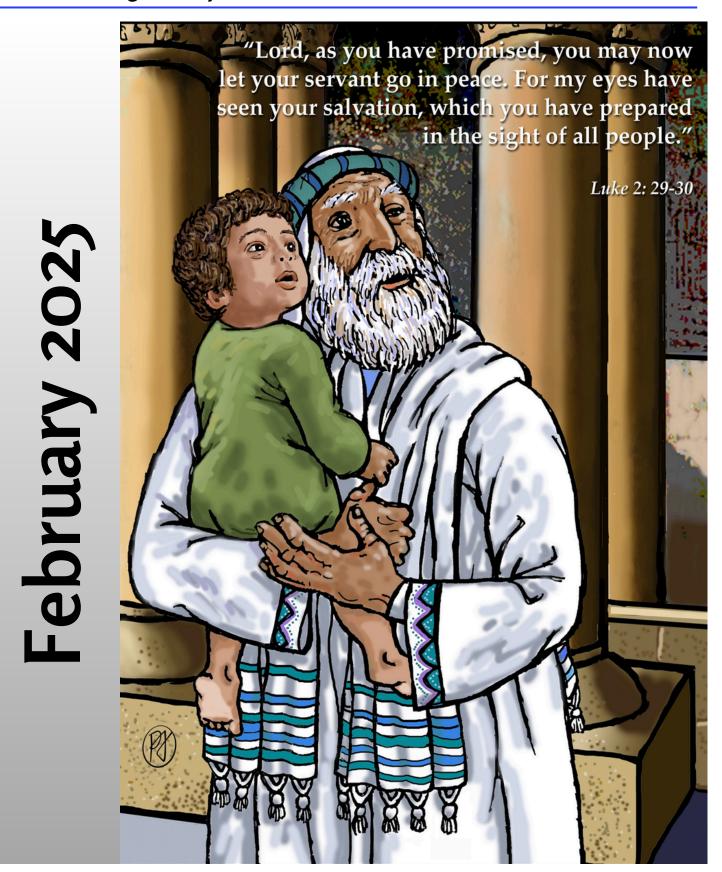


One Church 4 Parishes

Long Buckby with Watford and West Haddon with Winwick





Services this February

Sunday 2nd February 9am, Holy Communion (BCP), St Lawrence, Long Buckby 10:30am, The Breakfast Service, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 10:30am, Morning Praise, All Saints, West Haddon

Wednesday 5th February 9:30am, Midweek Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby

Sunday 9th February 9am, Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Watford 10:30am, Holy Communion, All Saints, West Haddon 10:30am, Morning Praise, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 4pm, Tea Time Together, St Lawrence, Long Buckby

Sunday 16th February 10:30am, Holy Communion, All Saints, West Haddon 10:30am, Family Service, St Lawrence, Long Buckby

Sunday 23rd February 9am, Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Watford 10:30am, Holy Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 10:30am, The Family Service, All Saints, West Haddon

Everyone is welcome!

Opening Times across our churches

St Lawrence, Long Buckby
Open Monday-Saturday 10am-3pm

All Saints, West Haddon
Open Monday-Sunday, 9am-4pm

St Peter and St Paul, Watford Open Monday-Sunday, 10am-4pm St Michael and All Angels, Winwick
Open 24 Hours

The Vicar Writes

Here we are at the beginning of February, January the month that feels so long to many is now followed by the month with the least number of days.

The month starts with Candlemas on the 2nd February where traditionally candles are lit both in church and home to Jesus as a light to the world, from the words of Simeon in the temple, "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel".

So why not light a candle this month as we think of those words and that promise, Jesus revealed to the nations as our saviour and as we light those candles let us do as Anna the prophetess did "she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem." Light a candle and pray for the revelation of Jesus across our world, pray for peace in all those places that are in conflict and for justice and reconciliation between all peoples.

Also well known in February of course is Valentine's Day on the 14th February, there's a small article on Valentine's Day further on in the magazine talking about it's Christian origins rather than the rather more commercialised celebration we have today.

At its heart a celebration of love can only echo the love that God has for us as we seek to love as he calls us to, loving God, loving our neighbour and the world.

Sadly for my wife this year I will be absent for Valentine's Day as my father is a Valentine's baby and it's also his 80th birthday this year so I'll be taking a trip over to Ireland to celebrate with him. Happily my wedding anniversary is in February so I do have the chance to make it up to her later in the month!

ST LAWRENCE, LONG BUCKBY COMMUNITY SHELF

The Community Shelf has been running at St Lawrence for just over a year now and has been well supported by both church members and the wider community - thank you all for your continued support.

I thought it would be good to ask Alexandra Richards who was instrumental in getting the Community Shelf setup forher thoughts on what made her want to get it started. Have a read below and my thanks to Alex.

Rev Kevin Montgomery

One of my favourite things about Long Buckby is it's wonderful wide ranging demographics. There are old, young, rich and poor and everyone in between people in our village. Those who work, those who are retired, those who are unable to work for whatever reason. I've always been a firm believer in "Christian Visibility" and being of service within the community and had been thinking of ways I could fulfil this and make a difference to those in our village. I wanted to put the Church at the centre of the village and to show others that it's not just a building, but a living, caring and loving family. I prayed for guidance and direction.

The headlines in the news over the next few weeks were all about the cost of living crisis, the increase in food bank usage. As a lone parent of 3, working full time and trying to juggle everything, I completely empathised with those struggling to make ends meet. I knew there was a food bank in Daventry, but was also aware that many people wouldn't make use of this due to lack of transport, the stigma, because they felt they didn't qualify, because they owned their own home so wouldn't be seen as needy or because they felt ashamed. I couldn't stop thinking about this, how no one in our village should have to go without. I decided to pray for those struggling. Then it clicked.

I knew that my earlier prayers had led me to this, that we needed to find a way to help those in the village who were struggling, whilst others had so much. The environmental impact of donating food and items rather than throwing out was also a motivating factor too.

I wanted the community shelf to be unmanned, no questions asked. For everyone and anyone - even those working full time can only tighten their belts so much! The idea of "Give what you can, Take what you need" was for me the main ethos behind the Community Shelf.

The placement within the Church itself was also important to me, rather than it being elsewhere within the village. I wanted those who visited the shelf to either donate or take items to have the opportunity to experience the peacefulness and beauty of our village church, maybe taking the opportunity for quiet prayer or contemplation. It may also be the first time they had been inside the Parish church and I wanted to break down any barriers or trepidation they may have about coming in to the church.

Alex Richards







THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED SO FAR, PLEASE DO CONTINUE TO DONATE IF YOU CAN!

WHAT CAN I DONATE - HIGH DEMAND ITEMS

Tinned meat products – stew, casserole, meatballs etc Tinned fish – especially tuna



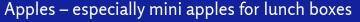
Longlife milk Squash Baked beans Jam

Dried Pasta Biscuits Rice Pudding Tinned fruit Mayonnaise

Ketchup
Tinned soup

Baking potatoes

Cakes and Biscuits





Shower Gel

Liquid soap

Laundry Gel or similar

Washing up liquid

Tea and coffee are also popular!







DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO GO IN THE
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?
TO DISCUSS YOUR IDEA
EMAIL: HELLO@ONECHURCH4PARISHES.CO.UK

FINAL SUBMISSIONS FOR EACH MONTH SHOULD BE IN BY THE 20TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - 2nd February

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February.

This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

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

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist.

Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



SPRING PLANT SALE

In aid of St Lawrence Church Roof
Fund





Saturday 8th February The Horseshoe, Market Square





10 to 12am





Faith Pictures is a free resource from Church Army to help Christians of all traditions talk about their own story of faith with confidence.

Faith Pictures is six sessions long, each one building on the last to help Christians to see where God has been present in their lives, how they can talk about that confidently, and how God is active in the world around us and wants us to join in with Him.

The sessions are:

Opening the Conversation
The Power of the Ordinary
Traveller's Tales
Talking Pictures
Companions on the Journey
Hidden Opportunities

Each session is made up of four parts:

Discover - 3-4 minute video introducing the topic.

Dive In- An activity to help the group to start thinking about the topic.

Going Deeper- Exploring the ideas behind the topic

Draw Near- A pattern of prayer to help the group reflect on what has been talked about and how to apply it

Sign up here: https://forms.microsoft.com/r/x78H362YKF

or simply come along on the night!





Perspective is everything

SO HOW DO YOU SEE LIFE?

321 is a course that invites you to see life the way Jesus does.

Inspired by Jesus' vision of reality, 321 is designed to help you think about God, the world and yourself through immersive videos and thoughtful illustrations.

Do you know someone who would like to know more about the Christian faith? To help discover what difference believing in Jesus can make to their lives?

The 321 course is coming soon, so be thinking about who you can invite as we love Jesus, share Jesus across our parishes.



News on the process for the new Archbishop of Canterbury

There is a long and quite involved process in selecting a new Bishop within the Church of England and even more so for the Archbishop of Canterbury. It begins with someone to head up what is called the Crown Nominations Commission. The Prime Minister has appointed The Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL to chair the new Crown Nominations Commission for Canterbury.

The Crown Nominations Commission is the C of E committee that will nominate the candidate to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Jonathan Evans has been a Crossbench member of the House of Lords since 2014. Until October 2023 he was Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He is currently Chair of the HALO Trust, the anti-landmine charity, and of the Public Interest Committee at KPMG UK. He is a former Director-General of the Security Service, MI5. He is an active and communicant member of his local parish church.

Don't expect anything too soon though, it will be months before the new Archbishop is chosen!



St Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia.

Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime

And I a maid at your window To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.

Lord, Teach us to Pray - Year of Prayer 2025



Bishop Debbie introduces our Year of Prayer





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vLoxi5YMsA

At the start of this year, my prayer is that each one of us will take time over the coming months to deepen our prayer life – perhaps to join a study group, to try different ways of praying, to experiment with silence or spend time in nature, to be willing to lead intercessions, to offer prayer to our friends and neighbours..... It doesn't matter what we do, the key thing is to recognise that restlessness in our hearts that can only find peace when we spend time with God. +Debbie

Lord, Teach us to Pray - Prayer Study Day https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/calendar/882

In a change to our normal Bible Day, we will this year be focusing on prayer, and will be holding a Prayer Study Day on Saturday 8 March at Caroline Chisholm School in Northampton.

The day will have two main talks by Bishop John Stroyan as well as a panel discussion, featuring a range of voices from different settings focusing on both individual prayer and praying for others.

Agenda

10:00 Arrivals - Arrive any time from 10am.

Tea and coffee will be available, please bring your own reusable mug

10:30 Opening Worship

10:45 Session 1 - Prayer as being present to the presence of God How might we become more aware of and responsive to the presence of God in our daily lives?

11:35 Coffee break

Tea and coffee will be available, please bring your own reusable mug.

12:00 Session 2 - Moving outwards in prayer
Jesus says 'Come' and Jesus says 'Go'. Prayer in the activities and encounters
of everyday life.

12:45 Lunch -Please bring your own lunch. There will be spaces to eat packed lunches and tea and coffee will be available. There will also be water fountains, so please considering bring your own water bottle.

13:45 Session 3 - Panel Discussion featuring a range of voices from different settings

14:20 Closing Worship

Our Keynote Speaker Bishop John Stroyan



Bishop John joined the Diocese of Peterborough as a Honorary Assistant Bishop in summer 2024 after retiring as Bishop of Warwick. Prior to this, Bishop John served his curacy at St Peters, Hillfields, an inner-city parish in Coventry followed by a further seven years in inner-city ministry in Birmingham Diocese and then 11 years in a more rural benefice in north Oxfordshire, for a time as Area Dean. He was invited to become Bishop of Warwick in 2005.

During his episcopal ministry, in addition to his ministry within the Diocese, Bishop John was privileged to be involved in representing the Church internationally, in both Syria and Israel-Palestine, and also in theological dialogue with the Orthodox Church in Eastern Europe. More recently he was Co-chair of the Church of England dialogue with the French Protestant Churches (the Reuilly Group).

He has been president of the Association for Promoting Retreats since 2017, is an experienced retreat leader, and has a keen interest in the riches of the eastern Christian spiritual tradition on which he draws considerably in his book 'Turned by Divine Love'. He has been involved in the ministry of healing for many years and also has a particular interest in the relationship between faith and the arts. He continues to be involved in rural affairs and the farming community and is now increasingly engaged in prison ministry.

His underlying priority, throughout his ministry, has been the deepening of our life of prayer and connectivity with God.

Book Tickets here!





Not too serious



"It may well attract more young folk to join the congregation but I still prefer the old church notice board"



Technically, the Parish Share is a voluntary contribution

Cartoons often make us laugh but also contain something of a truth within them.

The PCC of St Lawrence is for example looking at the possibility of new noticeboards for St Lawrence as the old ones are looking a little worn shall we say happily I don't think anyone will let me get away with "Vic's Place" as the signage!

Parish share comes around every year and helps fund the diocese and the costs of priests, housing, training of curates and more. Fortunately I haven't seen any large heavily muscled men in the area coming to collect!

And last but not least on this one, as the current editor of the monthly magazine there won't be anyone beating my door down with a shotgun for the "Vicar's letter". If it's late I just have to look in the mirror and tell myself off instead!

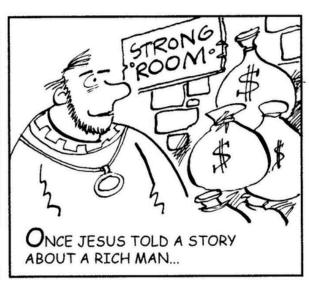
- Rev Kev

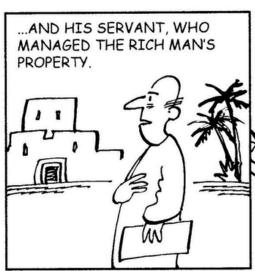


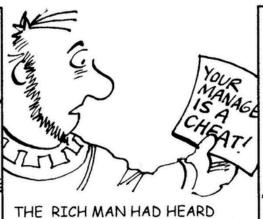
...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?

The parable of the Shrewd Manager

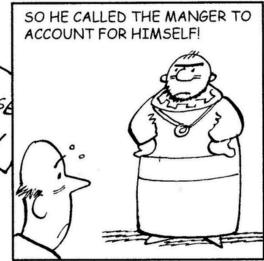




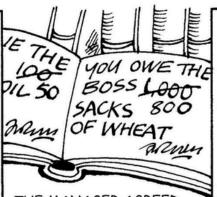




THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.





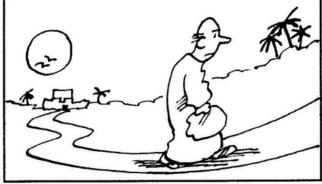


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.





JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

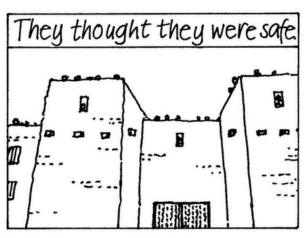
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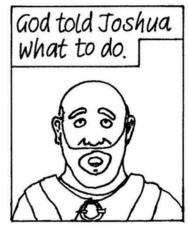
It can be read in the Bible in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

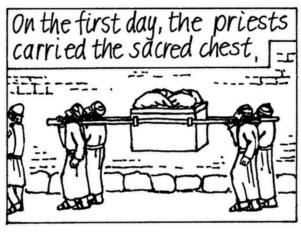
A short story from the Bible

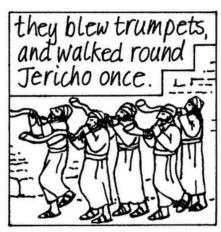
Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

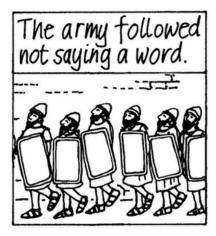




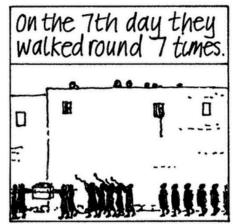




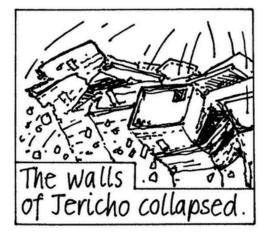


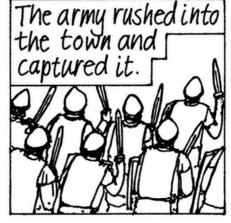














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locked walls captured destroyed Jordan army fight once

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victory
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safe God priests trumpets shout town walked rushed

Double Sudoku!



EASY

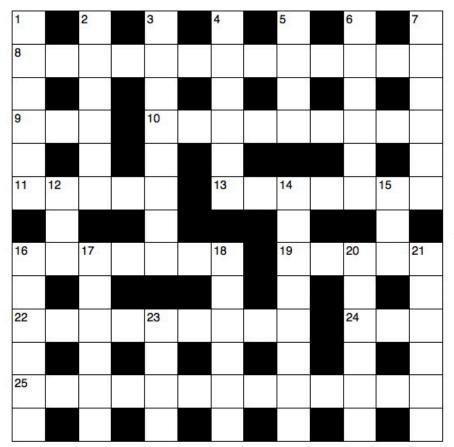
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Bible Crossword



Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8) 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3) 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9) 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2) 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7) 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7) 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5) 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7) 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: '— salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13)

(3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

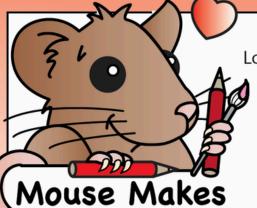
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



"Love is

love is ______.

It does not, _____

it does not _____

it does not

others, it is not self -

it is not easily

it keeps no record of

Love delights in

it always

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

it is not _____

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never ___ __ ;

His never come to an end; they are new every

Lamentations 3:20-23



I pray... you will understand... the greatness of Christ's love,

how_____ and how __ __ __ and how __ __ __ that **love** is. **Ephesians 3:18-19**

God is **love**. whoever ___ ___ in **love** ____ in God, and God in them.

1 John 4:16

to the Lord, for He is LOVE

endures

Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES GOD LOVE ME?

God sent me a saviour:

He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. 1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:

He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love. Romans 5.5

God called me His child:

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His children. 1 John 1:3

Jesus told us to: **LOVE** the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and with all your mind.

same as you love yourself.

Matthew 22:39

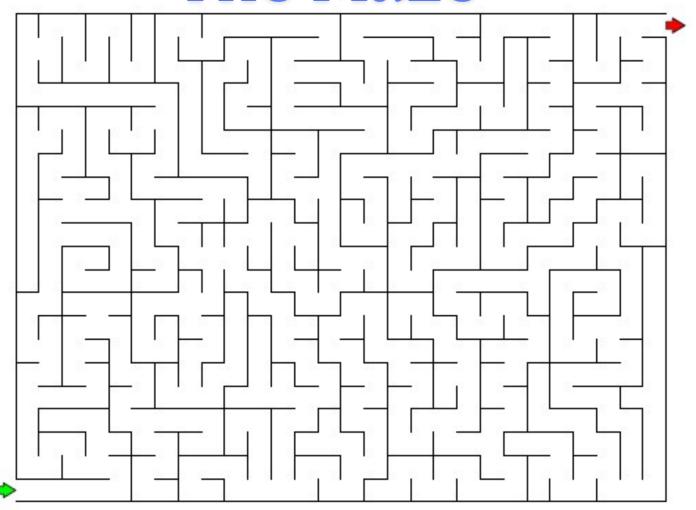
Matthew 22:37

SE F U M B Ε Ε

GOD • LOVE

PATIENT • KIND **GRACIOUS • PEACE** JUST • TRUTHFUL TRUSTING • LOYAL **HOPEFUL PERSEVERES ENDURES HUMBLE** SELFLESS

PROTECTS • DEFENDS



Christ Candlemas Simeon ordsearc Anna temple love Valentine romance Matthias Fairtrade Fortnight coffee bananas chocolate justice poverty nest box marriage wedding Holocaust leprosy

naming education sunday

ANANAS



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PAC. 25, Sovereign Lord. 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24,

16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure. 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBl. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe.

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Easy Sudoku

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Wordsearch







BAPTISMS

Interested in getting your child baptised?

Whether you call it christening or baptism we are here to welcome you and those being baptised as part of our church family. A baptism service is a special service where those being baptised will be prayed for, where parents and Godparents will make important promises, water is poured over the person being baptised to signify being made clean and often a sign of the cross is made, a candle is given to you in the service to help remind you to "Shine as a light in the world to the Glory of God". It's a special day for not only the person being baptised but all those family, friends and church members who are there to be part of it. Please do contact us and we'd be happy to talk with you about baptism.



WEDDINGS

Have you considered a church wedding?

We are blessed to have wonderful church buildings in our benefice, in beautiful surroundings, where you can have a wonderful wedding as you make promises to God and each other in front of family and friends. Wedding services have declarations, vows, exchanging of rings, blessings and can include your own choice of readings, music and more, they are a joy to be part of. Church weddings are also surprisingly inexpensive and can help you have a very special wedding without breaking the bank. Contact us to find out how you can have your very special day with us.



FUNERALS

We are here for you.

Firstly our sympathies for your loss. We know how hard times like this are and we as the church can be here to support you, not only with the funeral service itself but also afterwards with pastoral support and special services to help you commemorate and remember your loved ones life. We are happy to liaise with you and funeral directors to help you say goodbye to your loved one, services can be tailored to help reflect the life of the deceased so that even in the sadness of loss you can remember the love, the times you had together and look to the hope that a church funeral services gives. Do contact us or ask your funeral director to be in touch with us and let us support you in this difficult time.

CONTACTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE



Vicar - The Revd Kevin Montgomery Email: vicar@onechurch4parishes.co.uk

Tel: 01327 577244

Safeguarding Officer - Julie Mousley

Tel: 01327 843459

Email: safeguarding@onechurch4parishes.co.uk

St Lawrence, Long Buckby

Church Warden - Chris Banks School Rooms Bookings - Helen Baker

Tel: 01327 843123

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