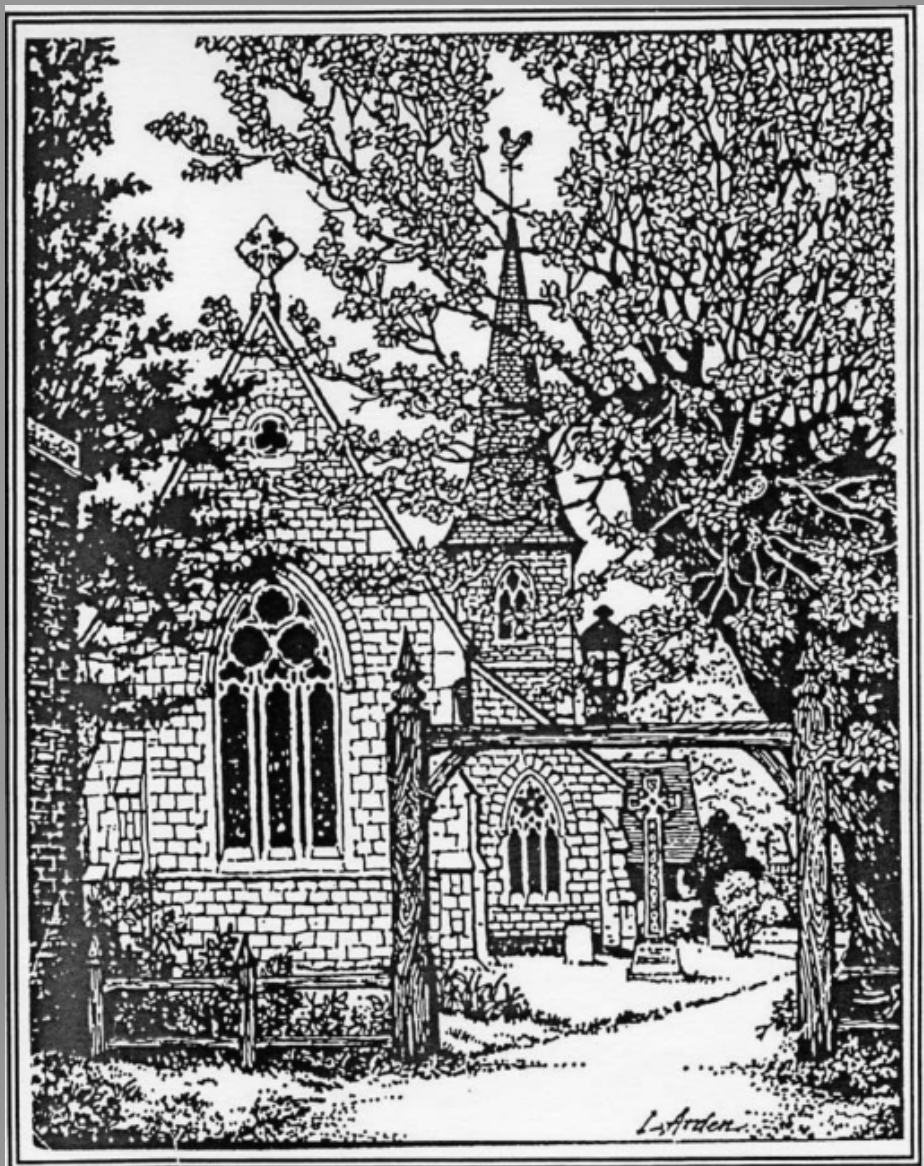


**The Parish Church of
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p
*October, 2020***

(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)



St JAMES, NORTH CRAY PARISH STAFF

Team Vicar: Reverend Ren Harding 01322 528923
The Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane,
Joydens Wood, DA5 2BB
renharding@hotmail.co.uk

Lay Reader: David Stevens 020 8300 0867

Church Wardens: Suzy Higgs 020 8302 5719
suzyjhiggs@gmail.com
Maxine Heath 020 8468 7895
maxinejheath@gmail.com

Treasurer: Position vacant

PCC Secretary: Rhonda Collins 020 8300 3797

Sacristan: Stephen Hills 020 8302 7236

Bothy Bookings: Lynne Meads 07966 315518

Parish Safeguarding: Rhonda Collins 020 8300 3797

Magazine Editor: Steve Blake
sblakestjames@virginmedia.com

St James Sunday Service

9.30am

Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER OCTOBER 2020



We have a new curate in the Bexley Team Ministry, ordained as a Deacon in the Church of England at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 26 September.

Reverend Matt Hodder will be working across the four churches in the team, including St James North Cray, of course.

So what exactly IS a Deacon?

A Deacon has a distinctive role in the Church of England, and theirs is part of what is called the Three-fold Ministry of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. It is intended that Rev Matt will be 'priested' next summer, but he will continue to hold that same identity as a deacon throughout his life. All Priests are also Deacons, all Bishops are also Priests and Deacons.

The distinctive role of the Deacon in the community is set out by the Bishop during the Ordination Service.

"Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom.

They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love.

They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people.

They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world that the love of God may be made visible."

We pray for Reverend Matt as he takes on his new role.

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

Ode to Job

What mysteries this book unfurls
Of a God who works His grand design
As a curtain is drawn in the heavenly realm
And plans are unveiled for all mankind.

Who can fathom His intricate workings
And the purposes that He has planned,
Or know the moving of His ways,
How could Job ever understand?

They came from afar to offer advice
Why all of this pain and woe should descend,
They wrestled with all that had happened to Job
Alas, no comfort could they give their friend.

God speaks to Job, who then makes reply,
'These are things too wonderful to understand'
Our knowledge like Job's is only in part
The bigger picture is held in Deity's hands.

By Megan Carter

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

BEXLEY TEAM MINISTRY

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. .”

2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)

PRACTICAL ADVICE

Wash hands frequently with soap & water or alcohol-based hand rub. It has been suggested that instead of singing Happy Birthday to ensure we wash our hands for long enough - that we say the Lord's Prayer!

Avoid touching eyes, nose & mouth as this can transfer the virus.

Stay informed (but not obsessively so!) on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your own healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer. National & local authorities have the most up to date information for your area.

A CALL TO PRAYER

Wherever you are, and whatever your personal circumstances, we invite you to pause at midday each day, to join with your brothers and sisters across the Bexley Team Ministry to pray for our churches, our community, our nation and the world. We pray the prayer that unites all Christians, the Lord's Prayer. This is the Traditional version:-

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory; for ever and ever. Amen.”

You may wish to use this prayer written by Malcolm Duncan of Spring Harvest: -

“May you be given the gift of simple faith. When the world around you is full of uncertainty, may God remind you that you are not alone and you do not need to be dominated by fear. May you find peace amidst chaos from God's promises. Hold onto the God who holds you.”

Pray for those infected or in quarantine

Loving Jesus may they feel your power of healing through the care of medical staff. Take away fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Pray for those at high risk

Dear Lord, we lift to you the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty.

Adapted from prayers of World Vision

<https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/prayer>

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

The following are resources which you may like to use as aids to your own personal prayer and worship. As the weeks progress we will make additions to the list via a weekly newsheet, and will endeavour to make these prayer resources available in paper form in the coming days.

If you have access to the internet this is a good site to visit.
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Radio 4

Prayer for the Day @ 5.43 am – if this is too early for you it can be found at a time to suit you online at bbc.co.uk

Daily Service Monday to Friday @ 9.45 am – on Longwave and DAB

Sunday worship @ 8.10am

Lent Talks Wednesday @ 8.45pm

Radio 3

Choral Evensong Wednesdays at 3.30pm or Sundays at 3pm

Radio 2

Pause for thought at 5.45 am and 9.20 am

Television

Songs of Praise BBC1 Sunday at 1.15pm

Church of England. churchofengland.org

Live Lent Daily Reflections via internet, app or print. Daily Prayer via internet, app or print

The Bishop of Rochester has recorded a podcast, offering a theological reflection on the current situation. He explores where can we find refuge and comfort and how as Christians we can support others. Listen to it here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-727736776/bishop-james-a-reflection-during-the-coronavirus>

There is an 'Alexa' smart speaker app to be used with a smart speaker
Offers Prayer for the Day,
Enables you to ask the Church of England for Prayers
Enables you to ask questions of the Church of England

Other online resources which may be of interest:
corrymeela.org has under its media tab some interesting and a wide range of short programmes based on biblical texts.

Northumbriacommunity.org has morning, midday and evening prayer for each day of the week.

24-7prayer.com lots of ideas on ways to help you pray and some interesting articles based on journeys of faith

Hillsong Worship - for those who enjoy modern worship there are plenty of YouTube videos

Live streaming services - users can watch live streams of services from a range of churches

[All Hallows by the Tower](#)

[Buckingham Parish Church](#)

[St Nicholas Church, Canvey Island](#)

[St James' Church, Clitheroe](#)

[St Mary's Kenton](#)

Canterbury Cathedral YouTube channel will stream The Daily Eucharist and Evening Prayer each day

Ren, is available to talk to anyone who is feeling the need of a church minister at this time, to talk over a difficult circumstance or to ask for prayer. We also have a resource that can be used at home if you are unable to attend a funeral because of the current restrictions, and a weekly newsletter that is going out on email, with news, reflections and prayers. All you need to do is ring, or email me (see inside cover) and I will do what I can to help, and I can also put you on the circulation list so you receive weekly information. Your email will not be given to anyone else.

Suzy Higgs, Churchwarden

BEXLEY TEAM MINISTRY
“EXPLORING CONFIRMATION” 2020



This series of informal sessions is designed to help you discover more about the Christian faith and to explore it in greater depth.

It is also designed to help you to decide whether it might be right for you to take the step of being ‘confirmed’ as a member of the Anglican Church.

**THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE ON 3 MAY HAS BEEN
POSTPONED - TBA**

The preparation sessions will take place at
The Joydens Wood Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane
Joydens Wood, DA5 2BB

PLEASE NOTE... Coming to the sessions does NOT commit you to being confirmed. That is your decision nearer the time.

Each of the three sessions will help you to look at some aspects of the Christian faith, and give you plenty of opportunity to bring and share your own questions, doubts, hopes and uncertainties.

Believing	Who is Jesus? The Bible
Belonging	The Eucharist Christian Symbols
Behaving	Prayer and the wider church
	Preparing for the Service

There will be a Rehearsal at St Francis, Petts Wood nearer the time

Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)
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News and Issues



The toll of lockdown on low-income families

Coronavirus has left low-income families struggling with a significant deterioration in living standards and high stress levels. So warns a new report from Child Poverty Action Group and the Church of England.

The report, *Poverty in the pandemic: The impact of coronavirus on low-income families and children*, is based on a survey of families with children who are eligible for free school meals.

It found around eight in 10 respondents reported being in a worse financial position than before the pandemic, and half were much worse off because their income had fallen while costs have risen. Nearly nine in 10 respondents reported spending substantially more than before on food, electricity, and other essentials – usually because they have been at home much more. Many families also said that the cost of food had gone up significantly during the early part of lockdown.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on matters relating to children and families, said: "In these unprecedented times, we all need to ask ourselves urgently how we can help our neighbour. It is also imperative that the Government does all that it can to protect families and children."

Alison Garnham, Chief Executive of Child Poverty Action Group, said: "Low-income parents have been living under a cloud of anxiety in lockdown - trying to find money for family basics as their costs have been rising. That's taken a very heavy toll."

Church of England and RSCM await next steps following study into singing safety

The Church of England and Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) have been awaiting updated guidance on singing in places of worship after findings of a Government-backed study were published. The research project, known as 'PERFORM', recently published its findings on measuring aerosol production from humans. It measured singing, speaking and breathing in a zero-background environment.

Researchers reported a steep rise in aerosol mass with increase in the loudness of the singing and speaking, rising by as much as a factor of 20-30. However, it was also found that singing does not produce substantially more aerosol than speaking at a similar volume.

The RSCM's Director, Hugh Morris said: "We welcome this news. Singing is of such importance in worship, and this is a really encouraging step towards its safe resumption.

"It is of course vital that all choirs and singing groups follow the relevant government advice, and so we look forward to receiving the latest guidance in this important area."

Churches enjoy Zooming

Most churches who used digital channels during lockdown, in order to keep in touch with their congregations, found that their favourite platform was Zoom. A recent survey by Ecclesiastical found that Zoom was used by 78 per cent; Skype by 12 per cent, and other platforms, including WhatsApp, by eight per cent. Nearly one third of churches who used digital channels have also reported an increased attendance at their virtual services. That has led to some 38 per cent of churches saying that they would continue to use digital channels, even now that churches are physically open again.

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2020

These times and dates may be changed in line with government guidance. Social Distancing and Hand Hygiene will be observed throughout the church buildings. Face masks MUST be worn.

SUNDAY 4 October

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

Wednesday 7 October

10.00am Bexley Team Midweek Communion
(to be confirmed) at St John's Bexley.
ALL WELCOME

SUNDAY 11 October

9.30am Harvest Service for all Ages

Wednesday 14 October

10.00am Bexley Team Midweek Communion
(to be confirmed) at St Mary's Bexley.
ALL WELCOME

SUNDAY 18 October

9.30am A Simple Communion Service

Wednesday 21 October

10.00am Bexley Team Midweek Communion
(to be confirmed) at St John's Bexley.
ALL WELCOME

SUNDAY 25 October

9.30am Service of the Word
4pm Sunday @ 4 family service at St Barnabas

Wednesday 28 October

10.00am Bexley Team Midweek Communion
(to be confirmed) at St Mary's Bexley.
ALL WELCOME

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MEETINGS and Events 2020

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



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Ivy – never underestimate its goodness!

By Kirsty Steele, a retired teacher and active church organist

Autumn is in full swing but there is at least one plant that is in full bloom. Not spectacular to look at, yet ivy is an important source of nectar for bees, moths, flies and wasps, and while they are not most people's favourite insects, they all play a vital part in Nature's jigsaw.



Ivy produces flowers from September to November. Spherical clusters of greenish-yellow blobs, which on closer inspection have endearing little horns. The resulting fruits are dark berries with ridged sections, resembling tiny black footballs each containing five seeds. Poisonous for us, but birds love them.

Ivy is one of the few native climbing plants that can reach a substantial size. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a parasite. Its stems have lots of fibrous, adhesive-covered, roots which cling to buildings, brickwork, trees, telegraph poles, in fact just about anything to help it gain some height. However, when it comes to nourishment, that comes via the roots in the ground. [There's not much nutritional value in a brick.] Although ivy does not normally damage sound buildings or walls, and is rarely a threat to healthy trees, its weight can cause problems.

What a useful plant it can be! Providing shelter, hibernation and nesting sites for birds and insects, its glossy green leaves are happily munched by sheep, goats and deer. These leaves, so familiar, are different shapes according to whether they are on flowering or growing branches. The flowers are surrounded by heart- or spear-shaped leaves, while the rest of the plant has the three- or five-pointed ones we all recognise.

Many legends involve ivy. But has anyone discovered why although mentioned in the first line of the carol 'The Holly and the Ivy', it is absent from the rest of the verses?

Christians in Action: Edith Cavell

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for



nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris

and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.

Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands!

Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11th October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of *Abide with Me*, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.

She told Gahan: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone."

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915.

After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

David Hemsley

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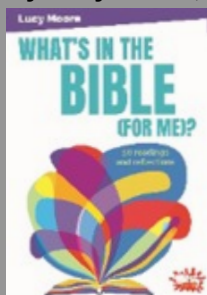




Book Mark

What's in the Bible (for me)? - 50 readings and reflections

By Lucy Moore, BRF, £4.99



Lucy Moore's pocket-sized guide to the Bible takes readers on an epic journey through 4,000 years of history. Spanning Old and New Testaments from Genesis to Revelation in 50 bite-sized readings, the founder and leader of Messy Church writes for families and individuals who are new to the Bible: its riches, puzzles and complexities.

Taking a single theme, she explores 'the big journey' of God's people in order to help the reader to better understand their own journey. She explains the different kinds of writing within the Bible and the different perspectives of the writers. It will, writes Lucy, 'fit in your bag or pocket, so it can go with you to the place where you have time to read it – on the bus or train, in the cafe or playground or on your lunch break.'

Though I run through the Valley

By Pamela Johnson, Authentic, £9.99



At a time of ethnic cleansing and military dictatorship, being a Christian in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar brought huge risks and danger. Yet despite persecution, one family chose to use the weapon of love to combat evil.

'Though I Run Through the Valley' tells the incredible story of three generations of Karen Christians living out their love for God and each other by rescuing over 1000 children who have been orphaned, abandoned or made destitute by their country's upheaval. Theirs is not a story of merely evading the enemy and surviving, but instead one of seeking out the vulnerable and teaching them how to thrive.

Daring to trust God against all the odds, this is the powerful story of one family's sacrifice over many years to protect and show the love of Christ to many lost children in Myanmar.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

500 years ago, on 21st Oct 1520 Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan's Spanish expedition to the East Indies discovered the Strait of Magellan at the southern tip of Chile.

175 years ago, on 12th Oct 1845 Elizabeth Fry, died. This prison reformer and philanthropist was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.

100 years ago, on 7th Oct 1920 Oxford University allowed women to become full members and study for full degrees for the first time, and the first 100 women were admitted.

90 years ago, on 22nd Oct 1930 the BBC Symphony Orchestra gave its first concert.

80 years ago, on 9th Oct 1940 during the Blitz, a German bomb destroyed the high altar of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Later that same month on 31st Oct, the Battle of Britain ended.

70 years ago, on 7th Oct 1950 Mother Teresa founded what would become the Missionaries of Charity, in Kolkata, India.

40 years ago, on 10th Oct 1980 Margaret Thatcher gave a memorable and defiant speech defending her policies to combat inflation and economic recession. She told the Conservative Party conference in Brighton: 'The lady's not for turning!'

30 years ago, on 8th Oct 1990 East and West Germany reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.

15 years ago, from 18th to 26th Oct Hurricane Wilma, the most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, caused massive damage worth \$29billion across the Caribbean, Central America and the eastern USA. 63 people were killed.

Signs & Symbols

By The Revd Dr Jo White

Reflected faith: Music and Singing

Many churches are holding Sunday, weekday and pastoral (Baptism, Wedding and Funeral) services again in their buildings. However, for most of us no singing is allowed; and this often means no music is being played. Whilst the churches were closed, one of the key things about worshipping together that people missed was the communal singing and the listening to the organ or other instruments.



If we look at the time taken to sing in each service (approximately a third of the whole service) and the amount musicians are usually paid, we can see the level of importance churches give to singing together. So, although we understand the science behind the ‘no singing rule’ (breath is exhaled more forcibly so reaches further) it is still very strange to be in our normal church buildings but not to be able to sing.

Singing hymns and songs helps us to learn about our faith, to pray and to express our praise – but what is it about singing *together* that lifts our hearts in our time of worship? There are plenty of said responses during most services, but they don’t have that same *lift!*

Is it the physical breathing aspects, the sounds we aim to make, or indeed the way our voices join and blend together? All through the Bible there are passages telling of times of singing: of musicians leading processions towards a place or time of worship. There are many exhortations in the Psalms to the people to come together, ‘singing with joy and thanksgiving’.

The Bible also talks about a time to put down our instruments and refrain from singing. Let’s hope and pray that our time for restraint will pass quickly and we will soon rejoice together with thanksgiving, joyful and loud singing!

This month: How can you best sing to the Lord? It is usually easier to sing along with a video of people singing than to a recording alone.

Have a look for suitable videos to join in with their singing, a recording if that's not possible, or even a hymn book. Perhaps video call a church friend and sing the first verse of a couple of your popular songs and hymns together.

WORDSEARCH



All	Festival	Supernatural	Charms	Christ
Hallows	Samhain	Powers	Deeper	Thanks
Halloween	Bonfires	Winter	True	Loved
Druid	Magic	Christians	Eve	Death
Priests	Dark	Prayer	Closer	Gone

Solutions on page 27

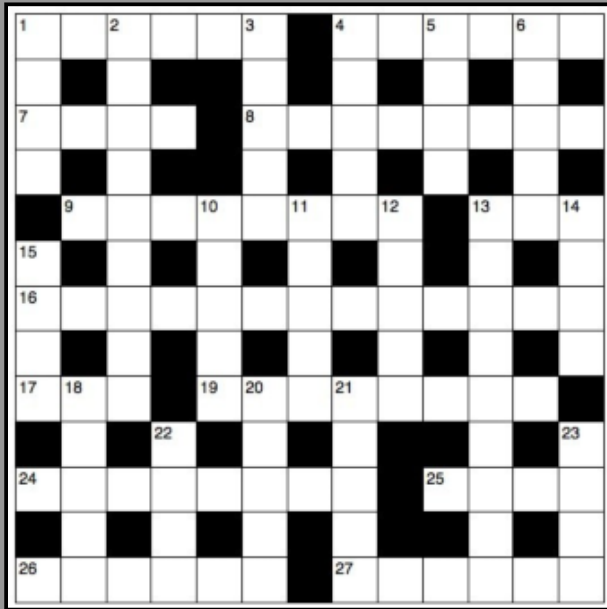
OCTOBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)



- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)

(Solutions on page 28)

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



On what to do when some of the PCC ‘goes green’

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Our Lord said that we will always have some poor with us; were he to have been speaking to the clergy that day, I suspect he may well have said that we will always have some awkward parishioners with us.

My cross at present is Mr & Mrs Wartleby, our resident ‘greens’, who have adopted ecological attitudes with evangelical fervour. They do not possess a car and travel everywhere on bicycles, have installed a wind turbine, knit their own muesli and I suspect use the village stream for washing. I can picture Mrs W bashing her husband’s shirts on stones on the riverbank while singing a native African folk-song. Everything they wear is home-made; one has a beard and smokes a pipe – possibly Mrs Wartleby.

Their helpful suggestions for church life have been legion: the organ uses electricity unnecessarily and should be replaced by a piano; the Rectory should be sold and the money given away while I board with parishioners on monthly rotation; we should only use home-brewed alcoholic drinks at social functions – clearly they have yet to sample Colonel Tewksbury’s elderberry wine, which our ladies have discovered is ideal for cleaning the brass in church.

Unfortunately I made a deeply regrettable mistake last month in not cancelling our church council meeting when I was away at my annual college re-union. In my absence the Wartleby’s seized the opportunity. The parish of St. James the Least is now a deep green, ecologically committed, nuclear-free zone and I am to report back to the next meeting about what steps we will take to save the planet.

I may have made one error of judgement, but will not make another.

My list of suggestions is now complete:

1. To save paper, no minutes of meetings will be printed; I will simply tell people at the subsequent meeting what was decided at the previous one.
2. To save electricity, no lights will be used at Evensong (the Wartlebys attend Evensong), although parishioners may bring their own candles – which must first be checked by our health and safety committee (two can play at their game).
3. To economise on fuel, the church heating will only be turned on when the temperature reaches minus five degrees.
4. To reduce the use of unnecessary electronic equipment, the Rectory telephone will be disconnected.
5. A monthly relocation of the Rector will be too disruptive, so I will stay at each house for one year at a time; my first place of residence will be with the Wartlebys.

I anticipate that the original resolution will be overturned at the next council meeting – most probably by the Wartlebys.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



GOD AND THE ARTS

By The Rev Michael Burgess

He gave us eyes to see them: 'St Francis of Assisi preaching to the fish'

On 4th October we give thanks for one of the most loved saints in the church - Francis of Assisi. He died in 1226, but his example and witness have lived on to inspire Christians through the centuries.



His was a life focused on the crib and the cross, Lady Poverty and the stigmata, suffering and transfiguration.

But also, it was a life marked by a deep love of creation: St Francis had a special nearness to all creatures great and small. As we read the stories of Thomas of Celano, we learn how he tamed a wolf in Gubbio, how swallows would chirp and fly around his head, how lambs would come close and gaze with delight, how his faithful donkey wept as the saint approached death, and in this month's painting, how fish would come to the shore to hear him preach.

Thomas relates how Francis returned some fish that had been caught to the water, telling them not to be caught again. They lingered near the boat, listening to the saint until he gave them permission to leave.

The sermon to the fish is portrayed in this work by Luc-Olivier Merson, a French artist who lived from 1846 to 1920. He is better known for his work with designs for banknotes, postage stamps, and the basilica of Sacré - Coeur in Montmartre. Here in this canvas, we see St Francis with followers young and old, a faithful dog and the fish at the water's edge.

What was the saint telling them? I think that they were loved and valued as part of the rich tapestry of God's creation, and they must

return that love. It is the mood of the Benedicite where all things that move in the earth, the skies and the seas are exhorted to praise the Lord and magnify him forever. St Francis captures that mood in his own Canticle of the Sun.

In the weeks and months of lockdown many of us have had the time to look afresh at our relationship with the world of nature as we have journeyed through the seasons of spring and summer. We have learnt to wonder at the richness and variety of creation. We need to take that lesson into the 'new normal' as restrictions are gradually relaxed. The clock and the complexity of life may easily take over again, but St Francis is inviting us to journey with him in simplicity and joy as we praise God with all His creatures:

*'Let all things their Creator bless
and worship Him in humbleness.'*

SOLUTIONS TO WORDSEARCH



10th

Thomas Traherne - lover of nature

Thomas Traherne (1636 - 1674) poet and clergyman wrote extensively about his love for nature, seeing in it a reflection of the glory of God. He was not of a literary family, for his father was either a shoemaker or innkeeper in Hereford. But Traherne did well at the Hereford Cathedral School and went on to Brasenose College Oxford. From



there he became rector of Credenhill near Hereford in 1657, and ten years later was appointed to be the private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II, who lived at Teddington.

Throughout his years at Credenhill and then Teddington, Traherne led a simple and devout life, and his friendliness

drew people to him. He was described as “one of the most pious ingenious men that ever I was acquainted with”, and being of “cheerful and sprightly Temper”, ready to do “all good Offices to his Friends, and Charitable to the Poor almost beyond his ability”. Aside from his beloved books, he seems to have possessed very little.

He is best known for his *Centuries of Meditations*, which has been described as “one of the finest prose-poems in our language.” Lost for many years, and then finally first published in 1908, it was a favourite of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Christian humanist Dorothy Sayers, and the writer C.S. Lewis, among others. C.S. Lewis considered *Centuries of Meditations* “almost the most beautiful book in English.”

Traherne died in 1674, and is buried in St Mary’s Teddington, under the church’s reading desk. Today he is counted as one of the leading 17th-century devotional poets.

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.



AMAZING GRACE

John Newton wasn't the usual type of person you'd think would be a priest. He was the captain of a ship, but it wasn't a nice kind of ship – it was one that carried slaves from Africa to the West Indies. At that time, some people made a lot of money trading in other peoples' misery.

John Newton was aged 25 and in a bad storm at sea when he suddenly realised that he was doing something that was very wrong. He knew that God was calling him to service as a minister and went to see a bishop. When the bishop found out what John did for a living he told him to go away – but only because he thought Captain Newton was a fool to give up such well paid employment to join the church!

In 1794, John Newton was ordained and he spent the last 15 years of his life writing a hymnbook. We still sing his hymns today and nearly everyone knows his 'Amazing Grace'.



SHIPS & BOATS

All the answers to these questions are to do with boats and ships. Answers below.

1. This famous liner sank in 1912 and there have been several films made about it.
2. Noah built this boat to hold lots of animals.
3. Nelson died on board this ship at the Battle of Trafalgar.
4. Which person in the Bible was shipwrecked on the island of Malta while on his way to Rome?
5. This mystery ship was found abandoned with food left on the plates and no one knows why.
6. Which brothers were called by Jesus to leave their boats and fishing nets and follow him?
7. What ships did Christopher Columbus use on his voyage to America?



What did they call prehistoric ship disasters?

Tyrannosaurus wrecks.



Answers: 1. The Titanic 2. The Ark
3. The Victory 4. St Paul 5. The Mary
(or Marie) Celeste 6. Andrew & Simon
Peter 7. Nina, Pinta & the Santa Maria.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Weddings

-

Burials

-

Year's mind for October 2019

5th

Frank Stevens

17th

Nick Carter

Rachael Farmer

Mobile Hairdresser

Shampoo and Set, Blow Dry, Cuts

Colours, Foils and perms

Tele: 020 8309 0656; Mobile: 07961069743

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: Reverend Ren Harding

renharding@hotmail.co.uk 01322 528923 07836644782

Associate Priest: Revd Sue Twynam

susantwynam@btconnect.com 01322 559501 07952 468127

Team Vicar: Reverend Clive Wood

revclivewood@gmail.com 01322 270942 07982 392809

Team Vicar: Reverend Edward Barlow

fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com 01322 521786

Team Curate: Matt Hodder

matthodder10@gmail.com 07889 873125

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

For enquiries concerning St John the Evangelist, Bexley

website www.stjohnsbexley.org

CONTACT the Team Vicar: Reverend Edward Barlow

fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com 01322 521786

For enquiries concerning St Mary the Virgin, Bexley

website www.stmarysbexley.co.uk

CONTACT the Team Vicar: Reverend Clive Wood

revclivewood@gmail.com 07982 392809

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