never cease  
Until the day that Christ returns -  
And only then will there be peace.

The Prince of Peace, Emmanuel  
Will come to end this world of strife  
And as He brings His kingdom in  
He'll usher in eternal life.

*By Megan Carter*



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## WORDSEARCH



Dday	Britain	Coast	Two	Minute
Landings	America	Normandy	Armistice	Silence
Allied	Canada	Victory	King	Lost
Armed	France	World	George	Lives
Forces	German	War	Remembrance	duty

(Solutions on page 27)

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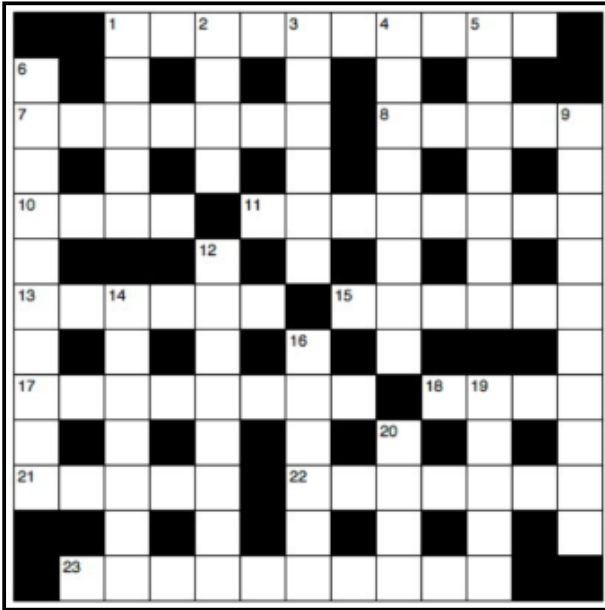
## NOVEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

### Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)



- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across

(Solutions on page 36)

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## ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



Letter from St James the Least of All –

Letter from St James the Least of All  
Did St Paul text the Thessalonians? Or fax the  
Corinthians?

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

No, I do not think it would be a good idea for us to correspond by your wretched 'e-mail' in future – as I am sure you know I do not possess an e-mail apparatus. At St. James the Least, we may well be poised to make the great leap forward into the next century, but when we do so, we shall leap forward into the nineteenth; it will be enough for future generations to give consideration to progression towards the twentieth. Beyond that does not bear speculation.

Pen and ink has been the medium of choice for generations of clergy, as they should be for you too. St. Paul, may I remind you, did not send a Fax to the Corinthians - and was even proud to mention that part of his letter was written by his own hand. And while I am on the subject, it would greatly please me if you stopped using ball-point pens; they may be suitable for tradesmen, but not for a Clerk in Holy Orders. Do get yourself a good fountain pen and some permanent blue-black ink. Beware of parishioners who write to you in green ink; it is a sure sign they are unbalanced.

Modern technology may well have a place in the commercial world, but it should not impinge on the life of the Church. Your photocopied monthly magazine admittedly looks rather grand, but it needs a smudged cyclostyled edition to re-assure readers that this is a truly Anglican production. The sight of Miss Pemberton thumping out those stencils on her grandfather's typewriter, which he used during the Crimean campaign, running off the copies and emerging hours later liberally covered in black ink gives a re-assuring sense of continuity with the past. Seeing her days later at church, still stained with



printers' ink, makes those parishioners who don't know the real reason, speculate on whether she is moonlighting as a chimney sweep.

In a similar vein, I despair of calls from commercial travellers trying to get me to change my photocopier to a more modern version, one that can mix me a gin and tonic, and make lunch while simultaneously running off endless copies of irrelevant material at frightening speed. We do not possess a photocopier and never will while I am Rector of this parish. What is wrong with carbon paper, may I ask?

When Jesus taught his disciples, did he have to wait until they all got their recorders switched on? When he told them where they were to go, did they get out their electronic diaries to see if they had a 'window' that day? When St. Paul wanted to check on the well-being of the Thessalonians, did he think of texting them?

I rest my case.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



*...who's he trying to kid?  
He was at least twice that age!*

## GOD AND THE ARTS

*By the Rev Michael Burgess*

### He gave us eyes to see them: 'The Virgin and Child with Saints' by Giovanni Martini da Udine



The National Gallery in London is a remarkable treasure house of art, founded in 1824 and home to over 2,300 paintings. Much work goes on behind the scenes to maintain this collection, and in August after a seven-year restoration project, a particular painting went on display for the first time in over a hundred years.

It is the work of an Italian Renaissance artist, Giovanni Martini da Udine, who died in 1535 - an altarpiece depicting 'The Virgin and Child with Saints.' Restoring the painting was complex and demanding work for the staff had to remove the varnish, repaint some areas and treat the woodworm. Thanks to the skill of those workers, we can now see the painting in

all its beauty and grace. On the right St George has vanquished the dragon and is turned in prayer to the Christ-Child. On the left St James, the brother of John, has his hand on the shoulder of the patron. But he looks out at us and invites us into this scene in what is known as a 'sacra conversazione' – a holy conversation.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month we celebrate the great feast of All Saints – that rich communion of saints like James and George, whose lives we know, and also the many thousands known only to God: all who have offered their lives in His service. Just as specialists worked for seven years to restore this painting after the ravages of time, so on this day we give thanks for God working in the lives of His saints. Men and women like us: a mixture of hopes and ideals, of frailty and weakness, but ready to open their lives to be raised up and restored. These holy ones call us to travel in their company with our eyes set on God, who seeks to restore all of us to be channels of His grace.

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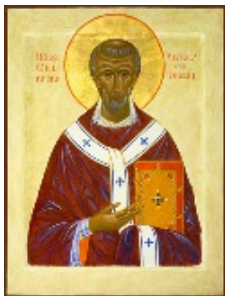
Based in Sidcup



## 7<sup>th</sup> November: Willibrord of York – apostle of Frisia (658 - 739)

Willibrord was born in 658, to devout parents, and joined the Benedictines. In 678 he went to Ireland to study at the Abbey of Rathmelsigi (a centre of European learning in the 7<sup>th</sup> century). 12 years later, in 690, Willibrord felt God had given him a daunting ‘call’ – to take Christianity to Frisia, (now mostly modern-day Netherlands).

Willibrord was not just courageous, but also prepared well. He took 12 companions to help him, and had the support of both Pope Sergius and also the ruler of the region, Pippin II. The mission was successful, and five years later, Willibrord was given another challenge: to do for Frisia what Augustine had done for England – establish a metropolitan see at Utrecht, build a cathedral, and appoint the first suffragan bishops.



And so Willibrord became the first archbishop of Utrecht. He went on to establish an important monastery at Echternach (now in Luxembourg).

It was not all plain sailing – in 714 Willibrord and the Christians faced persecution from the new pagan Frisia king. Churches were burnt and priests were killed. But Willibrord did not give up easily, and by 719 the king was dead and the church in Frisia continued to grow.

Willibrord even ventured up into Denmark, bought 30 slave-boys and educated them as Christians. At Walcheren, he destroyed a pagan idol, at the risk of his life.

Alcuin (historian) described Willibrord’s apostolate as based on energetic preaching and ministry. ‘Willibrord was always venerable, gracious and full of joy’. Certainly, he inaugurated 100 years of English Christian influence on the Continent, and thoroughly deserves his title of patron of Holland. When he died at 81, he was immediately venerated as a saint.

### **SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS:** 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

**DOWN:** 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.



## St CECILIA

22<sup>nd</sup> November

St Cecilia's singing was said to be so sweet that the angels came down to earth to hear the beautiful sound.

St Cecilia is the patron saint of music and musicians but we're not really sure why. Legend says that she sang when she was killed and she is always shown in paintings and sculpture as playing a lute or carrying a portable organ



Statues and pictures of saints usually have them holding something that relates to their life or death, these symbols or attributes make it easy to tell which saint it is.

## SAINT SPOTTING

These are the symbols for certain saints. Have you seen these symbols in your church?

St Peter's symbol is crossed keys because of what Jesus said to him. (read St Matthew, chapter 16, from verse 15).

St Agnes is usually shown with a lamb which stands for her sacrifice.

If you think of fireworks you can guess St Catherine's symbol – yes, a wheel.

St Dominic, founder of the preaching order of monks has a dog as his emblem because his monks were called 'the watch dogs of the Lord defending the Church'.

St Lucy carried a lamp that looks a bit like Aladdin's lamp, as a symbol of light and the Word of God being a lamp to those who believe.



**What musical instrument do you have in your ears?**

Drums.

**What musical instrument can be used for fishing?**

A cast-a-net.

**What musical instrument never tells the truth?**

A lyre.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### *Baptisms*

13th October      *George Alexander Ian Hewitt*

### *Weddings*

19th October      *Allan John O'Callagan and  
Marianne Cassidy*

### *Funerals*

17th October      *Nick Carter*

### *Interment of ashes*

5th October      *Frank Stevens*

### *Year's mind for November 2018*

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### **We call this life?**

We call this life, that is life's preparation;  
We call this life, a little time of tears;  
But thank you God for this designed creation,  
A few short years?

*By Douglas Malloch*

### **ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS**

If you are going to attend our church and you have accessibility needs please let us know and we will be happy to make arrangements for you. There is level access to the church and the Bothy and we have a sound loop system and large print orders of service. Please feel free to telephone the Team Vicar Rev Ren Harding who will be happy to discuss the matter with you.

## THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY - POINTS OF CONTACT

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website [www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/](http://www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/)

CONTACT the Team Rector

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