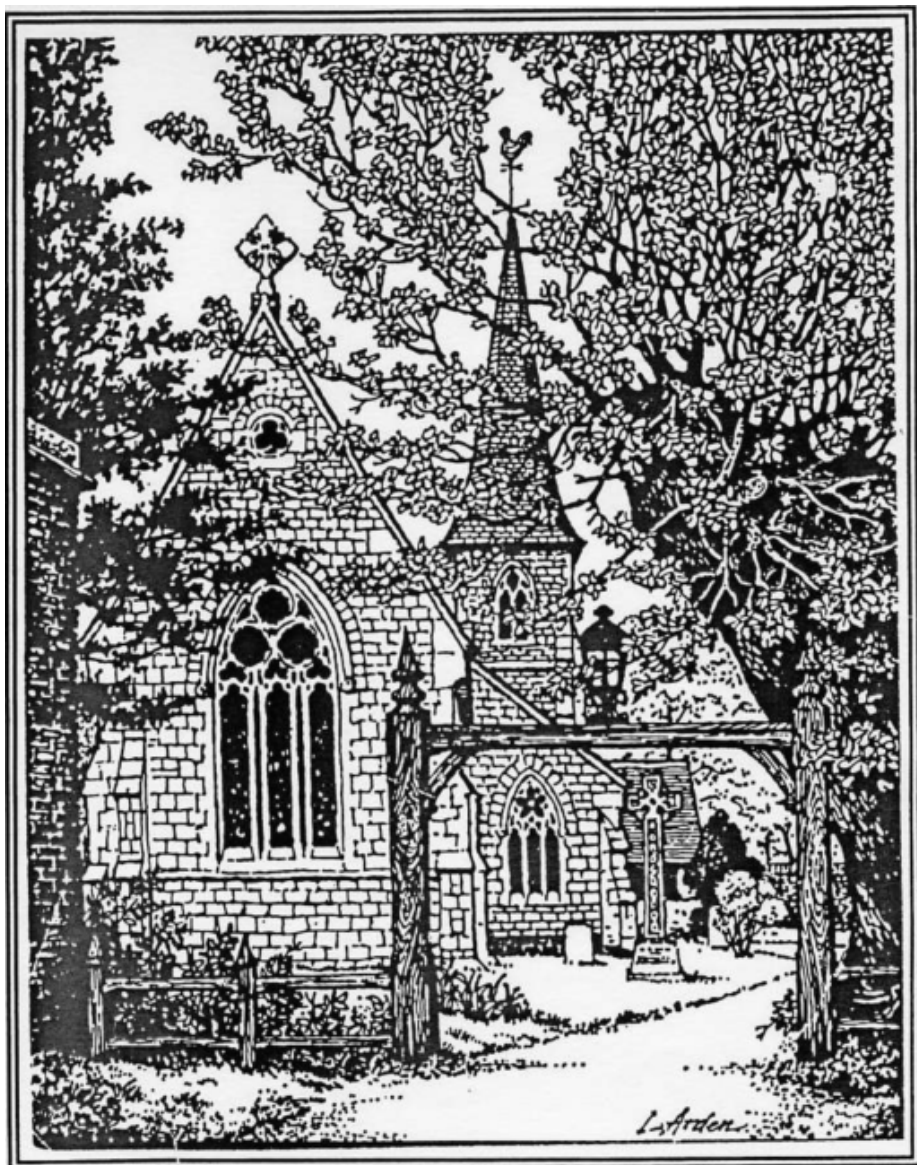


**The Parish Church of
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p
*October, 2019***

(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: Andy Bye 0776 8980829
andy@byeology.com

PCC Secretary: Rhonda Collins 020 8300 3797

Sacristan: Stephen Hills 020 8302 7236

Bothy Bookings: Lynne Meads 07966 315518

Parish Safeguarding: Rhonda Collins 020 8300 3797

Magazine Editor: Steve Blake
sblakestjames@virginmedia.com

St James Sunday Service

9.30am Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER SEPTEMBER 2019



RETREAT!!!

In war-films and accounts of military battles the desperate cry of '*retreat! retreat!*' would denote failure and ignominy, conjuring up images of a beleaguered and battered army fleeing from a strong enemy. It is also known as 'a strategic military withdrawal' which sounds a whole lot better!

However, in church circles a Retreat is described by The Retreat Association as '*the chance to step aside from life for a while, to rest and just 'be' in a welcoming, peaceful place.*' Now doesn't that sound like something you'd want to do? Many people, and not just church ministers or church members, are discovering the value of time away to focus on spiritual things.

Recently I have had the privilege of doing just that. I try to have a few days away on Retreat at least each autumn. For me it is a chance to reflect on the events of a busy summer – the FunMondays Holiday Club we run at St Barnabas and the Summer Sermon Series I have shared with my regular congregations. It is also a chance to turn my thoughts to the autumn months of harvest and remembrance, and even onwards towards Advent and Christmas.

For me, this autumn retreat is a time to read, to think, to pray... and to prepare myself spiritually for the days ahead. I take my bible, my journal, my walking shoes and my sketch pad and try and listen out for God's promptings.

Over the years I have been a guest at many different types of Retreat House. I have lived for a week in a community of nuns near Hampton Court and had four days in a monastery in Suffolk. I have spent time within the modern study facility of a Christian conference centre in the Surrey hills, and shared with a community of Christian artists in

an idyllic oast house in Kent.

My favourite place for a retreat is in the slightly-less rural setting of Chatham. This is a house owned by the Rochester Diocese and led by a religious community called The Companions of Christ. The building is an old vicarage dating, I would guess, from the Edwardian period, a large house which they have beautifully converted, with a peaceful garden at the back of the house. As well as being the home of the Community, the downstairs rooms are used by groups for days of reflection and teaching. (The Bexley Team Clergy spent a day there in the summer!) Upstairs, in what would have probably been the servant's quarters, the private retreat space has two bedrooms, a prayer room, a bathroom and a small kitchen for self-catering. Silence is kept throughout the day, and you can join with the community for silent prayer at the beginning and the end of the day.

To quote Mother Teresa: -"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence."

Do talk to me if you want to find out more about Retreats!

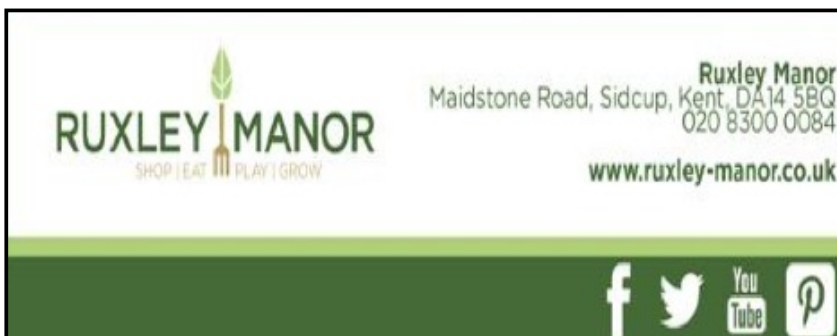
Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)

contact me at Joydens Wood Vicarage,

6 Tile Kiln Lane, Joydens Wood, Bexley, DA5 2BB

01322-528923

renharding@hotmail.co.uk



The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the peacemakers'

The Rev Paul Hardingham

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'
(Matthew 5:9).

H.G. Wells wrote of Mr Polly, *'he was not so much a human being as a civil war.'* A lack of peace in our lives reflects the lack of peace in our families, community and nation.

In this beatitude, Jesus calls us to be *peacemakers* by overcoming conflict and bringing unity to relationships. This is very different from being a *peacelover*! It calls for hard work, patience and a willingness to understand the disagreement. We also risk misunderstanding and rejection by those we're trying to help. This brings a much-needed perspective to the current Brexit debate!

What perspective does a follower of Jesus bring to peacemaking? Jesus says we will *'be called children of God'*, because we demonstrate the family likeness of the ultimate peacemaker. On the cross Jesus has enabled us to have peace with God (Romans 5:1) and broken down the walls of hostility between people (Ephesians 2:14). To be a peacemaker starts by recognising that God *'has reconciled us to Himself through Christ'* (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Our mission is to implore people to *'be reconciled to God.'* (2 Corinthians 5:20). This is the only true path to inner peace, as it is rooted in the reality of peace with God.

We are also called to bring peace between people, especially in the local church. It's easy to avoid doing anything because we want a peaceful life! It means confronting situations where relationships have broken down and bringing people together in unity of heart and mind. The role of peacemaking is never easy; it cost Jesus His life and will undoubtedly change us: *'reconciliation takes place when two opposing forces clash and somebody gets crushed in between.'*

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS



Having recently returned from holiday, I really noticed how early the sun set and the drop in temperature during the evening. Autumn is definitely here!

It always surprises me how quickly Summer ends and Autumn creeps in. Suddenly the wind begins to pick up and blow the leaves off the trees, the apples and blackberries are ripe and ready to be picked, and the garden is beginning to lose its vibrancy.

Autumn is a beautiful time of the year, especially if the sun continues to shine and pick up the bright colours of the trees. It's also that time of the year when we start to gather in, whether it's the fruit from the trees, the grain from the fields, or the logs for our fires. Celebrating Harvest goes back a long, long time, and it's a time to give thanks for all we have been given.

My earliest memories of Harvest go back to primary school. My sister and I would go off to the local shoe shop and ask for any empty boxes, take them home and cover with wallpaper or decorate, before filling with tins and packets kindly donated by family and neighbours.

On Harvest Festival day you would then see children proudly carrying their boxes into school and placing them on the benches at the front of the hall during Assembly before singing 'We Plough the Fields'.

Times haven't really changed. I still see children carrying their Harvest offerings to school, although not usually in a shoe box.

St James will be celebrating Harvest at our All Age Service on Sunday 13th October at 9.30am. Please come along and join us on that day. I'll be there with my shoe box and humming 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter...'

Apologies to all those who were looking forward to our annual Dog Show on 7th September. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, we had to cancel the event at the last minute. The good news is we will be holding a show next year. Details will be available nearer the time.

Maxine & Suzy, Churchwardens

THE BOTHY

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What about Halloween?

By the Rev Paul Hardingham.

It's that time of year when the shops are full of pumpkins and youngsters are knocking on our doors to 'trick or treat'. How should Christians respond to Halloween? Is it simply a fun festival for the children or does it have a dark side that we should avoid?

Firstly, Christians should not respond to Halloween with *superstition*. The Bible reminds us that evil is a real force at work in our world, as *'the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour'* (1 Peter 5:8). We shouldn't underestimate his ability to blind the minds of unbelievers to the reality of spiritual warfare. (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Secondly, we can respond with *confidence*. While people are often fearful of witches, ghosts, and evil spirits, we mustn't forget that God is in control, not Satan. Jesus has secured the victory over sin and evil on the cross: *'having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.'* (Colossians 2:15).

Finally, we can also offer *hope*. *'Christ died and returned to life so that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.'* (Romans 14:9). Halloween is an opportunity to share the hope of the gospel. For example, if we offer sweets to children calling to trick and treat, we might include information about the Christian faith or church. Or we could organise an alternative *Light Party*, celebrating Jesus as the light of the world.

C S Lewis provides a helpful balance for us: *'There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall into about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.'* (*The Screwtape Letters*).

Flyers overhead

By Lester Amann

There are up to 10,000 different kinds of birds in the world, and with about 530 different kinds in Israel alone, no wonder birds get a frequent mention in the Bible.

Noah released a dove from the ark to look for dry ground. A stork, an ostrich and an eagle are mentioned in Job. Quails were food for the Israelites in the desert. Elijah was fed by ravens. Proverbs refers to sparrows chirping on rooftops. Peter denied Jesus before the cock crowed.

A dove descending is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The flight of the eagle reminds us of freedom and the renewal of strength. The psalmist uses wings as a symbol for the protection of God in times of trouble. Isaiah likens a bird hovering over its nest, to protect its young, to describe God's protection of Jerusalem. Jesus yearned to gather the people of Jerusalem to Him as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

Jesus also compared us with sparrows: *"For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent...so do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!" (Matt 10:29-30)*

For Jesus encourages us to know that each one of us is significant to God. He knows us personally, and, in His sight, we are precious and of great value. Let's raise our eyes heavenward and when we see all the birds flying overhead this autumn, let's give thanks to God. Like them, we can be confident, for we are always in His loving care.

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News and Issues



Bishops issue open letter on Brexit

A group of Church of England bishops has issued an open letter on the prospect of a 'no-deal' Brexit and the need for national reconciliation, notwithstanding the prorogation of Parliament. The full text is as follows:

The Archbishop of Canterbury has conditionally agreed to chair a Citizens Forum in Coventry and, without prejudice for any particular outcome, we support this move to have all voices in the current Brexit debate heard.

However, we also have particular concerns about the potential cost of a No Deal Brexit to those least resilient to economic shocks.

As bishops with pastoral responsibilities in communities across urban and rural England, we respond to the call by Jesus to tell the truth and defend the poor. We also recognise that our obligations go beyond England and impact on relations with the wider UK and our neighbours in the EU.

Exiting the EU without an agreement is likely to have a massive impact on all our people and the Government is rightly preparing for this outcome. The Government believes that leaving the EU on 31 October is essential to restoring trust and confidence.

It is unlikely, however, that leaving without an agreement, regardless of consequences, will lead to reconciliation or peace in a fractured country. "Getting Brexit done" will not happen on exit day, and we have to be transparent about the years of work ahead of us in bringing the country together for a better future. We also need to be frank about the potential costs.

Our main social and political priority must be to leave well, paying particular attention to the impact of political decisions on those most vulnerable.

We hold different views about Brexit and how our country should proceed from here. However, although we agree that respecting a public vote is essential, democracy and committed debate do not end after the counting of votes. Our concern for the common good leads us to express concern about a number of matters. Our conviction is that good governance can only ever be based on the confidence of the governed, and that includes minorities whose voice is not as loud as others.

Seeing the evidence of division in every part of England, we are deeply concerned about:

Political polarisation and language that appears to sanction hate crime: the reframing of the language of political discourse is urgent, especially given the abuse and threats levelled at MPs doing their job.

The ease with which lies can be told and misrepresentation encouraged: leaders must be honest about the costs of political choices, especially for those most vulnerable.

The levels of fear, uncertainty and marginalisation in society, much of which lies behind the vote for Brexit, but will not be addressed by Brexit: poor people, EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in Europe must be listened to and respected.

The Irish border is not a mere political totem and peace in Ireland is not a ball to be kicked by the English: respect for the concerns on both sides of the border is essential..

The sovereignty of Parliament is not just an empty term, it is based on institutions to be honoured and respected: our democracy is endangered by cavalier disregard for these.

Attention must be paid not only to the Union, but also to the meaning of Englishness.

Churches serve communities of every shape, size and complexion. We continue to serve, regardless of political persuasion. We invite politicians to pay attention with us to the concerns we register above and encourage a recovery of civil debate and reconciliation.

**All things come from You, and of Your own do we
not give back much! - By the Ven John Barton**

Jesus taught a great deal about money and its dangers. Most of His parables concerned money in one form or another. He used the word 'Mammon' to describe a false financial god, saying "You can't serve God and Mammon."

So, a right attitude to money is essential for Christians.

Until we are released from the straitjacket of putting money before God, that blocked soul-artery will impede our way to God.

Once we are liberated from the control money has over us, we can be lavish in our giving – with a sense of exuberance. St Paul puts it like this: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

St Paul spent ten years raising funds for the impoverished Church in Jerusalem where there was a serious famine. The little and very poor Church in Macedonia gave way beyond their comfort zone. The relatively wealthy Church in Corinth gave little by comparison. Paul contrasts them. Miserable Corinthians; joyful Macedonians.

Giving is fun.

Christian giving becomes something that we share privately with Jesus. In Matthew Jesus taught that when we give, we should not let even our left hand know what our right hand is doing.

God is generous to us, so when we are generous, we share a secret with Him. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."

So - giving money away makes you happy!

Giving to God is giving back what He has already given to us.

It's not the quantity, it's the percentage of what we have.

A right attitude to money is vital for Christians.



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**BRANCHES IN SOUTH-EAST LONDON, PETTS WOOD AND
BIGGIN HILL**

FROM THE MEADOWS

It is with great sadness that I begin writing this article.

A few weeks ago our precious female swan was killed by a dog.

This year has been difficult. The male swan is very defensive having had all of his cygnets killed last year. At the same time the borough arranged to have the islands cut right back to ' minimise the potential for the islands to either submerge or capsize'

Whatever the reason the end result is that it deprived our wildlife of protection with disastrous effect. Dogs were constantly chasing swans, ducks and geese as they struggled to find shelter.

Our female swan was taken to the swan sanctuary after the attack but died of her injuries, leaving the male with 4 cygnets.

On another note a big THANK YOU to the local residents/walkers that helped clear up the litter left beside the river after the bank holiday weekends. Bexley are pretty good at responding if you call about litter but it can take a couple of days. How wonderful that we have community minded people that help without being asked.

The meadows continue to display the colours of a glorious Autumn as the leaves shimmer in browns, reds and yellows with the smells making a walk a sensory feast.

Please do come along and enjoy this natural beauty : the incredible variety of trees, wildlife and even grasses. We are so lucky to have this natural sanctuary and I know so many of us treasure the peace and tranquility we find walking here.

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SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY 29th September

9.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 2nd October

10.30am Joint Team Communion at St John's
12noon Gentlemen's Lunch at The Anchor Bexley

Thursday 3rd October

10am Daytime Housegroup at Joydens
Wood Vicarage

Saturday 5th October

9.30am Prayer Meeting at St Barnabas
12noon Interment of Ashes at Parsonage Lane

SUNDAY 6th October

9.30am Holy Communion

Saturday 12th October

6.30pm for 7pm Harvest Social Event at St Barnabas

SUNDAY 13th October

9.30am **HARVEST**
1.30pm All Age Worship for Harvest
Baptism

Wednesday 16th October

10am Team Communion at St Mary's
Followed by Team Clergy Away Day

Thursday 17th October

10.00am House Communion at
53 Woodlands Park, Joydens Wood

Friday 18th October

6pm Wedding Rehearsal in Church

Saturday 19th October

4pm Wedding

SUNDAY 20th October

9.30am
12 for 12.30pm

Holy Communion
Team Lunch at the King's Head
Bexley. (book with Ren)

Monday 21st October

1.30pm

FunMonday Holiday Club at
St Barnabas

SUNDAY 27th October

9.30am
4.00pm

Holy Communion
Sunday @ 4 Service for all ages
at St Barnabas

Wednesday 30th October

7 for 7.30pm

Team Clergy and Wardens meet at
Joydens Wood Vicarage

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday 30th November

Advent Quiet Day at St Barnabas Church led by
Judy French and Reverend Sue Twynam.

SUNDAY 1st December

6pm

Team Advent Carol Service at
St John's, Bexley

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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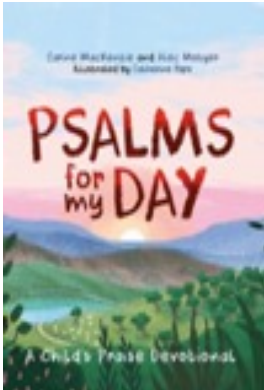
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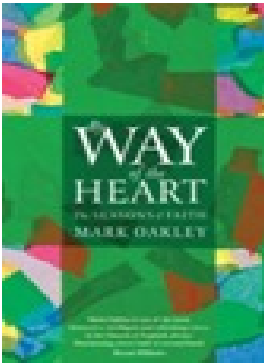


Book Mark



Psalms for My Day – a Child’s Praise Devotional by Carine MacKenzie and Alec Motyer, SPCK, £11.99

The Psalms tell us how wonderful God is and help us to worship Him. The Psalms also help us to tell God all our troubles and worries, and to find comfort and guidance. Other Psalms tell about our sin and how God has dealt with it. Still other Psalms express our joy and thanksgiving. This devotional encourages children to explore the Psalms for themselves. The 31 short devotionals include a short prayer, and beautiful colour illustrations.



By Way of the Heart – the Season of Faith by Mark Oakley, Canterbury Press, £12.99

These fifty reflections traverse the landscape of the Christian year, with its oases of celebration, its desert stretches of emptiness, its days of abundance and seasons of lament, and its affirmation of the ordinary and the everyday.

For all who wish to understand their own story in the light of God's bigger story, this will be a book to turn to again and again.

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

150 years ago, on 2nd Oct 1869 Mahatma Gandhi, Indian activist, was born. He led the Indian independence movement against British rule.

Also 150 years ago, on 16th Oct 1869 Girton College (now part of Cambridge University) was established as one of England's first residential colleges for women. It became part of Cambridge University in 1948, and co-educational in 1976.

90 years ago, on 29th Oct 1929 the Wall Street Crash took place. Also known as Black Tuesday, it led to the Great Depression in the USA.

80 years ago, on 16th Oct 1939 the German Luftwaffe carried out its first aerial attack on British territory, bombing ships in the Firth of Forth, Scotland.

75 years ago, on 30th Oct 1944 Jewish diarist Anne Frank and her sister Margo were transported from Auschwitz concentration camp to Bergen-Belsen. They died there, probably from typhus, in February or March 1945.

60 years ago, on 8th Oct 1959 Margaret Thatcher was elected as a Member of Parliament for the first time.

Also 60 years ago, on 7th Oct 1959 the Soviet space probe Luna 3 sent back the first images of the far side of the Moon.

20 years ago, on 27th Oct 1999 Britain's House of Lords voted to end the automatic right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the upper chamber of Parliament. Of over 700 peers, only 92 would remain, chosen by election.

ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY – 6TH OCTOBER

A new scheme, the ‘Animal Friendly Church’, has been launched by the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA).

In a similar way to the initiatives that encourage communities to become Fair Trade churches, the project recognises parishes and chaplaincies which operate as ‘Animal Friendly Churches’. It also gives an annual prize for an example of outstanding achievement or dedication in this area.

As with Fair Trade, a huge difference can be made by people choosing to take comparatively small steps: for example, a commitment to use exclusively free range eggs or getting the Sunday school to do a project and build a ‘bug hotel’.

As ASWA explains: “It isn’t so long ago that people thought that Fair Trade was for eccentrics who drank strange coffee; Christians thankfully changed that culture in the church and in wider society. This new scheme is a chance for Christians to achieve the same feat with animal welfare.”

And so ASWA now awards ‘Animal Friendly Church’ Certificates to churches which practice and promote compassionate attitude towards God’s creatures. Applicants are also automatically entered into the annual ‘ASWA Animal Friendly Church of the Year Award’. The winner receives a hamper full of ethical and useful goodies for their Church, and a plaque to display on your wall.

Entries are now being accepted for 2019. Go to: <https://www.aswa.org.uk/our-work/animal-friendly/> and scroll down to the bottom of the page.

WORDSEARCH



Corn	Abundance	Marrows	Crops	Praise
Rain	Goodness	Water	Soften	Care
Mud	Blessing	Thankful	Carts	Riches
Wheat	Pumpkins	Meadows	Overflow	Food

(Solutions on page 27)

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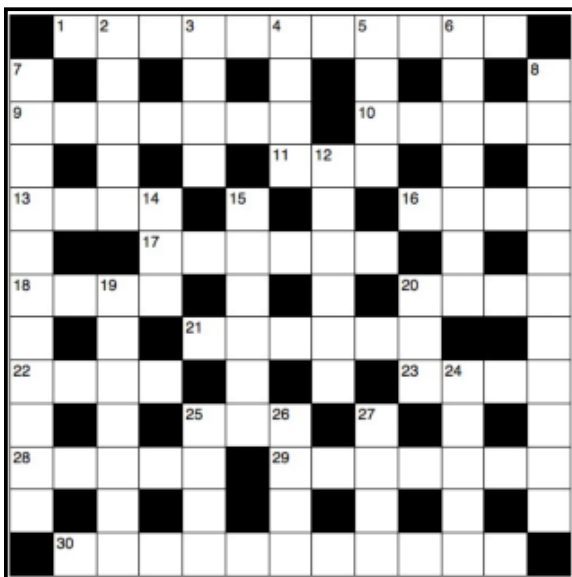
OCTOBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 ' We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his



- dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram
 (Genesis 14:18) (11)
 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something
 sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding'
 (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — ,
 but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
 26 Heroic tale (4)
 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — '
 (John 8:32) (4)

(Solutions on page 28)

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



Letter from St James the Least of All –

On the perils of trainers, high heels and soft shoes
in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Having informed you of why clergy must always wear black shoes in church, my belief is that all those who hold any office in church should be similarly dressed.

Altar servers have the tendency to arrive wearing what I am informed are called trainers. Were they black it would be tolerable, but they seem to be without exception either brilliant white or luminous pink. When they arrive so attired I insist they remove them and serve in the sanctuary in their socks. Since our church floor is several degrees colder than permafrost, it normally takes them the rest of the morning with their feet in a bucket of hot water before circulation returns. They do not make that mistake a second time.

The rule applies to members of the choir also; my only concession is that ladies are allowed to wear shoes with heels. But that can present its own hazards. Miss Threlfall recently appeared in heels that, by chance, were the exact size and shape of the holes in our beautiful Victorian heating gratings in the nave floor. During the procession at the start of the Service, her heel wedged in one. She is a lady of some determination and refused to stop, thereby holding up the procession and letting the congregation know something was amiss. So she proceeded, now with a twelve inch square cast iron grid firmly attached to her foot. As she gallantly clanked up the aisle, rocking slightly since one leg was now several stones heavier, one of our basses, completely innocent of what had happened, stepped into thin air. Half of his body disappeared vertically downwards as the other half proceeded in a horizontal easterly direction, scattering tenors like skittles. I continue to visit him in hospital.

Our organist arrives wearing black shoes, but once hidden in the organ loft, removes them and plays the organ in soft shoes. Or he did; these days he never removes his shoes at all. At Evensong on Sundays, my dog comes with me to swell the congregation and wanders round the church benignly as the Service progresses. After one Service, our organist came to retrieve his shoes only to find them missing. Their absence was inexplicable - until two weeks later when I found them buried in the Rectory rose garden.

Churchwardens, of course, know the rules for correct footwear - that is why they have been elected to serve in such a distinguished office - although I do feel that Admiral Hopkinson's practice of wearing white spats on top of his shoes when the bishop is here, a little excessive - even rather flash.

Maintaining this dress policy once you have your own church, will be maintaining the true faith.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



*“So really, it is very easy to understand
how Brexit will affect our parish ...”*

GOD AND THE ARTS

By the Rev Michael Burgess

He gave us eyes to see them: 'A Basket of Roses' by Fantin-Latour

Thomas Moore wrote a haunting, melancholy song called 'The Last Rose of Summer.' It is about love and friendships passing as the blossom wilts and summer turns to autumn. Perhaps we know that feeling as we see



the leaves falling and the nights drawing in. But autumn is also the season of harvest celebrations when we rejoice in the goodness of Creation. The last rose of summer may die, but there is still much for which to give thanks to God.

We sense that in the bountiful array of roses that is this month's painting in the National Gallery. Fantin-Latour, a French artist who died in

1904, was famous for the beauty and realism of his paintings of flowers. Here in 'A Basket of Roses' of 1890, the flowers tumble onto the table, a rich gathering of white, cream, apricot and pink blossom.

Roses are traditionally signs of love, and that is at the heart of Thomas Moore's song. White roses stand for the purity of love, red for its sorrow, and gold for its glory. Other poets may come to mind as we think of roses: the author of the Song of Solomon or Robert Burns. This painting has its own poetry. The roses have been brought into a Victorian drawing room, but their perfume and beauty call us back into the garden where they grew in all their magnificence and splendour.

Each harvest we gather flowers, fruits and vegetables from our gardens and fields to proclaim the goodness and generosity of God. In the same century as the artist Fantin-Latour, Fr Faber wrote over 150 hymns praising the God of creation and the God of our salvation. One hymn has the verse:

'How wonderful creation is,
The work that Thou didst bless;
And, oh! what then must Thou be like,
Eternal loveliness!'

That is our theme as we ponder these roses and think of the Harvest Thanksgivings we shall offer in church this autumn.

SOLUTIONS TO WORDSEARCH



Together we fall - By Cannon David Winter

I was born a few weeks after the Wall Street Crash, 90 years ago this month. The American economy, so dominant in world trade, seemed to collapse overnight. Banks went bust, and then many businesses. Unemployment followed, and so did genuine poverty in American cities.

Needless to say, I was totally unaware of all of this at the time, but by the time I was eight or nine I had become aware that what happened in New York affected us all. My mother took me to see the 'hunger marches' from Jarrow, coming to London to plead for help for starving British families. It was an early lesson I have never forgotten, and very relevant now. Like it or not, we have a worldwide economy. If one suffers, eventually we all do.

Strangely enough the 'hungry thirties' were replaced by the war-time forties. The US and UK economies were revived by the demands of war and rationing, at least, ensuring that what food there was would be shared fairly.

But the lesson remains: if one suffers, all suffer. We are, like it or not, a worldwide family.

18th

St Luke the Evangelist – linking the sacred and the profane

To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.



Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good as linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1, Bartholomew. 9, Evil one. 10, Adore. 11, Ran. 13, Oreb. 16, Zinc. 17, Entail. 18, Hung. 20, Lehi. 21, Joshua. 22, Pity. 23, Wide. 25, Age. 28, Alarm. 29, Partake. 30, Sennacherib.

DOWN: 2, Alive. 3, Took. 4, Over. 5, Onan. 6, Emotive. 7, Jehoshaphat. 8, Melchizedek. 12, A light. 14, Beg. 15, Strong. 19, Not have. 20, Law. 24, Iraqi. 25, Amen. 26, Epic. 27, Free.



**ST LUKE'S DAY
18th October**

St Luke wrote two books in the Bible: the 3rd Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. We know quite a bit about Luke: he came from Antioch and was a doctor who travelled with St Paul on his missionary journeys, was with him in Jerusalem and shared Paul's voyage and shipwreck on the way to Rome. He is the only non-Jewish writer in the New Testament.

Luke dedicated both of his books to the same Roman, Theophilus, and both were written to give an accurate account of the true facts about Jesus. Luke stressed that he had used original eye witness accounts from people who were there and can tell us what Jesus said and did. St Luke's Gospel gives us the fullest life story of Jesus. With a choice of stories that shows Luke's own warm interest in people.



The word 'Gospel' means 'the good news' and that is what Luke wanted the world to know. The good news of Jesus Christ.

SICK AS A...

Early medicine wasn't a case of 'take 2 tablets and have a week off'. Do you know which of these were used as a cure?

1. Isiaiah told Hezekiah to put
a) figs b) mustard c) plaster on his boil. (2 Kings 20)
2. When Saul was ill David played a) games b) music c) the fool, to soothe him. (1 Samuel 16)
3. Paul advised Timothy to ease his stomach with a) wine b) peppermints c) cucumber (1 Timothy 5)
4. The Good Samaritan bandaged the man's wounds with a) water & sand b) oil & flour c) oil & wine (Luke 10)
5. Naaman's leprosy was cured when he a) washed 5 times in milk b) washed 7 times in a river c) washed 9 times in wine (2 Kings 5)



Doctor, doctor, I feel like a pair of curtains.

Be quiet and pull yourself together.

Doctor, doctor, can you cure my spots?

I never make rash promises.



Answers: 1) a cake of figs 2) played music on the lyre (a kind of harp) 3) a little wine 4) oil and wine 5) washed 7 times in the Jordan



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Burials

-

Interment

-

Year's mind for October 2018

We are rivers

Lord, we are rivers running to thy sea,
Our waves and ripples all derived from thee:
A nothing we should have, a nothing be,
Except for thee.

From a prayer of Christina Rossetti 1830–1894,

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.

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY - POINTS OF CONTACT

Team Rector for the Bexley Team:

Reverend Ren Harding

renharding@hotmail.co.uk

01322 528923

07836644782

Associate Priest:

Reverend Sue Twynam (from 19 January)

susantwynam@btconnect.com

07952 468127

For enquiries concerning St John the Evangelist, Bexley

website www.stjohnsbexley.org

Churchwardens:

Julia Wickham

julia.wickham1@ntlworld.com

01322 556696

Janine Wooster

janinewooster@aol.com

07885700334

For enquiries concerning St Mary the Virgin, Bexley website

www.stmarysbexley.co.uk

CONTACT the Team Vicar: Reverend Clive Wood (from 19 January)

revclivewood@gmail.com

07982 392809

For enquiries concerning St Barnabas, Joydens Wood website

www.joydenswoodchurch.co.uk

email - joydenswoodchurch@virginmedia.com

CONTACT the Team Rector

For enquiries concerning St James, North Cray

website www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/

CONTACT the Team Rector

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