

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a blue ocean with white foam from waves. A white dotted border frames the central text.

HIS LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING

50p

May 2024

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Letter from Rev Malcolm:

Dear Friends,

May is such a wonderful month, with new growth, and birdsong, and fresh green leaves, and flowers growing to colour our drab lives. All seems renewed and lovely, and life begins to feel good again.

In some churches, if they have a choir, they have the habit of sending the choristers to the top of the church tower, on Ascension Day morning, to sing from up there, to all the world who gather in the street to hear them sing.

They sing at dawn, which at this time of the year, is early morning. It's a great experience to hear them. And it must be an ever greater one if you are able to climb up to the top of a tower, to be able to sing after that!

When I was a student, we got a day off for Ascension Day. As May is such a wonderful month, I would usually go off for the day, cycling. I would go for miles, from Lincoln City, maybe to Grimsby, exploring little villages, talking to people I met. Once I met a man ploughing with horses on Ascension Day. And we stopped for a chat, and I admired the two great horses which were pulling the man-held plough as they trudged across what would one day be a field of corn.

Then for a term I studied at the college of St George's, Jerusalem. Here I could go up the mount of Olives where Jesus ascended from, and where there are several churches and little mosques, all of which celebrate Jesus' Resurrection.

Funnily enough, my favourite place was a tiny Muslim shrine right on the summit of the Mount of Olives. It was not as brightly lit up with silver ornaments and ancient lamps as the Christian churches. It was just a very simple unadorned little building with a flat roof. I got to know the caretaker there. He was friendly and he lent me a little chair so I could go up on to the roof and sit there enjoying the sunset over the holy city. I went there many times and felt I could pray there. It was a real privilege.

Another favourite place of mine, this time in England, is Ely. The cathedral there stands out above the marshes like a sailing



ship at sea. An old story tells that King Canute wanted to visit Ely, but he knew that the marshes were very dangerous. In the Springtime, the marshes were still icy; but the ice was not strong enough to bear the weight of the king's sledge. A poor man came along and promised the king that he could take him safely through the marshes as he knew them well.

The people warned Canute that the man was not to be trusted. But the man promised the king: "if you trust me, I can get you there safely." Canute trusted him, Wherever the ice was dangerous the man led the sledge by walking in front of it. And thus, the king arrived safely before the sun had set. The king said to the man "What can I give you as you have done this for me?" The man replied, "My master is searching for me in anger, and I pray that you will save my life". The king replied, "I will take you into my own service."

That poor man is a bit like our own Lord Jesus Christ. Because Jesus became a poor man for us so that through this perilous and difficult life He might show us the way. He has gone before us over a very hard and dangerous part of the road. He has brought our human nature to the palace of the great King, to its true goal of perfect union with God.

Jesus, who was born in a stable, laid in a manger (a receptacle for straw for cattle and donkeys to eat out of), brought up in a carpenter's shop, who walked with the ordinary people, worked with them, loved them, talked with them and showed them the way. He was humble and has shown US the way. He IS the Way. Shall we not ask Him to take us into His service?

Recognizing Jesus as the Way is the secret of Life, life in all its fullness, as He called it. It will work for you too. All you need to know is that you pray to Him, acknowledge Him. Give your life to Him, and He will be your guide for ever, till the day you die, and beyond that.

What a promise. What a glory!! What a perfect ending to our long search for meaning to life. All we need to do is to ask Him to guide us.

And the rest is yet to be.

Try it and see!

Bless you,
Malcolm.

Newburn Parish APCM update:

During the service on Sunday 21st April, the Rev James McGowan presided over our Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

We re-elected Amanda Taylor and Linda Frazer as church wardens of the parish, and elected Joanne Batey.

We are grateful to Elizabeth Hope for her years of hard work prior to stepping down. We also thank Jimmy Armstrong for his years of service to the PCC.

Sunday Service Information

9.30am St Michael's

11am St Mary's

6pm (4th Sunday) St Mary's

Thursday 10am The Parish Hall

Morning Prayer Service

*The following information can be
applied every month:*

1st Sunday: Communion

2nd Sunday: All Age Family Communion

3rd Sunday: Communion

4th Sunday: Morning Praise (am) & Contemporary
Worship (pm)

5th Sunday: JOINT SERVICE 10am

Time to pray for your church wardens

O Eternal God... enlighten with Thy Grace the Wardens of this church, and so rule their minds and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek Thy Holy Will... Amen.

*O Lord, ...we beseech Thee to bless all who, ...give themselves to the service of their fellow worshipers. Endue them with wisdom, patience and courage to strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall... that they may worthily minister in Thy Name to the suffering, the friendless and the needy... Amen
(Prayers from the C of E)*

Churchwardens have a vital and historical role in the life of the church. They are elected by the parish, not just the members of the church. Anyone in the parish can vote for them, not just people on the church's electoral roll.

Wardens used to have a significant role in the wider life of the parish with responsibilities for charity, poor relief and even bridges and roads.

Their church duties today include:

- Maintaining order and decency in the church and church yard, especially during the time of divine service
- Being entrusted with the property of the church
- Having a duty to cooperate with the vicar
- Encouraging parishioners in practice of "true religion"

Quite a job! These are their legal duties, but I also like the prayer above as it reminds us to pray for them to seek God's will, not theirs or ours, but God's, and to strengthen the weak and encourage the fallen.

They may feel most of the time that they are weak and have fallen, but they are equipped with our support and prayers to look after other people who need strength or support - which is probably most of us at times!

David Pickup

w	n	v	m	q	s	t	a	f	f	m	l
a	h	i	o	e	g	y	p	t	z	a	v
t	l	i	s	a	a	r	o	n	m	m	f
e	m	o	n	t	h	s	a	m	o	a	n
r	m	d	g	g	r	q	s	i	u	l	s
l	o	h	r	g	e	u	i	k	n	e	i
g	d	e	u	l	p	a	s	t	t	k	n
f	x	l	m	a	h	i	h	u	a	i	a
o	c	p	b	n	i	l	p	f	i	t	i
o	d	e	l	d	d	s	l	x	n	e	j
d	u	d	e	l	i	c	i	o	u	s	e
b	r	e	a	d	m	a	n	n	a	f	v

bread

manna

water

delicious

Moses

Sinai

God

disputes

whinge

staff

Egypt

mountain

food

Aaron

moan

Rephidim

land

oasis

grumble

quails

Elim

months

Amalekites

helped

DailyHope is on the line – again!

A free telephone line that provides spiritual support for older people has been relaunched.

The DailyHope telephone line serves many people in later life unable to participate in person with church life in the community, either in the long term, or temporarily due to sickness or medical treatment. It was launched during the Covid pandemic.

The recorded phonline provides a vital spiritual resource aimed at the around six million UK people aged over 65 who are either unable to use the internet safely and successfully or are not online at all.

The organisation [Faith in Later Life](#) announced earlier this year that the line would have to be suspended because of a lack of funding. It came as many churches were being encouraged to 'grow younger' and put an emphasis on reaching younger people. Now their chief executive officer Alexandra Drew has announced that the phonline is back in action.

She said: "Closing the DailyHope line was an extremely heart-wrenching decision to make. I know that it's been a lifeline to many older people, especially those unable to attend church in person, and without access to spiritual comfort."

Now additional funding has been secured, DailyHope has been relaunched, with a drive to find new content and content-providers. Alexandra Drew said: "We're looking forward to welcoming new callers, as well as content providers and funding partners, to help us to continue to bring DailyHope to older people, and others who are staying at home."

Broadcaster Pam Rhodes, an ambassador for Faith in Later Life, said: "DailyHope has brought Christian fellowship through the landline into the homes of so many, filling their hearts and souls with God's presence and comfort through word, prayer and song. "It's no wonder that DailyHope has remained so popular – and the thought that this vital service may have been lost to those who value and rely upon it brought real despair. But now, we're thankful to God that DailyHope has been saved. This is wonderful news."

The DailyHope free telephone service is available on 0800 804 8044. Churches and Christians are being encouraged to publicise the telephone number widely.

By the Revd Peter Crumpler

ECO CHURCH FOCUS

MAY:

No Mow May – 1st May – 31st May 2024

Plantlife's annual campaign, No Mow May is a pretty simple one to take part in. Just don't cut your grass for the month of May. That's it! The aim is to provide a space for nature to do their thing. According to their website *'We've lost nearly 97% of flower rich meadows since the 1970's and with them gone are vital food needed by pollinators, like bees and butterflies'*

Endangered Species Day – 17th May 2024

This annual event focuses on the species that are likely to be [extinct](#) in the near future and there's a possibility that we're losing species before we have even discovered them. There are many reasons for



WWF

this: exploitation of the environment, depletion of natural resources, habitat loss, and the lack of meaningful climate change action by world leaders. The [WWF](#) website keep an updated list of the species that are on the endangered list.

World Bee Day – 20th May 2024

Bees are the hardest working creatures on our planet, as they play a critical role in pollinating our food and I don't think they get the credit they

deserve. There are over [250](#) species of bees. Learn more about bees and how we can help them by planting [wildflowers](#) and preserving the flora we have.



Water Saving Week – 20th May 2024 –
26th May 2024



There are so many people around the world who do not have access to fresh drinking water. Water is a vital source for all life on this planet and this week is a national initiative dedicated to bringing awareness and promoting ways in which we can save it.

National Children’s Gardening Week – 25th May 2024
– 2nd June 2024



This is a great way to celebrate and encourage the enjoyment gardening hold for our children. Kids aren’t afraid of getting their hands dirty and it’s a great way to teach the next generation about the importance of gardening. You don’t need to have a large space for gardening, it can be about maintaining school gardens, gardens in our local communities or in your local park.

This is one of the sustainability events that is popular up and down the country with a view to make our environment a better place.

A Rocha UK’s Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar

MAY Say no to the mow. Mowing your lawn less and letting parts grow long saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact on wildlife, wait to mow your lawn or a section of it until August to support even more animals/insects.

The rewilding plan turning churchyards into ‘living sanctuaries’

How can we encourage new life in our churchyards this year?

The Bishop of Norwich, the Right Revd Graham Usher, recently called for “land action plans” to be developed to encourage and enhance biodiversity across the estates owned by the C of E. The bishop urged that churchyards should be rewilded to become “places for the living, not just the dead”.

With the C of E responsible for around 17,500 acres of churchyard alone (notwithstanding a further 70,000 acres of agricultural land owned by dioceses which is known as glebe land and is largely leased to tenant farmers), such a concerted push could have a dramatic impact on enhancing Britain’s biodiversity.

There is another reason that churchyards have the potential to be such an oasis of wildlife across the country. As consecrated ground, they have been largely spared the ravages of industrial farming and development which has decimated Britain’s flora and fauna elsewhere. Ancient trees have been left to grow and the earth left undisturbed for centuries.

Several national schemes exist to support the rewilding ambitions of church congregations. A charity called Caring For God’s Acre provides an action pack for those considering rewilding consecrated ground, while since 2016 the Christian charity A Rocha UK has offered an “eco church” accreditation.

Supporting people in trouble

Brothers and sisters, ...Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.
(Galatians 6 1-3)

I am always interfering, in situations where I should not. Sorry, but I do. It is probably because of the job I do, that I want to fix things. Christians naturally want to help others. Churches are loving communities, and we want to do the best for each other. Sometimes supporting others can be difficult. Some people are easy to help. They know what the problem is and what help they need.

Others are very demanding and always need help. They go from person to person asking for support and do not always follow advice. Then there are those who would never ask for help. They battle on and get exhausted and struggle on their own.

Probably the best helper is the person who can listen and not judge and guide the burdened to find their own answers. Often the person who is best at helping others is the one who has experienced life's ups and downs themselves. We can support others by:

- Listening and keeping confidences.
- Looking out for someone to make sure they are ok.
- Respecting their choices even if we do not agree.
- Praying to know what to say and when to be quiet.

St Paul reminds us that we should bear each other's burdens, and no-one is expected to carry some things by themselves. The law of Christ that Paul was referring to was the New Commandment Jesus gave... that we love one another.

So, I will carry on trying and sometimes failing to fix things. You never know, I might make things better one day!

David Pickup

Prayers for May

Lord, we continue to give thanks for Easter and the resurrection of your Son. Fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing you and walking in your ways. Help us to find happiness not only in things outside us, but in the depth of our hearts. May we experience the joy and happiness that come from walking with you each day.

As we turn our eyes towards Pentecost, strengthen us with your Holy Spirit that we might have the vision and the confidence to share your good news with all we meet. Father, at this time of the year our hearts seem to move so fast from focussing on Easter through Pentecost to Trinity Sunday.

We pray for peace in your world, please create in each one of us a love for that peace, not a peace that is absent from struggle, nor a peace that is blind to injustice but a peace that makes whole our world, which is so broken.

If you would like to join the Annual Magazine Prayer Rota, or even

by Jennie Jones

We remember those who struggle against injustice, for men and women who have to work so hard for peace in violent and oppressive societies, and for those where war and famine have robbed them of their homes, families, and friends. May they be filled with your strength and wisdom and grant that where the love of man has failed your divine compassion and love may heal. We pray too at this time for all who are seeking election to office in our communities, may the decisions they make be for the benefit of those they serve.

Lord, your world is broken in so many ways, in so many places. Please help us to bring your freedom and peace to broken people, whoever and wherever they are, so that all may get a taste of Heaven here on Earth.

Father, we love you, we worship and adore you
Glorify your name in all the earth
Amen

Just do a one off prayer, please get in touch with Helen Dawson.

The Story behind the Hymn – ‘Praise my Soul the King of Heaven’

*Praise my soul the King of heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.*

*Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.*

*Fatherlike, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.*

*Angels in the height, adore Him,
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space;
Praise Him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!*

By Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

This stately poetic paraphrase of Psalm 103 has been included in probably more solemn ceremonies than any other hymn in the English language. It was even chosen by Queen Elizabeth for her wedding to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947.

Henry Lyte had been a brilliant theological student at university in Dublin, with a gift for versifying. After graduation he moved to a tiny and remote parish in County Wexford to serve his curacy. It was here, when he was about 25, that Henry had a religious experience which would transform his life.

A close friend of his, another clergyman, had fallen ill, and was clearly dying. Henry went to visit him. The friend was not as distressed as Henry had imagined he would be. Instead, the friend confessed that he had been re-reading the New Testament, with an eye on eternity, and had made a great discovery. There was no need to rely on religious duties and formalities and good deeds to gain peace with God. Instead, we can trust completely in the mercy of Christ and His saving power.

Henry was sophisticated and had been very formal in his ministry. But this encounter with his friend's faith at death's very door, made him reconsider his faith. He wrote later that his dear friend 'who died happy in the thought that there was One who would atone for his delinquencies' made him 'study my Bible and preach in another manner than I had previously done'. And soon after this hymn appeared, in 1834.

Lyte rejoices in the majesty and wonder of the living God, who in turn loves us. He captures the measure of the Psalm in enduring lyrics, which combine time, eternity, God and man all swept up into one embrace. Its last verse summons all the created order to join in a great act of joyous praise – surely a preview of eternity!

The Truth of the Ascension

'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18,19). God's way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.' (Teresa of Avila).

Canon Paul Hardingham

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy & Joshua

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The '*shema*' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: '*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*' (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus' temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says Joshua: '*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*' (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua ('*The Lord saves*') is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Heb 4:1-11).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Reflecting Faith: the church as a building

Today's church buildings are rich and varied in their designs, sizes, materials, plans and groupings; from large cruciform churches to simple single room designs; from red brick to stone, and so on.

I wanted to look up some information about the fact that today's church buildings, although they may be 'modern', are usually built upon or very close to a previous church building. In other words, they stand quite literally in a long succession of church buildings.

However, on entering 'church building footprint' into the computer search engine, it responded in a related but unexpected, to me, way: *'The Energy Footprint Tool is a great way of monitoring your church building's carbon usage and energy efficiency.'*

A very real issue for today's world! - and one we are very conscious about when we enter the building on a Sunday morning to find, even with the heating turned on for a number of hours, that it is considerably cooler than our own centrally heated homes.

Whilst it is theologically wonderful to have high ceilings, we can see how future remodelling might well lower the ceilings, bring in the walls, and shrink the glassed areas.

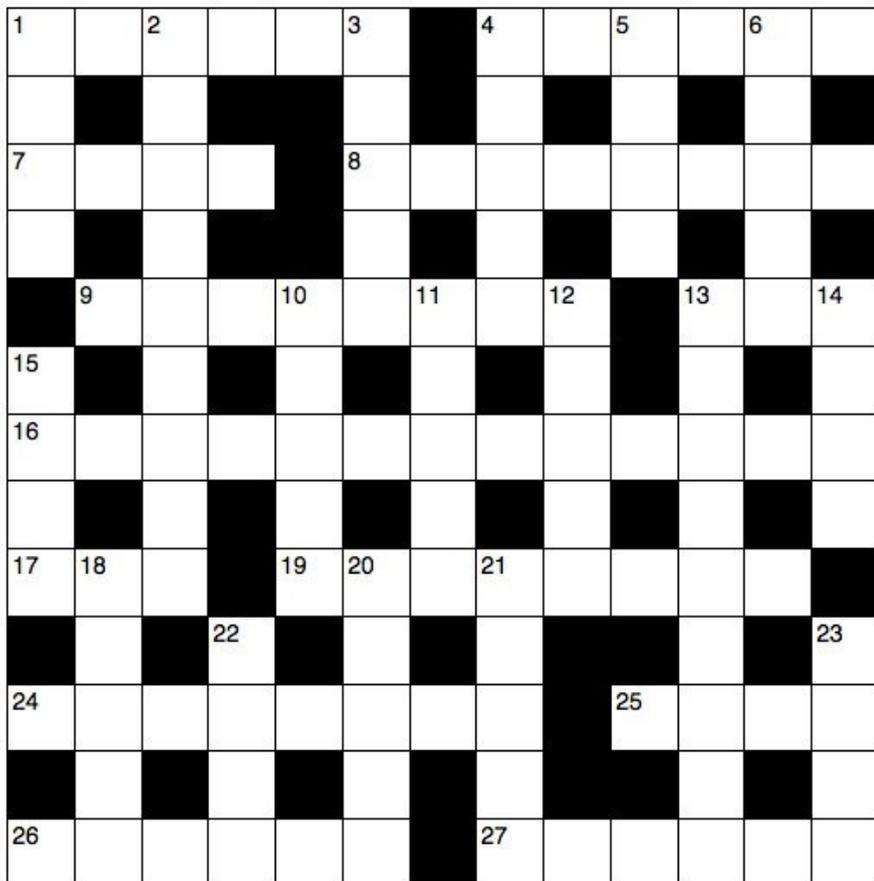
And so it has been through the ages – church buildings have constantly been amended.

When you look carefully at a church that is more than a few hundred years old, in any part of the world, you can trace the development of its use by its architecture. Perhaps you'll see a door or window bricked up or a new one opened. The widening of the nave by the addition of arches and one or more aisles. Change in stone or building materials as later technology was available or even a change in design as new techniques came into safe use.

This month:

Have a look at a couple of local churches and spot the changes in their buildings over the years. Why do you think they took place? What changes would you make and why?

The Revd Dr Jo White



Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)

- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

Bethany - Welcome



BETHANY

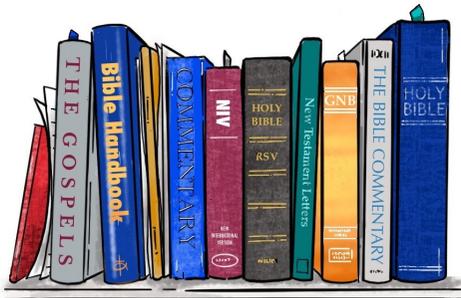
We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in St Mary's, Throckley at 1pm.

We will be observing some restrictions owing to the continuing Covid situation. As previously we will have a time of worship, an activity or quiz and there will be a cuppa with light refreshments.

ALL ARE WELCOME - we look forward to seeing friends old and new.

There is no charge - voluntary donations to cover expenses can be given.

Please contact Margaret Ledger on 0191 2672953 for more info if required



Noah's Ark Playgroup

Wednesday 10-11.30am
(school term time only)

Newburn Parish Hall

£1.50 per family,
Refreshments provided





Christian Aid Week – 12th – 18th May

Christian Aid is urging its supporters to “push back against poverty” this Christian Aid Week by bearing in mind the coming General Election. The charity says that “people hoping to represent us” in the next UK Parliament will soon be on our doorsteps, “vying for our vote”.

Christian Aid says that these would-be MPs will: “be in listening mode, keen to hear what makes the voters in their community tick.” And so, urges the charity, Christians can use this opportunity to “show them that your church cares about poverty, and tell them that you expect them to act on poverty too, if they are elected.”

This year the charity has launched the ‘70K Challenge for May’, encouraging its supporters to do a sponsored “Move 70km during May. Walk, run, cycle, however you move is up to you.”

Details at: <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk>

A 7 day Devotional booklet will be available in both our churches; please take and read about the work of Christian Aid in Burundi.

There will be a retiring collection on Sunday 12th and 19th May.

Poet's Corner

Barking Mad

I hastily applied lipstick and powder
But it made little difference to my looks.
I was really looking forward to this trip,
to Alnwick Station to Barter Books.
We arrived at 11.30 to find both carpark jam packed full.
Daughter Catherine dropped us off near the door
The rain was relentless, it continued to pour.
We were greeted at the entrance
By a man wearing jam jar specs.
He asked me 'have you not heard of the golden rule?',
Never, ever visit Barter Books when the kids
Are on holiday from school.
The place was overflowing with kids and dogs
There were dogs of every size and breed.
Please forgive my ignorance
I didn't know dogs could read.
I felt myself being jostled in all directions, I couldn't find a chair.
Then a feeling of nausea overtook me
I knew I had to get out of there.
Noisy children were eating junk food
Wet sticky fingers handling each chosen tome.
Feeling very fed up and miserable I wanted to go home.
There was a pungent wet smell
Coming from shaking wet mutts.
If I can find it, I'll make my way to the door
I'll make it my priority, no ifs or buts.
Coming here was a bad idea by far
Almost as bad as that hot summer day
When my daughter accidentally locked me in the car.
Panic stricken and afraid I was finding it hard to breathe.
I forced my way through smelly wet jackets,
Dripping brollies and trodden on toes.
I turned two sharp corners
And I thank God I found the exit.
I took a brief pause to straighten my clothes
One lone button was missing from my coat,
I hope it hadn't found a home in some dogs throat.
I squelched through the pools on the pavement
Knowing in my heart of hearts

I would never return here again,
Not for all the tea in China
And especially not in the increasing torrential rain.

A Nelson, 2024

May Bank Holidays

Who doesn't enjoy the fair month of May?
Not one day but two we can spend time away;
With workbags and satchels left under the bed
We sing as we pack up a picnic instead!

The sun in the sky and the wind in our hair
As we eat our lunch in the fresh open air;
The river chants secrets to daisies nearby
And birds sing their anthems beneath the blue sky.

Replete, we can take to our feet, or a bike
Instead of a schedule we can do what we like!
Catch up on a novel, or stroll 'neath the trees
Our laughter transported on warm summer breeze.

From two days of duty we are thus relieved
And so we should judge them a blessing received;
A pause in life's rhythm, a gift from above
To substitute stresses with laughter and love.

By Nigel Beeton



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The deadline for any inclusions for the magazine is

Two Sundays before the last Sunday of the month

Please either email or hand to Helen Dawson.
helenrdawson@yahoo.co.uk

If you have any questions or opinions about the magazine content and style, or would like to write an article please get in touch.

All feedback welcome.

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