

THE PARISH CHURCH OF

ST JOHN



THE DIVINE

BROOKLANDS • SALE



50p

September 2019

From the Editor

Welcome back to the e-Magazine.

In this edition Richard writes about some of the activities that will be starting in the coming months and flags up some of the events to look forward to in 2020. Alongside these opportunities for spiritual growth is the need for prayer. This edition contains a prayer diary for September that provides an opportunity for us to pray together. The diary only works though if readers submit items for it so do please send suggestions through either by email or via the red folder.

It wouldn't be the magazine without something moon related. This time the Editor is not guilty, Ros and Llew provide an update on a friend of St John's, which just happens to have a lunar connection.

Elsewhere we have our usual features and some additional content in this online version. Sharon provides us with our monthly Saint who you'll see had a very exciting life. In thinking about prayer, the featured hymn popped into my mind and, even if we haven't sung it recently, it's one that I'm sure we all know and love. Plus a couple of news items to make us think.

As ever, contributions for October are welcome and why not circulate this via social media.

Be Blessed

The Editor

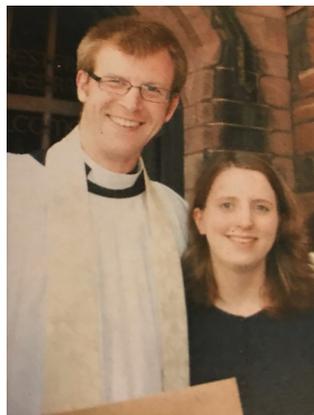
brooklandsmag@gmail.com

Front cover is the Japanese Garden at Tatton taken late August.



Richard writes...

This month I celebrate the second anniversary of being vicar here in Brooklands. It has been a wonderful time and we're getting nicely settled as a family. It dawned on me recently that since moving to Brooklands I have not re-watched my all-time favourite TV series: *The West Wing*. If you've not seen it you really have missed out! The reason I mention this is that Jed Bartlett, the President, has a great phrase in his daily staff meetings: "What's next?"



I love this question and I have found the concept of "next steps" really helpful when thinking about Christian discipleship. Each of us are on a spiritual journey as we grow in Christ together and as with any journey, there are next steps we can take. This month I want to invite you to consider what your next step will be. Whether you've been journeying at St John's for a long time or you have joined us recently, I'd like you to consider taking a "next step". Here are some possible options:

Alpha: I hope that everyone who walks through our doors will try Alpha. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. In September we'll be running Café Alpha on Sunday afternoons as well as a Daytime Alpha on Wednesday mornings. Which one will you come along to? Who will you invite to come?

Discipleship Groups: These small groups of about four to ten people meet for a set time throughout the year (often during Advent and Lent) and are focussed on growing in our understanding of the Christian faith. In September we'll be launching our "Reading Romans Together" group on the first Friday of every month at 11am in the vicarage. If you're free then I encourage you to come along and discover one of the most fascinating of Paul's letters!

Connect Groups: These are groups of around twelve to fifteen people who meet regularly (usually once or twice a month) to build lasting friendships and grow in Christ together. The format is similar to Alpha with eating, discussing faith, and worshipping together. Each group is slightly different so find the one that fits you best. If you'd like to be a part of this, I encourage you to come along on Alpha first! During 2020 I hope to set up a Connect Group for Parents who attend St John's, so look out for more details soon!

Serve on a team: Serving in ministry is a core part of what it means to live out the Christian life. We would love to match you with a ministry that will engage your God-given talents and passions so that you can be used to make a difference in our parish and in the world. I am currently putting together a comprehensive list of teams and the various roles within them. This will be launched in January 2020 at our Time and Talents Sunday, but here is a taster: welcome team, hospitality team, pastoral visiting team, children and families ministry team, AV team, garden maintenance team, premises team. Where is God calling you to serve?

It's not Jeb Bartlett who is asking, it's Jesus "What's next?" What will you choose?

Richard

Some Special Diary Dates For September

Sunday 1st	4.30pm	Back to School Sunday
Sunday 8th	4.30pm	Café Alpha
Weds 4th	7.45pm	Parenting Child Course
Weds 11th	10.45am	Daytime Alpha
Tues 10th	9.30am	Bumps and Babies
Tues 10th	8.00pm	Prayer Gathering

Details on weekly pew sheet or contact Richard.

In 2019 we're inviting every church member to commit to take the *Target 5% Challenge*

Why are we doing this?

The *Target 5% Challenge* is an opportunity for each one of us to commit ourselves financially to our parish vision of *extending God's welcome to everyone*. In order to achieve this vision, there are four priorities which we need to focus on over the next 3 to 5 years:

- ❖ Integrating newcomers
- ❖ Identifying leaders
- ❖ Increasing worship opportunities
- ❖ Investing in our facilities

Integrating newcomers: This is all about welcoming new people into our church family and helping them to explore faith and grow in their relationship with God.

Identifying leaders: This is about recruiting new church leaders and training existing ones to oversee the various aspects of our parish life. Some of our church leaders will be serving voluntarily and others will be part of a staff team, but both will be doing what God has called them to do.

Increasing worship opportunities: This is about providing a variety of opportunities to gather together at various times throughout the week to worship God and to deepen our faith.

Investing in our facilities: We have been blessed with a beautiful church building as well as a hall and hut. As we seek to resource our mission these will need to be maintained and developed appropriately.

What does this look like for 2019-2023?

- ❖ Run Alpha Courses
- ❖ Run Parenting Courses
- ❖ Run Marriage Courses
- ❖ Run Children's Events
- ❖ Start Coffee Mornings
- ❖ Run Messy Vintage
- ❖ Run a seniors' activity weekend
- ❖ Run events for Men's Ministry
- ❖ Recruit a Children and Families Outreach Worker
- ❖ Recruit a Director of Worship
- ❖ Launch Baby and Toddler Group
- ❖ Annual Maintenance Schedule
- ❖ Redevelop Church Hall - create office space, repair roof, reseal floor, create storage facilities, improve the kitchen, replace the toilets.

What is the *Target 5% Challenge*?

The challenge is for members of our church family to make the following commitment:

*By 2023 I will be giving 5% of my income
to support the St John's vision*

Along with the Church of England nationally, we are encouraging all church members to set the target of giving 5% of their income to and through the church.

Weekly income	1%	5%	Monthly income	1%	5%
£100	£1	£5	£1000	£10	£50
£150	£1.50	£7.50	£1500	£15	£75
£250	£2.50	£12.50	£2500	£25	£125
£350	£3.50	£17.50	£3500	£35	£175

Each of our situations are unique. Many of us will already be giving regularly through a standing order or the envelope scheme. In this case the *Target 5% Challenge* is an opportunity to consider whether you can increase what you are already giving. For others this challenge is an invitation to begin supporting our parish vision by giving regularly to St John's. The reason for a five-year challenge is simply to provide the option of giving 1% in 2019, 2% in 2020, 3% in 2021, 4% in 2022 so that in 2023 we are giving 5%.

Not only is the *Target 5% Challenge* an opportunity to commit yourself to our parish vision financially, it is also an invitation to grow in your Christian discipleship and develop an attitude to giving that is prayerful, planned, and a priority.

Prayerful giving: Without prayer at the heart of our giving we risk separating money from our Christian discipleship. Thinking, talking and acting well around money is a natural part church life. The church at Corinth was proud of its spiritual gifts. Paul knew and valued them but was keen that they should add financial generosity to this list of spiritual gifts. He writes, 'Just as you excel in all things - in faith, speech, knowledge...so we want you to excel also in this grace of giving' (2 Cor 8:7). For Paul giving was not fundraising but the outworking of grace.

Planned giving: Planning our giving is more than how we give our gift; it is about *being intentional* in our giving rather than reacting to appeals or circumstances. Paul advised setting aside our gifts to God as part of the journey to generous giving (1 Cor. 16:2). Regular, planned giving helps us do the same. The generosity to which we are called in Christ cannot be achieved if we are not disciplined and intentional about our giving.

Prioritising giving: Prayerfully planned giving reflects the intention of making giving a priority and as such it becomes 'a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given' (2 Cor. 9:5). It is also an expression of a thankful heart for the generous grace which God has lavished upon each one of us: '*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich*' (2 Cor. 8:9). Within this context practising financial generosity reflects our being caught up in the flow of God's gracious giving.

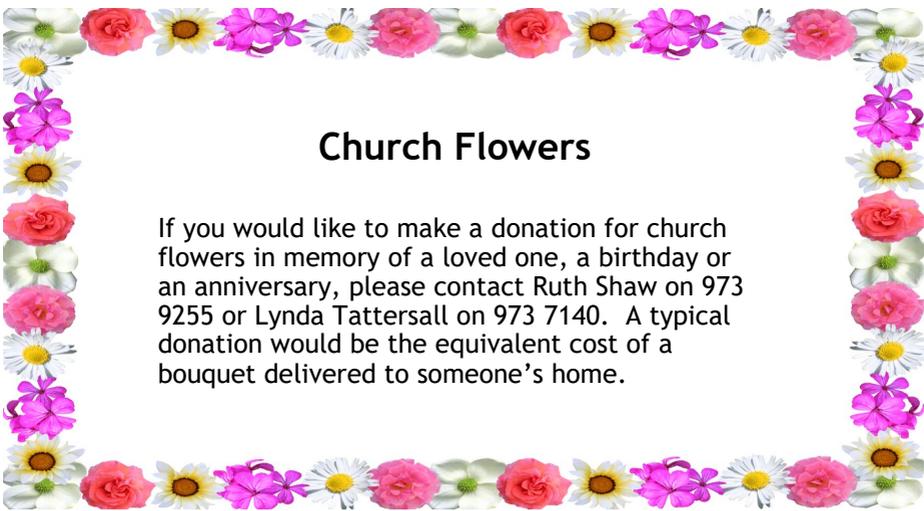
From the Archive

The September 1919 magazine comprises mainly lists of donations to the War Memorial Fund. I wonder if being named with an amount next to your name prompted a more generous contribution.

The September 1969 edition makes reference to working with other churches. We are part of a consortium supporting Sale CAP (Christians Against Poverty) but have little contact with others in a worship sense. In his letter, Rev Buckley commented very favourably on a village he had stayed in for holidays where the local Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian congregations worshipped together on a monthly basis. The magazine also contains some positive contributions from parishioners on the (then) recent Anglican Methodist Reunion Scheme and the fact that underneath the differences we all follow one Lord.

One sad feature was contained within 'Church News' one of two inserts (the other being a Diocesan newsletter). This had an article on the Biafran War which was, at this time, starting to come to a conclusion. Those of us around at the times will remember the terrible images of famine from then.

To end on a more cheerful note, the new hall witnessed a Harvest Supper with proceeds going to Christian Aid.



Church Flowers

If you would like to make a donation for church flowers in memory of a loved one, a birthday or an anniversary, please contact Ruth Shaw on 973 9255 or Lynda Tattersall on 973 7140. A typical donation would be the equivalent cost of a bouquet delivered to someone's home.

Hymns We've Sung Recently: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Astute readers will have by now realised that this title isn't necessarily accurate or that the term 'recently' is somewhat elastic. This month's hymn is on the theme of prayer and, as we often find, has an interesting backstory. I'm assuming that by now you have already sung or hummed the first verse in your head so the words to help you finish that off.

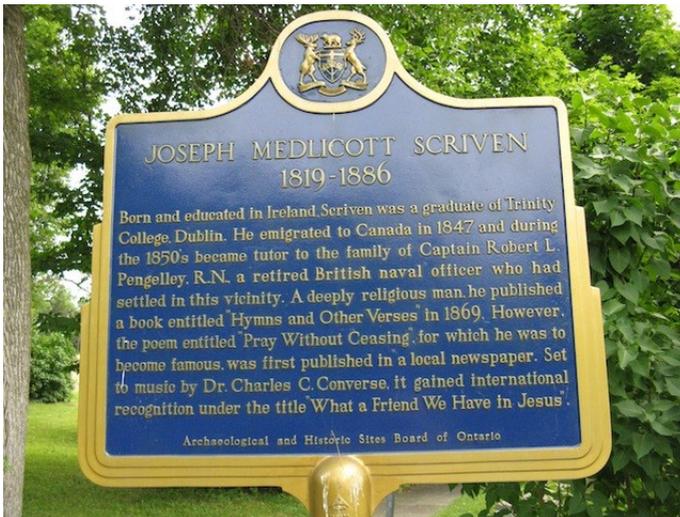
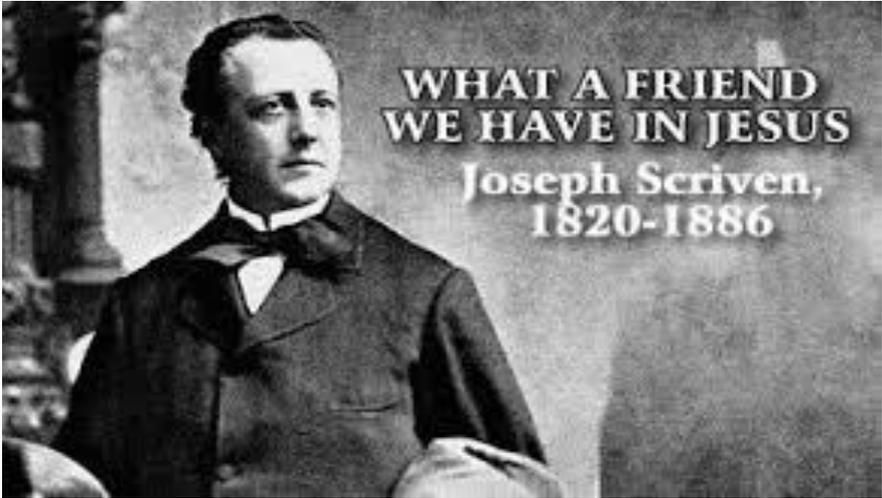
*What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh what peace we often forfeit
Oh what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer*

*Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Do thy friends despise, forsake
thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield
thee*

Born in Ireland, its writer, Joseph Scriven emigrated to Canada shortly after his fiancée drowned the evening before they were due to marry. Scriven became a teacher and immersed himself in helping others. The words to the hymn were written, in 1855, as a poem, by Joseph to comfort his mother who was still in Ireland. He became engaged a second time, to Eliza Roche, but tragedy again struck when shortly before the marriage she died. Scriven became more and more devout and lost many friends. Alone, penniless and depressed he was found dead in circumstances that suggested suicide. The lyrics were discovered almost by accident and set to the familiar tune, 'Converse', written in 1868 by Charles Converse.

Used throughout the world, the hymn is much loved. The words have been criticized as being simplistic but it is probably that which gives it such a great appeal. Asked after publication whether he really wrote it, Scriven is reported as saying, "The Lord and I did it between us". Would we could say that about our achievements.



Churches Together in Sale

A merry band of pilgrims stared in wonderment at the 'Marble church'. St Margaret's, Bodelwyddan, was so named, as the Church Warden informed us in her introductions, because forty different varieties of fine marble from all over the world were used in its construction.

The war graves in the surrounding cemetery humbled us as we remembered, in particular, the Canadian troops stationed after the First World War at the nearby the Kimmel Camp. Allied Soldiers, resentful of delays in repatriation and poor conditions in the camp, mutinied and were killed.

Our sombre thoughts were uplifted by our own thanksgiving service, conducted amidst the wooden carvings; stained glass (including a Star of David window); and marble font held aloft by two carved infant figures. So personal was the occasion that even the organist emerged from our midst. 'Its not easy playing an unfamiliar organ, especially in public', he said afterwards!

Round tables at our convivial lunch in the Imperial Hotel, Llandudno, encouraged the spirit of fellowship as where, after Grace, we broke bread together. Cable car cavorts, promenade parades, Mostyn gallery masterpieces and ice cream cornets followed in the sunshine.

As if all that wasn't enough a final treat lay instore on our homeward journey. Two ex- members of St Pauls Church, Sale had moved to Rhos-on-Sea, where they had become Stewards of the smallest chapel in Britain (see photo opposite). Hidden from the road is a pebble finished, flower tended building which was kindly opened up for us so we could view the 6th Century holy well dedicated to St Trillo and St Elidan. It was clearly visible inside the church, under the simple stone altar. Holy Communion is still celebrated here in this immaculate, sacred chapel every week.

The Clergy members reminded us in their prayers, that we all needed to recharge our batteries so that in turn, we can continue to rejuvenate others. Our day out certainly succeeded in doing that. This special shared Christian community experience was facilitated by the expert organisational skills of two Lay members of 'Churches Together in Sale' Joan Tanner and Michael Riley. We are grateful to them and the Clergy representatives for their valuable contributions.

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

(Psalm 133:1 NIV)



Government accepts recommendations on support for Persecuted Christians

The Bishop of Truro has welcomed the Government's commitment to accepting all of the recent recommendations of the Independent Review into Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Support for Persecuted Christians. The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, who chaired the review, said he hopes it will now become a significant catalyst for change.

Sir Alan Duncan (who was then a Foreign Office Minister) told the House of Commons that the Government had decided to accept every recommendation in full and outlined how they would take them forward. Sir Alan also said that a bold, whole-government response was needed. Bishop Philip said he was: "delighted that Sir Alan has formally recognised the need for a response across the rest of Government.

"Our review was restricted to looking at the support from the FCO, but there was a feeling from the outset that this needs a cross-governmental approach, as this crucial issue traverses many boundaries and is not something that can be neatly compartmentalised."

The Bishop hoped that there was "a recognition at the highest level that Freedom of Religion or Belief is a fundamental human right - and one that is inextricably interconnected with other basic human rights."

He hoped that "the report will become a catalyst for change and enable Britain to pursue an aspiration to be the global leader in championing this right."

The Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth, said: "The plight of Christians around the world is all too often overlooked. We now expect this important report to provide renewed impetus for the Government to rise to the challenges so clearly identified and for the UK to become, as the report recommends, 'the global leader in championing Freedom of Religion and Belief for all'."

September Baptismal Anniversaries

Annie Pearl Pilarski



**Everyone is invited to
Church and Society
at Sale United Reformed Church,
Montague Road, Sale M33 3BU
2 p.m. on
Wednesday 25th September**

Debbie Walters

Sale CAP debt centre manager

**will talk about the work
and future plans of**

The Debt Centre Initiative

A coalition of EIGHT churches based in Sale have united to offer free help to people living in the town: KingsWay Church, LifeChurch, St John's, Brooklands, St Anne's with St Francis, St Paul's Church, Sale United Reformed Church, The Avenue Methodist and Trinity Methodist Churches, have partnered with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), an award-winning national debt counselling charity, to provide the new services.

Everyone is welcome



*The Churchyard working party
was never seen again*

From Around St John's



Hello everyone, I hope you are all well. The summer hasn't been up to much has it? Too hot or too wet! Our July meeting was our annual lunch outing. We went to Bramley Farm, near Waitrose in Altrincham. Everyone enjoyed some social time together.

Our next meeting, September 11, is a talk by Canon Adrian Rhodes, on beekeeping. He is Manchester Cathedral's beekeeper. Do come, he is a good speaker. We welcome everyone: men, women and children. You don't have to be members to come to meetings. Likewise you can be a member without attending meetings. Our membership fee goes to the Mothers' Union.

Sharon



St Vincent de Paul 1581-1660

Vincent was born into a peasant family, in Ranquine, now Vincent de Paul. Despite this he received an education, from Franciscan monks at Daz and Toulouse university. He was ordained at the age of 19, enslaved in Tunisia, but then escaped to Avignon, where he joined the Gondi family, educating their children. Vincent was active in serving both the rich and poor, he also did much to help galley slaves.

Vincent founded a group of community Priests, who were appointed to minister to various villages in 1633. They were given the church of Saint Lazare, and so given the name the name Lazarists. The sisters of charity, were also founded by Vincent, their work dedicated entirely to the poor and sick.

In 1660 Vincent died aged almost 80, he was canonised in 1737. In 1833 the society of Vincent de Paul was founded.

Feast day 27 September



St Vincent de Paul

As the magazine has used a 'Churches Together' theme, readers might be interested to know that there is an active branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society here in Sale, based at St Joseph's. The society's website says of itself that Its "aim is to tackle poverty in all its forms through the provision of practical assistance to those in need.

The concept of need is broader than financial hardship, so visiting people who are sick, lonely, in prison, or suffering from addiction is also a significant proportion of our work. The essence of our work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people is our greatest gift.

Our 10,000 volunteer members, motivated by their faith, are committed to meaningful and long term befriending. Inspired by the message of the Gospels they seek and find those in need and offer them sincere friendship. They visit them in their homes, in hospital and in care homes on a regular basis and offer additional practical support such as food, furniture or financial help where needed. They also organise trips and events for older and isolated people."

Interesting to note that some of these saints have left a legacy rather than just a historical footnote.

And in case you thought there were no funnies...

Tough Talk

A muscular young man at the construction site bragged that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength. After several minutes, an older (and wiser) worker had had enough.

"Why don't you put your money where your mouth is?" said the older fellow. "I bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that building that you won't be able to wheel back."

"You're on, old man," the young guy replied.

The old man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles. Then he turned to the young man and said, "All right. Get in."

Shine, Jesus, Shine?

The new vicar at a city centre church was delighted when he received an anonymous gift and when he told the PCC, he proposed it should be used to buy a new chandelier for the body of the church.

However, it was put to a vote and the vicar was disappointed when his proposal was narrowly defeated. The vicar noted that the PCC secretary had voted against the proposal and when the meeting was over, he asked the secretary why he had not supported it.

The secretary said he had three reasons: "First, I have to write the minutes of the meeting and I can't spell the word; second, there is sure to be an argument over who should play it; and finally, if we are going to spend money in the Church, what we really need is some good lighting."

Thanks to Grove Books for these.

Toothy grin

While working for an organisation that delivers lunches to the elderly, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs.

One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'

Always on a Sunday

The irate customer called the newsagents, loudly demanding to know where the Sunday edition of her newspaper was. "Madam," said the newsagent patiently, "We have not delivered your Sunday newspaper because today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on Sunday."

There was quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a sigh of wakening understanding. "Well, now ... so that's why no one was at church today."

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...

So many came to hear Jesus speak that they filled his house...



and the streets outside.

Four men brought their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing



But the crowd wouldn't let them get close



so they climbed up to the roof and took off some tiles.

They lowered their friend down, right in front of Jesus

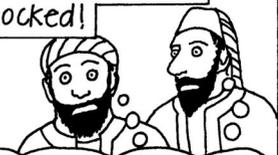


Jesus was so impressed by their faith, he said to the paralysed man



Your sins are forgiven.

The Pharisees were shocked!



Only God can forgive sins...so this fellow is insulting God!

But Jesus knew what they were thinking.



Why are you thinking such wrong thoughts?

Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?

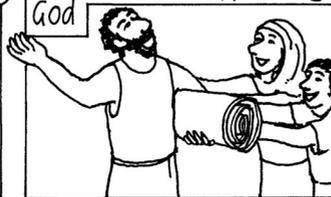


But I want you to know that I do have the authority to forgive sins...

Get up, take your mat and go home!



He got up, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God



The crowd was amazed...



We have never seen anything like this!

News of an Old Friend

I thought that those of you who remember Dr. Vicky Johnson, when she was our Curate, might be interested in some news of her activities in Ely, which was sent to me by a friend of mine who lives there.

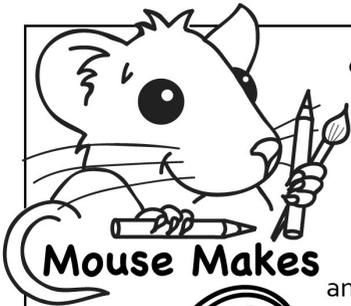
In June, Vicky oversaw a major Science Festival in Ely Cathedral, the centre piece of which was an enormous scale replica of the moon, some 7 meters in diameter, hanging above the Nave. She is quoted as reminding us that the cathedral itself was “a feat of mechanical engineering” and now, 1000 years later, it “serves one of the most dynamic science and technology communities in the world”. In the light of more unusual and controversial uses to which cathedrals have been put, Vicky emphasises “the long tradition of scientific thought as part of our Christian heritage” and sees the exhibition as a means of “encouraging greater understanding between science and faith”.

The exhibition did have its lighter side and in response to what astronauts have found to be the most commonly asked questions by children, how did you go to the toilet, an example of a space toilet was included in the displays. It is great to know that Vicky is still making use of her previous career as a research scientist and that she has obviously not lost her sense of fun.

Ros and Llew

Barbara Kilshaw

Barbara has had to give up being Magazine Secretary, after 16 years, due to ill health. She has seen the magazine through several changes of editor and managed many changes in both deliverers and recipients of it. It is not an easy task to keep on top of this but Barbara did it for a long time and we never had to worry about whether or not the magazine would be distributed to subscribers. The magazine is an important part of outreach into the community and we are grateful for the many hours of work that she put into this. In your prayers, please ask that Barbara feels The Lord's love and comfort in this difficult time.

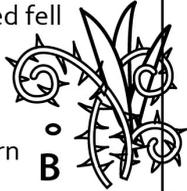


Mouse Makes

Read the story in Mark 1:1-20



Once there was a man who went out to sow corn. As he *scattered* the seed in the field some of it fell along the **path** where it was stepped on and **eaten** by the birds. Some of it fell on **rocky ground**, when the plants sprouted they **dried** up because the soil was dry. Some of the seed fell among **thorns** which grew up with the plants and **choked** them, and some seed fell in the **good** soil; the plants grew and produced corn - a **hundred** grains each!



C R O W D
 H E A R O
 G F L I S T E N
 F O E J O Y P I E
 A O L E T E A C H
 J D L S H O R E O
 G R O W U H L A K E
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JESUS • TEACH • LAKE • CROWD • GATHERED • BOAT • SHORE
 PARABLE • LISTEN • SOWER • SOW • SEED • PATH • BIRDS • ATE
 FELL • ROCKY • GROUND • SOIL • SUN • SCORCHED • ROOT
 WITHERED • THORNS • CHOKE • GRAIN • GOOD • SPROUT • GROW
 THIRTY • SIXTY • HUNDRED • HEAR • EARS

God in the Arts

The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world, with some 2,300 works spanning the centuries. During this year we are journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month. By the Revd Michael Burgess.

He gave us eyes to see them: St Michael the Archangel by Bartolomé Bermejo

When we sing the Sanctus in the Eucharist, we are affirming that our worship here on earth is caught up in the worship offered by the angels in heaven. They praise God around His throne of glory, but they are also agents of His care and guidance in our lives. Leading them is the archangel Michael, and we celebrate his feast with all the angels on 29th September.

Churches were often built in his honour on high places: St Michael's Mount in Cornwall, Mont St Michel in Brittany, and Glastonbury Tor.

St Michael's influence extends both high and low because he is the prince of the angelic host. He is ready to slay the dragon as we read in the book of Revelation. He is armed to fight for light and right over might and darkness.

St Michael's triumph over the devil is the theme of this month's painting by a forgotten Spanish artist, Bartolomé Bermejo. He died in Barcelona around 1501, and only 20 paintings of his exist. Seven are in the National Gallery, and his work has been given a special exhibition there until the end of this month.

As we look at the painting, we can think of St Michael the archangel in Revelation or Milton's 'Paradise Lost' where he leads the 'flaming warriors' who defeat the devil. He dominates the canvas in his glorious armour. At his side is the patron who commissioned this work, and at his feet the vanquished devil, like a nightmare creation of Bosch.

We know only too well that St Michael's battle is reflected here on earth, where the vulnerable and the innocent are threatened by the forces of violence. Light or darkness, truth or falsehood, protection or oppression - those are the mighty opposites that come home to us as we ponder this painting, and pray:

'Lord, give thy angels every day
Command to guide us on our way.'



September Prayer Diary

1st	Blessings on our congregation as we read the Psalms together in the new sermon series.
2nd	Our young people as they start or return to school.
3rd	Members of our congregation who have asked for our prayers through illness.
4th	Those who support and attend Crafty Chat as it restarts after summer. Those unsung supporters of our schools: crossing patrols; bus drivers; caretakers; and domestic workers
5th	
6th	Our Little Fishes and those who support their growth in faith.
7th	The work of the Prison Foundation as their new courses start in prisons in Greater Manchester.
8th	That those who attend Café Alpha may grow in the Spirit.
9th	For those joining in the new Prayer Group.
10th	For the Bumps and Babies Group starting today
11th	For the Daytime Alpha course starting today.
12th	Those who support and attend Seconds to Spare as it restarts after summer.
13th	Our Christian brothers and sisters in countries where they face persecution.
14th	For our Mothers' Union.
15th	Reverend Stephen Edwards as he is installed today in his new role at Worcester Cathedral.
16th	Our Government that they may make decisions widely and for the good of the country.
17th	For our Parish finances that we may all contribute as we are able.
18th	That we become a welcoming and open congregation.
19th	For the wonderful work of our uniformed organisations.
20th	University students living away from home for the first time, especially those from overseas.
21st	For the Lord's Peace on those troubled by addiction.
22nd	Give thanks for God's bounty in the harvest and that this will be shared fairly.
23rd	Sale Churches Together' as although we are many we all share the same bread.
24th	That those in prison are allowed opportunities to be rehabilitated.
25th	For our Womens' Fellowship Group as the receive Communion this evening.
26th	Those forced to use food banks that they may soon live with dignity.
27th	Organisations like the Trussell Trust that manage food banks.
28th	For those who labour to keep St John's clean and in good order.
29th	The work of the CVM group that aims to support the faith of men.
30th	Greater Together Manchester as it prepares to open Winter Shelters.



The church under the stairs

A church has started meeting under a staircase in a remote area of Nepal, according to Nepali local partners who are involved in leadership training.

They write, “This area is difficult and often hostile to the Gospel but the Lord touched our hearts to train indigenous leaders and to help them start a fellowship there.”

The couple describe this district as one of the least reached with the gospel: “We don’t see a Christian or church in 99.5 per cent of the villages.”

Two of the few local Christians were trained by our local partners to start a small church, but unsurprisingly finding a place to meet proved difficult.

“One of the church planters was kicked out of his community for being a Christian. When we looked for a place, even just a house, nobody would help us for fear of being excommunicated, too.

“We finally found a staircase to meet under. The Lord has been bringing people slowly; today eight people gather there weekly.”

Another small church has started elsewhere in the district.

This couple continue to also reach out to the Mushar community, who are considered untouchable: “They are the poorest of poor people in a rather poor land. We have started a literacy programme for women and a free learning centre for children, as they cannot attend school. The Lord has been gracious in using our team.”

These local partners are sent by Asia-CMS and a local Christian organisation and jointly supported by Church Mission Society and Asia-CMS. churchmissionsociety.org/local

Betel

I have been blessed recently to come into contact with Betel in Manchester. This agency provides a Christian home, work and support for people who have damaged lives. Part of the work that they do involves all aspects of gardening and tree work and they also renovate and resell furniture. It is a wonderful cause. So if you need any work doing or have furniture to donate please consider them. Tel 973 1407 www.betel.uk

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Sanctuary Guild

*Volunteers in the Sanctuary Guild take
turns to clean the brasses in church, such as
the altar cross, candlesticks, offertory
plates and lecterns.*



13th
27th

Mrs M. Hopkins
Mrs A. Pilling

Mrs S. Grimley
Mrs A. Howard

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It's Grim Up North: Even For the Clergy

Can it be true that God is calling most Anglican clergy to the South of England? Does He really want churches in northern urban areas like Burnley, Wigan, Sheffield and Bury and other post-industrial towns to struggle on with very few clergy?

Well, you might be forgiven for thinking so, when you compare some figures. According to a recent meeting called by the Diocese of Manchester in order for clergy to share best practice and learning, too few clergy are looking North. The Archdeacon of Rochdale, the Ven Cherry Vann, said: "God seems to be calling clergy South for some reason; we are lucky if we get one or two applicants for a post. That's a real indicator of some of the challenges we face."

For post-industrial towns across the Northwest are really struggling. "When you see that even McDonald's has moved out of Rochdale town centre, you get the picture." To put it another way, in Burnley you can buy a three-bedroomed house for £20,000.

And if the towns are struggling, the churches are struggling too. "We feel left behind, forgotten and ignored. There needs to be a national strategy for moving clergy up north," said the Archdeacon.

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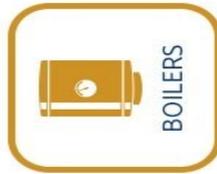
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Parish Diary September 2019

1 st	<i>11th Sunday after Trinity</i> 9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Family Communion 4.30 Back to School Sunday 6.30 Evensong
4 th	2.00 Craft Chat
8 th	<i>12th Sunday after Trinity</i> 9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 All Ages Together 4.30 Café Alpha
11 th	10.00 Midweek Communion 2.30 Mothers' Union
12 th	10.00 Seconds to Spare
15 th	<i>13th Trinity after Sunday</i> 9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Family Communion 4.30 Café Alpha
18 th	2.00 Crafty Chat
19 th	10.00 Seconds to Spare
22 nd	<i>14th Sunday after Trinity</i> 9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Family Communion 4.30 Café Alpha
25 th	7.30 Evening Prayer and Women's Fellowship
26 th	10.00 Seconds to Spare
29 th	<i>15th Sunday after Trinity</i> 9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Family Communion 4.30 Café Alpha



The Parish Church of *St. John the Divine, Brooklands*

*In the Deanery of Withington, In the Diocese of Manchester,
In the Province of York*

Website: www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30 am Family Communion
(Second Sunday of the Month All-Age Worship)
5.30pm Choral Evensong

Holy Communion is celebrated on Holy Days and Saints Days as announced.

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The eternal God is your refuge



and underneath are the everlasting arms

Deuteronomy 33: 27 (NIV)

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