

# HOPE HERALD

News, views & comment from  
St James Church, Hope

July / August 2021

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What's  
inside

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# Notice of changes

## Services from 6<sup>th</sup> June

**SUNDAYS at 09.30 am**

## Holy Communion (Anglican)

**SUNDAYS at 11.30 am**

# Elim Pentecostal Church Worship

## Happening in Sept/Oct



The Wednesday service will be restarted in September and our Harvest weekend will be 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> October (including Barn Dance)



## Let's keep it tidy!

Whenever you are in the  
Church grounds please pick  
up any litter you see and put  
it in the bin



# From The Vicar

## Jul/Aug 2021

I DON'T KNOW how many of you watched the Euro football final, but I did, which is unusual for me as I have never been a football fan, I much prefer rugby union, but it was the first time the England team had been in a football final since we won the world cup in 1966, so it seemed far too much of an event to miss, so I sat and watched it with my family.

I have to say as football matches go it was quite good, the first goal by England in the first 2 minutes of the game was spectacular and it was incredibly close all the way through, with very little between the two sides. When after extra time it was still a draw, I really felt for the players taking the penalties and the goal keepers trying to save them. In the end as you know we lost on penalties, but I felt proud of the team that had done so well and played so brilliantly in the competition, supporting and encouraging one another as they went, but my daughter sounded a word

of warning, "the racists are going to have a field day", I really hoped she was wrong, surely the team that had done better than any other since 1966, would get a hero's reward, not but hated because of the colour of their skin, but sadly she was right.

Many of Italian fans leaving the game were attacked by hooligans on the way home, many others suffered racial abuse or were themselves physically attacked, not because they supported Italy, these were British people who'd cheered on England, but they were targeted because they weren't white. The pride I'd felt the day before in the England team, that was so diverse, reflecting our nation, and that had achieved so much, turned to ash. I was ashamed of our country and felt like many others, if this is who we are we didn't deserve to win.

When I then found out that Marcus Rashford's Mural, in Withington, had been vandalised with abuse aimed at

him and the two other players who missed their penalties I was furious. This young man had been a voice of compassion last summer when the most vulnerable families we being denied food for their children over the summer holidays, he called the government to account and shared his own experience of having grown up in a poor single parent family, and now he'd missed a penalty in a game of football there were those who would attack him so viciously for it? Just how low will we sink I wondered.

My faith in us as a nation and our humanity was somewhat restored though within days when I learned of the response of hundreds of people to the vandalism, they had come out and covered the images and words of hate with images and words of love. I went to see it on Thursday and it was very moving to see and read it all, a powerful reminder that we are better than our worst moments of members. That while it took only one

or two to hit the headlines with a message of hate, the response of thousands of others was to respond with one of love. Racism sadly continues to be a terrible and depressing part of our culture, but I believe it is a dying one, that in the end those who spit vile hate at

our fellow brothers and sisters because of the colour of their skin are a dwindling minority and, in the end, Christ's message of love for one another will triumph over it, but it is a fight that continues day by day and one as Christians

we cannot and must not ignore.

God's love

*Gareth*

# Iran set to intensify persecution of Christians

THE PERSECUTION of Christians is set to intensify in Iran, following the election of hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi as the Islamic Republic's new president.

That is the warning from Release International, which is also urging Iran's new president to allow full religious freedom and release all prisoners of faith.

"This victory for the hardliners will mean hardship for the Church," warns Release International CEO Paul Robinson. "They are likely to intensify their crackdown against Christians who are often regarded as enemies of the state. Already many Christian leaders have been forced to leave the country. That exodus is likely to continue."

Voters boycotted the election in record numbers. Only 48.8 per cent turned out to choose their country's next president. This was widely seen as a snub for a system that prevented most candidates calling for reform from standing.

As former head of the judiciary, Ebrahim Raisi was responsible for the continuing imprisonment of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, the British-Iranian charity worker accused of spying.

Analysts say Raisi is the favoured successor to Iran's ageing supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

82-year-old Khamenei's stated objective is to 'purify the revolution'. His broader aim is said to

be the establishment of an Islamic civilisation, which would inspire and rally the Muslim world.

"Time and again we see persecution increase wherever Islamist radicals strengthen their grip on power," says Release CEO Paul Robinson. "In Iran, Pakistan, and in Nigerian states that have adopted Sharia (Islamic law), persecution has been the inevitable consequence of uncompromising Islamist theocratic rule."

Under Islam, politics and religion are inseparable. And as Iran has become progressively more hard-line in its approach, the Church has been swept up in the crackdown against political opponents.

# From the Churchwardens

WELL HERE WE are again. It's almost August and the pandemic is still with us. BUT, we are just getting used to being what is these days called FREE-DOM. Opinions range widely as to whether it is too soon, just right, or what? We will have to wait and see who is right.

Never the less, life has gone on; the world has continued to turn; nature has moved on; lawns continue to grow and constantly need mowing and the borders demand their regular weeding sessions.

Talking of weeds; what is a weed? As was once said; "The most beautiful rose in the world is merely a weed if it is growing in the middle of a bowling green!" This maxim was never more apt than when we discovered a buddleia bush growing out of the wall behind the hall. Not up the wall but IN the wall. Our only solution was to employ a builder to remove all the bricks to a point four feet from the top and remove the offending shrub, roots and all, then replace all the bricks. The cost of the operation £850. No one told the Buddleia there was a pandemic going on.

We also had a report from a passer-by that a large branch of a hawthorn tree had broken and was only prevented from crashing down onto Eccles Old Road by other branches supporting it. Our garden-er came to assess the situation and suggested all the trees on that North perimeter wall needed lopping because the branches were hitting the double decker busses as they passed. In the end we asked him to remove the offending branch (Job done) and return in the autumn to lop the other trees. Another cost of £1100.

So life certainly goes on as do accumulated expenses. We would like to thank all who contribute to the running costs of our church during these very trying times.

The trial period of sharing our building with The Elim Church is going well. There have been no major problems to date and to be honest, we don't expect any.

We are still in a quandary regarding having an accessible toilet. (Disabled toilet to those of us of a certain age) If we are to be able to make the Hall available for hire we are re-

quired to have to have an accessible toilet on site.

We have a quote from a builder amounting to £11,000 which we are currently waiting for an updated price. The Elim Church have offered to pay half of the total cost. That indicates how much they wish to share our building long term and we thank them for that.

Finally, St James patronal festival fell on Sunday July 25th. Following from a communication from Bishop David, laying out the changes to the rules regarding church services etc. after July 19th, it was decided all the previous restriction were lifted.

From July 25th, we will be singing to Ken's organ accompaniment. We will have the option of sharing the chalice (not compulsory). We will have the option as to whether we wear a mask or not. Any changes to these guidelines will be announced from the front on a weekly basis.

Also on July 25th we took the bold step of reinstating our after service tea and coffee with, as before all donations going to the St James hospital Lesotho. The only change be-

ing; we used disposal cups for convenience.

Here's hoping and praying that the future will be brighter for all of us and God in his infinite wisdom will give us the strength to

face any problems we have to face in our lives. Those of us who are breezing along without problems, help us to see and to react to others less fortunate than ourselves.

All for now. God Bless

*Bob &  
Trevor*

## St James the Great Patron saint of Hope Church

JESUS, fresh from His baptism and fired with His new calling, bursts into Galilee. Coming upon four fishermen working on the shore of the lake, He says to them, 'Follow me'. Without further ado or even a second thought, they abandon what they're doing (and in the case of two of them, James and John, leave their poor old father alone in the boat with the hired crew), and set off with Jesus, they know not where. That is how Mark's Gospel records the recruitment of four of the apostles of Jesus. Talk about a sudden change of life!

All our understanding of human behaviour tells us that this is not how people normally respond to such a peremptory invitation: no questions, no explanation. Take it or leave it. Just 'Follow me'.

That however is on a superficial reading of the

text. In fact, because we have four Gospels rather than just three, we know from John that one pair of brothers, James and John, and the other two called on the same day, had been disciples of John the Baptist, who had pointed Jesus out to them as the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'.

Subsequently two of them had sought Him out and spent some time with Him in the Jordan area. This was not quite the instant 'conversion' described by Matthew and Mark, though undoubtedly it evoked an instant response.

For many of us on the journey of faith the experience of James and John – and the other two, Peter and Andrew – mirrors our own experience. First we know about Jesus, perhaps as children at Sunday school, or later as adults. Then we begin to ask ques-

tions and look for answers. Finally there may come a time when we hear His voice, as it were, calling us to accompany Him on a life of love, service and commitment.

For James (whose feast day fell on 25<sup>th</sup> July) this moment was to turn his whole life upside down. He became a leader of the church in Jerusalem after the resurrection and was the first apostle to be martyred, being put to the sword by Herod Agrippa in 44AD. His brother John, in contrast, lived on as a senior figure in the life of the emerging Church. For all four who were called by the lake that day, nothing would ever be quite the same again. But then all those who set out to follow Jesus wherever He leads them are usually in for a few surprises.

# LATE EXTRA: Life without the Lions

THIS IS WHERE I tell you about something I ought never to have done.

Body language is a language we all speak. Those who know how it works say that it can tell us a lot about our attitudes and intentions – even about those we are trying to hide.

Animals have body language too. An ape which turns round and shows you its bottom is not meaning to be disrespectful, but saying, ‘Don’t worry, I know who’s boss.’ An ape



which grins broadly and shows all its teeth is not trying to say the ape equivalent of ‘Hello blue eyes!’, but warning you to keep away.

Long ago I read that the right body attitude with animals can get you out of trouble. For exam-

ple, if you are confronted by a dog in a bad temper because it’s hot, which growls and lifts its lip to show its teeth, you should immediately adopt a threatening posture – shoulders hunched, head forward – and with an unfriendly expression on your face, move towards the beast in a slow and menacing way.

I used to have a lot of trouble with dogs when I was a Curate. My Supervisor insisted that I wear my long black cassock whenever I was out and about in the parish, and they didn’t seem to like it. As soon as they saw me coming, they would run towards me, barking loudly, with the fur round their necks standing on end. I would do my best to intimidate them, and nine times out of ten it worked. They turned tail and scarpered. I believe that the same technique works with wild animals, but I’ve never had the opportunity to try. If you do, don’t take my word for it.

I have had my arms round a lion’s neck,



stroked its head and played with its paws. All right, so it was only a lion cub, about 12 months old, but like all youngsters with a first set of teeth, it was keen to try them out. Its paws were as big as side plates and it had very long, sharp, retractable claws. It was a beautiful animal and as soon as I saw that it was possible to pick it up and be familiar with it, I couldn’t resist. This happened somewhere along the boundary between Suffolk and Norfolk.

I can’t remember exactly where, but it was a place where there was water and lots of boats – the sort of place where people who’ve been on a boat for a while can get off and stretch their legs. There was a fenced off area advertising itself as ‘Pets Corner’. Children could go there to handle various kinds of puppies and kittens, rabbits, gerbils and hamsters and to let white mice run all over them. My children then were very young and eager to indulge themselves in the kind of petting the animals themselves must actually hate. I cringe to think about it. I spotted the cub all by itself, looking forlorn and wishing, I imag-



ined, that it could be anywhere else but where it was. I did not spend more than five minutes with it, remembering what Joy Adamson says in her book 'Born Free', that giving wild animals attention of the wrong sort is cruel. Done to excess, it makes them incapable of returning to the wild or associating with their own kind. I've often wondered how on earth that lion cub came to be all on its own in East Anglia. Was it ever set free, and did it ever have the chance of having a life of its own? Sometime during the latter part of World War Two I was taken to see a Variety Show at the local theatre. Every item in the show was said to be 'something exotic'. There was a man who made a ladder out of sharp swords. He chopped various things in half just to prove how sharp they were. He took off his shoes and socks and walked up and down the ladder several times in bare feet. There was another man who stripped down to a pair of shorts and laid himself down on a bed made of sharp spikes. Two assistants lifted a large concrete slab and laid it on his chest, then set about smashing it to pieces with a sledgeham-

mer. A rather glamorous young lady came on with a big crocodile. She didn't do much with it, as I remember, except sprawl all over it and put her head in its mouth; but it wasn't the sort of animal you could persuade to jump through a hoop, was it!

These were the days when travelling circuses toured the country with



clowns and trapeze artists and whole menageries of animals: performing dogs, palomino horses, bears, sea lions, camels, lions and tigers. The clowns did their best to distract us whilst the technicians set up the safety tunnels and caging which would permit the big cats to be brought into the ring; but there was always a buzz of excitement in the Big Top. We watched with baited breath as the tamer cracked his whip and the surly cats went through their routine. What barbarians we were, looking back, and how gratifying

that we have learned to respect, treasure and care for all that God has created without leaving our dirty fingerprints all over it.

Circuses today consist mainly of tricks and stunts performed by human beings. People complain that we shall never again see the like of great showmen like Bertram Mills and Billy Smart. Those two gentlemen were very concerned for the welfare of the animals they used and their animal quarters were inspected regularly. But there were smaller circuses, as there are smaller zoos and wildlife parks, where conditions differed. I applaud what zoos do to conserve endangered species and to return them to their natural habitat. That apart, I would not grieve if all circuses, zoos and animal acts were consigned to the pages of history. It's not a case of losing anything that's pleasurable, good and uplifting. We just have to find it in a different way, and – praise God – for the time being we have David Attenborough!

*DGB*



# Conflict growing in Ethiopia

“IT IS MORE than words and it is even unspeakable!” a Christian from Ethiopia’s Tigray region has told Barnabas Fund.

He was struggling to express the horrors that Christians have suffered in seven months of conflict: deaths of pastors, of other Christians in ministry and of ordinary believers; rape of Christian women including Christian workers; destruction and looting of churches and monasteries; deliberate violation of church services. Some Ethiopian church leaders are calling it a genocide.

The conflict in Ethiopia is creating suffering at a level not seen for decades. An international roundtable meeting last week warned urgently of “human rights atrocities and the full-blown humanitarian crisis” in Tigray.

“We are seeing wide-scale human suffering that is entirely preventable,” said the roundtable statement. “Systematic violence is being inflicted upon civilians, including widespread sexual violence, and extra-judicial and ethnically motivated killings. The population’s

essential livelihood assets and health services are being destroyed.”

Huge numbers of Tigrayan people are now displaced. Some have fled over the border to Sudan, but there is no humanitarian assistance for them there. Others have taken shelter in church compounds, but how can they be fed?

If you would like to help via Barnabas Fund, please go to: <https://barnabasfund.org>

## Christian Aid Global Hunger Appeal

CHRISTIAN AID has launched an emergency appeal, warning that more than 30 million people in 20 countries are “teetering on the brink of famine”.

The Covid health pandemic, climate crisis, and continued conflict has exacerbated hunger and food insecurity in 20 countries. Countries like South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria (in the North East) and Afghanistan are particularly affected.

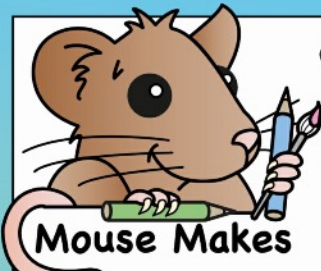
In South Sudan, 60% of the population are struggling to get enough food to eat, and 82% are living in extreme poverty. Accord-


ing to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, six of the country’s counties are already categorised as being in IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe – which means people face starvation, death, destitution and debilitating levels of acute malnutrition. 34 states are in the emergency acute food insecurity phase as people experience very high acute malnutrition and excess deaths. The most food insecure states are Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Lakes, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. 7.2 million people are now affected during this

lean season, expected to be the worst on record.



James Wani, Christian Aid’s South Sudan Country Director, based in Juba, said: “Floods, drought, conflict and Covid-19 have joined forces to deliver devastation and fuel the food crisis in South Sudan – the combined result is the destruction of crops, livelihoods, houses and dwellings, while roads have become impassable, markets have stopped, supply chains have been crippled, and food prices have soared.”

# Junior Page




IN THE BEGINNING ... 

What did God create in the beginning?  
 \_ \_ \_ V \_ \_ \_  
 and \_ \_ \_ \_ H


 


What did God separate on the second day to create heaven?  
 \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_

What was the first thing God said on the first day?  
 "Let there be  
 \_ \_ \_ G \_ \_ \_ 

How many great lights did God create in the heavens?  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

What grew on the dry land?  
 \_ \_ \_ N \_ \_ \_ and  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ E \_ \_





 **READ**  
 Genesis 1:1-31



What did God create to fly above the earth?  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ D \_ \_

What did God make after all the creatures?  
 \_ \_ A \_ \_

Find the answers to the questions in the word search then find all these words too:

 CREATION • ONE • DARK • DAY • NIGHT • EVENING • MORNING • SEA   
 VEGETATION • LAND • SEEDS • FRUIT • THREE • SEASONS • YEARS • FOUR  
 SKY • FISH • FIVE • CREATURES • CATTLE • ANIMALS • GROUND • HUMANS  
 WOMAN • FRUITFUL • MULTIPLY • FOOD • SIX • GOD • SAW • GOOD 

# Elim Pentecostal Church, by Neil Hudson

IN 1907 SOMETHING very odd was happening in a Sunderland vicar's vestry. Rev Alexander Boddy had heard of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that was happening in Los Angeles in a run-down church led by William Seymour, a black preacher. People were visiting this church from all over the world. They were speaking in tongues and being healed but much more radically black and white people were happy to worship together as equals.

This Sunderland vicar invited a Norwegian, who had been there, to preach in his church, and then people from the North East began to receive the Holy Spirit in ways that revived their Christian lives with joy and hope. From there the news spread ecumenically amongst Anglicans, Methodists, Catholics, Salvation Army, Baptists until eventually some churches began to be known as Pentecostal churches.

Some of the best things start in the vestries of Anglican vicars! Including Pentecostal churches!

Elim churches had been popping up across the country since 1915 when a group of young men and women came together be-

lieving that this move of the Holy Spirit was about helping them be bolder in telling people about Jesus. They began preaching in small towns and villages in Ireland but soon moved across to England. Between 1915-1935 they had started 250 churches in most of the country's major towns and cities. Salford took a little longer.

In 1950, on a clearing on Eccles New Road in Salford a giant tent was erected. A small group of eight people had been praying that God would do something in their 'dirty old town' and they invited a team of people to come and preach. They came for a week and stayed for six. Over a thousand different people came night after night to the tent to hear about Jesus and how he was still in the business of healing the sick and setting people free.

After the tent was packed up, they met in an old Baptist church on Police Street where the first services saw 300 people turn up. Eventually they moved to Nursery Street until Ellor Street was redesigned, when they moved to a new building on Liverpool Street.

During the 1980s the Precinct area was a tough place to do church and in the early 1990s we decided to move into a school in Pendlebury. Those were difficult days and by the time we began to use Holy Angels we were a fragile church of around 30 people on a good day when everyone was there.

Over the years, through faithful ministry and courageous mission the church grew bit by bit until last year we knew we had outgrown Holy Angels and needed to move if we were to continue growing. And that's where you kind people came in!

We still believe that the only thing that really makes sense is Jesus and that we need the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our ordinary lives if we are to live joyfully and hope-fully. Though we are informal and use 'modern' technology that is what we are really about.

One last thing: the name might sound a bit odd. 'Elim' is a place that the Israelites arrived at during their desert wanderings in Exodus 16. Elim was an oasis in the hot desert.

We hope it still is.

# Was Abram a “Wandering” Aramean?

NOT HAVING BEEN brought up through Sunday School, for many years I found large parts of the Old Testament difficult, at times contradictory, irrelevant, and even, sometimes, unchristian. To make it worse, I was confused about whether the Old Testament should be taken as “Gospel Truth” or not. It was tempting to discard studying the Old Testament entirely, and focus on the New Testament. Only when I realised that the Old Testament was a series of different books : history, tradition, theology, songs, etc., and more especially an interpretation of one nation’s experience of God, and God’s intervention in that nation’s life, did I begin to look more closely at the Old Testament.

Over the past years, I have had the privilege of working with pastoralist communities in Kenya,



Uganda, and Ethiopia. Their lifestyles showed me

clearly how the Old Testament stories mirrored the lives of today’s Pastoralist-people

Pastoralists are people who live on rangeland, and whose principal means of survival depends on the keeping of animals. The animals are generally small ruminants, like sheep and goats, and larger ones, like cattle and camels (or in the case of our Northern European pastoralists, the Sami, reindeer) (although camels are scarcely mentioned in the early parts of the Old Testament). The animals provide meat, milk, and leather, as well as being sold to purchase grains from arable farmers. One pastoralist once told me, “I have two bank accounts : the savings account – my cattle and camels; and the current account – my sheep and goats. The small animals would be sold for day to day purchases, and the large ones (male animals first) for bigger needs.

The rangelands are not an easy environment. In many places, pasture and water sources can dry up, and the animals have to be moved. Contrary to popular belief, most pastoralists don’t just “wander aimlessly about” (maybe

calling Abram a “wandering” Aramean is not the best translation !), but have set routes to follow during differing seasons. The use of pasture and water is often related to family ties (pastoralists are often very good at reciting their family trees to emphasize those ties), or has been negotiated by agreement with other clans. The agreement being ratified by some sort of covenanting ritual. Good grazing (a land of milk and honey !) gives plump animals, and lots of milk.



Owing to the need for moving, pastoralists often live in temporary houses, and, by our standards, own few belongings, which can be transported on the back of pack animals (camels, horse and donkeys).

Looking after livestock is labour intensive, and having children (childless Sarah gives her slave, Hagar, to bear a child with Abraham) is seen as an important means to have an

adequate workforce, and ensure continuity of ownership. Hence Polygamy and interfamilial marriage (look at Jacob and Laban's



daughters) also do the same – building up relations, and keeping wealth within the clan.

Pastoralists are dependent on trading with arable farmers for their staple grain, but free-ranging animals also destroy crops, so relations can often be strained (have a look at Cain and Abel). Competition for resources also

commonly leads to disputes. Being mobile, pastoralist people rely on oral traditions to hand down laws (Leviticus). The laws are interpreted through groups of elders, who act as judges. (see the book of Judges) . Seated around the campfire, there is also always a rich repertoire of songs and poetry (like the Psalms). Special seers (like the prophets ) tell the clan how to ensure possible weather, the outcome of skirmishes, and interpret why an event has happened. No room for kings and city living in the pastoralist tradition.

Only after the Exodus from Egypt, were the tablets of the Law enclosed in the Ark of the Covenant, which was also carried from place to place as Israel moved.

Having slept outside many times under a clear desert sky , I can testify that it leaves a person in complete awe (Psalm 8). No wonder the Israelites rejected the odd animal

headed gods of the Egyptians, the crop harvest fertility gods of the Canaanites, and the city gods that were immobile, and lived in man-made temples, for a single All-powerful Creator God, who could not be represented by man-made images, or live in man-made temples. The covenant agreement that God made with (childless) Abram (“Exalted Father”), who later became Abraham (“Father of a multitude”) was a promise of land and many children in return for obedience to God’s laws.

I hope I have whetted your appetite to explore the Old Testament, in the light of how God deals with His People over the course of their early history. There is so much in this library of Old Testament books to teach and inspire us, as we reflect on our own daily lives and situation.

*Bob Hedley*

## Do you love a bargain?

SOME people adore bargains, promotions, and cut-price items. They are the ones who always forage out reduced clothing and food, collect coupons and loyalty points with great care, and are at the

front of the queue to bag items on Black Friday.

Now a new study has found that such deal-prone bargain-hunting may be more than a preference – it may even run in your genes. It could be a tenden-

cy which is passed on genetically as well as learned.

The study was published in the Journal of the Association for Consumer Research.

# Remembering Sir Walter Scott



SIR WALTER SCOTT, the Scottish historical novelist, poet and playwright, was born 250 years ago, on 15th August 1771. His best-known works include *Ivanhoe* and *Rob Roy*.

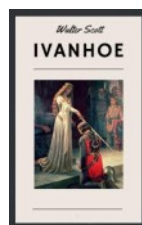
Often considered to be both the inventor and the greatest writer of historical novels, he was inspired by a stay with his grandpar-

ents in the Scottish borders during his early childhood, while he recovered from polio. From them he heard stories and ballads about the area and became fascinated by the history and culture of Scotland, where all his early work was set – often published anonymously.

On a visit to the Lake District in 1797 he met Charlotte Carpenter, who he married after a whirlwind romance, much to the disapproval of his parents, who suspected she was a French Catholic. But she was a British citizen who had been christened in the Church of England: the

couple were happy until her death in 1826.

Scott was widely admired for both novels and poetry and was once offered the post of Poet Laureate, which he declined. He was plagued during later life by financial problems, largely brought about by taking on the debts of friends and colleagues, but also by expenses incurred from his Abbotsford estate, near Galashiels.



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## Want a coffee?

DRINKING three cups of coffee a day is good for you. A recent study has found that it can cut your chance of dying from chronic liver disease by up to half.

On average, coffee drinkers seem to have a 21 per cent reduced risk of developing chronic liver disease, and a 49 per cent reduced risk of death from the condition. Researchers found that the optimum in-

take for health is three or four cups a day.

The results apply to all kinds of coffee, whether instant, ground, or decaf versions, although the instant is slightly less effective. This may be due to the lower levels in instant coffee of the liver-protecting chemicals kahweol and cafestol.

The study at the universities of Southampton and Edinburgh studied al-

most half a million Britons for a decade, to assess the link between coffee intake and health. The findings were published in the journal BMC Public Health.





# If you go down to the sea today, beware!



THE POPULAR summer pastime of paddling our feet along the shoreline has become risky, due to a rise in venomous stinging fish along the British coast.

The weever fish may be only six inches long,

but the venomous spines along its dorsal fin can inject fast-acting poison into your foot if you step on it, causing immense pain.

Sue Hickson-Marsay, from a life-boat charity off East Yorkshire, says: "The fish has been an absolute nightmare this summer. Just where the shoreline is, as the waves are going out, the fish lie just under the sand. So, if you are then paddling in

the water, you could easily step on one. Then the spiny part of the fish goes straight into your foot. We've had lots of casualties, so people need to wear shoes if they're going paddling."



## Climbing Ben Nevis

THE FIRST recorded ascent of Ben Nevis was made 250 years ago, on 7th August 1771, by Scottish botanist and artist James Robertson. At 1345 metres (4411 ft), it is the highest mountain in the British Isles. Some 100,000 people now make the climb each year.

Robertson wrote: "A third part of the hill from the summit towards the top is entirely naked, resembling a heap of stones

thrown together confusedly. The summit far overtops the surrounding hills."

Hill climbing was not popular in those days, but the poet John Keats made the ascent in 1818. Scots were not convinced for many years that Ben Nevis was higher than Ben Macdui, in the Cairngorms, but it is in fact more than a hundred feet higher.

The meaning of the mountain's name is uncertain. Some associate it

with the Gaelic word for "venomous", but it seems at least equally likely that "Nevis" relates to snow or clouds.

It is in fact the remains of an ancient volcano that collapsed in on itself. Its summit plateau stretches for over 100 acres and contains the remains of an observatory, which was opened in 1883 and led indirectly to the invention of the cloud chamber.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1 humus, 4 sanctum, 8 remorse, 9 bleak, 10 err, 11 big dipper, 13 thanks, 15 skirts, 18 mysteries, 20 hog, 21 puns, 23 strings, 24 domine, 25 green.  
**DOWN:** 1 harvest, 2 memorials, 3 scrub, 4 sleigh, 5 niblick, 6 tee, 7 maker, 12 per-chance, 14 keeps in, 16 signs on, 17 issue, 18 moped, 19 spring, 22 ram



# Don't be afraid to fail

MANY CHURCHES use a parish prayer; some of which include the line: 'Help us to be brave enough to fail – but try again.'

Encouraging words indeed, and if we look back throughout the centuries, many men and women who have made the world a better place have taken those words to heart.

For example, where would we be today without electricity? Yet at school, Thomas Edison was told he was "too stu-

pid to learn anything." He was sacked from his first two jobs; and made 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb. But in the end, he succeeded, and changed the course of world history.

Car manufacturer Henry Ford revolutionised transport in the USA, but he had five businesses fail before he founded the successful Ford Motor Company.

Winston Churchill was a Nobel Prizewinning, twice-elected Prime

Minister, but he struggled at school, was defeated in early elections for public office, and did not become Prime Minister until he was 62.

As the late Nelson Mandela wisely observed: "Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

So, let us commit ourselves to loving God with all our hearts, to putting our abilities at His disposal, and to never giving up.

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## Sourdough and your toaster

IF YOU like sourdough bread, you'll know already that it is not easy to squeeze a slice of it into your toaster.

Artisan bread is big, and sadly, the rise in popularity of these loaves has left the standard British toaster struggling to keep up.

That leaves sourdough toast aficionados with one end of their slice jutting out of the toaster.

The consumer watchdog Which? says: "This isn't the end of the world, but it means you can sometimes end up with a pale white border round the edge of your toast."

Solutions? Which? suggests grilling your toast in the oven, cutting the slice in two, or even buying a speciality toaster, at more than £100.

Meanwhile, the trend towards big artisan bread does not appear to be waning. And as Which? rightly points out: "Whether you prefer sourdough or sliced white, there's *nothing* quite like hot buttered toast."



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## Fewer wasps

NOTICED how peaceful your garden is this summer? Noticed that you have been able to hold summer barbecues and picnics in relative peace? That is because the very cold and wet Spring was disastrous for our wasp population.

But while we may enjoy their absence, scientists at University College London have pointed out that wasps play an important role as nature's pest controllers, and that our countryside will be the poorer without them this year.



# Puzzle Page

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

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Difficulty level: Easy.

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

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Difficulty Level: Medium

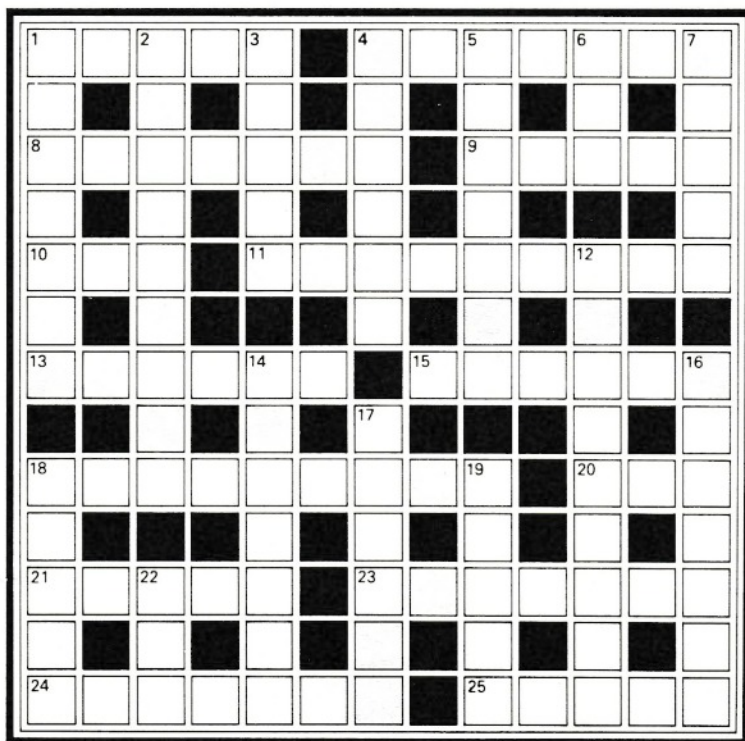
## WORDSEARCH

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

On 6 August the Church remembers the Transfiguration of Jesus. The story is told in Matthew 17, Mark 9 and Luke 9. The mountain may well have been one of the three high spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to 9,000 feet. Jesus was suddenly transfigured before Peter, James and John.

**Read the story then find:** Transfiguration, Mountain, Peter, James , John, Radiant, Beloved, Son, Well, Pleased, Dwelling, Mankind, New, covenant, Face, Exodus, Mount , Sinai, Sealing, Moses, Law, Elijah, prophets.

# Crossword No 37



## ACROSS

1. Organic matter in the soil (5)
4. Private room or study (7)
8. Regret for doing wrong (7)
9. Dull and cheerless (5)
10. To go wrong (3)
11. Fairground switchback (3, 6)
13. They're given by grateful people (6)
15. Women's garments (6)
18. Whodunnits? (9)
20. Pig (3)
21. Makes contented sounds (5)
23. They're pulled by influential people (7)
24. Scottish schoolmaster – i.e. I'm don (anag.) (7)
25. Fresh – it's suitable for putting on! (5)

## DOWN

1. Crops gathered in (7)
2. Monuments (9)
3. Scour – the brushwood (5)
4. Carriage on runners – sounds like murder! (6)
5. A golfer may need this (7)
6. A golfer may need this too – a drink, by the sound of it! (3)
7. Manufacturer (5)
12. Perhaps (9)
14. Confines after school (5, 2)
16. Undertakes an engagement – in songs (anag.) (5, 2)
17. A paper handkerchief (6)
18. Motorised bicycle – was spiritless (5)
19. Grips (anag.) – a small branch (5)
22. An animal – to beat hard (3)

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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
(Contact: Sylvia McGreal 01617980057)

### VARIOUS

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

### BOOKINGS

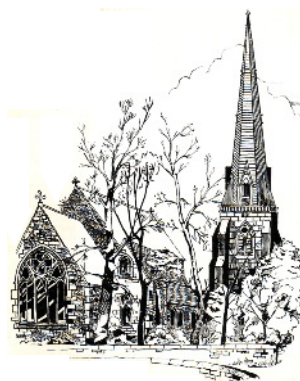
Booking requests, whether for regular or occasional events should be addressed to Mrs Sheila Jones who can be contacted on 01617892863 or 07845492109.



# 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,  
Manchester,  
M27 5LY  
Telephone: 0161 794 2702

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

## SERVICES: See page 2 for guidance

Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion (Little Gems: 10.00 am, first Sunday in the month) (Family Service: 10.00 am third Sunday in the month)
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Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion
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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](mailto:Stjames.hope@gmail.com)**

**Website: [stjameshope.co.uk](http://stjameshope.co.uk)**