

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

**50p
*June, 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
sblakestjames@virginmedia.com

St James Sunday Service

9.30am

Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER JUNE 2022



When everything seems to be changing,
what is our certainty?
How do we find our feet,
when the ground seems to be shifting?
How do we recentre ourselves,
when everything seems to be off-balance?

Today, each one of us will have our own personal fears, the tensions of our particular daily challenges and all our worries about the escalating cost of living. Beyond this is the broader canvas of the political upheavals we are living through. The horror of the pictures we see coming out of Ukraine. And the utter senselessness of the massacre of children and their teachers in Texas.

How do we make sense of it all? How do we find peace?

Rock of Ages is a traditional Christian hymn written by a gentleman with the unlikely name of Augustus Toplady. The story, not proven, is that Toplady wrote the hymn in about 1762 after he was caught in a storm in a place called Burrington Combe in North Somerset and had to shelter in a gap in a gorge. The rock is marked with a plaque recording the moment. A recurring line in the hymn is

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;*

At times when it feels that events might overwhelm you, can I encourage you to find strength in our Unchangeable and Loving God who shelters us in the storm and offers us all a safe place at the ending of our lives.

Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)

The Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane, Joydens Wood, Bexley, DA5 2BB
01322-528923 renharding@hotmail.co.uk

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

By Canon Paul Hardingham

This month we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history. Up until recently she attended church every week and still did a full week's work at the age of 96!

It is her commitment to serving God and the nation which stands out in her life. Even before she became Queen, she made a promise, which she has kept for over 75 years: *'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service'* (21st birthday broadcast, 21 April 1947).

What is the secret of the Queen's consistency of character and service? In 2002 she said this: *"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."* These are wise words from somebody who draws her strength from the Christian Faith and can inspire all of us who want to make our lives count!

The Queen has been an example of joyful, wise, and generous service on behalf of others all her life. Six months before her coronation she asked the nation and Commonwealth to *"pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life."* Paul urges us to pray for all in authority, *"that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* (1 Timothy 2:2).



SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR JUNE 2022

Wednesday 1st June

8pm

Team Zoom

Saturday 4th June

11am - 2pm

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood
Community Fayre

SUNDAY 5th June

9.30am

Pentecost

Holy Communion. Pentecost
Sunday with celebration of the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Wednesday 8th June

8pm

Team Zoom

SUNDAY 12th June

9.30am

Trinity Sunday

Parade Service

Wednesday 15th June

8pm

Team Zoom

SUNDAY 19th June

9.30am

3pm

**First Sunday after Trinity,
Father's Day**

Holy Communion
Forest Church

Wednesday 22nd June

8pm

Team Zoom

SUNDAY 26th June

9.30am

1.30pm

Second Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion
Baptism

Wednesday 29th June

8pm

Team Zoom

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.

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





News and Issues



Child poverty strategy needed now “more than ever”

A cross-party strategy is urgently needed to tackle rising levels of child poverty in the UK. So says a new report by the Church of England.

The report brought together the views of 14 organisations, church leaders and grassroots groups. It has called for cross-departmental approach in Whitehall, and formal structures for driving forward this work.

The report argues that any effective child poverty strategy should have agreed measures and specific targets for reducing poverty. There was widespread support for a number of measures, including extended school and extra-curricular activities for school age children and increasing housing support for low-income families in rented housing.

Paul Butler, the Bishop of Durham, who speaks for the Church of England in the House of Lords on child poverty, said: “The cost-of-living crisis is upon us. It’s crucial that we listen to the organisations who are responding to child poverty across the country, and we urge the Government to recognise the overwhelming consensus that this report presents.”

Now China bans mentioning ‘Christ’ on the internet

The Chinese authorities have recently banned a church from using the word Christ on the Internet.

In the latest crackdown on religious freedom in China, the authorities picked up on the use of the word Christ in a WeChat

post published by the Early Rain Covenant Church – a regular target for the Chinese authorities.

The church's WeChat account ran a book review group where members recommended book titles and voted on their favourites. The latest posting included the Christian classics *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis and *Exposition of the Christian Faith* by Saint Ambrose.

But WeChat's censorship team, prompted by new government regulations, fired back the following:

Chr*st. 'The word "Christ" you are trying to publish violates regulations on Internet Information Services, including, but not limited to the following categories: pornography, gambling, drug abuse, incitement.'

So, in today's China, it seems that Jesus Christ is lumped in with porn, drugs and rabble-rousing. So says Paul Robinson, the CEO of Release International, which supports persecuted Christians worldwide.

The tough new regulations intended to clampdown on churches using the Internet came into effect on 1st March, 2022. The ban prevents any organisation or individual from posting religious information on the Internet without first obtaining the permission of their provincial government. It bans religious groups, schools and organisations without valid permits from conducting online sermons.

The rules effectively ban any live streaming, publication of sermons, reposting of religious content or any form of online religious education without government permission – and thereby government control.



Ukrainian church leaders urge people to pray

A senior church leader in Ukraine has told the citizens that Russia's war on Ukraine "did not begin with missiles and bombs – it began with deception, untruth and lies." So says the head of Ukraine's independent Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko).

"The Lord is now showing us how we must resist with the testimony of truth. Evil is evil, not just an alternative viewpoint, and war is war, not just some conflict. Rapists, looters and murderers are criminals, and what they are perpetuating is a genocide of the Ukrainian people."

The Metropolitan also said that Ukrainians knew that Russia had long had "evil plans to restore the tyranny of a rotten, overthrown empire."

But, he said "The Lord is with us in this struggle, because we are fighting for truth and goodness against demonic tyranny and resentment... We believe that our people will overcome all new challenges – that Ukraine will win its victory."

Meanwhile, the Primate of Ukraine's Greek Catholic Church, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, said that this Spring and Summer may well be the last for many, including himself. He went on: "As the war escalates, and the enemy intensifies its offensive against Ukraine, I call on everyone to pray

vigorously and tirelessly for the Ukrainian army, because the fate of Ukraine and the world is now being decided.”

Call for Russian Church to be ‘distanced’

The Church in Wales has recently appealed to the World Council of Churches to distance itself from members which supported the war in Ukraine.

In an emergency motion, members of the Church’s Governing Body called on the WCC to take “clear and appropriate action” to distance itself against any of its members, including the Russian Orthodox Church, who had supported the war.

The Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron, said: “The WCC has itself spoken out against the war, including voicing support for the head of the Russian Orthodox Church in Ukraine, who has been clear in his condemnation of the war. What has been disappointing has been the response of the Patriarch of Moscow himself, who has sided with President Putin, and who has become increasingly vociferous in toeing the official line.”

Christian Aid spends £8m from British people to help Ukraine

The international development agency, Christian Aid, will spend £8m on vital supplies over the next six months to help the Ukrainian people.

The money comes from donations to DEC, the Disasters Emergency Committee, that has raised more than £300m for Ukraine. That’s around £3 on average donated by every person in the UK.

Through its local partners, Christian Aid has already provided medical supplies, first aid kits, baby incubators as well as food and shelter for refugees in Ukraine and Hungary.

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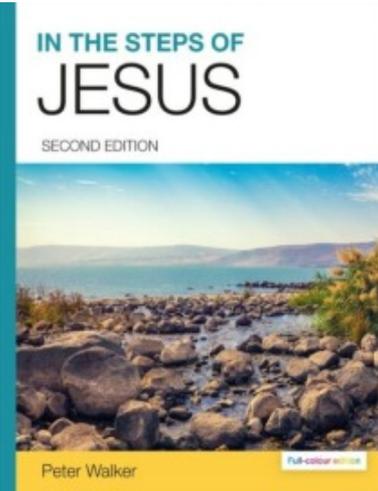
**BRANCHES IN SOUTH-EAST LONDON, PETTS WOOD AND
BIGGIN HILL**



Book Mark



**In the Steps of Jesus (2nd full-colour edition)
By the Rev Peter Walker, Lion Hudson, £20**



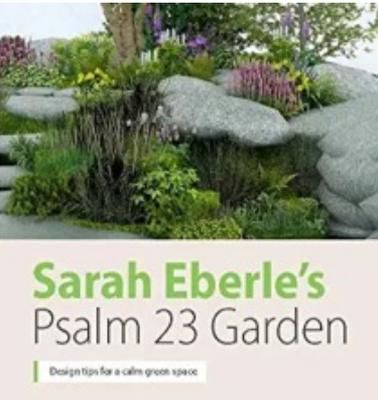
Following the chronology of Jesus' life and ministry, Peter Walker takes us from Bethlehem to Nazareth to the desert as we follow Jesus on His final journey from Galilee to Jerusalem.

In each chapter particular attention is given to what Jesus did in that location, and to the authenticity of archaeological and recorded evidence of later pilgrims and historians.

The book is richly illustrated, and uses maps, timelines, and feature boxes to highlight important themes. All in all, it is a rich and absorbing guide, and would be an

ideal companion for travellers to the Holy Land.

Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden: design tips for a calm green space. By various authors, Bible Society, £6.50



A full-colour book showcasing the splendid Psalm 23 Garden, designed by Sarah Eberle for Bible Society's entry into last year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Sarah Eberle had previously won 17 gold medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows, and her Psalm 23 Garden won another gold medal as well as awards for Best Sanctuary Garden and Best Construction Award.



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future events*



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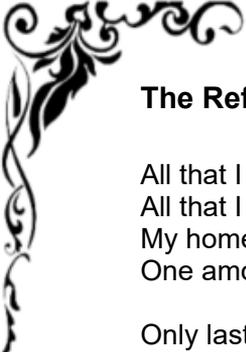
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The Refugee

All that I was, I no longer am
All that I have, I hold in my hand
My home, my love, my world are all gone
One among thousands, I shuffle along.

Only last week I knew who I was
All that has gone, and only because
Someone in a land a long way away
Turned life into hell one terrible day.

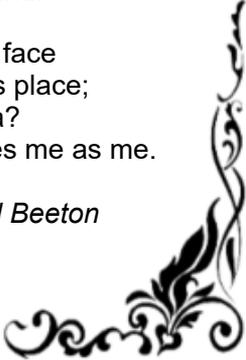
He started a war, his heart icy cold
He rained down his hell on the young and the old
I ran for my life for I had no choice
And nobody heard the fear in my voice.

Everything's gone, and all that is 'me'
Summed up in a word – the word 'refugee'.
I have no control, no say in my fate
Just one in a crowd, I stand and I wait.

Waiting for what? The future's unclear,
For armed men have taken all that I held dear
Along with my hopes, and all I had planned
All swept away by the tanks in my land.

One thing alone puts a smile on my face
A far nicer stranger has come to this place;
A bed for the night? A cup of hot tea?
And - best of all - someone who sees me as me.

By Nigel Beeton



Apple's first iPhone

By Tim Lenton



Just 15 years ago, on 29th June 2007, Apple released the first iPhone.

From the original concept of an efficient, easy-to-use, slick mobile phone, it transformed by the time of its creation into what was described by Brian Merchant, author of *The One Device*, as the “primary platform for thousands of apps offering streaming music and video, real-time video chat, addictive videogames and virtual and augmented reality experiences”.

Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, called the iPhone a “revolutionary and magical product” that “fits beautifully into the palm of your hand”. Five years after its debut, more than 200 million had been sold. Merchant calls it a “culturally dominant, world-eating phenomenon”.

From the outset, the iPhone was hugely popular, with queues forming for hours outside Apple stores in both Europe and America on its release. In addition, Jobs provided an iPhone free to all his employees.

To some Christians, the Apple logo is disturbing, suggesting that eating the fruit in Eden opened the door to enlightenment – Jobs was a devotee of Eastern mysticism. While Christianity offers faith and hope, they suggest that Apple offers a convenient life, enabled through technology.

Other Christians, however, point out that Apple technology has enabled the Gospel to be widely heard and, in many senses, seen. FaceTime through the iPhone also made a dramatic and positive difference to people's lives under lockdown.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

250 years ago, on 22nd June 1772 the Court of King's Bench ruled that slavery was illegal in England and Wales. But it remained legal in British Overseas Territories and colonies until 1833.

100 years ago, from 28th June 1922 to 24th May 1923, the Irish Civil War took place. Led to Pro-Treaty leading to confirmation of the Irish Free State.

80 years ago, from 4th– 7th June 1942 the Battle of Midway took place. The USA defeated Japan in the most important naval battle of the Pacific Campaign.

75 years ago, on 5th June 1947 the Marshall Plan was proposed. US Secretary of State George C Marshall offered a self-help programme to Europe that would enable countries to rebuild democratic societies and resist communism after WWI

65 years ago, on 1st June 1957 the first premium bond prize draw took place in Britain.

50 years ago, on 17th June 1972 the Watergate Scandal began when five men were arrested for breaking into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington DC.

40 years ago, on 14th June 1982 the Falklands War ended. Argentine forces surrendered to the British in Port Stanley and a ceasefire was agreed. Argentine president Leopold Galtieri resigned on 17th June.

Also 40 years ago, on 21st June 1982 Prince William of Wales was born. Son of Charles and Diana, he is second-in-line to the British throne.

25 years ago, on 12th June 1997 Shakespeare's Globe Theatre opened in London. It is a reconstruction of the original theatre of 1599.

15 years ago, on 29th June 2007, Apple released the first iPhone.

10 years ago, on 19th June 2012 the founder of Wikileaks, Julian Assange, sought political asylum in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, to avoid extradition to the USA after publishing classified documents. He remained in the embassy for seven years, until he was arrested and imprisoned.

Reflected Faith Series

The Rev Dr Jo White

Reflected Faith Series: The Meaning of Colours Pt 2



Last month we looked at the changing of colours in the church's vestments and altar cloths during March, April and May this year. This month of June sees them changing again, but this time for around 20 weeks.

We start the month still in the season of Easter; strictly speaking, in the time after the Ascension. The first Sunday in June is the feast of Pentecost. This was and remains a Jewish

Festival. At the time of Jesus, it was a joyful celebration of the first fruits of the Harvest, which was why all the apostles were gathered together in Jerusalem, as was expected of all Jewish men.

As they gathered following Jesus' Ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon them. This is what Christians celebrate at Pentecost, and therefore the colour is red. The following day the colour changes to green, and remains green until the 30th of October, the Feast of All Saints' which will be white. This gives us approximately 20 weeks of 'green' with the occasional day in between of white or red to celebrate an apostle, saint or a specific feast day.

So the question is 'Why?' Why so long?

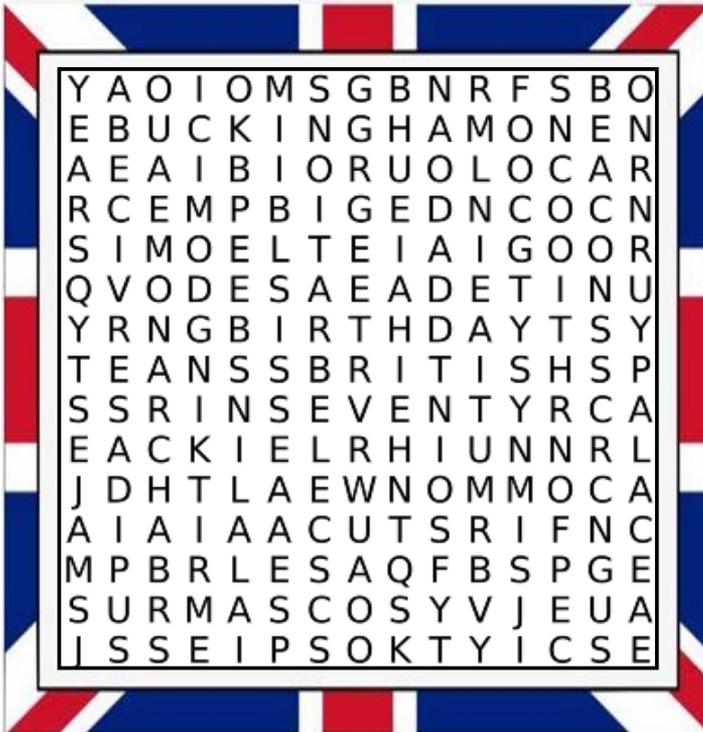
This time is often referred to as 'Ordinary' time. So what is 'ordinary' about it? I don't know about your life but mine tends to go along fairly steady with just the odd up or down time. Most of my days are 'ordinary'.

In church lectionary terms this period of 'X Sunday after Pentecost' follows one main gospel's teachings and miracles of Jesus. It's almost like He gathers us together for a summer school and takes us up a mountainside and teaches us there. It's a time for leaning and growth.

This month:

Like the green grass feeds the animals, this month spend some time just looking at a patch of grass or the leaves on trees from a distance. See the different shades and hues and when you next hear the gospel reading imagine sitting under those trees on that grass with Jesus Himself.

WORDSEARCH



This year Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

Majesty	Platinum	Commonwealth	Birthday	Horses
Queen	Jubilee	Kingdom	Parade	Buckingham
First	Seventy	Realms	Trooping	Palace
British	Years	United	Colour	Balcony
Monarch	Service	Celebrations	Soldiers	beacons

(Solutions on page 30)

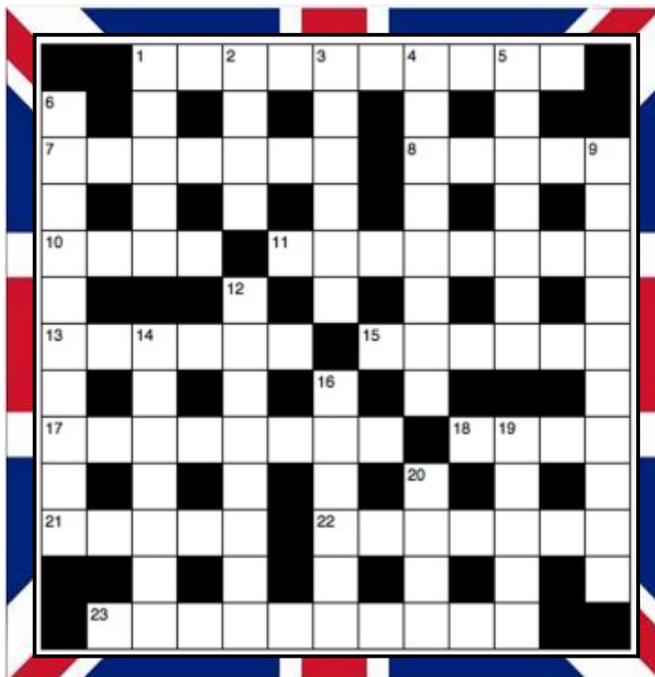
JUNE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts,brothers,I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21 'As for man,his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)

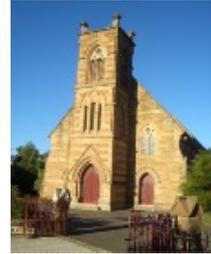


- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
- 12 Put in jail (Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn (anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge (Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!' (Revelation19:7)(4)

(Solutions on page 30)



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



THE BOTHY

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you need and can seat 35 people.**

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Lynne Meads on 07966 315518

GOD AND THE ARTS

By The Rev Michael Burgess

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: El Greco’s ‘The Tears of St Peter.’

In the 19th century John Bowes, the 10th Earl of Strathmore, built a museum in the French style with landscaped gardens at Barnard Castle in Teesdale. He bequeathed it 800 paintings, including a previously unknown Van Dyck.

But visitors to the Bowes Museum often make a beeline for its amazing 18th century silver swan automaton. As the music plays, there is the illusion of flowing water: the swan preens itself, bends down and catches a fish in the water. It is a thrill and a joy to watch. At the other extreme and striking a different mood and emotion is El Greco’s painting of 1580: ‘The Tears of St Peter.’ It was reluctantly purchased in 1869 for a price less than that paid for the monkey puzzle tree in the grounds outside.

The gospels tell us that St Peter wept bitterly when he heard the cockcrow as he denied knowing Jesus three times. El Greco shows the saint, his eyes welling with those tears of betrayal, kneeling and turning to heaven for forgiveness. The sky is overcast, reflecting the sad scene below, and we can see ivy growing as a sign of the constancy so lacking in Peter’s life.

At the enthronement of Archbishop Justin Welby in Canterbury Cathedral in 2013, he was asked as he entered the building, ‘How do you come among us and with what confidence?’ He replied, ‘I come knowing nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified, and in weakness and fear and in much trembling.’ We sense those emotions in Peter in this painting. At the Last Supper he was the opposite: ready to follow, brave and generous with his words. But Peter leaves Jesus to drink the cup of sorrow alone in Gethsemane. In the courtyard of the high priest, warming himself by the fire, he utters that threefold denial. This was the lowest moment in his life, when instead of being solid rock, he showed that he was merely shifting sand.

And then the wonder and glory of Easter. We glimpse it in the background of the painting with the angel and Mary Magdalene at the tomb. And we know that everything changes for Peter by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Like the silver swan in the Bowes Museum looking for fish, the disciples have returned to their old way of life. But it is the risen Lord who directs them to a marvellous catch, and the charcoal fire of betrayal in the

courtyard is now the charcoal fire of breakfast, a new day, and a new way of life for Peter. No denial now – he answers the three questions of our Lord positively and realises that he is loved by Jesus in his failure and weakness. It might have seemed the end for Peter in the courtyard, but the risen Lord comes to tell him 'I make all things new' and that includes you.

Peter is often known as the stumbling saint. Here in El Greco's painting he has stumbled and fallen to his knees in prayer. We celebrate St Peter at the end of this month. As we look at him, we know ourselves to be as weak and fearful. But the Lord comes to us as he comes to Peter. He lifts us up and puts us back on our feet again. With Peter and Archbishop Justin, we know him as our crucified and risen Lord.



9th

Columba of Iona, missionary to the UK



Iona Abbey

In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c.521-97) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry

(546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include going into voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books. Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.



PENTECOST 5th June

Of the three main festivals in the Christian year, Pentecost or Whitsun is the least celebrated today.

Christmas celebrates the birth of a baby in a stable. Easter celebrates that baby grown to a man, our Risen Lord. And Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the beginning of the Christian Church.

Pentecost is the birthday of all Christian Churches. It was the start of all those ripples that spread wider and wider to cover the whole world. From the 11 disciples and Matthias (who replaced Judas Iscariot) to us today.

But we don't send Whitsun cards or give sweets or presents to mark Pentecost, do we? Nowadays it isn't even a Bank Holiday. How do you think we should celebrate Pentecost?



PEN-THINGS

Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter. PENTA means 5 so a pentagon has five sides and the first five books of the Old Testament are called the Pentateuch.

There are quite a number of words that begin with the letters PEN, so can you say which PEN is... (answers at the bottom of the page)

1. A free kick in football?
2. A female swan?
3. Someone you write to?
4. An early kind of bicycle?
5. A sporting event?
6. A small coin?
7. A flag?
8. A black and white bird that can't fly?

Why did the man take a pencil to bed?

To draw the curtains.

What did the pencil say to the rubber?

Take me to your ruler.

Answers: 1. penalty 2. pen 3. pen friend
4. penny farthing 5. pentathlon 6. penny
7. pennant 8. penguin

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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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