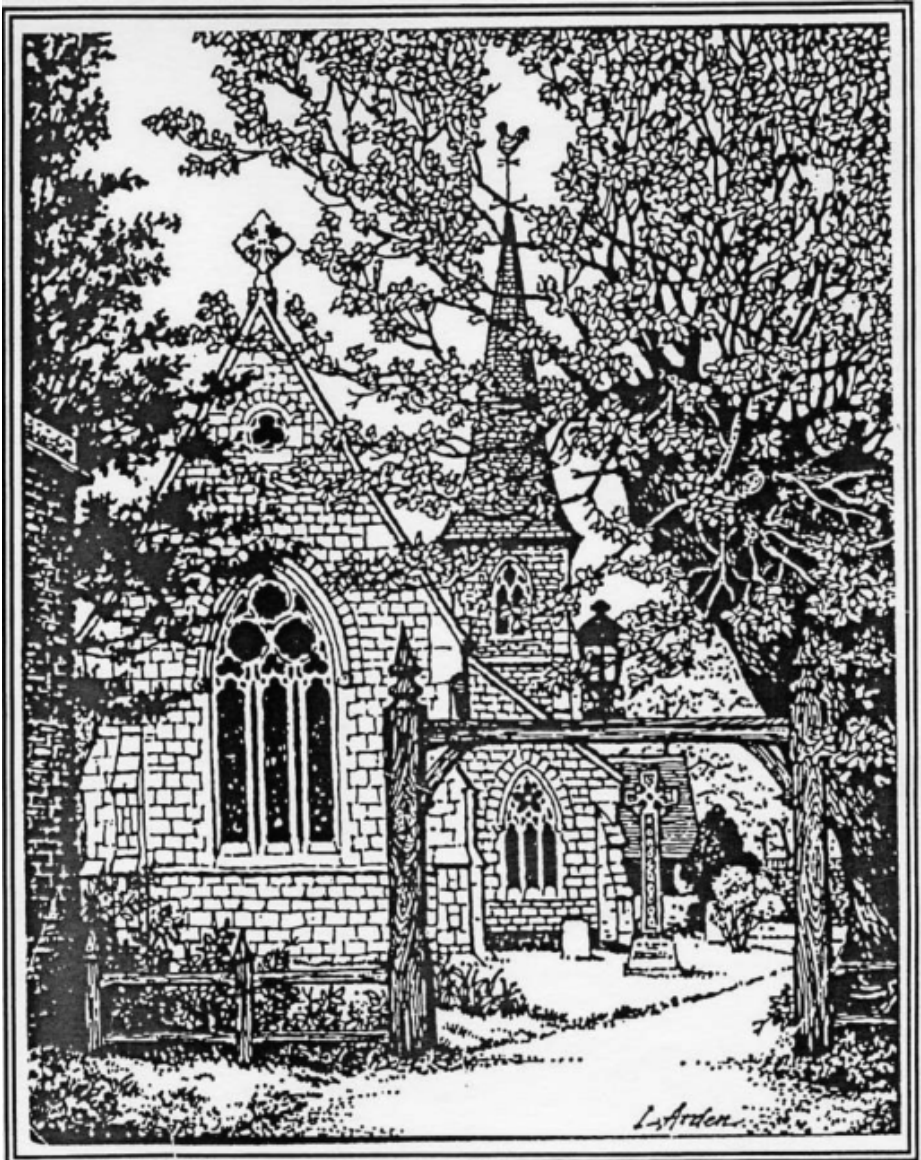


**The Parish Church of  
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p  
July, 2022**

*(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  
sblake stjames@virginmedia.com

### St James Sunday Service

9.30am Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

## TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER JULY 2022



Lots of people have said to me recently that they feel there is simply too much Bad News around.

Fears of a resurgence of Covid, the terrible bulletins from Ukraine, gun crime in the United States, political uncertainty everywhere, and the worry we all share about the cost-of living, fuel and food supplies. The list

goes on.

In the radio recently, the Reverend Sam Wells, who is the vicar of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, that lovely church in Trafalgar Square, pointed out that the reason there is so much bad news in the media, is for the simple reason that it is unusual, and that is why it is reported.

The good news, the news that is positive and encouraging, doesn't get reported so often because there is so much of it!

It's worth reflecting on this.

The old saying 'Count your blessings' has been around a long time.

But it is useful to us, because it will encourage a positive attitude, noticing that things that are good in our lives. A meal, a hot shower, a conversation with a good friend, sunshine, a flower. We lose sight of these good things too easily, but when we start to notice them, we find more and more.

This practice does not minimise tragedy, for that is still there, but it allows us to have a sense of balance, and appreciate that life is good, and a gift from God.

**Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)**

The Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane, Joydens Wood, Bexley, DA5 2BB  
01322-528923 [renharding@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:renharding@hotmail.co.uk)



## The Summer Garden

Summer comes and waves her hand,  
The garden blooms at her command,  
Plants abounding everywhere  
As fragrant perfumes fill the air.

Roses, geraniums, lilies too  
Agapanthus with globes of blue,  
Sumptuous colours in such array,  
Their beauty takes our breath away.

To sit beneath the shady trees,  
To listen to the humming bees,  
As Summer wears her rainbow dress  
We thank God for such loveliness.

*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

## ST JAMES NORTH CRAY SAVE OUR SPIRE

The ancient parish church of St James, North Cray has been there as a focal point for the community through many lifetimes. The building stands through the seasons, and the years, as a reminder of the Church's commitment to God and His love for all people, whether they attend church services or not!

We want to ensure that this precious church building remains open for many years to come. To achieve this, we now need the help of our community!

We are facing a number of significant challenges with the church building, the most pressing of these is our lovely church spire. This is covered with traditional wooden shingles, and we need to replace these urgently.



If you value your parish church, and the part it plays in your community, please do consider making a donation to this work.

Help this beautiful church...Link to our new online giving page:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/569e4fec-3e77-4d90-8a0a-94d0726a8974>

Use the QR code above.

Contact me for more information or look on our website



## SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR JULY 2022

**Friday 1st July**

7.30pm

Concert at St Barnabas "Showtime"

**SUNDAY 3rd July,**

9.30am

**Third Sunday after Trinity**

Holy Communion

**Wednesday 6th July**

8pm

Team Zoom

**Saturday 9th July**

8.30am

Men's breakfast at St Barnabas

**SUNDAY 10th July**

9.30am

**Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

Parade Service

**Monday 11th July**

7.30pm

Ladies club at St Barnabas

**Wednesday 13th July**

8pm

Team Zoom

**SUNDAY 17th July**

9.30am

**Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

Holy Communion

3pm

Forest Church

6pm

Team Farewell to Ren Service at St Mary's

**Wednesday 20th July**

8pm

Team Zoom

**Saturday 23rd July**

10am to 4pm

Foots Cray Meadows Festival

**SUNDAY 24th July**

9.30am

**Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

Patronal Holy Communion

**Wednesday 27th July**

8pm

Team Zoom

**SUNDAY 31st July**

9.30am

**Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

Holy Communion - Ren's final service at St James, followed by refreshments.

Please contact the Team Rector or a member of the clergy team to be included on the emailing list or see our website for further information.

Also, do contact any of our clergy team if you are concerned, or if you would simply like a chat, or prayer.

## **Drought in East Africa**

Extended drought is fuelling a hunger crisis in East Africa that has been called “one of the worst climate-induced emergencies in its history.” So warns the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, Martin Griffiths.

Speaking recently, he said that an estimated 7.2 million Ethiopians are already not getting enough to eat, and in Kenya half a million people are close to “catastrophic levels of hunger and malnutrition”. In South Sudan, floods and insecurity are pushing a further eight million people towards hunger and malnutrition.

Finn Church Aid, a Finnish NGO and a member of the global faith-based coalition Act Alliance, said that the crisis has been man-made. “The drought is because of climate change.”

Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine has only aggravated the crisis. Grain prices are up by 45 per cent, and 90 per cent of the region’s wheat imports come from Russia and Ukraine.

If you would like to help, visit Disasters Emergency Committee at <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/east-africa-crisis-appeal-2017> They work with Christian Aid, Concern, tearfund, CAFOD, Care, British Red Cross, and other humanitarian aid agencies.



# News and Issues



## **More clergy from UK Minority Ethnic backgrounds join House of Bishops**

Three clergy from UK Minority Ethnic/Global Majority Heritage backgrounds have recently been elected to serve on the House of Bishops. It is part of a drive towards making the leadership of the Church of England more representative.

The Revd Canon Arun Arora, co-chair of the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce, the Revd Canon Dr Chigor Chike, Chair of the Anglican Minority Ethnic Network and the Revd Shemil Mathew, Vice Dean of Emmanuel Theological College, have been elected to serve as 'participant observers' at the House of Bishops.

Their election brings the number of people from UKME/GMH backgrounds on the House of Bishops to 11, with eight bishops – one diocesan and seven suffragans - either members or participant observers.

The scheme was backed following the publication of *From Lament to Action*, the report of the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce in April last year. It called for UKME/GMH participant observers to attend the House of Bishops until such time as there are six UKME/GMH bishops able to sit as members

## **Cathedrals can 'light the way' to Net Zero**

England's ancient cathedrals could be in the 'vanguard' of technological development needed for the green revolution. In fact, cathedrals could show the way in making changes for achieving Net Zero carbon across the whole Church by 2030, with a route map due for a vote at General Synod this month (July).



So says the Church of England's lead Bishop for Environmental Affairs, Graham Usher, who is Bishop of Norwich. He points out that cathedrals have an impressive track record within the heritage sector.

Many have already installed green adaptations such as solar panels, or replaced light fittings, or increased draft exclusion. Others have re-designed precincts to give greater access to green space and a chance for biodiversity to thrive. Over two thirds of cathedrals are already part of the A Rocha 'Eco Church' programme.

However, with cathedrals still responsible for around two per cent of the total Church of England carbon emissions, they need to identify more opportunities to meet the ambitious target set by General Synod in 2020. The Church of England's Route Map to Net Zero Carbon will be discussed at General Synod this month (July).

### **Church of England national funding to increase 30%**

The Church of England is planning a significant increase in funding for the next three years. It will go towards supporting parishes and growing new worshipping communities across the country. Ministries to young people and disadvantaged communities will be especially targeted.

The Church Commissioners for England intend to distribute £1.2 billion between 2023 and 2025. That is up 30% from £930 million in the current three-year period. They also plan to maintain this level of funding in the subsequent six years.

In total, this would mean the Church Commissioners plan to distribute £3.6 billion to frontline work between 2023 and 2031. That would make the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council among the largest grant givers in the country.

# Showers of Blessing

by Lester Amann

According to British folklore, if it rains on 15<sup>th</sup> July, then we can expect 40 days of showery and stormy weather. This myth arose after the buried remains of St Swithun (Swithin) was removed from its original site in a church garden and taken into a Saxon cathedral.

Swithun was an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester. During his decade in office, he was known for his devotion and passion to build new churches and to restore old ones. Before he died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 863 AD, he didn't want any veneration of his tomb and requested that his body be simply interred in the church grounds. He wanted people to pass by his grave and for it to be touched by the weather.

So far so good. But - a century later, it was decided to move Swithun *inside*, into the refurbished basilica. From that day it rained every day for nearly six weeks - as if this was his displeasure at being moved!

The Bible mentions rain (and water) many times. These include the great flood and Noah's Ark (Genesis 7); Ezra's open-air public assembly in Jerusalem in the pouring rain (Ezra 10:9) and the parable by Jesus about two houses in a rainstorm (Matthew 7:24-27).

Over the centuries, hymn writers have also used water and rain to describe our need for God. They've used such phrases as *I need You ....like refreshing summer rain* and *Father, like rain from the skies send Your word into our lives*. Some hymns include rain as a metaphor for the Holy

Spirit to come and refresh, restore and revitalise us; to cleanse us of our sins or to wash away our sorrows.



St Swithun's shrine Winchester Cathedral

## 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.”***

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## **Thomas Clarkson, Olaudah Equiano & William Wilberforce**

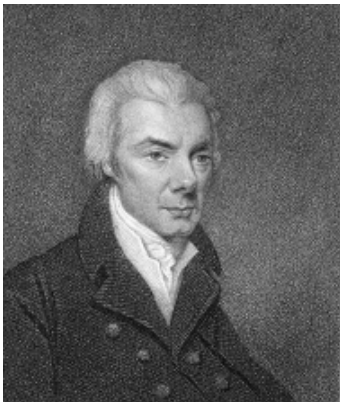
During the 18<sup>th</sup> century many people in England were involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. The Church of England remembers especially William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson - three very different but all tireless campaigners against the evil practice.



**Thomas Clarkson** (1760-1846) was an Anglican clergyman and one of the most prominent of the anti-slavery campaigners. In 1787 he helped form the first Abolitionist Committee, and his energy and hatred of injustice made him a 'moral steam-engine'. He travelled hundreds of miles, gathering evidence from people caught up in the slave trade, from ship captains to doctors.

**Olaudah Equiano** (1745 – 1797) had been kidnapped in Nigeria, sold into slavery and sent to the West Indies. When he finally escaped, he made his way to London and became one of the most prominent black campaigners. His brutal autobiography of 1789 ran to nine reprints, and was translated into many languages, bringing home to people the horrors of the slave trade.





**William Wilberforce** (1759 – 1833), of course, became the main figurehead in Parliament. He came from a wealthy family in Kingston-Upon-Hull, and represented the town in Parliament. He was recruited by Thomas Clarkson, who saw the need for a brilliant advocate within Parliament. Wilberforce was an inspired choice: not only wealthy and

well-connected, but a gifted orator with a social conscience, especially after his conversion in 1785. He made his first speech in Parliament against slavery in 1789, but it was not until 1807, after a debate that raged for many years, that the Abolition Act was finally passed.

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**MEETINGS  
and Events  
2022**

*Watch this space for  
future events*

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



## Mendel, the peas, and the beginning of genetics

*By Tim Lenton*

Two hundred years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1822, Gregor Mendel was born. The Austrian/Czech friar and botanist discovered the laws of heredity and created what eventually became the science of genetics.

Born to a relatively poor but devoutly Roman Catholic farming family in what was then Moravia, in the Austrian empire, Johann Mendel (he became Gregor after he joined the Order of St Augustine) became a monk partly to relieve “perpetual anxiety about means of livelihood”, but his faith was clear and frequently expressed.



He was also a meteorologist, mathematician and teacher, but his ground-breaking experiments with pea plants between 1856 and 1863 demonstrated the action of something invisible – now called ‘genes’ – in determining the inherited traits of an organism. Although he announced his results and published them in 1866, the significance of his work was not appreciated by scientists until around 1900, when his experiments were verified – another example of the consensus of scientists failing to recognise the validity of different ideas.

He was elected Abbot in 1868, and after that his life was taken up largely by administrative duties – including a long dispute about payment of religious taxes. He died in January 1884 of chronic nephritis. Czech composer Leoš Janáček played the organ at his funeral.

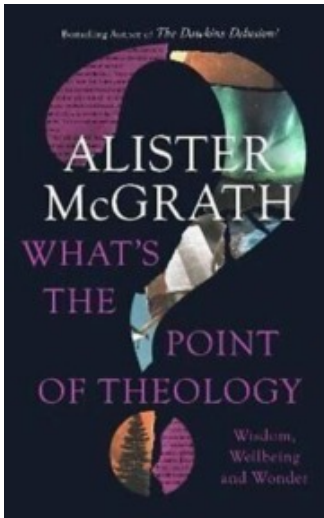
Mendel’s work was introduced to Britain in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by William Bateson, the first Director of the John Innes Centre in Norwich – the first research institute devoted to Mendelian genetics in Britain. He translated Mendel’s paper from German into English, championed his work and coined the word ‘genetics’.



# Book Mark



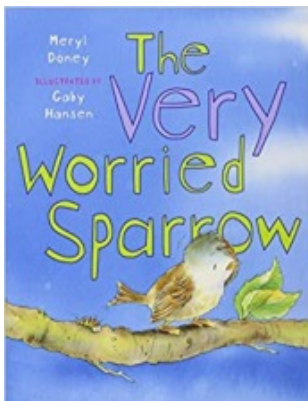
**What's the Point of Theology? - wisdom, wellbeing and wonder.**  
By Alister McGrath, SPCK, £10.99



Theology is the study of the nature of God and of religious belief. But why should that matter to us? What's the *point* of theology? In this wonderfully accessible book, renowned Christian theologian Alister McGrath explores just why theology is so important and what it can bring to our lives.

Drawing on insights from his own experience of coming to Christianity from atheism, this exhilarating and enlightening volume reveals how theology offers a gateway to discovery: it helps us grow in wisdom; it contributes to our wellbeing; it sparks our innate sense of wonder. Above all, theology help us to grow in faith and love as we draw ever closer to the divine.

**The Very Worried Sparrow.** By Meryl Doney and Gaby Hansen, Lion Children's, £6.99



This is the story of a sparrow who worries about everything – whether there will be enough to eat, where he will build his new nest, how he will find a mate, whether his family will be eaten by a bird of prey. Then he hears about the Great Father who made and cares for all his creation – even the tiniest sparrow.

This delightful story has helped, reassured, and entertained many thousands of children since it was first published in 1978.

## ALL IN THE MONTH OF JULY

200 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1822 Gregor Mendel was born. This Austrian/Czech friar, and botanist discovered the laws of heredity and created the science of genetics.

175 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1847 Salt Lake City in Utah was founded by Mormon pioneers, led by Brigham Young.

150 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1872 Louis Bleriot, French inventor, and aviation pioneer was born. He developed the first practical headlamp for cars and became the first person to fly across the English Channel.

125 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1897 the Tate Britain art museum opened in London.

90 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1932 the USA's stock market (Dow Jones Industrial Average) fell to its lowest point (41.22) during the Great Depression.

80 years ago on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1942 the British charity Oxfam was founded. (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief)

75 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1947 Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

60 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1962 Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin was granted a US patent for the three-point safety belt for vehicles. It is now used in practically all road vehicles.

40 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1982 Michael Fagan broke into Buckingham Palace and spent 10 minutes talking to the Queen in her bedroom.

25 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1997 the UK returned Hong Kong to China after more than 150 years.

10 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 researchers at CERN in Switzerland announced the discovery of particles consistent with the Higgs boson. The discovery was confirmed in March 2013 and the researchers were awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize for Physics.

Also 10 years ago, from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012 the Summer Olympics were held in London.

## Reflected Faith Series

*The Rev Dr Jo White*

### Reflected Faith Series: the grandeur of God



Do you understand the mysteries of God? Who is He? What is He up to? If Jesus's disciples who were with Him daily for years had trouble understanding Him, what expectation is there that you and I will?

We get glimpses of Him – through new life, through nature, in creativity, music and dance and so on – but none of us truly sees every part of Him. St Paul himself wrote that “now we see through a glass darkly”.

So how do we try to express the grandeur of God? In the Old Testament, Isaiah 6:1, the prophet wrote, ‘In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of His robe filled the temple.’

I love that picture, it makes me think of brides on their wedding day who have a full skirt and train, and the help they need from their bridesmaids just to get in and out of the wedding car let alone anything else they need to do.

Architects and builders over the centuries have used the church building to illustrate aspects of God and to share their faith.

*This month:*

If you are able, visit a large church building or cathedral and spend some time there when there is no service taking place. As you go into the building, quickly stop and just look around you. ‘Feel’ the space surrounding and above you. The distance between you and the ceiling or roof.

Stop for a while in the area where the congregation sit – the nave – taken from the Latin word *navis* meaning ‘ship’. This is because when they were built, largely in the Middle Ages, the people thought a nave looked like the bottom part of a ship turned upside-down. This reminded them also of the story of God saving His creation at the time of the flood by using the Ark. What does this space say to you about the mysteries of God?

# WORDSEARCH



July	Give	Shops	Environments	Port
Sea	Thanks	Economy	Piracy	Chaplains
Sunday	Merchant	Afloat	Shipwreck	Hospitality
Remember	Seafarers	Harsh	Hundreds	Friendship
Pray	Daily	Working	global	practical

(Solutions on page 30)

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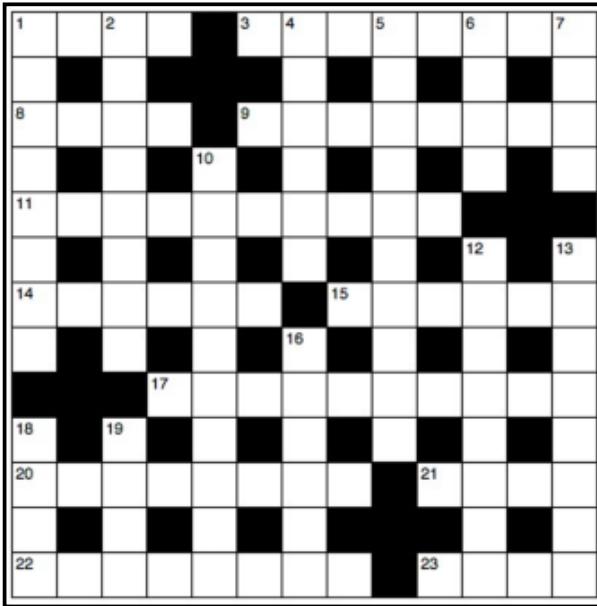
## JULY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character'  
(Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?'  
(Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be  
my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31) (10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.) (6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—'  
(Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5) (10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church (8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out  
to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in  
— ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you,  
O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

### Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A.  
Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)



- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John 10:22) (10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear (James 2:21) (8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha (6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis 25:34) (4)
- 19 Rear (anag.) (4)

(Solutions on page 30)

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## ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



### **On why Arts Festivals in church are a bad idea**

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner city streets, was most commendable. Pity, how it all turned out.

The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right instrument. Your stage hands were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from "Oklahoma", with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar. The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted out.



Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required. I am forever proud that our own ladies – through years of experience – can now get 34 cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack can last several months.

What you now do with 89 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!

## **GOD AND THE ARTS**

*By The Rev Michael Burgess*

### **John Martin's 'Manfred on the Jungfrau'**

In July we start looking with eager longing to holidays, a chance to get away from it all - to rest and recharge the batteries of life. Holidays are also a time to explore and visit new places. It might be the wild splendour of the Northumberland coast or the serenity of the Italian lakes, the vastness of the Grand Canyon or the magnificence of the Lake District.

This month's artist had a gift for creating paintings that expressed this epic quality of landscapes. John Martin was born in 1789, and as an artist was drawn to religious and historical scenes on the grand scale. He illustrated the Bible and Milton, and his final works were on the theme of the Last Judgement. These are in the Tate Gallery in London, but for this July we visit the Art Gallery in Birmingham with its amazing collection of over half a million items, including many Pre-Raphaelite treasures. The entrance to this Victorian building is beneath the clock tower known as Old Brum.

The Art Gallery is home to John Martin's watercolour of 1837, 'Manfred on the Jungfrau.' It is a large work, almost 5 feet by 3 feet, capturing the rugged, imposing glory of the Jungfrau. Now a railway takes tourists to the summit in the Bernese Alps in Switzerland. In the 19th century climbers had to navigate glaciers, high passes and steep precipices. John Martin captures the grandeur of all this in his painting of snow and sky, crags and torrents, mountains and pine trees. Against that immensity we see two characters: Manfred, tortured by guilt and about to throw himself off the edge, and the mysterious hunter who leads him to safety. Byron's poem 'Manfred' inspired the music of Tchaikovsky and Schumann, as it inspired John Martin. They

were each attracted by the romanticism of man and nature in the poem. Like Manfred and the hunter in the watercolour, we look at this grace and nobility and feel humble and insignificant. Byron wrote:

‘How beautiful is all this visible world!  
How glorious in its action and itself!’

Manfred seeks redemption, but, sadly, finds only the solace of death. As we look at this painting we see reflections of the landscapes we shall visit on our holidays. Such beauty, such glory evoke for us those feelings of wonder and awe that inspired John Martin. Manfred sees life in its true perspective as he gazes on the majestic scenery of the Bernese Alps. Holidays help us to put life into perspective. Away from the pressure of responsibility and duty, we often realise what is essential in our lives and with those around. We behold the majesty and glory of creation; we see this world as the handiwork of God; and we ask ourselves how we might make our way through it and be always alert to its mystery and its beauty.



31<sup>st</sup>

## St Joseph of Arimathea

Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council - the Sanhedrin. Mark's gospel describes him as having been 'waiting for the kingdom of God' for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion.

When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority



needed to approach Pilate for the body - and get it. Near to where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it - and it was still new and empty. So, Joseph laid Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone - Nicodemus

helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind.

Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history - and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff.

(Painting: *Lamentation over the Dead Christ* by Perugino, 1495)



## MARY MAGDALENE

22<sup>nd</sup> July

Mary Magdalene is one of the most important women associated with Jesus during his ministry.

Mary, who came from the village of Magdala on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, was a devoted follower of Jesus, part of the close group of those taught by Jesus during his ministry. Jesus had healed her of seven devils. She was with Jesus during his travels and followed him to the end, witnessing his crucifixion when others had fled, and his burial. According to all four Gospels, she was the first person to see the Risen Christ in the garden on the very first Easter Day.



She is often shown in pictures holding a pot of ointment because she was among those women who brought ointment and linens to the tomb of Jesus. For this reason, in the Eastern Orthodox Church she is called a Myr-bearer.

## M-WORDS

All the answers to this quiz begin with the letter M. Which M is...

1. A Canadian police person in a red jacket?
2. A mixture of water and earth?
3. A type of pasta?
4. A black and white bird?
5. A white drink?
6. A hairy, extinct elephant?
7. What you do with a ruler?
8. A wall painting?
9. Not the beginning or the end?

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**What did the monster say to the grand piano?**

Darling, you've got lovely teeth.

**What do moths study in school?**

Mathematics.



**What is a dog's favourite musical?**

The Hound of Music.

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Answers: 1.Mountie 2.mud 3.macaroni  
4.magpie 5.milk 6.mammoth 7.measure  
8.mural 9.middle

## SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

## SOLUTIONS TO WORDSEARCH

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

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