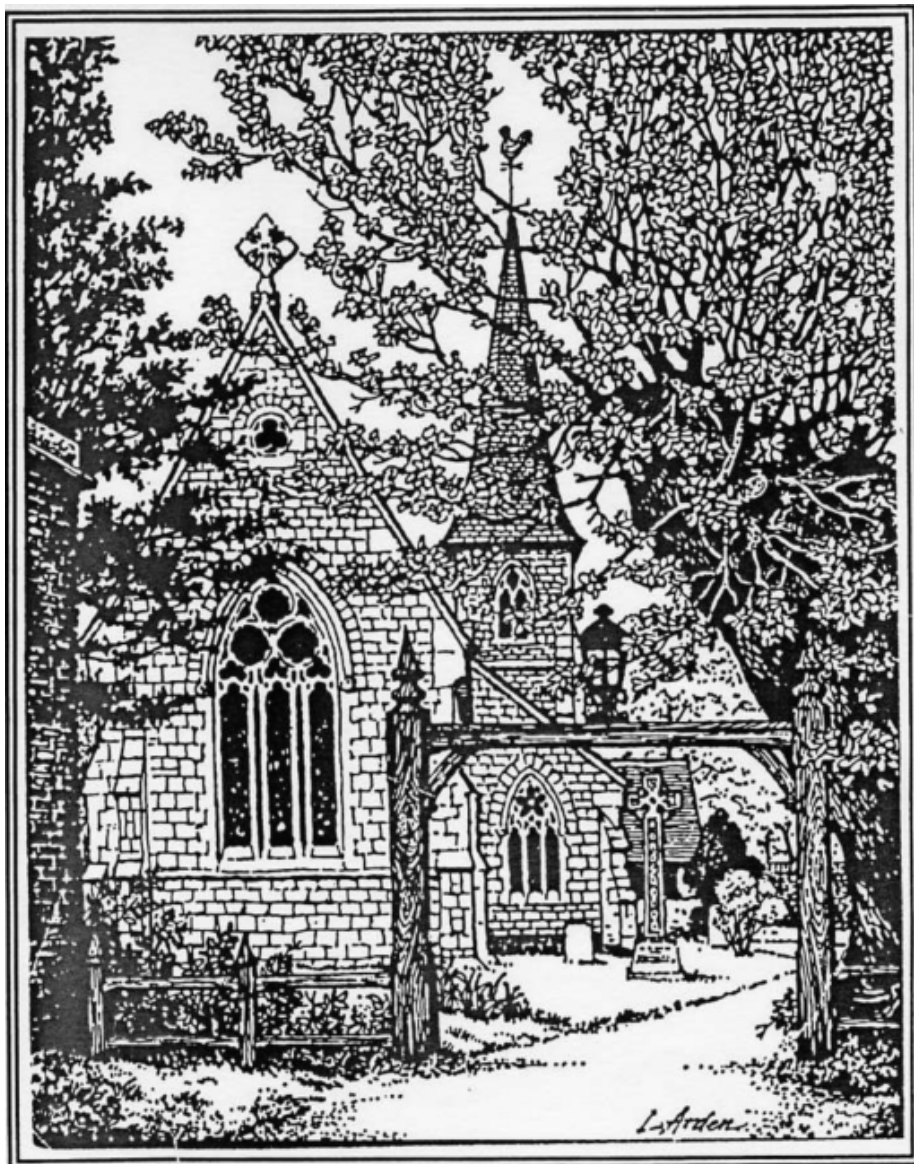


**The Parish Church of** **50p**  
***St. James, North Cray*** ***November, 2022***

*(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)*



## St JAMES, NORTH CRAY PARISH STAFF

**Associate Priest:** Rev'd Sue Twynam 01322 559501  
setwynam@gmail.com 07952 468127

**Team Curate:** Rev'd Matt Hodder 07889 873125  
matthodder10@gmail.com

**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)

## 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.



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## **Autumn**

She arrives in a coat of many colours,  
Flame, gold, russet and brown,  
Autumn appears with dancing feet  
Crunching on leaves the wind has blown  
down.

Rustling and bustling, friend with the wind,  
Whistling and blowing and whooshing  
around,  
Creating a carpet of multiple colours,  
Teasing the leaves as they fall to the ground.

Mellowing fruits and ripening corn,  
Autumn's bounty for us to share,  
Our God of provision, providing, sustaining  
Whatever the season, His presence is near.

*By Megan Carter*

## **THE BOTHY**

**Are you looking for a small hall for a function?**

**The Bothy (in St James Church Grounds) has all the facilities  
you need and can seat 35 people.**

**If you need further information please contact**

**Lynne Meads on 07966 315518**

**SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR  
NOVEMBER 2022**

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> November**

9.30 am

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November

8pm

**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> November**

9.30 am

11am

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

8pm

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> November**

9.30am

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

8pm

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> November**

9.30am

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

10am

10am -1pm

8pm

**3rd Sunday before Advent**

Holy Communion

Team Zoom

**Remembrance Sunday**

Family Parade

Act of Remembrance

Team Zoom

**Christ the King**

Holy Communion

Team Zoom

**Advent Sunday**

Holy communion

Mid week Communion

Craft and Coffee Morning in  
the Bothy

Team Zoom

Please contact the Associate Priest 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.



# News and Issues



## **Call on big tech companies to be transparent and ethical**

The Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group ('EIAG') has recently published a report advising investors with Christian values how to approach investing in big technology companies. The Church's National Investing Bodies (NIBs), which received the advice, has published a new policy in line with this guidance.

The report recommends technology companies make public commitments including:

a commitment to verifiable transparency; to promoting human-centred design; to enabling the flourishing of children and other vulnerable groups; and to fostering a tech eco-system that serves the common good.

## **44 million struggling with cost-of-living crisis**

In what has been described as 'a landmark poll', CAP (Christians Against Poverty) has found that nearly half of us living in the UK are being impacted by rising costs. The poll, carried out for CAP by YouGov, found:

**Impacted** - 84% (about 44 million) of us have been financially affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

**Rising prices** – 49% of us (about 25.9 million) have seen our bills rise by between £101 and £500 a month.

**Struggling financially** – 15% of us (about 7.9 million) admit we were already struggling financially. But this has risen quickly, until by now it seems that just under half of us, or 48% (about 25 million) are struggling to some extent.

**Cutting back** – an estimated 61% of us (more than 32 million) of us have reduced our energy use to save money. More than 46% of us (about 24 million) are shopping around more and using cheaper supermarkets.

**Desperation** — Sadly, about 15% of us, (almost 8 million) people are now thought to be going without heating or electricity completely. A

similar amount of us are even skipping some meals. About 37% of us (or 19 million) have cut out socialising and leisure altogether.

**Debt & borrowing** — About 6.9 million people (13%) are behind on their bills, and more than 42% of us (about 22 million) have borrowed money to cope with rising costs. Of those who have borrowed money this year, 40% have borrowed £1000 or more, with 15% borrowing more than £3000 during 2022.

**Long term impact** — Over a third us who owe money expect that it will take us more than a year to pay it back.

As one spokesman for CAP says: “*Living shouldn’t cost everything. But for millions, it does.*”

*“We need more targeted help for people living in poverty who have less money coming in than they need just to stay alive and out of serious debt. This could be delivered in discounts of household bills, more one-off grants and increased benefit payments to help people survive winter.”* CAP is helping thousands of people become debt free across the UK.

**The Bishop of Manchester, Dr David Walker, deputy chair of the EIAG, said:** “This report addresses important issues about how technology influences our lives, including the most vulnerable among us. Investors like the Church’s National Investing Bodies can play a role in working with technology companies to ensure they take a human-centred approach, giving users more control and being transparent about their working practices.”

## **6<sup>th</sup> November – join the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**

Churches and Christians across the UK are being invited to remember the suffering of Christians persecuted and imprisoned for their faith in countries around the world.

According to Open Doors, the 2022 rankings are as follows. The top 20 countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian are: 1 Afghanistan; 2 North Korea; 3 Somalia; 4 Libya; 5 Yemen; 6 Eritrea; 7 Nigeria; 8 Pakistan; 9 Iran; 10 India; 11 Saudi Arabia; 12 Myanmar; 13 Sudan; 14 Iraq; 15 Syria; 16 Maldives; 17 China; 18 Qatar; 19 Vietnam; and 20 Egypt.

For the full list of 50 countries, please go to:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

## **King Charles III**

By Canon Paul Hardingham

*‘And wherever you may live in the United Kingdom, or in the realms and territories across the world, and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.’*

These are King Charles III’s words from his TV broadcast following the death of Queen Elizabeth. They reflect the Queen’s own commitment to serve the nation for 70 years. They also express the continuity of monarchy: *‘The Queen is dead. Long live the King!’*

However, continuity doesn’t mean that things remain the same. King Charles III will face different challenges to the Queen, but the same God works His purposes through each of them. At his death, King David spoke these words to his son Solomon: *‘Be strong and observe what the Lord your God requires: walk in obedience to him...Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go.’* (1 Kings 2:2,3) These are words for our new King and ourselves, as we seek God’s will in a time of uncertainty.

King Charles III has demonstrated his ability to get alongside people to *‘see the value of each person as God sees them.’* (Archbishop of Canterbury). He is also in touch with the important issues of the day. He has provided young people with opportunities to change their lives. He understands the life of the poorest in our society, and he is passionate about the state of our planet. Let’s pray for our king, as he faces new challenges and opportunities: *‘I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.* (1 Timothy 2:1,2).



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# Book Mark



**The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness – the path to true Christian joy.** By Timothy Keller, 10Publishing, £2.99



This is one of the questions the Apostle Paul addresses as he writes to the church in Corinth. He's not after some superficial outward tinkering, but instead a deep-rooted, life-altering change that takes place on the inside. In an age where pleasing people, puffing up your ego and building your résumé are seen as the methods to 'make it', the Apostle Paul calls us to find true rest in blessed self-forgetfulness.

**The Unexpected Gift Activity Book – Creative Christmas Activities.** By Annie Kratzsch and Tessa Janes, 10Publishing, £6.99

The activity book for youngsters aged 4 to 7 helps to make the



Christmas story hands-on and tangible. It contains 25 activities to make, as well as 25 Bible verse ornaments to decorate. Templates to create a nativity scene, plus other crafts, can be torn directly out of the book, making it much easier to get creative with decorating and assembling the crafts.

Each activity pairs up with a matching page from the storybook, so they can be used together to explore the Christmas story with your family.

## How Does God Guide Us? By Canon Paul Hardingham

We are all faced with daily decisions about our jobs, future, money, relationships etc. Yet God promises to guide those who listen to Him: *'My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.'* (John 10:27). There are five key aspects of hearing God's voice.

### 1. Scripture:

The primary way God guides us is through the Bible: *'Your word is lamp for my feet, and a light on my path'* (Psalm 119: 105). The Scriptures give us general guidance for life e.g. whether to pay taxes, give or forgive others, as well as what to do in particular situations.

### 2. Holy Spirit:

*'And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem'* (Acts 20:22). The Holy Spirit helps us to hear God's voice through Scripture, prayer or pictures, and also by prompting us in particular situations.

### 3. Common Sense:

We must not abandon common sense: *'Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this'* (2 Tim. 2:7). In making most decisions, God uses our thinking about what to do. *'God's promises of guidance were not given to save us the problem of thinking'* (John Stott).

### 4. Wise Advice:

*'Make plans by seeking advice'* (Proverbs 20:18). Although we're responsible for decision making, it's good to talk to others about the choices we are making.

### 5. Circumstances:

God also guides us through circumstances, *'In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps'* (Proverbs 16:9). He will open or close doors in particular circumstances.

We won't always get it right, but God can include our mistakes in his bigger plan: *'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him'* (Romans 8:28).

## **The Monarch and the Church**

*By solicitor, David Pickup*

*By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just (Proverbs 8:15)*

We have a unique system in this country that links the King to the Church. The new King has made an oath to uphold the Presbyterian Church in Scotland and is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The sovereign holds the title 'Defender of the Faith. It was originally given to Henry VIII by the pope for defending the Roman Catholic faith. It was later claimed as a title for defending the Protestant religion.

These are legal roles and titles which bind the Crown, Parliament and Anglican churches together. The King appoints Archbishops, Bishops and Deans of the Church of England, who then swear an oath of allegiance to the monarch.

Some people might ask if the Church or any part of it needs to be so closely linked to the State. Why should Parliament or the government, who may be people from other or no faith, have a say who runs the Church? Some say that the purpose of having an established Church is so that Parliament can protect the Church from itself. Some would argue there has been too much modernisation in the Church which has not led to more people in pews. Meanwhile, though the numbers of people having an allegiance to the Church of any kind is falling, still many people turn to the Church at times of personal and family troubles and celebrations.

God save the King. He has solemnly promised to uphold the Church and spoken of his personal faith. We do not know what the future of this country or the Church will be, but we can influence it by prayer. We should pray for those in authority, whether we agree with them or not. It may not be a perfect system, but it is probably better than all the rest.

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# **MEETINGS and Events 2022**

*Watch this space for  
future events*

## **QUOTES OF THE MONTH**

For every step you take towards God, God takes two steps toward you; and if you come to God walking, God comes to you running. - *James Martin*

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle. - *Albert Einstein*

There are two sorts of problems in my life. The political ones are insoluble, and the economic ones are incomprehensible. - *Sir Alec Douglas-Home, former Prime Minister.*

I claim not to have controlled events but confess plainly that events have controlled me. *Abraham Lincoln*

More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars. - *Franklin D Roosevelt*

## Finding Tutankhamen

*By Tim Lenton*



It was 100 years ago this month, on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1922, that Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, discovered the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen.

Howard Carter had shown an artistic streak from a young age, and when his father, a successful artist, painted a portrait of a well-known Egyptologist, the young Howard's imagination had been caught. He wanted to go to Egypt.

And so, in 1891, when Howard was only 17, his father found him a job working for an archaeologist who needed an artist to sketch the artefacts he found. As Britain

occupied Egypt in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was a time of increased European interest in ancient Egypt.

Over the next few years Carter worked under different archaeologists on different sites, including Amarna, Thebes, Edfu and Abu Simbel. Then in 1907, Carter began working with the wealthy English aristocrat, Lord Carnarvon, excavating various Egyptian nobles' tombs. When in 1914 Carnarvon attained a licence to dig for the tomb of King Tutankhamun, he gave the job to Carter. After WW1 the search began, but it was not until 4<sup>th</sup> November 1922 that they found anything. That day a boy who worked on Carter's team as a water fetcher started to dig in the sand with a stick. He found a stone step, called Carter over, and the rest is history. A flight of steps was found that lead to a sealed door and a secret chamber. On 26<sup>th</sup> November 1922 Carter and Lord Carnarvon entered the tomb and found the gold and treasures. On 16<sup>th</sup> February 1923, Carter opened the innermost chamber and found the well-preserved sarcophagus of King Tut. The find made headlines around the world. Carter remained in Egypt until the excavation was completed in 1932.

## **Getting ready to celebrate 900 years of pilgrimage to St David's Cathedral - By *Tim Lenton***

The smallest city with the biggest history of pilgrimage – that is St David's Wales.

And next year, 2023, brings the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope Callixtus II declaring that two pilgrimages to St David's Cathedral were equal to one journey to Rome.

No wonder that the Diocese of St David's has designated 2023 as its Year of Pilgrimage, beginning this Advent. Many events are planned. Today, nearly 300,000 visitors cross the cathedral threshold annually, and the cathedral has converted a former school into a dedicated pilgrim centre.

A spokesman explains: "The notion of walking simply, mindfully, prayerfully and with purpose to places that have been considered sacred by generations of our ancestors sits comfortably with our 21st Century aspirations of physical, mental and spiritual well-being, eco-friendly lifestyles and desire to find connection with our heritage."





## ALL IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

175 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1847 Scottish obstetrician James Young Simpson discovered the anaesthetic properties of chloroform. He helped popularise its use in medicine.

125 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1897 Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, British politician was born. He was the Minister of Health 1945-51 who led the establishment of the National Health Service.

100 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1922 British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen. On 26<sup>th</sup> November he reached a second sealed doorway and discovered the famous treasures.

80 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1942 the WW2 Second Battle of El-Alamein ended. British troops led by Generals Alexander and Montgomery defeated Rommel's German forces in Egypt. On 10<sup>th</sup> November, Winston Churchill announced: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

75 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1947 the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, took place at Westminster Abbey in London.

60 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1962 the Cuban Missile crisis ended and US President John F Kennedy lifted the military blockade of Cuba.

30 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1992 the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests. The first women were ordained in March 1994.

Also 30 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1992 the Windsor Castle fire broke out in a private chapel and spread to a large part of the building. Damage was extensive and took five years to repair, at a cost of £40 million. Buckingham Palace was opened to the public for the first time to help raise the money.

15 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007 Amazon released its first Kindle e-book reader.

## Reflected Faith Series

*The Revd Dr Jo White*

### Reflected Faith: Initials That Talk Our Faith Language



We have started to see the new King's cypher on a variety of items, including post boxes. Look at the way 'they' have entwined the letters C R and the Latin numeral III.

Now think about what you so often see in church buildings - letters entwined together. These are either from the Latin or the Greek languages.

Here's a starter for you:

XP – often joined together so the P is standing halfway behind the X. This symbol - called the chi rho symbol - was used from earliest times and was often simplified into a six-pointed figure. You can see it on some silver spoons found at Mildenhall, and now in the British Museum dating from about 350 AD.

'X' called 'chi' in Greek is said 'Kh' as in khaki. 'P' called 'rho' in Greek is said 'r'. If you put the two together what do they sound like? Khr .. What word connected with being a Christian starts with that sound? Of course – Christ. The original Greek would be 'Christoe'.

Another common set of initials often seen on altar linen and probably the most misunderstood is 'IHC'.

People often suggest it comes from the Latin 'Jesus Hominum Salvator' meaning, 'Jesus, Saviour of the World', or even the English 'In His Service'. But they don't. They are the first three letters of the Greek for JESUS - which in Greek was IHCOYC.

It doesn't help that Greek has two ways of writing the sound 's' as in the middle of Jesus. It can be either a 'C' or what looks like a rather stylised 'E'.

To confuse you more, when you translate the Greek letters IHC into Latin they come out as 'IHS'. So you can see both spellings that mean the same thing.

*This month*

*Have a look around your church building – both inside and outside for initials or even whole words. Would knowing what they represent aid you in your worship, and how much do they reflect your faith?*

## WORDSEARCH



Poppies	Dead	Iraq	Advent	Elizabeth
Remembrance	Guns	Thanksgiving	Leaves	Bonfire
Courage	War	Turkey	Sadness	Gunpowder
Bravery	Peace	All	Angel	Guy
Flanders	Afghanistan	Saints	Mary	

(Solutions on page 28)

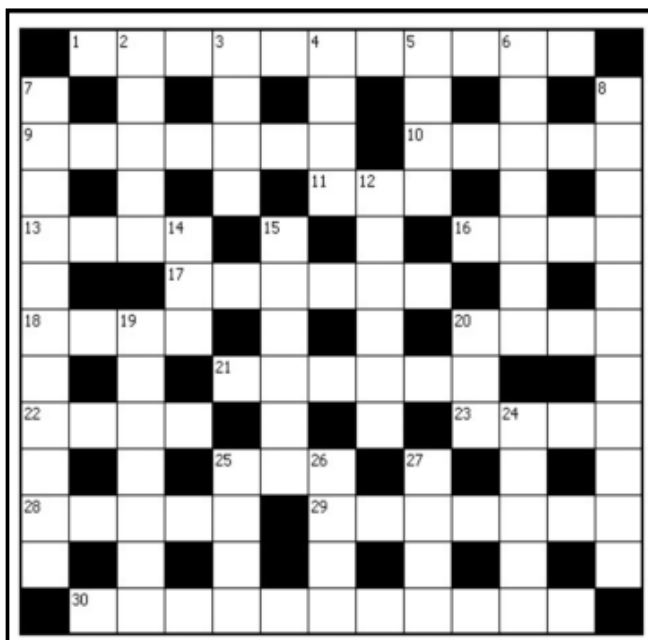
## NOVEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all --, Lord of all --, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
- 9 Moses question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you -- your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline -- (2,3)
- 11 'At even -- the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but -- for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must --God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, -- Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat -- -- '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 'No fear of me should -- you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
- 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

### Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem -- how --I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)



- 3 Way out (4)
- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14 Frozen (3)
- 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
- 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
- 20 See 1 Across
- 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25 Time (anag.) (4)
- 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the -- of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

(Solutions on page 28)

## ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

**There are more frightening things than bishops out there....**

The Rectory

St. James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rose-beds; it gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would be to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying you had just seen what the archdeacon had done, and then watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time.

No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once – and arrived in church the following Sunday, to see a ten foot high floral arrangement at the front of church. I assumed it was by way of making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multicoloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were apparently talking chrysanthemums.

A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.

Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he will assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded half way down the aisle.

And finally, never, ever upset your verger. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket.

No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; dangers lurk a lot nearer home.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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

## **GOD AND THE ARTS**

*By The Revd Michael Burgess*

### **Thank you, Lord, for food to eat**

There is a character in a Russian novel who says, 'Ladies and gentlemen, let us assume that man is not stupid...but if he isn't stupid, he is monstrously ungrateful all the same – a creature that has two legs and no sense of gratitude.' That is certainly true in a world where carping and criticising come more easily than praise and thanksgiving. It is an attitude which rubs off on all of us, and is like Aesop's fable of the donkey, who was never happy with his lot, whatever the weather, whatever the season.

Aesop told the story to remind us of the need to cultivate a spirit of gratitude – not to put blinkers on our eyes and be negative about life, but to open both eyes and hearts in thanksgiving for the world in which we live. We do that each time we celebrate the eucharist together. We do it when we say grace before meals. This month's painting, 'An Old Woman Saying Grace' by Nicholas Maes brings this truth to mind. Maes was a pupil of Rembrandt and he lived from 1632 to 1693. He spent most of his life in Dordrecht in Holland, and, apart from portraits, he delighted in painting women – women spinning or reading the Bible or preparing meals. Here the woman is sitting down to a simple meal of soup, bread, butter and fish. But before she enjoys this food, she puts her hands together and, as simply as the food in front of her, mouths a prayer of thanks to God.

The artist tells us that this offering of prayer was a daily pattern for the woman. For on the ledge at her side lie an open Bible, a lamp and an hour-glass, and on a nail some keys. Signs that such prayer can be a light to illuminate the days of our lives and the key to open our hearts to the kingdom, just like the woman in the painting.

It is a tender moment, both concentrated and intimate. At first glance, there is a tinge of sadness for the table is set just for her. She will eat alone. And then our eyes catch sight of the cat's paw reaching up to



enjoy the food as well. Who knows? – something may spill over the edge of the table for the cat to enjoy. Simplicity and humour go hand in hand to remind us all of the need to be thankful. And thankfulness for food can spill over into thanksgiving for all the mercies and gifts that come our way in life.



19<sup>th</sup>

## Hilda - Abbess of Whitby



Hilda played a key role in the early English Christian church, and she may even have been the first to encourage the writing of Christian poetry. She was born a princess, into the Deiran (Northumbrian) dynasty, and her sister became Queen of the East

Angles, with whom the Deiran had connections.

In those days East Anglia had close ties with the Gallic Church, and because of her sister, Hilda came under that influence. She was actually on her way to take her monastic vows near Paris when the Bishop of Lindisfarne, Aidan, called her back to Northumbria.

Back home, she went into seclusion for a time, before being sent to be abbess of a religious house in Hartlepool in 649.

Eight years later, Hilda felt moved to establish a religious community at Streasnaeshalch (later renamed Whitby). Her community was a royal establishment, a double monastery (both men and women) and became famous for its learning, with even five bishops trained there.

Whitby was also, of course, the venue for the famous Synod of Whitby in 664. With Hilda acting as hostess, the Synod met to decide upon the date of Easter. The issue at stake was greater than that, though, for the decision would sway the Church in Britain to adopt either the Celtic or Roman traditions. Although Hilda defended the Celtic church customs, she accepted with grace the decision of the Synod to accept the Roman date for Easter, and she then worked to unite the Church throughout the land.



## REMEMBRANCE: Cenotaph

Every year, on Remembrance Sunday, the television will show pictures of the King, politicians and those who have served in the armed forces at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. They stand in silence for 2 minutes to honour those who have given their lives for others.

But do you know what the word 'cenotaph' means? It comes from two Greek words 'kenos' meaning empty and 'taphos' which is a tomb. The cenotaph is a monument to people whose bodies are somewhere else. Have you ever seen a war cemetery? They have rows and rows of simple tombstones and while there are flowers and the grass is carefully mown there is such a sense of sadness.

The Cenotaph was unveiled in 1920, the same year that the body of an unknown soldier was buried in Westminster Abbey. So many people have had their lives taken in wars and each one matters, not just to their families, or us, but to God.

## WORK IT OUT?

The drawer where you keep your socks has five pairs of grey socks and five pairs of black socks. If you can only take one sock from the drawer at a time and you can't see what colour sock you're taking until you've taken it, how many socks do you have to take before you know you will have at least one matching pair to wear to school?



Answer at the bottom of this page.

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### Who always goes to bed with his shoes on?

A horse.

There is a girl who lives in a bungalow. Everything in her home is pink. The lamp is pink, the bed is pink, the television is pink, the computer is pink, the mirror is pink, the kitchen is pink, the windows are pink, even the plants are pink. What colour are the stairs?

There are no stairs – it is a bungalow.

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Answer: Three. At worst, the first two socks you take out will be one black sock and one grey sock. The next sock you take out will match one or the other.

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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 Associate Priest Rev'd Sue Twynam or the Team Curate Rev'd Matt Hodder who will be happy to discuss the matter with you.

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