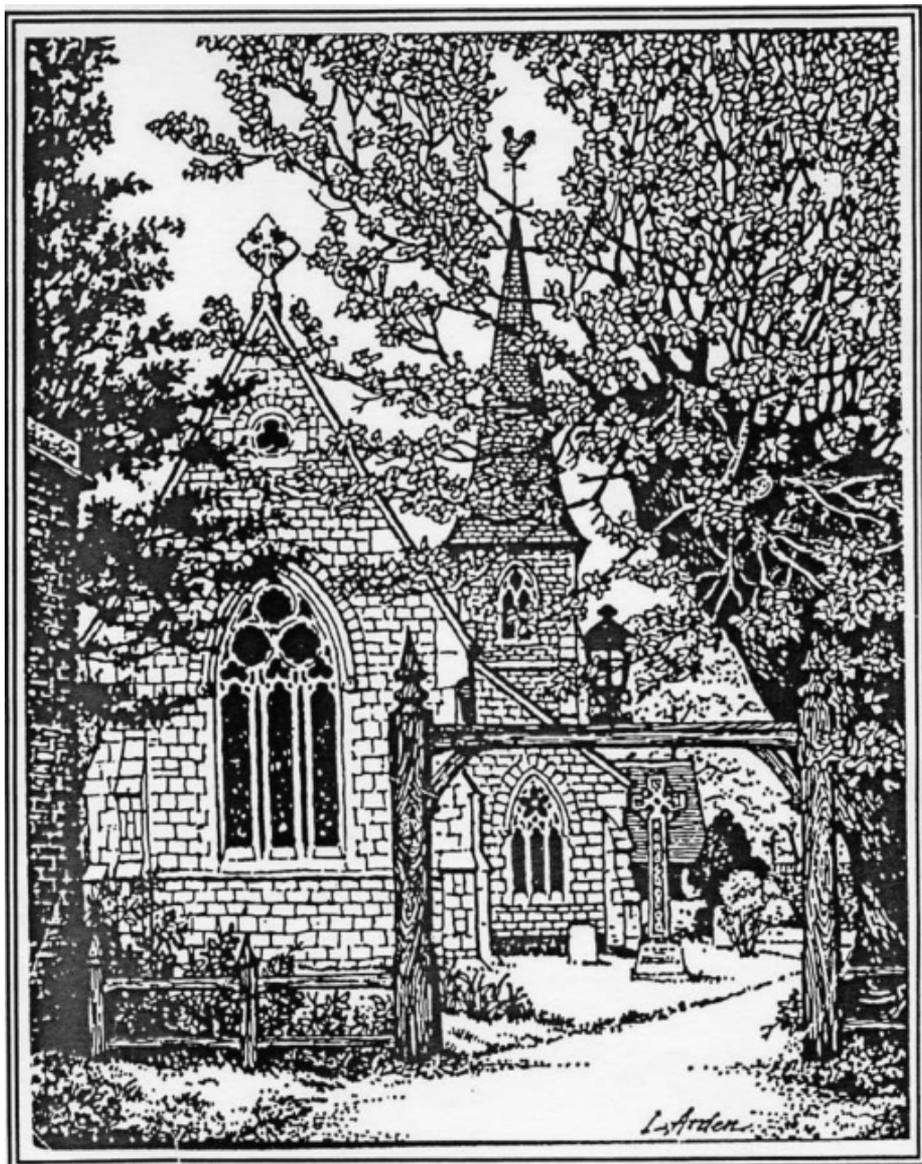


**The Parish Church of  
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p  
*June, 2019***

***(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)***



## St JAMES, NORTH CRAY PARISH STAFF

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**Magazine Editor:** Steve Blake  
sblakestjames@virginmedia.com

### **St James Sunday Service**

9.30am

Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

## TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER

JUNE 2019



As I write this in early May, our new Team Vicar has just moved into his new home in Bexley Village. The Reverend Edward Barlow comes to us from the Diocese of London where he has been serving in the Parish of St Michael and All Angels in Bedford Park, near Chiswick. (I have to say that Edward's arrival to join the Bexley Team brings the average age of the clergy down considerably.) With a background as a Secondary School teacher, he is married, with a young son. As you read this in early June, it will be at the time of Edward's licensing to the Bexley Team by the Bishop, at 7.30pm on 4 June, in St John's Bexley.

Those of us who have been through the experience of moving house, will know that it is an exciting and stressful time. For clergy moving into a new parish, there is the double stress of beginning a new 'job' as well. Settling into their new home and community is done very much in the public eye.

Moving house is probably most stressful because we need to try and keep track of so many things, not least those many possessions we all have. We realise that the things we treasure – from our favourite mug to the album of photographs that granny gave us have to be located and kept safe. And we also need to take the opportunity of NOT taking with us the thing that we won't need in the new place.

And then there are practical questions like... "will the sofa fit into our new living room?" "where shall we keep the ironing board?" "How shall we sort out the internet connection?" There is the task of finding a new doctor, a new dentist, garage, schools for the children... and in our new community finding new friendship groups and working out

how we can keep spending quality time with 'old friends'.

As I have been thinking of these things, I have also been reflecting on the ways in which people move on from this earthly life and come to that time of parting from all that has been familiar, and passing into eternity.

Christians believe that God is with us through all the changes of our earthly life. It is one of the privileges of church ministers to be with people and families at the end of life and to conduct funeral services and interment of ashes. I am glad that at those times I can say with complete confidence that God is with us in every change and chance of life and continues to be with us into death, as we commit all that the person has been in this life, into the safekeeping of God.

**Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)**

contact me at Joydens Wood Vicarage,

6 Tile Kiln Lane, Joydens Wood, Bexley, DA5 2BB

01322-528923

[renharding@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:renharding@hotmail.co.uk)

We believe and trust, Lord, that at the time of terrible persecution, you will hear and answer our prayers with the utmost urgency. We pray with all our hearts that you will give us courage to remain true to the Gospel, and proclaim your Name right up till the moment of death. Then may we emerge from the snares of this world with our souls unscathed, and rise from the darkness of the world into your glorious light.

*Cyprian of Carthage, 258*

## **The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the meek'**

*By The Rev Paul Hardingham*

Jesus calls those who live for His kingdom to demonstrate His character: *'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.'* (5:5). Meekness can come over as being *'weak or feeble'*, hence *'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild.'* However, the Greek word means being *tamed: 'Blessed are those who are tamed, under control.'* The picture is that of a horse brought under control: strength under submission. Meekness begins with an honest view of ourselves, where we don't have to worry about what others think of us, but trust in what God is able to do in us.

Moses is described as *'very meek, more than all men that were on the face of the earth'* (Numbers 12:3, RSV). Moses was certainly not a weak leader, but he submitted to God's plans for his life. Meekness accepts what comes, even if it hurts, knowing that it's for our good.

A meek person will tame themselves to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who shows us how to respond in any situation practically and prayerfully. It means being careful about how we respond to those who provoke us by not being angry or striking out. When we encounter difficult situations or people who wind us up, how are we prepared to pray before speaking? We should not be out of control, but under God's control!

Let's not forget the promise of this beatitude, that the meek person will *'inherit the earth.'* Those who are prepared to let go their rights in this world, will be made infinitely rich in the future.

*'The meek man knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto.'* (AW Tozer).

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## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS



In the past, Churches have been used purely for worship, but nowadays it is becoming increasingly widespread, as well as a financial necessity, for our buildings to be opened during the week for many appropriate uses such a cafés, pre-school groups, residents' association meetings and dance classes, to name but a few, for the enjoyment of our local communities.

Here at St James, we have been considering ways in which our Church and The Bothy could be used more frequently. We already arrange various fundraising concerts several times a year and will be hosting and performing in a musical evening on 20th June as part of the Churches Together in Old Bexley Music Festival. The Bothy is used on a regular basis for yoga classes, local community meetings, Church Quiet Days, and family parties, as well as our own functions.

Music has always been an important part of our Church and the building lends itself to concerts due to the wonderful acoustics, a natural 'stage', and plenty of seating without being too big, as well as parking and the use of The Bothy during the interval for refreshments.

A couple of weeks ago, I enjoyed a wonderful performance by the young members of the Choir School, led by Claire Troth, who had hired the Church and Bothy for an evening of music. It was lovely listening to the members of all ages up to the age of 18 sing and play the piano for a most appreciative audience. It was a great success and we hope to see them return later in the year.

If we can build on the success of the concerts that have already been held and more musical groups choose to use our beautiful Church, then it can benefit not just St James but our local residents too. Who doesn't love an evening listening to talented musicians?

If you are a member of a local choir, music group or orchestra and are looking for a venue for concerts or on a regular basis for practice, please contact either Suzy or myself for further information.

Our Church deserves to be filled with the sound of music and laughter. Let's see if we can do that. Together.

Suzy & Maxine, Churchwardens

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**BRANCHES IN SOUTH-EAST LONDON, PETTS WOOD AND  
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## When the Spirit Came

By Lester Amann

For Christmas we have the build-up of Advent, and Easter Day is preceded by Holy Week. But when it comes to Whit Sunday, it just suddenly arrives. Yet Pentecost is all about the birth of the Christian church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Surely, that is something to get excited about!

For forty days following our Lord's resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers and taught them about the Kingdom of God. Just before His ascension into Heaven, Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Spirit.

Ten days after His ascension, it was the Feast of Pentecost and this was a significant festival for the Jews. It was an annual occasion for people to assemble in the Holy City. The day marked the time when the barley harvest officially ended. This feast day was characterised by religious ceremonies and the offering of sacrifices. No work was done. It was a day of thanksgiving. A time to remember deliverance from Egypt and God's mercy and reconciliation with His covenant people.

On the day of Pentecost, the followers of Jesus met together in an upper room. Its location was probably on Mount Zion to the west of Jerusalem. The site can be visited although it's not *the* Upper Room. It's an ancient building dating from the 14th century and built on the site of a church destroyed by the Persians seven centuries earlier. But the first floor chamber is large with old paving stones, surrounded by stone pillars and arches. According to tradition, this is where Jesus ate the 'Last Supper' and His followers received the Holy Spirit.

On Whit Sunday we would do well to remember why the Holy Spirit was sent to us. We are given power to live God's way:

to lead us into the things God has prepared for us;  
to worship and glorify Him; to enable us to pray;  
to lead us into truth; to give us a desire to share  
the love of Christ with others and to help us trust  
God for all our needs.

This Pentecost may our prayer be for God's Spirit to transform us, for the gentleness of His Spirit to lead us, and for the gifts of His Spirit to equip us. Amen.



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# News and Issues



## **New Commission on Housing, Church and Community**

The housing crisis is to be the subject of a major new Commission, recently launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. Academics, housing experts and theologians are to meet over an 18-month period to examine how the Church of England can build on its own work in housing and contribute to the national debate on policy.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Housing, Church and Community will explore a Christian perspective on housing policy, with a particular focus on providing good homes and promoting thriving communities.

The Commission has been set up following Archbishop Justin's book *Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope* published last year in which he argued that good housing is essential to equality and justice. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "Britain's housing crisis is one of the major challenges facing this country – and it is hitting the poorest the hardest."

## **Funding repairs is 'top problem' facing churches**

A new online poll has revealed the top five problems facing the UK's church buildings.

- In the poll, run on the National Churches Trust's website, people were asked to identify what they thought was the biggest problem facing the UK's church buildings. The top problems were identified as:
- Not enough money available for repairs – (identified as top problem by 32% of people)
- Declining congregations – (identified as top problem by 26% of people)
- Shortage of volunteers to help look after church buildings – (identified as top problem by 16% of people)
- Lack of modern facilities – (identified as top problem by 14% of people)
- Lead theft – (identified as top problem by 8% of people)

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## REMEMBERING JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> - D-DAY

*By Canon David Winter*

Recently I asked a group of about 30 people, the youngest 36, the oldest 90, what would we be commemorating on June 6<sup>th</sup>? No one knew, though after a bit of prompting some of the older ones said D-Day.

To be fair, most of them weren't even alive, or were small children when that great turning point of the Second World War took place: the Normandy landings. But as our discussion continued distant memories on what many historians rate as the greatest sea-borne invasion of military history slowly emerged.

Strangely enough we remembered or remembered being told about the Doodlebugs which preceded the invasion in the summer of 1944. In fact, those horrible missiles and their deadlier counterparts the V2 rockets were, if we had known it at the time, simply the grim overtures to what was to be a staggering feat: the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation due to the surrender of Germany and eventually the end of the war.

As a choirboy, I had sat amazed at one of the King's National Days of Prayer. The first of which was in 1940 before Dunkirk. Our north London church was packed (standing room only) to pray for peace and, I noticed, the liberation of Europe. Seldom could prayers have been more spectacularly answered.

Of course, it wasn't a walk-over. There are many untold personal experiences. My 19 year-old brother was one of the hundred thousand strong invading force drawn from five nations. Under enemy fire he drove an RAF truck up a beach in Normandy on D-Day plus one.

The film 'The Longest Day' told the story of the bravery of the others who dropped from the skies by parachute or glider. One of these men was Private John Steele an American paratrooper whose parachute caught on the church tower in the village of Sainte-Mère-Église.

Eventually the occupying troops retreated as the Allied forces made their way into Germany. To the horror of the troops the discovery at Belsen confirmed that the Nazi regime was truly evil.

## RESILIENCE AND FAITH IN GOD

*By Tony Horsfall*

I have a great love for the Bible, especially the stories of men and women who lived their lives by faith. Not only did they display great trust in God, but also great resilience, often keeping going in the face of great adversity.

Nehemiah is such a person. His great achievement was to take a bunch of dispirited and down-hearted individuals and, in spite of much opposition and danger, motivate them to work together in a hostile environment to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. This enormous task they achieved against the odds, and in a surprisingly short time – it took them only 52 days (Nehemiah 6:15)!

At the heart of Nehemiah's resilience was his faith in God. Even secular writers recognise the part that faith plays in building resilience. Nehemiah believed that the God of heaven was in control and His purposes were being worked out (Nehemiah 1:5). Since God had called him to the task, he would make sure that he could complete it. This kind of positive thinking is helpful when facing challenging circumstances. Nehemiah maintained a confident, hope-filled attitude even when things were against him.

Not only did this buoyant attitude keep Nehemiah going, it also motivated the people to persevere when at times they may have despaired and given up. Nehemiah persevered not because of his dogged determination, but because he was in touch with a source of strength outside himself. He had a deep, inner life with God that was expressed in prayer. Instinctively, he turned to God at every moment of fear, anxiety and need.

*Extracted from 'Resilience in Life and Faith – finding your strength in God' by Tony Horsfall & Debbie Hawker, BRF, £9.99 The book can be ordered from: <https://www.brfonline.org.uk/9780857467348/>*



# MEETINGS and Events 2019

20th June at 7.30pm  
Church

St James, North Cray

*Concert as part of the Old Bexley Music Festival.*

\* \* \* \* \*

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## **GOD AMONG THE RUINS**

*By Tony Horsfall*

The tragic fire at Notre Dame Cathedral shocked the whole world. Seeing such a magnificent building engulfed in flames saddened all who saw the devastation unfold. It was a monumental blow to the nation of France. It will take years to rebuild this famous place of worship.

One striking image from the fire showed the interior of the church scorched and ruined, its art treasures lost, its contents still smouldering. But high up in the background, unbowed by the flames, stands a golden cross, brightly shining in the darkness of the surrounding debris.

Since the fire took place at Easter, it is hard not to see this picture as a parable. One Anglican vicar made this comment: 'Notice what is left inside, untouched, after the destruction of all sorts of 'priceless' works of arts at Notre Dame Cathedral? The Cross. What an image for Holy Week and what a picture to describe secular Western Europe.'

As I pondered the picture it spoke to me of the abiding value of the Cross. The words of a hymn came to mind:

In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

The place of worship may be destroyed, but not the God we worship. The message of the Cross, at the centre of our faith, remains a timeless, undamaged truth. The hymn continues:

When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me,  
Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

Even among the ruins of our own lives the Cross stands tall, reminding us of the presence of God and His grip on our lives.

## SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR JUNE 2019

### **Saturday 1st June**

9.30am "Barney's" Cafe Prayers at St Barnabas

### **SUNDAY 2nd June**

9.30am Holy Communion

### **Tuesday 4th June**

7.30pm Licensing Service by Bishop James Langstaff of Reverend Edward Barlow as Team Vicar in the Bexley Team

### **Wednesday 5th June**

10.30am Joint TEAM Communion at St John's, Bexley  
12.30pm Bexley Team Gentlemen's Lunch at the Three Blackbirds

### **Thursday 6th June**

10.00am Daytime Housegroup at Joydens Wood Vicarage  
7.30pm Adult Confirmation Rehearsal at St John's Bexley

### **Saturday 8th June**

*Churches Together in Old Bexley* - PENTECOST PRAYER WALK  
Details to follow

### **SUNDAY 9th June**

9.30am **PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
All Age Worship  
4.00pm Deanery Confirmation Service at St John's Bexley

### **SUNDAY 16th June**

9.30am **TRINITY SUNDAY**  
Holy Communion  
  
*Churches Together in Old Bexley Music Festival*  
6.00pm Choral Evensong at St John's, Bexley

### **Thursday 20th June**

10.00am House Communion  
at 53 Woodlands Park, Joydens Wood  
  
*Churches Together in Old Bexley Music Festival*  
7.30pm Community Concert at St James, North Cray  
'Melodies for Midsummer' featuring  
The Choir School, St James Singers & local  
instrumentalists

**SUNDAY 23rd June**

9.30am Holy Communion

4.00pm Sunday @ 4 Service for all ages at St Barnabas

**Thursday 27th June**

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet in Harold Porter Hall behind church

**Friday 28th June**

7.30pm *Churches Together in Old Bexley Music Festival*  
St Barnabas Concert – The Little Big Band

**SUNDAY 30th June**

9.30am Holy Communion

Bexley Team Gentleman's Lunch on the first Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm at The Anchor, Bridgen Road, Bexley

***Further details, Julia Wickham, St John's Bexley, 01322 556686***



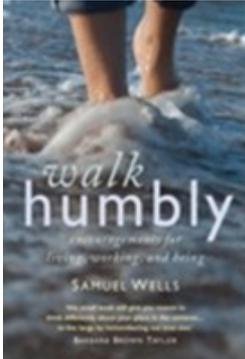
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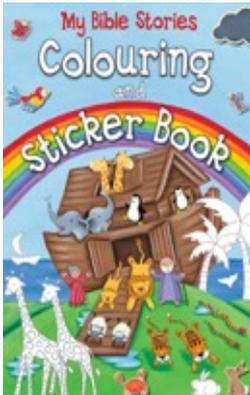


# Book Mark



**Walk Humbly - encouragements for living, working and being.** By Samuel Wells, Canterbury Press, £12.99

World-renowned ethicist, theologian and preacher Samuel Wells offers eight exhortations in this extended meditation on being alive in the world and making our way through life. Each exhortation is simple and direct - be humble, be grateful, be your own size, be gentle, be a person of praise, be faithful, be one body, be a blessing - and accompanied by thought-provoking comments that speak to our deepest needs for meaning and for belonging.



**My Bible Stories - colouring and sticker book** By Juliet David and Lucy Barnard, Candle Books, £6.99

Colouring and sticker fun with 16 favourite Bible stories. All the pages are part-coloured to leave room for sticker decoration and colouring so children can finish the stories for themselves! Stories include: Noah, Moses in the Bulrushes, Daniel and the Lions, Jacob, David and Goliath, Jonah. Jesus' Baptism, Jesus calls Peter and Andrew, the Story of the Lost Sheep, the Story of the Good Samaritan, the Story of the Lost son, the Feeding of the 5,000, Zacchaeus, Jesus Tried by Pilate, and the Empty Tomb

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## ALL IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

200 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1819 Charles Kingsley, British clergyman and writer was born. Best known for his historical novels Hypatia, Westward Ho! And Hereward the Wake.

175 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1844 the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) was founded in London.

125 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1894 Tower Bridge in London was officially opened.

100 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919 the Treaty of Versailles was signed at the Paris Peace Conference, marking the official end of the war.

90 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1929 Anne Frank, German Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim, was born.

80 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1939 King George VI became the first British monarch to visit the USA.

75 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 D-Day took place with the Normandy landings. Over 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, at the start of the Battle of Normandy. The battle ended on 25<sup>th</sup> August and was an Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1949 George Orwell's novel Nineteen Eighty-Four was published.

65 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1954 Alan Turing died. This British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst and computer scientist was noted for his contributions to codebreaking during World War II.

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## Signs & Symbols:

By The Rev Dr Jo White

### Eucharist, Communion and the Lord's Supper



What do you call the church service where Jesus' last meal with His apostles is re-enacted? And does it matter what we call it?

The word 'Eucharist' comes from the Greek word *eucharistia*, which is itself a translation of the Hebrew word *berekah*. All three words have the meaning of thanksgiving, or praise for the wonderful works of God. So, we are

giving thanks for all that God has done for us and all that Jesus has achieved through His life, death and resurrection.

'Communion', according to the Cambridge dictionary, has the meaning of being in a close relationship with someone in which feelings and thoughts are exchanged. So, at Communion we are together with Christ and with each other.

The term 'The Lord's Table' refers to recalling the last meal that Jesus ate with His apostles, and doing so in remembrance of Him.

There is a lovely invitation which is sometimes used to invite people to come forward to receive the bread and wine which goes along these lines:

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may.

Come, when you are fearful, doubtful or in need; to be held by the God who made you and loves you. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself.

*Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet Him here.*

What's important is not so much what we call this act of worship but rather our attitude in accepting this invitation from the Lord Himself.

Come.

## WORDSEARCH



Church	Settle	monastery	skills	converted
Columba	Iona	tall	scholar	dearest
First	Tiny	striking	poet	bright
Ireland	island	powerful	ruler	flame
Companions	mull	impressive	fearless	guiding star

(Solutions on page 27)

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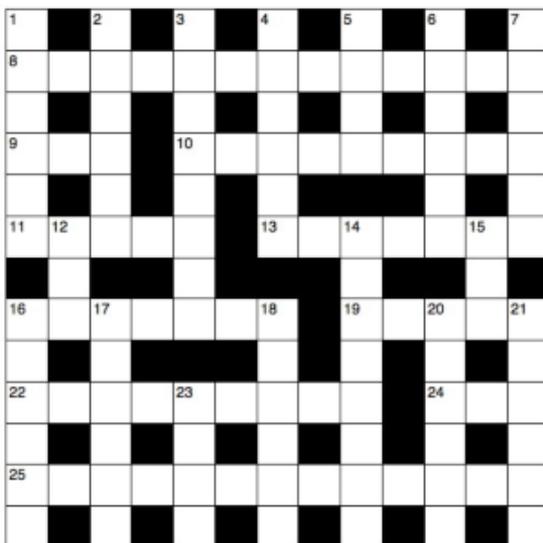
## JUNE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
- 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22 Holy Communion (9)
- 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
- 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

### Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — —' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anag.) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)



- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23 Diva (anag.) (4)

(Solutions on page 28)



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## ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



Letter from St James the Least of All –

### **On the costs of heating a rectory**

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Ah, the joys of June! At last I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next 4 months, all windows and doors are left open in order to let the heat in. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in a 12 bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural Rectory; the days of wandering about the house in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for 6 months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the Rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the Rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



## GOD AND THE ARTS

*By the Rev Michael Burgess*

### **Panel depicting the first Pentecost: Barnaba da Modena**

Over the last years praying ‘Thy kingdom come’ has become an important part of church life for the days between Ascension and Pentecost. It has been promoted by church leaders, who have encouraged Christians to follow the pattern of Mary, the mother of our Lord, and the disciples. St Luke tells us in Acts how they gathered in an upper room to pray, while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



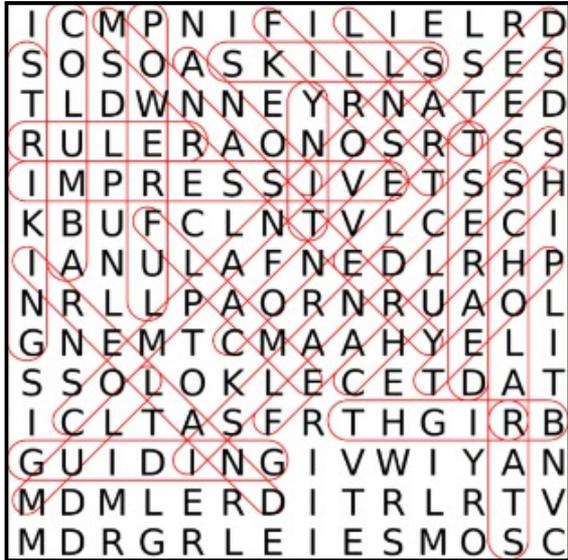
It is the theme of this month’s painting from the National

Gallery – a panel depicting the first Pentecost painted by Barnaba da Modena, a prolific Italian artist, in 1377. Here we look into that upper room and see Mary and the twelve, their hands in prayer, and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove into their lives.

The disciples had seen their Lord ascend to the Father, and they must have returned from that mount to Jerusalem expectant, but also concerned and anxious about what the future held for them. Afraid and uncertain, they devoted themselves to prayer. The artist has shown us the gift of the Holy Spirit that marks the birthday of the Church and a new day in their lives. The doors of that upper room may have been closed to the world, but the Spirit came to open them and inspire the disciples to go into that world with a new purpose and hope. The closed world of fear and anxiety was changed by their prayer and by the working of the Holy Spirit.

In the days from Ascension to Pentecost we follow that tradition of prayer. We may also be concerned and anxious about our world and our lives. The Spirit calls us to move from fear to trust. Someone calculated that the words ‘Do not be afraid’ occur 365 times in the Bible – one for the great day of Pentecost, and one for every other day in the rest of the year.

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## John the Baptist

John the Baptist was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. He was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, nothing more is heard of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.



John was very much like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request.

When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.

### SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS:** 8, Grandchildren. 9, Pro. 10, Marvelled. 11, Strut. 13, Startle. 16, Babysit. 19, Orate. 22, Eucharist. 24, Map. 25, Commissioners.

**DOWN:** 1, Egypt's. 2, Favour. 3, Edomites. 4, Thorns. 5, Blue. 6, Armet. 7, On edge. 12, Tea. 14, Adoption. 15, Lot. 16, Breach. 17, Become. 18, This So. 20, Armies. 21, Expose. 23, Avid.



### St PETER

One of the first disciples called to follow Jesus was Simon, who together with his brother Andrew was a fisherman when he first met Jesus beside the Sea of Galilee. He was called away from his nets to become a fisher of people for Jesus.

The name 'Peter' is the Greek word for 'rock' (petra) which translates into Aramaic as the nickname Cephas. Jesus called Simon his 'rock' and so we know him as Peter. The Bible shows Peter as the leader of the apostles, chosen by Jesus. We know that his mother-in-law was cured by Jesus and he was sent with John to prepare for the last Passover before Jesus' death. His name is first on every list of apostles.

Peter wasn't perfect – he walked on the water in faith, but sank in doubt (Matthew, chapter 14). He swore at the Last Supper that he would never deny Jesus, and then told servant girl that he never knew the man (Luke, chapter 22). But Jesus said to him "you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church".

### .FISHY PUZZLE

All the answers to this Bible quiz are about fish...

1. How many days was Jonah in the belly of the giant fish? (Jonah , chapter 1)
2. How many fish were there to go with the 5 loaves to feed the 5,000? (Mark, chapter 6)
3. Who lit the fire to cook fish and bread for breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias? (John, chapter 21)
4. In the story of creation, on what day were the fish made? (Genesis, chapter 1)
5. What was in the mouth of the fish that Jesus told Peter to go and catch? (Matthew, chapter 17)



**What fish only swims at night?**  
A starfish.

**What's the best way to get in touch with a fish?** Drop it a line



**What's the difference between a fish and a piano?**

You can't tuna fish.



Answers: 1.three days 2.two fishes  
3.Jesus 4.fifth day 5.a coin

FROM THE REGISTERS

*Baptisms*

12th May            Florence Mabel Jolley

12th May            Phoebe Violet Jolley

*Funerals*

-

*Interment of Ashes*

-

Year's mind for June 2018

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**The Three Rich and Generous**

The eye of God with thee to dwell,  
The foot of Christ to guide thee well,  
The Spirit's pouring shower to swell  
Thy rich and gen'rous fountain-well.

*From Poems of the Western Highlanders*

**ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS**

If you are going to attend our church and you have accessibility needs please let us know and we will be happy to make arrangements for you. There is level access to the church and the Bothy and we have a sound loop system and large print orders of service. Please feel free to telephone the Team Vicar Rev Ren Harding who will be happy to discuss the matter with you.

## THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY - POINTS OF CONTACT

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07952 468127

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website [www.stjohnsbexley.org](http://www.stjohnsbexley.org)

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For enquiries concerning St Barnabas, Joydens Wood website

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CONTACT the Team Rector

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website [www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/](http://www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/)

CONTACT the Team Rector

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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***Articles for publication to be submitted by 2nd Sunday of each month. Please note that for reasons of copyright, poems and articles obtained from the Internet or published sources cannot be printed in the magazine.***

# The North Cray Neighbourhood Centre



Youth Action Diversity Trust proudly manage the North Cray Neighbourhood Centre in Sidcup where we focus on encouraging youth and family engagement and participation in activities and learning, whilst ensuring that everything we do is inclusive and a whole lot of fun! Our activities cost £3 for young people and between £3 and £5 for adults! We look forward to welcoming you and your family soon!

## **Play Rangers for 5 to 7 years**

**Mondays**  
4pm to 5pm  
'High 5 Activity Club'  
**Wednesdays**  
4pm to 5pm  
'ADHD Social Club'

## **Youth Inclusion for 8 to 11 years**

**Mondays**  
5pm to 6pm  
'Girls Social Club'  
**Wednesdays**  
5:30pm to 6:30pm  
'ADHD Social Club'

## **For Adults**

**Tuesdays**  
11am to 12:30pm  
Adult Coffee Club  
**Wednesdays**  
10:30am to 12noon  
Adult Drama Players  
**Fridays**  
11am to 1pm  
Kingfisher Social Club

## **YADT Behavioural Support Service**

Living in today's world is challenging, and we understand that some young people need extra support to help them get a positive start in life or overcome obstacles along the way. We aim to help young people with the issues that affect them. These can be issues such as anger management, social anxiety, improving confidence and dealing with stress. The one-to-one support service gives young people the freedom and safety to explore issues that affect them. This service is for 8 to 17 year olds. Contact us for more information and fees.

YADT are delighted to be able to offer the Care for the Family Courses under our Behavioural Support Service. These courses are run by our behavioural team who have extensive experience working with families and young people with diverse needs. Courses run throughout the year and include 'Handling Anger in the Family' 'Children with Special Needs - ADHD' and 'Children with Special Needs - Autism'. Courses cost £50 per person or £80 for a couple. Contact us for more information.

Visit our website: [www.YouthActionDiversityTrust.co.uk](http://www.YouthActionDiversityTrust.co.uk)  
call us on 0208 308 3862 or email [yadt@sky.com](mailto:yadt@sky.com)