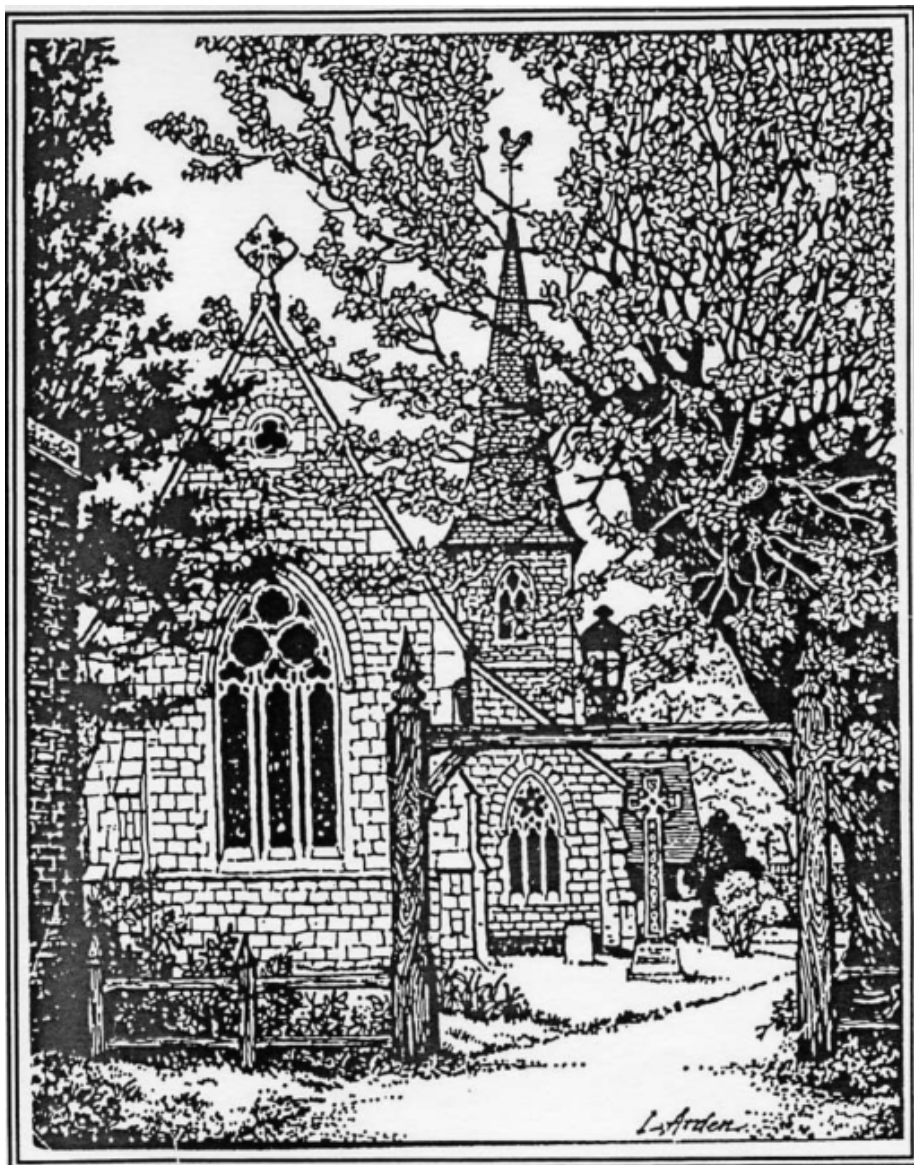


**The Parish Church of
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p
*July, 2021***

(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 JULY 2021



You may not remember this, because there have been so many similar cases, so many tragedies... And in all honesty, I'm not sure why this one 'got to me' as it did!

On 27 October last year, a boat carrying refugees sank in the English Channel. Amongst those who died, were a Kurdish-Iranian family, trying to reach the UK. The bodies of the father, the mother, and two older children were recovered. The body of the youngest child, just 15 months old, named Artin could not be found.

And, it may have been sentimental of me, but as a mother, and a grandmother, I could not help thinking of that tiny fragile body, being 'lost', far away from the bodies of his family. All over Christmas, and completely illogically, I wanted that little body to be held once again and placed to rest by those who had loved him in life.

So, I noticed at the beginning of last month, on 7 June, police in Norway announced that a body found on the Norwegian coast on New Year's Day had been identified as that of the missing baby.

Little Artin's remains were to be flown back to Iran to be buried by members of the wider family.

It is good, this, but by no stretch of the imagination can it be considered a 'happy ending'!

None of us as individuals would be party to the death of a small child... and yet, by our society's hardened attitudes towards refugees, those deaths continue to happen.

Time and time again, we fail to offer the desperate and the vulnerable a place of safety.

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

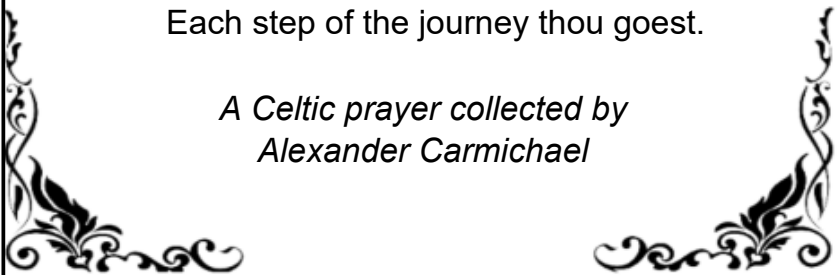


The Pilgrim's Aiding

God be with thee in every pass,
Jesus be with thee on every hill,
Spirit be with thee on every stream,
Headland and ridge and lawn;

Each sea and land, each moor and
meadow,
Each lying down, each rising up,
In the trough of the waves, on the crest
of the billows,
Each step of the journey thou goest.

*A Celtic prayer collected by
Alexander Carmichael*



THE BOTHY

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**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

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR JULY 2021

Saturday 3 July

3pm

Farewell Service for our Diocesan Bishop, Bishop James Langstaff, livestreamed from Rochester Cathedral.

www.rochestercathedral.org/worship-online

The service will also be available to watch afterwards.

SUNDAY 4 July

9.30am

Holy Communion

SUNDAY 11 July

9.30am

All-Age Worship

SUNDAY 18 July

9.30am

Holy Communion
Forest Church



SUNDAY 25 July

9.30am

Holy Communion

There will be music on this link

www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/welcome/music/

We hope you find the music helpful and inspiring.

We will continue to circulate worship material via email, and also make worship available online, on Zoom, or via a phone-in link on Zoom.

Details are emailed out each week.

Please contact the Team Rector or a member of the clergy team to be included on the emailing list or see our website for further information.

Also, do contact any of our clergy team if you are concerned, or if you would simply like a chat, or prayer.

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.



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.”

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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.

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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

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

TIME FOR A CHANGE

By *Tony Horsfall*

I have had my walking boots for a few years now, and they have been faithful companions. We have walked many miles together during that time, on my daily walks as well as on holiday. They are partly responsible for my physical recovery after Covid-19, so they have a place in my heart. They fit me very well, and we have adjusted to one another. But they are very thin now on the soles and heels, and it is reluctantly time for a change.

So, one recent Saturday I bought a new pair. They are clean and smart, and fully waterproof. The soles are strong and new. There are no signs of wear and tear. But I know that change is never easy. They will take some time to wear in. They may rub and I may get a blister or two. Occasionally I will long for my old boots, and wonder, 'Did I make a mistake?' Hopefully, they will become as much a part of me as my old ones as we tread the miles together. But there is always a risk with something new, Isn't there?

Change is never easy in whatever form it comes. But change is inevitable because life does not stand still, and we have to keep adjusting and adapting and being open to fresh winds of the Spirit. Never more so than in these present, troublesome days.

Strangely enough as I have been meditating on this, my reading this morning (Isaiah 9) contained a reference to 'Every warrior's boot used in battle ... will be destined for burning (v5).' Oh dear. I'm sure like me, warriors were fond of their boots too and found it hard to part with them.

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News and Issues



‘Remember Me’ – St Paul’s launches fundraising campaign for memorial

St Paul’s Cathedral has launched a campaign in partnership with the Daily Mail to raise £2.3m to build a physical memorial in St Paul’s Cathedral for those who died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be the first build of its kind at St Paul’s for nearly 150 years and is part of the ‘Remember Me’ project, an online book of remembrance launched last year. More than 7,300 names of those who have died as a result of the pandemic have been entered into the book.

The campaign will install the online memorial book at a permanent site within St Paul’s as well as on the internet. People entering the Cathedral by the new Equal Access Ramp will be able to go through the memorial into a tranquil space and take time to remember the many individuals who have died as a result of the pandemic.

The memorial will be a portico in the North Transept on the site of an earlier porch destroyed by a bomb in 1941. Oliver Caroe, the Cathedral’s Surveyor to the Fabric, who has designed the memorial, lost his mother during the pandemic.

General Synod to meet face-to-face in July

The timetable for what is expected to be the first full in-person meeting of the Church of England’s General Synod for a year and a half has been published.

Synod will meet at Church House, Westminster, from Friday 9th July to Tuesday 13th July for what will also be the final meeting of the current Synod, ahead of elections later in the summer and autumn.

In addition to legislation and financial business, areas for discussion will include the programme to develop a Vision and Strategy for the Church of England in the 2020s.

Pastoral matters will include a presentation on bereavement and loss in the pandemic.

There will be a discussion on the role of the Church in the housing crisis, following the publication of the report of the [Archbishops’ Commission on Housing, Church and Community](#).

There will be an update on the new Racial Justice Commission, coming after the recent Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce.

Synod will also spend time in small groups reflecting on how members' engagement with *Living in Love and Faith* over the past four years can be handed on to the new Synod.

Pilgrimage routes to explore in the North

A 'Santiago of the North' has been launched, encouraging people to walk ancient pilgrimage routes to Durham dating back more than 1,000 years.

Around 30 churches in the dioceses of Durham and Newcastle are part of four revived pilgrimage routes starting from villages and towns in the region, re-creating the routes taken by pilgrims to Durham Cathedral.

'The Way of Learning, The Way of Life, The Way of Light and The Way of Love,' allows pilgrims to walk from 27 to 45 miles while exploring places of historical and religious significance.

Modern-day pilgrims can visit churches and historical monuments, museums and galleries on the route, including shrines and places associated with Saints Cuthbert, Bede, Hilda, Helen, Wilfrid, Oswald, Aidan and Godric.

Further pilgrimage routes *The Angels Way* (30 miles) and the *Way of the Sea* (62 miles) link Lindisfarne and Durham, the two most important pilgrimage centres in the region.

Northern Saints Trail Coordinator David Pott says: "There is a 21st-Century revival in pilgrimage – only 2,500 people walked the Camino to Santiago in 1985, but there were 347,538 pilgrims recorded in 2019."

"Pilgrimages are attracting people who are not necessarily of strong Christian faith but who want to explore more."

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MEETINGS and Events 2021

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



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ALL IN THE MONTH OF JULY

100 years ago, on 1st July 1921 the Chinese Communist Party was founded.

Also 100 years ago, on 10th July 1921 Belfast's Bloody Sunday took place. Protestant loyalists attacked Catholic enclaves and set fire to homes and businesses, sparking rioting and gun battles. At least 17 people were killed and more than 70 injured. 2,000 people were left homeless.

80 years ago, on 19th July 1941 British Prime Minister Winston Churchill launched his 'V for Victory' campaign.

75 years ago, on 22nd July 1946 the King David Hotel bombing took place in Jerusalem. The Irgun (a militant right-wing Zionist group) bombed the hotel which housed the British administrative headquarters for Palestine. 91 people were killed.

60 years ago, on 1st July 1961 Diana, Princess of Wales, was born. (Killed in a car crash in 1997)

Also 60 years ago, on 2nd July 1961, Ernest Hemingway, American novelist and short story writer, died. Winner of the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature. Best known for For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms, and The Old Man and the Sea.

40 years ago, on 4th July 1981, the Toxteth riots broke out in Liverpool.

Also 40 years ago, on 17th July 1981 the Humber Bridge, linking Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, was officially opened. It was the world's longest single-span suspension bridge at that time.

Also 40 years ago, on 29th July 1981 the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer took place at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

25 years ago, on 5th July 1996 the first cloned mammal was born. Dolly the sheep was born at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. (Died 2003)

15 years ago, on 15th July 2006 Twitter, the micro-blogging social network, was launched.

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)
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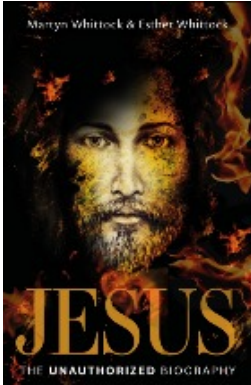
Contact Ian on;
Phone: 07931 811620
Email: davis54@btinternet.com



Book Mark

Jesus: the unauthorized biography

By Martyn Whittock and Esther Whittock, Lion Books, £10.99



Who was Jesus Christ, and how did He make such an astonishing impact that still resonates today?

This book explores the evidence from the New Testament gospels, early church writings, the apocryphal gospels, Roman literature, and archaeology, together providing a vivid portrait of Jesus' first-century Jewish cultural context.

As well as reviewing Jesus' life and claims, the book explains questions such as why He was at odds with religious authorities; the influence of Roman occupation; the

interactions with contemporary resistance movements; and the prominent role of women in His disciple community.

More >Trust - Giving our dreams to the trustworthy one

By Leah McFall, SPCK, £7.99



Singer-songwriter Leah McFall explores how to trust God through our disappointments, risks and rewards in life.

What do you do when God calls you out of your comfort zone? Or into a dream that seems to fade away to nothing? How do we hold onto our faith when the 'full life' we were promised seems to fall short?

If you have ever wondered how to trust God when things aren't going your way, or are looking for a practical alternative to Bible study to fit around a busy schedule, this could be the book for you. It will help strengthen your faith

so that it is sure and steady enough to see you through whatever life might throw your way.

Twitter marks its 15th birthday

By Tim Lenton

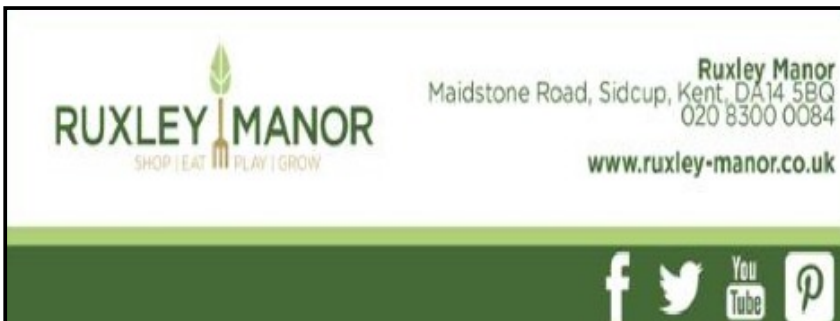


It was 15 years ago, on 15th July 2006, that Twitter, the American micro-blogging social network, was launched. The first tweet – or short message – had been sent internally in March that year and was recently sold for over £2 million.

The service was originally known as twttr (by analogy with the photo site flickr) because the domain name twitter.com was already in use. But this was eventually purchased. Jack Dorsey, the originator, said that the word twitter meant “a short burst of inconsequential information”, which he regarded as perfect for what they were intending.

The messages – tweets – were originally limited to 140 characters, but the limit was doubled in late 2017. Audio and visual tweets have now been introduced, which are normally limited to 140 seconds. There are reckoned to be more than 330 million monthly active users, but the vast majority of tweets are sent by a small minority.

Many churches use Twitter to reach members who cannot attend, using #hashtags to link with them. The Church of England, not surprisingly, has provided guidance for this.



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**The story behind the hymn:
'Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken'**

By Canon David Winter

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly playing through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslid, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects His people and promises to supply their needs. He leads

them into the Promised Land, just as long ago He led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, He led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have His very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...

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Reflected Faith series: the spaces between

By The Rev Dr Jo White



Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don't know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help.

The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be 'listened to'. Really listened to. But it is not easy to find

someone who will 'actively listen' to you.

Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don't clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens.

He doesn't necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life's challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible.

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to 'nudge' the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

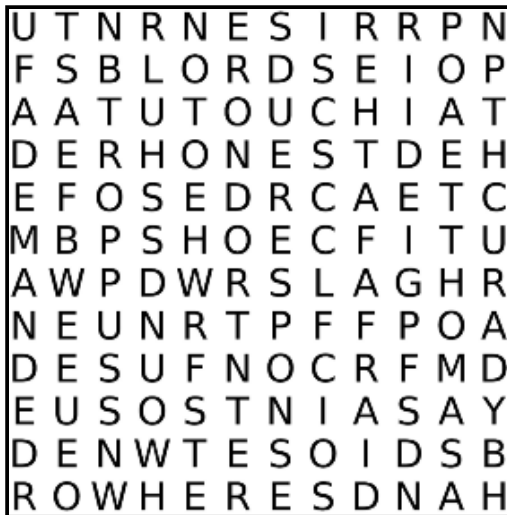
So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

This month:

Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken. Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.

WORDSEARCH



Thomas	Honest	Resurrection	Support	Response
Saint	Confused	Baffled	Touch	Worship
Doubt	Father	Demanded	Wounds	Lord
Faith	Afraid	Risen	Hands	My
Feast	Where	See	Feet	God

Solutions on page 31

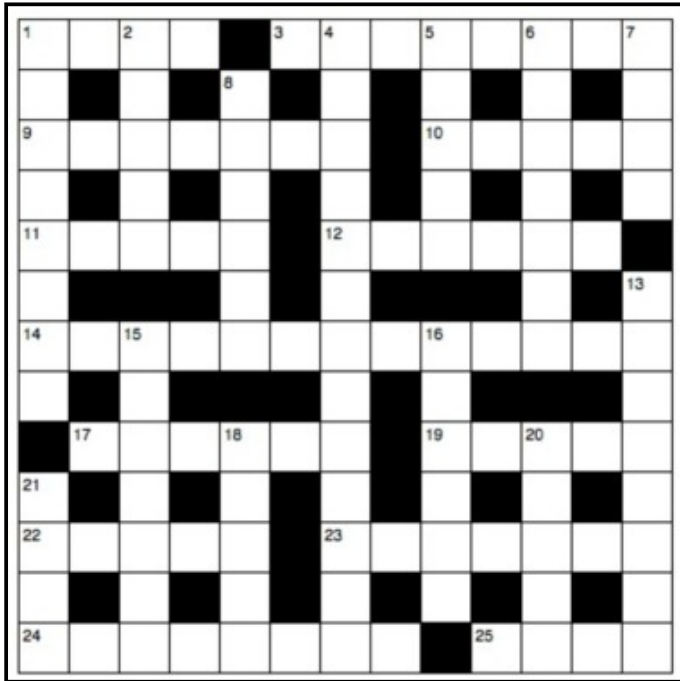
JULY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)
- 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
- 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
- 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
- 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
- 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
- 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
- 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
- 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)



- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

(Solutions on page 31)

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



Beware the spell-checker on your special service sheets!

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

As you discovered at your Sunday School Anniversary Service last week, special service sheets can be a mixed blessing. It was unfortunate that the front page welcomed your diocesan “Nishop” (although perhaps a good thing you hadn’t been welcoming a neighbouring “Vicar”) and it was a shame that one of the hymns contained one verse fewer on the sheets than the book the organist was playing to, obliging your congregation to sing the last verse twice – although since in your tradition you seem to repeat choruses endlessly, probably no one noticed anyway. But the regrettable misprint which meant that ranks of primary school children sweetly lisped an obscenity really was too much.

Having said that, computer spell-checkers can cause their own problems. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and on the night found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manager”, mangers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers - that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won’t be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

Never, ever, print on them “Do not take home” as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction “Take

this sheet home for reference” would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice resolve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

GOD AND THE ARTS

By The Rev Michael Burgess

Promise and Fulfilment

When St Peter preached his first sermon on the day of Pentecost, he showed how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus had to be understood in the light of the Old Testament. The promise of the Old was granted fulfilment in the New. This is how we understand the unity of the two Testaments: the messianic hope in one finds full expression in the other. We read of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah and look to the life-giving sacrifice of Jesus. Earlier in that prophet we read of a wondrous Child who is granted the spirit of the Lord to bring Paradise once more to the world:

‘The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.....They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain: for



the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.’ (Isaiah 11:6,9)

That vision of peace and harmony inspired this month’s painting, ‘The Peaceable Kingdom’ by Edward Hicks. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1780 and worked as a carriage and sign maker. After a rebellious adolescence, he became a Quaker, living as a preacher and minister before taking up his brushes. His fellow Quakers were uneasy with this pursuit of such a worldly profession, and so Edward Hicks tried his hand at farming. His efforts proved unsuccessful, and he returned to painting, creating a whole series of canvases on this single theme. He painted almost a hundred versions of the Peaceable Kingdom of which over 60 still exist. This one is from 1834.

The foreground is occupied by a number of children. They are innocent and free, playing with the animals around – lion, tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, cow and lamb. There is no sign of ‘nature red in tooth and claw’ here for all is peace and tranquillity. The bear and cow nudge each other in the bottom corner with no fear and no assertion of strength. That vision of peace is being realised in the distant scene, where we see William Penn and his fellow Quakers working on a treaty of co-existence with the Indians. The animals in the foreground symbolise the human traits we see at work in the background: leadership and strength, sensitivity and gentleness.

As he worked on later versions of this painting, Edward Hicks knew that such peace was not an easy and simple achievement. Arguments and misunderstandings divided his own flock, and as a result the animals he painted look tired and anxious with sad eyes and white whiskers.

But here in 1834 there is a freshness and a promise of paradise restored. The cow and the calf, the bear and the bear cub, and the other animals are at one with the children playing. That harmony can be realised in human affairs also, the artist is saying. ‘Follow the Inner Light’ and Isaiah’s prophecy can be fulfilled in our world. It needs both the innocence and strength we see here; it needs action and waiting, it needs wisdom and gentleness as we take counsel one with another. Follow those qualities to be channels of God’s peace to make this world the Peaceable Kingdom.



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3rd St Thomas the Apostle, confused and doubting

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused

commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me." Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26ff).

Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.





COMMON ENGLISH

Over 400 years ago, on 9th June 1549, the Book of Common Prayer was first issued throughout the Church of England. It was called 'Common' because it was in English, the language people used in their everyday lives instead of in Latin which only the priests understood.

Imagine how strange it would be to say prayers in a language you don't understand? You can get an idea of what that is like when you are holiday in a foreign country where you don't speak the language. Some things will seem familiar but there will be long stretches when you don't understand what is going on. And the Book of Common Prayer changed that: suddenly people could understand and take part in the act of worship.



There have been lots of changes in church services over the years but few can have been as major as when our prayers suddenly became 'common'.

COMMON WORDS

Lots of words have 'common' in front of them. What would you add to 'common' to make...

1. Someone who isn't royalty
2. Place in a school where the staff meet
3. A group of countries under the Queen
4. Also known as the European Economic Union
5. Makes you sneeze
6. Is very ordinary



What did the maths book say to the history book?

Boy, do I have problems!



What did the book worm say to the librarian?

Can I burrow this book?



Answers:

1. commoner
2. common room
3. commonwealth
4. Common market
5. common cold
6. commonplace

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Weddings

-

Burials

-

Year's mind for July 2020

30th July *Kenneth Frederick Dawe*

30th July *Ann Patricia Dawe*

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