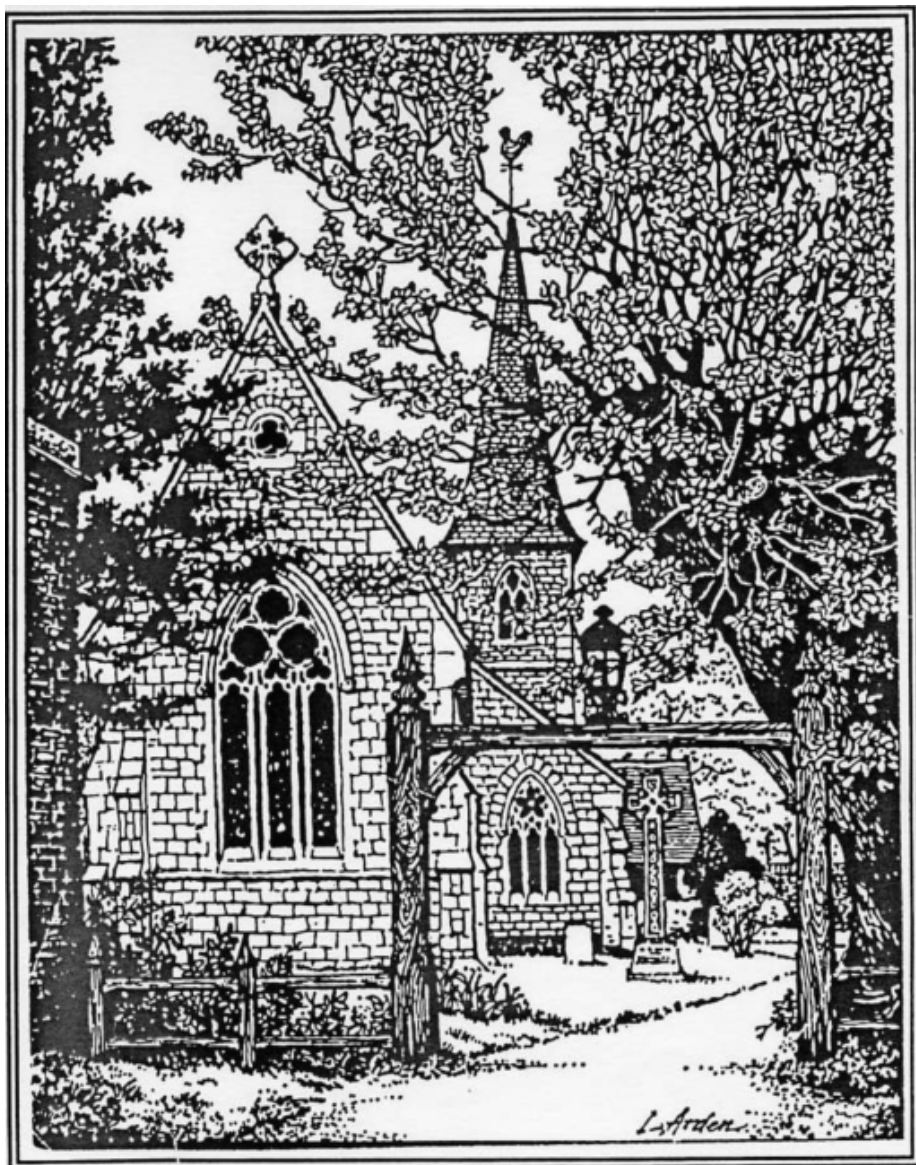


**The Parish Church of
*St. James, North Cray***

50p

September, 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

SEPTEMBER 2019



The Other William Morris!

We are justifiably proud in the Bexley/Bexleyheath area about our local hero William Morris, British textile designer, poet, novelist, and driving force of the Arts and Crafts movement. William Morris was at one time the owner of the beautiful Red House in Bexleyheath. He delighted in traditional methods of furniture and fabric production, examples of which can be seen in the house, now owned by the National Trust.

But I have discovered a man by the same name recently, another William Morris, and I think his story should be told.

The 'other William Morris' was born in 1877 in a terraced cottage in Worcester. William's family moved to Oxford while he was still a small child. Leaving school at the age of 15 Morris was apprenticed to a local bicycle-seller and repairer. Nine months later, after his employer refused him a pay increase, he set up a business repairing bicycles in a shed at the back of his parents' house. This was such a success that he opened his own shop and began to assemble as well as repair bicycles. Soon he expanded his business to motor cycles and cars. In 1912 he designed a car, the famous "bullnose" Morris. He loved his work. His business prospered. His fortune was made!

He was given the title of Viscount Nuffield, yet William lived very simply, with his wife of many years; they had no children. He mended his own shoes and gave much of his money away by founding charitable institutions. In 1937 he gave £50,000 to fund the expansion of the Sea Cadets, and also donated £60,000 to Birmingham University for their Nuffield building. In December 1938 he arranged that hospitals be given mechanical respirators known as an 'iron lung' to keep victims of the disease of polio breathing. These were to be made in his car factories; over 1,700 were distributed and they were

distinguished by the fact that they were opened with a car handle!
William Morris also founded the Nuffield Foundation in 1943 with an endowment of £10 million in order to advance education and social welfare. He was the founder of Nuffield College, Oxford.
As we consider the 'conspicuous consumption' of much of the world today, the generosity of one wealthy man – William Morris – should give us food for thought.

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

Saint Michael

Saint Michael, angel of the sea,
Lord of the horses he,
Saint Michael, of the angels king,
Of war, of shepherding;
On steed he flies across the skies;
The first-fruits of the harvest corn,
The first-fruits of the flock-lambs born,
Are his, he meets the soul forlorn.

The saints and angels watch o'erhead,
Their wings and prayers o'erspread:
The righteous ones in heaven wait,
St Peter at the gate;
In might arrayed they shield and aid;
Be with us e'er, archangel powers,
Be with us, angels, life's long hours.

From an ancient Celtic poem

The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the pure in heart'

By The Rev Paul Hardingham

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God' (Matthew 5:8).

Simon Stylites was a Christian, living in Syria around 400 AD, who wanted to be totally pure in his devotion to God. In order to avoid distractions, he lived in the desert on top of a pillar for 37 years. Now is this what Jesus intended for the *pure in heart*?

Does being single-minded for God mean that our lives should be dominated by '*Christian*' activities, like Bible reading and prayer, and that God isn't really interested in the rest of our lives? To be pure in heart is to *make God the number one priority* in our lives. When this happens everything else in our lives, including work, leisure, relationships, time, money etc, will fall into place. When our overall aim is pleasing and serving God, we'll find many ways of working this out in practice.

To be pure in heart also means we aim to be *completely sincere in all our relationships*. In a culture where the pressure to conform is very great, it means living life in an open and honest way, with nothing to hide. This is the way God intends us to live, as we operate from a pure heart before Him. The challenge is relating to others without any hidden agendas, so that *'what you see is what you get'*!

Jesus promises that God will reveal Himself to the pure in heart and that one day they will see God face to face. Deception blinds us, while purity opens our eyes to see God.

'Lord, we Thy presence seek; May ours this blessing be; Give us a pure and lowly heart, A temple meet for Thee.' (Hymn: Blest are the pure in heart).

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS



A busy month ahead

I always feel that the month of August seems to pass by at a slower pace of life. There is less traffic on the road, especially during the morning rush hour, and the streets seem quieter as people seize the last chance of a summer holiday before autumn begins to show its face in September and the children return

to school. The Bexley Team churches have held their lovely Sunday Open Church Afternoons, with the quintessential summer afternoon teas, and everyone seems to be in a relaxed mood. Whilst I enjoy this quiet time, come late August, I start to look forward to seeing friends again and getting back into the swing of everyday life and events.

Church life at St James will be gaining pace right from the start of September when we hold our annual Paws in the Parish Fun Dog Show on Saturday 7th September, with both Pedigree and Novelty Classes. Judging starts at 2pm. Last year's show was a great success! Don't miss it!

The following day, Sunday 8th September, there will be a Pet Service in church at 9.30am, and all pets great and small (and their owners) are most welcome. Do come and join us!

On Saturday 14th September, St James Church will be one of the stopover points for the annual Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride event – last year the charity raised £119,000! Participants get the chance to see inside the Kent churches that are manned before continuing their sponsored ride (bicycle, horse, car, etc) or walk. If you would like to take part there is still time to register, and you can contact Maxine on 020 8468 7895 for a sponsorship form.


All these events are in addition to our normal church services at 9.30am each Sunday. You can find further details on our website: www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk

* * *


In the July edition of this magazine you may have read that a new local branch of the Royal British Legion, the North Cray and District,

had been proposed. We are pleased to say that their application was ratified, and they held their first Branch Meeting on 13th August. St James will be the branch's home church, which is a great honour, and we will be holding a special service on Sunday, 22nd September at 3pm, when the new branch Standard will be blessed by the Reverend Ren Harding.

Maxine & Suzy, Churchwardens




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Angels Unawares

By Canon David Winter

One of those surveys which some newspapers love to publish claimed recently that a large number of British people believe in angels – almost as many, in fact, as claimed to believe in God. They didn't tell us what people meant by 'angels'. I suspect quite a few were thinking of young children who die, who are often now said to be 'angels' 'up there'. They're not, of course. They are transformed human beings. Be that as it may, when Christians celebrate the feast of St Michael and All Angels later this month, there will be many of us, inside and outside churches, who will wonder exactly what or who we are celebrating.

Most simply, the word in the New Testament means 'messenger'. An 'angel' is a being who brings to us God's message or his help. In the Bible angels are variously described. The familiar notion of wings and flight comes from a vision given to Isaiah in the Temple when he was being called as a prophet. The angel Gabriel, who told Mary that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah, is not described at all, but his words are recorded in detail. Angels speak to people in dreams (Joseph, the husband of Mary, for instance) and Jesus spoke of 'angels' who particularly care for children ('guardian angels').

Most people, even very devout ones, have never knowingly encountered an angel, I guess. However, the New Testament tells us that in 'showing hospitality to strangers' some of us have 'entertained angels without knowing it'. Clearly wings and eyes of flame are not obligatory. Just human care. 'Oh, go on, be an angel and make me a cup of tea!'

First time around the world – 500 years ago

By Tim Lenton

Five hundred years ago, on 20th September 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan led a Spanish expedition to the East Indies that turned into the first circumnavigation of the world in 1522. Magellan was a minor Portuguese noble serving the crown until King Manuel I refused to support his bid to reach India by a new route, south of America, through what are now known as the Straits of Magellan. So, he switched allegiance to King Charles I of Spain and set off with five vessels to reach the Spice Islands.

But Magellan was killed in a battle with natives in the Philippines in 1521, when he took the side of a local chieftain who had converted to Christianity and was defeated by one who did not. The circumnavigation was completed under the command of the Spaniard Juan Sebastian Elcano, in the only remaining seaworthy ship, the Victoria.

Magellan had encountered many problems, including a mutiny. Of the 270 who left on the expedition, fewer than 20 returned, and most of them – including Elcano – were anti-Magellan, whose reputation suffered as a result. But Antonio Pigafetta, a Venetian survivor who had kept a diary, was eventually able to put that right.

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News and Issues



Government accepts recommendations on support for Persecuted Christians

The Bishop of Truro has welcomed the Government's commitment to accepting all of the recent recommendations of the Independent Review into Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Support for Persecuted Christians.

The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, who chaired the review, said he hopes it will now become a significant catalyst for change.

Sir Alan Duncan (who was then the Foreign Office Minister) told the House of Commons that the Government had decided to accept every recommendation in full and outlined how they would take them forward. Sir Alan also said that a bold, whole-government response was needed.

Bishop Philip said he was: "delighted that Sir Alan has formally recognised the need for a response across the rest of Government. "Our review was restricted to looking at the support from the FCO, but there was a feeling from the outset that this needs a cross-governmental approach, as this crucial issue traverses many boundaries and is not something that can be neatly compartmentalised."

The Bishop hoped that there was "a recognition at the highest level that Freedom of Religion or Belief is a fundamental human right - and one that is inextricably interconnected with other basic human rights."

He hoped that "the report will become a catalyst for change and enable Britain to pursue an aspiration to be the global leader in championing this right."

The Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth, said: "The plight of Christians around the world is all too often overlooked. We now expect this important report to provide renewed impetus for the Government to rise to the challenges so clearly identified and for the UK to become, as the report recommends, 'the global leader in championing Freedom of Religion and Belief for all'."

Archbishops launch Church's first ever social media guidelines and charter



The Church of England has published social media advice aimed at tackling offensive behaviour and misleading content and encouraging a positive atmosphere for online conversations.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, unveiled the Church's first ever social media guidelines at Facebook. The guidelines encourage positive engagement across all national social media accounts run by the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York. At the same time the Church is urging Christians and others to sign up to a voluntary digital charter (go to:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/terms-and-conditions/our-digital-charter>) aimed at fostering a more positive atmosphere online.

The charter is centred on the five principles of: truth, kindness, welcome, inspiration and togetherness, and the opportunity for people to sign-up to show they support the principles.

It is hoped that people of all faiths and none will use the charter to consider how their own online interactions can affect others, both for good and bad.

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Canonisation of John Henry Newman

The Church of England has warmly welcomed the announcement by Pope Francis that John Henry Newman is to be canonised later this year.

Newman, a former Anglican priest who became a Roman Catholic in 1845 – midway through his life – and eventually a Cardinal, is regarded as one of the most influential figures from his era for both Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism.

An important theologian, preacher and pastor in his years as an Anglican priest, he was one of the key leaders of the Oxford Movement that heralded a revival in the life of the Victorian Church of England that spread around the Anglican Communion.

A delegation representing the Anglican Communion and the Church of England will be present at the canonisation in Rome on 13 October 2019.



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Friends of Kent Churches Annual Bike Ride

Saturday 14th September 2019

The Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride takes place on the second Saturday in September each year with 740 churches participating.

A cycle or horse ride, walk or even a drive for the less hardy around Kent churches – a chance to see inside them, and help raise money for your local church by obtaining some sponsorship.

A Win! Win! Win!

Every little helps! Your sponsorship money is split equally between a church or chapel of your choice and the charity itself, **Friends of Kent Churches**, helping to save churches in Kent.

Family, Friends, Neighbours

As walkers, cyclists or sponsors, help to make this a successful community event. Last year alone, Churches in Kent raised £119,000!

We can beat that!

Interested? Contact your local organiser, Maxine Heath on 020 8468 7895; pierreappleby@go-plus.net on 020 8467 9368; or the Event Co-ordinator Roland Niblett on 01892 722506, or email rideandstride@friendsofkentchurches.co.uk

See our website:
www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk



MEETINGS and Events 2019

Saturday 7th September

Paws in the Parish, Companion Dog Show

2pm to register for 2.30pm start

Judging starts at 2pm

Saturday 28th September

The Annual Bexley Cricket Festival

See page 17

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FROM THE MEADOWS

As the children start a new school year and many return from their holidays back into a daily routine, so our beautiful meadows follow their own timetable of growth and change.

Already leaves are showing signs of Autumn and grasses are beginning to die off and release seeds ready for next year.

The North Cray Residents Association has a wonderful project planned for our local community with the intention that all local groups and individuals will feel able to come together and be involved.

The aim is that as many people as possible in North Cray will raise funds for a defibrillator to be installed in our local area... More if possible, depending on funds!

If you, or your organisation/business feel able to support this idea in any way please e-mail :

committee@northcrayresidents.org.uk

Dog walking on The Meadows is very popular. For some it is a business. As mentioned in a previous article the majority of dog walkers are responsible, but there have been a few incidents of aggression and of inadequate control.

May I draw your attention to a wonderful charity; Yellow Dog UK . This group encourages dogs who need space for various reasons, or may have had a bad experience with other dogs, to wear yellow.

It might be a yellow bow, a yellow jacket, collar or lead.

Please look out for these yellow items as signs of a responsible dog owner and respect them, giving the dog extra space by controlling your own dog and keeping it close to you.

www.yellowdoguk.co.uk

Enjoy this spectacular season as you observe the many changes on our meadows.

THE BOTHY

Are you looking for a small hall for a function?

**The Bothy (in St James Church Grounds) has all the facilities
you need and can seat 35 people.**

If you need further information please contact

Lynne Meads on 07966 315518

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY 1st September

9.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 4th September

12noon Gentlemen's Lunch at The Anchor Bexley

Thursday 5th September

10.00am Daytime Housegroup at Vicarage

Friday 6th September

7.30pm Mothers' Union Evening Social Meeting at the Vicarage

Saturday 7th September

9.30am Open Prayer Meeting at St Barnabas

2.00pm PAWS IN THE PARISH DOG SHOW
in St James Church grounds

SUNDAY 8th September

9.30am Pet Service - All Age Worship. Bring your pet with you to enjoy this special event

Saturday 14th September

8.30am Men's Breakfast at St Barnabas.
Book with Rev Ren

St James North Cray will be welcoming visitors throughout the day, for the Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk, part of the national "Ride & Stride" Event

SUNDAY 15th September

9.30am Holy Communion

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

Thursday 19th September

10.00am House Communion at 53 Woodlands Park,
Joydens Wood

Saturday 21st September

Pilgrimage to Salisbury – organised for the Team by St John's, Bexley

SUNDAY 22nd September

9.30am Holy Communion

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

Wednesday 25th September

8.00pm St James PCC

Thursday 26th September

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet in Harold Porter Hall behind church. Rev Ren will be speaking on "Who is Walter Hilton?"

Saturday 28th September

BEXLEY VILLAGE CRICKET FESTIVAL

11.00am Service on pitch

11.30am First game

There will be four teams representing the four parishes of the Bexley Team Ministry, made up of parishioners and Bexley Club Players. (female and male) Children's softball games on the other field. There will also be a BBQ and Bar.

SUNDAY 29th September

9.30am Holy Communion

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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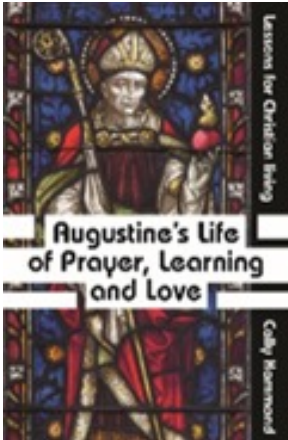
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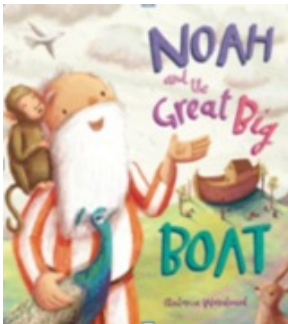


Book Mark



Augustine's Life of Prayer, Learning and Love - Lessons for Christian living
By Cally Hammond, BRF, £9.99

This book bridges the centuries between Augustine's day and today. 'I have let Augustine speak very much in his own words,' the author says, 'because they are so straightforward and compelling, as fresh and relevant as when they were first written.' A delightful and accessible introduction to Augustine, one of the most fascinating figures of Christian history.



Noah and the Great Big Boat
By Antonia Woodward, Lion Children, £7.99

This is a delightful picture book. It retells the story of Noah, who builds a great ark to keep animals that God sends to him safe during the great flood. Imagine Noah's excitement when the big boat comes to rest and once more the animals can roam the earth. Young children will enjoy it.

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

500 years ago, from 20th Sept 1519 to 1522 Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan led a Spanish expedition to the East Indies. It became the first circumnavigation of the world.

125 years ago, on 28th Sept 1894 the British retail chain Marks and Spencer was founded when Michael Marks acquired his first permanent stall in Leeds covered market and invited Thomas Spencer to become his business partner.

100 years ago, on 12th Sept 1919 Adolf Hitler joined the fledgling German Worker's Part, which would later become the Nazi Party.

80 years ago, on 1st Sept 1939 Germany invaded Poland, beginning World War II.

75 years ago, from 17th to 25th Sept 1944 Operation Market Garden took place. The Allies attempted a massive airborne invasion of German-occupied Netherlands but were forced to withdraw. (The story was told in A Bridge too Far.)

70 years ago, on 30th Sept 1949 the Berlin Airlift ended after 14 months and over 270,000 flights.

65 years ago, on 29th Sep 1954 CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) was established in Geneva Switzerland.

40 years ago, on 29th Sept 1979 Pope John Paul II became the first pope to visit Ireland.

15 years ago, from 1st to 3rd Sept, the Beslan school hostage crisis took place in Russia. Armed terrorists took more than 1,100 children and adults hostage. Russian security forces ended the crisis on the third day, entering the school with tanks and heavy weapons. More than 300 hostages were killed, including 186 children, and hundreds more were injured.

Making the most of your time

By The Rev Paul Hardingham

September is the time of year when we get back to normal routine after the summer break. It's an opportunity to ask how God wants us to make the most of the time He gives us. Although we can't always choose how we use our time, we can control our attitude towards it. How can we use our time wisely?

Firstly, see time is a gift from God. Each day is an opportunity to know God better and serve Him. Time isn't inexhaustible, as someday our time on earth will end. 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' (Psalm 90:12). The first thing we can do when we awake is thank God for the gift of another day.

Secondly, commit your time to God. Time is not to be wasted, but to be used for God's glory. We are accountable to God for the way that we use our time: 'Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity' (Ephesians 5:15,16). We should ask God to help us organise our time more wisely, to reflect His concerns.

Thirdly, set aside time for God, others and ourselves. How often can we go through a whole day without thinking about God or ignoring someone who needs our help? This is because we relegate God to our spare time, so He ends up at the bottom of our list of priorities. Jesus said, 'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness' (Matthew 6:33). If we prioritise our time for God, people and our needs, the rest of life will fit around them.

'I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.' (Martin Luther).

WORDSEARCH



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Cross	Victory	Constantine	Burial
Day	Death	Rome	Sepulchre
Celebrate	Helena	Israel	Church
Symbol	Roman	Site	sign

(Solutions on page 27)

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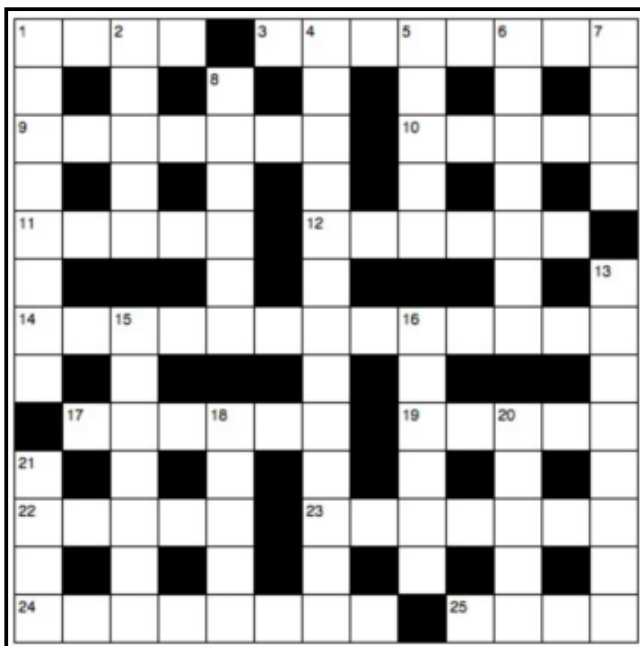
SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)



- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)
- (Solutions on page 28)

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ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



Letter from St James the Least of All –

On what clergy should wear on their feet

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for sending me the photograph of you having your face painted at your parish's 'Fun Day' - although I can't help feeling that to label an event 'fun' is the most effective way of draining it of all amusement whatsoever. Why on earth can't parishes continue with the traditional title of 'Crowning of the Rose Queen and Fete', equally traditionally grimly enjoyed to the accompaniment of thunder and torrential rain.

However, the one thing that caused me the greatest concern in your photo was the fact that you were wearing sandals. Sandals are only worn by Franciscan monks (without socks) and holidaymakers on Blackpool promenade (regrettably, generally with socks). I know that you will argue that Jesus wore sandals. This was mainly because reliable pairs of brogues had yet to be invented, but also because he lived in a hot, dry country. We live in a cold, wet one, and I know that your dear departed mother, my beloved sister, would not want to think that you were risking catching a chill.

The only appropriate colour for footwear for a parish priest is black and the only appropriate material is leather - although I will concede that can create difficulties. Wet leather shoes and polished marble sanctuary floors are not an ideal coupling; in fact it is a potentially lethal combination.

I well remember as a curate when old Canon Griffith entered the Sanctuary, having just got drenched coming from the Rectory. His feet moved across the marble floor some miles per hour faster than the rest of his body. His graceful pirouette would have made a member of the Royal Ballet proud. Had he landed face down, the

congregation may have assumed he was reverently prostrating himself before the altar. But laying in a supine position, staring in a dazed state at the rafters, only conveyed to those members of the congregation who had not seen the reason, a feeling of inappropriate indolence when he should be at work.

However, do not take the alternative of wearing crepe soles. I suspect your present church will be fully carpeted - it seems to go with your sort of theology - and there will be no problem. But crepe soles and any sort of polished stone floor are a truly disastrous mixture. The slightest movement will make it sound as if you are being followed by a swarm of demented frogs - and your final procession down the nave will probably drown out the combined efforts of choir and congregation singing 'Jerusalem' fortissimo.

Black footwear should also be the choice of those who hold any office within the church, but my advice on that point must wait until my next letter. In the meantime, dear boy, do buy a stout pair of black brogues.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



I don't mean to sound ungrateful Fred, but when I asked for something to 'represent farming in the community'...

GOD AND THE ARTS

By the Rev Michael Burgess

He gave us eyes to see them: St Michael the Archangel by Bartolomé Bermejo

When we sing the Sanctus in the Eucharist, we are affirming that our worship here on earth is caught up in the worship offered by the angels in heaven. They praise God around His throne of glory, but they are also agents of His care and guidance in our lives. Leading them is the archangel Michael, and we celebrate his feast with all the angels on 29th September.



Churches were often built in his honour on high places: St Michael's Mount in Cornwall, Mont St Michel in Brittany, and Glastonbury Tor.

St Michael's influence extends both high and low because he is the prince of the angelic host. He is ready to slay the dragon as we read in the book of Revelation. He is armed to fight for light and right over might and darkness.

St Michael's triumph over the devil is the theme of this month's painting by a forgotten Spanish artist, Bartolomé Bermejo. He died in Barcelona around 1501, and only 20 paintings of his exist. Seven are in the National Gallery, and his work has been given a special exhibition there until the end of this month.

As we look at the painting, we can think of St Michael the archangel in Revelation or Milton's 'Paradise Lost' where he leads the 'flaming warriors' who defeat the devil. He dominates the canvas in his glorious armour. At his side is the patron who commissioned this work, and at his feet the vanquished devil, like a nightmare creation of Bosch.

We know only too well that St Michael's battle is reflected here on earth, where the vulnerable and the innocent are threatened by the forces of violence. Light or darkness, truth or falsehood, protection or oppression – those are the mighty opposites that come home to us as we ponder this painting, and pray:

'Lord, give thy angels every day
Command to guide us on our way.'

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Ninian, Bishop of Galloway Apostle of the Picts



Ninian was a Celt who was born about 360, in southern Scotland. He was remarkable for two things: he was almost certainly the first man in Scotland to live in a little white stone house, and also the first to preach the gospel to the Scots. Just as remarkable: becoming the apostle to the Picts was intimately connected to him even *having* a white-washed stone house, instead of the usual wooden hovel.

For Ninian had not always stayed in Scotland, but had travelled to Rome to study, and then on to Gaul, where he had spent time with St Martin of Tours. Martin's monastery was called Loco Teiac (little white house), and it seems that when Ninian returned to Scotland to preach the gospel, he wanted something similar. And so it was that Ninian built his little white house, called Ad Candidam Casam, and began sharing the Gospel with the Picts who lived in Whithorn and Galloway. This was the region north of the old Roman wall – where Roman rule had never been established.

Ninian seems to have been very effective, for it is said that, like Patrick (a generation later) and Columba (a century and a half later), he helped form the character of Celtic Christianity. And throughout southern Scotland, there are still many churches who bear his name.

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.



September 29
Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

In the Bible, angels are messengers from God. The word 'angel' comes from the Greek word for a messenger and it appears hundreds of times in the Bible. But the only angels whose names we know are Michael, Gabriel and Raphael who are archangels, captains among the angels. Each of these three has a different task: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael guides.

In the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, Michael leads God's armies to final victory over the forces of evil and in the Old Testament he is in the book of Daniel, defending Israel against its enemies.

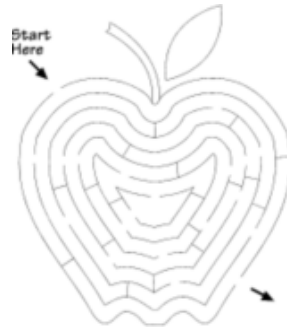
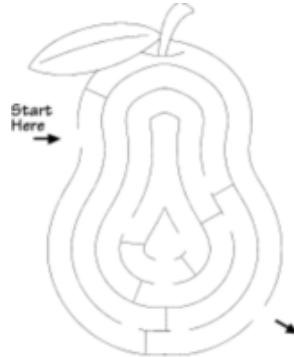


Gabriel is best known for his appearing to a young Jewish girl named Mary to tell her that she will give birth to Jesus.

Raphael is in the Old Testament story of Tobit where he guides Tobit's son Tobiah.

HARVEST PUZZLE

Can you find your way through these two fruit mazes?



What kind of nuts sneeze the most?

Cashews

What's a vampire's favourite fruit?

Nectarines

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Burials

11th July

George Clubb

Interment of Ashes

24th July

Janet Marjorie Pitts

Year's mind for September 2018

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From a Poem by Nigel Beeton

Blessed are those whose strength is in you
Those whose hearts are ever true,
Those whose songs of praise, cascading
Rising as the morning dew.
They, from strength to strength proceeding
Till in Zion they meet you!

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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