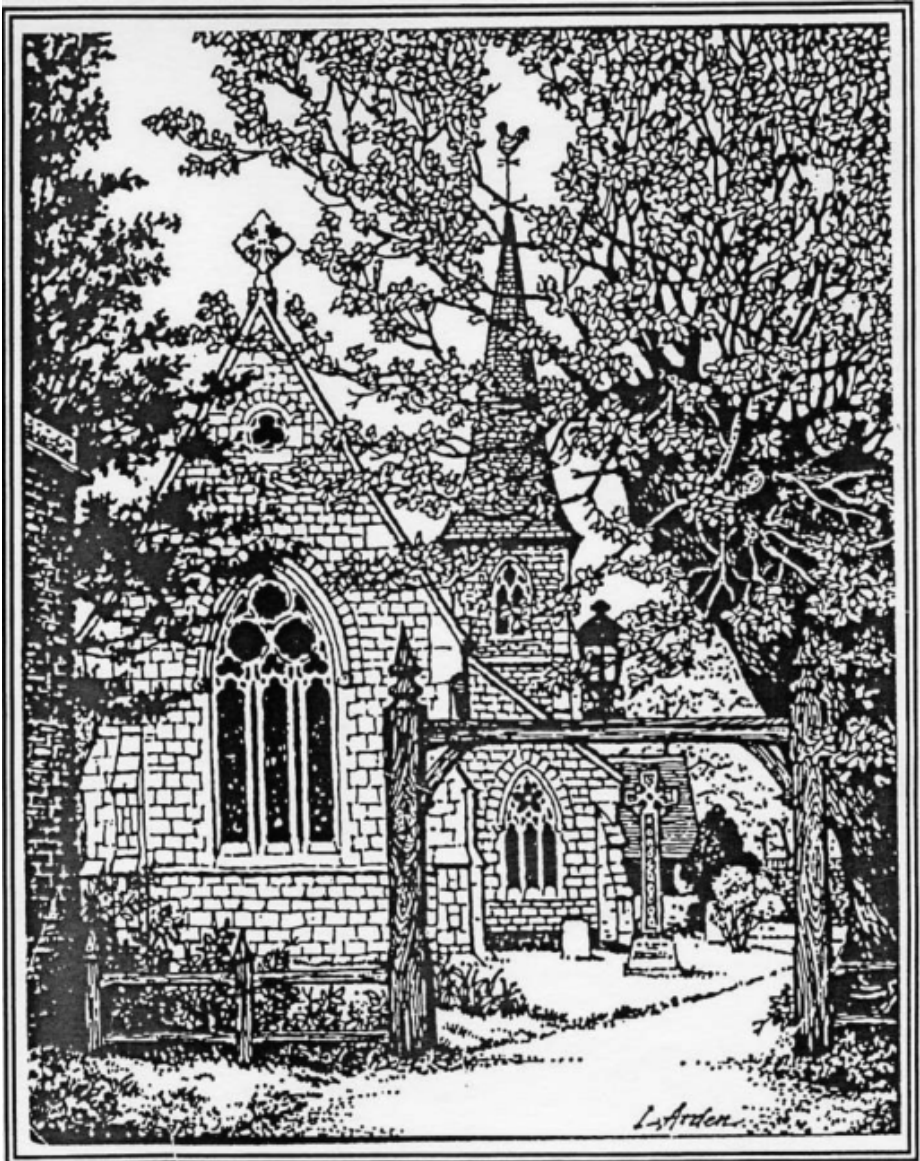


**The Parish Church of** **50p**  
***St. James, North Cray*** ***November, 2021***  
***(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)***



## 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 NOVEMBER 2021



Last month, I brought to your attention two important community events happening in November.

First there is the North Cray & District Royal British Legion's 'Memories' - A Festival of Remembrance which will take place on Sunday 7 November (the weekend *before* Remembrance Sunday). On the following Sunday, 14 November, which is Remembrance Sunday, there will be a Parade Service at 9.30am and an 11am Act of Remembrance.

I believe that these kinds of events are an important factor in the flourishing of the whole North Cray community. As I wrote last month, the ancient parish church of St James, North Cray has been here 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.

Contact me for more information or look on our website

[www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk](http://www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk)

**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)



## God of All

Our God is the God of all,  
The God of heaven and earth,  
Of the sea and of the rivers;  
The God of the sun and of the moon and of all  
the stars;  
The God of the lofty mountains  
and of the lowly valleys.  
He has his dwelling around heaven and earth,  
and sea, and all that in them is.  
He inspires all,  
He gives life to all,  
He dominates all,  
He supports all.  
He lights the light of the sun,  
He furnishes the light of the night,  
He has made springs in dry land...  
He is the God of heaven and earth,  
of sea and rivers,  
of sun, moon and stars,  
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,  
the God above heaven,  
and in heaven,  
and under heaven.

St Patrick



## 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 NOVEMBER 2021

### **SUNDAY 7 November**

9.30am Traditional Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) as part of the Royal British Legion 'Memories' Event

### **SUNDAY 14 November**

9.30am Remembrance Parade Service with leaders and young people from our Uniformed Organisations  
All are welcome

11am Act of Remembrance at War Memorial

### **SUNDAY 21 November**

9.30am Holy Communion



3.00pm Forest Church

### **SUNDAY 28 November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.30am Holy Communion

There will be music on this link

[www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/welcome/music/](http://www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/welcome/music/)

We hope you find the music helpful and inspiring.

We continue to 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](http://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.

Suzy Higgs, Churchwarden



## The beloved Stone of Scone

*By Tim Lenton*



A quarter of a century ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1996, England officially returned the Stone of Scone to Scotland after 700 years. It was the coronation stone of the Scottish and (later) English and British monarchs. Scotland has agreed to loan the Stone to Westminster Abbey for

future coronations.

Ten thousand people lined the Royal Mile in Edinburgh to witness the Stone's return, and at a service in St Giles' Cathedral the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Revd John MacIndoe, formally accepted it.

The red sandstone block – sometimes called the Stone of Destiny – has been used in the enthronement of all Scottish kings since Kenneth I united the Scots and Pictish kingdoms and moved his capital to Scone, Perthshire, in about 840AD. It was brought to England by King Edward I in 1296, and taken to Westminster Abbey, where it has been used in the crowning of every subsequent monarch of England.

Scottish Nationalists had taken the Stone from the Abbey on Christmas Day 1950, but it was returned a few months later. One of several legends suggests that it is the same stone Jacob used as a pillow at Bethel, which later became the pedestal of the Ark in the Temple.

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# News and Issues



## **Afghanistan crisis: advice for parishes on helping refugees**

The Church of England has published a ‘toolkit’ of resources for parishes seeking to help refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover of the country.

The material, available online, brings together links and information on how churches can welcome people arriving from Afghanistan through giving, longer-term practical support such as community sponsorship, prayer and advocacy.

The toolkit includes a range of prayer and theological resources from the Church of England and other sources alongside details of an array of charities and NGOs also working to support refugees and asylum seekers.

It also includes a simple explanation of the two main resettlement schemes and the asylum system and offers suggestions on how Christians can speak out on behalf of those unable to do so.

In a foreword to the toolkit, the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, the Church of England’s Lead Bishop for Refugees and Asylum, said: “The challenge for the whole nation is to welcome these families and help them build new lives here in the United Kingdom.

“Alongside this is the reality that there are thousands of Afghan citizens already here and stuck in the asylum system awaiting a response to their claim. “God’s call on God’s people has always been to welcome the stranger and help provide for them. So here is a fresh opportunity to live out this calling.

The Church of England is a longstanding supporter of refugee programmes. The material is available online at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/toolkit-supporting-afghan-refugees>

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# **MEETINGS and Events 2021**

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

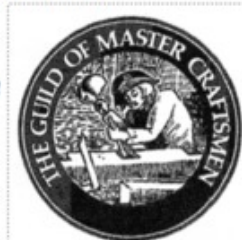
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## ALL IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

150 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 1871 Welsh journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley located the missing missionary and explorer Dr David Livingstone near Lake Tanganyika in present-day Tanzania. He might or might not have greeted him with the words: "Doctor Livingstone, I presume?"

100 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1921 Remembrance poppies were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries to commemorate military personnel who died in war.

90 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 1931 the Crystal Palace in London was destroyed by fire.

65 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1956 Premium Bonds went on sale in the UK. They were designed to encourage people to save, and they offered cash prizes instead of interest.

50 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1971 NASA's Mariner 9 spacecraft (launched that May) reached Mars. It was the first spacecraft to orbit another planet.

Also 30 years ago on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1991 the Church of England envoy Terry Waite and American educator Thomas Sutherland were released by Islamic Jihad in Lebanon after being held hostage since January 1987 and June 1985 respectively.

25 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 1996 England officially returned the Stone of Scone to Scotland after 700 years. It was the coronation stone of the Scottish and (later) English and British monarchs. Scotland agreed to loan the Stone to Westminster Abbey for future coronations.

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**BEXLEY TEAM MINISTRY**  
**“EXPLORING CONFIRMATION”**



*Are you feeling ready to discover more about the Christian faith and to explore it in greater depth?*

*Have you got questions about what it would mean for you to be a follower of Jesus?*

*Do you need some help to decide whether it is right for you to take the step of being baptised or ‘confirmed’ as a member of the Anglican Church?*

To try and answer those questions, and others you might have,  
we are going to meet on

**Sunday 7 November at 4pm**

at St Barnabas Church, in Joydens Wood

A Safe Space for you to bring hopes and questions, doubts and uncertainties

It'll be very informal, all ages are welcome, and you can bring your children if child-care would be a problem otherwise.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY - THERE WILL BE CAKE!**

Contact me for more information or to let me know  
if you are coming.

Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)

01322 528923

07836644782

(or any of the Bexley Team Clergy)



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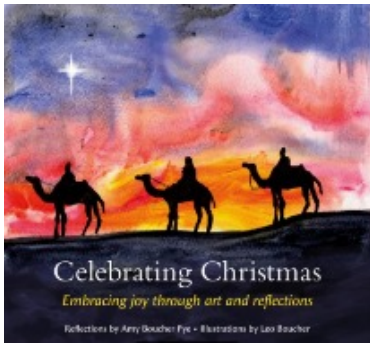




# Book Mark

## **Celebrating Christmas - Embracing joy through art and reflection by Amy Boucher-Pye, BRF, £9.99**

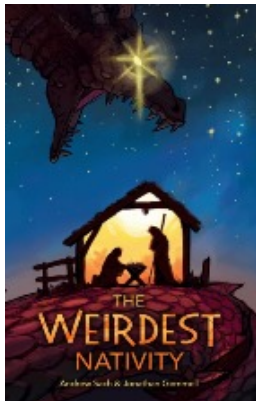
In this stunning hardback gift book, father and daughter Leo and



Amy offer images and words to bring you joy at Christmas: a profound, enduring joy even in the midst of pain, loss, betrayal and disappointment. Full of vivid memories and family anecdotes, ranging from the glittering lights of Oxford Street to the snowy woods of Minnesota, *Celebrating Christmas* explores the joys and

sorrows of Christmas in a broken world, which is, as the author says, 'exactly why Jesus came to earth!'

## **The Weirdest Nativity by Andrew Sach and Jonathan Gemmell, 10Publishing, £2.99**



This is a book for people who already know the *standard* nativity – the baby, the stable, the manger...

But it includes one character you were probably never told about – an enormous red dragon. We didn't make him up. His story is tucked away in the lesser-known pages of the Bible and his terrible deeds are verifiable facts of history. Though few people are aware of him, he is fighting a battle in which we all must choose sides.



## Doctor Livingstone, I presume?

By Tim Lenton



It was 150 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1871, that Welsh journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley located the missing missionary Dr David Livingstone near Lake Tanganyika, in present-day Tanzania. He may or may not have greeted him with the words: “Doctor Livingstone, I presume?”

Stanley’s real name was John Rowlands. He was born in Denbigh to an unmarried 18-year-old who abandoned him. He ended up in a workhouse until he was 15, then went to America, where he changed his name and became an American citizen. When he found Livingstone, he was working for the *New York Herald*.

Known for his strength of will, Stanley also had an African name – Bula Matari – Breaker of Rocks. Much of his life was spent in Central Africa, and his reputation was mixed: he was said by some to be violent toward Africans, but by others to have treated them well. His feats as an explorer were impressive: he played a big part in locating the true source of both the Nile and the Congo, and he helped open up the Congo on behalf of King Leopold of Belgium.

Though not overtly religious, he felt he was engaged in a “sacred task”. He was re-naturalised a British subject in 1892, following his marriage.

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## **Our PILGRIM PLACES: historic Christian sites in Britain : IONA & LINDISFARNE - part 3**

*Dr Herbert McGonigle*

Over the past several months we have remembered that in 563 a little group of monks from Ireland arrived in Scotland. They were headed by a monk called Columba, and they settled on Iona. Soon the little island was recognised as a centre of Christian spirituality. Now read on...

While the Celtic Christianity that flourished at Iona succeeded in evangelising large parts of Scotland, its influence also reached England. In the 630s Oswald was King of Northumbria. He had visited Iona at least once and was very impressed with the Christian community there. Oswald was a baptised Christian and he was concerned about the evangelisation of the pagans in his kingdom. He wanted a strong, missionary-minded evangelical bishop to oversee the Church in Northumbria and he asked Iona for help.

The monks at Iona asked Aidan, bishop of Scattery Island at the mouth of the river Shannon in the west of Ireland, to go to Northumbria. Aidan consented and in the year 635 he arrived in the northeast of England. He made his home on the island of Lindisfarne (Holy Island) but set up his episcopal centre at nearby Bamburgh on the mainland.

King Oswald warmly welcomed Aidan and the two men became firm friends. Oswald gave Aidan every possible help and encouragement and Aidan began a ministry of visitation, preaching, teaching and evangelism that was to result in Northumbria being the most Christianised of all the provinces in England. It was the 19th century Bishop Lightfoot of Durham, famed scholar and historian, who said that England's real patron saint was neither St George or Augustine of Canterbury but Aidan of Lindisfarne. This judgement can hardly be challenged. Aidan not only made Northumbria a great centre of Celtic Christianity but the example of his loving, humble and sacrificial ministry inspired his fellow clergy and many more in the centuries following.

When Aidan died in 651AD, he had, with the help of his clergy and monks, not only evangelised Northumbria but also he had taken Celtic Christianity to other parts of England. Lindisfarne had become the English form of what Columba had first established on Iona. Celtic Christianity, in Iona and Lindisfarne, had always traced its roots to St John and Asia Minor. On Scotland's island of Iona and England's island

of Lindisfarne, the Johannine tradition of Christianity, in the form of Celtic Christianity, flourished. Having lighted the fires of authentic New Testament Christianity in Ireland with the life and work of Patrick, the sparks of Celtic spirituality were carried first to Iona and later to Lindisfarne.

In 1938, a year before Europe was plunged into the horrors of World War II, the Rev Dr George MacLeod founded the Iona Community. He took a party of working men from Glasgow to rebuild the ruined medieval Iona Abbey. It was the beginning of a project to make Iona a spiritual retreat. The Iona Community has grown in reputation across the decades as it seeks to interpret and apply the gospel in the contemporary world.

So for about 1445 years the Christian faith has been established on this little Hebridean island. As the prophet asked, 'Who has despised the day of small things?' (Zech. 4:10). When Columba and his fellow monks pulled their little boat ashore on Iona in 563AD, it appeared indeed to be a day of small importance. But God was with them and, using the Bible's metaphor of spiritual fire, the sparks kindled on Iona brought the light of the gospel to the pagan darkness of Scotland and England.

*Dr Herbert McGonigle is Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester*



## Reflected Faith

By the Rev Dr Jo White

### What is 'Special'?



Have you ever been given a new Bible and wondered what to do with your now unwanted old one? Somehow, it doesn't feel right just to throw it in the bin, does it? You might take it to a charity shop, but they often have enough already. Many people bring them to church – but realistically what will they do with assorted versions of varying size, style and condition?

Churches have this difficulty all the time about 'special' items. Objects that come into contact so to speak, with the Living God, become so special that one can hardly bin them when they are no longer required or considered in suitable condition for the task.

This applies to a whole range of things, such as the robes, especially the stole, that a priest wears for administering the sacraments. When a priest dies s/he is often buried or cremated in their robes, otherwise they need to be passed on to another priest for their use or burned and the ashes buried: given back to the earth.

Also the blessed water that has been used for baptisms is poured into the earth rather than down a normal drain. Ideally, this applies also to the water used to wash a priest's hands before the Eucharistic Prayer as well as to that which has rinsed the communion vessels after their use. This was the reason for piscinas (sinks with drains into the earth) next to the altar in old churches.

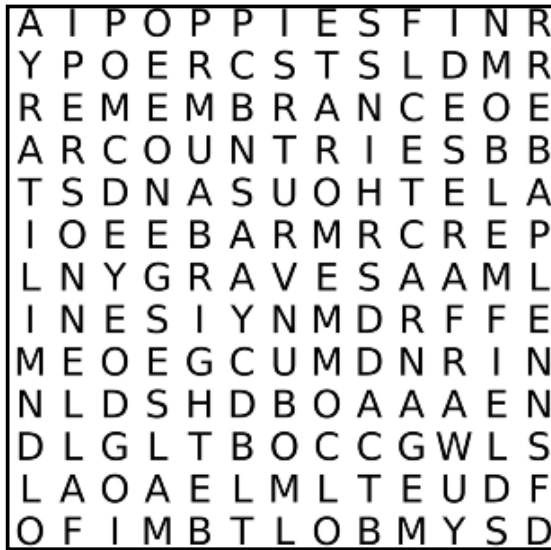
So how do you limit what is actually consecrated during a Communion service? Why is the spare wine and bread not automatically also consecrated?

The answer to that is the use of the Corporal (Latin for 'body'). A piece of white cloth that is placed on the altar upon which is then placed those things that the priests seeks God's blessing upon.

*This month:*

*What things are so special to you, that you can never imagine throwing them away? What will you do with them?*

# WORDSEARCH



- |             |           |           |          |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Remembrance | Military  | Trench    | Graves   |
| Poppies     | Personnel | Warfare   | Fallen   |
| Sold        | Mud       | Thousands | Flanders |
| Countries   | Blood     | Bright    | Fields   |
| Commemorate | Carnage   | Red       | Symbol   |

Solutions on page 31

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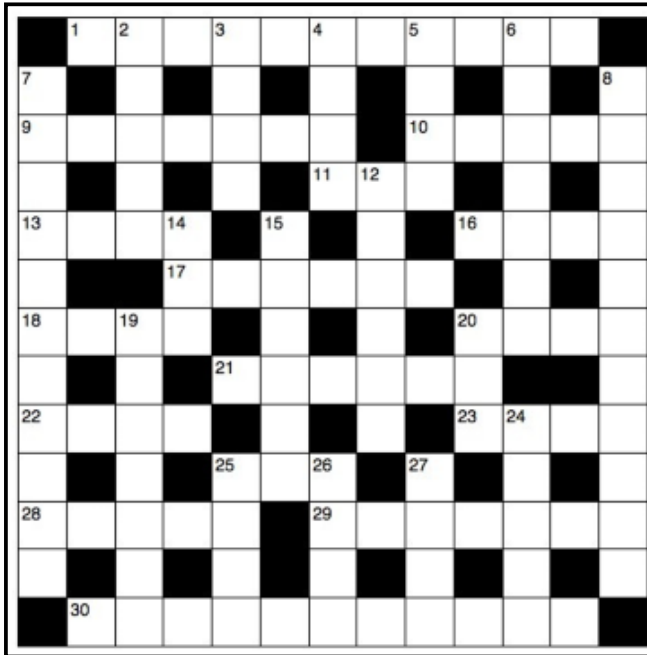
## NOVEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

### Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)



- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)  
 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)  
 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)  
 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)  
 15 Liverpool dialect (6)  
 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)  
 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)  
 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)  
 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)  
 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD 54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)  
 27 See 18 Across

(Solutions on page 31)

## ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



### **On the ferocity of the church's Bridge drive The Rectory**

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St. James the Least. While you certainly raised some money, I feel that £5.43, along with assorted foreign coins no longer in use, may mean that the purchase of your pneumatically adjustable stage for liturgical dance, along with equipment for producing holograms of the Holy Land to illustrate sermons, may be somewhat delayed. It makes our fund-raising to repair the tea urn seem somewhat mundane.

You may have musical bike rides, but we have Bridge drives, which are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and to exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance to these other activities. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence – which is wholly ignored by those at the tables discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver half way through “Onward Christian Soldiers” at last Sunday's Mattins. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell, who as a former mill worker is able to lip read.

Refreshments are regarded by one half as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure that the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled

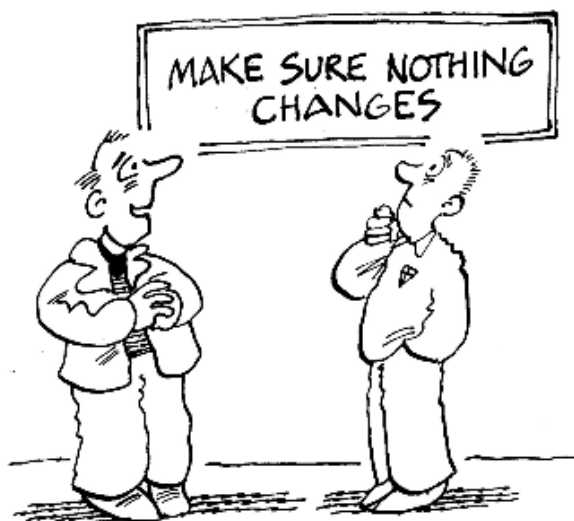


ham; the others see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents.

Drawing the raffle is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly-mined seams of gossip throughout the village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes.

Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are that they will all be meeting again the following afternoon round card tables at another location for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt, the only difference being that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



*...it's perhaps not the most dynamic of mission statements...  
but at least it received the unanimous approval of the Church Council!*

## GOD AND THE ARTS

*By The Rev Michael Burgess*

**‘All you who pass this way, look and see’**



The philosopher Wittgenstein gave the following advice to people visiting an art gallery or exhibition: never try to rush through all the paintings on show, but instead choose just one painting. Sit in front of it for twenty minutes. Then get up and leave the art gallery. It is difficult advice to take to heart because we feel we want to get our money's worth from an exhibition, especially if we have paid an entrance charge.

Once in the gallery we then feel so overawed by the number of paintings on show and the pressure of the crowd that we go quickly from one canvas to the next.

The rushing around at a gallery is part and parcel of the way we meet each day. We rush out of habit, and we rush because everyone else is rushing. Our world seems set in the fast lane. Carl Honoré in his book 'In Praise of Slow' tells how, as a busy journalist, he experienced a flashback to a time in his youth when life was unhurried. He reflects, with regret, that it was a better life then.

If we do want to take Wittgenstein's advice seriously and find ourselves in the National Gallery in Edinburgh, we could do no better than choose to sit in front of this month's painting: El Greco's 'The Saviour.' El Greco was born in 1541 in Crete. From Greece he travelled to Venice and Rome and finally to Toledo in Spain where he died in 1614.

His art is a fusion of eastern and western traditions, given extra fervour by the Counter-Reformation and resulting in a unique style of painting. His canvases are peopled by elongated figures who seem always to be straining upwards, just as the Counter-Reformation was exhorting the faithful to set their sights on heaven as they made their journey through life.

In his early years in Crete El Greco trained as an icon painter, and that is much in evidence in 'The Saviour.' It shows a half-length figure of Christ – he was to paint a fuller figure later. This Christ like an icon is looking out at us, with his right hand raised to bless us and this world, while the left hand holds that same world in His care. We can see in the eyes an inner strength, but also the poignant sadness of longing for this is a Saviour who has come through suffering and death to bring us new life.

As we look and see, we find here in El Greco's work a Christ-calmed steadiness amid the spinning world of rush and busyness. The nearer we draw to this Jesus, the slower we will find ourselves spinning. The duties and responsibilities that demand so much from us take their place in the wider perspective of the Saviour's grace and love. Then we can begin to experience that peace which the world cannot offer, but which Christ can bring.

The first step in that process is to stop and look. The Curé d'Ars, a parish priest in France in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, told how he noticed an old man sitting at the back of his church every day. He didn't seem to be doing anything, just sitting there in the same place at the same time, looking towards the Blessed Sacrament on the High Altar. Eventually the young priest became suspicious. He asked the man what he was doing. 'I'm praying,' came the reply. 'Yes, but what exactly is it you do?' enquired the priest. 'Well, I look at Him and He looks at me.'



Margaret of Scotland has been called 'The Pearl of Scotland', but she began life in Hungary about 1045. She was born to the expatriate English prince Edward the Exile, and so was an English princess. The family returned to Wessex in 1057, when she was 13, and following the death of King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, her brother Edgar Aetheling should have been King of England, but he was never crowned. Instead, the family fled north, to Scotland, where she was married to Malcolm III of Scotland by

1070. As a Scottish queen she went on to become mother of three kings of Scotland, and of a queen consort of England.

Margaret was a Christian, and became a good friend of Lanfranc, a future archbishop of Canterbury. Her biographer tells of how she read narratives from the Bible to her husband, thus helping to 'civilise' him. He was illiterate, but so admired her reading, that he had her books decorated with gold and silver. She was also credited with helping her youngest son, the future King David I of Scotland, towards becoming a just and holy ruler.

Margaret introduced the worship and practise of the Church of Rome into Scotland. She also wanted to help the many pilgrims travelling in Scotland, and so she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth, which is where the towns South Queensferry and North Queensferry got their names.

Margaret performed many charitable works for the poor, and she interceded for the release of English exiles who had been forced into serfdom following the Norman conquest. She also began the restoration of Iona Abbey.

In private life, Margaret spent much of her time in prayer, using a cave on the banks of the Tower Burn in Dunfermline as a place of devotion and prayers. St Margaret's Cave is still there today, covered beneath a municipal car park.

Margaret died in 1093, and in 1250 Pope Innocent IV canonised her. Her relics were dispersed after the Scottish Reformation.



### A SOUL CAKE

In the Christian calendar, November 2<sup>nd</sup> is All Souls' Day when we remember all Christians who have died. It used to be a custom for church bells to toll all day on All Souls' Day (which must have been very tiring for the bellringers – and for people living near the church!).

Up to the 1930s children used to go 'souling' on this day. They had a day off school and went round the houses asking for 'soul cakes' or pennies. There was even a rhyme to sing while 'souling':

A soul, a soul, a soul cake,  
I pray, good missis, a soul cake.  
An apple, a pear, a plum, a cherry,  
Any good thing to make us merry.

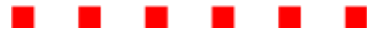


### GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT

All the words in this word search are foods mentioned in the Bible. Can you find them all?

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

Almond Bread Cheese  
Cucumber Date Deer Fig  
Fish Fowl Garlic Grape  
Honey Lamb Leek Lentils  
Manna Milk Olive Onions  
Stew



### How can you tell when a food is rude?

When it's got sauce.



This cake tastes funny.

Oh dear. I followed the recipe

exactly! It said, separate two eggs, so I put one on the kitchen table and the other one on the top of the washing machine.

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## SOLUTIONS TO WORDSEARCH



FROM THE REGISTERS

*Baptisms*

-

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*Year's mind for November 2020*

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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.



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North Cray  
& District Branch  
100 YEARS OF THE RBL

# 'MEMORIES'

**A FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE**  
**An Invitation to all for Sun. 7 November 2021**

Please join us at the  
War Memorial in the grounds of  
St. James' Church, North Cray

**9.30AM COMMEMORATION SERVICE,  
ACT OF REMEMBRANCE &  
LAYING OF WREATHS**

## **THEN A PROCESSION TO:**

Geoffrey Hall (NC&D & 1st North Cray Scouts HQ) for  
refreshments and to see and read our display of war  
time stories and memorabilia.

OUR 'MEMORIES' EVENT AIMS TO BRING YOUNG AND OLD  
TOGETHER IN RECOGNISING THE SERVICE AND LIVES  
GIVEN IN CONFLICT. WITH SINGERS, STORIES & MUSIC -  
LEST WE FORGET.



ALL DONATIONS TO NC&D RBL ARE USED IN OUR COMMUNITY; THIS  
EVENT WILL ALSO RAISE MONEY FOR THE SPIRE OF THE CHURCH.

Membership Opportunities will be available to those who wish to join.