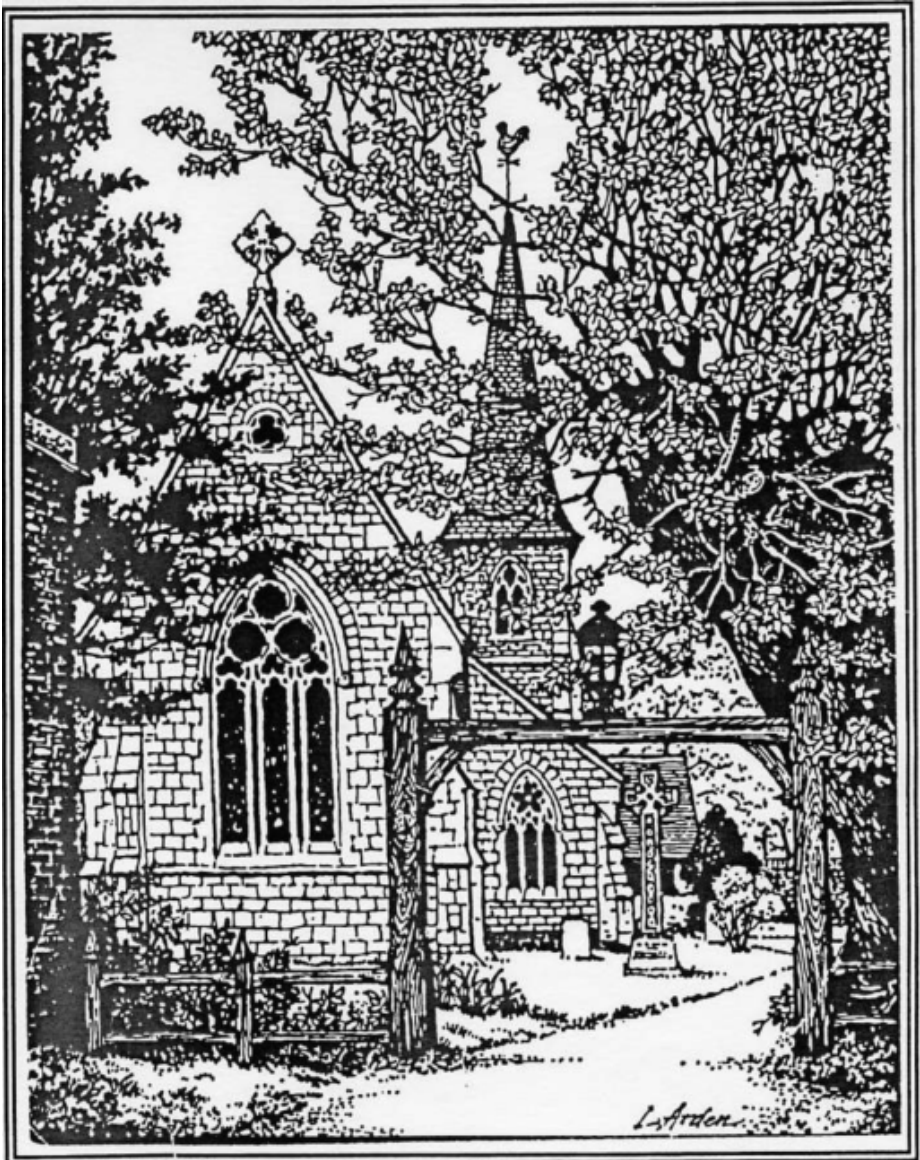


**The Parish Church of
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p
*June, 2020***

(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)



St JAMES, NORTH CRAY PARISH STAFF

Team Vicar: Reverend Ren Harding 01322 528923
The Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane,
Joydens Wood, DA5 2BB
renharding@hotmail.co.uk

Lay Reader: David Stevens 020 8300 0867

Church Wardens: Suzy Higgs 020 8302 5719
suzyjhiggs@gmail.com

Maxine Heath 020 8468 7895
maxinejheath@gmail.com

Treasurer: Position vacant

PCC Secretary: Rhonda Collins 020 8300 3797

Sacristan: Stephen Hills 020 8302 7236

Bothy Bookings: Lynne Meads 07966 315518

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 JUNE 2020



Being able to recount our own life story is important to human beings because it helps us make sense of who we are. Many of you have heard me speak about the time that I was working in Bristol, on a project helping men coming out of prison. As part of the support that was offered to them, the men were encouraged to talk about the way in which their past shaped what they had done and who they had become. As you can well imagine, sometimes the stories of their past were harrowing in the extreme! However, in putting these stories together, the men found a new sense of unity, meaning, and purpose. This is called the “narrative identity”.

We all have stories as individuals, as families, and as churches and communities. We have a story as a nation, which is why it was especially important to mark 75th anniversary of VE Day recently. Telling the story of the past, helps us to understand the present and imagine the future.

For those who met Jesus in his earthly life, it was clear that nothing would ever be the same again. You can imagine them sharing the stories of their encounters with him amongst themselves, eagerly telling others, and continuing to tell that story all through their lives, to their children and to their grandchildren, to friends and neighbours. The whole of the New Testament would be about how that story then unfolded! When Jesus came to the end of his earthly life, he had the confidence – remarkable confidence really – that his frightened disciples, his followers, who had never fully grasped what he was really up to, would continue the work that he has begun - to challenge the values of the world. And tell the unfolding story.

As Christians today, we too are part of that continuing story.

As we emerge from 'Lockdown' it is clear that the events and feelings of these last months will become part of the story of our own lives, stories of how we lived through this pandemic, this modern-day plague. These will be part of our 'Narrative Identity'.

There will be humour in those stories (remember the panic buying of toilet rolls!) But there will be tragedy too, all too painfully real. There will be stories of courage, of the tenacious spirit of people living out their lives as best they can under difficult circumstances.

Many of us will be able to tell stories of our own faith and an awareness of God's presence. So many people have said to me how much strength they have taken from the glorious coming of spring this year, and now the rich green beauty of the summer months. We have had more time to appreciate it perhaps, or perhaps we have freed ourselves to use our time differently, aware of the fragility of human life, and the fleeting moments that are so precious to us.

All these things will become part of the story we will share when we gather in our church buildings once again.

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 07836644782

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

BEXLEY TEAM MINISTRY

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. .”

2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)

PRACTICAL ADVICE

Wash hands frequently with soap & water or alcohol-based hand rub. It has been suggested that instead of singing Happy Birthday to ensure we wash our hands for long enough - that we say the Lord's Prayer!

Avoid touching eyes, nose & mouth as this can transfer the virus.

Stay informed (but not obsessively so!) on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your own healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer. National & local authorities have the most up to date information for your area.

A CALL TO PRAYER

Wherever you are, and whatever your personal circumstances, we invite you to pause at midday each day, to join with your brothers and sisters across the Bexley Team Ministry to pray for our churches, our community, our nation and the world. We pray the prayer that unites all Christians, the Lord's Prayer. This is the Traditional version:-

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory; for ever and ever. Amen.”

You may wish to use this prayer written by Malcolm Duncan of Spring Harvest: -

“May you be given the gift of simple faith. When the world around you is full of uncertainty, may God remind you that you are not alone and you do not need to be dominated by fear. May you find peace amidst chaos from God's promises. Hold onto the God who holds you.”

Pray for those infected or in quarantine

Loving Jesus may they feel your power of healing through the care of medical staff. Take away fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Pray for those at high risk

Dear Lord, we lift to you the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty.

Adapted from prayers of World Vision

<https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/prayer>

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

The following are resources which you may like to use as aids to your own personal prayer and worship. As the weeks progress we will make additions to the list via a weekly newsheet, and will endeavour to make these prayer resources available in paper form in the coming days.

If you have access to the internet this is a good site to visit.
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Radio 4

Prayer for the Day @ 5.43 am – if this is too early for you it can be found at a time to suit you online at bbc.co.uk

Daily Service Monday to Friday @ 9.45 am – on Longwave and DAB

Sunday worship @ 8.10am

Lent Talks Wednesday @ 8.45pm

Radio 3

Choral Evensong Wednesdays at 3.30pm or Sundays at 3pm

Radio 2

Pause for thought at 5.45 am and 9.20 am

Television

Songs of Praise BBC1 Sunday at 1.15pm

Church of England. churchofengland.org

Live Lent Daily Reflections via internet, app or print. Daily Prayer via internet, app or print

The Bishop of Rochester has recorded a podcast, offering a theological reflection on the current situation. He explores where can we find refuge and comfort and how as Christians we can support others. Listen to it here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-727736776/bishop-james-a-reflection-during-the-coronavirus>

There is an 'Alexa' smart speaker app to be used with a smart speaker
Offers Prayer for the Day,
Enables you to ask the Church of England for Prayers
Enables you to ask questions of the Church of England

Other online resources which may be of interest:
corymeela.org has under its media tab some interesting and a wide range of short programmes based on biblical texts.

Northumbriacommunity.org has morning, midday and evening prayer for each day of the week.

24-7prayer.com lots of ideas on ways to help you pray and some interesting articles based on journeys of faith

Hillsong Worship - for those who enjoy modern worship there are plenty of YouTube videos

Live streaming services - users can watch live streams of services from a range of churches

[All Hallows by the Tower](#)

[Buckingham Parish Church](#)

[St Nicholas Church, Canvey Island](#)

[St James' Church, Clitheroe](#)

[St Mary's Kenton](#)

Canterbury Cathedral YouTube channel will stream The Daily Eucharist and Evening Prayer each day

Ren, is available to talk to anyone who is feeling the need of a church minister at this time, to talk over a difficult circumstance or to ask for prayer. We also have a resource that can be used at home if you are unable to attend a funeral because of the current restrictions, and a weekly newsletter that is going out on email, with news, reflections and prayers. All you need to do is ring, or email me (see inside cover) and I will do what I can to help, and I can also put you on the circulation list so you receive weekly information. Your email will not be given to anyone else.

Suzy Higgs, Churchwarden

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a former communications director with the C of E.

Blessed are the truth-tellers (during the pandemic)

ITV News journalist and presenter Julie Etchingham, a practising Christian, has defended the role played by journalists during the Coronavirus pandemic.

She told the Christians in Media website, “Reporters are coming in for a lot of flack for the questions they are asking government. But what else are we for? We all get that this is a crisis like no other; that few in government have ever had to navigate such a challenge.

“But, if we’re still attempting to function as a democracy in the face of this, then scrutiny is clearly crucial. Many in our frontline services and the wider public are demanding answers. We are there on their behalf. We don’t always get it right. This isn’t a moment to trip people up, but urgently to get to the truth.”

As a Christian who has worked in communications for around 50 years, I strongly support Julie Etchingham’s view. Now is the time for truth and accuracy to be at the centre of all our communications.

So, yes we need to be praying for and supporting the front-line health service staff, the public health experts, the scientists researching vaccines to combat the virus, and the key workers keeping our societies running.

But we also need to be praying for and supporting the men and women working in and with the media to publish, upload, broadcast and distribute the most accurate information, without spin or distortion.

So here is a prayer for the media in these challenging days.

Loving God,

We pray for everyone working in and with media in these challenging times. Encourage all who seek to explain and interpret the fast-changing world around us.

Embolden the truth-tellers, truth-seekers and fact-checkers.

Promote coverage that builds our shared humanity and where everyone has a voice.

Bring clarity where there is confusion

Bring knowledge where there is speculation

Bring wisdom and insight when the way ahead seems unclear.

And bring us all to a knowledge of truth that sets us free, and helps keep us safe.

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

Amen.

BEXLEY TEAM MINISTRY
“EXPLORING CONFIRMATION” 2020



This series of informal sessions is designed to help you discover more about the Christian faith and to explore it in greater depth.

It is also designed to help you to decide whether it might be right for you to take the step of being ‘confirmed’ as a member of the Anglican Church.

THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE ON 3 MAY HAS BEEN POSTPONED - TBA

The preparation sessions will take place at
The Joydens Wood Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane
Joydens Wood, DA5 2BB

PLEASE NOTE... Coming to the sessions does NOT commit you to being confirmed. That is your decision nearer the time.

Each of the three sessions will help you to look at some aspects of the Christian faith, and give you plenty of opportunity to bring and share your own questions, doubts, hopes and uncertainties.

Believing	Who is Jesus? The Bible
Belonging	The Eucharist Christian Symbols
Behaving	Prayer and the wider church
	Preparing for the Service

There will be a Rehearsal at St Francis, Petts Wood nearer the time

Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)
01322 528923
07836644782



News and Issues



A biblical plague of locusts

A new wave of crop-eating locusts has been devastating East Africa, just as communities are also dealing with an increase of coronavirus cases.

At the start of 2020, Ethiopia and Somalia faced the biggest invasion of the insects in 25 years – and the worst in Kenya and Uganda for 70 years. The locusts also reached parts of South Sudan, where millions of people are already suffering from severe food shortages amid conflict and political instability.

The latest plague could be 20 times larger. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), is calling it ‘an unprecedented threat’ to food supplies and jobs.

Yet tackling the locusts will be even harder now that coronavirus has forced governments to close their borders. With severely reduced air travel and cargo shipping, pesticides from Europe and Asia can’t get into the countries – and to the farmers – that need them. Tearfund is asking governments to recognise activities responding to the locust swarms as essential services, so that they can continue despite the restrictions on travel.

‘The locust plague, together with the coronavirus pandemic, could mean all the work Tearfund supports communities with is on the brink of collapsing,’ says Ephraim Tsegay, Tearfund’s Country Director for Ethiopia.

‘If the second wave of locusts is not prevented before it inflicts further damage, more people will be forced to leave their homes to find food, land for their animals to graze, and an income elsewhere. It will also make people more vulnerable to coronavirus.’

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) concerned at rising level of household debt

“The coronavirus crisis will push thousands of households to the brink.” So warns a spokesman for CAP, the charity which helps people in debt.

So, while CAP approves the Government’s recent £20 per week boost for those on Universal Credit and those receiving Tax Credits, “what many won’t realise is that a staggering 2.83 million people will still fall through a gap in this vital provision.

“These people are those who are still receiving ‘old style’ benefits that Universal Credit is designed to replace – things like Job Seeker’s Allowance (JSA) or Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

“Around one in five of our clients will therefore miss out on the Government’s support package, which is worth more than £1,000 over the next twelve months.”

In all, CAP has listed three further changes it would like to see the Government make:

1. Increase Job Seeker’s Allowance and Employment Support Allowance by £20 per week.
2. Increase Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates to the median market rents.
3. Suspend the benefit cap during the pandemic.

In the meantime, CAP has launched a coronavirus emergency appeal to provide everything from emergency food packages to fuel vouchers, to crucial mobile phone credit to help those who are isolated stay connected during this time. It points out that one in five adults in the UK has less than £100 in savings, and that 38% of their clients’ debt is priority debts like rent, Council Tax and utility bills.

If you can help, go to www.capuk.org

Christians and the bubonic plague of London

By The Ven John Barton

The Reverend Richard Peirson was one of the exceptions. Most of the other clergy in the City of London had fled the Great Plague in 1665, but Peirson stayed behind to look after the parishioners of St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, where he was Rector. The parish was densely populated and the pandemic was catastrophic. The church's register records 636 burials that year in the month of September alone, with 43 interred in one day.

Houses of infected people were marked with a red cross on the door, with occupants kept inside for 40 days. Handcarts were pulled along the city streets to cart away the bodies; the drivers' cries of "Bring out your dead", became etched in the memories of subsequent generations. Relatives were banned from attending funerals.

The official count numbered 68,596 deaths in London alone, but other estimates suggested two or three times that number. Bubonic plague – for that is what it was – was incurable. Poor people were fatalistic about it but complained that even their 'spiritual physicians' had abandoned them. Clergy of the Church of England were often supplanted by non-conformist preachers.

It wasn't just the St Bride's Rector who put his life in jeopardy by staying at his post. While most wealthy people, along with King Charles II and his court, escaped the plague-ridden city, Churchwarden Henry Clarke also chose to remain at the church. When he succumbed to the illness, his brother William took over. William survived for a fortnight.

Plague cases continued to occur sporadically at a modest rate until mid-1666. That year the Great Fire of London destroyed St Bride's Church and much of the City of London. It was rebuilt to a design by Christopher Wren, but almost obliterated once more in 1940 during World War II before being restored yet again.

Today's Rector, Canon Alison Joyce, says that compared with her predecessor Richard Peirson, she has it easy. Like everyone else, she is confined by the lockdown rules to her Rectory next to the church. But her pastoral work continues, and she collates sermons and archive music to create a Sunday webcast service. Alison writes, "these days it is a ministry of telephone calls, emails and Facetime. I offer such practical help and support to the vulnerable as I can . . . I keep a candle burning before our main altar and continue a ministry of prayer."



Cussens Electrical Services Ltd

- Electrical Testing Installation & Repairs
- General Electrics
- Lighting
- Security
- Re- Wires
- Fault Finding
- Garden Electrics
- Security Alarms and Cameras
- Fuse Boards
- Telephone Points
- Plumbing and Gas
- Maintenance and Repairs
- Domestic & Commercial



Call Us On...

020 8301 0751

info@cussenselectrical.co.uk

www.Cussenselectrical.co.uk



MEETINGS and Events 2020

**Planning for The "Welcome to the Meadows"
Educational Day 19 July 2020
is on hold.**

W. UDEN & SONS LTD INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**THE FAMILY BUSINESS THAT STILL OFFERS A PERSONAL
SERVICE**

64 HIGH STREET, SIDCUP

PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST - MONUMENTAL MASONS

Telephone: 020 8300 2002

24 hour service

**BRANCHES IN SOUTH-EAST LONDON, PETTS WOOD AND
BIGGIN HILL**

ALL IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

250 years ago, on 11th June 1770 English explorer Captain James Cook discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia when his ship ran aground on it and was severely damaged.

200 years ago, on 19th June 1820 Joseph Banks, British naturalist, died. He was President of the Royal Society for 41 years, developed the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, into one of the world's leading botanical gardens.

150 years ago, on 9th June 1870 Charles Dickens, British novelist, died. His books include *The Pickwick Papers*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Great Expectations* and *David Copperfield*.

100 years ago, on 11th June 1920 the Colony of Kenya was established. It was previously known as British East Africa. It gained its independence as Kenya in 1963.

75 years ago, on 22nd June 1945 the Battle of Okinawa ended after 82 days. This battle saw the highest number of casualties in the Pacific Theatre of the war, with more than 12,000 Allies, 110,000 Japanese forces and 140,000 civilians killed.

70 years ago, on 3rd June 1950 the first successful ascent of Annapurna in the Himalayas, was accomplished by a French expedition led by Maurice Herzog. This was the first successful ascent of a mountain over 8,000 metres. Annapurna is the 10th highest mountain in the world.

30 years ago, on 22nd June 1990 Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, was dismantled. It remained an official crossing point between East and West Germany until re-unification in October. The guard house is now on display in a museum.

Also 20 years ago, on 26th June 2000, the Human Genome Project and Celera Genomics Corp announced that they had completed the first rough draft of the human genome.

: **Discovering the Great Barrier Reef - the hard way!**

By Tim Lenton.

It was 250 years ago, on 11th June 1770, that English explorer Captain James Cook discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia, when his ship ran aground on it.



While the aborigines and the Chinese may have found the Reef before him, Cook made more of an impact. His ship, the *Endeavour*, unloaded ballast and was refloated at high tide, but extensive repairs were necessary, as well as skill at navigating a way out through the labyrinthine coral.

Cook made extensive journeys to unexplored waters, particularly in the Pacific. At an earlier stage, when he was charting

Newfoundland, he said he intended to go “not only further than any man has been before me, but as far as I think it is possible for a man to go.”

Born in Yorkshire, he worked for a Quaker ship-owning family at Whitby and started his sea life as a merchant seaman before joining the Royal Navy. Later he attended St Paul's Church, Shadwell, in East London. Although he had six children, he has no direct descendants.

He was killed aged 50 in 1779, during a scuffle with some natives in Hawaii, but left a huge legacy of scientific and geographical knowledge.

Betterfeet - Foot Care

Home Care for your feet

Julie Payne

Qualified Foot Health Professional

Email: betterfeet.jp@gmail.com Tel: 07518 788 488

CURTAINS MADE DRESSMAKING AND ALTERATIONS

Reasonable Prices

All those sewing jobs you have been meaning to do for ages

MOLLY: 020 8300 9942

LESLIE EASTON & CO. LTD

DOUBLE GLAZING * ALUMINIUM WINDOWS

PATIO DOORS * MIRRORS * LEADED LIGHTS

PICTURE FRAMING * POLISHING,

GLASS OF ANY DESCRIPTION CUT SIZES - 7 HOLLYTREE PARADE,

SIDCUP HILL, FOOTS CRAY, KENT.

TELEPHONE: 020 8300 3955 & 020 8300 9345



FRANCIS CHAPPELL & SONS

A TRADITIONAL FUNERAL SERVICE FROM LOCAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS

PROVIDING HELP AND GUIDANCE IN YOUR TIME OF NEED

- Telephone quotes available
- International repatriation specialists

- Memorial advice and products
- Pre-paid Funeral Plans

BROMLEY
231 HIGH STREET BRI INZ
TEL: 020 8460 1720

ORPINGTON
BOUNDARY PLACE SEVENOAKS RD BR6 9JW
TEL: 01689 875116

FARNBOROUGH
332 CROFTON ROAD BR6 8NW
TEL: 01689 853277

ORPINGTON
87 THE WALNUTS BR6 0TW
TEL: 01689 823777

SIDCUP
48 HIGH STREET DA14 6EH
TEL: 020 8300 4661

and over 50 associated branch locations throughout South and South East London

Part of Dignity plc. A British company
www.dignityfunerals.co.uk
Members of the National Association of Funeral Directors





Book Mark

Celtic Saints: 40 days of devotional readings.

By David Cole, BRF, £8.99



The life stories of the Celtic saints are inspirational. They demonstrate great and unassuming faith, often in the face of insurmountable difficulties. In *Celtic Saints* David Cole draws us to relate our own life journey and developing relationship with God into the life story of the Celtic saint of the day. A corresponding biblical text and blessing encourages and motivates us to transform our lives for today's world in the light of such historic faith.

The Way Under our Feet – a spirituality of walking

By Graham B Usher, SPCK, £9.99



Walking is one of the simplest things we do as humans. It's how most of us experience life. In *The Way Under Our Feet*, Graham Usher conveys how exhilarating it is to walk into the depths of our humanity. We become more ready to recognise the needs as well as the joys of others; we sift our thoughts; we seek to heal our battered world, even as we glory in the beauty of nature; we find ourselves companying with our three mile an hour God.

The day they first climbed Annapurna

By Tim Lenton

The first successful ascent of a mountain over 8,000 metres high was achieved just 70 years ago this month, on 3rd June 1950, when Annapurna in the Himalayas was climbed by a French expedition led by Maurice Herzog. Annapurna is the tenth highest mountain in the world.

It was just three years before the first ascent of Everest. Annapurna was a largely unknown mountain, and the team first had to find a way to reach it, and then survey a possible ascent route before doing the actual climb – an amazing achievement in one season.

The team had originally intended to climb the slightly higher Dhaulagiri, but when they saw it, they decided it was impractical. They went on to climb Annapurna without oxygen and survived extreme conditions which resulted in the two summiting climbers, Herzog and Louis Lachenal, suffering severe frostbite and surviving an avalanche on the descent.

At the summit the excitable Herzog said: "Never have I felt happiness like this, so intense and pure." Lachenal, who had been reluctant to make the final attempt, said he felt "a painful sense of emptiness."

This was the first mountain summit attempt that Nepal had permitted: afterwards the Maharajah of Nepal greeted the climbers as national heroes.



Signs & Symbols

By The Revd Dr Jo White

Reflected Faith: a string of beads



As you pray or simply spend time quietly at home, have you ever thought of using a rosary? Holding something can be very comforting.

A rosary has beads in groups of ten, a separation and then a single bead. This is repeated five times in a circle and then there's a different set of beads on a single line from that in a pattern of single, space, three beads, space, single and then at the end a crucifix.

A couple of years ago the Archbishop of York went on a pilgrimage around the Diocese of York of which he is also the Diocesan Bishop; visiting every Church of England church and church school. He was also welcomed into many other non-church places and situations.

Wherever he went he distributed a set of 'beads.' These were in sets of three beads, a space and a single bead repeated four times. At the central point of the circle was a wooden cross. As he spoke, he invited those around him to pray using the beads and then to continue to use them in their own time and in their own ways.

All of us in our different personal circumstances are living in some isolation – as families with young children, teenagers, three generations, couples together, young singles, and the widowed.

So many different situations but like those different strings of beads, whether as a single or in small groups, each is part of the whole and separated we may be but not alone.

This month: If you don't have a set of beads just get some string and make knots in it. As you pass the knots through your hands think of other people, situations and places and do include yourself and your own church. Perhaps say a traditional prayer on each bead or just use the words, 'Lord have mercy'.

WORDSEARCH



dwells	almighty	snare	wings	terror
shelter	refuge	deadly	faithfulness	night
most	fortress	pestilence	shield	arrow
high	trust	cover	rampart	plague
shadow	save	feathers	fear	destroys

(Solutions on page 27)

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 12th July

All Age Service at 9.30 am

A celebration for 75th anniversary of

North Cray Guides and Brownies

All welcome

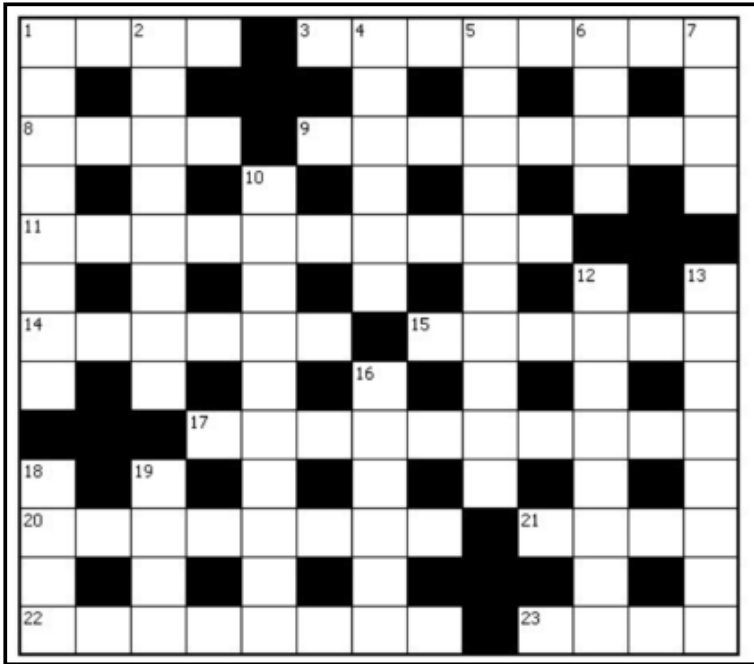
JUNE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)



- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night
(2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet'
(2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

(Solutions on page 28)

RUXLEY MANOR
SHOP | EAT | PLAY | GROW

Ruxley Manor
Maidstone Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5BQ
020 8300 0084
www.ruxley-manor.co.uk

f Twitter YouTube P

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



On church tourists and outrageous lies

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was sorry to hear of the dawn call by the police because your church had been broken into, although the theft of tambourines, overhead projector acetates of choruses and banners proclaiming "Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam" are likely to have a limited market. But you are fortunate that those are the only unexpected call-outs you receive.

Those of us with ancient churches are resigned to receiving telephone calls from people living in remote corners of the globe who happen to be on holiday in England and want to trace long-lost relatives who were married or buried in our parishes. They invariably seem amazed when they find you are not personally familiar with someone who died 400 years ago, what family still exists, where they live and what interesting anecdotes you know about their ancestors - preferably something criminal. Any attempts to put them off will be deflected by being told that they fly home tomorrow and since they are booked at a show in London that evening, could they come round early afternoon?

Once inside the church, they will expect a conducted tour. I have a competition with myself to see how outrageous I can make our history, yet still be believed. One family now thinks that the conical tomb in the churchyard is the last visible tip of the spire of the famous cathedral which once stood on this spot but sank into the ground when cursed by a bride who was jilted at its altar.

A second couple now know that a locked safe contains a set of pagan gods which were worshipped by an obscure sect in the parish during the time of the Tudor monarchs. They were removed by the incumbent of the day and locked away. Only the Rector is allowed a key and is only permitted to look inside at the contents on the day he leaves office, as the sight is too terrible.

Yet another are convinced that several dozen mediaeval gold chalices are buried in the rectory garden, where they were hidden from Cromwell's soldiers and their exact location has been forgotten (I told that story when I was looking for volunteers to dig over the rose beds).

Should they get as far as the vestry to inspect the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, you know that the afternoon is lost. It can occasionally hasten their departure by casually telling them to ignore the mice which will be running round the floor - although hardened visitors are likely to set up their tripods to catch them on film.

The ultimate deterrent is to suggest they stay to Evensong which I am about to say. That is guaranteed to remind them that they have an urgent appointment back at their hotel.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

GOD AND THE ARTS

By The Rev Michael Burgess

'I am the true vine'

Jesus the Good Shepherd has been a popular inspiration for artists from the earliest days of Christianity. But this month we focus on another image that has been just as powerful and influential from the



first centuries of the Church: Jesus the vine.

We think of grapes and the vine as symbols of the Eucharist and the sacrifice of Jesus, but early artists borrowed their inspiration from Greek and Roman sources with Dionysos (or Bacchus), the god of wine. For pagan believers, wine was a sign of intoxication and renewal of life, and Dionysos was a god who died and rose again. Under that influence, sculptors would carve vines on Christian tombs as a sign of that promise of new life.

But those artists were also influenced by the vine as an image of the people of Israel in the Old Testament, with God as the vintner tending his vine, as they were influenced by our Lord's own words in St John's Gospel. When Jesus talked of Himself as the vine, He was pointing to two truths. The first was the connection between the vine and the grapes: it was a symbol for the intimate relationship between Jesus and His followers. They are the grapes, because they receive their fruitfulness from Jesus. Without Him, there would be no growth, no maturity, no fruit. 'Whoever remains in Me, with Me in him, bears fruit in plenty.'

The second truth in this image is the wine that can bring life a new taste. Just as Jesus changed water into wine, His whole life was one of transformation – bringing water to the thirsty, sight to the blind, light to those in darkness, forgiveness to the sinner, and eternal life to those burdened by this world and the reality of death. The wine is a symbol of that goodness and flavour, both in creation and in salvation – the wine at the dinner party, and the wine in the chalice in

communion. Jesus as the true vine brings that flavour and goodness to us.

Both truths speak out to us from this month's image of Jesus in an icon. In the Orthodox Church the icon is a window into the kingdom of heaven. As we stand and pray before the icon, if we can bridge 'the distance of the heart' (the space between the human eye and the icon), then God can reveal His glory to us. Here we see the face of Jesus in a 16th century icon, which is in the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens – the icon of Christ the true vine. He looks out at us, the Gospel book in His lap and His hands outstretched to bless the 12 disciples. The icon illustrates very vividly that metaphor of Jesus when He says that He is the vine and they are the branches. But those hands are also welcoming us to be with the 12: they invite us to offer our lives to live in Jesus.

Anselm Grün, a German Benedictine, tells how one of his fellow monks wondered what a difference there would have been if Jesus had said, 'I am a slimming camomile tea.' But no, He says to us in the Gospel and in the icon, 'I am the true vine': live in Me like my 12 disciples and your lives can be fruitful in my service.

SOLUTIONS TO WORDSEARCH



1st Justin Martyr, first ever Christian philosopher

Justin Martyr (c. 100 – 165), is regarded as the first ever Christian philosopher. He was born at Nablus, Samaria, to parents of Greek origin, and was well educated in rhetoric, poetry and history before



he turned to philosophy. He studied at Ephesus and Alexandria and tried the schools of the Stoics, the Pythagoreans, and the Platonists. Then in c 130 Justin became a Christian, and never looked back. His long search for truth was satisfied by the Bible, and above all by Christ, the Word of God.

This apologist and martyr is known as the most important early 'apologist'. He

went on to offer a reasoned defence for Christianity, explaining that it was the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies. Justin's aim was evangelism: he thought that pagans would turn to Christianity if they were made aware of Christian doctrine and practice.

Justin's martyrdom took place in the reign of Marcus Aurelius, along with six other believers. At his trial, whose authentic record survives, he clearly confessed his Christian beliefs, refused to sacrifice to the gods, and accepted suffering and death. As he had previously said to the emperor: "You can kill us, but not hurt us."

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1 Care 3 Paradise 8 Null 9 Profaned 11 Legalistic 14 Closed
15 Stores 17 Missionary 20 Covenant 21 Thai 22 Trade-off 23 Eden

Down

1 Conflict 2 Religion 4 Arrest 5 Affliction 6 Iona 7 Eddy
10 Allegiance 12 Preached 13 Assyrian 16 A son of 18 Scot 19 DVLA



COLOURS IN CHURCH

Have you noticed that, from time to time, the colour of things in church changes? No, I don't mean the minister goes a funny colour or someone paints the walls, but the special robes that the priest wears, and the front of altar among other things, change from time to time. Each season of the Church's year has its own distinctive colour and these are called liturgical colours.

GREEN is the colour we have more than others. Green, the ordinary colour of nature, is used during the seasons of Epiphany (after Christmas) and Trinity (between Whitsun or Pentecost and Advent). Trinity lasts for about half the year so green is the colour we see most.

The next change of colour is to **PURPLE**. Purple, the colour of penitence and preparation, is used for Lent (the 40 days before Easter) and Advent (the 4 weeks before Christmas).

Then comes **WHITE** and **GOLD**, which are used for all the joyful

festivals - Easter, Ascension and Christmas.

RED, the colour of fire and blood, is used at Pentecost to remind us of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples like tongues of flame (Acts 2:11). It is also used on the festivals of martyrs to remind us of their sacrifices.

COLOUR QUIZ

Complete each of these with a colour, for example cordial would be LIME cordial. Each colour is only used once.

1. admiral
2. Christmas
3. marmalade
4.quick
5. sky
6. Royal
7. ribbons
8. glass
9. submarine
10. ...elephants



Define the word 'information'.

How the Red Arrows fly.

What is yellow and black and has red spots?

A leopard with the measles.



ANSWERS: 1:red 2:white 3:orange
4:silver 5:blue 6:Navy
7:scarlet 8:wine 9:yellow 10:pink

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Weddings

-

Burials

-

Internment of Ashes

-

Year's mind for June 2019

Rachael Farmer

Mobile Hairdresser

Shampoo and Set, Blow Dry, Cuts

Colours, Foils and perms

Tele: 020 8309 0656; Mobile: 07961069743

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

Team Rector for the Bexley Team:

Reverend Ren Harding

renharding@hotmail.co.uk

01322 528923

07836644782

Associate Priest:

Reverend Sue Twynam

susantwynam@btconnect.com

07952 468127

For enquiries concerning St John the Evangelist, Bexley

website www.stjohnsbexley.org

Churchwardens:

Julia Wickham

julia.wickham1@ntlworld.com

01322 556696

Janine Wooster

janinewooster@aol.com

07885700334

For enquiries concerning St Mary the Virgin, Bexley website

www.stmarysbexley.co.uk

CONTACT the Team Vicar: Reverend Clive Wood

revclivewood@gmail.com

07982 392809

For enquiries concerning St Barnabas, Joydens Wood website

www.joydenswoodchurch.co.uk

email - joydenswoodchurch@virginmedia.com

CONTACT the Team Rector

For enquiries concerning St James, North Cray

website www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/

CONTACT the Team Rector

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Advertisers and readers should be aware that an advertisement in this magazine does not imply the Church recommends or endorses the services being advertised.

Please note that articles published in the magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the PCC. Copy to be submitted by 2nd Sunday of each month. For reasons of copyright, poems and articles obtained from the Internet or published sources cannot be printed in the magazine.

Easi Lock Ltd (Locksmiths)

All locks opened, repaired and replaced

UPVC door and window lock specialist

Security bars and grilles supplied and fitted

Police CRB checked

Member of British Locksmith Association

Telephone: 0800 44 88 132 - Mobile: 075905 33 222

Web: www.easilock.com

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH PERSONAL CARE? SARAH FERGUSON 07802 446873

I am highly qualified and experienced in all aspects of personal care including moving and handling, stoma care, strokes and dementia.

I am DBS checked and pride myself on providing an individually tailored and caring service. References available.

David Hemsley

Building Service and Property Maintenance

Internal & External Painting & Decorating

Fencing • Block Paving • Crazy Paving • Decking

Walls • Paths • Patios • Drainage

Qualified Plastering Service Available

Free Estimates

Insurance Work Undertaken

24 Hour Call Out Service

Tel: 020 8303 9459

Mobile: 07710 431 956

