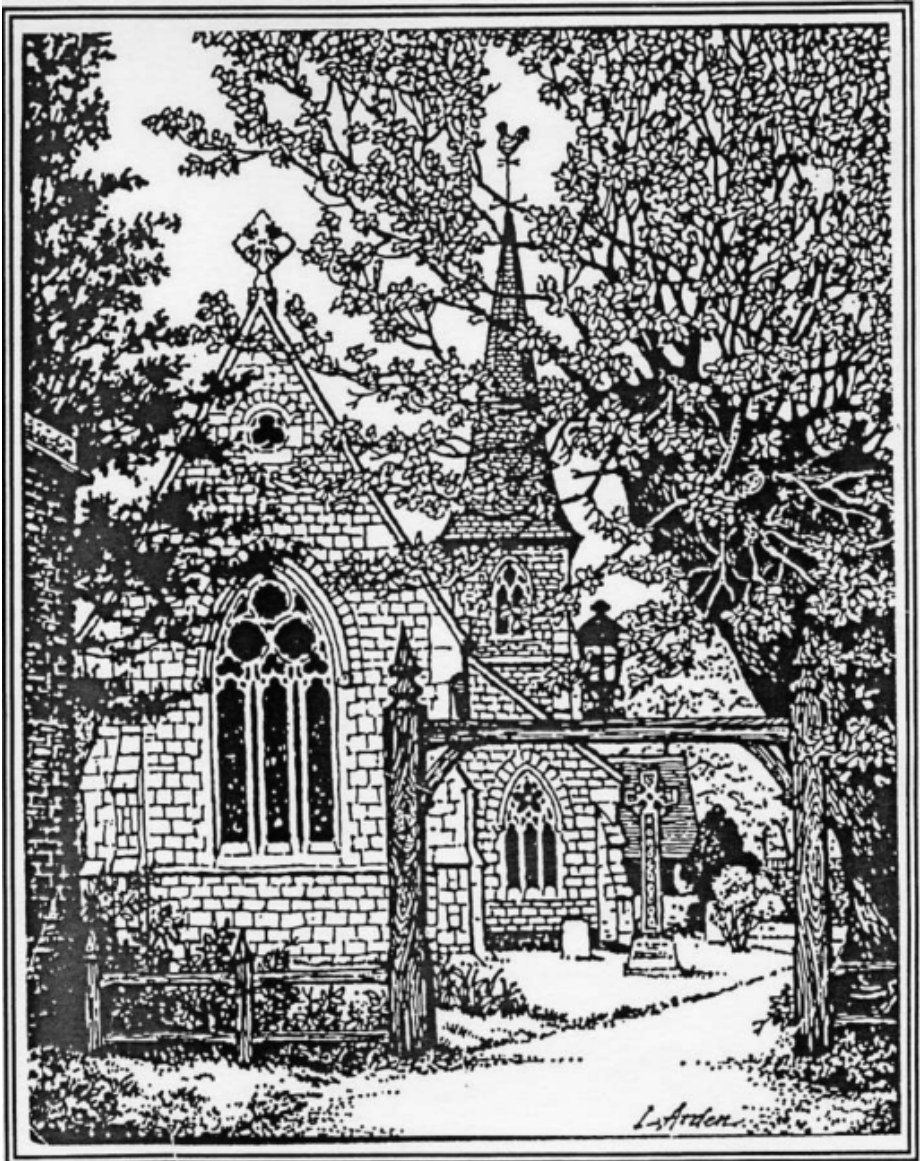


**The Parish Church of** **50p**  
***St. James, North Cray*** ***November, 2020***

*(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 NOVEMBER 2020



As we come to the closing months of this strangest of years, there is an especial poignancy to our 'Season of Remembering' as we come together for the annual Memorial Service and for the Remembrance Sunday Service.

As every year, names will be read out at both these services. At the Memorial Service it will be the names are of those who have recently died within the parish of North Cray and from the St James' church community. At the Remembrance Service, the names are those of the parish who have lost their lives in War.

Each of the names represents a different individual. A person who has been born, who has developed knowledge and gifts, with hopes and aspirations, loves and fears, joys and griefs. For each of these, their dying was also an individual moment, some in fear, trauma and violence, some in peace with those they had loved in life, and some with the presence of a health care professional who with quiet courage had determined that they would not be left alone in their final moments. Christians believe that every person, every individual is created and loved by the God who made all things. And so, at the end of life, that unique and individual life is held within the eternal and fathomless love of God.

Whoever it is that you remember in this season, may you find God's blessing within your remembering.

Do please feel free to ring me if you want to share your thoughts at this difficult time. I will be praying for you.

**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)

## SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 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 1 November**

9.30am

### **ALL SAINTS DAY**

Memorial Service with  
Communion



### **Wednesday 4 November**

10.00am

Bexley Team Midweek Communion at  
St John's Bexley.

### **SUNDAY 8 November**

9.30am

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Remembrance Sunday  
Service followed by Act of  
Remembrance at the War  
Memorial, prior to Two  
Minutes Silence at 11am



### **Wednesday 11 November**

10.00am

Bexley Team Midweek Communion at  
St Mary's Bexley.

### **SUNDAY 15 November**

9.30am

Baptism Service with Communion

### **Wednesday 18 November**

10.00am

Bexley Team Midweek Communion at  
St John's Bexley.

### **SUNDAY 22 November**

9.30am

4pm

### **FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**

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

### **Wednesday 25 November**

10.00am

Bexley Team Midweek Communion at  
St Mary's Bexley followed by a  
Team Bible Study for Advent

### **SUNDAY 29 November**

9.30am

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Baptism Service

## 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](http://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](http://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.

<b>Believing</b>	Who is Jesus? The Bible
<b>Belonging</b>	The Eucharist Christian Symbols
<b>Behaving</b>	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)  
01322 528923  
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## Green grow'th the Holly

by Kirsty Steele, a retired teacher and active church organist

A music manuscript from about 1515 and attributed to King Henry VIII has the words:

*Green grow'th the holly,  
So doth the ivy,  
Though winter blasts ne'er so high  
Green grow'th the holly.*



The next three verses take us through spring, summer and autumn, so this is clearly not a Christmas carol, unlike the familiar 'The Holly and the Ivy'. What may not be known is that holly and ivy are two of the very few native evergreen trees, and in past times must have been especially popular in providing greenery during winter months.

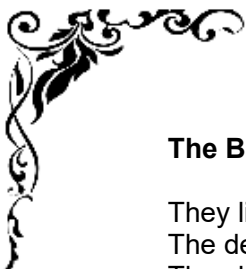
With its shiny spiky dark green leaves, holly is surely one of the most easily recognised trees in this country. Though often bushlike, holly can grow up to ten metres high with a straight trunk and pyramid shape. It is *dioecious*, meaning each tree is either male or female, explaining possibly why the one in your garden never has any berries!

Nowadays we associate holly with Christmas wreaths and garlands, cards and carols. Pre-Victorian times saw holly branches used as Christmas trees, with the spiky leaves representing Christ's Crown of Thorns and the red berries as drops of blood. Holly brought into the house was regarded as protection against evil spirits and as a refuge for good 'faeries' who would guard the residents of the house in return.

It is interesting to note that where no person or animal brushes by a holly, the leaves lack all spines except the one at the tip. This includes upper leaves on mature trees. A bit like people – be nice and they won't be scratchy! Back to 'Green grow'th the Holly'. The final verse ends:

*The God of life can never die,  
Hope! Saith the holly.*

How wise. Where would we be without hope?



### **The Blessed Dead**

They lie at rest, our blessed dead;  
The dews drop cool above their head,  
They knew not when fleet summer fled.

Together all, yet each alone;  
Each laid at rest beneath his own  
Smooth turf or white allotted stone.

When shall our slumber sink so deep,  
And eyes that wept and eyes that weep  
Weep not in the sufficient sleep?

God be with you, our great and small,  
Our loves, our best-beloved of all,  
Our own beyond the salt sea-wall

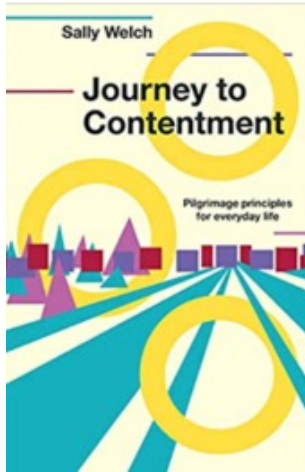


*By Christina Rossetti (1830-94)*



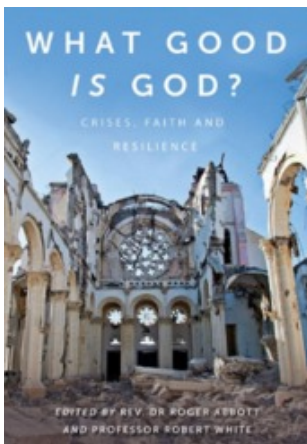
# Book Mark

**Journey to Contentment: Pilgrimage Principles for Everyday life**  
By Sally Welch, BRF, £8.99



Using the metaphor of pilgrimage, Sally Welch explores how we can understand this biblical principle and make it our own. This book is divided into sections of a journey, beginning with the preparations necessary before setting out, exploring the obstacles which might be put in our path and sharing ways in which the journey can be made easier and more productive. At the end of each reflection there is a suggestion for an activity or prayer to enable the reader to apply the learning to their own life.

**What Good is God? – Crises, faith and resilience**  
By Roger Abbott and Robert White FRS, Monarch, £9.99



The world's natural disasters are increasingly impacting upon our lives. This book explores how we might respond practically and faithfully to such tragedies.

The perspectives of survivors, responders, and academics are brought together, providing a multi-layered and compassionate examination of a difficult subject. Making sense of earthquakes, tsunamis, and pandemics, is not easy, but readers may find this book an inspiring resource for thought, prayer, and action.

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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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Phone: 07931 811620  
Email: davis54@btinternet.com





# News and Issues



## **Churches report rising food bank demand as a result of pandemic**

Nearly 100,000 households sought food aid from the Trussell Trust's network of food banks for the first time earlier this year, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Demand is surging further this autumn, as a result of the economic fallout from the virus. The research comes after food banks run or supported by Church of England churches reported rocketing demand during lockdown with some opening food banks for the first time while some opened new food banks after lockdown. Just two examples:

Hackney Church in East London was distributing parcels with enough food for 1,000 meals a week at start of lockdown. This figure rose to 8,000 and 9,000 meals a week in June, after the church opened a second food bank. It has since served 120,000 meals. In Co. Durham, the Shildon Alive food bank, founded by St John's Church, has seen demand surge by 500 percent during lockdown.

## **Call for the Government to #KeepTheLifeline**

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has joined more than 60 other anti-poverty charities to call on the Government to #KeepTheLifeline, and not lower the standard allowance of Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit by £20 a week in April 2021, to the level at which it was before lockdown. A spokesman for CAP said: "We're in this together. Our social security system will be vital to keep our society steady through the challenges ahead. This is our opportunity to choose to do the right thing: keep the lifeline and keep families afloat. "For the people we help at CAP, an extra £20 a week goes a long way. It allows them to put food on the table, top up the prepayment meter or replace school shoes that are falling apart."



Estimates are that 4.1 million people already in financial difficulty have seen a reduction in their income because of coronavirus, and that peak unemployment will hit more than 18% in areas with the highest proportion of low paid jobs.

### **Back to school: Charities create tips for teachers to help young carers**

The Children's Society and Carers Trust have been helping teachers give more support to young carers, as they came back to school this autumn. During the coronavirus crisis, many young carers have faced a particularly stressful time. 58% of young carers aged 12 to 17 reported they were caring on average for an extra ten hours a week since the start of the pandemic. Helen Leadbitter, The Children's Society lead for Young Carers, said:

"For many young carers, lockdown was a very lonely time, as school was often seen as a place for them to have a break from caring roles and seek support from teachers and friends. "It is vital teachers recognise the signs of a young carer and understand how best to support their needs."

The guidance, which has been issued to schools via the Department for Education (DFE) can also be found at

<https://youngcarersinschools.com/covid-19/>

Carers Trust and The Children's Society are available to offer support, free of charge. More info at: [www.youngcarersinschools.com](http://www.youngcarersinschools.com)

## **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**

## The destruction of Coventry

By Tim Lenton

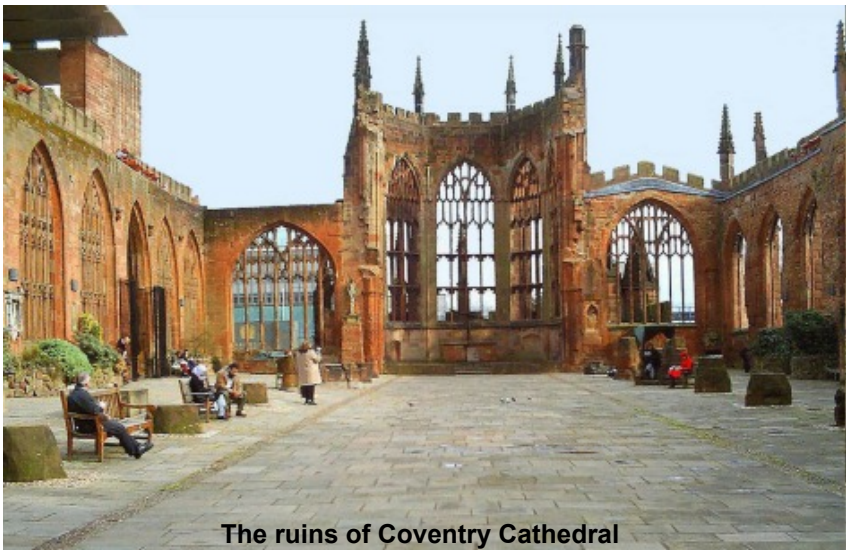
German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry – including its medieval cathedral – 80 years ago this month, on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1940.

Coventry was targeted by 'Operation Moonlight Sonata' as an industrial city, but more than 4300 homes were destroyed and about two-thirds of the city's buildings were damaged. There were many direct hits on the cathedral, and flames spread quickly. More than 550 people were killed and over 850 badly injured, with nearly 400 sustaining lesser injuries.

There would have been more casualties, but many citizens left at night to sleep in nearby towns or villages after earlier air raids. Rumours that Churchill knew of the raid in advance but declined to take precautions to prevent the Germans knowing their code had been broken were later shown to be misguided.

Joseph Goebbels later used the term *coventriert* ('coventried') to describe high levels of destruction in other towns.

The cathedral was left as a ruin, still standing today as a reminder of the bombing. A new cathedral was built close alongside in the 1950s, designed by the architect Basil Spence. The Queen laid its foundation stone in 1956. It was consecrated in 1962, and Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* was composed to mark the occasion.



The ruins of Coventry Cathedral

## **ALL IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

500 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 1520 the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan sailed into the South Pacific and named the waters the Pacific Ocean.

200 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 1820, Friedrich Engels, German socialist philosopher and social scientist who collaborated with Karl Marx to found modern communism and co-write the Communist Manifesto.

100 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1920, following World War 1, Britain and France held ceremonies to dedicate a national monument known as the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. The British monument is at Westminster Abbey in London.

80 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1940 Franklin D Roosevelt became the only US President to win a third term in office.

Also 80 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1940 German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry, including its medieval cathedral.

60 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 1960 John F Kennedy was elected as the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the USA.

40 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 1980 Ronald Reagan was elected as the 40<sup>th</sup> President of the USA.

30 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 1990 Mary Robinson became the first female President of Ireland.

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## Signs & Symbols

By The Revd Dr Jo White

### Reflected Faith Series: Welcome to All!

As I write this, the majority of churches (in the UK) are holding services again in their church buildings or wherever they normally worship together. But things are looking somewhat different.



In my local church you need to ring a Churchwarden to book a place to come to Sunday or mid-week worship. So far, no-one's been turned down or away at the door for not booking. People are being told where to sit,

rather than choosing their favourite spot, so the two-metre gap is maintained. And, in most services, face masks are required.

*So how does all this affect our 'worship'?*

There are two key elements to gathered worship for me. My first is that the welcome is for everyone, regardless of how they look, or dress, their faith or their behaviour. Many years ago I recall being on a caravan holiday with my Primary-aged children in Scotland. There was to be a raft race and fun by the river, starting immediately after the church service, so we dressed appropriately for a messy time! I was in a fluorescent pink tee-shirt and matching striped summer trousers (they were wow at the time!) Although we had never been there before and knew no-one, you would have thought we were royalty from the way the congregation treated us. It was wonderful.

We'd come home. We were family. The Christian family. Brothers and sisters in Christ. Co-heirs with Jesus.

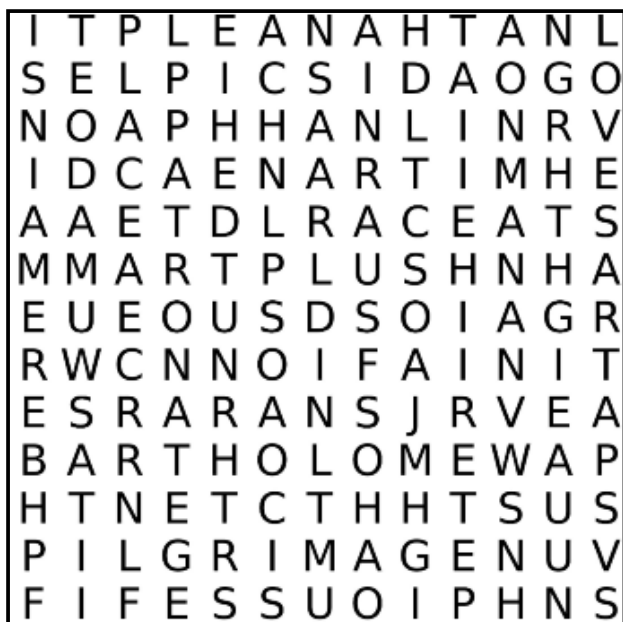
It's part of our job as Christians to be welcoming. There's no one specific person or role for this. It's down to all of us.

*This month:* Have a think about how you can express a welcome to the others in your congregation where you worship. Perhaps turn that

around and think about how you would be encouraged and welcomed. Would that work for others? I know it's a tough one if your smile is covered by a mask and you can't shake hands or hug. But what *could* you do?

Also, as you think about the essentials of gathered worship, ask yourself the question – *What else would be an essential for me?* There's no single right answer, but it's worth thinking and worth talking to others about.

### WORDSEARCH



Scotland	Peter	Patras	Fife	saint
disciples	Nathanael	Archaia	pilgrimage	love
Jesus	Bartholomew	eighth	tenth	introducing
Andrew	Messiah	remains	pious	place
honoured	Saviour	translation	patron	

(Solutions on page 27)

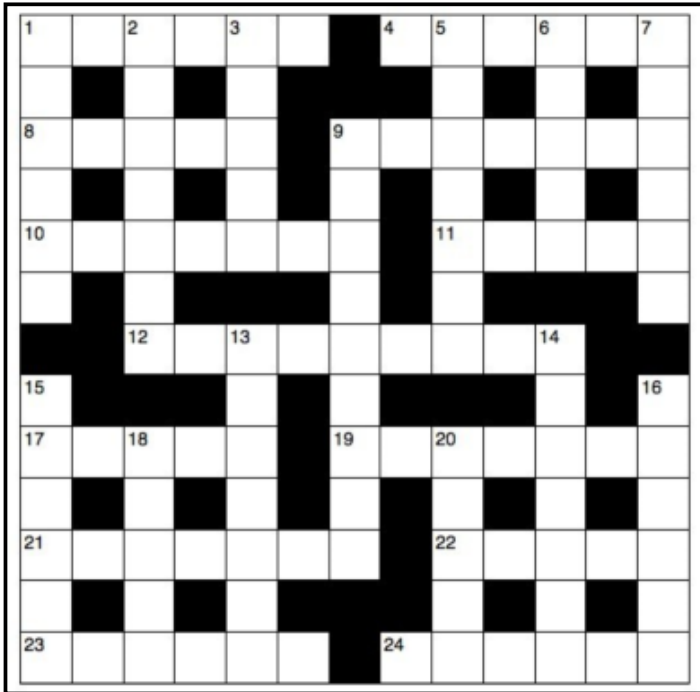
## NOVEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

### Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)



- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

(Solutions on page 28)

## ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

### On the perils of eating with members of your church

The Rectory  
St. James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

I repeated your apologies for being unable to dine with Lord and Lady Shuttlingsloe when I was there yesterday evening. I invented a parish meeting you had to attend and did not mention the real reason of your lack of a dinner suit; your customary trainers and jeans would not have been appreciated.

The evening followed the usual pattern. Being greeted by the footman made me think that your bicycle propped in the entrance hall would have looked rather forlorn, since that is where we hold our Harvest supper for 200 people. The journey from entrance to drawing room would have benefited from a rest stop half way for coffee and sandwiches to break the journey.

There were the usual guests - most of whom were merely continuing conversations they had had the previous evening at another stately, decaying pile in the county. The guests were standing, because all the chairs were occupied by the Lord's dogs, comfortably settled among the cushions, after clearly having had an enjoyable afternoon rolling in the mud. Since one aged golden retriever recognised me, having developed an over-familiarity with my own dog, he amicably let me squeeze beside him on a sofa - even if it left me for the rest of the evening looking as if I was wearing an Afghan coat.

When the meal was ready, the butler arrived with our overcoats, to wear as we moved along the corridors, away from the drawing room fire to the dining room, a cavernous room heated by a one bar electric fire placed next to our host. The house is rumoured to be haunted, but I suspect any sounds of footsteps come from guests of previous years, still wandering the corridors trying to find their way out.



The meal would have been good if eaten in the kitchen, but after another mile long trek through the house, arrived at the table stone cold - which Lord Shuttlingsloe considers perfectly acceptable, since his family have been eating in this way for the past 500 years, which is how long most of the present staff have worked there. Conversation at my end of the table was less than easy, since Lady S slept soundly throughout the meal and my companion on the other side seemed to hold me personally responsible for the Spanish Inquisition. Had I been, she would most definitely have been on my list for questioning.

As Rector, one has one's social responsibilities, but I confess, there were moments when I rather envied your own evening, with a meal on a tray in front of the television - although without the bicycle by the front door.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



"Given the state of our heating system, you'd think the vicar would be all for it!"

## GOD AND THE ARTS

*By The Rev Michael Burgess*

### **He gave us eyes to see them: Tobias, the angel and the dog, by Andrea del Verrochio**

‘He never makes it his business to inquire whether you are in the right



or the wrong, never asks whether you are rich or poor, silly or wise, sinner or saint. You are his pal. That is enough for him.’

Jerome K Jerome was writing there about the special bond between human beings and dogs who offer us those vital gifts of loyalty, companionship and help. We can think of guide dogs, sniffer dogs, and dogs serving with the forces in war torn countries. And dogs who

have a special part to play in care homes, prisons, with undergraduates taking exams, and autistic children. Dogs are a reassuring, dependable presence in so many ways.

A few years ago Dion Leonard was running an ultra-marathon across the Gobi desert. A stray dog befriended him and together they ran the course. It was an amazing adventure that eventually brought them both back to this land, and they can now be seen exercising in the streets and parks of Edinburgh.

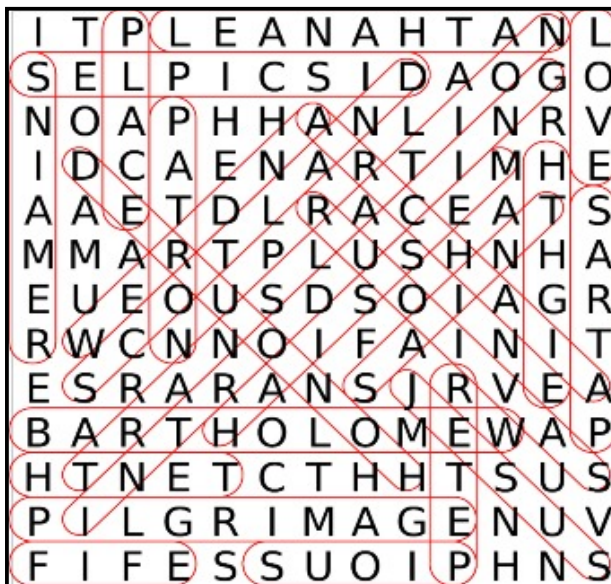
In the book of Tobit in the apocrypha, a dog accompanies his son, Tobias, on another incredible journey. Tobias leaves home with his dog to collect a debt, and Raphael, the angel of healing, is also a

companion. It is the theme of this month's painting from the workshop of Andrea del Verrochio which is now in the National Gallery. The studio flourished in the 15th century in Florence, and it is possible that Leonardo da Vinci painted the little dog.

We know that it was not an easy journey and we see the stones along the way. Tobias holds a fish from the river Tigris which will heal his father's blindness. His arm is entwined with the angel's arm, and there at their feet is the faithful dog.

While 'dog' is often a word of contempt in the Bible, here in the apocrypha we meet a dog who provides friendship and security on the journey of life. Dostoevsky wrote 'Love the animals. God has given them the rudiments of thought and untroubled joy.' We know that to be true as we think of the part dogs play in our lives, and as we rejoice in the special gifts they bring us on the journeys we make.

## SOLUTIONS TO WORDSEARCH



## 11<sup>th</sup> Martin of Tours - pioneer of western monasticism

Martin of Tours (316 – 397), a monk bishop born in Pannonia (now Hungary), became one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages.

Martin's father was a pagan officer in the Roman Army, and Martin was intended for the army as well. But from an early age Martin wanted to be a Christian, and he felt that as a Christian he could not serve the Roman Empire. Martin was imprisoned for this early 'conscientious objection', and not released until 357, when he was nearly 40.



One day Martin met a poorly-clothed beggar at Amiens. He took off his cloak, cut it in half and gave the half to the beggar. Soon after this, he had a dream in which Christ appeared to him, wearing the half of the cloak which Martin had given away.

Martin was the pioneer of western monasticism: he founded the first monastery in the whole of Gaul about 360. He was made bishop of Tours in 372 – by popular demand of both his clergy and his people. As bishop, Martin continued his simple life as a monk and evangelist. Christianity had been largely confined to the urban centres of population, but Martin went further, and took Christianity to the *pagani* (country-men). For the next 25 years this greatly loved bishop travelled his diocese by donkey and by boat, preaching the good news of Jesus Christ, and helping his people to tear down their heathen temples and sacred trees. He was sought out for his healing prayers for the sick, and also his defence of the faith from heretics.

Martin's emblem in English art is often that of a goose, whose annual migration is about this time of year. 'St Martin's Summer' in England is a spell of fine weather that sometimes occurs around 11<sup>th</sup> November.

### SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1, Thanks. 4, Banner. 8, Esher. 9, Azariah. 10, Compare.

1, Ishma. 12, Doorposts. 17, Oaths. 19, Galatia. 21, Papyrus. 22, Frail. 23, Listen. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Trench. 2, Ashamed. 3, Karma. 5, Ananias. 6, Neigh.

7, Reheat. 9, Areopagus. 13, Observe. 14, Satraps. 15, Compel.

16, Gallop. 18, Tapes. 20, Lofty.



### St MARTIN of TOURS

St Martin of Tours? Sounds like someone who drives a bus doesn't it? But Tours is a city in France and St Martin was a Roman soldier who became a bishop and died aged 88 on 11<sup>th</sup> November in the year 397.

Martin was born into a pagan family and at the age of 10 decided that he wanted to follow Jesus. When he was 15 his father insisted that he join the Roman army. One very cold night Martin was on guard duty when a freezing beggar asked him for help. All Martin had that would help was his cloak but he would get into trouble if he gave it away. So Martin cut the army cloak into 2, gave one piece to the beggar and wore the other half.

The next night Martin had a dream where he saw Jesus wrapped in half his cloak. As Jesus tells us in the Bible: as much as you have done it for the least of my brothers and sisters you have done it for me. It wasn't easy but Martin left the army and spent the rest his life serving Jesus in the person of people who were poor and ill.

### WHAT BUS?

All the answers to this quiz start with the letters BUS. So can you say what bus is...

1. A beard that grows very thickly?
2. A unit of dry measurement?
3. Someone who is very nosy?
4. Worn by a guardsman?
5. A big bird?
6. The noise of a city?
7. What they call the outback of Australia?
8. Someone who plays music in the street?
9. A small African animal that lives in trees?
10. What people do to earn a living?



**What's big and red and lies upside down in the gutter?**

A dead bus.

A policeman was driving round in his patrol car when he decided to call in and see his mother. He knocked on the door and his mother shouted 'Who is it?' And the policeman replied, 'It's me ma, me ma.'



Answers: 1.bushy 2.busher 3.busy body  
4.busby 5.bustard 6.bustle 7.bush  
8.busker 9.bush baby 10.business

FROM THE REGISTERS

*Baptisms*

-

*Weddings*

-

*Burials*

-

*Year's mind for November 2019*

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

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