

HOPE HERALD

News, views & comment from
St James Church, Hope

January/February 2021



What's
inside

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FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Church is open for
Holy communion service
Sundays at 10.00am

The Wednesday service will be
discontinued until further notice

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*A happy and healthy New Year to all
our readers*

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE WEEKLY bulletin OR ASK CHURCHWARDENS



Letter from The Vicar

Jan./Feb. 2021



AS WE START 2021 it is hard not to feel what a strange and challenging year 2020 was for the world. I looked at the predications for the year that the BBC had in January and in some ways it is quite amusing how wrong they were, that there would be lots of superhero movies (almost all were pushed to 2021 and beyond), that the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics would dominate the news (didn't happen), cricket tournaments and Glastonbury having a big blowout to celebrate 50 years of the music festival. So much of what they thought would be important big news just never happened because

of the effect of Covid on our world.

It is perhaps one of the many ways that we are reminded that you never know what the future will hold, for good or for ill and that much though we might like to think we are prepared for whatever life may throw us it is often the things we never thought of or didn't know existed that knock us sideways.

This could make us afraid or anxious about the future and a little anxiety is not a bad thing as it stops us being blasé and not making plans to manage any crisis and to make the most of opportunities, but too much can overwhelm and paralyse us so it is important to try to keep a balance in our lives.

For myself, what I do when I am anxious or worried about something is this, I make a list of what I can do to

address the problem or prepare for it, I then look at what I can't control or change and offer that over to God. There is much we can do to control the path our lives go on, but there is also much that is out of our hands, worrying about those things that we cannot control does not help us, as Jesus said can anyone by worrying add a single hour to your life? In all honesty worrying too much is likely to take hours off rather than adding them, so I encourage you as we look ahead to this new year to think about those things that worry you and what you can do about them, and then hand over to God in prayer what you cannot control and trust Him to bring you through.

Gareth

Feb 14th: Valentine's day mystery

THERE ARE two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century – one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was as-



saints' day -14th February – the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and

sumed to be because on these

marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweet-hearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

Gift Day Result



GIFT DAY in 2020 was held on 20th December - the same day as our Carol Service.

The amount collected on the day was:

£485

Coronavirus restrictions meant that the raffle usually run by Margaret Adshhead and Thelma Sproston, and the special event run by the Rainbows and Brownies led by Sylvia McGreal could not happen. This made a

significant impact on the result

Some donations were made under Gift Aid and some of the cash was eligible for a claim under the Small Cash Donation Scheme.

This means that the actual value to Church was approximately:

£606

A great result!

Thank you

From our new Churchwarden

LET ME START by wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year, which will hopefully be brighter than 2020.



This is a slightly different “Warden’s Report”, because as the “new kid on the block”, Trevor has asked me to say something about myself, as a new Churchwarden of St James.

I was brought up in North London. My family were not religious, and I only came to faith in my mid-teens. Faced with a plethora of different kinds of churches in our town, I eventually rooted myself in the local Methodist and Roman Catholic communities, and appreciated their commitment to being ecumenical. After completing university

studies in Physiology and Biochemistry, I got a job teaching High School science in a Catholic School in Cameroon, in West Africa. This rather surprised me as my intention was not to go to Africa, but to stay and work in London, but the job was for only two years. I was invited back to Cameroon by the Head of the Presbyterian Church, to teach at the Protestant College, and after a year’s study in Birmingham, focusing on the Bible, Islam, and Anthropology, I set off back to Cameroon. During the time there, I met and married Sonja, a young Dutch teacher (she nursed me when I was sick with Hepatitis A !) Our first daughter was born in Cameroon (you know her as Bronwen, but her Cameroonian given name is Nahnyonga), and when she was two years old, we decided to move on, and were offered a position working on a Methodist holistic development project in Eastern Sierra Leone. While there, we were blessed with a second daughter.

War came to neighbouring Liberia, and spilled over into Sierra

Leone in 1991. Our project was looted and destroyed by rebel soldiers. We were forced to leave the area, and move West to the capital. As fighting spread, Sonja and our daughters came to live in Hertfordshire, while I remained in Sierra Leone to assist church agencies with relief work among Liberian refugees and the many displaced people from inside Sierra Leone. As the war engulfed almost the whole country, I also left Sierra Leone, and was offered a job setting up and working in nutritional development programmes in Ethiopia by Dutch Interchurch Aid, an organisation which channelled resources via churches in the Netherlands.

It was in Ethiopia that I became acquainted with the Orthodox Church. Sonja and I also started to attend St Matthew’s Anglican Church (a church of the Diocese of Egypt and the Horn of Africa) in Addis Ababa (one of only three churches using English for services in the city at the time). Sonja and I both were elected to the church council, and I represented the church at the

Diocesan Synod in Cairo. In 2001, during a visit to a project site in the desert area of North-Eastern Ethiopia, our youngest daughter and I both contracted cerebral malaria. I recovered, but sadly, our daughter, who was twelve, passed away. This coincided with me being offered a new job in a Peacebuilding project among nomadic communities, run by the National Council of Churches of Kenya, based near the Ugandan border.

From Kenya, we moved to Liberia, working for a Dutch refugee organisation, assisting the

post-war development in that country. After Liberia, we moved back to Ethiopia, and I started working for Brot fuer die Welt, a German organisation of the Lutheran and Evangelische churches, channeling support for agricultural development organisations from the European Union, the German Government, and the German churches.

From Kenya, our eldest daughter had completed her studies in the U.K. and Spain, and got a job in Manchester (and a husband in Ethiopia). To assist the young couple,

Sonja and I purchased a house in Salford for them to live in, and eventually for us to retire to. In 2018, we finally left Africa (along with our two dogs), and settled in “our” house. We initially worshipped at St Ann’s, but finally settled in St James’ (within walking distance of our house!), where we were given a warm welcome by the congregation. And now I am a church war-den

God’s blessing:

Bob Hedley

How to handle temptation

“I can resist everything but temptation” (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus’ experience in the wilderness when *‘He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.’* Temptation is a test of *obedience*, whether we do things our way or God’s way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus’ ministry was not about meeting His own

needs, but being nourished by God’s Word. *‘We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God’.* Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God’s way! *‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’* We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan: Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him

worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. *‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only’*. This is often our experience in living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross.

‘If you look at the world, you’ll be distressed. If you look within, you’ll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you’ll be at rest!’ (Corrie Ten Boom).

Late Extra: Question time

CALL ME A FOOL if you like, but some time ago I set myself the task of reading everything Agatha Christie ever wrote in an effort to discover why she is regarded as the most popular and entertaining writer of thrillers Britain has ever produced. There are more than eighty books to get through. Not all of them are thrillers and not all of them are written under the name 'Agatha Christie'. I have just reached number 35.

Of course a diet of nothing but Agatha Christie would be no more inviting than a plate of potatoes served every day under a different disguise, so I have taken time away from her periodically and read things by other people, such as work of a more intellectual or spiritual nature, in order to make the return to her more welcome.

Since last November I have been making my way through the last of Hilary Mantel's books about Thomas Cromwell and his relationship with King Henry VIII. It is almost 900 pages long and is brim-full of historical details and allusions

through which the author puts her particular stamp on some well known events. I learned long ago that people clever enough to write such books often do so to score points off their intellectual friends and rivals. In academic circles you don't make money without making a fuss!



Thomas Cromwell did a lot to lick the Church of England into shape after Henry rejected the authority of the Pope. It was his idea that every church should keep a record of funerals, weddings and baptisms. Baptisms were considered more important than actual births because it is our relationship with God which determines what kind of people we will be.

Being a small congregation meeting in a build-

ing far bigger than it really needs has had its compensations in recent weeks. It means that we have had the space to keep a safe distance from each other when moving about. Some larger congregations elsewhere, using more modern, more economically-sized buildings, have decided they cannot meet safely and will not do so again until regulations are lifted.

The prospect of being able to be together in church on Easter Day this year, doing what we would normally do, save perhaps for some enthusiastic hymn singing, is exciting. At Easter we renew our baptism promises, having hopefully discovered through Lent how we relate or fail to relate to others and particularly how we relate to Our Lord Jesus Christ. For me Lent is a time for taking something on rather than giving something up. Others see it differently, though after twelve months of deprivations, limitations and restrictions, it isn't easy to see what else there is to forego!

I am writing this when the predicted post-Christmas surge in corona-

virus cases is reaching its peak. BBC News has been broadcasting reports from hospitals desperately close to breaking point. It has been harrowing to see hard-working, overworked members of staff reduced to tears, too moved to express their feelings about the inability to save lives. Why has this monster of a problem happened? What, if anything, have we failed to do?

Is it possible even to imagine what Jesus felt about the widespread poverty of his times and about the neglect of people in dire need? It wasn't an entirely heartless society. The Gospels tell us that the sick were laid on beds

at the pool of Bethesda; perchance there might be a miracle. Somebody must have got them there. Jesus was here with us for a full experience of what it means to be human. He didn't need telling that sin ruins lives. He could see the effects of it and told people to refrain. He never failed to notice when somebody in pain or misery reached out to touch him and said that faith in him had been their salvation. Lazarus, Martha and Mary were friends he was fond of who lived at Bethany. When Lazarus died and his two sisters were grief-stricken, Jesus wept. He shared their grief, but he wanted them to see death as the door through

which we must pass to a life more peaceful and joyful than we can have whilst we are here. Lazarus and others he raised would one day die again, but Jesus was raised so that the promise of life could help us put the death of those we love in its true perspective.

The question is, if God, at a single stroke, were to rid the world of coronavirus in all its forms, would the world cease to fear death or to cause it? Would we become less anxious for the things that pass away – more desirous of those that last forever?

DGB

Candlemas: the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

IN BYGONE centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present Him to the

Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day –

hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's recognition of who Jesus was, is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis. In medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

Forty days and forty nights



Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. ‘Angels and dirt’ he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So,

in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with his head, his hands and his feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about him, apart from his tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion (on Jesus left hand) and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert? During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God.

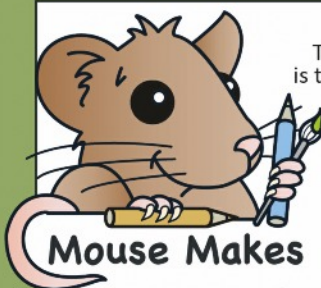
He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

ON THE 17th of this month, we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory.

In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is from 1939: ‘Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.’ It is currently held in a private collection.

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village’s inhabitants his models.

Junior Pages



FIND THE CREATION PAIRS from Genesis 1 and 2

EARTH	MORNING
LIGHT	FRUIT
DAYS	SEA
TREES	NIGHT
LAND	FISH
EVENING	YEARS
ADAM	HEAVENS
DAY	DARK
BIRDS	WATER
SKY	EVE

WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next

E _ _ _ _ H

• What two things did God create first?
Genesis 1:1

_ _ _ S _ _ _

• What was the Earth without? Genesis 1:2
• What came before morning? Gen 1:5

_ _ _ _ _ G

• Who is the creator? Genesis 1:1
• What was separated from light? Gen 1:4

_ _ _ _ _

S _ _ _ _

• Which day did God finish work? Gen 2:2
• Who was created God's image? Gen 1:27

_ _ _ H _ _ _

• Who moved over the water? Gen 1:2

I _ _ _ _ S



By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **fourth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.



DID YOU KNOW?

The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*



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

Can you find these words in the word search?

GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
FLY • DEEP • EARTH
DARK • DAY • LIGHT
NIGHT • STARS • SKY
SEA • LAND • BIRD
CREATURE • HUMAN
TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
FRUIT • GOOD • TWO

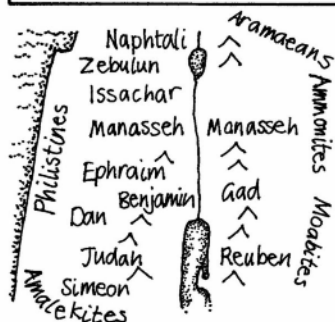


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Josh 13:8-20:48
1 Sam 31:1-5, 2 Sam 2:4-24, 3:12, 17-27, 4:5:1-5

When the Jews reached the place that God had promised them, each tribe was given land to live in. But they were surrounded by enemies..



King Saul and two of his sons died fighting the Philistines.



David was made king of the southern tribe of Judah.



But Saul's army commander, Abner, took Saul's last son, Ishbosheth, north and made him king of the rest of Israel.



Joab was David's commander. The two armies fought and Abner killed Joab's brother.



Ishbosheth was a poor king and Abner decided to join David.



Abner persuaded all of the northern tribes to have David as king.



Abner came for a secret meeting with David.



So Joab tricked Abner into another meeting and killed him.



Then two men sneaked into Ishbosheth's house and killed him as he had a nap.



They expected a reward from David but he was very angry because they had murdered Ishbosheth.



So David became king over all of Israel.



It's all Greek in St. James

DURING THE YEAR in church we use altar cloths in colours determined by the season: purple in Advent and Lent; white for Christmas and Easter; red for saints days; green for what is called "ordinary time" and so on.



There are numerous symbols embroidered on the cloths, and one of them is the word "nika". This word relates to the Greek word for "victory": "nike" (you may recognise it from Nike trainers!!), and in church means "He (Jesus) is victorious".

You may be surprised to learn that "nika" is not the only Greek to appear in our church.

Another common symbol, looks like the capital letter P sticking out of an X. This is a very old symbol, which goes under different names: "labarum" (from the Greek "labaron"); or from the 12th cen-



tury Latin, "Crismon". But what does it mean? The letters are actually the Greek letters, "Chi" and "Rho" (letters sounding as "ch" in Scottish "loch", and "r" in English). They stand for the first two letters of Christos, the Greek for Christ.

This symbol has an intriguing history which it is worth looking into. It started being used during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (who ruled the Roman Empire between 306 and 337 A.D.). He was a Serbian, born to a Christian mother. Constantine was proclaimed emperor at York in 306, while busy fighting us Britons. He then set about fighting his "fellow emperors", Licinius and Maxentius, finally defeating Maxentius at the Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312. It is said that before the battle, he had a

vision of the Chi-rho symbol in the sky, with the words "Toutu Nika" (there's that "nika" word again!) –Greek for "in this sign you will conquer". Constantine then instructed all his soldiers to paint their shields with the Chi-rho symbol, they indeed won, and Constantine became the sole Roman emperor on the throne. Some say his vision was much earlier during a battle in Gaul, but certainly, after he became sole emperor, persecution of Christians stopped (by the Imperial Edict of Milan in 313), and the Empire embraced Christianity. Constantine built a new capital city at a town in Northern Turkey called Byzantium, which he had named Constantinople (renamed Istanbul by the Turks). As Christianity became free to develop, public arguments started to take place about the relationship between Jesus Christ and God, the Father. In 325, Constantine called together church leaders at a town called Nicaea in Turkey (now called Iznik), in order that they settle the matter. The resultant formulation of belief is the Nicene Creed, which

we recite every Sunday in church.

ΑΩ

The Chi-rho symbol is often flanked by the Greek letters “alpha” and “omega” – the first and the last letters of the (Greek) alphabet, which reflect passages in Revelation chapters 1, 21, and 22, stating that Christ is the first and the last, the alpha and omega – a clear statement that Christ is God.

Predating the Chi Rho, other symbols were used by Christians to identify one another during the persecutions of the 2nd century A.D. The cross is one of these-although in its earliest days it looked like a capital letter “T”, and was only used in its

present shape from the 4th century. The crucifix started to be used in the 5th century, not in churches, but on “souvenirs” brought from pilgrims from Jerusalem.

ιης

Another Greek symbol you will see in St James’ is a combination of the Greek letters “iota”, “eta”, and “sigma” (which look like our capital letters “I”, “H” (= an “E”), and “S”.) These are the first three letters of the name Jesus in Greek (Iesus). These letters have been in use since the 7th century, and can be seen

on some of our altar dressings.



One of the earliest symbols is also used in our church. It is the fish, and has been used by Christians since the 1st Century AD. Apart from the many numerous references to fish in the New Testament, the Greek word for fish, “ichthys”, actually spells out the following acronym; Iesus (first letter = i) (Jesus); Christos (first letter = ch) (Anointed); Theou (first letter = th) (of God); Yios (first letter = Y) (Son); Soter (first letter = s) (Saviour). That fish symbol is a great statement of our faith,”Jesus the Anointed Son and Saviour”.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

IF YOU ARE already struggling to keep it, here is something that might help you.

Psychologists advise that it is useless to say you are going to quit anything. Instead, make your resolution to change into something positive. For

example, instead of “I will give up sweets,” say “I will eat fruit twice a day.”

It seems that people with an ‘approach goal’ score greater success than those who see themselves quitting something they still like. As one Swedish doctor explained: “You

cannot erase a behaviour, but you can replace it with something else.”

The most popular resolutions regard physical health, weight loss and change of eating habits. The research was done at Stockholm University.



EVER WONDER why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and

making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are

in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosser their



Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March. So, on Shrove Tuesday this year let's have some fun and make it last as long as possible.



The birds and bees

HERE IS some good news: all new major roads will have wildflower friendly verges that could boost our numbers of birds and bees.

Highway England has said that vibrant road verges will be created as standard on new roads over 300 miles in England, using low nutrient soils which will be seeded with wild-



flowers or left to grow naturally.

A staggering 97 per cent of our meadows have been destroyed since the

Thirties, due to modern agriculture. This means that the 238,000 hectares of road verges across the UK could become a vital habitat for pollinators.

The Government has pledged to build 4,000 miles of new road by 2025.



Follow a new pilgrim path

The old Way

IN THE SOUTH of England, a new pilgrim path is emerging.

Winding through downland, weald and shoreline for 250 miles, the Old Way from Southampton to Canterbury is derived from the oldest road map of Britain: the Gough Map, c.1360.

Like the Santiago de Compostela in Spain, this ancient route has lain dormant for years. But it has been recently rediscovered by the British Pilgrimage Trust, who have used the Gough Map's key anchor waypoints (corresponding to settlements like Southampton, Chichester, Arundel, Battle, Rye etc) to create a new pilgrimage route with ancient roots.

In unison with the Old Way's development, the British Pilgrimage Trust are also reintroducing another ancient – and similarly dormant – tradition. The offering of 'sanctuary' hospitality to pilgrims along a pilgrimage route was, up until the English Reformation of 1534, common practice.

Monasteries throughout the country would have had a room or building reserved specifically for travellers, who would rely on these sanctuaries in order to make pil-

grimage. When pilgrimage was banned in 1538, and monasteries demolished, these two practices – making pilgrimage, and providing sanctuary – ceased, lying fallow for hundreds of years.

With the re-emergence of pilgrimage in the UK, the provision of sanctuary has likewise become common practice again. The BPT has worked with 13 churches along the Old Way, who will offer overnight sanctuary to BPT pilgrims walking the route, in exchange for a donation (between £5-£10 per pilgrim for one night) to their church. In Spring 2021, Covid-19 permitting, the Sanctuary Project will launch.

The BPT is looking for more churches, based along this route and in other locations across Britain, to take up this project. This is a fantastic opportunity: not only will the project enable pilgrims on lower incomes to make pilgrimage, but it will also bring a new type of visitor and donation to churches.

To find out more about the BPT's Sanctuary Project, visit:
britishpilgrimage.org/sanctuary

National survey finds our favourite walks

WHERE do we most like to walk? A recent survey has found that two places in the Lake District are clear winners.

Top comes the gently accessible Buttermere Circuit, with its rippling silver water, mountain views, peace and quiet. Second is the demanding eight-hour climb up Helvellyn, which is not for the faint-hearted.

Then comes the Rhossili Headland walk in Gower, and the Solva to St David's route in Pembrokeshire, both in Wales.

The survey was done by the consumer champion group *Which?*

Crossword

Answers

ACROSS: 1 freak, 4 haw-
sers, 8 cockles, 9 Tiber, 10
tide, 11 fatherly, 13 undies,
14 closed, 17 bachelor, 19
myth, 22 agent, 23 swallow,
24 derides, 25 sheer.
DOWN: 1 facet, 2 encoded,
3 kilt, 4 Hussar, 5 withhold,
6 ember, 7 strayed, 12 de-
mented, 13 upbraided, 15 sky
blue, 16 horses, 18 cheer,
20 heaver, 21 pass.

Priestley Players A.D.S.



A HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone. Let us all make a New Years resolution to follow the rules.

Accept the vaccine when offered, and to stay safe and keep others safe.

In the run-up to Christmas we, (my wife Sandra and I), received a seasonal greetings card from a friend of many years and President of the Priestley Players, Rev Dudley Barnett. Included in the salutations were all members of the society, but what caught my eye was the little note to say that now that he had more time to himself he was looking forward to 'treading the boards' again, so be warned!

Well Mr President if I get the honour of producing the next show when we start back I will certainly keep you in mind. However.....you will have to learn your lines. You can't read notes like you do for your sermons!

Which reminds me of a conversation I had recently. around the pleasure we get from being in a drama group. Don't get me wrong there is a lot of hard work put in before the glitter and glamour of opening night and the run of the show.

Not everyone gets to be seen on stage, but their handy work is there to be seen by all. The set designers, constructors, decorators, lighting technicians, sound engineers, wardrobe, props, stage manager. There is also the front of house staff, the people who keep you safe before, during and after the show. The front-of-house manager, the ticket collectors, the raffle ticket sellers, the programme sellers, the ladies who organise the refreshments.

Recently the actors have been learning their lines and moves. During rehearsals there are always times of fun and laughter and yes, times of upset and misery, when things don't go quite right. But at the back of your mind you know that the days are ticking by the show must go on!

Many are the times in the last few weeks, when things aren't going too well, and you ask yourself why do I keep on putting myself through this? Then you remember the moment, the thrill, the excitement, when you first walk out on that stage.

To finish I have reprinted my programme

notes from a play I produced some years ago, back at Worsley Road. The play was "Proscenophobia" - ('Stage Fright' in *English*). It was set in the dressing room of the leading lady and her understudy.

"As curtain-up time approaches we are taking you behind the scenes to the twilight zone of dimly lit corridors and passageways 'backstage'. In theatres up and down the country, as curtain-up approaches, there is excitement, anticipation, arguments, mishaps, intrigue..... The final few minutes can be peaceful, a time to gather your thoughts, or panic stations as props go missing, equipment breaks down, you forget your lines.....ahahah! Then the music begins. The lights come up, the curtain opens..... The show goes on". Who would miss that thrill as you walk out?

. As we keep on saying, **"Amateur dramatics is fun.....Honest"!**

Roger Partington
(PRO Priestley Players)
(0161) 794 8266
partington292@btinternet.

Puzzle Page

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

Difficulty level: EASY

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

Difficulty level: INTERMEDIATE

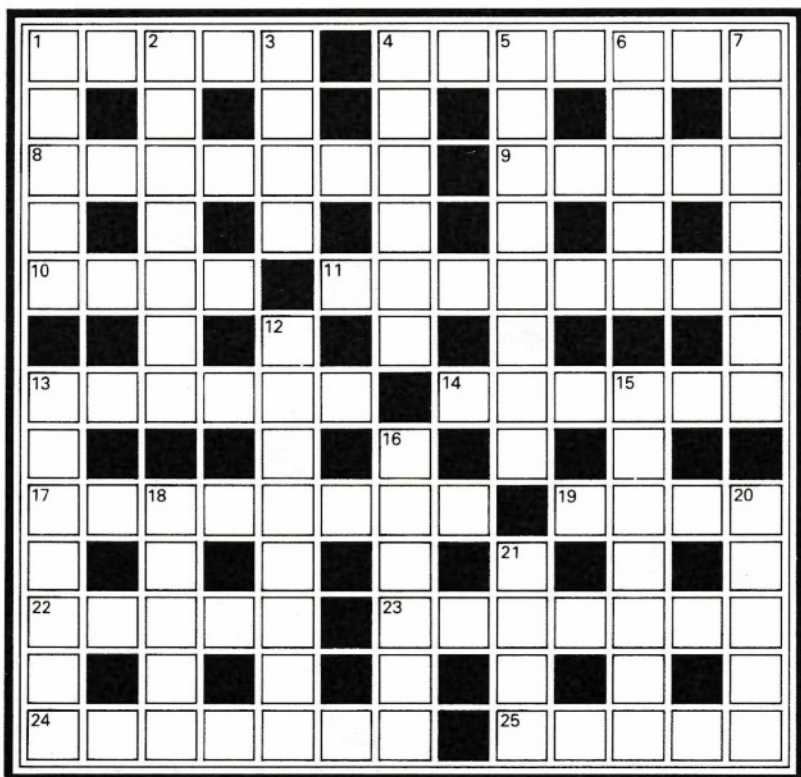
WORDSEARCH

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

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple February also celebrates the love between a man and woman: Valentine cards and romance abound. ‘Love’ as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade, Holocaust, Leprosy nest boxes: love is truly needed by everyone!

Look for: naming, Christ, Candlemas, Simeon, Anna, temple, love, Valentine, romance, Matthias, Fairtrade, Fortnight, coffee, bananas, chocolate, justice, poverty, nest box, marriage, wedding, Holocaust, leprosy

Crossword No 34



ACROSS

1. Monstrosity (5)
4. Washers (anag.) – for ropes (7)
8. Sea-food – of the heart? (7)
9. Italian river (5)
10. Ebb and flow (4)
11. Paternal (8)
13. Invisible garments? They should be! (6)
14. Shut up (6)
17. Single man (8)
19. Traditional story of gods and heroes (4)
22. One who acts for another – a toff! (5)
23. Swift-flying bird (7)
24. Mocks (7)
25. Precipitous (5)

DOWN

1. One side of a cut gem (5)
2. Written in a secret form (7)
3. Scottish apparel (4)
4. Soldier of light infantry regiment (8)
5. Keep back (8)
6. Piece of live coal (5)
7. Wandered (7)
12. Driven mad (8)
13. A bird up (anag.) – to reproach (7)
15. A heavenly colour! (3-4)
16. People back them (6)
18. Egg on – that's food! (5)
20. A feller! (5)
21. Satisfy the examiners – saps! (anag.)

A few clues may be a bit cryptic
Answers on page 15

THE COMMUNITY HALL

Regular activities using the facilities

MONDAY

NHS Fellowship 12.00 - 15.00 (monthly - 2nd Monday)
(Contact: Lynn Frier 01617890231)

TUESDAY

Yoga group 19.30 - 20.30
(Contact: Vicky Greer: 07717717186)

WEDNESDAY

Rainbows & Brownies 17.30 - 19.00 (weekly in term time)
(Contact: Sylvia McGreal 01617980057)

THURSDAY

Archery 13.00 - 15.00 and 19.00 - 21.00
(Contact: Dominic Vaughan 01612116563
or 07934080596)

FRIDAY

Archery 19.30 - 22.00 (Contact as above)

SUNDAY

Little Gems Sunday School 10.00 - 11.00 am (monthly 1st Sunday)
(Contact: Sylvia McGreal 01617980057)

VARIOUS

Priestley Players Amateur Dramatic Society - request info.
(Contact: Roger Partington 01617948266)

BOOKINGS

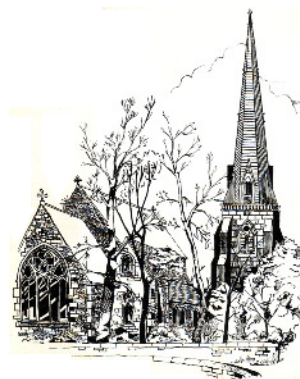
Booking requests, whether for regular or occasional events should be addressed to Mrs Sheila Jones who can be contacted on 01617892863 or 07845492109.



STAFF

Vicar of St. James & St. John

Rev. Gareth Thomas
91 Broomhall Road,
Pendlebury,
M27 8XR
Telephone: 0161 925 0059



Churchwardens:

Mr. T Palmer,
55 East Lancashire Road,
Swinton,
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M27 5LY
Telephone: 0161 794 2702

Mr R Hedley
12 Bishop Road
Pendleton
Salford
M6 8PX
Telephone: 07493599241

SERVICES:

Sunday 10.00am Parish Communion

Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion

SUBJECT TO ANY CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc. by arrangement with Rev. Thomas who may be contacted by telephone, or in person at Church on Wednesdays from 10-30am

Hall Bookings: For bookings and enquiries about the Parish Hall ring Mrs. Sheila Jones on 0161 789 2863 or 07845492109

E-mail for all church issues: Stjames.hope@gmail.com

Website: www.saintjameshope.co.uk