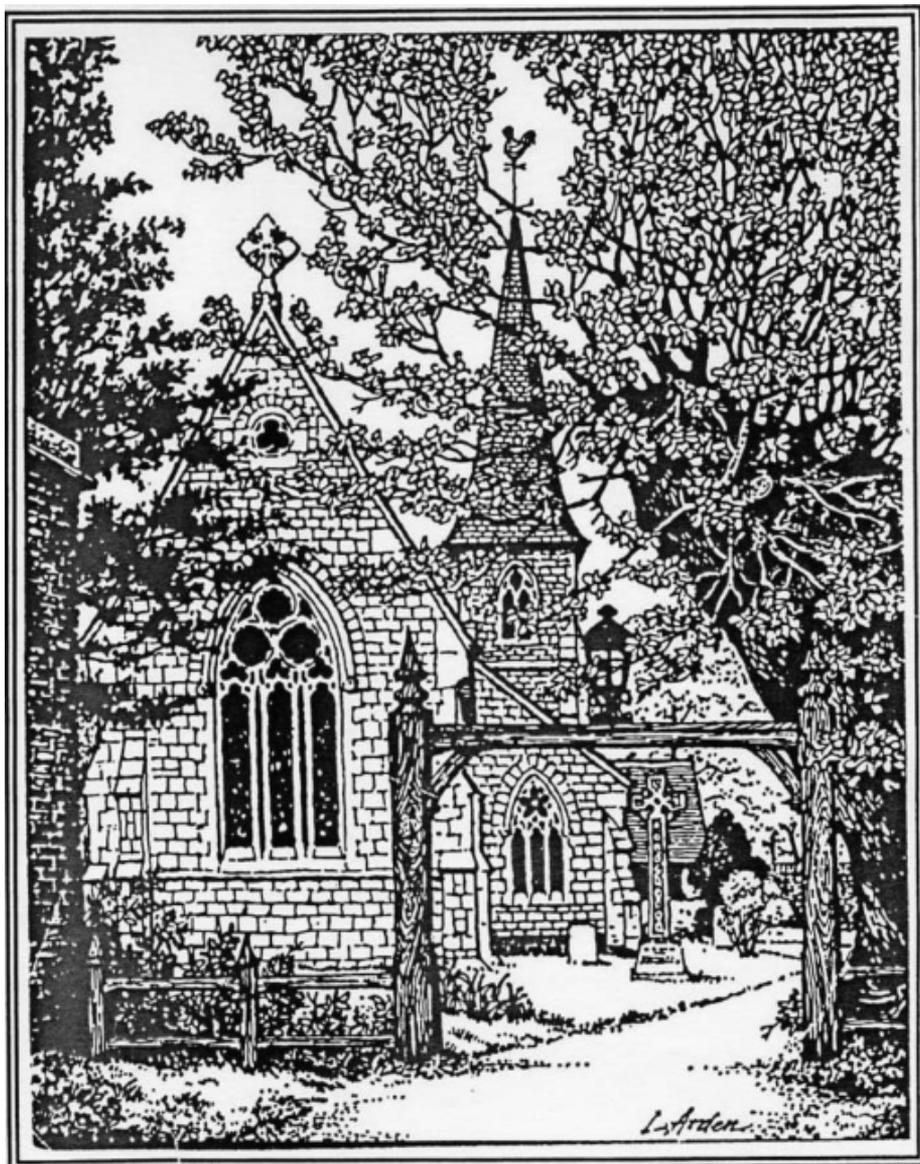


**The Parish Church of  
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p  
*February, 2020***

***(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)***



## St JAMES, NORTH CRAY PARISH STAFF

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Joydens Wood, DA5 2BB  
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**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 FEBRUARY 2020



Did you realise? Some diaries for this year got printed before the decision was made... so check yours is correct!

In 2020, the early May Bank Holiday has been moved from the usual first Monday in May to Friday 8 May. This is to coincide with Victory in Europe Day, or VE Day, marking the Seventy-Fifth anniversary of the formal end of World War II.

It will be the first day of a three-day weekend featuring numerous commemorative events across the country. This will give us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through a dark and terrifying period our history.

St James North Cray is part of the Bexley Team of Churches and they have some of their plans in place already!

Our events on Friday 8 May will be focused on the church of St Mary's in Bexley, because this was the original and ancient parish church for the village. There will be a VE Day Service there at 2pm, and then we will go across to the Parish Hall opposite the church to be ready for the National Toast at 3pm to raise a glass to those who gave so much. We will then enjoy afternoon tea together.

We hope that the church bells will be rung from the St Mary's bell-tower, as they will be in churches across our country.

On the Sunday of the VE weekend (Sunday 10 May) each of the churches in the Bexley Team (St Barnabas Joydens Wood, St James North Cray, St John's Bexley and St Mary's Bexley) will be marking VE Day at their Sunday morning services. The Service at St James will be at 9.30am.

More news to follow, so look out for the VE day logo:



**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](mailto:renharding@hotmail.co.uk)

**A NEW CURATE**

Matthew Hodder has recently been appointed as Assistant Curate in the Benefice of the Bexley Team Ministry, with the Team Rector, Reverend Ren Harding to be his Training Incumbent.

Matt will be moving to Bexley with his family in June 2020.

Bishop James Langstaff hopes to ordain him as Deacon on Saturday 26 September 2020. Mat is currently living in Cambridge where he is studying at Ridley Hall Theological Training College.

Please pray for Matt and his family as he begins his final year of Academic training, before completing his training with us.

## Lent Fasting

*By the Rev Paul Hardingham*

This month sees the start of Lent, the season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Fasting can be a neglected discipline, but it plays an important part in the Christian life. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and He taught His disciples to fast (i.e. not *if* but *'when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen.'* (Matthew 6:17,18).

### *Why Fast?*

Firstly, giving up something in my life underlines my desire to put God first in my life. Secondly, fasting shows me how much I depend on things other than God in my life, so I can surrender my idols to Him. Thirdly, fasting encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God in my life. Therefore, fasting gives me space to humbly focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom and results in a more intimate relationship with Christ. It also enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life, with a heart more attentive to God.

### *How can I fast?*

Usually fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, although some can't abstain from food for medical reasons. It might also include abstaining or limiting the time I give to television, alcohol or social media. However, Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', or giving more time to prayer and Bible study. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

*'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6).

## **Church Action on Poverty Sunday – 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

*By Canon David Winter*

Church Action on Poverty Sunday takes place later this month. Many of us want to help the poor, but the challenges are huge.

'Good News for the poor' - that was what Jesus promised – and the crowd flocked to hear it. But He didn't promise to abolish poverty. 'The poor you always have with you', He said, and everything we have seen since has proved that He was right.

Two thousand years, many political promises and different regimes, and we still have poor people, often living alongside the conspicuously rich. 'Good news for the poor'? Not, it appears, in any political or social revolution. Sadly, we have yet to abolish poverty.

But followers of Jesus have been in the forefront of those who have tried to mitigate its consequences. Churches and various individual Christians have been prime movers in the amazing development of Food Banks. The Bradford-based charity 'Christians against Poverty' has helped literally tens of thousands of people out of debt. Night shelters for the homeless, schools in the world's poorest lands and support for drug addicts – these are on the agenda of every Church and that is good news for the poor.

There is so much more to be done, of course, if poverty is ever to be eliminated. But not being able to do it all mustn't stop us doing what we can.

*So this year, why not do something to support Church Action on Poverty? Details at: <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/>*

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**MIDWEEK COMMUNIONS for the TEAM**

Starting from 4 December 2019  
the churches of the Bexley Team  
will be having a JOINT Midweek Communion  
at 10am every Wednesday.

Please note our new pattern!

at St John's Bexley  
on the *first* and *third* Wednesday of each month  
at St Mary's Bexley  
on the *second* and *fourth* Wednesday of each month.

In the months when there is a *fifth* Wednesday  
we will be having our midweek communion  
at St James North Cray (North Cray Road)

Please let a member of the Clergy Team  
know if you need a lift.

There is also an informal 'House Communion'  
at 53 Woodlands Park, Joydens Wood  
at 10am on the third Thursday of the month.

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Reverend Ren Harding  
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## **Lent – a good time to deepen your prayer life**

*By the Rev John Tyler*

Lent is a time to take stock of ourselves spiritually. This includes setting aside extra time for prayer. Here are some helpful things to remember as you settle down to it:

People have been praying since Adam had a grandson named Enosh. The Bible tells us (Genesis 4:26) that it was during his days when 'men began to call on the name of the Lord'. They have been doing it ever since.

People have had their prayers answered by God since Genesis, too. But if you want to read some beautiful prayers – and answers to them, browse through the Psalms. Again and again the psalmist writes: "the Lord heard my cry".

So – what do you need to bring to prayer? Just the tiniest amount of faith that God is even there.... Jesus assures us that even faith as big as a tiny mustard seed will be effective.

What gives you the right to come before Almighty God? Jesus does. The Bible is clear that "there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ". (1 Timothy 2:5)

The Bible makes clear that God does not stand on ceremony – in fact, He prefers our personal, spontaneous prayers. Jesus was very matter of fact about it: "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:6)

The Bible assures us that prayer will bring us good things: "we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need". (Hebrews 4:16)

Above all, prayer must be made with a pure heart. "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18) That simply means that if you know you are doing something wrong, and intend to keep right on doing it, don't waste your time praying.

Finally, what can be the results of your prayers this Lent? Well, here are seven, for starters....

1. Joy and deep happiness. (John 16:24)
2. Relief from your worry, stress and tension (Philippians 4:6,7)
3. Wisdom and more mental clarity (James 1:5,6)
4. Protection and deliverance from temptations (Matthew 26:41)
5. An ability to share the Good News of Jesus to other people (Matthew 9:38)
6. Strength to persevere when you feel under spiritual attack (Ephesians 6:18)
7. A growing thankfulness to God, who is worthy of all glory (Revelation 4:11)



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# News and Issues



## **An Open Letter to the Prime Minister**

*The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have written to the new Prime Minister, assuring him of their prayers and asking for clarification on key issues including climate change, poverty and social cohesion.*

### **The letter says:**

We wish to congratulate you on being given the responsibility by the British electorate to form a government, and assure you of our prayers and the prayers of the Methodist people as you take on that responsibility.

Churches are rooted in communities around Britain. It is our task to emphasise, from our ground level experience of British society, issues which we believe must be seen as key priorities.

Creation does not belong to us. Our task is to nurture and recognise our place within it. Many of our members see climate change and environmental degradation as the most pressing issues of our day. Can you tell us what steps you will be taking internationally and domestically to help the UK to reach its climate change targets? What kind of lead will you be taking at the 2020 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow?

Many of our churches and church members are involved in running foodbanks and offering support for people caught up in poverty. Foodbanks should not have to exist. Can you clarify for us what steps your new government will take to address the scandalous levels of poverty, and particularly child poverty?

The church is an inter-generational, multi-ethnic, socially diverse collection of communities. It is far from perfect. But we have seen in

our communities growing forms of hostility, divisiveness and hatred, and have sought to support people who have experienced such discord. What active steps will your government now take to work towards healing and greater concord in society?

We wrote to you, Prime Minister, in July 2019 to express our concern that a No Deal Brexit was likely to impact the poorest communities very hard indeed. We wish to reaffirm our concern that the poorest in society face huge risks as our trading relations with EU are rewritten. We seek your reassurance that needs of families facing poverty will be central to the proposed trade deal and that should it not be in place before the transition period expires that comprehensive measures are put in place to protect them from the ensuing upheaval.

*Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference*  
*Professor Clive Marsh, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference*

### **Church of England appoints National Environment Officer**

Jo Chamberlain has been appointed as the National Environment Officer for the Church of England, taking forward the strategy developed by the Environment Working Group. This is a new post reflecting the Archbishops' Council's focus on the environment as a theological and mission priority.

Jo joins the Mission and Public Affairs team from Christian Aid and the Diocese of Sheffield where she volunteers as their Environment Adviser. She will work closely with the Environment Consultant, David Shreeve, and link with the Cathedrals and Church Buildings team where Open and Sustainable Churches Officer, Catherine Ross, forms the third part of a new environment staff 'hub'.

### **Psalm 23 Garden coming to RHS Chelsea**

The Bible Society has announced that "We're absolutely thrilled to be working with award-winning garden designer Sarah Eberle, to bring Psalm 23 to life at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May 2020!" The Psalm 23 Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2020, designed by Sarah Eberle, will offer visitors the chance "to stop, reflect, and feel refreshed".

## Remembering Anne Frank and her diary

By Tim Lenton

Anne Frank, the Dutch Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim, died 75 years ago, in February 1945, in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at the age of 15 – probably from typhus. She is known for writing *The Diary of a Young Girl*, an account of how she and seven others were hidden in a secret annex to escape the Nazis.



The group had been arrested the previous August, and only Anne's father Otto survived the war. At first it was believed they had been betrayed, but it is now thought possible that they were discovered by accident.

The *Diary*, which Anne – who was born in Germany – started writing at the age of 13, is the story of how ordinary people risked their lives to help those in need, but it says little about the unclear relationship the Dutch had with Nazi Germany. Up to 80% of the Dutch Jewish population were killed during the war – the second highest percentage after Poland.

The diary, which had been kept safe by Otto's secretary, Miep Gies, was published in English in 1952 and has since been translated into more than 60 languages. The Anne Frank House, a museum in Amsterdam, opened in May 1960. Asteroid 5535 Annefrank was named in Anne's honour in 1995.

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## **From the Meadows**

As we enter February the new year brings new beginnings and promises of the year to come. We have so much to look forward to on our beautiful meadows...it lies dormant now, sleeping and regenerating but those of us that visit frequently know that the springtime will be a symphony of new life. Even now if you look closely you can see signs of what is to come, new shoots just starting to fight their way up from the old flora and fauna. There is still a lot of wildlife on our river.

As I write this our swans are here but may leave any day. We can see and hear them, that eerie sound floating across the water as they stretch their wings in glorious flight. Those remaining will welcome any food you can spare over these cold months. The Swan Sanctuary advise that we feed them:

Fresh bread (mould is poisonous to them)  
Grain (wheat or corn)  
Fresh greens (lettuce or spinach)  
Duck and swan food purchased but it must be  
a product that floats.

Let's make 2020 a time when we work together, continuing to value, respect and treasure the meadows and all wildlife so that we can enjoy this jewel in the crown of Bexley Borough.

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## SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

### **Saturday 1st February**

9.30am

Team Prayer Meeting at St Barnabas,  
Joydens Wood

### **SUNDAY 2nd February**

9.30am

6pm

### **CANDLEMAS**

Holy Communion

Team Choral Evensong at St John's,  
Bexley

### **Wednesday 5th February**

10.00am

12noon

Team Communion at St John's, Bexley  
Gentlemen's Lunch at the Anchor pub

### **Thursday 6th February**

10am

Daytime Housegroup at Joydens  
Wood Vicarage

### **SUNDAY 9th February**

9.30am

All Age Worship

### **Wednesday 12th February**

10am

Team Communion at St Mary's, Bexley

### **Thursday 13th February**

7.30pm

Deanery Synod meeting at Holy  
Redeemer Lamorbey

### **SUNDAY 16th February**

9.30am

12.30pm

Holy Communion

All church members are invited to come  
along to the Team Lunch at the King's  
Head in Bexley Village. A good roast  
dinner (other options are available.)  
Book with Ren.

### **Monday 17th February**

1.30pm

FunMondays Holiday Club at  
St Barnabas

### **Wednesday 19th February**

10.00am

Team Communion at St John's, Bexley

**Thursday 20th February**

10.00am

House Communion at the  
JOYDENS WOOD VICARAGE  
(note change of venue this month)

**SUNDAY 23rd February**

9.30am

4pm

Holy Communion  
Sunday @ 4 Family Service at St  
Barnabas. All Welcome

**Wednesday 26th February**

10am

7.30pm

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Team Communion with Ashing at  
St Mary's, Bexley  
Ash Wednesday Service, with  
Ashing at St James North Cray

**Thursday 27th February**

2.30pm

Mothers' Union Meeting at  
St Barnabas

**Saturday 29th February**

Bishop's Study Day (see box for details)

**SUNDAY 1st March**

9.30am

Holy Communion

**BISHOPS' STUDY DAY**

**Saturday 29th February 2020 - 9:30am for 10:00am to 4pm  
at Christ Church Chislehurst BR7 5JJ**

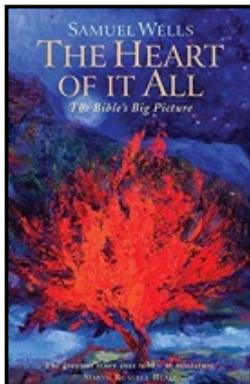
**Theme - Gathered and Scattered: *fruitfulness in the whole of life***

The invitation of Jesus hasn't changed. It's still 'Come follow me'. The important question for all of us to answer is what that means for our own lives, our everyday lives, our Monday to Saturday lives. Led by Rev Dr Neil Hudson from The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. He will explore how we can help one another to gain a bigger vision for our own lives; to inspire but also to offer some very practical things that ordinary church congregations can do to live that out in the reality of everyday life. This will be supplemented by a panel discussion with **Bishop Simon Burton-Jones** and an opportunity to think about what happens next.

Please talk to one of the clergy team if you are interested.



# Book Mark



## **The Heart Of It All - the Bible's Big Picture** **By Samuel Wells, BRF, £9.99**

In *The Heart of It All*, the Canterbury Press Lent book for 2020, Samuel Wells simplifies the Bible's complexity and presents the entire sweep of its narrative in 18 key themes.

Rooted in the best of contemporary biblical theology and scholarship, *The Heart of It All* will deepen understanding of the Bible and increase confidence in reading it. It includes questions for reflection, making this an ideal resource for Lent groups as well as for



## **You Are Mine: Daily Bible readings from** **Ash Wednesday to Easter Day** **By David Walker, BRF, £8.99**

At this time of Lent, David Walker explores different aspects of human belonging through the medium of scripture and story, in order to help us recognise the different ways in which we are God's beloved. And as we recognise ourselves and our own lives in the narrative of God's engagement with humanity and his creation, he gently challenges us to engage for God's sake with God's world.

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## ALL IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

150 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 1870 the Elementary Education Act (commonly known as Forster's Education Act) was introduced in England and Wales. It provided a framework for the education of all children aged between five and 12.

100 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1920 the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party) was established, changing its name from the German Workers' Party and holding its first mass rally in Munich.

90 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 1930 the dwarf planet Pluto was discovered by American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh.

75 years ago, in Feb/Mar 1945 Anne Frank, Dutch Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, at the age of 15, probably from typhus.

Also 75 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1945 Eric Liddell, Scottish athlete, died. He became an Olympic gold medallist in 1924 for the 400m.

Also 75 years ago, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1945 WW2's Yalta Conference took place in Crimea. U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Leader Joseph Stalin met to plan the final defeat of Nazi Germany.

50 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1970 Bertrand Russell, British philosopher, logician, mathematician, and social reformer, died. He was winner of the 1950 Nobel Prize for Literature.

30 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1990 the Communist Party of the Soviet Union agreed to give up its 70-year monopoly on political power

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***

## Remembering Eric Liddell – Olympic gold medallist and prisoner of war - *By Tim Lenton*

Eric Liddell, the Scottish athlete who became a 400-metre Olympic gold medallist in 1924, died 75 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1945, in a Japanese internment camp in China. He was 43 and had a brain tumour.



Because of his Christian convictions he had withdrawn from the 100-metre heats in the 1924 Paris Olympics because they took place on a Sunday. He entered the 400-metre heats instead – and won.

He also got bronze in the 200 metres, where he finished ahead of his Jewish team-mate Harold Abrahams, the 100-metre gold medallist. Their story is told in the classic 1981 film, *Chariots of Fire*.

Born in China to missionary parents, Liddell went to boarding school for 12 years at Eltham College, South London, where he continues to be recognised as inspirational. He was always an outstanding sportsman but never failed to put God first. He returned to China after studying pure science at Edinburgh University and married a Canadian missionary, Florence Mackenzie.

While in internment camp, despite his tumour and weakness, he gave hope to others, being seen as a great unifying force. He helped to ease tensions through his selflessness and was admired for the way he forgave his captors.

## WORDSEARCH



Forty	Appearance	Jesus	Presentation	Dimittis
Days	Mary	Purified	Light	Office
Baby	Jewish	Present	World	Evening
Boy	Mothers	Lord	Candlemas	Prayer
Public	Temple	Festival	Simeon	West

(Solutions on page 27)

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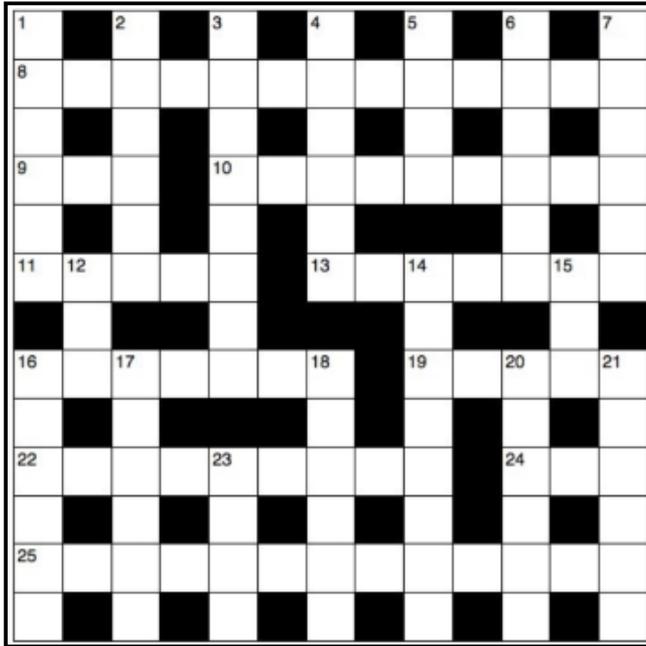
## FEBRUARY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

### Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)



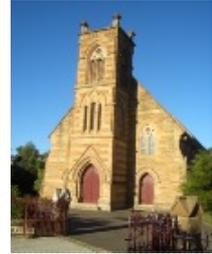
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash  
(Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to —  
(Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to  
diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

(Solutions on page 28)

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## ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



Letter from St James the Least of All –

### **On how to survive a parish retreat**

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

We have just returned from our annual parish three day retreat at St. Epiphanius' Priory - although the chick pea soup lunches and kidney bean casserole dinners ensured it was a far from silent retreat. We had the usual attendees: those husbands who see it as an opportunity to stop their wives talking, however briefly; those wives who can keep their husbands temporarily from the nineteenth hole at the golf club; and those who want to see if it could be a suitable community to persuade an inconvenient relative to join.

It can come as quite a shock for first-timers; the ladies are appalled to discover that there is neither coffee shop nor hairdressers and the men that there is no bar or billiards table. The resident community certainly frowned on the four male members discovered silently pushing a car down the drive late one evening before starting it at the main gates as they escaped to the nearest pub. Those of us who are older hands know to bring our own supplies - carefully wrapped, so that the clinking of bottles is not too obvious as one ascends the main staircase. The near universal retreat to bedrooms before lunch and dinner is less an opportunity for quiet reflection and more one for a restorative sherry.

The more experienced also know that temperatures in the house make Siberia appear tropical. All the movement and hand waving during Services is less charismatic enthusiasm and more an attempt to maintain blood flow to the extremities. The series of addresses given by an aged member of the community are most useful for

planning the weekend shopping list. That some of our party fell asleep during the addresses was excusable; that the person giving them also occasionally did so, was not.

During one stroll round the gardens, I noticed clouds of smoke coming from behind the hedges near the chapel. My hope that it was parishioners experimenting with incense to be used in church on our return was soon crushed when I found it was a group of hardened parishioners topping up their nicotine levels. Seeing them nervously huddled in the shrubbery made one think of schools and bike sheds. I now find it difficult not to picture them all in short trousers and wearing caps.

And so we return, knowing that we have done our bit once again for the spiritual vigour of the parish and also knowing that three days of vegetarian cooking will mean a long queue at the village butchers tomorrow morning.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Henry is making a real effort for Lent –  
he's giving up the remote control and  
walking to the TV

## GOD AND THE ARTS

By the Rev Michael Burgess

### **‘He gave us eyes to see them’: William Blake’s engravings of Job**

The canticle we call the Benedicite began its life as the *Song of the Three Holy Children*. In the midst of their terrifying ordeal in the burning fiery furnace, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego praise God. They call on the sky above, the seasons, and all that grows and moves



on the earth to join them. Their song invites the whales in the sea, the birds of the air and all creatures to echo their praise. Finally, they ask all people who are holy and humble in heart to bless God the creator of all that is.

Plate 13: Then the Lord answered Job  
out of the Whirlwind

During this year we are exploring the glory and wonder of creation, especially animals and birds. The song of the Benedicite praising that creation is born of pain and testing. That ordeal is the theme of another book in the Old Testament - Job. We are told that he was an upright, blameless man, but he suffered. That pain tested his faith and he demanded an explanation from God.

The book of Job inspired the visionary work of the poet and painter, William Blake. In 1823 he began creating a series of 22 engravings illustrating Job which were based on earlier water-colours. Plate 13 depicts God answering Job out of the whirlwind. We can read of this in chapters 39-41. God asks Job if he was present at creation. Indeed, can he even begin to understand the marvels of this world - the

mountain goat giving birth, a horse running through a meadow, or the eagle soaring in the sky. They praise God like the creatures in the Benedicite by their very being. And finally, God points to Behemoth and Leviathan - the hippopotamus and the crocodile - who are symbols of power and brute strength. They are shown in Plate 15 and fill the orb of the world, just as they dominate creation.

God answers Job with this catalogue of wonders to assure him that He is the Creator, but He does respond to the cry of humanity. Job may not understand the stars above nor the earth beneath his feet, but through meeting God, his life has gained meaning and value. His fortunes are restored, and he ends his days as one of the holy and humble of heart who praise God in the Benedicite. The Three Children of the fiery furnace and Job - they assure us that this world is full of wonders and glory that show the handiwork of God. When we realise that, we will join them in singing hymns of praise and thanksgiving.

**SOLUTIONS TO WORDSEARCH**

O	I	D	O	E	R	B	I	C	I	R	P			
T	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	O	S	H	U	R	D
L	H	E	I	T	C	I	L	B	U	P	A	A	R	B
I	L	G	F	N	A	Y	Y	I	S	Y	S	R	E	
R	N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	L	H
L	M	F	R	L	R	W	F	D	R	B	A	P	I	N
Y	E	F	U	D	A	M	E	F	L	R	M	S	O	G
D	N	I	P	E	E	V	O	S	E	E	D	E	N	S
N	J	C	S	F	P	S	I	T	T	I	M	I	D	R
W	Y	E	R	S	P	T	L	T	H	I	N	A	F	O
O	E	U	S	F	A	C	E	I	S	E	P	O	S	T
R	G	Y	N	U	N	C	N	I	V	E	R	V	P	Y
L	A	O	S	H	S	I	W	E	J	T	F	S	D	A
D	N	B	V	Y	H	P	J	D	Y	U	S	O	U	E
D	T	I	B	A	T	W	N	D	M	I	R	S	P	E

11<sup>th</sup>

## Caedmon: the poetic shepherd

Caedmon (d 680) should be the patron saint of all farmers who enjoy humming to themselves as they do the lambing this Spring. For Caedmon of Whitby was a bit like David in the Bible – he grew up as a simple herdsman out on the hills who enjoyed composing songs and poetry for himself while watching his flocks.



Like David, Caedmon also had a keen awareness of God, and used his creative gift to express his devotion and love for his Creator. When his poems and songs became known to others, they liked them so much that soon Caedmon left his sheep in order to become a monk. This gave him time to compose many poems based on the stories in the Bible: from Creation and Genesis, to the Exodus

and entry of the Jews into the promised land, to the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ, and finally to the future Last Judgement, Heaven, and Hell.

Then one day Caedmon suddenly announced that he knew he was going to die soon. And so he did, in a state of charity and peace with everyone. There was great mourning.

Sadly, only nine lines of his poetry have survived, and we have the great historian, Bede, to thank for even that much. But in his time, Caedmon's gift of telling Christian stories in the vernacular must have been of great value in evangelising the common folk.

### SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

#### ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

#### DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

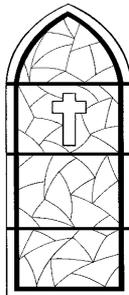


### LENT

Lent, before Easter, is like Advent before Christmas, a time of preparation. Lent is when we remember that Jesus prepared himself for starting his ministry by going away by himself for 40 days of fasting and prayer. You can read about it in your Bible: Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1-11; Mark, chapter 1, verses 12-13 and Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

Jesus went into the wilderness, a quiet lonely place away from people where he could think things out. He knew that his work would be hard, that many people would not listen to him, or if they listened, they would not believe him. During these 40 days Jesus made his choice: to work in God's way however hard that might be.

This year Lent starts on 26<sup>th</sup> February and ends on Holy Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April: have you thought about how YOU are going to prepare yourself to follow Jesus this Lent?



### SPRING COLOURS

The missing words in this puzzle are all colours which are mentioned with these things in the Bible.

1. Pastures, herbs and olives are all \_ \_ \_
2. A sea, tents and wine are \_ \_ \_
3. Hangings in the Temple, pomegranates and doors of tents were all \_ \_ \_
4. A horse, robes and teeth were all \_ \_ \_
5. Kings' raiment (clothing), Jesus' robe and the dye that Lydia sold were all \_ \_ \_
6. One of the gifts to the baby Jesus, candlesticks and spoons were \_ \_ \_
7. A raven, clouds and chariot horses were \_ \_ \_
8. Lips, a thread tied to a window and robes are \_ \_ \_

Answers at the bottom of this page.

What do you do with a green monster?

Wait till he's ripe.



Answers: 1.green 2.red 3.blue 4.white 5.purple 6.gold 7.black 8.scarlet

FROM THE REGISTERS

*Baptisms*

-

*Weddings*

-

*Burials*

-

*Memorial Service*

*11th January Pauline Wykes*

*Year's mind for February 2019*

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**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**

**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

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CONTACT the Team Rector

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Advertisers and readers should be aware that an advertisement in this magazine does not imply the Church recommends or endorses the services being advertised.

***Articles for publication to be submitted by 2nd Sunday of each month. Please note that for reasons of copyright, poems and articles obtained from the Internet or published sources cannot be printed in the magazine.***

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**Louise Hyde 07703 191325**

**Email: [hydehelp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hydehelp@hotmail.co.uk)**

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