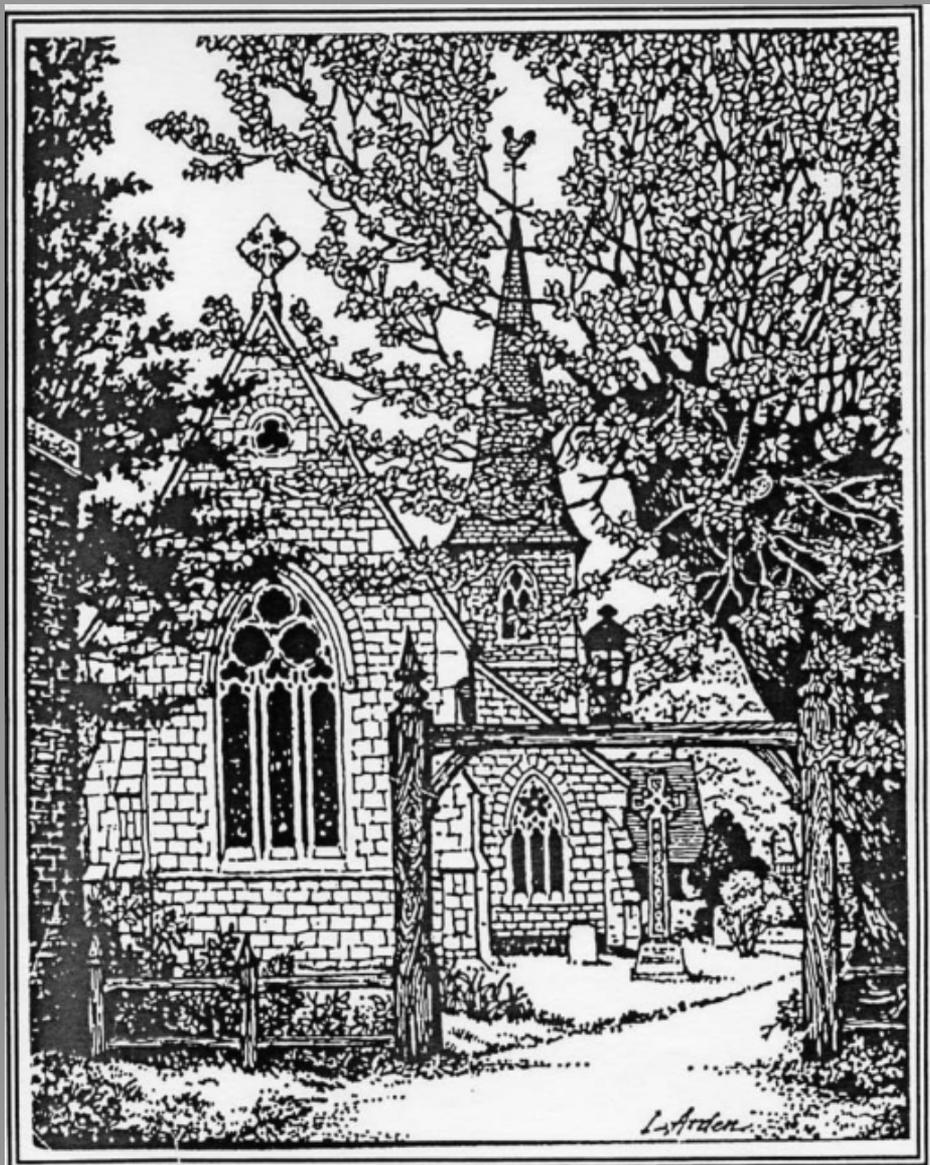


The Parish Church of 50p
St. James, North Cray *September, 2020*

(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

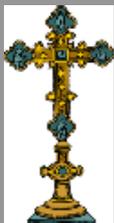
St James Sunday Service

9.30am

Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER SEPTEMBER 2020



I recently spent a day at Great Dixter near Rye, a garden created by the late Christopher Lloyd, whose home it was.

In a very free gardening style, 'Christo' as he was known by his many friends, massed all sorts of plants together, letting them grow in freedom and profusion with the flowers tumbling over each other and the foliage even encroaching on the pathways through the garden.

Looking out of my window at my own garden, I have watched the trees, heavy with green leaves, tossed by the strong winds that we have been having. I have watched the movement of the birds amongst the foliage, enjoyed the clouds scudding across the panorama of the sky. I love the richness of colour at this time of year, the sense of life bursting at the seams, all the glory of the summer come to maturity and the coming harvest.

But as August moves into September, with wet and windy weather, we move our minds to the future. In just a few months the trees will be bare of leaves, the plants will have faded, the flowers will be blackened by the first frosts of winter.

Yet all those trees and shrubs, and the perennial plants that we love, will have their roots securely in the good earth and when the spring comes again, will come into a new time of leaf and flowers.

So it is with human life.

Our span of years which will be lived (it is to be hoped) in good ways, and through that being a blessing to others. Years made up of days, hours, minutes which have been lived with sincerity and devotion, honour and service, care and kindness, hospitality and generosity, patience and prayerfulness, beauty and harmony.

A life held, not as our own possession to do with as we want, indulging every selfish whim.

But a life held 'gently' knowing that our very existence, and every moment we are granted to spend here on earth, comes from God, is rooted in the God who created us, and will return to God as our earthly life comes to its ending.

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

September Prayer

Loving Father,

Please help us with all the new things September brings: a new school year, new stages of life, with children moving on or out, new challenges for many as summer gives way to autumn. Help us in this season of change to know the constant reality of Jesus. Thank you for the new life He freely offers to all who turn to Him.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

BEWARE!

I have been notified of a scam which seems to use clergy email addresses from church websites to appeal for recipients to purchase Amazon gift vouchers and send them on. Please be very careful and do not respond to any emails that seem in the least suspect! *Ren I*

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

**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

Praise to the Holiest in the height

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came...

And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways....

By John Henry Newman

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OUR PILGRIM PLACES

HISTORIC CHRISTIAN SITES IN BRITAIN : IONA

Dr Herbert McGonigle

Off the end of the Mull peninsula in the Inner Hebrides in Scotland lies a small island, Iona. It is situated a mile from the mainland and is little more than three miles in length and one mile in width. While it is very likely that Ninian (died c.430) brought Christianity to southwest Scotland around the year 400, we have much better historical records for what happened at Iona.



In 563 a boat arrived at the island bringing a group of monks from Ireland. They had braved the storms of the Atlantic Ocean since leaving the Irish coast and their arrival in Iona began a new chapter in the history of Scottish Christianity. Their arrival

would also have important consequences for English Christianity.

The monks were led by Columba. He was born in county Donegal, in the northwest of Ireland, probably sometime in the 520s. By birth he was connected to Irish kings and he was schooled and trained in Celtic Christianity. Patrick had founded the Celtic faith in Ireland in the previous century and Columba was one of a number of outstanding monks and scholars that the Celtic Church produced.

Although the details are uncertain, Columba became involved in controversy about biblical manuscripts with another Celtic scholar, Finnian, who headed a monastery at Clonard. If the traditions can be believed, this controversy led to a local war and soldiers were killed. Columba was judged to be in the wrong and he was forced into exile. With some fellow monks, he left Ireland by boat, bound for Scotland, and landed at Iona.

It was indeed a momentous event. Although there is evidence that Ninian had evangelised parts of southwest Scotland, the inhabitants of the country, the Picts, were pagans when Columba arrived. For the next forty years Columba and his monks travelled and preached and catechised and evangelised much of the south and west of Scotland. Iona was their headquarters and Columba founded an abbey there. The little island was soon recognised as a centre both of Christian spirituality and Christian learning. In Columba's lifetime and in the centuries following, Iona, in spite of its isolation, became a place of pilgrimage. Columba and his monks established churches and monasteries, ordained priests and appointed monks according to the Celtic faith and customs they had learned in Ireland. (Continued next month)

Dr Herbert McGonigle is Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.

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Services and Events for September 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. Face masks MUST be worn.

Wednesday 2 September

10.00am Bexley Team Midweek Bible Study on Nehemiah at St Mary's Bexley. ALL WELCOME

SUNDAY 6 September

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

Wednesday 9 September

10.00am Bexley Team Midweek Bible Study on Nehemiah at St Mary's Bexley. ALL WELCOME

Sunday 13 September

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

Wednesday 16 September

10.00am Bexley Team Midweek Bible Study on Nehemiah at St Mary's Bexley. ALL WELCOME

Thursday 17 September

7.30pm for 8pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting at St James North Cray

SUNDAY 20 September

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

Wednesday 23 September

10.00am Bexley Team Midweek Bible Study on Nehemiah at St Mary's Bexley. ALL WELCOME

Saturday 26 September

Ordination of our Curate, Matt Hodder as Deacon in Rochester Cathedral.

Because of current Covid restrictions numbers attending will be limited, but please do hold Matt and his family in your prayers on this special day.

SUNDAY 27 September

9.30am Communion Service welcoming Matt in his new role.
4pm Sunday @ 4 family service at St Barnabas

Wednesday 30 September

10.00am Bexley Team Midweek Bible Study on Nehemiah
Followed by Holy Communion at St Mary's
Bexley. ALL WELCOME



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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.

David Hemsley

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Gorse – cheerful and perfumed, but prickly!

By Kirsty Steele, a retired teacher and active church organist

The old saying 'Kissing is out of season when the gorse is not in bloom' is based on the fact that it is a rare time of year when a flower or two cannot be found. The bush itself, growing on heaths and moors is well-known for its vicious spikes. This is its answer to the problem



of producing leaves that will withstand wind, rain and hungry animals.

The golden yellow flowers are at their absolute best in spring when the bushes, growing often to a height of seven to ten feet, seem to glow in the countryside. They attract bees and other pollen-seeking

insects and many of us enjoy the rich coconut-like perfume as well as the joyful colour. The sharp foliage gives protection to several species of bird as they nest deep in these bulging bushes, and larger animals such as sheep and cows, if grazing nearby, will take advantage of gorse as a very effective windbreak.

In the past, gorse, also known as 'furze' or 'whin', was used as fuel as it burns very readily when dry. This has caused many serious moorland fires in recent years, but gorse is fortunately a resilient species and quickly sends up new shoots from the burnt stumps that remain. It is also apparently somewhat susceptible to frost, but will recover quickly with new growth.

A member of the pea family, its seeds are set in brown, somewhat unattractive pods, which on a hot summer's day can be heard popping, or they may be provoked into doing so when held in a hot hand. However, what might surprise us even more is that in the past, in country districts, it was used for drying washing, as the thorns would allow nothing to escape, even in the strongest of winds!

Don't allow the modern culture to rule your life

By Bev Shepherd

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. (Psalm 111:10)

“Remember,” said W.C. Fields, “a dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a live one to swim upstream.” This quotation, reproduced on T-shirts and in management books, appeals to our sense of nonconformist individuality. The reality, though, is that most of us want to belong and win approval. We fear the consequences of challenging toxic organisational cultures, disagreeing with accepted workplace wisdom, or showing any weakness. To go against the flow, to be distinctive in God-honouring ways, takes courage.

The psalmist emphasises that ‘the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom’. This godly fear is not to be placed alongside our fears of the opinions of our colleagues, important though they are, but takes precedence over them. Paul puts it starkly: ‘If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ’ (Galatians 1:10).

The biblical wisdom is not merely intellectual capacity, but is linked with discipline and discernment, shrewdness and skill. It’s also profoundly countercultural, as Jesus’ own teaching illustrates: in order to live we are called to die; the first shall be last; giving away leads to being entrusted with much (Luke 6:38).

In our relationships, Jesus calls us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). Moreover, God’s wisdom, which looks foolish and weak in the world’s eyes, is seen supremely in the cross, where it is shown that ‘the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength’ (1 Corinthians 1:25).

The phrase ‘fear of the LORD’ uses the covenantal name of God, implying a committed relationship of reverence and awe. If we allow the culture of our workplaces and the time pressures we experience to squeeze the fear of God out of our ‘wisdom’, we risk becoming ‘practical atheists’, where our responses to situations are barely distinguishable from those of our non-believing colleagues.

Bev Shepherd is the PrayerWorks project leader and an associate speaker with The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity www.licc.org.uk



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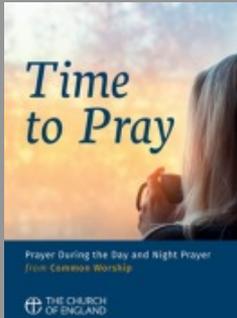
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Book Mark

Time to Pray – Prayer During the Day and Night from Common Worship. CHP, £3.99

Time to Pray contains a simplified Daily Office: a pattern of prayer, praise and Bible reading, to help you take a break during the day, give thanks to God, and lift your needs to Him.

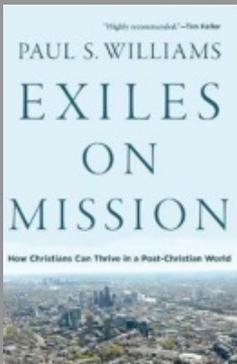


It is suitable for those seeking a simpler form of daily prayer or those just beginning a regular routine of time with God. Prayer During the Day can be said at any time when you have space to pause, while Night Prayer is an uplifting and beautiful way to end your day.

Straightforward and flexible to use, Time to Pray will draw you into a tradition that has been practised by Christians throughout the centuries and continues to be shared across the world today.

Exiles on Mission: How Christians Can Thrive in a Post-Christian World. By Paul Williams, Bible Society, £13.99

What does faithful Christian witness look like in a post-Christian culture?



Paul Williams, the CEO of Bible Society, explores the experience of living as Christians in the 21st century, including the dissonance with culture that is often felt. He calls for a truly missional understanding of post-Christendom Christianity, and invites us to reimagine local churches as embassies of the kingdom of God and Christians as ambassadors in all spheres of life and work.

Williams encourages readers to embrace the language of exile for the scattered and gathered church in the post-Christian West. He helps Christians make sense of the world in which they live, and more authentically integrate their faith with everyday life.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

400 years ago, on 6th September 1620, 102 English Puritans (now known as the Pilgrims) set sail aboard the Mayflower from Plymouth, for a new life in America. After a perilous journey they landed in what is now Provincetown Harbour, Cape Cod, Massachusetts on 11th November. They had intended landing in Virginia, but were unable to reach it because of heavy seas.

150 years ago, on 20th September 1870 Rome was captured. Italian forces defeated the Papal States and captured the city of Rome at the end of the wars of Italian Unification. The Papal States were dissolved. Rome was annexed, and it became the capital of Italy in 1871.

125 years ago, on 28th September 1895 Louis Pasteur died. This French biologist, microbiologist and chemist was one of the main founders of the field of medical microbiology. Best known for originating the pasteurization of foodstuffs to eliminate micro-organisms that cause disease. Pasteur saved the French beer, wine and silk industries and developed vaccines against anthrax and rabies.

60 years ago, on 27th September 1960 Sylvia Pankhurst, suffragette leader, died.

40 years ago, on 22nd September 1980 the Solidarity movement was created in Poland, with Lech Walesa as its leader. It was the first independent trade union in the Soviet bloc.

25 years ago, on 3rd September 1995 the auction site eBay was founded (as AuctionWeb).

15 years ago, on 24th September 2005 the IRA decommissioned its last remaining weapons in front of independent inspectors.

Signs & Symbols

By The Revd Dr Jo White

The 'wind vane' is something that we often see on the top of church spires and towers as well as other buildings. Weather vanes respond solely to wind direction and should move freely as the wind blows against them.



The shape of the vane will determine whether it is pointing into the wind or with it; in other words, for example, some point to tell you the wind is blowing from the west while another will tell you it is blowing to the east. It all depends on the shape of the top figure. Ideally it is roughly equal weight so that it moves freely on

its spindle, but will have an appreciably larger tail area to swing the smaller pointer steadily into the wind, though sometimes it's the other way round.

Like with all things that look simple, wind vanes have to be finely balanced to work well and there is more than one way of doing that. The two main methods are either to attach the motif to a tubular sleeve which drops over and rotates around a fixed spindle or rod, or the motif is attached to a solid spindle which drops into and rotates within a fixed tubular sleeve, the end usually resting on a glass marble or a steel ball. Easy, eh?

Weather vanes are not new. They were around before Christ, and they come in all shapes and sizes although the older and most common are the cockerel, because of its natural shape, and the flag.

There are two things to note about weather vanes on churches.. Firstly, on a church they often do not have the compass points marked as they do on other buildings. This is because usually churches are built on the east-west line. And secondly, they only work when they are freely attached, not firmly fixed. This doesn't make them unattached, far from it; wherever the wind goes they go also. They are rigidly set to freely follow.

This month:

Have a look at some wind vanes in different places, and ask yourself what it is that you're attached to? What moves you? Who or what do you follow?

WORDSEARCH



Thanks	All	Intervene	Balaam	Gabriel
Angels	Genesis	Garden	Mouths	Mary
Church	Messengers	Eden	Lions	Mother
Feast	God	Lot	Daniel	Teaming
Michael	Danger	Gideon	Archangel	Revelation

Solutions on page 27

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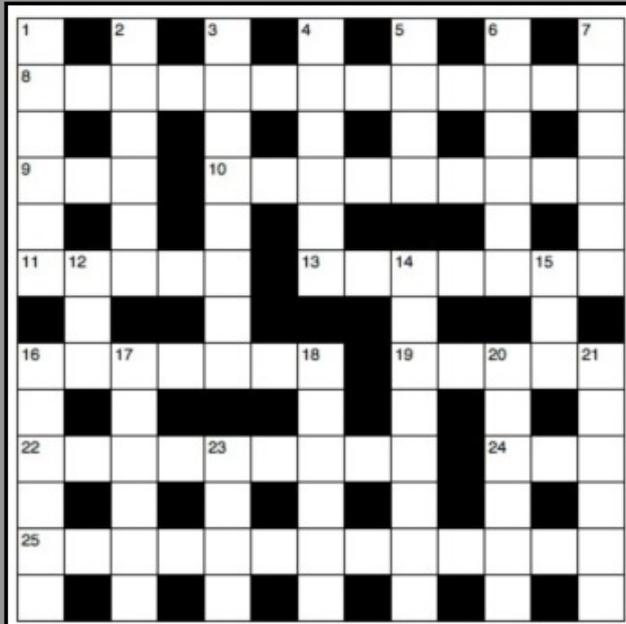
SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years
(1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put
in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases
(Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
- 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in
Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger'
(John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy
ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in
the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion
on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)



- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

(Solutions on page 28)

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

On how to make the most of that diocesan 'residential course'

Rectory

St. James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Your enthusiasm for attending training courses has, until now, baffled me. Why should you want to become a better preacher, when congregations only use the sermon for catching up on lost sleep? What more do you need to learn about time management than being able to recognise those fixed points of 12.30 for the pre-luncheon sherry and 6pm for a stiff gin? And what is the point of learning about how to lead Bible study groups when all you will end up discussing is who failed to provide flowers for the altar last Sunday?

But after this last week, dear boy, I take it all back. The bishop sent me on a week's pre-retirement course. Of course, he was dropping hints, but until I reach my century, I have little intention of relinquishing a vocation to annoying parishioners and frustrating the plans of bishops. What else, after all, is parish ministry about?

The first move is to arrive early, receive your room allocation and then discard it. Tour the whole establishment, find the best room and then unpack and make sure your dog is nicely settled in the centre of the bed, just in time for the arrival of the intended occupant. I naturally apologise effusively for my innocent mistake, begin to remove possessions and dog while hoping that he will excuse all the hairs on his bed. This ensures that he magnanimously offers to take your original room.

At the first session, you need to establish the ground rules - and with a course leader, who in my opinion, should still have been wearing short trousers, it was all too easy. You make it clear that you are extremely deaf and so all the lectures will, sadly, be wasted on you, you also add that you will need some time alone to prepare for a surfeit

of funerals which inexplicably all came in the day before you left and that you also will need time out to exercise your dog.

By the end of that first session, you will have accounted for your absence for the rest of the week. In my case, it passed delightfully with gentle strolls in the grounds, visits to the local second-hand bookshops and much silent meditation in one's room. I attended the final session in order to congratulate the leader for his magnificent course, was effusive in my comments on those wretched evaluation forms and on my return wrote a letter of thanks to the bishop for having thought I was worthy of receiving pre-retirement training - while also noting that I was sure it would be of use when I begin to make plans for that happy event in a few decades time.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



GOD AND THE ARTS

By The Rev Michael Burgess

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Flowers – the beauty of the Lord

In this month of September we give thanks for God’s blessings in all that the earth yields us. Those blessings are focused in this wonderful



painting of Jan Davidsz de Heem. He was born in Utrecht in Holland in 1606 and studied art under his father’s guidance. De Heem then moved to Antwerp, where for the rest of his life he created paintings of such beauty and depth that one of them – a portrait of Prince William III surrounded by blossoms and fruits - received the highest price ever paid for a painting at that time.

In the ‘Vase of Flowers’ de Heem has gathered together a bouquet of variegated flowers and plants for our delight. Time stands still in his painting in two ways. First, these thirty-one blooms could never have flowered at the same time, but through the magical touch of the artist, they do for us. Caught on canvas, they are as fresh and vibrant as the day they were painted in 1645.

But there are signs that the gifts of nature do wither and die as we look closely and see on the marble slab a snail. Nearby is a salamander eyeing his next meal as a spider hangs on a thread from one of the flowers. In the centre another snail looks at his food, the beautiful and rare red and white tulips. Yet we look again and see also signs of new life: the reeds of wheat are symbols of the

Eucharistic bread; the caterpillar and butterfly on the striking white poppy at the top are signs of resurrection; and the peas in their pod and the blackberries mark out the fruitfulness of creation.

The artist shows us a glorious range of flowers – some well-known, others more exotic and brought back to Holland through the colonial expansion of the 16th century. Tulips and poppies dominate, but to the left are small scented roses. Each is a testimony to the beauty and goodness of the world we live in. A 100 years later, Christopher Smart wrote in 'Jubilate Agno': 'For the flowers are great blessings...For the flower glorifies God...For the flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.' And 200 years later Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote: 'I do not think I have ever seen anything more beautiful than the bluebell I have been looking at. I know the beauty of our Lord by it.' And we, in our own century, can echo poet and painter as we praise God, the author of such flowers and plants that make up a world of 'all things bright and beautiful.'

SOLUTIONS TO WORDSEARCH



3rd St Gregory the Great – the pope who saved the ‘angels’

Pope Gregory never called himself ‘the Great’, but instead ‘the Servant of the Servants of God’. Nevertheless, Gregory was one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages.



The son of a very rich Roman senator, he left the service of the State upon his conversion as a young man. Gregory then sold off his tremendous estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome, and gave generously to the poor. He became a monk and adopted an austere lifestyle. But he was destined to be a frustrated

monk, because successive popes kept appointing him to jobs with major public responsibilities.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, “They are Angles.” Moved with compassion for these humiliated and despised men, he replied, “They are not Angles, but angels!” He wanted to lead a band of missionaries to England to evangelise the Angles, but then plague broke out in Italy, and during this time he was elected Pope.

Reluctantly he accepted, and then sent to work to deal with the crises facing Christendom: plague, floods, famine, and a Lombard invasion. But busy though Gregory was, he did not forget the Angles. He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.



**NOTHING AT ALL
ON 4th SEPTEMBER**

Nothing at all happened on this day in 1752 – how do we know this? In 1752 the calendar was reformed because Britain was 11 days behind the rest of Europe. The dates were simply moved forward: September 3rd became September 14th and 11 days went missing. Diaries and calendars read 1st September, 2nd September, 14th September, 15th September, etc.

There was rioting in the streets as people wanted their missing days back. People paying rents and mortgages were very upset because they still had to pay for the whole month of September even though it didn't have its usual amount of days.

For years afterwards it still caused trouble – look in old churchyards and you may see tombstones with dates that say 'born old style, died new style' which means that the person in the grave was actually 11 days younger than the dates would make you think.



BIBLE SUM

All the answers to this quiz are numbers in the Bible. Can you work out this sum?

- To the number of commandments
- ADD
- the number of disciples and
- ADD
- the tribes of Israel then
- TAKE AWAY
- the number of Gospels.
- DIVIDE BY
- the Wise Men or Kings
- ADD
- the sheep that weren't lost
- (Luke 15:3)
- TAKE AWAY

Jesus' days in the wilderness
(Matthew 4)



ADD THESE 2
DIGITS
TOGETHER
**And what are
you left with?**

Answer at the
bottom of the page.

Can you name 5 days of the week without saying Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday?

The day before yesterday,
yesterday, today, tomorrow and
the day after tomorrow!

ANSWER: 10 + 12 = 24 + 12 = 34 - 4
= 30 - 3 = 10 + 99 = 109 - 40 = 69, 6 + 9
= TWELVE

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Weddings

-

Burials

30th July

Kenneth Frederick Dawe

30th July

Ann Patricia Dawe (wife of Kenneth)

8th August

Shirley Freeman

Year's mind for September 2019

THE BOTHY

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Lynne Meads on 07966 315518

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CONTACT the Team Rector

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