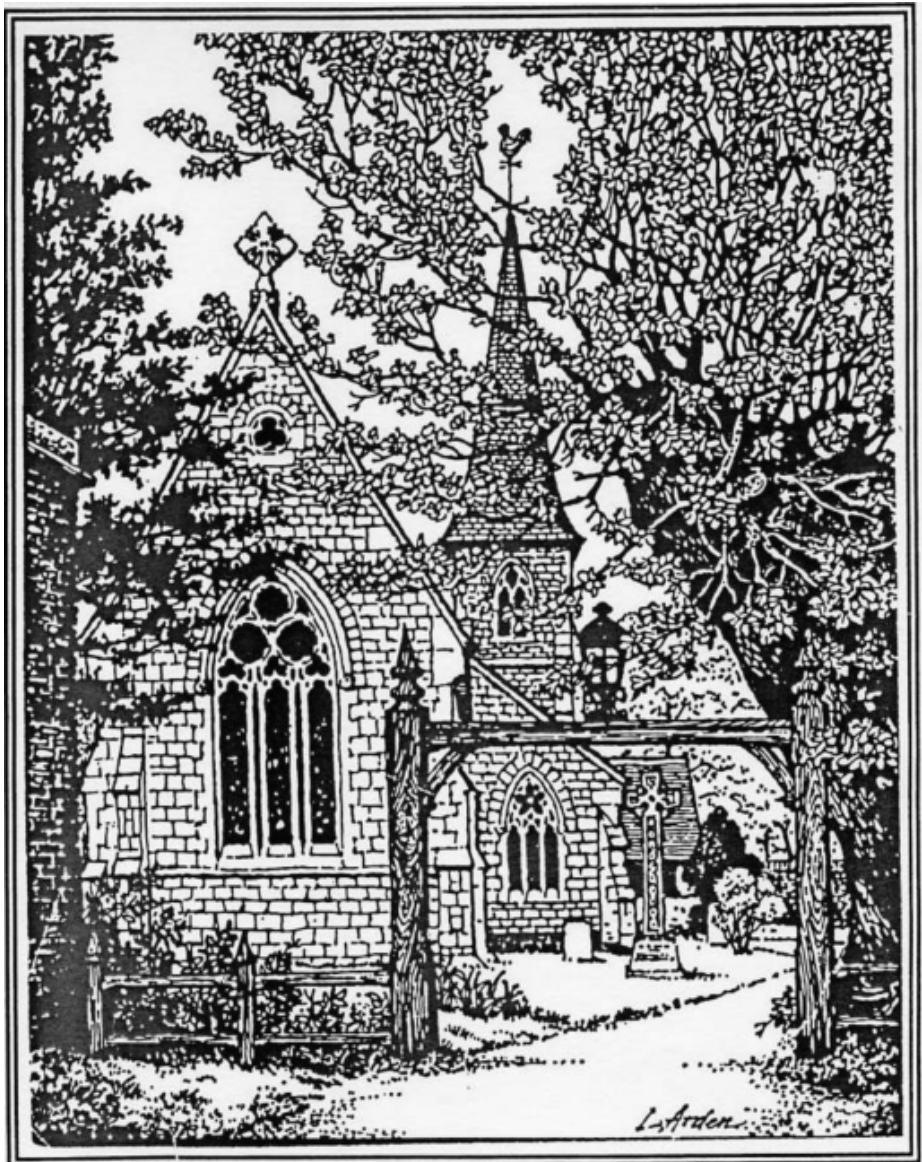


**The Parish Church of
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p
*August, 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
sblake stjames@virginmedia.com

St James Sunday Service

9.30am Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER AUGUST 2020



As we emerge, slowly and (we hope!) carefully from behind our closed front doors, it seems like we are surrounded on all sides by confusion and uncertainty. There is a tangle of detailed regulations and guidance coming at us that we are required to navigate daily, and which seems to change so fast we can't keep up! What are we to do with it all? It is all so unclear, and some of you have shared with me that you are feeling bewildered, exhausted and frustrated.

Because I have been busy trying to keep on top of all the changes, sadly the flower bed that I nurtured so carefully during lockdown has been neglected. It is now overtaken by weeds and will need a lot of my attention to get it back in shape again. I was much comforted however, by a visit to the grounds of a local stately home and discovering that even their extensive flower-borders had more than a few weeds, because their gardening staff had not able to work during the last four months.

In our lives, as well as in our gardens, it seems that all is a bit messy, a bit untidy. In the coming days, we will need time and patience to consider what has been grown in us over these last months.

Perhaps we will discover that what seemed like a weed, actually has a beauty all of its own, that we had not fully appreciated before.

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

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2020

These times and dates may be changed in line with government guidance

Social Distancing and Hand Hygiene will be observed throughout the church buildings.

SUNDAY 2nd August

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

SUNDAY 9th August

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

SUNDAY 16th August

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

SUNDAY 23rd August

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

4pm Sunday @ 4 family service at St Barnabas

SUNDAY 30th August

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

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:
corrymeela.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

The Morning Dedication

Let thanks, O God, be unto thee,
From yesterday who broughtest me
The morning of to-day to see,
Joy everlasting to earn whole
With good intention for my soul.
For every gift of peace to me,
Thoughts, words, deeds, and desires from thee.
Each one bestowed, I dedicate.
And I beseech, I supplicate
That thou may'st keep me from offence,
To-night my aiding and defence,
For the sake of thy wounding red,
With thine offering of grace outspread.
Let thanks, O God, be unto thee.

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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



Reopening of church buildings for public worship

Following the recent Government announcement that church buildings were able to reopen for public worship from 4th July, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who leads the Church of England's Recovery Group, said that the months since lockdown began "have been an extraordinary time - the first period without public worship and the sacraments in England in more than 800 years."

She said also that there will have been "real joy" as people began "to come together again – if even at a physical distance – but I also know that many will be understandably cautious at this news.

"We will not be returning to normality overnight - this is the next step on a journey. We've been planning carefully, making detailed advice available for parishes to enable them to prepare to hold services when it is safe and practical to do so. It is important to say that the change in Government guidance is permissive, not prescriptive.

"I would particularly like to thank clergy and lay leaders for all they have done during the time our buildings have been closed."

Bishop Sarah warned that there will still be restrictions, "and we must all still do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus... The online services and dial-in worship offerings we have become used to will continue.

"This has been an incredibly difficult time for the whole country, especially for those who have been ill, who have suffered financial hardship, the loss of livelihoods and indeed, for many, those they love. We know that is not over and the Church has a task ahead to bring consolation and hope.

"Churches and cathedrals have risen to the recent challenges, finding new ways of meeting for worship, of serving our neighbours, and of reaching new people with the love of God. The challenge before us now is to take the next steps carefully and safely, without forgetting all that we've discovered about God and ourselves on the way."

What has happened to church gardens and therapeutic gardening?

This year's *Green Health Awards* were just one of the many positive activities to be cancelled because of the current situation. Whilst churches have been closed their gardens have continued to grow, and many of these will have been used for therapeutic gardening.

But have these been growing wild or have enthusiasts found ways round the rules and regulations to tend and care for them? Have some special plants been given new homes where they have been encouraged to thrive in these unusual times before they can be returned to more holy ground? We would like to find stories of how therapeutic gardening may have been underway despite lockdown.

We have already discovered some - the group of gardeners from St Pancras Hospital who volunteer at St Paul's Woodland Garden in Camden have been missing their weekly visits during lockdown. The garden was the overall winner of the *Green Health Awards* organised in 2018 by Church Times, The Conservation Foundation and Guild of Health and St Raphael, in association with the Church of England.

Green City Projects' Ben Ledden and Catherine Tidnam, who run the garden, arranged for seeds, baby plants and compost to be delivered to them by the hospital's activity worker, Tom Parnell. "Our patients struggle with severe mental health issues and it has been great for us to continue to feel part of St Paul's during this time", Tom explained. A WhatsApp video call with Ben and Catherine helps keep them in touch with their hospital garden growing and tomatoes, squash, peas, courgettes, cucumber, basil and sunflowers are coming along. Said one patient, "It felt like we were off the ward and at St Paul's Garden again".

The Bishop of Carlisle is a great supporter of using church space for therapeutic gardening projects, and as lead bishop for health chairs the church's *Green Health* initiative. As he says "Almost everyone agrees that the coronavirus pandemic has had a significant effect on people's mental health and wellbeing across the country. That's why it is more important than ever that we use the green spaces around church buildings for therapeutic gardening as part of our co-ordinated effort to tackle mental health issues."

If you have some good news from your garden do let David Shreeve know at david.shreeve@churchofengland.org.

The stately Rosebay Willowherb

By Kirsty Steele, a retired teacher and church organist

If wildflowers were to compete in terms of height, Rosebay Willowherb would have to be one of the contenders for first prize. By mid- to late-summer its height can reach four feet or so [120cm] with



pyramids of pinkish-purple flowers cheering up the most unlikely places, for it is happy to grow on railway cuttings and embankments and amongst ruined buildings and disturbed ground. Indeed, during the Second World War, Rosebay Willowherb was often one of the very first plants to cheer up London's bomb-sites, and even ground that had been cleared by fire, resulting in it having another, but far less attractive name – Fireweed.

Spring flowers tend to have white or yellow petals – snowdrops, primroses, daffodils, wood anemones and celandines.

This trend is abruptly changed when bluebells make an appearance. By midsummer however, warmer colours have made an appearance, and Rosebay Willowherb is no exception. The flowers, with deep pink petals intercepted by purple sepals account for the first word of the name, while the leaves, which grow in spirals around them, are responsible for 'Willowherb' being added, as they become narrow at each end, and therefore resemble [loosely!] those of a willow tree.

In the times of Queen Victoria this wonderful plant was a treasured addition to many gardens and it was not nearly as abundant in the countryside. However, Mother Nature soon dealt with that! Once the flower is pollinated, seed capsules form. When ripe, they split to release many, many billows of seed, all ready to be blown far and wide by autumn winds.

So, we now have a plant loved by many, often from a car or train. But while the size and vibrant colour mean it cannot hide, the fluffy seeds tell us that autumn will not be far away.

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MEETINGS and Events 2020

Planning for The "Welcome to the Meadows"
Educational Day which was scheduled for
19th July 2020 is on hold.



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Whatever happened to Christopher Robin?

By Tim Lenton

One hundred years ago this month, on 21st August 1920, Christopher Robin Milne was born. He was the only son of the author A. A. Milne and appeared as a character in his father's Winnie-the-Pooh stories and verses – a role he enjoyed at first but later found difficult to handle.



The characters in Winnie the Pooh were based on his own soft toys or items purchased later. The setting was inspired by Ashdown Forest in East Sussex: his family owned nearby Cotchford Farm and spent weekends and holidays there.

His relationship with his nanny, Olive 'Nou' Brockwell, was close and continued into adult life, but when he went to boarding school near Guildford in 1930 he was bullied because his father's work was well known: one poem, *Vespers*, brought him "toe-curling, fist-clenching, lip-biting embarrassment".

He married a cousin, Lesley de Sélincourt, in 1948 and opened a bookshop in Dartmouth. He was close to his father but not to his mother, Daphne, who did not see him during the last 15 years of her life.

Milne had one child, Clare, who had cerebral palsy. He himself had myasthenia gravis in his later years and died in 1996; he was described by one newspaper as a 'dedicated atheist'.

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Pandemic ‘transforms the Church into Netflix’

By the Rev Peter Crumpler

(former communications director for the CofE)

The Covid-19 pandemic has “propelled the Church into the contemporary world,” says a new report from CPAS, an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with UK and Irish churches.

‘Everyone Welcome Online’ looks at the lockdown’s impact on churches and concludes, “Last month we were the Odeon, today we are Netflix.

“In the 1950s, the Odeon was okay, but then along came consumer choice, individualism and crowded complex lifestyles. Then came TV film channels, and now Netflix, Prime and others, where you can watch whatever you want, whenever you want, wherever you are on whatever you’ve got.”

The authors, Bob Jackson and George Fisher, say “The Government has shut our ‘Odeons’ down, so in response we have stumbled into ‘Homespun Netflix’ and it’s looking promising.

“Most churches going online have discovered that far more people are accessing their services than ever came to the building. What seemed initially to be a devastating blow to churches may actually generate growth.”

Bishop of Sheffield Pete Wilcox described the 26-page report as “An astonishingly thorough and perceptive overview of online church.”

The authors, who devised the popular ‘Everybody Welcome’ course published by Church House Publishing, include feedback from churches experiencing increased numbers of people logging in for online services, both live and recorded.

One church reported “We’ve had a huge number of hits, many more than the number of people in church on a Sunday, connecting with people who would not come to a regular service.”

The report analyses who is responding and detects groups ranging from friends and family of church members, to the housebound with links to the church, people linked by christenings, weddings or funerals, people who have moved away, occasional churchgoers and people who have found the church through a denominational or diocesan link.

The authors encourage churches to make contact with people who are ‘dropping in’ to the services, suggesting “Contact as many people as you can to say hello and how nice it was to see them connect with the church, and ask how they are and how the church can help them.”

People are finding it easier to access church online because they can join in the services without feeling concerned about ‘doing the wrong thing’ – like standing or sitting at the ‘wrong’ time – they don’t have to enter a strange building and meet new people and they can access the services at a time that suits them.

One church reported: “One previously non-churchgoer said that online she felt comfortable, fully part of the service and so more welcomed than if she had been in the building unsure of how to behave.”

The report’s authors are keen to hear from churches about their experiences during lockdown and ask people to contact them at allarewelcome2020@gmail.com

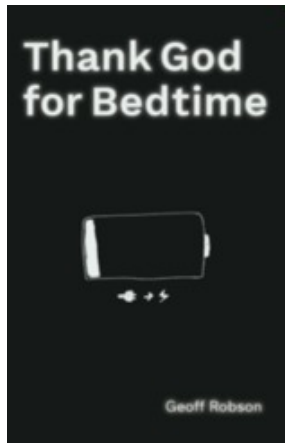
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Book Mark

Thank God for Bedtime – what God says about our sleep and why sleep matters. By Geoff Robson, Matthias Media & 10 Publishing, £5.99



We all need sleep, but many of us struggle to balance our need for sleep with the other demands and pleasures of our lives. More importantly, we may never have thought through the fact that God cares about our sleep and has much to say about it.

In this engaging and practical book, Geoff Robson goes through what the Bible says about sleep. He offers a 'theology of sleep' that helps us to see it as a gift from God to bless His people and to be used in His service.

What Good is God? – crises, faith and resilience

By Roger Abbott and Robert White FRS, Monarch, £9.99

In a world where natural disasters are on the rise, Professor Robert



White and Reverend Doctor Roger Abbott bring together a variety of voices to explore how we respond, from both a practical and faith-lead viewpoint, to such tragedy.

Including the stories of the survivors themselves and those who work with them, this is essential reading for those looking to understand how we can deal with the fallout of seemingly chaotic cataclysms. The mixture of voices from responders and academics adds further depth to a difficult and oft-unexplored subject.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST

250 years ago, on 22nd August 1770 British explorer Captain James Cook discovered eastern Australia, named it New South Wales, and claimed it for Britain.

150 years ago, on 4th August 1870 the British Red Cross Society was founded.

80 years ago, on 13th August 1940 the main phase of the Battle of Britain began. The German Luftwaffe launched raids on RAF airfields and radar installations. On 29th August Winston Churchill paid tribute to the Royal Air Force in a famous House of Commons speech, saying, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

75 years ago, on 6th August 1945 the US Army Air Forces dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. The centre of the city was totally destroyed, and 80,000 people were killed immediately. A further 60,000 died by the end of the year. It was the first city in history to be hit by a nuclear weapon.

Also 75 years ago, on 9th August 1945 the US Army Air Forces dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki, Japan. 40,000 people died immediately and about 33,000 more by the end of the year.

40 years ago, on 14th August 1980 Lech Walesa led a strike by shipyard workers in Gdansk, Poland, to protest against the dismissal of a trade union activist. On 30th August the striking workers won the right to establish independent trade unions. This led to the formation of the Solidarity movement.


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Signs & Symbols

By The Revd Dr Jo White

Reflected Faith Series: a Prayer Notebook



I recall when I was 14 years old going to stay on my own with my French cousins in the South of France, for three weeks during the summer holidays. It was a brilliant time which I thoroughly enjoyed. There was a sense of 'freedom' being away from close family and the ability to ride a 'moped' legally into the town and surrounding area! I

wished it could have lasted much longer.

However, as the homeward flight crossed over the last of the English Channel and British land came into sight, I found myself unexpectedly crying.

I suspect that when the time comes for us to return to collective worship in our buildings that will happen for many of us.

It's not that we can put a finger on one specific aspect or another of our gatherings or buildings that we so sorely miss – but rather it's all those parts making up the whole. One thing that helps me at the moment, is having a Prayer Notebook handy.

It sounds very grand and holy, but it is just jottings of issues, places and people who are in the news or who have asked for prayer. At the back I make a jotting of phrases or parts of a reading or prayer that resonated with me at that moment.

It helps me to be, as well as feel, a part of the body of church as I take my place in praying and it also encourages me to look out for the ways that Christ feeds me during these strangest of times.

This month: Find an unused notebook or fold a few pages together to make one. Cut the edges of the pages like an address book and mark each with: places, people in need, family, friends, issues, celebrations, words, etc. Whatever works for you - as large or as little as you like.

Make a note of news items, things people say in your conversations, comments on what you read and so on. You don't have to read or write in it every day, just when you notice something that 'grips' you. Allow God's Holy Spirit to bring you His peace through the process and enable you to pass that on to others.

WORDSEARCH



Transfiguration	Hermon	shine	white	dwelling	Peter
Jesus	Caesarea	face	dazzling	mankind	James
mountain	Philippi	cloud	Elijah	Law	John
transformed	glory	Tabor	Moses	Prophets	fear

Solutions on page 27

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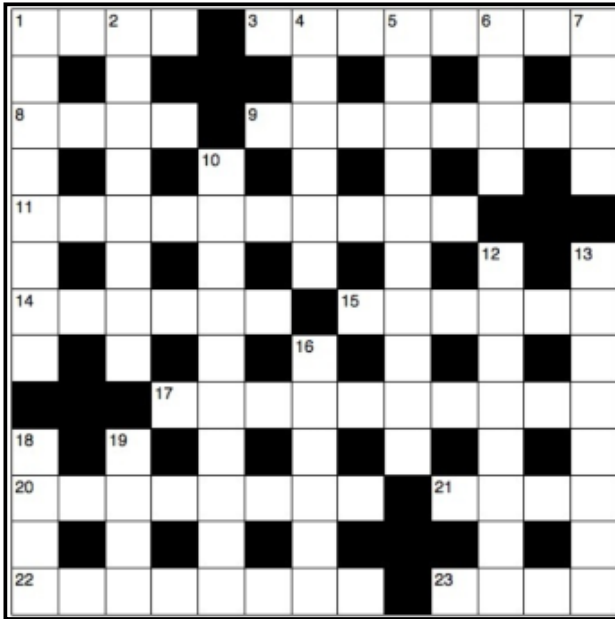
AUGUST CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
3 See 1 Across
8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)



- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

(Solutions on page 28)

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ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

On the delights of a working party in the churchyard
The Rectory
St. James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

A few weeks ago, some visitors to our church congratulated me on the decision they thought we had taken to let our churchyard run wild, so it could provide a natural habitat for the local flora and fauna. While assuring them that thoughts of rabbits and nettles were rarely out of our minds, I made a mental note that it was time for a working party to be drafted; our local flora and fauna needed reminding who is really in charge.

The request for volunteers produced the usual crop: those young farmers who saw it as an opportunity to compete with one another to prove who was the fittest, the recently retired who were determined to prove that they were just as able as those half their age and those whose main intention was to tell the rest how much better the job used to be done in their day.

I explained to them all that naturally I would have been only too delighted to help, but my poor back excluded me. I did, however, offer to sit in the sun and keep watch over their jackets. We all have our own particular ministries.

We were all more than a little surprised to see that Lord Eustace had put his name down on the list; the only exercise I have ever seen him doing is lifting a large whisky and soda. But on the day we found that his interpretation of offering his services meant sending round the under gardener.

I never realised that Dr. Tomkins could run so quickly until he accidentally scythed the top off a wasps' nest. Hotly pursued by several thousand irate insects, he cleared the churchyard, vaulted the wall and headed across the green to the village pond. Having spent the last three decades complaining about young people in the village diving into it, I suspect he will now be the first to contribute towards its upkeep.

The moment of high drama was when a tree stump was dragged up using a tractor. Such force was needed that if the chains had snapped, a substantial portion of the men of the parish would have been decapitated. When the stump finally gave up the struggle, it emerged with several long-forgotten headstones and a portion of the church's water main. The new feature of a churchyard fountain looked rather charming, until the water board arrived to cut us off.

During the lunch break, most had brought packs of sandwiches or flasks of soup – apart from Major Mitchell (retired) who dragged a picnic hamper from the car boot and set about a three course meal washed down with a bottle of chilled Chablis. His decision to have a little nap, empty hamper and bottle beside him, when all the others returned to work was not entirely surprising. Three hours later, with the job completed, we all left for home, with the Major still enjoying his siesta. I woke him up at 6pm when I returned to church to say Evensong.

Your loving uncle

Eustace



"Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's annual holiday again."

GOD THE ARTS

By The Rev Michael Burgess

The Transfiguration – beholding the Glory

TQ – Tingle Quotient – is the name given to those things that can produce a tingle down the spine or a frisson of excitement. It could



be a piece of music or the sight of an evening sunset at sea. We look, we hear, and our sense of wonder as something sublime unfolds before us produces delight and awe. We see a hint of glory that can even lead us to worship.

I think the monk who lived in cell no 6 at the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence must have felt that when he entered his room and saw for the first time the fresco of the Transfiguration

that Fra Angelico had painted. I am sure the sight would have stopped him in his tracks, just as Peter, James and John were stopped in their tracks as they beheld their Lord transfigured before them on the mount.

From 1436 Fra Angelico painted a whole series of frescoes for the convent from the High Altar to the Chapter House to the cells of the monks. Here in cell no 6 there is a restrained simplicity and directness about the Transfiguration. One of the three disciples looks out towards us, while the other two are caught up in wonder and awe as they look on Jesus with the faces of Moses and Elijah on either side.

Here Fra Angelico is not seeking to impress a wealthy patron: he is providing a focus for devotion and prayer for the monks of his community. The scene speaks to us of that sense of awe and reverence.

On August 6 we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration. The Gospel accounts relate that special moment of revelation to the inner group of disciples. The glory shown to them evoked a sense of wonder and marvel, but also a sense of loss. For the glory proved elusive and just out of human reach. The moment of revelation passed, and the disciples had to go down the mount again to meet the crying needs of the world, all but forgotten when they were with their Lord on the mountain top.

The monk in his cell would ponder the glory of Fra Angelico's fresco, knowing that he would be called from his cell to take up his monastic duties. But the painting would go with him to sustain and nurture his life. It is the same with us: we have moments of glory. But they pass, and we must return to our daily lives. As we look on this month's painting, we sense that glory and wonder which can sustain us through life.

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

10th

Laurence of Rome – and the gridiron

Laurence was a deacon of the Church in Rome who was martyred in 258. His story is found in the very ancient *Depositio Martyrum*, which tells us that he was closely associated with Pope Sixtus II, who was martyred just a few days before him during the persecution of the Emperor Valerian. We also know that he was much loved for his almsgiving.

St Cyprian, the Bishop of Carthage, relates how the Roman authorities had taken to confiscating all the goods of any Christians they discovered, and then putting the Christians to death. And so it was in August of 258, after Sixtus was martyred, that they demanded of Laurence the wealth of the Church in Rome. He asked for three days to gather it together. During that time he worked quickly, to distribute as much of it as possible to the poor in Rome. On the third day, he presented himself to the prefect of Rome, taking along a small delegation of the poor and crippled. He told the prefect that these people were the true treasures of the Church, and that 'The Church is truly rich, far richer than your emperor.' This did not go down well with the prefect, and Laurence was condemned to a martyr's death.

It was Laurence, of course who is famous for being roasted alive on a gridiron, and for telling his captors to 'turn him over' when he was done on one side. The story has no historic basis, as the weapon of capital punishment at the time was the sword. It is thought by many scholars that the roasting on the gridiron story came about because of a simple spelling mistake by a monk in copying the history years later: the accidental omission of the letter 'p' would have been enough. This is because the customary formula for announcing the death of a martyr was 'passus est' (he suffered/was martyred). If you leave off the 'p' you get 'assus est' - he was roasted. Only – he wasn't!

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

DOWN: 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO.



CATHEDRALS

It is nice to visit other people's places of worship and see what parts are like our own church at home. But a visit to a cathedral is special.

In a cathedral everything is usually so much bigger – the roof is higher and there are lots more corners to explore. They were built in stone at a time when most people lived in small houses made of wood and mud or brick. How did those who designed it know that the huge building would actually work?

The architects could imagine the finished buildings but it took a whole army of workers of workers to make the vision come true. Hundreds of people worked for hundreds of years to build these wonderful buildings. Hundreds of people all working together, not for themselves but for the greater glory of God.



CHURCH BITS

There are lots of things that you will only see in church buildings – do you know what these are? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. PISCINA
 - a) is it a niche in a wall that drains outside the church or
 - b) a type of organ?
2. REREDOS
 - a) is it a type of column
 - b) or a screen behind the altar?
3. PEW
 - a) is it a long wooden seat
 - b) or the large hinges on a heavy wooden door?
4. APSE
 - a) is the curved space at the eastern end of a church or cathedral
 - b) or a curved roof
- 5) AMBO
 - a) the framework that supports the bells or
 - b) a raised platform, a predecessor to the pulpit?



Who are the 2 ice cream firms in the Bible?

Walls of Jericho and Lyons of Judah.

Who was the most popular person in the Bible?

Samson - he brought the house down.



Answers: 1: a 2: b 3: a 4: a 5: b

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Weddings

-

Burials

-

Internment of Ashes

-

Year's mind for August 2019

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