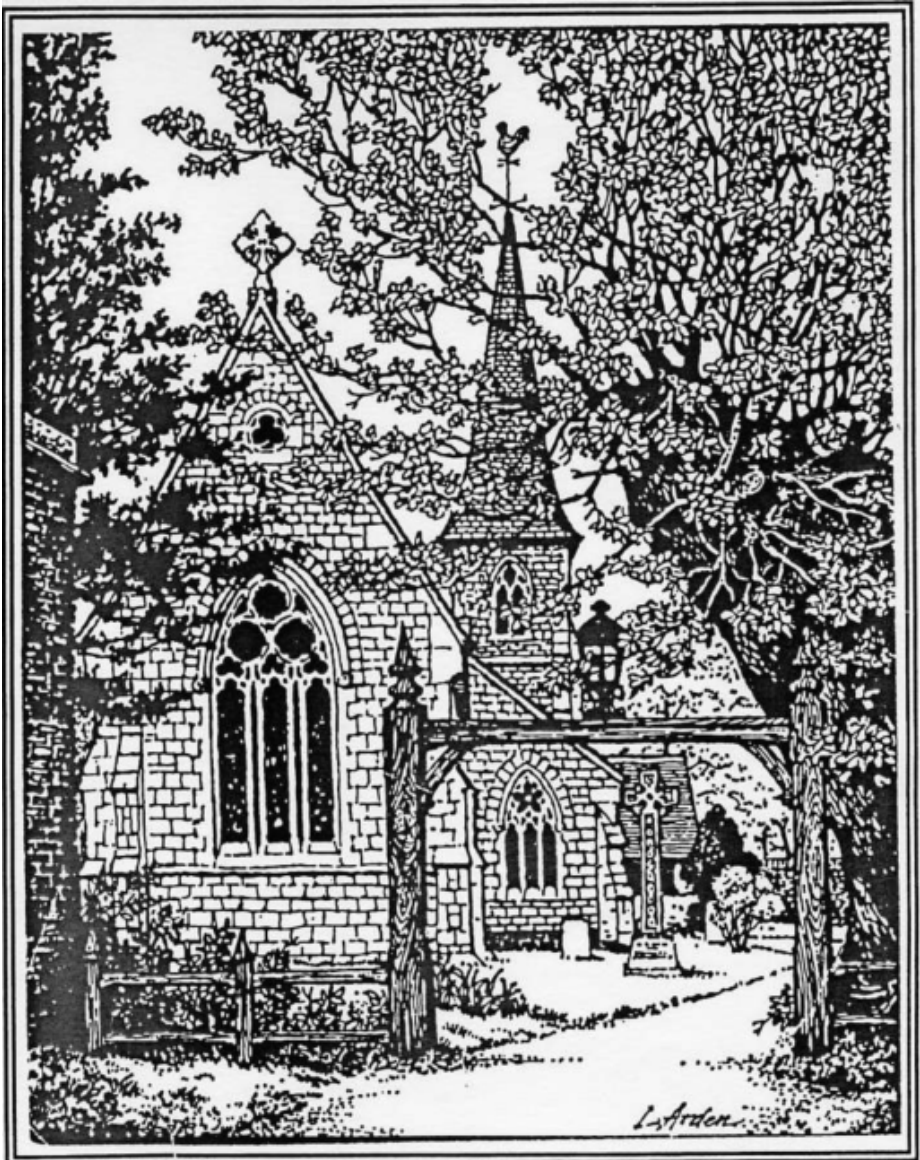


**The Parish Church of
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p
*May, 2021***

(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 MAY 2021



1 May is 'MAYDAY'

What do we understand by that word?

Traditionally, 1 May is celebrated as an ancient spring festival, reaching back to pre-Christian times. In the past, to have survived winter at all was a cause for thanksgiving, and after the hardships of winter to see the rebirth of the created world as the warmth of longer days brought growth. Dances round the may-pole, singing, and cake are usually part of the Mayday festivities.

In 1889, May Day was chosen by socialists as the date for International Workers Day, celebrating the dignity of human work. In some countries it is known as Labour Day. Clearly this is a very different celebration from the traditional May Day.

Finally, the international distress signal is "Mayday" calling for help, for rescue.

So this mayday:

We celebrate the God of creation, in the beauty of nature.

We recognise the God of justice in the dignity of every human being.

We call out to the God of rescue, when we are feeling vulnerable, and lost, helpless and afraid.

Happy Mayday!

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

My Garden?

I thought I owned a garden
A lovely place to be
A bird said, "Beg your pardon,
"This land belongs to me!"

A squirrel dropped a nut on me
Which wasn't what I'd planned
"Get lost!", said he, "for can't you see
"You trespass on my land?"

A pheasant flapped and squawked so loud
I scarce could hear me think!
"Get off my ground, for two's a crowd!"
He kicked up such a stink!

The wild-life around me
So loudly do protest!
They growl and screech till I can see
That I am just a guest!

By Nigel Beeton

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

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR MAY 2021

The Team Rector, the Team clergy, and the PCC's of the Parish churches in the Bexley Team have been extremely concerned about the figures for Covid infections in this area. We are mindful of our responsibility for the safety and well-being of those attending worship in our church buildings. We re-opened the St James church building during April. These are the services for May:

SUNDAY 2 May

9.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 9 May

9.30am All-Age Worship

Thursday 13 May ASCENSION DAY
we join with the other churches in the Bexley Team for a joint service at St Barnabas Church, Joydens Wood

7pm Open Air Ascension Day Service with hymns/songs

SUNDAY 16 May

9.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 23 May

9.30am **PENTECOST**
Holy Communion

SUNDAY 30 May

9.30am **TRINITY SUNDAY**
Holy Communion

There will be music on this link:

www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/welcome/music/

We hope you find the music helpful and inspiring.

We will continue to circulate worship material via email, and also make worship available online, on Zoom, or via a phone-in link on Zoom. Details are emailed out each week.

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.

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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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.

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Adapted from prayers of World Vision

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

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

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

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

Radio 4

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

Daily Service Monday to Friday @ 9.45 am – on Longwave and DAB
Sunday worship @ 8.10am

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.

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News and Issues



Church of England backs VaccinAid campaign to ‘Give the World a Shot’ to help defeat Covid-19

The Church of England is supporting the ‘VaccinAid’ campaign which aims to help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history.

Led by UNICEF UK, with the online fundraising platform Crowdfunder, the campaign offers people a practical way to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccination, by making a voluntary donation to help pay for jabs for others around the world.

It aims to help fund almost two billion Covid-19 vaccines for health workers and the most high-risk and vulnerable people on our planet. The money raised will also help UNICEF provide tests and treatments to people in 190 countries around the world through the global COVAX initiative.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is encouraging people and congregations both to donate, and also to spread the word in their community, as a practical demonstration of Jesus’s command to love our neighbour.

VaccinAid is being supported by other faith groups, businesses, celebrities and the NHS.

The recently launched campaign has been developed in just a few weeks following a meeting convened by Archbishop Justin with faith leaders, Government and NGOs to discuss how people in the UK could do something practical in response to the real sense of gratitude they have felt as they and their loved-ones receive their vaccines.

Archbishop Justin said: “The Covid-19 crisis has had a profound impact on people here and around the world, but vaccines offer the hope of a brighter future. I’m delighted that churches and other faith groups in the UK are supporting the VaccinAid campaign.

“There is no better way to show our deep gratitude for the gifts of science and medicine than making sure vulnerable people around the world are also given a shot.

For more information on the campaign click on www.vaccinaid.org to donate or begin fundraising.

C of E to provide National Professional Qualification for school leadership in partnership with Catholic Church

The Department for Education has recently announced that a partnership between The Church of England and the Catholic Church will provide part of the Government's reformed National Professional Qualification training for teachers from September 2021.

The new National Professional Qualifications will provide training for teachers in different areas of school leadership, including senior leadership, headship and executive leadership as well as specialist areas of teaching.

The Church of England NPQs will support up to 2,500 teachers each year across the whole country.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, the Church of England's lead bishop for Education, said: "I'm delighted that the Government has demonstrated its confidence in our track record of leadership training. Through the Church of England's Foundation for

Educational Leadership, we have a first class and innovative team."

Leaseholders face crippling bills for problem they did not create – bishops react

The Bishop of St Albans, Alan Smith, together with the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, and Bishop of Kensington, Graham Tomlin, have spoken of their regret at the recent vote in the Commons removing an amendment to the Fire Safety Bill, to protect leaseholders from the cost of replacing dangerous cladding.

Bishop Alan was a co-sponsor of the amendment when it passed the House of Lords last week with support from Bishop Sarah. Bishop Graham played a key role in the response to the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017 and was a Vice-Chair of the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community.

They said: "We are disappointed that the Government defeated the McPartland-Smith amendment in the House of Commons.

"Leaseholders face crippling bills of astronomical proportions for a problem they had no hand in creating. They neither sold nor fitted defective cladding and yet they are still liable to pay the costs of making their own homes safe. This amendment would have given them protection from having to pay those costs.



MEETINGS and Events 2021

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



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ALL IN THE MONTH OF MAY

200 years ago, on 5th May 1821 Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France (1804 – 1815) died of stomach cancer. He was in exile on the island of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic, aged 51.

175 years ago, on 30th May 1846 Peter Carl Fabergé was born. This Russian goldsmith and jeweller was best known for his fabulously decorated Fabergé eggs.

150 years ago, on 11th May 1871 John Herschel, British astronomer, mathematician, chemist and pioneering photographer died. Amongst other things, he named seven of Saturn's moons and investigated colour blindness. He was also President of the Royal Astronomical Society three times.

100 years ago, on 3rd May 1921 Ireland was divided into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland (now known as the Republic of Ireland).

Also 100 years ago, on 15th May, the British Legion was founded.

90 years ago, on 1st May 1931 the Empire State Building in New York City was officially opened.

75 years ago, on 11th May 1946 the first CARE packages for Europe arrived in Le Havre to help people who were starving after WWII. The first CARE packages were actually surplus US Army rations.

70 years ago, on 3rd May 1951 the Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall in London were opened. The aim of the Festival was to lift the nation's spirits by celebrating British industry, arts and science.

Also 70 years ago, on 9th May 1951 the Lake District National Park was established. It was Britain's second national park.

Also 70 years ago, on 25th May 1951 the British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow. They were members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring, and their whereabouts remained unknown until 1956.

65 years ago, on 24th May 1956 the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

60 years ago, on 28th May 1961 Amnesty International was founded in London.

40 years ago, on 13th May 1981 Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded by a Turkish gunman in an assassination attempt in St Peter's Square, Vatican City.

BEXLEY TEAM MINISTRY
“EXPLORING CONFIRMATION” 2020



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

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

THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE ON 3 MAY HAS BEEN POSTPONED - TBA

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

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

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

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

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

Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)
01322 528923
07836644782



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100 years of the British Legion

By Tim lenton

One hundred years ago, on 15th May 1921, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.



It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.

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Reflected Faith: Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

By The Rev Dr Jo White

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last



beginning to be able to come together again.

Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after

His crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us.

What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

It is the story of those 'simple' men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month: Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads? I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

WORDSEARCH



Sunday	Asking	Processed	Prayer
May	Blessing	Cornfields	Cross
Rogation	Seed	Spring	Boundaries
Beat	Land	Earthquake	Crops
Bounds	Romans	Storm	Harvest

Solutions on page 29



Book Mark

Christian Spirituality by Gordon Mursell, Lion Scholar, £25.99

In this book a team of expert authors from the East and West present a full and fascinating picture of humanity's desire for the divine across the centuries. Highlighting the contribution of significant figures through history, authors explore the ways in which Christians – from the earliest times onwards – have sought to express and live out the deepest truth of their faith.



CHRISTIAN
SPIRITUALITY

General Editor
Gordon Mursell

The Bible and the life of Jesus Christ are the starting point, and then the reader is guided through the development of spirituality, starting an exploration of the significance of the early church 'fathers', and culminating in

a survey of the explosion of expressions of Christian divinity across the world in the 20th century.

Journey Through the Bible. Lion Books, £16.99

This easy-to-read, visual exploration of the Bible allows the reader to follow the narrative from Genesis to Revelation. More than 250 stories from Scripture are presented with background information in word and picture.



Journey
through the
Bible



The book tells how ancient people lived, from foods they ate, and homes they lived in, to the clothes they wore and work they performed.

In all there are more than 400 pages of photographs, drawings, maps and charts. There are also included drawings of objects and monuments from Bible times, photographs

of archaeological discoveries, diagrams and full-colour maps. This should be a valuable resource for children's and youth session preparation, Bible storytelling, family devotions, and Bible study.

Pentecost: not a Ghost but a Gift

By Canon David Winter

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

MAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

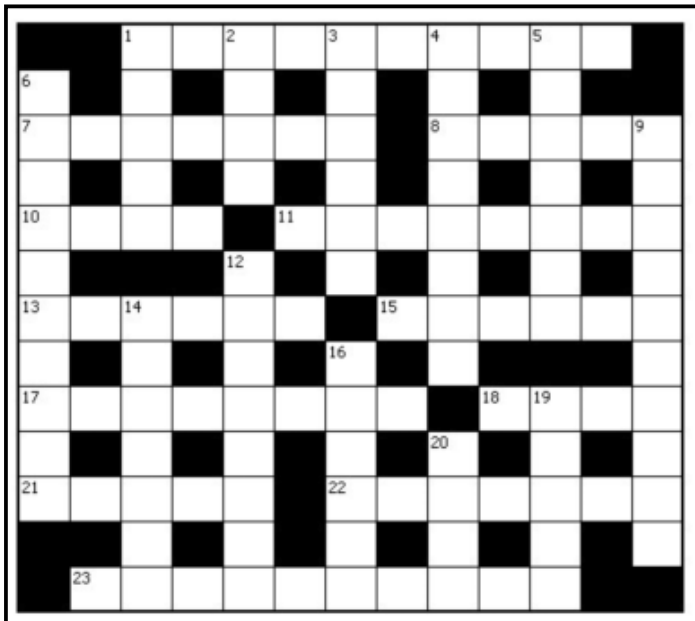
Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (1 Corinthians 8:7) (10)
- 7 Coming (John 11:17) (7)
- 8 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (John 17:10) (5)
- 10 Smarten (Acts 9:34) (4)
- 11 Hold back (Job 9:13) (8)
- 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- 15 At ague (anag.) (6)
- 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
- 18 So be it (Galatians 6:18) (4)
- 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote Murder in the Cathedral, T.S. — (5)
- 22 Empowers (Philippians 3:21) (7)
- 23 Imposing (1 Samuel 9:2) (10)

Down

- 1 Healed (Luke 7:21) (5)
- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)
- 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (Exodus 2:12) (8)
- 5 Bravery (Acts 4:13) (7)
- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (Acts 16:26) (10)
- 9 Transgression (Psalm 36:1) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
- 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (Genesis 1:2) (6)
- 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)
- 20 Cab (4)

(Solutions on grid page 29)



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ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



On tramps and peculiar pottery in the vestry

The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Quite frankly, I thought that you had at least a degree of common sense, even if it would need tracker dogs to find it. When a dishevelled stranger arrives on your doorstep, claiming to be a representative from your insurance company, why do you believe him? And when he asks about the location and contents of the church safe, it might not have been unreasonable to wonder if all was as it seemed.

I do think that to give him the keys to the vestry and the safe combination number while telling him you would call back in half an hour after doing a baptism visit, was hardly the wisest of decisions. You may as well have helped him load the contents into his van. Being innocent as a dove is commendable, but being as wary as a serpent does have its advantages.

Thank goodness that at least your Communion vessels are not silver. Instead they consist of singularly shaped pottery cup and bowl that not even the thief would touch. As I recall, dear Mrs Sprogg here at St. James the Least of All made them while she was learning her new hobby last Spring. (I was not surprised when, having finished the cup and bowl, she decided pottery was not her vocation, and turned to pig rearing instead.)

But in the meantime, she wanted a home for her extraordinary creations. She tried to slip them past me, into St James. Fortunately I was able to fend her off with all the medieval silverware we've already got here. And I diverted her by saying that YOUR parish would be charmed to be the recipients of such munificence. I believe I even went so far as to say that her earthenware creations would be objects of wonder to your congregation. (If not objects of sheer astonishment.)

Your letter of thanks was much appreciated, although she was a little

disappointed with your rapid refusal when she later offered to make you a ten foot clay figure of Jesus. I saw the nearly completed work: it was a Picasso in pottery.

No, you must learn to spot a con man at a hundred paces. You may have tramps there, but we have gentlemen of the road here – and I owe one of ours a debt of gratitude. His tip for the 2.30pm at our local racecourse enabled us to acquire the splendid new nave chandelier – although explaining the source of the money in our parish magazine needed careful wording.

I am obliged to concede that judging someone by their dress is not always easy. I was once confronted by an appallingly dressed man on the doorstep, who looked lost. Before he could utter a word, I gave him a broom and told him to sweep the leaves in the Rectory drive, while I made him a sandwich and a mug of tea. It was only when I took them out to him as he was quietly working that I discovered he was the Duke of Wittering, come to examine the tombs of his ancestors in the church. Once I pictured him in marble, lying prone with his hands together, I could see the family likeness. Most graciously, he said that using a broom had been a novel experience. I refrained from suggesting that using a comb may be another skill he could usefully acquire.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



GOD AND THE ARTS

By The Rev Michael Burgess

I wish you a joyful May

When Van Gogh painted 'The Raising of Lazarus', he turned to Rembrandt for inspiration. But in place of the figure of Jesus, he painted a warm, glowing sun, radiant in the sky, and shining out to bring renewal of life to Lazarus and his sisters.

From time immemorial people have placed the sun at the centre of life and worship. As Christianity grew and spread, it took over ceremonies and practices associated with that belief, but then moved the focus from the sun above to the Son, Jesus, on the earth below.

We can see that in the traditions and worship of Christmas and Easter. In May we celebrate the goodness and fruitfulness of nature brought by the sun with Maypole dancing, the crowning of the May Queen, and games and sports, just as the Romans went dancing in the fields



at this time, rejoicing in the gifts of Flora, the goddess of nature. In May the druids would greet the sun in the sky as they gathered on a high place.

That custom persisted for several centuries, particularly at Magdalen College in Oxford. In 1840 Dr John Bloxam revived the ceremony. Holman Hunt, one of that group of artists known as the Pre-Raphaelites, visited Oxford in 1851 and so enjoyed the Christmas festivities that he decided to honour the college life in one of his paintings. That decision took many years to reach the canvas: his painting of 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower' is one of his last complete works in 1890.

We can easily identify the choristers gathered to greet the rising sun in music and song. Amid the clouds and blue sky above, the birds are flying and the floor where the choir stand is bedecked with flowers. It is a glorious celebration of the fruitfulness of May and the summer: God's creation bringing so many gifts. The president of the college is the man with the dark beard at the right of the painting, and Dr Bloxam is beside him.

But there is an unusual character there also, at the side of the painting – a Parsee, an ancient worshipper of the sun from Persia, perhaps representing not just those who look to the light of the sun, but are also searching for the light of truth. The young chorister in the middle looking out at us holds a lily, the symbol of Mary, the mother of God's Son.

All creation is gathered to greet the dawn and the rising sun of May – the birds above and people below, young and old, Christian and non-Christian - all united to proclaim the goodness and renewal promised by the sun.

Holman Hunt said that he wanted to represent 'the spirit of a beautiful, primitive and in a large sense eternal service.' Here is a vivid reminder that the faith we profess opens our eyes to God's goodness and glory symbolised in the rising sun, and that He welcomes everyone to share in those gifts.

Amnesty International celebrates 60 years

by Tim Lenton

Amnesty International was founded in London 60 years ago, on 28th May 1961.

A non-governmental organisation with its headquarters in the United Kingdom, Amnesty International focuses on human rights and is believed to have more than seven million members and supporters around the world. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 for its “defence of human dignity against torture”.

Amnesty came together following the publication of an article in *The Observer*, ‘The Forgotten Prisoners’, by Peter Benenson, a Jewish lawyer whose mother Flora Benenson was Russian. His father Harold Solomon was British, but he died when Peter was nine. Peter, who was tutored by W H Auden and went to Eton and Balliol, took his mother’s name much later as a tribute to his grandfather, a gold tycoon.

With a group of lawyers and as a member of the Labour Party he founded Justice, the influential human rights and law reform organisation, in 1957, but the following year he fell ill and moved to Italy to convalesce, where he converted to Roman Catholicism.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

The longest journey is the journey within. - *Dag Hammarskjold*

The real measure of a person’s wealth is what has been invested in eternity. - *Anon*

Thank God for what you have, trust God for what you need. - *Anon*

Prayer is the very life-breath of true Christianity. - *J C Ryle*

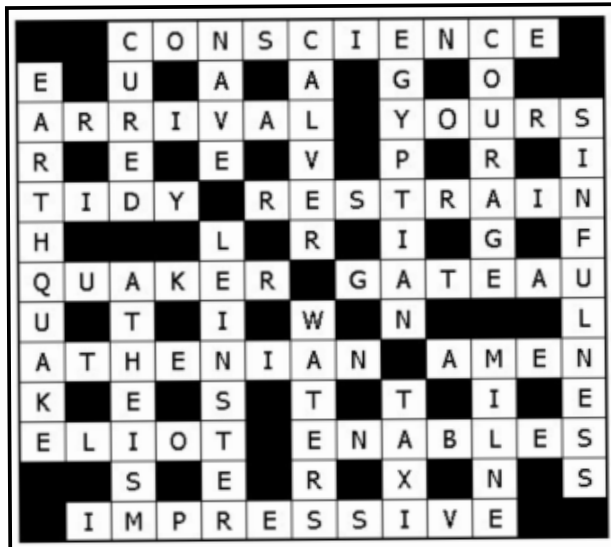
Freedom comes by filling your mind with God’s thoughts. - *Erwin Lutzer*

If you wish to know God, you must know His Word. - *CH Spurgeon*

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James the Less, quiet son of Alphaeus



This is the name we give to James the son of Alphaeus, but beyond that, who was he? Sometimes he is identified as the James whose mother stood by Christ on the cross. Sometimes he is thought to be the James who was 'brother of the Lord'. Sometimes he is thought to be the James who saw the risen Christ. He has also, and often, been called the first bishop of Jerusalem. And finally, sometimes James the Less has been thought of as the author of the Epistle of James.

But who really knows? If none of these identifications are correct, we know practically nothing about James the Less. So perhaps on this day we can simply recall 'all' of the James' above, and thank God for the mother who stood by the cross, the brother that supported Jesus, the apostle who saw his risen Lord and gave his life to proclaiming the truth, the first bishop of Jerusalem, and the author of the marvellous Epistle of James. Whether it was one James or several, they were all faithful to Jesus, and proclaimed Him as the Messiah. So perhaps that should make them James the More!

James the Less has been given an unusual iconographic emblem: a fuller's club. Tradition has it that he was beaten to death with one, after being sentenced by the Sanhedrin in AD 62. In England there are only 26 churches which are dedicated to James the Less.

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UNDER THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the month of May we can remember two very different people who fought under the sign of the cross.

On the night before a great battle, the Roman Emperor Constantine dreamt of a cross in the sky and the words 'in this sign conquer'. After his victory, Constantine ended 300 years of persecution and Romans were allowed to become Christians. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine died on 22nd May in the year 337.

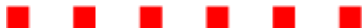


Some 1,500 years later, Jean Henry Dunant (who was born on 8th May 1828) was horrified to see the dreadful suffering after the Battle of Solferino. He spent the rest of his life working for the casualties of war, fighting under the banner of the Red Cross to relieve world-wide suffering.

WHAT'S IT FOR?

What would you do with these things? All the words are in the Bible but are rarely heard today. Answers at the bottom of the page.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. KNOP | a) polish it
b) eat it
c) harness it |
| 2. DARIC | a) herd it
b) sharpen it
c) spend it |
| 3. HYSOPP | a) carry it
b) cultivate it
c) dig with it |
| 4. SHOFAR | a) drive it
b) play it
c) prune it |



**Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Some poems rhyme,
This one
doesn't.**



Answers: 1. a) polish it, it is an ornamental knob, part of the lampstands in the tabernacle. 2. c) spend it, it's gold coin 3. b) cultivate it, it's a type of plant 4. b) play it, it is musical instrument made from a ram's horn.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Weddings

-

Burials

-

Year's mind for May 2020

Betterfeet - Foot Care

Home Care for your feet

Julie Payne

Qualified Foot Health Professional

Email: betterfeet.jp@gmail.com Tel: 07518 788 488

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.

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**HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
1921 - 2021**