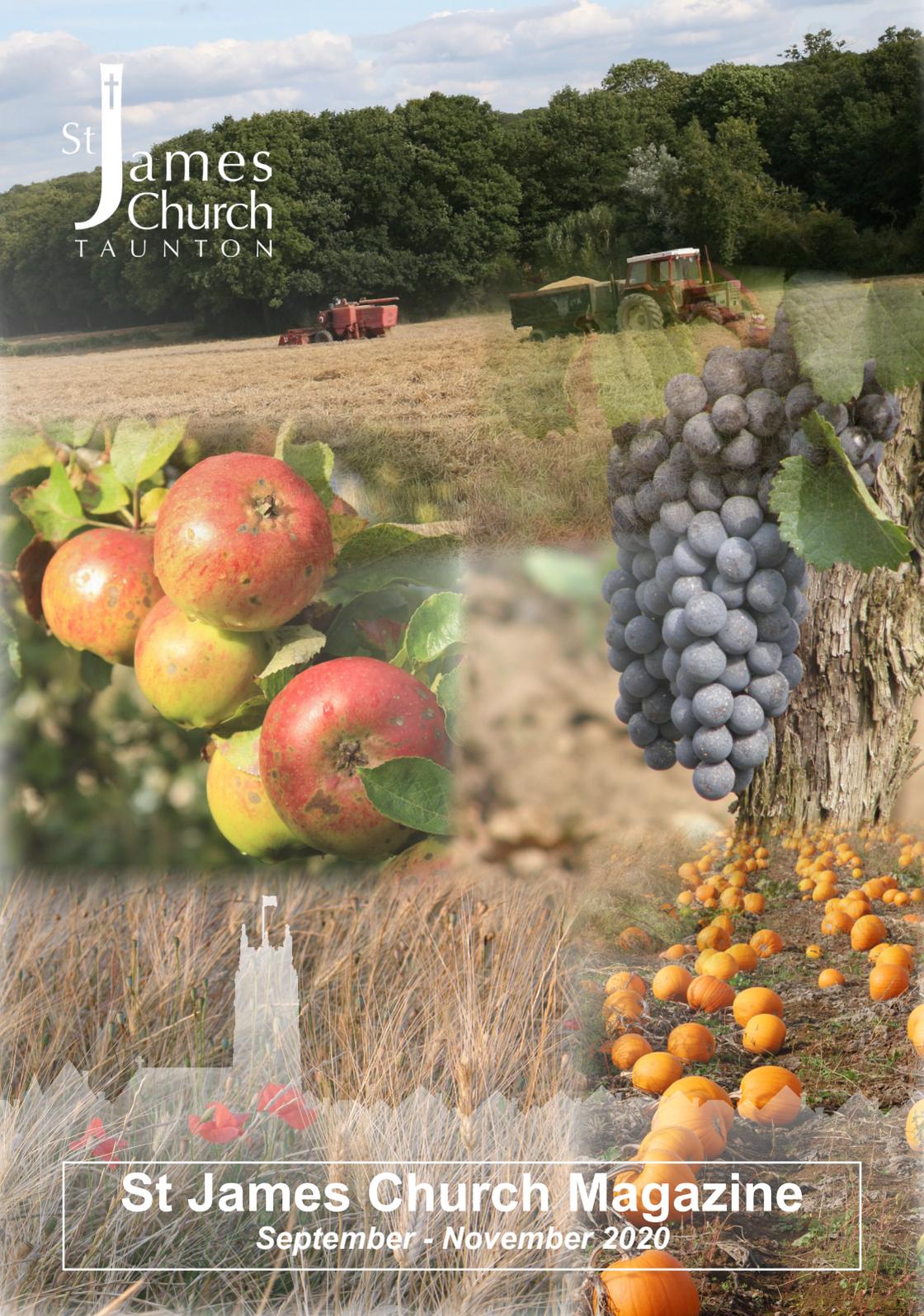


St James
Church
TAUNTON



St James Church Magazine
September - November 2020



Letter from the Vicar

Reverend Fabian Wuyts

Vicar of St James

How do we live in the present?

In his latest book *God and the Pandemic*, NT Wright writes, “The Church’s mission began with three things which have become very familiar to us...It began with tears; with locked doors; and with doubt.” With the reopening of church buildings across the country, how can the Church, and in particular St James, be a renewed sign of God’s good intentions towards a confused world?

Throughout this summer we looked at the well-known story of Joseph and how God sovereignly worked through the evils and injustices of the time to bring about a plan of salvation, not just for Joseph and his family, but for the whole of Egypt and its surrounding countries. By the time Joseph was ready to reveal



his identity to his brothers who had betrayed him and sold him into slavery, he was able to say to them, “Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.” (Gen. 45.5)

Joseph became God’s instrument of salvation for many. Similarly today, we need wise human leadership and initiative which will, like that of Joseph in Egypt, bring fresh and healing policies and actions across God’s wide and wounded world. So let us pray for an

outpouring of God's guidance on those who will make strategic decisions in the coming weeks and months, whether at a local level (church leaders, head teachers, councillors, etc), regional or national (bishops, MPs, ministers, etc).



Let us also learn to identify ourselves with the grief, the anxieties and the groaning of our injured world. We are called to be those who can take our place humbly among the mourners, those who have lost dear ones, lost jobs and incomes, lost confidence and even hope. Grief, after all, is part of love. Not to grieve, not to lament is to slam the door on a crucial aspect of what it means to love God's world. We urgently need to rediscover how to lament in our personal prayer life, as well in our communal, liturgical life.

Fabian

Awake! Why are you asleep, O
Lord?

Arise! Cast us not off forever!
Why do you hide your face,
forgetting our woe and our
oppression?

For our souls are bowed down to
the dust,
our bodies are pressed to the
earth.

(Psalm 44:24-26)

Many say, "Oh, that we might see
better times!"

O Lord, let the light of your
countenance shine upon us!
You put gladness into my heart,
more than when grain and wine
abound.

As soon as I lie down, I fall
peacefully asleep,
for you alone, O Lord, bring
security to my dwelling.

(Psalm 4:7-9)

Please also see Sue Doyle's article about Tearfund on page 10

Contents

Page 2	Letter from the Vicar
Page 6	Bishop Peter's letter
Page 8	Eco Church: Doughnut Economics
Page 10	Tearfund news
Page 11	Traidcraft news
Page 12	Focus on Mission
Page 14	Covid Lockdown
Page 16	Constant Yet Ever Changing
Page 18	Decending From Bicknoller Post
Page 20	Unprecedented Times
Page 22	School News
Page 24	Crossword
Page 26	Children's Pages
Page 28	www.stjamestaunton.org
Page 29	PCC news

*Thank you to all the contributors to this edition of the Magazine. If you have something to share for the December-February edition, do contact the Editor either directly or through the Church Office - details on page 36 - **deadline for copy is Monday 16 November 2020.***

You may know by now that Bishop Peter is receiving treatment for myeloid leukaemia. Both he and Bishop Ruth issued letters when this became public (see opposite). Bishop Peter's inspirational monthly letter is on page 6 together with a prayer offered by the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group. Please pray for Peter and his family.

Many of you also read the Diocesan magazine 'Manna'. Sadly this is to be discontinued but it will be replaced by a monthly publication sent by email. It will contain the Bishops' letters, the Diocesan Prayer Diary together with other additional stories. We shall let you know how you can access it in due course.

In this magazine, several articles revolve around Covid 19 and the effect it has had on our daily lives - but there are also many positives. See the notes from Andrew Wright and Freda Davis to see what they've been doing with this time.

*Once you've read the magazine, do feel free to give it to someone who otherwise might not get to see it. The magazine is also published online. Please let friends and neighbours know how they can access this and previous editions through the new St James' website: **www.stjamestaunton.org***

Chris Doyle - St James' Parish Magazine Editor



3 August 2020

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This has been a challenging year for all of us and the Coronavirus has meant that many of the things we had planned for this year have either had to change or have been put on hold. So, despite the beginnings of an easing of lockdown, things remain difficult for many people going forward.

I am writing now to inform you that I too am facing a challenging few months. I have not been entirely well in recent weeks and on Friday I was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. I am really grateful to the doctors who I have been seeing and for the speed in which treatment is to be provided. The hope is that I will be admitted for a first course of chemotherapy this week and I am likely to be in hospital for about a month.

I have today informed my colleagues on the Bishops' Staff and I am confident that everything in the diocese will continue to run smoothly whilst I step back for a while. Jane and I have a wonderful family who have been very supportive, and we are grateful to all our family and friends for their support, encouragement and prayers. I shall continue to pray for you all and would be grateful for your prayers.

I may not be able to respond to people for a while, however, if you want to write to me perhaps you could send it via Andrea, my PA at bishop@bathwells.org.uk or lican.org who will pass on greetings and messages.

The psalm at Morning Prayer today had the words 'The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts'. As I put my trust in the hospital staff, who I know will provide me with the most wonderful care, I am also trusting in the Lord, knowing that he too will watch over me in the days ahead.

With my warmest best wishes and with my prayers

+ Peter Bath and Wells

Dear Friends and Colleagues

I realise the news of +Peter's illness will come as a shock to us all and I know you will want to join me in sending him, Jane and the family our love and the commitment to pray for him daily. We trust in the God who holds him in the palm of His hand and whose love is unquenchable.

Many of you will be aware that I was planning a 3 month study leave to begin in August, however I will be deferring this for now. I will be having some family time this month as we have a new grandchild expected any day now but I will be attending to any urgent matters during the next couple of weeks and will be fully back from the beginning of September.

May +Peter and all of us know the peace of God which passes all understanding and may it keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge of His love, for each of us, daily.

Every blessing

+ Peter Tantalos



DIOCESE OF **Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.



Letter from
the Right Reverend Peter Hancock,
Bishop of Bath and Wells

I am writing this whilst receiving treatment in hospital, although by the time you read this, I hope that I may be back home having completed my first course of chemotherapy. The first thing I want to say, and I am sure this is echoed by so many, is what wonderful treatment and care I have received from everyone in the hospital. Their kindness, concern and professionalism are beyond words.

What is an unusual experience for me however, is that I have not been allowed to leave my room and the doors and windows have been kept firmly shut. Looking out of my window and craning my neck upwards I am just able to get a glimpse of the sky outside. Without that I would not know whether it was sunny or cloudy or raining outside. Not that I am in any way complaining. I am safe and receiving the best care imaginable. It is also important whatever may happen to keep a sense of proportion. I vividly recall hearing Terry Waite speak when he came to the diocese on one occasion. It is unimaginable what he went through in those 1763 days in Beirut – the first four years of which were spent in solitary confinement, blindfolded, in a basement room with no windows, with no books or papers, chained to a radiator and sleeping on the floor. His courage and faith are remarkable and have inspired so many people since. I remember him once being interviewed and being asked what the happiest moment of

his life was, one that he would cherish forever. He replied: ‘When my blindfold was taken off during my release in November 1991. I’d been in the dark – in a basement or blindfolded - for years. For the first time in five years I saw the sky, the grass, the colours, and I felt the wind on my face.’

Terry Waite is also very clear about how the prayers of so many others supported him through those years. As I write I am also very aware of all the prayers that have and are being said for me. That is both humbling and encouraging and once I am getting out and about again, I look forward to being able to thank you personally.

With my thanks, best wishes and prayers for you,

Bishop Peter

The Right Revd Peter Hancock

Bishop of Bath and Wells

As Bishop Peter begins his treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukaemia, the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group offer the prayer below, starting with the words from Psalm 28 that Bishop Peter quoted as he shared the news of his illness. There is both peace and power in praying together – praying with and for each other and offering our hopes and fears to the God who we believe is present in all things.

O Lord, you are our strength and our shield.

Your love sustains us through all the challenges we face.

We place into your hands all who are facing challenges,

In this time of such uncertainty.

We hold before you all who are dear to us.

Particularly we pray for our Bishop, Peter,

His family and friends and all who love him,

As they face these coming months.

May they know your strength and protection,

Your healing and your love,

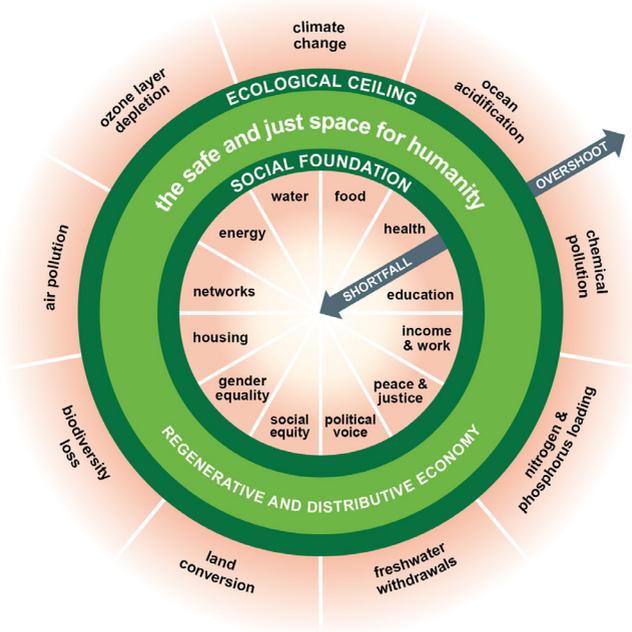
In the name of Jesus,

And in the power of the Holy Spirit,

Amen

It's nothing to do with fast food. Last year I was fortunate to hear Kate Raworth give the opening talk at the Geographic Association conference, outlining her idea of doughnut economics.

In short, this describes the 'safe space' between, on the one hand, overexploiting the planet and, on the other, failing to provide sufficiently for its inhabitants. Between the two lies a safe and just space for all. The approach, Raworth believes, can act as a compass for human progress this century.



While not at all 'religious', it does represent one of the very few cogent and consistent approaches to help us think through the actions needed for us to fulfil three of the church's marks of mission which call us to:

"Respond to human need by loving service."

"Seek to transform unjust structures of society..."

"Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth."

The 'doughnut' approach, Raworth maintains is what happens if you step back and think about what economics ought to be, as our greatest challenge is to:

“ensure that no one falls short on life’s essentials (from food and housing to healthcare and political voice), while ensuring that collectively we do not overshoot our pressure on Earth’s life-supporting systems, on which we fundamentally depend – such as a stable climate, fertile soils, and a protective ozone layer.”

Looking in more detail at the components of each 'side' of the doughnut, the social foundations are inspired by the social aims of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, while the nine ecological ceilings are from the planetary boundaries put forward by a group of Earth-system scientists led by Johan Rockström and Will Steffen. Sadly, as a global society, we're failing in most of them already.¹

So, what can we do? Too easily we may conclude that it's all too big for one person to affect, but just as (proverbially) even the longest journey begins with a single step, so the largest issue can be overcome one piece at a time. There are changes we can all take ourselves – as a start, you might want to reread the Going Green article from the March magazine. And to mine a second cliché, let's think about how we can spread ripples of a better approach and understanding, to those we talk to or encounter online.

Finally, in the church's calendar, we are soon entering the Season of Creation so a good time to look for opportunities to reflect on God as creator and sustainer of all life (<https://seasonofcreation.org>).

Richard Carpenter

¹ For further information, you could look at:

<https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/>

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/safe-and-just-space-humanity> which has a link to the original paper to download.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_\(economic_model\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_(economic_model))

or read the book (Doughnut Economics; Kate Raworth, ISBN: 9781847941398)

I receive Tearfund weekly updates and prayer requests, and last week found this prayer with an article titled 'Good Grief: Relearning Lamentation'. It asked what do we do when everything seems to be falling apart and issues seem too big to face?

Quite often our public and private prayers can be polite, giving thanks, joyful. But, as shown by the Psalmists, God can take all the impolite, angry and distressed prayers as well. I find it a great comfort to pour out my heart to God when needed, bringing my sorrow, confusion and anger, and know that He hears and will answer in His time. These authentic, honest prayers 'expose our wounds, both personal and societal' and allow 'heaven's light (to) begin to fill them'.

Sue Doyle

Let us lament

Our God, the God who suffered, the God who wept, and who weeps,
How long before you answer our cries?

The world is not as it should be, injustice is everywhere. It feels like there
is nothing we can do.
How long before you can ease our sorrow?

A pandemic rages across the Earth. People feel tired, trapped and alone.
Many are grieving.
How long before you heal this pain?

The world groans beneath the weight of greed. Governments fail to serve
the vulnerable. Not enough is being done to protect creation.
How long before you respond to this anger?

You are good and just, you take the side of the oppressed. So do not
delay, Lord – hurry to help those in need.
Amen

Sue is our Tearfund representative. See the Tearfund website - tearfund.org - for any further information about Tearfund and its work around the world



Since February some of St James' members have been continuing to order various amounts of items/food and I have been most happy to oblige. I have been able to continue to order whenever I wish - and thanks to the lovely Alex Dickinson, who has provided access to the cupboard!

'Traidcraft are passionate about trade, social and environmental justice. We're the original fair trade pioneers in the UK, and advocate the importance of organic farming, sustainability and transparency to the lives of growers and artisans around the world'

Some of us were hoping to have our gardens open to church members and invited guests to promote fair trade drinks and refreshments. This has not yet been possible but I will be hoping to celebrate the work of Traidcraft's products at a suitable time. Meanwhile I continue to be available to take orders and deliver as and when necessary. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes
Freda Davis

fredadavis@hotmail.co.uk
01823 278347 to leave a message



...MISSION

During the Covid Emergency period we have provided monthly information about the Missions we support, both in the Bulletin and online on the St James' Facebook page. We shall continue doing this during the pandemic period. This autumn we are focusing on the following three organisations.

Samaritan's Purse

St James has supported the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box appeal for many years and despite the Covid Emergency, as far as we know, this is still going ahead offering the opportunity to send Shoeboxes or donations to children with a message of God's love.



The wider focus of Samaritan's Purse is to provide relief to those countries affected by all different types and dimensions of need. These include water, family and livelihood programmes, disaster relief and women at risk issues. More Information can be found on the Samaritan's Purse UK website - <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>.

Covid 19 has produced additional challenges and their relief work has included the provision of PPE and training of health care workers in the Sudan, where there have already been 700 deaths and limited medical infrastructure. In the UK they also obtained significant PPE and masks to distribute to care homes and key workers.

Following the recent explosion in Beirut, a 14-member Disaster Assistance Response Team and 26 tonnes of desperately needed relief supplies arrived in Lebanon. The cargo included thousands of hygiene kits, solar lights, and hundreds of rolls of heavy-duty tarp material to make emergency repairs to homes and churches.

These are just some examples of the God-inspired work in which Samaritan's Purse is involved.

Open Door

In October our focus will be on Open Door, the charity which serves the homeless and roofless in Taunton; people who, for a variety of reasons, do not have the security of a home. Under normal circumstances it is open every morning in the week up to lunch time and provides meals, clothing, washing and laundry facilities as well as friendship and support for those who come. But these are not normal times and during the Covid pandemic arrangements have been made for the homeless to be accommodated at Canonsgrove. This is a joint initiative coordinated by the YMCA Dulverton group and involving the Salvation Army and Open Door, who are providing cooked meals made in the Open Door premises.



In the meantime Open Door are undertaking a number of essential projects to prepare them for the return to their normal operations. Watch this space!!

For more details about Open Door, do look at their website or talk with Jonathan Sladden, their chairperson, or Susie Peeler who has been volunteering there - <https://www.tauntonopendoor.org.uk/>

Home for Good

We focus on HfG in November, which normally coincides with Adoption Sunday. Home for Good was founded by Krish Kandiah, himself a foster carer and adopter, to promote the importance of fostering and adoption, inform churches how they can support foster carers and adopters in their congregations, and actively encourages Christians to consider if they could provide a permanent home for a child.



There is a vast need for both foster parents and adopters to meet the spiralling numbers of children in care and those waiting for adoption, even more so during these times of the Covid pandemic where more relief and emergency carers are needed. Fostering services need to recruit over 8,000 new carers this year to meet needs, improve choices and reduce waiting lists for children awaiting adoption. All children and young people should be able to grow up in the family and setting that is right for them.

For more details have a look at their website or speak to Sheila Marlow, HfG Champion and former foster carer - <https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/>

Jenny Wakefield



COVID LOCKDOWN

Covid 19 has changed our lives in many different ways over the past six months or so. During 'lockdown' many have been confined to their homes while others have ventured out only tentatively. People have worked from home and loo rolls have been (for a time) in short supply! While some people have found it a difficult time, many have taken the opportunity to sort their photos into albums (real or digitally), learn a new language or start painting. A couple of our church members share some of the activities they have taken time to indulge in...

Andrew Wright, amongst other things, did the following...

On the rainy days in April /May when 'camp fever' was at its height I started trying to find houses that were on the Grand Designs programme. I focused on the country ones as they are easier to find on Google Maps.

I was successful in finding examples in Sheffield, Oughtibridge, Winsham Byre. There was a water tower in Lymm and another in South London, a manor house hand crafted in wood, and a 'Nautilus House' in the Blackdowns. There was a cob house in Ottery, cliff houses in Criccieth and Croyde (that one was unfinished!) and a conversion of the Fearn Airfield control tower.

Sadly I couldn't find a Japan Larch house near Tintern, a hill top house on the Clyde estuary, nor a wooden house round a tree in the Fens.

I was surprised to find a Ditton Priors water tower - I knew the site but not that it was on Grand Designs!

Freda Davis also reflected on life these last 6 months!

I have appreciated the time to explore new places to walk, in and around Taunton. My husband and I enjoyed the time to find new pathways and nature reserves on both the Quantocks and the Blackdown Hills. There really was NO excuse to say, 'Another day' - maybe!

Our hair started as a joke that just went on and on. After a very dubious attempt at trimming each other's hair and my daughter also joining in sometime in July, we were both SO grateful to see our hairdresser again a couple of weeks ago!

We clapped every Thursday and become pleased to say a few words to many of our neighbours (at a suitable distance!) that we had never spoken to before!

We thanked people for keeping their distance and said a few words to many along our way in to town and back home.

Not using the car meant we didn't fill the tank up for 4 months!

Being thankful for the ability to keep in close contact with family using modern technology. Whilst missing out on the chance to see our family in Colorado, we spoke to them for even longer during our Skype calls.

Seeing how the different Christian Organisations around the world have been able to worship has, to me, been most reassuring. They have embraced the potential to reach a much wider audience.

To watch services from different continents where church leaders have often spoken in 2 languages has been amazing! The Gospel message which they preached has been the same. I am therefore grateful for the closeness with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Until we meet again!

Freda also found this poem on GODTV.COM

'Has been a stressful year.

We've been placed in situations we didn't ask for.

We've experienced hardships we never imagined, and seen things we never thought we would.

BUT, we've learned God will never leave us.

We are only here through His mercy and grace and I am a believer that HE will bring us through.'

What have you been able to take from this time? What have you missed? Have you found the time to be an opportunity? We are so grateful to the members of our emergency services, for the care and sacrifices they have made. Please continue to support them in prayer. We are also really grateful to all who have been involved in putting together St James' online services, updating our website and keeping in contact with our younger members.

Constant Yet Ever Changing

Some years ago I wrote a piece for the magazine of the church we attended (Kenilworth Methodist) entitled 'Constant Yet Ever Changing' which was a reflection on the view from the house in France Geoff and I have owned for the past 10 years, God's love for me, his people and the world in which we live. Since then I have quoted that phrase on a number of occasions and once again it seems appropriate to write on that theme.

In 2018 Geoff and I moved to Taunton and through a conversation with someone from Kenilworth Methodist Church (Nic Tall's mother) we started our search for a new church by visiting St James' – we have not looked elsewhere in the intervening two years as we very soon felt God had directed us to the right place. His love for us, our desire to worship Him... **constant yet ever changing.**

As I write we are once again in France enjoying the view from our terrace across a mainly green valley to the horizon some 10+ miles to the west. During the course of each day the light on the valley changes what is focussed.



Sometimes there is mist which hangs between different wooded areas giving a sense of many valleys, sometimes there is rain sweeping across the valley towards us and maybe an arcing rainbow afterwards.

Occasionally there are thunderstorms with dramatic lightning shows we sit and watch from the safety of an upper balcony, sometimes there are silver streaks of passing planes shining in the clear blue sky and then the sun sets to the right hand side of our view,





dipping slowly behind distant trees and leaving a wonderful golden afterglow. During the course of the seasons the position of the setting sun changes until in late autumn it will be straight ahead and its disappearance over in a matter of seconds rather than the minutes we enjoy now. The sun rises and sets each day and it is constant

yet ever changing in its position and its timing. The weather conditions are constant yet ever changing. The night sky is equally enthralling with the moon in its different phases and positions, the stars, planets and space station often clear and identifiable even to a relative novice like me... **constant yet ever changing.**



We are hoping to pass on the ownership/custodianship of our house to someone new, that they may enjoy life in a new place while we will look to the next chapter of our lives. This year has, in so many ways, thrown light on not only who we cherish but what we cherish; and as the next months and years unfold we feel we must adapt to and accept the 'new norm'. Whatever form that may take, there is one thing of which I am certain - our God is ever constant and ever changing. May we continue to honour and trust in Him each day between sunrise and sunset, between moonrise and moonset - may my faith be ever constant and may the way I live that faith be ever changing. Amen

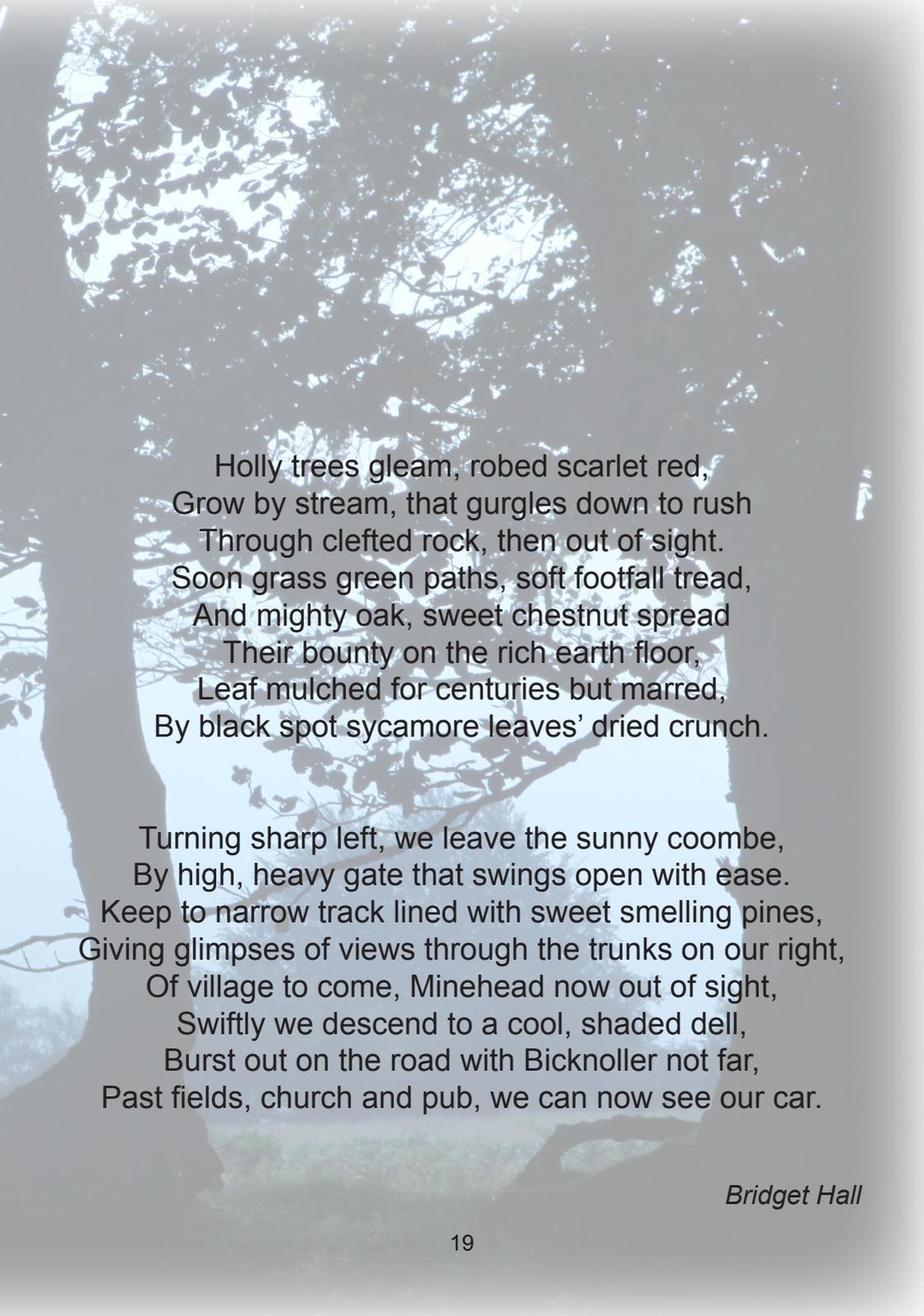
Fiona Hope

Descending from Bicknoller Post

This is one of our favourite walks on the Quantocks. On a fine autumn day we walked up Bicknoller Coombe to Bicknoller Post and down the path through Wea Coombe that leads back to Bicknoller. Many of you will probably know this walk and be aware of the marked contrast between the stark vegetation on the top ridge and the lush, verdant growth further down.

The wind torn ridge spawns spider tracks,
Stone caked, running down steep sided coombes.
Our path turns close to hawthorn trees, leaf bare,
Spread sparsely, wizened, shrunken, hunched.
Claw clenched against years of wind and rain,
Bent branched, grey filmed in lichen's hair.
Sharp points of dark red berries thrust
To show life pulses still, through twisted trunk.

A buzzard slides across blue, blue sky,
With plaintive 'pee-uu' and deadly eye.
Small birds chitter, flit, bob and trill,
Scold and warn of the danger on high.
Sheep are blobbed, wool white on the far hill.
Thick bracken, rusted brown, damp clumped
Reveals staring forms of deer, so still,
Following every move and breath we take.



Holly trees gleam, robed scarlet red,
Grow by stream, that gurgles down to rush
Through clefted rock, then out of sight.
Soon grass green paths, soft footfall tread,
And mighty oak, sweet chestnut spread
Their bounty on the rich earth floor,
Leaf mulched for centuries but marred,
By black spot sycamore leaves' dried crunch.

Turning sharp left, we leave the sunny coombe,
By high, heavy gate that swings open with ease.
Keep to narrow track lined with sweet smelling pines,
Giving glimpses of views through the trunks on our right,
Of village to come, Minehead now out of sight,
Swiftly we descend to a cool, shaded dell,
Burst out on the road with Bicknoller not far,
Past fields, church and pub, we can now see our car.

Bridget Hall

Unprecedented Times

Unprecedented! It's a word that we have become accustomed to as we travel through the 2020 Pandemic. As far as I can see, the international closure of churches' services deserves the adjective. Although churches were closed during the 16th and 17th Century in Italy; social distancing was in place in the reign of Henry VIII to combat the spread of infection, during the Black Death the village of Eyam was shut off in order to contain the plague, and in America during the 20th Century Spanish Flu caused churches there to close. Repeated epidemics continued to come and go, but wholesale, world wide closure of churches and society doesn't seem to have happened in quite the same way as now.



So when the churches were re-opened in England, in June for private prayer and in July for public worship, it was an historic occasion. Our chapel was open in June for private prayer, and entry was through the south east door (From St James' Street), which has only been used for school services and as a fire exit in the last 40 plus years.

St James opened its doors for public worship on 26th July. It was probably a bit of a shock for those coming to see the church set out in socially distanced pattern, tidied of any extraneous literature. Perhaps the biggest shock was to be



greeted by a masked welcomer, a new ritual of anointing by sanitising gel, track and trace details taken and the service delivered by a masked or visored vicar. This was all in accordance with guidance from the Church of England in order to ensure those attending should be safe.



Strangely the unusual soon becomes the usual and, as the weeks go on, I suspect we will become more accustomed to these new arrangements.



What is more amazing is that however much we marvel at the uniqueness of these times, we have an unprecedented God and Saviour who understands all the quirks and changes of history. Whether we worship him in a socially distanced building, on the internet, in the quiet of our own home or on a mountain top – He remains the same, “Yesterday, today and forever.” Hebrews ch 13 v 8.

Although our church family is dispersed at the moment, let us pray that our faithful God will show us how to adapt to the new normal, and enable us to share his love with our friends, neighbours, work colleagues and each other.

Jenny Wakefield



To ponder - If all the college students who slept in class were placed end to end, they would be much more comfortable. – Anon

St James Church School News



BATH & WELLS
Multi Academy Trust

'That they may have life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10



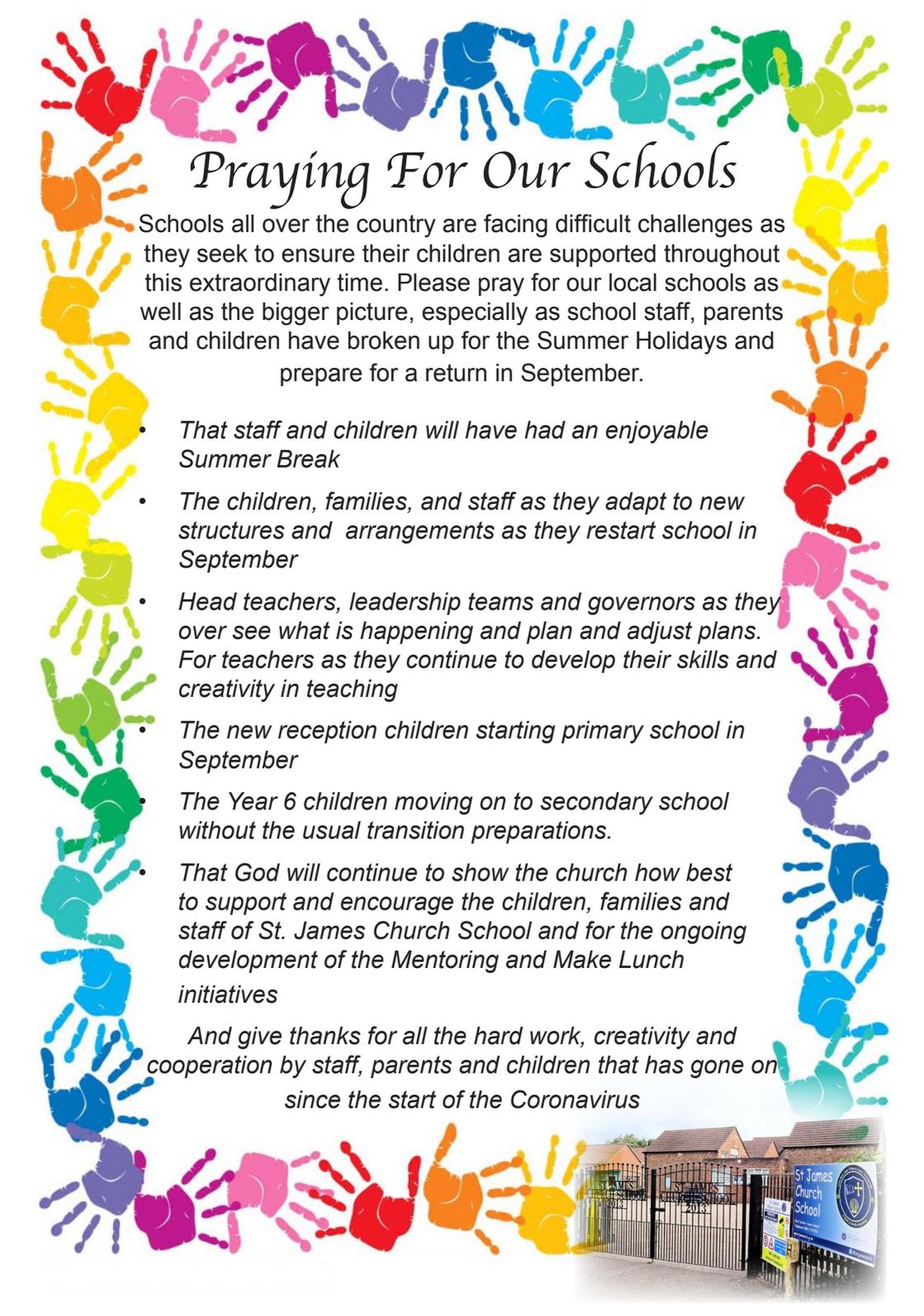
What do the words plethora, prolific, pertinacious, confidant, optimistic, accomplish, have in common? Well, apart from being interesting words, they are the 'Words for the Week' in the Summer Term Weekly Newsletters, the challenge being for the children to use them.

The last four months have been incredibly challenging ones for our church school, and all the schools in Taunton, both for the staff and children. And let's not forget the parents and carers who have been on a roller coaster of learning and adaptability as the schools were closed down, opened up for home learning and gradually and incrementally re-opened up for phased re-entry for certain year groups. Many of you reading this as parents and grandparents will know the story at first hand. The St James Chatterbox newsletters are filled with examples of how the school has kept learning and communication alive and how the children have responded to the challenge. Do have a look at the website - <https://www.stjamesch.co.uk/> - the newsletters can be found there and there is also a fantastic virtual art exhibition by pupils and staff that will give you joy - <https://st-james-church.primarysite.media/media/the-art-exhibition-2020>.

For those of us who would normally go into the school for Xplore, TLG mentoring and reading, it has been strange hearing about things at second hand. It has been a privilege partnering with the school in other ways – David doing remote mentoring, Ethos meeting by zoom and of course the food parcel distribution that would normally go out from the school.

We don't know what the Autumn term will bring, although hopefully it will be the school swinging back into action with a renewed vibrancy and enthusiasm after the summer break.

Do continue to pray for all concerned and for continued development of our partnership with school, sharing their 'Vision for the Future'.



Praying For Our Schools

Schools all over the country are facing difficult challenges as they seek to ensure their children are supported throughout this extraordinary time. Please pray for our local schools as well as the bigger picture, especially as school staff, parents and children have broken up for the Summer Holidays and prepare for a return in September.

- *That staff and children will have had an enjoyable Summer Break*
- *The children, families, and staff as they adapt to new structures and arrangements as they restart school in September*
- *Head teachers, leadership teams and governors as they over see what is happening and plan and adjust plans. For teachers as they continue to develop their skills and creativity in teaching*
- *The new reception children starting primary school in September*
- *The Year 6 children moving on to secondary school without the usual transition preparations.*
- *That God will continue to show the church how best to support and encourage the children, families and staff of St. James Church School and for the ongoing development of the Mentoring and Make Lunch initiatives*

And give thanks for all the hard work, creativity and cooperation by staff, parents and children that has gone on since the start of the Coronavirus



Children's Pages

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

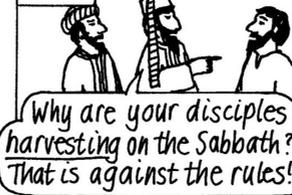
It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



The Pharisees said to Jesus



But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath*



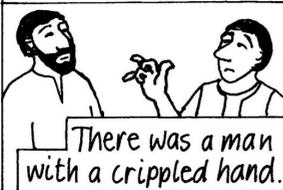
Don't you understand when God says 'keeping rules' doesn't make up for not having kindness'?*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out!



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath

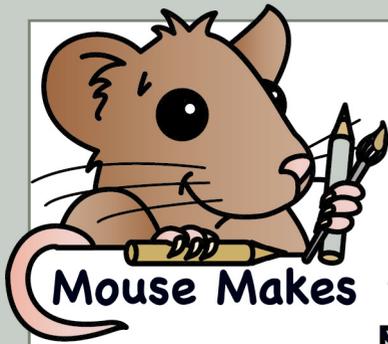


Hold out your hand.



The Pharisees left and made plans.





The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

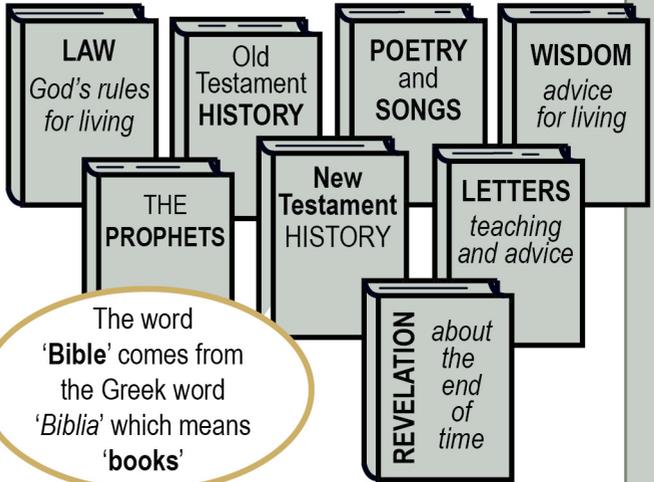
There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K
 R I O S I L G
 O G O N S W O
 P H K E D O L
 H T S W O R D
 E R L T M D O
 T E A E G O D
 S V W S E E D
 L E T T E R S
 T L W A N L O
 H A M M E R N
 O T I E H I G
 N I R N I R S
 E O R T S A B
 Y N O R T I I
 F I R E O N B
 P O E T R Y L
 F O O D Y O E



The word 'Bible' comes from the Greek word 'Biblia' which means 'books'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:



Mirror
James 1:23



Food
Hebrews 5:12- 6:1



Honey and Gold
Psalm 19:10



Light
Psalm 119:105



Rain
Isaiah 55:10-12



Seed
Mark 4:14



Living Word
Hebrews 4:12



Hammer
Jeremiah 23:29



Fire
Jeremiah 20:9



Sword
Ephesians 6:17

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

Crossword

Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

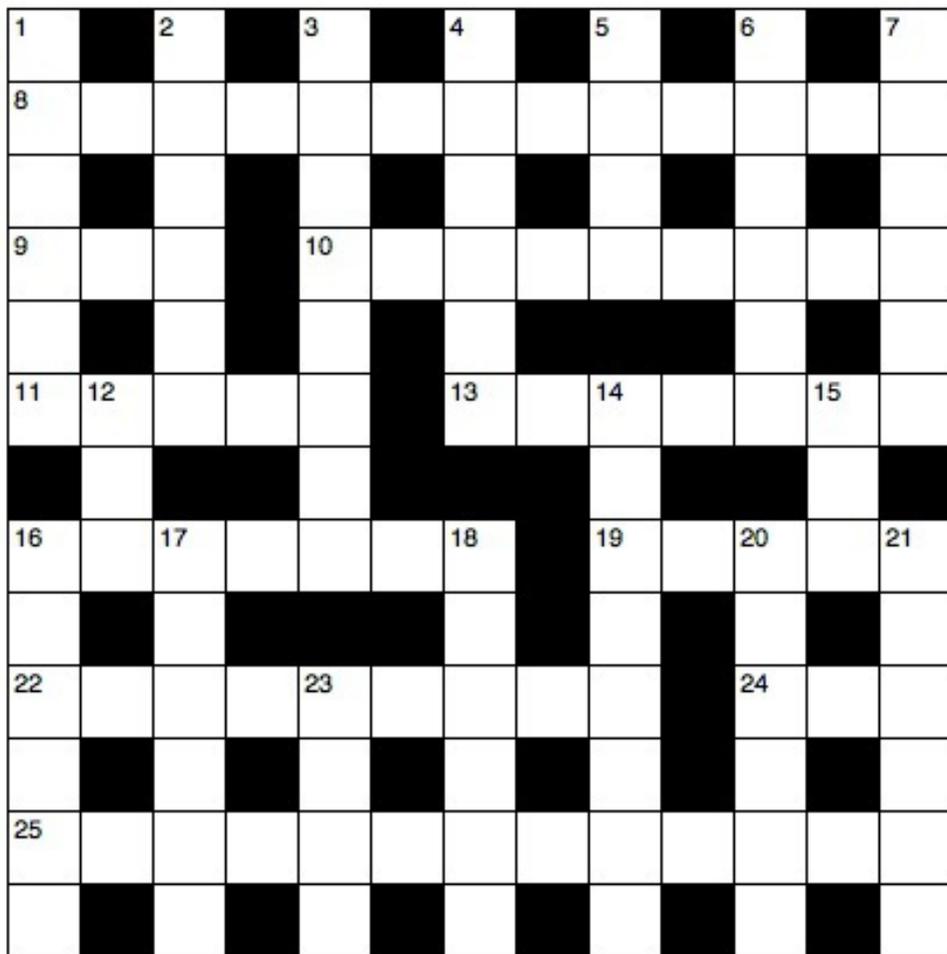
Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
2 See 24 Across
3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
17 Braved (anag.) (6)
18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)

20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight'
(Isaiah 5:21) (6)

21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of
God' (Romans 8:39) (6)

23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)



ACROSS: 8, Kirith Jearim, 9, Toe, 10, Ill at ease, 11, Hated, 13, Milletus, 16, Started, 19, Micah, 22, Leviticus, 24, Eli, 25, Mary and Joseph.
DOWN: 1, Sketch, 2, Priest, 3, Samizdat, 4, Shalom, 5, Wept, 6, Breast, 7, Embers, 12, Art, 14, Limassol, 15, UNA, 16, Salome, 17, Adverb, 18, Decade, 20, Clever, 21, Height, 23, Tear.

ANSWERS



During 'lockdown' the church has moved out of the building to being a 'virtual church'. Online events have taken the place of our usual Sunday and weekday services (although as mentioned elsewhere in the magazine, the church is now open again for some services) together with children's activities. Instead of coffee and tea after church, Zoom has catered for our social as well as administrative meetings like PCC and planning.

So how does one access these activities, essential services and news? Well, the new St James' website is the new 'first stop' at -

www.stjamestaunton.org

There are links to the weekly online services through our Facebook and YouTube channels as well as information about regular activities such as Home Groups, the Art Group, Praise and Play and many more. Under the Resources tab there are links to numerous Bible study courses, Bible reading notes and prayer material. You can find past copies of the Bulletin and if you look under the Explore tab, there's even a copy of this and past editions of the magazine!

So why not take a look and recommend it to your friends and neighbours? Even when we are back to normal (whatever that will be in the future!), the website will still be a good source of information and help. Thank you to all who have been involved in setting it up and maintaining it.

What has the PCC been discussing recently...?

Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in June and July (via Zoom videoconferencing).

Coronavirus crisis review

Annual Meeting

At the time of writing, we do not know when we will be able to hold the annual meeting, with the period for doing so still extended to 31 October. As presently laid out for social distancing, we could fit into the church only half the number of people who normally attend.

Grants

A donation of £500 was made to Tear Fund for their provision of support and essential items to communities worldwide during the pandemic.

Situation at the June meeting

Fabian Wuyts presented an overview of the situation, together with contingency plans should specific individuals contract the virus.

Looking forward, the PCC recognised that we could not sustain both pre-lockdown and new activities together. Nevertheless, working online has shown the opportunities to continue and develop these new ministries. Working online also helps us to break away from building-centred thinking, while recognising that meeting together in person is invaluable. We should not automatically restart activities in their old format without assessing if there are better ways of meeting the same needs.

Situation at the July meeting

The Side Chapel was reopened for private prayer from 29 June, with sessions initially staffed by two welcomers. The arrangements were fully documented using the 8 June CofE Risk Assessment.

The PCC reviewed the arrangements for resuming services. Given the time needed for this, especially setting up a booking system, it was decided to resume services on Sunday 26 July. The arrangements were fully documented using the 1 July CofE Risk Assessment.

Children and Young People

The PCC considered the question, "How can we best accommodate our families when our services are initially going to be so different?" Available guidance indicates that in-building activities would probably not be restarted before September and refers to activities being organised for 'bubbles' of up

15 children. A diocesan Zoom meeting noted that it was still unclear what would be permitted by then.

The lockdown had interrupted the recruitment of a Children and Families Worker to take on the oversight of this area. Furthermore, Hilary Hayes had stepped down after her extended interim appointment as Sunday C&YP coordinator. Vashti Wuyts, the mid-week coordinator, has been asked to take overall responsibility. Over the holidays, Vashti will 'challenge' families to organise events such as picnics, meeting in parks, walks or meeting in gardens.

Safeguarding

Jenny Wakefield presented the annual safeguarding report. 81 people have completed safer recruitment procedures requiring references and DBS checks. Tailored packs have been developed for the different teams in the church, including numerous other roles where DBS checks are not needed. Training continues, but there are still 20 people who should do the 'C0' course, 4 for 'C1' and 6 for 'C2'.

New roles have arisen during the Covid-19 crisis, mainly online extensions of existing posts, but also including a Community Response Group for which new job descriptions have been prepared.

Finances

Monthly hall hire and cash collection income is down by around £1500, but stewardship is holding up well. If the present situation continues, we could see most of the risk element of our reserves being used up. This is in addition to the budgeted deficit.

An online donations facility is now available on the church website.

Miscellaneous Matters

Our membership of the Evangelical Alliance is currently suspended, pending a careful review of the issues involved, ideally when the PCC can meet in person. Anyone worried about the matter should speak to Fabian.

The annual policy review cycle continues. In this period, the PCC reviewed the Data Protection Policy and the associated Data Catalogue.

Martin Wakefield

Current PCC Members

A reminder of the current members of the Parochial Church Council
If you'd like to raise any issues with the PCC or find out more about what
the Council does, do talk to any of these people



Rev Fabian Wuyts



*Church Wardens
Steve Bradford and Ruth Stevens*



*Associate Warden
Joyce Kirk*



Richard Carpenter



Ruth Dunn



Roger Fenton



Jamie Fox



Jamie Haddell



Lizzie Haddell



Sue Lucas



Sheila Marlow



Ruth Praeter-Gillard



Chris Rickard



Richard Sainsbury



Liz Sykes

Pix by Richard Sainsbury



Nic Tall



Jenny Wakefield



Martin Wakefield

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Ruth Stevens 01823 972838

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