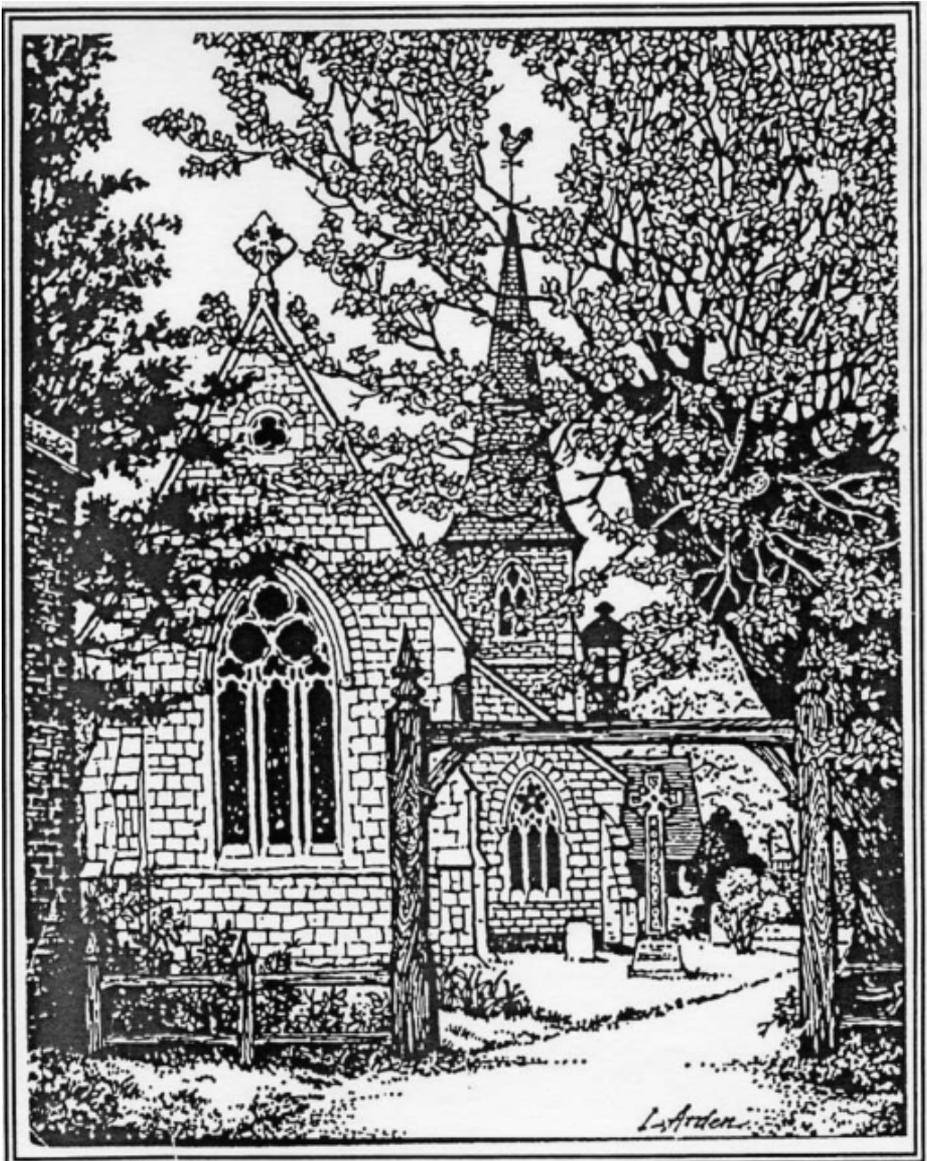


**The Parish Church of
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p
July, 2019**

(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)



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Magazine Editor: Steve Blake
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St James Sunday Service

9.30am

Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER

JULY 2019



This true story was told on the radio. I didn't hear it myself; someone told me about it so the details may not be completely as it was broadcast – but this is the gist.

A man was travelling by train back to the town where he had been born and brought up, and where many of his family still lived. It was a difficult and poignant journey because he had just received the news that his father had died suddenly. As he stared out of the window, his sense of loss and grief overwhelmed him and he began to weep quietly. A woman in the same carriage saw his distress and diffidently came across to sit next to him. "Are you alright?" she asked. He told her of the sad purpose of his journey. He doesn't remember what she said in reply - just some quiet word of sympathy and understanding - but he remembers distinctly that she laid a gentle hand on his jacket sleeve for just a moment. He never forgot that brief gesture which – he said - brought comfort in a way that words never could have done.

I think we will all find this a moving account. However, also in the news recently have been cases brought against leading public figures for 'inappropriate touching'. Let me say right away that I am absolutely against any form of behaviour that causes another person to feel threatened, violated or demeaned. And I wonder, perhaps if the genders on that train journey had been reversed, and it was a man inspired to reach out to a woman with a touch that was intended to be kind and sympathetic, might he have been reluctant to do so, for fear of accusations.

The fact is that for a variety of reasons we are different in the level of physical contact we feel comfortable with in a social situation. Some of us are huggers, some are more reticent and reserved and some will find 'uninvited' touch intrusive. As churches, we need to be aware of the impact of our behaviour on others. We should avoid an

expectation that people will join in with group hand-holding or 'a group hug' and allow them NOT to join without feeling embarrassed. Any indication that behaviour is not appropriate should be dealt with through the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church.

Jesus is often recorded as using physical touch as a means of healing, but if you look up the many references it is always a person seeking him out and inviting his ministry. What must surely motivate our behaviour on every occasion is the well-being of the other person, not our own needs.

When that is honoured, we will not go far wrong.

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 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.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness'

The Rev Paul Hardingham

'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.' (Augustine).

We all have deep longings in our lives that we seek to satisfy, however Jesus points out that we can only be truly satisfied by God Himself: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6). The words *hunger* and *thirst* are strong words referring to a truly desperate for righteousness. But what does this mean?

Longing for right relationship with God: It means putting God at the centre of all we are and do and trusting Him with the whole of our lives. It's a response to Jesus' death on the cross, rather than anything we can do for God: *'This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.'* (Romans 3:22).

Longing for right living for God: A righteous or holy life is one that is righteous 24 hours a day. It's an integrated Christian life lived out of our ongoing relationship with God, affecting everything we do, say or think.

Longing for right relationship with others: God's righteousness will influence how we relate to others in the community, so that all our relationships are loving and just e.g. at work, with family, friends or neighbours.

When we are really desperate Jesus says that God will *fill* us and our desire for righteousness will be satisfied. The problem is that often we are not desperate enough! We don't want to let go the deep desires that get in the way of God. *'It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are far too easily pleased.'* (C S Lewis).

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS



Remembering D-Day

On Thursday 6th June, St James Church joined the country in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy with a Service of Commemoration led by Andrew Hill, Church of England Chaplain, Greater London South-East Scouts. It was a poignant service of readings, poems and prayers and was an important reminder of the sacrifices made by so many.

One part of the service that we found especially moving was when we were each given a model soldier and asked to give him a name, think about his life before leaving for war, and then pray for him. Afterwards, we placed our soldier on the stone Chancel steps to signify his landing on the beaches of Normandy. This was followed by the Act of Remembrance and Commitment, the Last Post, Two-Minute Silence, Reveille, and then the placing of a single poppy in a tray of sand.

I think we all left Church feeling humbled by the dedication of duty to Queen and Country by the brave souls who left our shores not knowing what was to face them. So many gave their lives to uphold our freedom and restore peace, and for that we will be eternally grateful.

Some of the readings and poems were read by the Chairman and members of the newly proposed Royal British Legion North Cray and District Branch. There was previously a North Cray Branch but sadly it closed some years ago. However, their Standard still hangs with pride in our Church.

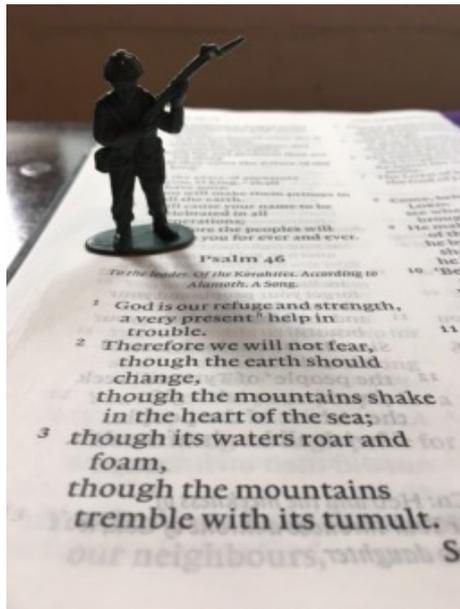
Hopefully, by the time you read this magazine, the North Cray and District Branch will have been informed that their application to form a branch has been ratified by the Royal British Legion. How wonder-

ful it will be to once more have a local branch. We wish them well in the important work they do.

If you would like to find out more about the North Cray and District Branch, please contact Nicola Coppen at:

otter1stnorthcray@outlook.com or visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pg/RBLNorthCrayDistrict>.

Maxine & Suzy, Churchwardens



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.

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Wilma Ingelson-Cook on 020 8302 5524

**Testimony by Nicola Coppen
given at the Sidcup Deanery Confirmation Service
hosted by St John's Bexley
on Pentecost Sunday 9 June 2019**

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to the Bishop of Tonbridge, the Right Reverend Simon Burton-Jones, to the Area Dean of Sidcup, to the Bexley Team Ministry & to everyone who has been a part of organising and making today's Service so special to all those who have confirmed their faith today.

There is no one moment that made me decide to take the step to confirm my Faith, but I can say that the lifestyle I have, to give to my community makes it feel like a 'calling' to be Confirmed today.

The 'Exploring Confirmation' Sessions have been a wonderful and fun way to understand the commitment I have now made and to understanding - our faith through the session on 'Believing'; church history through the session on 'Belonging' and living through the session on 'Behaving'.

Not only has there been support from Rev. Ren and Steve Harding, but to me sharing the sessions with Natalie, Ben and Bob has created additional friendships connected through our Faith. Sharing today with them and with Keith, from also from St James Church, North Cray is very special.

But why did I take this step?

I was always inspired by my parents' community giving throughout my childhood, particularly their work to fundraise for a new, modern Community Centre in Cliffe Woods and through Mum being a Guide Leader in Dubai. I made my own commitment to a new life for myself and my then 3 year old son when I moved to Bexley, that despite turmoil and milk tokens, I would give to our community, to build friendships and gain local support. I have continued to volunteer ever since.

As a 'Scouter' of almost 10 years, roles within The Scout Association have led me to Church and to listen to the messages of the Christian

faith. It has led me to ensure that Young People learn about where they live, how to gain skills for life and of course to understand more about the history of our Country and the wider world too. Recently a few of us have proposed and had passed a Resolution to set up a new Branch of The Royal British Legion – and I have to say the connection of these two people-focused and important organisations have really inspired and connected my faith.

I have learnt about myself, both in my voluntary roles and in building our ‘new’ life and family – my mind is now at rest with the choices I have made and I believe my worth is in spreading the word of collaboration, community and helping one another, this is exactly what being a Christian means to me.

This is why Confirmation has been a natural path, a ‘Calling’ and a very proud moment in my life.

Thank you
Nicola Coppen

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News and Issues



One in four people in debt were born into money struggles

A recent report by Christians Against Poverty (CAP), called *Changing Perceptions* has revealed that the financial problems of parents can have a profound effect on their children's future relationship with money. More than one in four of CAP's current clients grew up in a household badly affected by debt.

It seems that money worries are an 'intergenerational anxiety'. The report says that the "impact debt has on these children is far reaching, from taking a toll on their emotional wellbeing, to parents being unable to provide adequate food or clothing and feeling that their debt was affecting their children's future life chances. Where parents are struggling to provide for their children, feelings of guilt and shame are particularly acute."

Chief Executive Matt Barlow said: "When you've grown up with debt as the backdrop, it takes a huge leap of imagination to believe that life can be different. There's also no one to show you the right way to prioritise, plan ahead or even talk about finances."

Low income is the most common reason for personal debt. The average household annual income is £12,361 and a third of those being helped are living on less than £10,000 per household, per year.

Winchester Cathedral's Mortuary Chests Unlocked

The secrets hidden within Winchester Cathedral's mortuary chests are gradually being unlocked as part of an on-going research project supported by the Dean and Chapter of Winchester Cathedral.

It has long been believed that the six mortuary chests contain the mortal remains of pre-Conquest kings and bishops, but for many years this has merely been the subject of speculation. A major development in 2015 revealed that the bones were from the late Anglo-Saxon and early Norman periods, thanks to radiocarbon (C14) dating on selected fragments by the Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit at the University of Oxford. These findings confirmed that the bones date from the same periods as the names on the chests, which include eight kings, two bishops and one queen, rather than being the result of later activity within the Cathedral.

English cathedrals celebrate £8m National Lottery funding boost

Four Church of England cathedrals have benefited from a cash injection of over £8m to help them engage with their communities through imaginative outreach, arts, heritage and learning projects, thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Leicester, Lichfield, Newcastle and Worcester Cathedrals announced awards from The

National Lottery Heritage Fund for a wide range of creative community-focussed projects, including bringing Worcester's 12th century undercroft into public use as an imaginative learning hub and new city venue, and creating a sacred space for all to enjoy in Newcastle's city centre.

The news followed a huge international reaction to the fire at Notre Dame which showed something of the value of cathedrals to local and wider communities, as well as their vulnerability, and the need for securing long-term funding for repairs and restoration. Development projects, like those funded through The National Lottery Heritage Fund, remain crucial for all of the Church of England's cathedrals.

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The Way I See It: warfare, yes, but also mercy *By Canon David Winter*

75 years ago, as a choirboy, I remember thinking that lots of our hymns were about war. Not the one we were fighting in Europe, but a cosmic battle between good and evil. Christians were to put on their armour, pick up the sword of the spirit and fight with the 'God of battles' until 'every foe was conquered.'

This was, of course, the language of the Victorian hymns which filled our hymn books, and it was a spiritualised version of the 19th century scenario. Britannia ruled the waves. 'God who made thee mighty, Make thee mightier yet.' The conflict reflected in the hymns was not of armed warfare but of spiritual equivalent. But it was nevertheless all about winning and conquest.

It's true, of course, that in the eternal struggle between good and evil Christians are not neutral, but to me, the language of warfare seems inappropriate to follow the One who told us to love our enemies.

One Victorian hymn writer expressed a different view in the hymn 'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy.' It warns of our adopting a 'strictness' which God 'would not!' His love is broader than ours – judging human failures 'kindly' and urging us to make our love 'more simple.'

The author/poet in question was F.W. Faber and this hymn is worth a quiet read. Linked to a beautiful new tune, it has become popular on TV and radio. For me, its message is a helpful balance to those hymns of moral strife. Both are true, but in our present-day world I think Faber has the edge.

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The North Cray Neighbourhood Centre



Youth Action Diversity Trust proudly manage the North Cray Neighbourhood Centre in Sidcup where we focus on encouraging youth and family engagement and participation in activities and learning, whilst ensuring that everything we do is inclusive and a whole lot of fun! Our activities cost £3 for young people and between £3 and £5 for adults! We look forward to welcoming you and your family soon!

Play Rangers for 5 to 7 years

Mondays
4pm to 5pm
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Wednesdays
4pm to 5pm
'ADHD Social Club'

Youth Inclusion for 8 to 11 years

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5pm to 6pm
'Girls Social Club'
Wednesdays
5:30pm to 6:30pm
'ADHD Social Club'

For Adults

Tuesdays
11am to 12:30pm
Adult Coffee Club
Wednesdays
10:30am to 12noon
Adult Drama Players
Fridays
11am to 1pm
Kingfisher Social Club

YADT Behavioural Support Service

Living in today's world is challenging, and we understand that some young people need extra support to help them get a positive start in life or overcome obstacles along the way. We aim to help young people with the issues that affect them. These can be issues such as anger management, social anxiety, improving confidence and dealing with stress. The one-to-one support service gives young people the freedom and safety to explore issues that affect them. This service is for 8 to 17 year olds. Contact us for more information and fees.

YADT are delighted to be able to offer the Care for the Family Courses under our Behavioural Support Service. These courses are run by our behavioural team who have extensive experience working with families and young people with diverse needs. Courses run throughout the year and include 'Handling Anger in the Family', 'Children with Special Needs - ADHD' and 'Children with Special Needs - Autism'. Courses cost £50 per person or £80 for a couple. Contact us for more information.

Visit our website: www.YouthActionDiversityTrust.co.uk
call us on 0208 308 3862 or email yadt@sky.com



MEETINGS and Events 2019

* * * * *

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FROM THE MEADOWS

As Spring explodes into Summer the meadows emerge into a canvas of colour and beauty. Similarly the river bursts into life as the swans and ducks proudly display their offspring. The Foots Cray Meadows Group is a sub committee of the North Cray Residents Association, meeting once a month to discuss concerns brought to light regarding the meadows and environment. The anglers are a threat to wildlife. You can help.

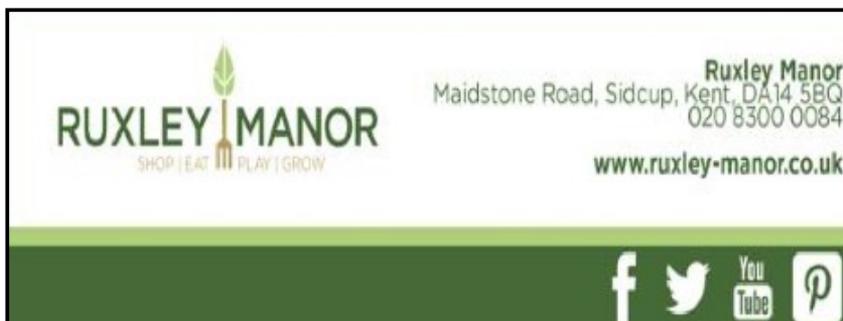
Please do not approach anyone that you see BUT call the Environment Agency on: 0800 807060. They will ask you to describe what you have seen. As a national organisation they cannot respond immediately but are creating a log of sightings and building a profile.

Please DO report any angling/anglers. Dog walkers are welcome but some do not respect the meadows and its wildlife, even encouraging dogs to chase the swans/ducks in the river.

New notices are now posted around the fields encouraging everyone to act responsibly. We should all be aware that the male swan is especially protective this year having lost all his cygnets last year, some to human initiated deaths. A swan can (and has) killed dogs!

The Friends of Foots Cray Meadows do an amazing job and run a variety of events from their information centre located behind Stable House. Please visit www.footscraymeadows.org for more information.

Finally, thank you to everyone that uses the meadows and cares for them in whatever way they can. Our gratitude especially to the two dog walkers who rescued some cygnets from the arches of the bridge and returned them to their parents. Undoubtedly the cygnets would have died without their intervention. We believe that Foots Cray Meadows are a jewel in Bexley Borough's crown. It is a habitat we treasure and feel blessed to share.



SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR JULY 2019

Wednesday 3rd July

12noon Gentlemen's Lunch at the Three Blackbirds,
Bexley

Thursday 4th July

10am Daytime Housegroup at 53 Woodlands Park,
Joydens Wood

Saturday 6th July

9.30am Open Prayers at St Barnabas

SUNDAY 7th July

9.30am Holy Communion
*Churches Together in Old Bexley Music
Festival*

5pm Songs of Praise at Old Bexley School

Saturday 13th July

8.30am Men's Breakfast at St Barnabas

11.30am-2pm St Mary's Bexley Summer Fair

SUNDAY 14th July

9.30am All Age Worship

Thursday 18th July

10.00am House Communion at 53 Woodlands Park,
Joydens Wood

SUNDAY 21st July

9.30am Holy Communion

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

Wednesday 24th July

8pm St James PCC meeting

Thursday 25th July

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet in Harold Porter Hall
behind St Barnabas church

SUNDAY 28th July

9.30am Holy Communion

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

Monday 29th July

1.30pm St Barnabas Holiday ClubFun Mondays begins

Bexley Team Gentleman's Lunch on the first Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm at The Anchor, Bridgen Road, Bexley
Further details, Julia Wickham, St John's Bexley, 01322 556686

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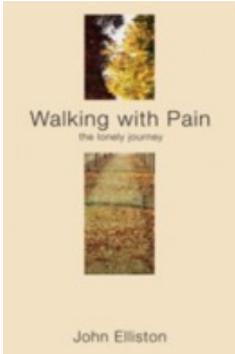
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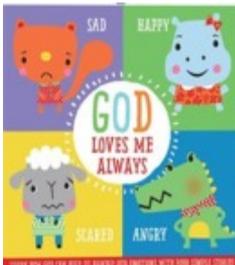
Book Mark



Walking with Pain

By John Elliston, Kevin Mayhew, £2.99

Pain is inseparable from the human condition. For some it becomes a constant companion with whom an unequal battle is fought. The author explores the phenomenon of pain and places the whole into the context of belief in a loving God. Christian theologians have grappled with the existence of pain, and Christianity has at its centre the Cross. The prayers and Scripture readings concentrate on the rawness of pain and the emotions, rather than the intellectual side of it.



God Loves Me Always

By Make Believe Ideas, Authentic, £8.99

An inspirational collection of stories to teach children how God can help them handle their emotions. Each story explores a particular emotion: sadness, happiness, fear and anger. The stories are written in clear, simple text and are brought to life with beautiful illustrations.

Included with each story is a page of information for parents which includes questions to ask children to engage them more deeply with each new emotion, as well as Bible quotes to prompt thought and discussion. A sticker sheet and reward chart are also included at the back of the book to reinforce lessons learnt.

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF JULY

200 years ago, on 2nd July 1819 the Cotton Mills and Factories Act 1819 was passed in Britain. It placed restrictions on the number of hours children could work in cotton mills. It was virtually unenforceable and had little effect, but it paved the way for later legislation.

175 years ago, on 22nd July 1844 William Archibald Spooner, British clergyman and educator, was born. Known for his absent-mindedness, he often accidentally mixed up the syllables of words, to comic effect. These are now known as spoonerisms.

Also 175 years ago, on 28th July 1844 Gerard Manley Hopkins, British poet and Jesuit priest, was born.

100 years ago, on 20th July 1919 Sir Edmund Hillary was born. This New Zealand mountaineer and Antarctic explorer, along with the Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay, were the first two people to conquer Mount Everest.

80 years ago, on 9th July 1939 Winston Churchill urged the governments of Britain and France to form a military alliance with the Soviet Union.

75 years ago, on 20th July 1944 the July plot took place. The German Resistance movement attempted to assassinate Adolf Hitler in Berlin and remove the Nazi Party from power in a coup. The attempt failed, and the movement's central figure, Claus von Stauffenberg, was executed the following day.

50 years ago, on 21st July 1969 the American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first people to walk on the surface of the Moon.

20 years ago, on 1st July 1999 the Scottish Parliament was officially opened.

The absent-minded William Spooner

By Tim Lenton

William Archibald Spooner, university lecturer, dean and priest, was born 175 years ago, on 22nd July 1844, in London. Known for his absent-mindedness, he sometimes mixed up the syllables of words, to comic effect. These are now known as spoonerisms.

Spooner was an albino and suffered from defective eyesight. He studied at New College, Oxford, and then lectured there for 60 years in history, philosophy and divinity. He was well liked and respected, kind and hospitable. He was also highly intelligent, and it was suggested that his mind was occasionally too quick for his lips to follow – resulting in the unintended plays on words that made him famous.

Many of those attributed to him are undoubtedly apocryphal, but it is fairly certain that in 1879 he gave out from the pulpit the first line of a hymn as “Kinkering Kongs their titles take”. He is said to have disliked the reputation he gained for getting his words muddled, but at the same time he is believed on occasion to have made the “errors” deliberately.

According to Roy Harrod, Spooner exceeded all the heads of colleges at Cambridge or Oxford that he had known in “scholarship, devotion to duty and wisdom”. He died in 1930.

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(Solutions on page 27)

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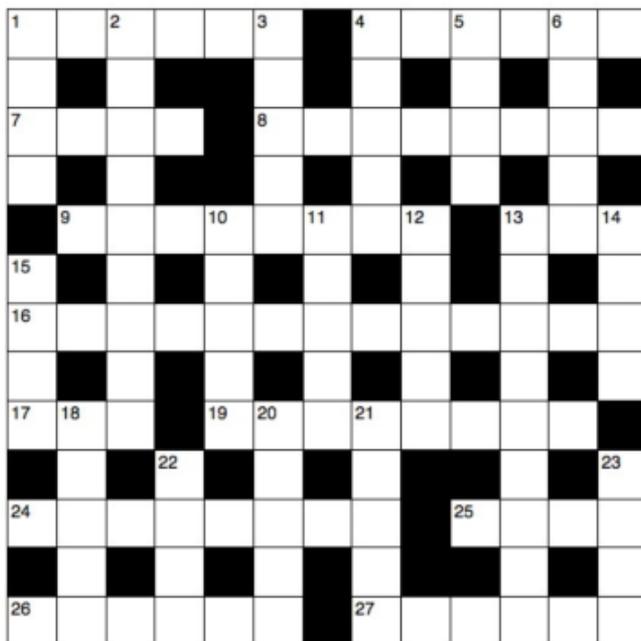
JULY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being'(Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)



- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist'
(Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

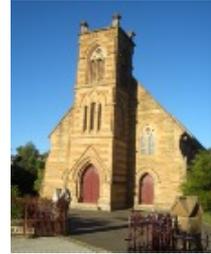
(Solutions on page 28)

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

Letter from St James the Least of All –

On the hazards of the annual choir outing

The Rectory
St. James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

A unique phenomenon invariably occurs at St. James the Least in June: large numbers of boys discover a vocation to join the church choir. The fact that their annual outing happens in July is, I am sure, entirely coincidental. This year, I suggested a cultural tour of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford. Unaccountably, they wanted a visit to the local Amusement Park. Life is nowadays so degenerate that democracy even exists within the Church, and I was outvoted: 28 to 1.

Time was when you could drop them all off in the car park, give them half a crown each and tell them to be back by 6pm, while I could enjoy a leisurely lunch, a light doze on a deckchair in the park and cup of tea before returning to the coach. Today, each boy has to be accompanied by an armed guard, travelling a pre-planned route and reporting back to central control by mobile phone at half-hour intervals. You are even expected to bring back the same number you took. The year when we returned, only to find that we had unaccountably lost five of them, would no longer be considered acceptable. I suspect at least one parent that evening looked less than saddened when she realised her offspring would be absent for a few more hours.

Our choirboys' ability to consume candyfloss, toffee apples, ice-cream and pop, generally doing so simultaneously, is awesome. Were it to become an Olympic event, St. James' would be guaranteed gold. But, the consequences are unvaryingly predictable. The sight of Hutton minor projectile vomiting while travelling at 50 mph 30 feet above the ground on the Big Dipper is an image that, sadly, will never fade. It did, however, hugely increase his standing within the choir. That one disaster may well ensure his election to Head Chorister in future years. Since we now hold separate events for boys and men, the juniors are

at least spared the unedifying spectacle of seeing their Rector unsuccessfully attempting to keep the gentlemen out of the first public house they come to – and then prising them back out when it is going-home time.

It also means that the sing-song on the coach on the return journey delays the juniors learning some unsavoury songs for a little longer – until they are elevated to the men's choir stalls and realise what they've been missing on choir outings for all those years.

And so once again, we return home, happy and tired, the boys longing for yet more food and their Rector for a large gin.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



*But I clearly said it was the Curate's
job to turn off the tap filling the baptistry!*

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GOD AND THE ARTS

By the Rev Michael Burgess

'Beach scene' by Degas

'Mindfulness' seems to be the 'in' word. In a world where people are moving faster and faster, we are called to slow down, to attend to the present moment and enjoy it for its own sake, whatever the pressures



of work and family around. For Christians it is a call to live a simple and sacramental life, and an invitation to attend to what is holy there in front of us: it might be a meal, the countryside, a piece of music, family and friends, a pet or a painting. They are all

avenues for God's refreshing grace to touch us.

In this month of July we are probably planning our holidays. It may be in this country or abroad. Sometimes a holiday can be a frenetic rush of journeying and queues, or it can be a 'mindful' time, when we can relax and allow the days to refresh and renew us. Degas has captured that sense of rest and enjoyment in his painting of 1870 which is in the National Gallery: 'Beach Scene.'

He is famous for his studies of ballerinas and racehorses, but he was also fascinated by the advent of the snapshot camera. This painting is like a holiday photograph. We see a maid combing the hair of a young girl. Her hat and swimming costume are nearby, and we can see bathers in the distance where the shore meets the sea. Families and a dog, yachts and a steamer: they are all captured in this moment.

The sky looks misty but warm, and for those on the beach, it is a time to lie and relax, to bathe and swim – to live simply, enjoying the sun above and the sand beneath. The ordinariness of a restful day calls us to be patient and enjoy the good gifts of God's creation. Wherever we are on holiday this summer, I hope we find time to savour the delights of the world around, as we see young and old doing exactly that in this painting.

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25th

St James the Apostle - apostle to Spain

James and his brother John were sons of Zebedee and fishermen from Galilee - the 'sons of thunder', as the gospel writers describe their impetuous characters and fiery tempers.



The Apostle James by Rembrandt, 1661

James stands out on three accounts: he was one of the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus took him, along with Peter and John, to 'watch' with him in the garden of Gethsemane. Finally, he went on to be the first apostle to die for the Christian faith, when in AD 44 King Herod Agrippa put him to the sword in Jerusalem at Passover time.

In the centuries following his death, James became associated with the evangelising of Spain, and as a powerful defender of Christianity against the Moors. The heyday of the cult of Santiago de Compostela was from the 12th to the 15th century, and the pilgrimage to Compostela became one of the most important of medieval Christendom. This in time transformed the iconography of James, and his emblems became the pilgrim's hat and the scallop-shell of Compostela. Over 400 English churches have been dedicated to James.

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1, Riches. 4, Abner's. 7, Soul. 8, Damascus. 9, Statutes. 13, Add. 16, Craftsmanship. 17, Old. 19, Redeemer. 24, Walls are. 25, Wise. 26, Target. 27, Thief.

DOWN: 1, Rest. 2, Courtyard. 3, Sadhu. 4, Arm he. 5, Nose. 6, Round. 10, Tutor. 11, Timid. 12, Sense. 13, Ashbelite. 14, Dips. 15, Echo. 18, Lhasa. 20, Exact. 21, Erect. 22, Flog. 23, Mede.



TRAVELLING

St Christopher's day is 25th July but very little is known about the patron saint of travellers even though many people carry a medal of St Christopher.

Legend says that Christopher was a very large, strong man who wanted to spend his life to serving the greatest possible master. He worked for many people but none of them were the greatest or the strongest.

One dark night he was carrying a child across the river with a child became so heavy that even he could hardly struggle through the swirling waters.



The child was Christ, and in carrying Christ Christopher had been carrying the whole world.

This story probably comes from the fact that the name

'Christopher' means 'one who carries Christ'. It would be nice to think that we are all 'Christophers' and carry Christ with us wherever we go and whatever we do.

TRAVELLING WORDS

All the answers to this quiz begin with the letters CAR – so can you say what car...

1. covers the floor?
2. is a type of toffee?
3. is sung at Christmas?
4. is a vegetable?
5. flowers in the garden?
6. is a red colour?
7. makes a home on wheels?
8. is a knitted jacket?
9. works with wood?



Why can't a car play football?

Because it's only got one boot.



What did the traffic lights say to the lorry?

Don't look now, I'm changing.

What goes at 200mph on a washing line?

Honda pants.



Answers: 1.carpet 2.caramel 3.carol
4.carrot 5.carnation 6.carmine
7.caravan 8.cardigan 9.carpenter

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Funerals

-

Interment of Ashes

-

Year's mind for July 2018

Wonder

When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love and praise.

By Joseph Addison

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

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

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CONTACT the Team Rector

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