

The Magazine

October 2020



www.callingtoncluster.org.uk

Have you ever really looked forward to something and then been disappointed when it's actually happened?

That's certainly been my experience – more than once. Usually this is entirely my fault, because I've built up in advance an unrealistic mental picture of the event. I find that this often happens when a film version of a book is released. As I read a book, which is after all just words, I add the visuals in my imagination. I picture what different characters look like, how locations appear, how the action takes place. When I go to see the film I can't understand how the director has so misunderstood the book's author! Of course they haven't, as the author will normally have been fully consulted in the making of the film. It's just that their interpretation and mine are different. I'm the loser if I'm unwilling to set aside my own expectations and simply enjoy the director's (and author's) representation of the book.

In the Bible we read how God's people made this same mistake. After centuries of reading predictions of the coming Messiah, most written by the prophets, they had built up a very clear idea of how he would act when he came. Unsurprisingly they expected that he would do all the things which they believed were necessary to make their nation and their lives as they thought they ought to be.

But Jesus was not at all what they expected, and they were unwilling to set aside their own assumptions, and accept God's perfect fulfilment of his promises. Jesus came not to fulfil their desires – but God's. They were, very definitely, the losers.

**“JESUS CAME NOT
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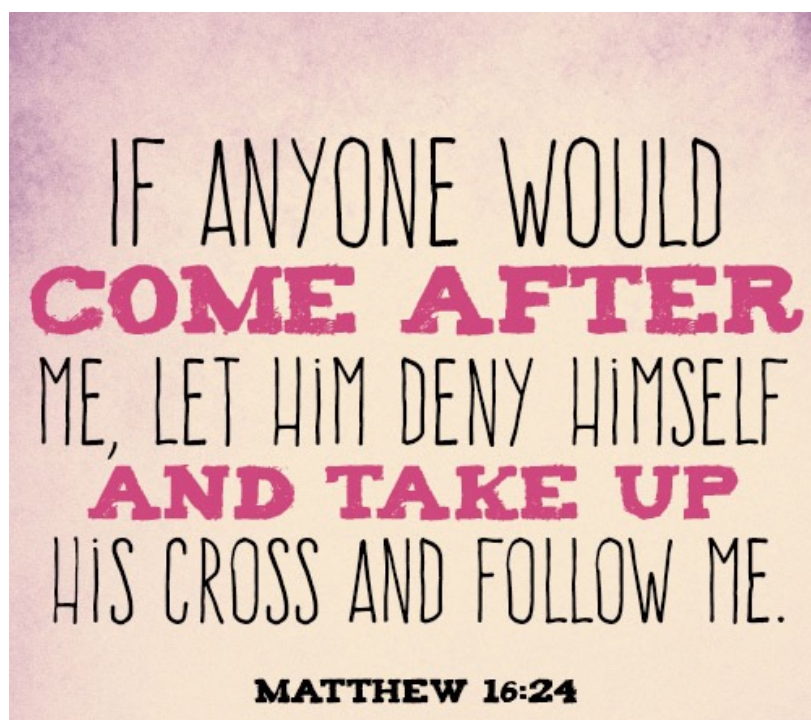
As we prepare to welcome our new Rector, Rev'd Dr Joe Lannon, how are we to guard against making the same sort of mistakes. He will not, I am sure, be pleased if I appear to make him out as some sort of 'messiah' figure or as a fictional character brought to life. He is, after all, not coming to 'save' the Callington Cluster nor is he coming to be the perfect embodiment of the Anglican Vicar – however we may individually envisage such a person.

We have no need of another Messiah, for Jesus is the only name given under heaven by which we may be saved. Neither should we have an expectation of perfection, for there has only ever been one perfect human – Jesus.

Let us for once put our imaginations on hold and let our new Rector be himself when he comes – not what we would like him to be.

Let us put our own reasoning on hold and allow God to lead our new Rector and ourselves in whatever direction He knows is best for our churches – individually and collectively.

So let us not be static or un-moveable, unwilling to accept the changes that will inevitably come – changes that God knows we need to make.



In calling us to be his disciples, Jesus says:- “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). The fact that Jesus tells us that we must follow him makes it clear that as disciples we should not expect to stay in one place – we are expected to follow wherever He leads. Let us pray that we will all, together with Rev’d Dr Joe Lannon, be ready to embark on whatever new journey our Lord takes us on. May we be willing to let God do the imagining!

Keith

Introducing Joe & Nikki...

In this month's magazine, we're delighted to have a message from Rev'd Dr Joe Lannon and his family, which you can read on the following page.



HELLO FROM THE LANNONS

Firstly, before we tell you all a little bit about ourselves, we would like to tell you how excited we are to be joining you and for Joe to become your new Rector.

Joe and Nikki have five children and two grandchildren between them. Mackenzie (Kenzie for short) our son is the youngest at 15 and still lives at home with us. Mackenzie is mad about football and plays in

goal. He is a very outdoorsy kind of boy so you will be seeing him out and about in the village and surrounds when we move. The others are scattered from Plymouth, Oxford to Scotland. We love spending time with our grandchildren who are five and one years old, and on days off you can find us both creating songs for them and chasing them around in play parks.

Joe has been playing guitar since he was a boy and for many years was a guitar tutor and examiner. He has also been a Teacher, Baptist Minister and a Research Engineer. Nikki is an artist and singer, and together we write and perform both our own songs and covers in a duo called Sweet JoNi. We have also been worship leaders for many years. Nikki is currently attending Plymouth College of Art where she is taking a degree in Painting, Drawing and Printmaking. We are both creative and this creativity often comes through in the way we lead worship, prayer, retreat days and outreach. We have a passion for Mission and it is great to be coming to a Diocese and Cluster that values this so highly.

We look forward to joining you early in 2021 and can't wait to see what God has in mind for us all.

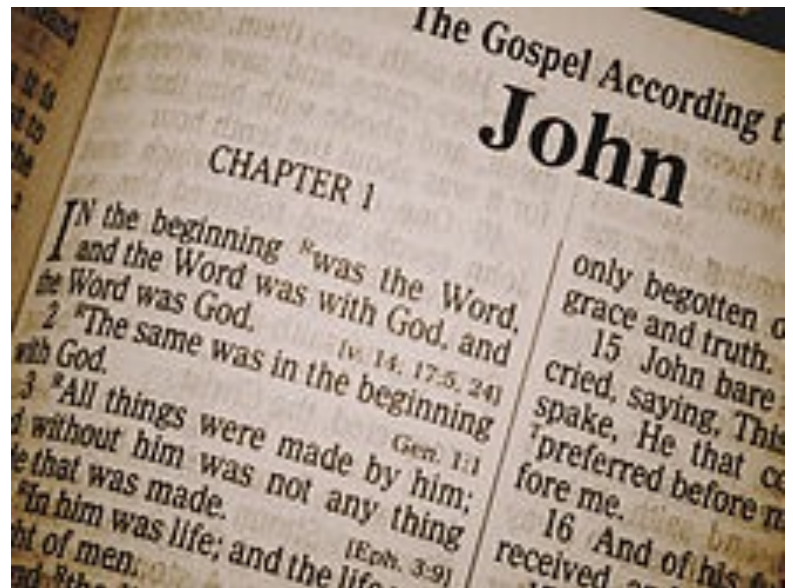
Joe, Nikki and Kenzie



UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

As we acknowledge Bible Sunday this month, it's a good opportunity to ask the question: why should I read the Bible?

The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself!



This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to be the primary way by which God speaks to us: 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired ('the word of God in the words of men') and presents itself as a manual for life, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives: 'the Spirit will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13).

However, the Bible could also be described as a love letter from God, as He uses it to deepen our relationship with him. As Jesus said: 'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me' (John 5:39,40). Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better.

**"CHRISTIANS
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At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible with the words 'the most precious thing this world affords'. Does this reflect our own attitude to the Bible?

Paul Hardingham is vicar of St Peter's Halliwell, Bolton in the Diocese of Manchester. Parish ministry has taken him all over the country including Cambridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, Birmingham and Ipswich.

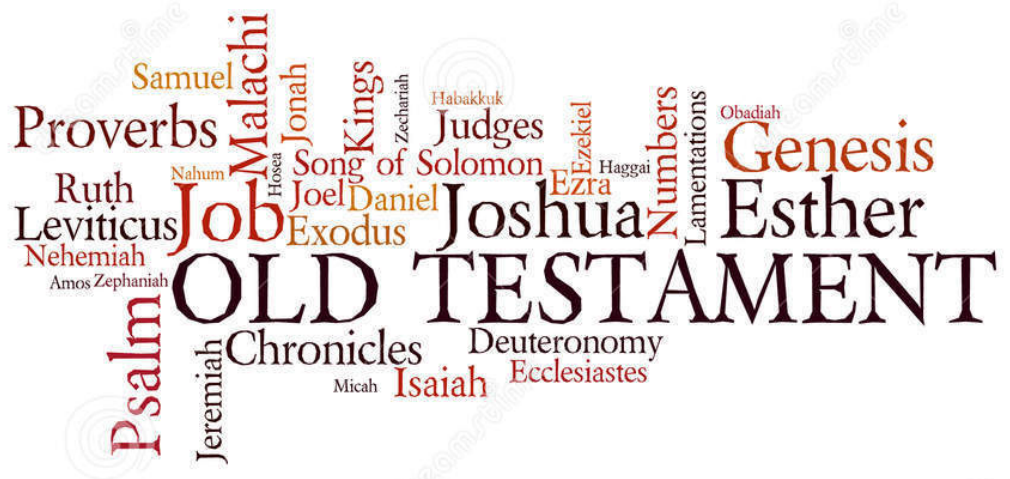
Question: If it was the Church that finally decided which books should be included in the Bible, then isn't the Church the top authority?

Answer: No; the Bible produced the Church, not the Church the Bible. This is the real issue: what caused a book to be accepted within the 'Canon' of Scripture? (Greek: kanon, 'standard' or 'rule').



As far as the Old Testament was concerned:

1. Books that were recognised by Jesus Christ as infallible 'Scripture' could not be broken (Matthew 5:18). In John 10:35 Jesus didn't have to explain what He meant by 'Scripture', though elsewhere He did refer to its different categories (law, prophets, psalms) as pointing to Himself (Luke 24:44; Matthew 24:37). All was to be believed and obeyed.



2. Books that were recognised by God's people because of their impact. God's people will always recognise His voice (John 10:27). Jesus clashed with the Pharisees for adding their traditions to the Scripture; yet all were agreed that the Old Testament Scriptures were God's word.

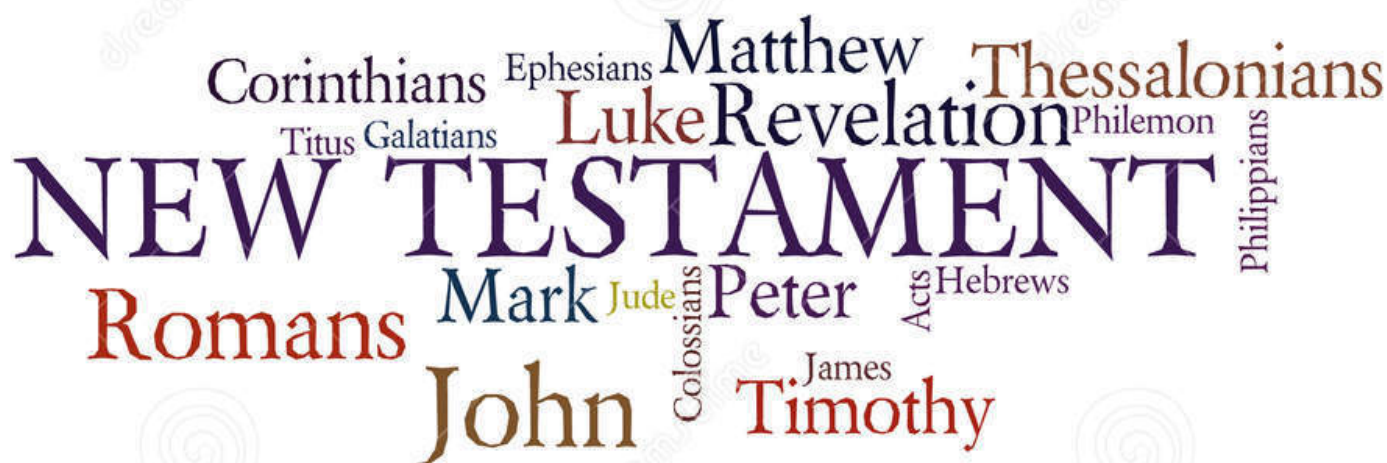
3. Books that were recognised by the New Testament. It is significant that the New Testament features hundreds of Old Testament allusions. Only two are from the body of books known as the Apocrypha (Jude 9, 14) – seemingly in similar style to Paul's quotation from a Greek poet (Acts 17:28). The Apocryphal books were perceived to be on a lower level.

Next, what determined inclusion in the New Testament Canon?

1. Books that are Christ-centred in their emphasis. It was inconceivable to the early Church that the Gospels, for example, which focused so much upon the life and death of Jesus, could have any lower place than that given to the Old Testament Scriptures.
2. Books that are apostolic in their teaching. It was to the apostles exclusively that Jesus promised guidance 'into all truth' through the Holy Spirit's inspiration (John 16:13). The result of this was the New Testament (1 Corinthians 2:12,13). Significantly, Peter brackets Paul's writings with what he calls 'the other scriptures' (2 Peter 3:15,16).
3. Books that are faith-building in their effect, and thus, to be read in the congregations (John 20:30,31; 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Colossians 4:16; 1 Peter 2:2; Revelation 1:3). When the Christian scriptures take hold of the thinking of masses of people, they have the effect of 'stabilising society, without sterilising it' (historian T. R. Glover).

The books of the Old Testament were becoming largely accepted by AD 70; those of the New Testament by the end of the second century. The drawing of a line around them discouraged forgers and religious peddlers.

So no one really 'put' the books into the Bible; they put themselves in, because of their innate quality. No council by itself could have conferred authority upon the books; this, they possessed already. It is an authority that is inherent, not imposed. If art lovers say of a Renoir painting, 'This is a genuine Renoir', their acclaim in no way invests the painting with authority; it was already authentic. It is the same with the Scriptures; we can only recognise them as such.... and live by them.



Important Notice: All churches follow strict Covid guidelines and face coverings need to be worn at all times whilst inside the building. For services at South Hill, please take your own service sheets and common worship book.

Callington Services: Social Distancing rules means there are only 30 spaces within the building. You will be directed to one of the places. Toilets will be open. In order to manage services at this time anyone attending will need to fill in the on-line form at <http://callingtoncluster.org.uk/whats-on/smc-services/register> by 6pm on the Friday or ring Amy Wheeler 07984 199 930 by 6pm Thursday. Any in excess of 30 will be transferred to the following week's list. Only bookings by phone and via the website will be accepted.

Wk	Time	Callington	South Hill
4th October	Early Morning		
	Mid Morning	10.00 Together@10 Family Service	11.15 Holy Communion Harvest Festival
	Evening		
11th October	Early Morning		
	Mid Morning	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11.15 Morning Worship Modern
	Evening		
18th October	Early Morning		
	Mid Morning	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11.15 Morning Worship Modern
	Evening		
25th October	Early Morning		
	Mid Morning	10.00 Holy Communion Modern	10.00 All Age Worship Modern
	Evening		

Important Notice: All churches follow strict Covid guidelines and face coverings need to be worn at all times whilst inside the building. We ask everyone attending to follow the guidance for seating and that you give your contact details on entry to the church, these will be kept for 21 days in line with the Governments Test and Trace Requirements. Please use the hand sanitisers provided. Unfortunately there can be no singing during Worship however there will be music.

Stoke Climsland: church is also open for Private Prayer is on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm. A recording the Sunday Service and these are available for viewing on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/StokeClimslandParishChurch>

Please note this is not streamed live so will not be accessible until a short time after the service.

Linkinhorne	Upton Cross	Stoke C	Wk
	9.30 Informal Worship Modern	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	4th October
A short service of traditional Morning Prayer is held at St. Melor's on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10.00 am.			
	9.30 Informal Worship Modern	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11th October
	9.30 Informal Worship Modern	10.00 Holy Communion Modern	18th October
	9.30 Informal Worship, possibly Holy Communion	10.00 Family Service Modern	25th October

PSALM 90

'War simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it. Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice.'

CS Lewis on World War II.

Coronavirus powerfully illustrates this, and Psalm 90 demonstrates a right response to the crisis: 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' (12).

The Shortness of Life

We live as though life will go on forever, but in reality our time on earth is short: 'A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by' (4). By contrast God, who inhabits eternity, sees the whole of history in a single moment. How can we see our lives in the light of God, who is 'from everlasting to everlasting' (2). True wisdom is making sure that we don't waste the time we are given in this life!



The Fragility of Life

Living to 80 years old is definitely an achievement! We know how we wear out in life until we are dust again: 'You turn people back to dust, saying, 'Return to dust, you mortals.'(3). This is the result of turning from God to sin: 'You have set our iniquities before you' (8). True wisdom warns us not to trust in our own abilities or seek satisfaction in the things of this world.

The Love of God

During the pandemic, many have lost loved ones, yet if we allow God's love to take hold of our lives, even death can bring us closer to God: 'Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.' (14). True wisdom is able to ask: 'May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us' (17).

Paul Hardingham is vicar of St Peter's Halliwell, Bolton in the Diocese of Manchester. Parish ministry has taken him all over the country including Cambridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, Birmingham and Ipswich.

STRUGGLING TOWARDS RELINQUISHMENT - PART 1

Here is the first of a three-part series by Tony Collins. He considers the question of how much STUFF do we really need in our lives?

I confess, I am a petrolhead.

I don't have the dosh to buy the cars that truly quicken the pulse, but buying and selling at the tragic end of the market as I do, I get a lot of pleasure from cars with toys – rear view cameras, wing mirrors which fold in when you lock your vehicle, decent air conditioning. Because the machines I buy are routinely six years old and the veterans of hard use from sales reps, these toys tend to break off in my hand, causing me unreasonable levels of irritation.

But the craving for the dream motor persists. I've had five in two years. "You change your vehicle more often than your underpants," observed my golf partner.

Thanks to their nifty algorithms, my Facebook feed is full of adverts tailored to my taste in cars. They know an addict when they see one.

Fourteen years ago, however, I married Penelope Wilcock, a lady deeply committed to another rhythm of life, for whom simplicity is not so much an aspiration as a world view. Pen has raised five daughters, served as a Methodist minister, conducted hundreds of marriages and thousands of funerals, and written more than twenty books, so she is no stranger to intense activity.

But she has set her face firmly, over the decades, towards the goal of minimalism, and – through the metamorphosis which occurs as you grow close to someone – I have been caught up in her wake.

Pen has succeeded in getting rid of most of her possessions. I built her a wardrobe, perhaps three feet wide, which contains virtually all she owns. Both of us have Kindles, which accommodates our love of books. Her goal is that when she dies it will take not more than a morning to sort out her estate.

She takes the same attitude to other matters. Her diary is uncluttered. She is generous with her modest income.

Now Pen has set out her ideas for living more with less in a new book, *Relinquishment*. Subtitled 'Making space for what really matters', it develops the premise that you cannot achieve simplicity in any sphere of life without relinquishment. Where your treasure is, there will be your heart, as Jesus observed.

More about relinquishment next month!

[Relinquishment](#) by Penelope Wilcock is available from Amazon, in paperback and ebook.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Church governance rules dictate that every year, by 31st May, each Parish must hold an Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)... and then came the Covid lockdown!

A few lucky Parishes held their meetings early and they were already completed by lockdown (South Hill was one of those), but for the rest of us new rules say they must

be held by 31st October. But this year things will be very different. Unless the meeting is held immediately following a service, everything must be done remotely via an online platform such as Zoom. Likewise all forms, whether to nominate people for office, or to go onto the Electoral Roll also need to be completed electronically. If you have any queries, please speak to your PCC secretary or a Church Warden. Contact details are on the last page of this magazine.



Stoke Climsland's APCM will be held at 11 am on 18th October, following the morning service. In preparation for the APCM, the Electoral Roll is now open for revision. The Electoral Roll is a snap shot each year of our church family and, if you would like to join, all you need to do is complete a form and return it by the end of September. Forms are available from Kathryn Carnegie kathryn@pempwell.co.uk or call 01579 370187.

There are several vacancies on the PCC so, if you feel called to help in the running of the church, do get in touch with a PCC member or one of the church wardens for more information.

Callington's APCM will be held on Sunday 11th October at 11 am, following the morning service. If you wish to join the Electoral Roll (which will enable you to vote) please contact Hazel Jones hazel3jones@gmail.com. To attend the meeting, you will need to book in advance with Amy, details of which can be found on the service listing.

Linkinhorne's meeting date is yet to be confirmed but everyone on the Electoral Roll will be contacted to let them know the date and time.

News from St Sampson's

St Sampson's is open for private prayer at any time and Sunday services have resumed. Covid precautions are in place.

- **Sunday September 27th. 10am The gift of water.** A thanksgiving service for our long awaited mains water supply and path lights. Now that this first major work has been completed it feels a very significant step on restoring St Sampson's. The water and light aspect has a very baptismal feel. The start of great things to come. God is gracious.
- **Sunday October 4th. 11.15am St Sampson's Harvest Festival Holy Communion.** It will be a joyful, thankful occasion, but there will be no auction of produce this year. Please bring any donations for Callington Food Bank. There will be a collection for the charity Send a Cow, which is a force for change in rural Africa and we will here more about this worthwhile organisation.

"We help people grow their own futures – on their own land,
on their own terms."

- **Sunday October 25th 10am.** Luci Isaacson (Diocesan environmental officer) is speaking to us about being a greener church.

Operation Christmas Child

Due to COVID 19 restrictions there will not be a Community Collection for the Shoeboxes this year.

If you are able to fill a shoebox or two, information is available on the web site – samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ

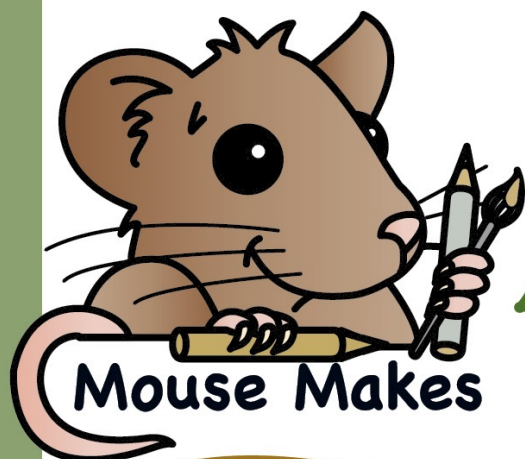
New for this year, Samaritans Purse are offering a 'Pack A Shoebox Online', which costs £20.00 and includes £5.00 of Project Costs To send a Shoebox with this system log onto - samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ

The collection week for filled shoeboxes is the 9th – 16th November 2020.

Micheline Norris

Linkinhorne Parish





Jesus said:
 "The kingdom of heaven
 is like a _____ **seed**
 that a man took and sowed in
 his **field**. It is the _____
 of all the seeds, but when it
 has grown it becomes a tree,
 so that the wild _____ come
 and nest in its branches."

Read
 Matthew
 13:31-32

"GOD is the **one**
 who gives seed to those
 who **plant**, and He gives
bread for **food**. And GOD
 will give you spiritual seed
 and make that seed grow.
 He will **produce** a great
harvest from your goodness."

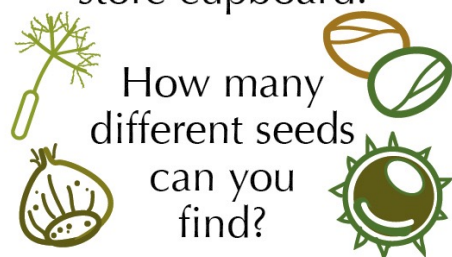
2 Corinthians 9:10

Jesus said:
 "You do not need more **faith**. There
 is no 'more' or 'less'
 in faith. If you have
 a bare kernel of faith,
 say the size of a poppy
 seed, you could
 say to this
 sycamore
 tree
 "Go
 jump
 into
 the
 lake"
 and it
 would do it."
 Luke 17:6

So the one who
 plants is not important,
 and the one who **waters** is not
 important. Only **GOD** is
 important because He is the
 one who makes things grow."

1 Corinthians 3:7

Look out for seeds
 in the
 park
 and
 garden
 and in your kitchen
 store cupboard.



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

Find the
 words
 in **bold**
 on this
 page
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 word
 search



WHO'S WHO ACROSS THE CLUSTER

Rector

Vacancy

For bookings, please contact - info.callingtoncluster@gmail.com

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Linkinhorne/Upton Cross Brian Norris 01579 363515 briannorrisics@hotmail.com

Don't BE
afraid;
JUST
Believe

Mark 5:36