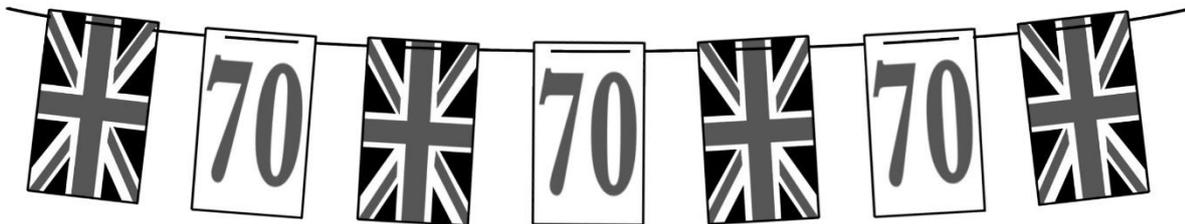




St Mark's Parish Magazine
June 2022



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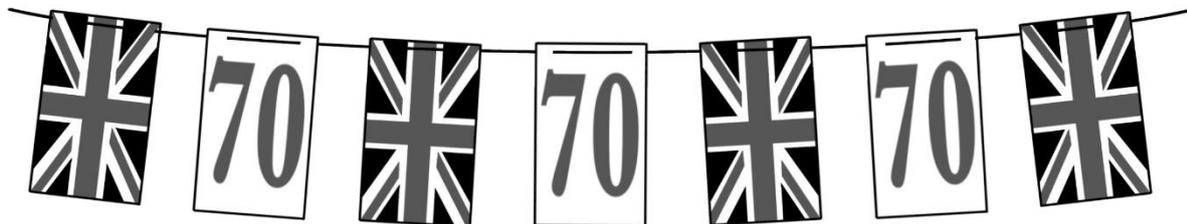
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Visit our website: www.stmarksreigate.co.uk

Donations to cover the cost of this publication are welcome



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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from Sunday 3 July 2022
All contributions to the editor by Friday 17 June 2022

Email: magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk

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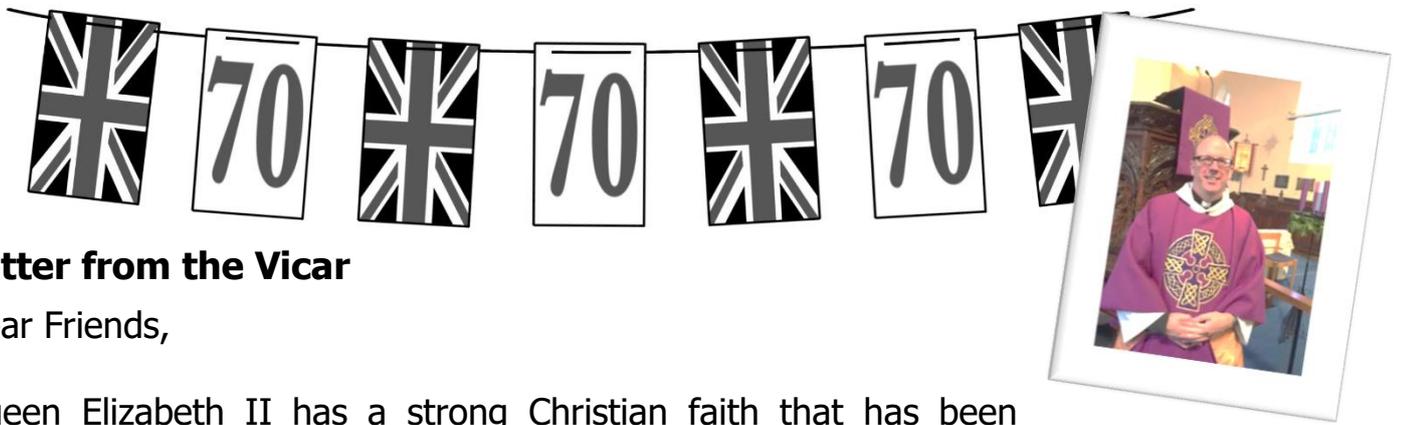
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Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

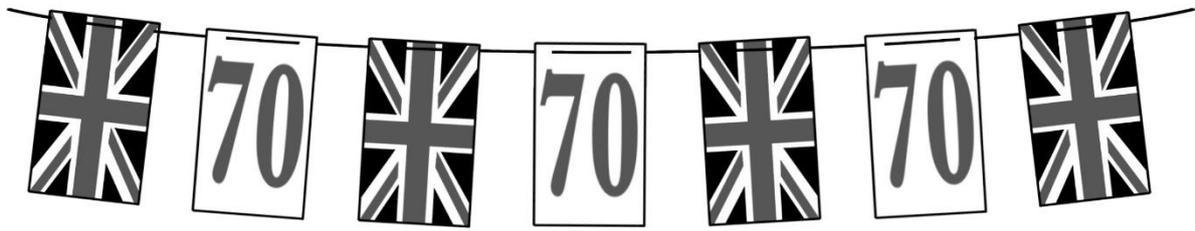
Queen Elizabeth II has a strong Christian faith that has been evident throughout her life in her words and actions. As well as her formal role as 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England', which came with monarchy, her personal faith was evident even before she was crowned: "Pray for me ... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life."

That was the prayer request made by Queen Elizabeth II in her first Christmas broadcast in 1952. Her Christmas broadcasts to the Commonwealth are among the few speeches she writes herself. They frequently refer to Jesus Christ, whose birth is celebrated at Christmas. Alongside her official role as head of the Church of England, the Queen expresses a personal faith in Jesus Christ. As she said in her Christmas broadcast in December 2000: "For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life."

The Queen was crowned in a deeply symbolic church service first devised in AD 973 and including prayers and a service of Holy Communion. The most sacred moment at the heart of the ceremony is the anointing, when the symbols of royal status are removed. The Queen, sitting under a canopy to hide the sacred moment from the cameras, was dressed in a simple white dress with no jewels or crown. As the Archbishop anointed her with oil, the prayers said over her invited God's Holy Spirit to set her apart as God's servant. Christians believe that God's anointing fills his people with his love and empowers them to follow him.

In her 2020 Christmas message from Windsor Castle, where she had been isolating with Prince Philip due to the Covid-19 pandemic, she said: "We continue to be inspired by the kindness of strangers and draw comfort that – even on the darkest nights – there is hope in the new dawn. Jesus touched on this with the parable of the Good Samaritan. The man who is robbed and left at the roadside is saved by someone who did not share his religion or culture. This wonderful story of kindness is still as relevant today. Good Samaritans have emerged across society showing care and respect for all, regardless of gender, race or background, reminding us that each one of us is special and equal in the eyes of God."

Throughout her long life, Christ's example and teaching have been seen acted out in the dutiful and faithful life of our servant-hearted Queen. It seems that her prayer from the start of her reign has been answered.



Church News

Easter Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings

At these meetings held during the Parish Eucharist on Sunday 15 May 2022 Mr Benjamin Read and Mrs Louise Wallis were elected to serve another year as Churchwardens. Similarly, Mrs Jane Artis and Mr Timothy Warren were elected to serve another year as Deputy Wardens.

The vacancy on the Deanery Synod remains un-filled.

The two vacancies on the Parochial Church Council were filled by Mrs Nicola Lloyd and Miss Rachel Potter both of whom will serve for a period of three years.

The full composition of the Parochial Church Council is therefore as follows: The Vicar, the Assistant Curate, the Churchwardens, the Deputy Wardens, the Readers (Ian Archer, Sarah Cousins, Susannah Dyde), the Deanery Synod Representatives (Sara Johnson, Sarah Walker and Suzanne Baker-Hedge), the elected members (Patricia Bird, Melanie Crighton, Nigel Perkins, Rachel Potter, Nicola Lloyd, Helen Starmer) and one co-opted member (Terrence Hancock).

Terrence F Hancock
Secretary

St Mark's Reigate Parochial Church Council

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tea and Service

On Sunday 5th June 2022 St Mark's Church will be holding an Afternoon Tea and an All-age Service to mark and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. No other monarch has achieved this milestone in our country's history and so this is a time for thanksgiving to God and for celebration.



3.00pm Afternoon Tea in the Hall and Garden

4.30pm All-age Celebration and Thanksgiving Service in the Church

Tickets for the Afternoon Tea should be ordered in advance from the Parish Office:

Single Ticket: £3.00

Family Ticket £7.50

Donating to the work of St Mark's Church

All donations made to St Mark's are gratefully received and are so important to enable us to carry out our ministry and to run and maintain our buildings. Although we rely substantially on the time and talents of many volunteers, ensuring the various activities of the church run smoothly, the financial obligations of our church are almost £200,000 per year.

Gift Day

Our Annual Gift Day was launched on Sunday 15 May, but donations are welcomed until the end of June. Gift Day provides an opportunity for everyone to consider how they can contribute to the church and we aim to raise around £25,000 each year. Donations by bank transfer are preferred to the following HSBC account:

Name of Account - **SAINT MARK, REIGATE,**
Sort Code 40 18 22, Account Number 72393263

(Please use 'Gift Day' as the reference and select 'Paying a Business')

Alternatively, cheques made payable to 'Saint Mark Reigate' can be handed in to the church office in an envelope addressed to the treasurer.

Regular Giving

Regular donations are so important to enable us to plan for the coming year in the knowledge that the funds will be available when required. We aim to raise around £90,000 per year from regular donations including Gift Aid. To make regular giving easier we have joined a national scheme supported by the Diocese – the **Parish Giving Scheme** (or PGS for short). We receive 100% of your donation and Gift Aid is automatically claimed for us which reduces administration. More information can be found in [this video](#) which can be found on the Parish website.

Please consider making a regular donation via the PGS using [this link to join](#) (for those reading a paper copy, please contact the Parish Office)

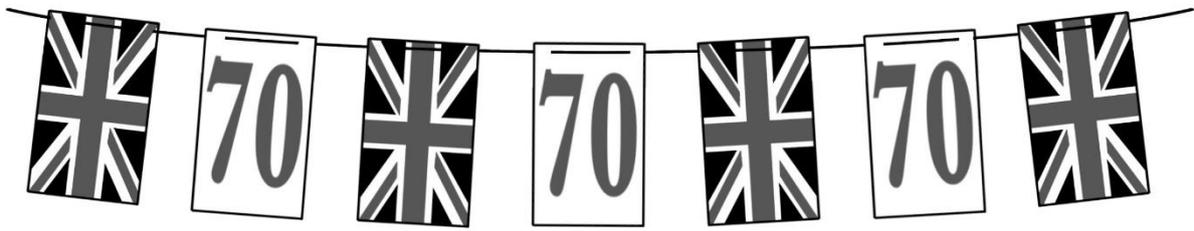
If you already donate regularly by Standing Order we are hoping that you will make the switch. If you would prefer to join by telephone or post then please contact me for details (contact details below).

One off Giving

One off donations can be made on-line through our [Give a Little page](#) or at services using the card machine or in cash/cheque. We do incur finance charges for donations made in this way so please consider a regular donation through PGS if you can.

Thank you for your generosity.

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer, Email treasurer@stmarksreigate.co.uk



Bishop of Croydon Appointed

Downing Street has announced that Her Majesty The Queen has approved the appointment of the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, as Bishop of Croydon in the Diocese of Southwark. She succeeds the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark who left the Diocese in March. Dr Mallett is the first female Bishop in the Diocese. She will be the second Barbadian Bishop of Croydon – the first being the Rt Revd Wilfred Wood who served as Bishop from 1985 to 2003. He was the first Black Bishop in the Church of England. Dr Mallett will be consecrated at Southwark Cathedral on Friday 24 June.



Born in Barbados, Dr Mallett grew up in the UK and was educated at Sussex University and Warwick University. Prior to ordination, she was a research sociologist and academic, specialising in international development and ethno-cultural mental health. She has lived and worked in Tanzania, Ethiopia and Barbados. She trained for ministry at the South-East Institute of Theological Education (SEITE) and served her curacy at Christ Church, Brixton Road. She was ordained Priest in 2005.

Dr Mallett served as Priest-in-Charge at St John the Evangelist, Angell Town, from 2007 and was appointed Vicar in 2013, as well as being made Director of Ordinands for the Kingston Episcopal Area. In 2015, she was additionally appointed Diocesan Director of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. She served on General Synod from 2011 to 2021.

She is the Diocesan lead on Racial Justice and authored the Diocese of Southwark's Anti-Racism Charter which was unanimously approved by the Diocesan Synod in March 2021. Dr Mallett regularly appears on BBC Radio Four's Prayer for the Day and has led Daily Worship on BBC Radio Four. She is a spokesperson on racial and social justice issues nationally.

For more than 20 years, Dr Mallett has served as Trustee and Director of a number of social action charities across London, all focusing on building community cohesion. She served as Equalities Commissioner for five years in Lambeth, and currently acts as adviser to a Croydon community action project which is focused on reducing serious youth violence.

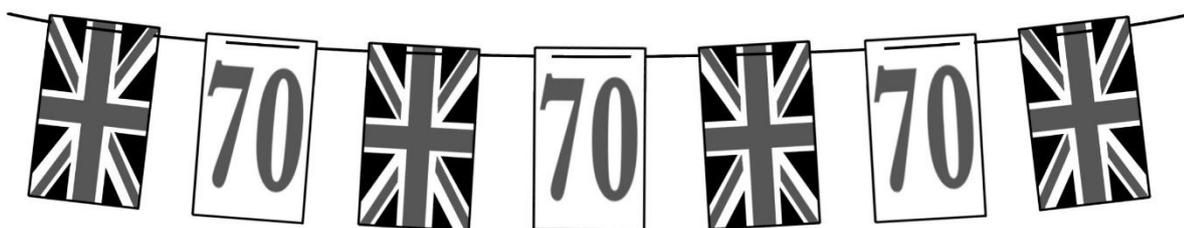
Dr Mallett has one daughter, Jane, and enjoys baking and walking. She loves jazz music and going to the theatre.

Commenting on her appointment, Dr Mallett said: "I am thankful to God for the honour and privilege of serving as the next Bishop of Croydon. I love the diversity of this area geographically, ethnically and culturally. I will serve the Episcopal Area of Croydon and East Surrey and the people with great pride and do my very best to make God's word and his love be known, while championing social justice causes across the area for people of all ages."

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, added: "I am very grateful to all those who have worked with me to ensure that the appointment of the next Bishop of Croydon has gone forward swiftly. I am delighted that The Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett will be joining the Episcopal Team as Bishop for the gloriously diverse Croydon Episcopal Area which stretches well beyond the M25. It has been a joy to see Rosemarie flourish as Archdeacon of Croydon with her passion for building community cohesion as well as championing racial and social justice. I have asked her to continue to focus on these as a bishop, confident that Rosemarie will be a great blessing to the parishes and people of the Croydon Episcopal Area and wider Diocese."

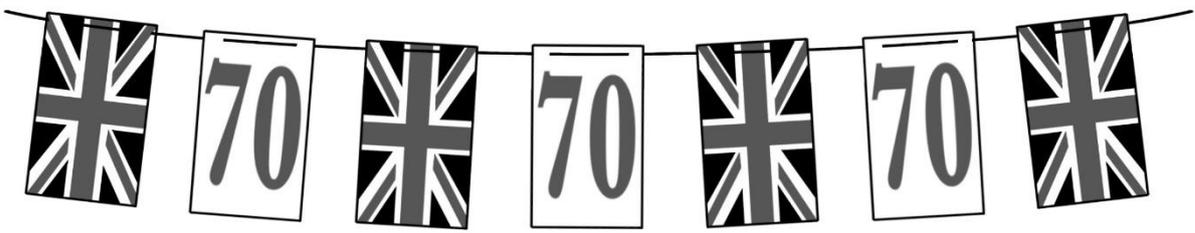
Ahead of the announcement, the Bishop of Croydon Designate spoke about her hopes for what she can bring to the role. Watch the video at: <https://youtu.be/ltgtwWAr8MA>

We hope to welcome Rosemarie to St Mark's in the near future and look forward to working with her as we further the mission of Christ's Church in East Surrey.



Taizé Service

We are restarting the monthly evening Taizé Service. This reflective service with meditative music is an ideal way to reflect at the end of the day. This service will be on the **FOURTH** Sunday of the month at 6pm. Please do try to come along if you have never been before.



Togetherness

How important is it to meet face to face with others when with Covid we have had to have times when we can only meet safely by Zoom or other technological methods?

There has been pressure for those who have safely and efficiently worked from home to return to their place of work despite the difficulties and possible infection risks still being possible. In church we can still share our services with others but if one avoids a physical presence one cannot share with others the Holy Communion and very importantly we cannot then meet up with others over a coffee afterwards, thanks to Nigel and Barbara who so often serve it to us.

Reasons for staying at home and watching the service online or on Zoom might be summarised as follows:

1. Less trouble. I don't have to dress up.
2. I don't have to get the car out.
3. I can watch the service any time in the day, not just at the time it is taking place.
4. I can see the service even if I am positive for Covid.
5. If I am housebound I have to see the service from home.
6. If housebound, I can receive the reserved Sacrament but would probably only meet then the one person bringing it to me.
7. If I don't have transport or don't want to be out after dark enjoying the service remotely helps me to keep partially in touch with those in church

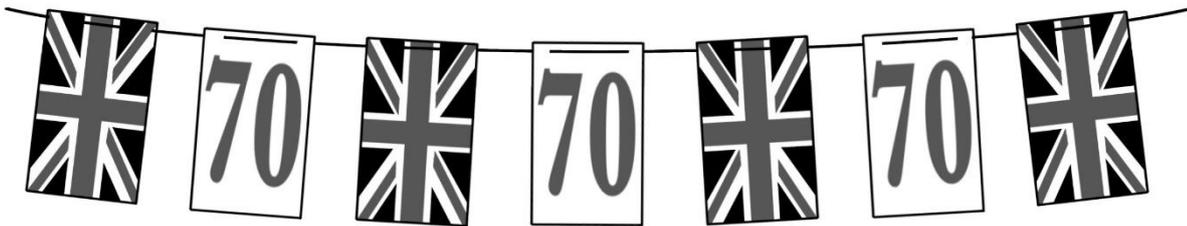
I have not always had a rule of life to go to church each Sunday if possible but I do so now for the following reasons:

1. Every day we have to make so many decisions so it is nice that going to church can happen without having to decide each time.
2. I then worship in a beautiful place of worship that has had prayers offered therein for so many years.
3. I can worship in the company of so many lovely people and although not good at singing I can add my voice to those who sing so well.

4. I meet friends over coffee and hear of their troubles and joys each week if they want to share them with me.
5. Those friends support me in the same way which would not be as possible if we were in our own homes.
6. I can receive the Sacrament with so many of those friends.
7. The ashes of my dear wife, Jenny, and those of so many other former loved ones and friends are buried in the garden outside.

As long as I am fit enough and able to do so, I will still come to Church every Sunday.

Ian Archer



News from the Church of England

Church of England national funding to increase 30% to support and develop ministry especially with young people and disadvantaged communities.

The Church of England has announced plans for a significant increase in funding for the next three years to support God's mission and ministry across the country, supporting local parishes and growing many more new worshipping communities to serve the whole nation.

The Church Commissioners for England intend to distribute **£1.2 billion** between 2023 and 2025, up 30% from £930 million in the current three-year period, and plan to maintain this level of funding in the subsequent six years. This will make it and Archbishops' Council among the largest grant givers in the country.

The Church Commissioners' distributions will account for approximately 20% of Church funding, whilst the biggest contribution comes from the faithful and generous giving of churchgoers across the country.

The core of the extra funding will be channelled into the revitalisation of parish and local ministry. The distributions will help fund dioceses' plans to serve the nation by reaching more young and disadvantaged people, addressing issues of racial justice, and radically cutting the Church's carbon footprint.

The **Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby**, said: "The Church of England is called to serve every community in the country, to be a presence that transforms lives and answers the call of God.

"I am especially pleased that the funding will support our aims to double the number of children and young disciples by 2030 and aid the parish system in doing what the Church does at its best: making the love of God known to every person."

The **Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell**, said: "The vision for the church is that we are Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped and this funding is a huge boost as we work together towards our aim of being the church for everyone everywhere.

"It will help us reach more people with the gospel of Jesus Christ, enabling us establish what we hope will be 10,000 new Christian communities.

"Working through our parishes, most of these will be in neighbourhoods, schools and places of work and leisure.

"Some will be online. At least 2,000 will be in the poorest and most deprived parts of the country.

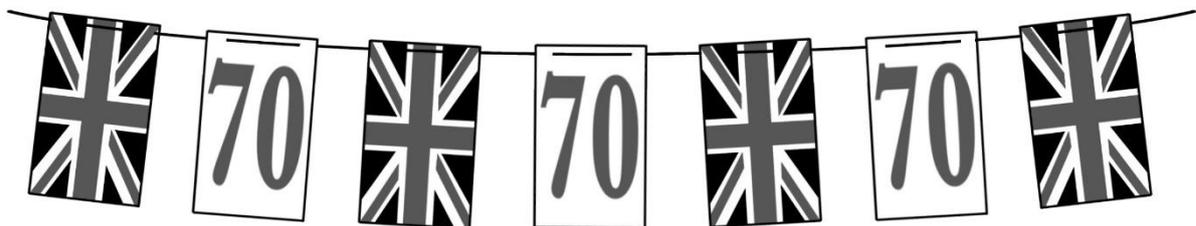
"We strive to be a younger and more diverse Church. We must become a church where everyone is confident in living as disciple of Jesus Christ and in sharing their faith with others.

"This funding will help the Church of England raise its game in its service to the nation."

Please see the full story and more information at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/press-releases/church-england-national-funding-increase-30-support-and-develop>

...the funding will support our aims to double the number of children and young disciples by 2030...



Five more minutes to midnight

Because of recent cost-reducing competition a business needed to get a new factory from site to production by 31-3-2023 or the business would fall into liquidation. The directors took the decision to build in 2020 but plans and assembling developers took much longer than expected. By 31-3-2022 the footings were completed, no mean achievement after the late start, but this still

meant that production could not take place before 2025 earliest. On 31-3- 2022 the directors met and congratulated themselves on the speedy building in the last year as well as over-coming various other difficulties.

The youngest director got to his feet his face infused with both anger and embarrassment. "Why the congratulations? By this time next year, we shall have a half-finished shell worth nothing in spite of our investment, and the company will be in liquidation. What we need to do is find a way by which we can still complete by 31-2- 2023, only a year hence. His colleagues were furious but the MD, after a pause, said, "Of course he is right."

In another country a reporter was talking with an arms dealer. "Don't you understand the death and damage you are causing others?" The young dealer replied, "What I do is legal and very profitable. If I don't do it someone else will."

.....

The International Government Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, is a part of the UN responsible for monitoring progress on the response to climate change. It has been described as "a vast composition of scientific expertise issuing the bleakest warning yet on impacts of climate breakdown." Action is required now and at a high tempo.

It was my intention to read and try to summarise the findings. The read is scientific and also very precise, but it was the impact of the trend which I found so very discouraging, and I had no wish to inflict that on anybody. Do not think of the report as something produced by a team from the UN pressing a point of view. It is the carefully considered result of work over seven years by hundreds of scientists from twenty-five countries and such universities as Imperial College London as well as senior universities in The United States. Although it is basically a work of science, the politicians have had input into the closing stages. It seems not to look to a return to an earlier age, but only to a condition where mankind can survive. 195 countries have signed up to its acceptance. So why have we heard so little about it? One word will suffice: Ukraine. We are more interested in a piece of current history than the future of mankind on the Earth.

This report is said to be the last one we shall receive before it is past the time when we are able to stop climate disaster. It's called the tipping point. It underlines that a main driver is demand from the West and the emergence of China, India and Southeast Asia as providers. The main problem is the use of fossil fuels. It addresses the significant but too slow progress toward their replacement. John Skea, professor at Imperial College and co-chair of the working group reporting says: "It is now or never if we want to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors it will be impossible." One could hardly be clearer that.

The Report covers similar ground to past reports which have been substantially ignored but goes further with measurement and the discovery of new causes and effects. For example, of the future it says: "Climate changes, even if net zero were achieved, will continue into the long future (centuries if not millennia)." Some changes have an extended time period, e.g., "global mean sea level will continue to rise for thousands of years even if future emissions are reduced to net zero and global warming halted, as excess energy due to past emissions continue to propagate the deep oceans..."

The accompanying growth of CO₂ in the atmosphere by 2022 has reached 418.8 parts per million and the safe level of 350 parts per million was passed in the 1990s. Current actions have not brought any reduction. Carbon release is rising on a 35 degree slope. The reports finds that it is almost inevitable that we shall exceed 1.5 degrees increase in temperature by 2050. That is the tipping point when natural causes replace the harm to climate and the world done by mankind. Then change is irreversible.

Some of the findings of the Report are as follows. Greenhouse emissions must peak by 2025 and can be nearly halved by the end of the decade. It holds the view that the final cost of this will be minimal, amounting to just a few percent of global GDP by mid-century though this will require a massive effort by governments, business and individuals (there is optimism for you!). He continues: "But the world is failing to make the changes necessary."

To summarise: overall the prospects are very poor and extreme but it is not yet quite too late provided change is immediate and massive. Meanwhile EU staff working on Climate Change and who know the score, are receiving instruction in meditation to counter their despair that action will not be taken in time to avoid catastrophe.

My own view is that both the ITCC and some governments are too optimistic when stating that "we have the tools to effect the necessary changes". This may be true in physical terms, but it assumes countries will behave like scientists, following the logic and making the changes. It is an indisputable fact that governments have failed to respond with the necessary urgency for decades now and, whilst signing up to targets, they have not only clutched at apparent reasons for doing less or nothing, but are still doing so at COP 26 and thereafter. Notwithstanding the enormous publicity given to COP 26 in this country it was manipulated to ensure that the use of fossil fuels persisted.

Rather, we need to examine the two examples at the beginning of this article. Firstly we should avoid claiming credit for doing insufficient, since less than what is required will lead to catastrophe. Secondly, we should realise the truth spoken by the arms dealers that without legislation and positive action by governments, enterprises will find ways of going on as before because it's legal and someone will make a profit out of it even if they don't. And leaving windfall profits in large

companies is absolutely no guarantee that those funds will be spent to counter climate change. The behaviour of most governments is no different. The UN General Secretary said some governments were “lying” in claiming they are on track to reach only 1.5 degrees. In many instances, targets were declared but no planning or action taken: “They are saying one thing and doing another. The results will be catastrophic.” This is a highly unusual way for the UN GS to speak about those he will have to work with.

The above two principles are what the scientists with their logical optimism may have failed to grasp.

And consider nuclear weapons. When the cold war ended, apart from reducing the vastly over provision of nuclear warheads, no government addressed the continuing need to make arrangements to ensure that in future the position of MAD would not re-emerge. It was simply hoped it would go away and it was substantially left to amateurs to try to prevent the spread of such weapons to other nations, which not unreasonably thought they had the same needs as the great powers. Now we reap the consequences. With serious matters, governments are clearly not to be trusted.

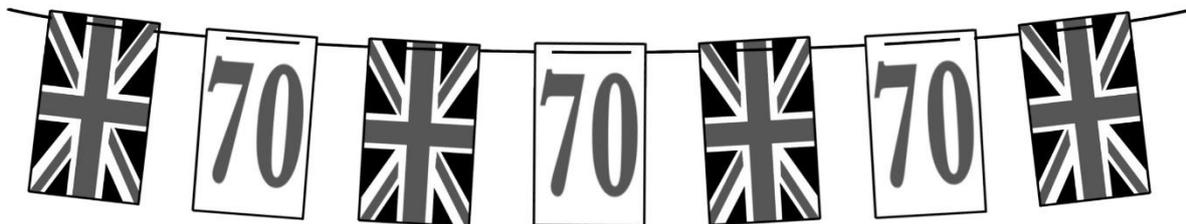
So are we the individuals the only good guys? I am afraid not. We know how difficult we find it to give up smoking even though our self interest lies in that direction. Similarly with drugs, drinking and much of our behaviour. We may recognise the issues but that is a far cry from putting them into practice and even more so to stand up and do something about it. On the other hand the creation of new developing markets would provide substitutes without using fossil fuels, and it's interesting that even with high priced cars the population seems to accept that even though many will not be able to afford them. This may demonstrate that with a good lead from government, change is possible. So, the mechanism for change remains to be putting pressure on governments.

Currently, those who do protest and legally so, are rewarded by sterner legislation when they should be applauded for drawing attention to the need for change. It may be unpalatable to many but these are the foot soldiers of change.

The company in my first story, if it does not respond will certainly be liquidated. The arms dealer above will go on dealing unless governments act. Put another way we are currently passengers on a train heading at full speed towards the buffers whilst the driver has just jumped off; but the scenery is marvellous.

‘Our world it is a garden,
And such gardens are not made
By saying “Oh how beautiful”
And sitting in the shade.’

Harry Ingram



CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2022

Now that more services are taking place again in Church, this is our plan for June and July 2022 – subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

Sunday 5th June

Day of Pentecost

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
3.00pm Afternoon Tea for the Platinum Jubilee
4.30pm All-age Jubilee Service – in Church

Wednesday 8th June

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 9th June

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 11th June

St Barnabas

Sunday 12th June

Trinity Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Wednesday 15th June

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 16th June

Corpus Christi

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 19th June

1st Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 22nd June

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 23rd June

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Friday 24th June

Birth of St John the Baptist

Sunday 26th June

2nd Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
6.00pm Taizé Service

Wednesday 29th June

St Peter and St Paul

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 30th June

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

CALENDAR FOR JULY 2022

Sunday 3rd July

St Thomas the Apostle

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
4.00pm Family Service – in Church

Wednesday 6th July

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 7th July

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 10th July

4th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Wednesday 13th July

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 14th July

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 17th July

5th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
4.00pm Messy Church

Thursday 21st July

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Friday 22nd July

St Mary Magdalene

Sunday 24th July

6th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
6.00pm Taizé Service

Monday 25th July

St James the Apostle

Thursday 28th July

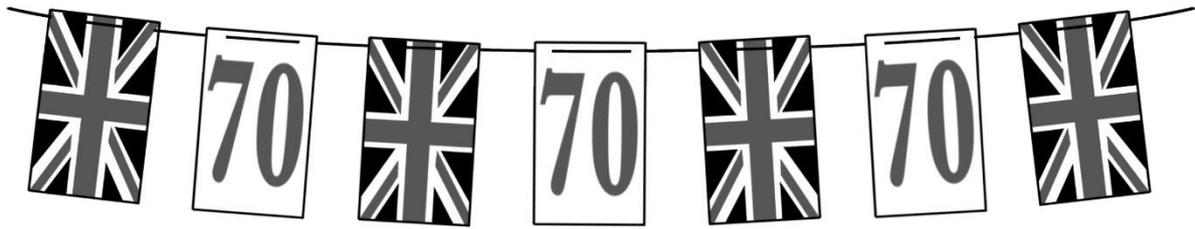
12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 31st July

7th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.



Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee

A special extended bank holiday weekend this month will give communities across the UK a chance to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In February this year, HM the Queen became the first British monarch to celebrate 70 years of service.

The weekend, from Thursday June 2nd to Sunday June 5th will include a birthday parade, beacons across the country, a 'platinum party' at Buckingham Palace, a pageant and thousands of street parties and lunches. Many churches will be holding special services and events.

A centrepiece of the celebrations will be a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, London, on Friday June 3rd. It's fitting that the service will form a key part of the Jubilee, as the Queen has been vocal in speaking about her Christian faith in a series of high-profile broadcasts.

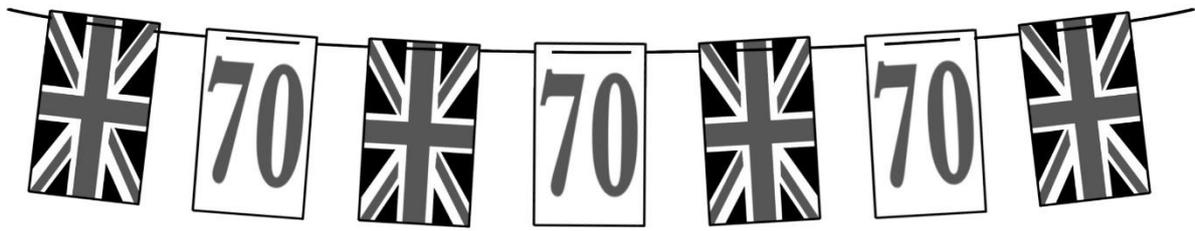
In her Christmas Day broadcast in 2016, she said: "Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives.

"I am one of them, because Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe."

Journalist Catherine Butcher, who has written 'Our Faithful Queen – 70 years of faith and service' to mark the Platinum Jubilee, recalls: "The Queen Mother subscribed to daily devotional Bible reading notes. She regularly read Bible stories to the young princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret, and taught them to pray. Both girls started their weekly school lessons with half an hour of Bible reading, under the guidance of their governess, and weekly church attendance has been a lifelong pattern for the Queen, who is said to keep a well-read Bible by her bedside."

Catherine Butcher tells how evangelist Billy Graham wrote in this autobiography, 'Just as I am' about meeting the Queen on several occasions. He said: "I always found her very interested in the Bible and its message."

The Queen is Supreme Governor of the Church of England but her interest in faith goes well beyond this title. She holds a strong Christian faith and has exemplified this in her lifetime of dedicated service.



Energy Saving Tips

The on-going rise in energy costs is eye-watering. Here are some well-proven ways to save money:

Always turn off the lights when you leave a room. Forget about maintaining an 'ambience' in your home.

Turn down your thermostat by at least a degree. Or two. Or three?

Get some LED bulbs – they are six times more efficient, last much longer, and use 90 per cent less energy than old-style bulbs.

Shower rather than bath. Don't worry about a bit of dirt on your children. It can strengthen their immune systems and help prevent them from becoming allergic to everything.

Don't boil the kettle all the time – it eats up about six per cent of all your electricity per year. Why not consider making a pot rather than a mug, so that you drink as much overall, but less often?

Make a draught excluder – you know, the ones that look like sausage dogs. Don't turn up the heat to combat a draught – fix the draught.

Keep doors closed. If you don't need to heat your WHOLE house, don't.

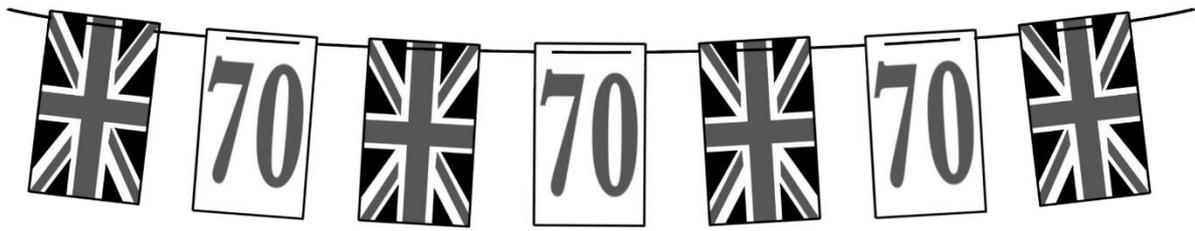
Put some more clothes on. We all know people who like to wear only tee-shirts at home, even in winter. If they belong to your family, get them to put on a jumper, cuddle the dog, wrap up in a blanket, or run up and down the stairs, not turn up the heating.

Set your washing machine at 30 degrees. Washing at 30 rather than 40 degrees can reduce your energy consumption by 60 per cent per cycle, according to the energy experts.

Use your electric clothes dryer less. It can account for five per cent of all household electricity. Far cheaper to buy a washing line!

Use your oven only when you can fill it up. Never cook just one thing at a time. And when you are done, leave the oven door open to help heat the house.

All of these are small steps, but together they could make a big difference this year.



Happiness or Joy

I suppose most of us want to be happy and want those we love to be happy too. But happiness is transient as usually we just have occasions in which we are happy but others in which we are sad.

Joy is a more lasting feeling which is probably why it is used for a girl's name but Happy isn't, although Walt Disney in Snow White had a dwarf called Happy. To be joyful one needs to think positively, accepting that all things are not necessarily perfect but appreciating whatever is good. Joy can be found even in the times of misfortune and is most evident when shared with others. It is surprising how a smile from a joyful person can bring a responding smile from any person they are with.

As well as often being short lived, happiness may be good for some but bad for others. Rain would perhaps make farmers and gardeners happy but dry weather would do so for holiday makers.

I asked a schoolmaster to write something in my autograph book when I was 10 years old in New Zealand and he wrote out Psalm 100 which starts; "O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands."

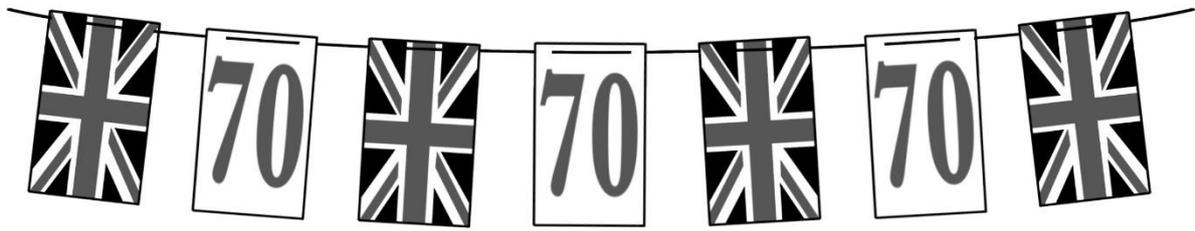
At the birth of Jesus, the angel said to the shepherds, "I am bringing good news of great joy for all people". He was not bringing happiness as such as that could not be for all people.

I love Keat's poem that went:

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases;
it will never pass into nothingness
but still will keep a bower quiet for us,
and a sleep full of sweet dreams
and health and quiet breathing.

I often end letters with words used by St Paul 'with Love, Joy, Peace and Hope.'

Ian Archer



An experience to wreck a tour?

My parents were on a cruise which took them to Acapulco in Mexico in 1967, so I quote from the book in which he told this story:

The gins and tonics Dulcie, my wife and I, had had in a restaurant put us all in a good mood as we sallied forth to find a taxi. We eventually arrived at the market place and I paid off the taxi. Five minutes later, as we were wandering round a shop, Dulcie suddenly said, 'Oh, my handbag – I think I must have left it in the taxi.' My heart must have missed a beat, because in her handbag were our passports, health certificates and tickets. I rushed out into the road with some forlorn hope of seeing the taxi but this had disappeared completely into the rambling city of Acapulco. For a moment I did not know what to do, then I made my way hurriedly to where I knew I would find a ship's officer on the quay. As I walked, almost ran, through the heat (it was at least 100 in the shade) I called my dear wife every name under the sun and, interspersed among my cursing's, I sent prayers to God and to all the angels to come to my aid. Dear Dulcie trailed along miserably behind me, very silent as is her wont when she is in trouble.

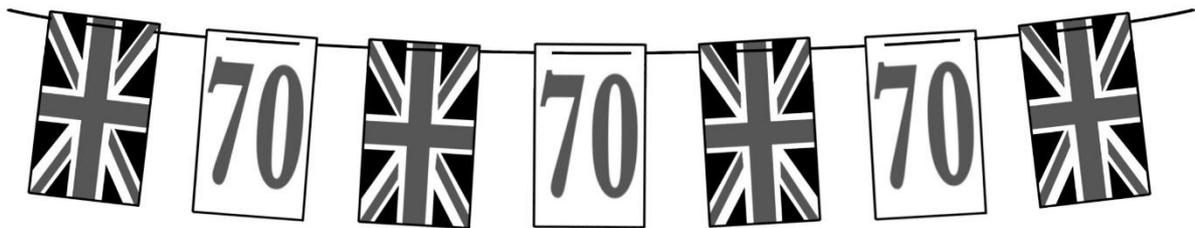
Arriving at the quayside, I said to the young ship's officer, "I am in a shocking mess" (actually I used a much stronger adjective). He looked helpless and could suggest nothing. The ship was due to sail in two hours' time and without our papers we would have had difficulty in getting into Canada, where a detailed tour had been arranged for me to attend lunches, dinners and meetings in all the principal cities from Vancouver to Montreal. We were in dire trouble! I then decided to take a taxi back to the hotel where we had had our gins and tonics, in the hope that perhaps the handbag had been left there. This we did, but no handbag. I was still sending up prayers for divine intervention.

Coming out of the hotel, I saw a Mexican arranging some motor tours. In desperation I went up to him, expecting that he could only speak Mexican, but no, he spoke excellent English. I told him of our predicament and, Heaven be praised, my prayers were answered. He said, 'Oh, yes, a taxi came back here half an hour ago and the chap said he had found a lady's handbag. Just hang around awhile – he's sure to be back soon.' Twenty minutes went by and I was beginning to get anxious again. The Mexican came over and said, 'Perhaps you'd better go look for this taxi – his number is 19, which is printed in large letters on the side of his cab.' So off we went after the Mexican had briefed our taxi driver on the purpose of our mission. We toured all the busy streets in the town, feverishly looking for taxi number 19. While all the time the precious minutes were passing by. By then the ship was due to sail in one hour! At last, and after two visits to a large filling

station, I spotted number 19. Springing from my cab, I let out a shout which brought everything to a standstill, including taxi 19, but as I rushed across, the driver of that car was someone we had never seen before. However, our taxi man explained to him the situation and the driver of number 19 said he had just relieved the other driver, who was across the way. There sure enough was the man. I rounded him up and he took us to his home, where he had already taken my wife's handbag. So it was recovered, thank God, with all the contents intact, and the taxi man was rewarded, but not so well as he would have been had he taken it back to the ship's officer, because he knew quite well we were from the Oriana – I had in fact told him so.

“With infinite relief I then took my wife to the shops and bought her a gold charm for her bracelet in the shape of a Mexican sombrero – a memory for her of a very anxious episode in our lives. But I deeply believe that my fervent prayers were answered. They were fervent alright and all the alarm bells in heaven must have sounded. Of course I should not have given my wife the custody of the passports – she is often absent minded and she and her handbags have so often parted company in the course of her life.

Jock Archer”

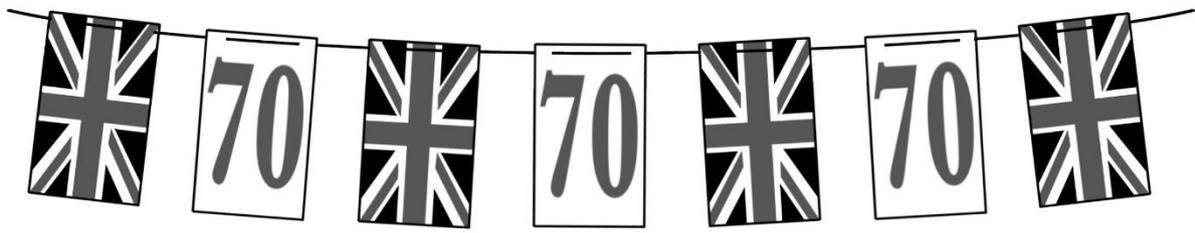


Rogation Sunday Walk

Five of us “Beat the Bounds” on a gloriously sunny Rogation Sunday last month, pausing for prayers at the most westerly, northerly, easterly and southerly points of the parish and to spot landmarks from the top of Reigate Hill. I am pleased to report that a stop for ice creams at the café at the top of Wray Lane did not detract from our enjoyment of the tea and cakes that were waiting for us on our return to St Mark's!



As reported in last month's magazine, “On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. ... At certain points along the route – at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest.”



Harry Potter Turns 25

Twenty-five years ago, on 26th June 1997, J K Rowling's first Harry Potter novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, was published in the UK.

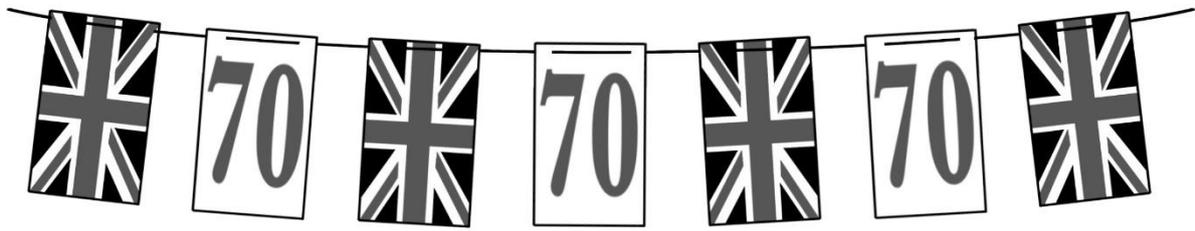
It received massive acclaim, and another six best-selling books and eight hugely successful films followed. The books have been translated into over 80 languages, and have sold more than 500 million copies worldwide. Spin-off books and films have followed, and the author also publishes crime novels under a pen name.



Death and the struggle between good and evil are the central themes of the Harry Potter series, and it has provoked much religious debate, centring mainly on claims by some that the books contain occult and Satanic sub-texts. Defenders of the books say that the magic in the Harry Potter series is more akin to fairy tales and to *The Lord of the Rings* and *Narnia*.

Supporters argue that the whole story can be viewed as essentially Christian in character, particularly the last volume, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, in which the hero dies and comes back to life to save mankind. Elsewhere themes of courage, love and the temptations of power are central.

Its author – born Joanne Rowling in 1965 – has described herself as a Christian and attended a Church of Scotland congregation while writing Harry Potter. Her daughter Jessica was baptised there. More recently she has been reluctant to talk “too deeply” about her beliefs.



A Prayer

We thought 2020 was a pretty catastrophic year, but 2022 doesn't seem far behind! With the terrible events in Ukraine and real hardship at home, it feels like the world has turned upside down. Now, more than ever, we need to see where the hope lies. A later disciple of Jesus, Paul, wrote a letter to the fledgling church at Philippi, including these words:

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done."

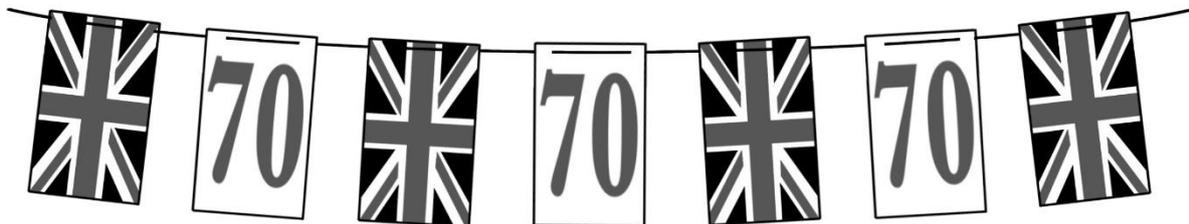
It's hard not to worry, but we really can pray about everything. We can take all our worries, cares and concerns to him, knowing he cares. Part of this is about spotting where we see God at work, because that encourages us to continue to pray. So, in the middle of all the chaos, where do we see light and hope? Where do we see God at work through people, loving and helping? When we spot that, let's pray even more for those situations and people that there would be even more light and love and hope.

I'm reminded of Corrie ten Boom, an amazing Dutch lady whose family supported and hid Jews during the Second World War. They were eventually arrested by the Gestapo and sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp. In appalling conditions and with terrible treatment, Corrie's sister Betsie kept reminding Corrie "There's no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still". Betsie died, but Corrie survived, and went on to travel the world sharing the message of the love of God.

We've seen an outpouring of warmth and generosity for Ukrainian refugees, so let's pray for them, for the people who have opened their homes and for all who are organising additional support. And let's pray too, for people in our own community and country, suffering the results of greater energy and food costs.

Lord God, please be in the hearts and lives of all those who are suffering. Bring healing to those who are enduring pain. Bring value to those who are disregarded. Bring joy to those in great sorrow. Bring hope to those that have nothing to live for. Bring provision to those who are hungry. Bring shelter to those without a home. Bring community to those who are lonely. Please use and prompt me to be your hands of love across a hurting world. Amen.

Fr Martin



Puzzles

June Sudoku Puzzle

6	8							
		2					5	7
	5			7	2	3	8	
			7		1	9		
7	9		3	2	4		6	1
		4	5		8			
	1	3	6	4			9	
4	7					8		
							7	4

May Solution

6	3	7	1	8	5	4	9	2
2	4	8	6	9	3	7	1	5
5	1	9	2	4	7	6	3	8
3	5	1	8	7	6	9	2	4
8	9	2	5	1	4	3	7	6
4	7	6	9	3	2	8	5	1
1	2	3	7	6	8	5	4	9
7	6	5	4	2	9	1	8	3
9	8	4	3	5	1	2	6	7

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June Crossword

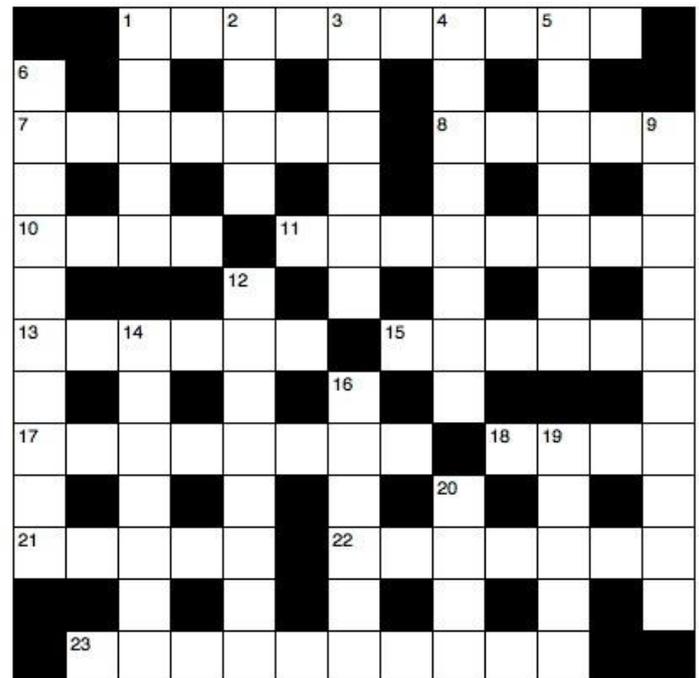
Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians 4:8) (4)
 11 Fraud (2Corinthians 6:8) (8)
 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
 18 Nomadic dwelling (Genesis 26:25) (4)
 21 'As for man, his days are like—, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
 22 Or I live (anag.) (7)
 23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans 13:4) (10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
 12 Put in jail (Acts 22:19) (8)
 14 Aceturn (anag.) (7)
 16 Discharge (Acts 21:3) (6)
 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!'(Revelation 19:7) (4)



May Solution

ACROSS: 1 Overwhelmed 9 Valleys 10 Strap 11 Top 13 Reel 16 To do 17 Incite 18 Load 20 West 21 Notice 22 Wash 23 Thin 25 Ash 28 Noah's 29 Ever not 30 Onesiphorus
DOWN: 2 Value 3 Reed 4 Host 5 Lisp 6 Ear lobe 7 Overflowing 8 Opportunity 12 Obtain 14 Lid 15 A cross 19 Abstain 20 Wet 24 Hindu 25 Asks 26 Help 27 Hero



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