

# St James Church Magazine

*June - August 2021*

# Letter from the Vicar

Reverend Fabian Wuyts

Vicar of St James



## The power of kindness...

This morning, my wife shared an encounter she had with a young teenage girl while doing her groceries at Aldi. As she was about to enter the shop, the girl asked her if she had some money to buy lunch. Apparently, she woke up late, was on her way to school and forgot her lunch money that morning. Vashti said that,



while she did not carry any cash to give her, she was more than happy to buy her some food. In the shop, as the girl was pointing to what she liked, she paused and said to my wife, 'Are you the wife of Revd. Fabian from St James?'

As it turned out, the girl had been at St James School in the past. While the presence of a teenage girl asking for money does raise some questions, I wonder how this act of kindness will positively impact her life and her views of Christians and the Church.

Paul reminds the Christians living in Colossians to, 'clothe themselves with compassion, *kindness*, humility, gentleness and patience.' (Col. 3. 12). He also reminds the Christian in Galatians that, 'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, *kindness*, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self- control.' (Gal. 5. 22). The Greek root for *kindness*, as used in the New Testament, means uprightness or benevolence and describes the ability to act for the welfare of those taxing our patience.

Kindness can be quite unnatural, though. When we have been hurt or offended, we tend to react in anger or bitterness. But kindness leads us to do just the opposite – to respond with love and forgiveness. That is why Paul, writing to the Christians in Ephesus, said, ‘be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave them.’ (Eph. 4. 32).

In the weeks and months to come, we will need to be kind to one another and kind with ourselves as we progressively emerge from lockdown and rebuild our Christian gatherings and our Christian witness in the community. As with any ‘new beginnings’ there are mixed feelings of excitement and new opportunities, but also feelings of anxiety and worries.

*What is constant, however, is God’s promise to be with us  
and to equip us for his purposes.*



We have just celebrated Pentecost, the day when the disciples burst out of their ‘lockdown’. The gift of the Holy Spirit gave the disciples clarity of speech, clarity of purpose and creative energy in building a new community centred on the risen Christ. So, let us ask the Holy Spirit to come and fill our hearts with peace, joy and love; fill our minds with creativity, guide our feet through uncharted waters, open our eyes to his wonders and our mouth to speak words of truth, comfort and grace.

**Amen**

## Contents

Page 2 Letter from the Vicar	Page 16 A Blade of Grass
Page 5 Book Review - Finding the Peacemakers	Page 18 Email Prayer Chain
Page 6 Bishop Ruth's Letter	Page 19 A Prince's Legacy on Matters of Faith
Page 8 Eco Church: Borrowed ground	Page 20 Children's Pages
Page 10 Book Review - L is for Lifestyle	Page 22 Crossword
Page 12 Nicki's News	Page 24 PCC News
Page 14 Focus on Mission	Page 27 Solitary, Small Figure
Page 15 St James Church School News	Page 28 Parish Contacts

*Thank you to all the contributors to this edition of the Magazine. If you have something to share for the September - November 2021 edition, do contact the Editor either directly or through the Church Office - details on page 28 - **deadline for copy is Tuesday 17th August 2021.***

I've picked out a few words that exemplify the content of many of the articles in this edition of the magazine - kindness, caring, love, perseverance, peacemaking, compassion, encouragement, forgiveness, healing. Compare this with Fabian's letter and his reference to the fruit of the Spirit as mentioned in Colossians and Galatians.

And, without asking for it, it's amazing how many articles tie together. See Richard Carpenter's Eco Church article and then Jenny Wakefield's book review. Read Bishop Ruth's letter and then our School News. Compare Bridget Hall's book review and Andy's article about Takashi Tanemori. Each of these articles show the fruit of the Spirit in action.

As we edge towards the easing of lockdown, and perhaps a move to what many have described as a 'new normal', let us all seek to follow Jesus' teaching and pray for an outpouring of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, our church and our community.

And finally, do read Nicki Bradford's article about her three years' training as she and Steve prepare for their move to the Quantocks. We thank them for the varied and valuable contributions they have made to the life of St James. We are sad to see them leave, but wish them well and pray for their ministry and future in their new parish.

*Chris Doyle - St James Parish Magazine Editor*

*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 St James website: **[www.stjamestaunton.org](http://www.stjamestaunton.org)***

## Book Review

# Finding the Peacemakers

by Dan Morrice

Published by Hodder & Stoughton

This remarkable book, written by Dan, a Taunton lad, is an exploration of faith from the mines of Chile to the deserts of the Middle East and back home to Bristol where he part-owns a community house with his sister's family and a friend in one of the most needy areas of the city.

Still in his late thirties, Dan has travelled widely to pursue the question of faith through a variety of challenging and inspirational human stories from all over the globe.

Formerly a geography teacher in Bristol, Dan was on a meeting with fellow geographers in London when the news of the sixty-nine day saga of the thirty three Chilean miners, given up for dead and eventually rescued, triggered the compelling need for him to discover the truth of how they survived the gargantuan collapse of a 770,000 tonne slab of rock!

From that day onwards, he gave up his day job and became an explorer of the truth through meeting with situations and people that both challenged and inspired him.

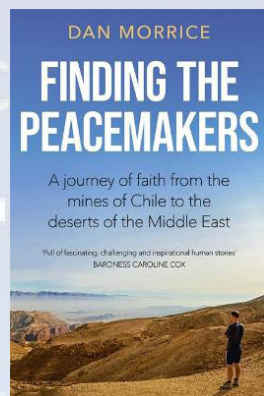
Endorsements include those from Baroness Cox, who says:

*'You will meet Syrian refugees who were released from a prison of tribalism and fear to become voices of love and service to other refugees, regardless of their race or religion. You will also meet peacemakers in Bethlehem setting people free from a conflict that has existed for millennia, giving a new generation the chance to overcome fear with love.'*

Bear Grylls concludes,

*'Dan's book demonstrates that the future will belong to the peacemakers, the true heroes among us.'*

The publisher's prediction of the sales of the book for the first six months were met in just the first two weeks. The profits from sales all go to charity. This book is truly inspirational and deserves to be read widely. Don't miss out!



Bridget Hall



# DIOCESE OF **Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.



Letter from  
**the Right Reverend Ruth Worsley,  
Bishop of Taunton**

## **A time to learn**

‘I am always ready to learn although I do not always like being taught,’ wrote Winston Churchill. I think many of us would echo that thought!

A huge ‘thank you’ to our teachers and all who support our schools! There has been a tremendous effort across our diocese to ensure our children have been able to continue their education during lockdowns and the need to restrict normal practice. Not only have the children been learning but teaching staff have also been going ‘back to school’ in order to find new means of communication. Governors, church communities and individual volunteers have gone the extra mile too, to encourage our teachers through gifts and cards and prayer. The whole school team deserves our gratitude.

Learning online is a challenge. Those of us who are spending many hours in Zoom rooms online these days can vouch for that. It’s tiring! And it is not just our children who have found it so. At the end of this month we shall be celebrating the ordinations of our new priests. Last year they were ordained as deacons in September following three months as lay curates as a result of the pandemic restrictions.

What a year to be a deacon! They've had a very different learning experience than would normally be expected. Not so much opportunity of the 'hands-on' experience yet perhaps an even more profound learning possibility. I'm looking forward to hearing their stories!

We shall be repeating the new pattern of ordinations with our incoming deacons being licensed as lay curates initially this June. For them, colleges and courses have taken place principally online and they've had experience of digital worship on top of regular lectures and seminars. How might that prepare them for our 'new normal' of blended worship, with live-streaming of services in person?

As the Church emerges into this 'new normal' we have the opportunity together to learn and discover new things, new gifts, new ways of being the people of God. It is the same good God, the same story of His love to share with others, but there's a new landscape. How might you and your community respond to that? What have you learnt in this time? And how might that learning change you and the way you do things? Do share your stories with us!

"One learns from books and example only that certain things can be done. Actual learning requires that you do those things." (Frank Herbert)

Every blessing

Bishop Ruth

*The Right Revd Ruth Worsley*

Bishop of Taunton



## An imperative...

*'We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.'* (Anon)

While this proverb has been in circulation since the latter decades of the last century, the Bible has for much longer made it clear to whom the earth really belongs: *'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.'* (Psalm 24:1) We only have it on trust. The question for us then is stark, yet simple: how would you justify to God your actions that affect his creation?

Should the church then be greener than everyone else? Billy Graham certainly seems to have thought so...

*'In fact, of all people, Christians should be the most concerned for the environment. ...Christians know God created the world, and we are only its stewards or trustees. ...When we see the world as a gift from God, we will do our best to take care of it and use it wisely, instead of poisoning or destroying it.'*

Given its disproportionate effect on the poorest around the world, Pope Francis has called the global failure to act on climate change *'a brutal act of injustice toward the poor'*.

There is a theme running through the Bible that we (both as the church and as individuals) have responsibility to care for the world around us: to eliminate exploitation of land and resources across the world. This can be both through our own actions but also through lobbying of those in power.

It is a sad fact that exploitation of the environment often goes hand in hand with exploitation of the poor. We are, therefore, reminded of the further biblical imperative actively to care for those in need.

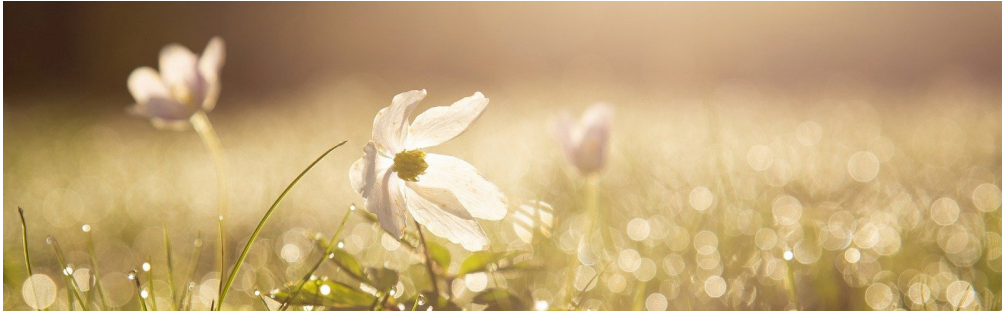
*'Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenceless.'* (Isaiah 1:17 – The Message)

## Closer to home...

Our diocese – together with the Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) – has recently launched a Wilder Churches initiative<sup>i,ii</sup> aimed at helping

churches manage their land with wildlife in mind. As part of our engagement with this, we're planning to carry out a survey of the plants growing around our building. More on this in later issues I hope.

It's also a great reminder that it's not just places like churchyards that can be wilder – we can as well, and it will all help in our creation care. See the link below<sup>iii</sup> for some information from SWT on living wilder lives. With a more distinctively Christian slant on it all, Green Christian have a straightforward leaflet<sup>iv</sup> looking at nine changes we could make to live more gently on the earth.



### And within...

It's all too easy to end up discouraged by the size of the task facing us to reach a Godly state of care for creation but let's not forget to take joy in creation as we encounter it in our everyday lives – as I write; the thrill of a swift in flight, the froth of blackthorn or may flowers along the hedges, or even – clichés notwithstanding – gambolling lambs...

*Richard Carpenter*

*PS: More on this next time, but just a quick note to let you know that September will see us marking **Creationtide** as part of the wider church's response to the climate crisis. Creation Sunday is on the 5th and we'll follow that up with further materials - from Tearfund and others - during the month. As a starter, you might like to look through their climate emergency toolkit at **[www.climateemergencytoolkit.com](http://www.climateemergencytoolkit.com)***

---

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/faith/environment/encouraging-biodiversity/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/events/wilder-churches>

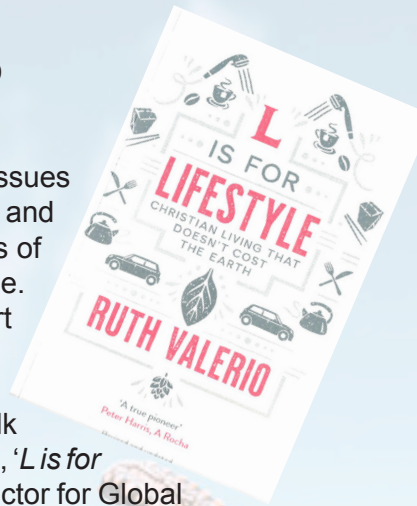
<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/team-wilder/wilder-lives>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.greenchristian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/leaflet/nine-ways.pdf>

# **L is for LIFESTYLE** by Ruth Valerio

Pub: IVP (Revised edition 20 June 2019)

In the face of the huge environmental and climate issues that face us, it is often easy to feel rather helpless and a little bit like the little boys surrounded by millions of star fish, trying to throw them back one at a time. It's important to recognise that we all need to start picking up the starfish.



This year at 'Spring Harvest at Home' I heard a talk by Ruth Valerio, and subsequently bought her book, '*L is for Lifestyle*'. Ruth is an environmentalist and the Director for Global Advocacy and Influencing at Tearfund. The book was originally written in 2004 but was comprehensively updated in 2019. While environmental and climate issues move fast, there are plentiful references in it to organisations and websites where up-to-the-minute information can be acquired.

The book consists of 26 chapters, each one having an environmental topic, with practical and often simple action points which the reader can follow to make their bit of difference.



Ruth also seeks to unpack the background to many of the increasingly critical issues of the age. In 'B is for Bananas', for instance, she uses the example of the bananas on our supermarket shelves to illustrate complex issues of global trade, where cheap exotic food becomes enticingly available but at the cost of the producers, and demonstrates why Fairtrade is important.

In 'N is for Needs' she looks at the issues of consumerism and the forces that lie behind our drive to consume at a woeful cost to countries that are exploited. She refers to the 'Story of Stuff' (see the YouTube video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorqroigqM&v=en](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorqroigqM&v=en)) which, although produced in 2007, still gives a very clear idea of the cynical encouragement of consumerism from the 1950s onwards with the consequent damaging and escalating impact on our world.

Perhaps the most central part is set out in 'S for Simplicity' where the encouragement is to review our whole approach to our practical and spiritual lives – '*Simplicity is about stepping off the treadmill and giving the space to*

*think about how we want to live our lives'* – questioning where true riches lie and making the time for them. The practical suggestions, based on Richard Foster's '*Freedom of Simplicity*', are about holding on to things lightly, questioning when need is confused with wants and avoiding things that might be the cause of oppression to others.

While looking at the cause and effect, it also acknowledges where progress has been made. But most of all it gives suggestions for action that individuals can follow. We can all write emails and letters, and the impact of public opinion can make a difference. There is a lot of advice available if we've forgotten our grandparents' habits of 'repurposing' and using the powerful natural chemical properties of things like bicarbonate of soda, lemon juice, white vinegar and 'elbow grease' as key factors in their household routines. Friends of the Earth give some ideas on their website - [www.friendsoftheearth.uk/about/homemade-cleaning-products-5-fantastic-recipes](http://www.friendsoftheearth.uk/about/homemade-cleaning-products-5-fantastic-recipes).



'P is for Plastic' raises the daunting task of dealing with plastic waste while acknowledging the benefits of plastic used rightly. She refers to Tearfund's work in communities where grassroots recycling of plastic waste is providing income and recycled manufacture through the donations from 'Bin Twinning' mentioned in their latest magazine – see the Bin Twinning website at [www.bintwinning.org/what-we-do/](http://www.bintwinning.org/what-we-do/).

*'Simplicity is about  
stepping off the  
treadmill and  
giving the space to  
think about how we  
want to live our lives'*

There is inevitably a challenge to our pocket too, in 'I is for Investment' and 'M is for Money' Ruth highlights the costs involved in being more responsible consumers. There's a lot in it to give food for thought, and Question (Q) the information presented to us in order to seek information and answers.

Many of us reading this are already acting environmentally, but it is good to be reminded and encouraged that small actions, made consistently and in growing number, can have a positive effect. We might not all be Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstalls but we can follow the lead to make changes; and if we are having to live in a consumer driven society, then our consumer-voice needs to be heard and felt.

*Jenny Wakefield*

# Nicki's News

*Nicki Bradford is just about at the end of her theological training. This final update gives an insight into what it's been like and what she and Steve now look forward to as they make their move to their new house and work.*



When I began training for Ordination in 2018 my intention was to write something twice a year. Oh, how little I knew!! Studying plus working as hospital chaplain, maths lecturer and latterly community and mental health chaplain took more time than expected. So, first of all apologies that you have not received more regular updates and thank you to everyone who has been praying for me. By the time you read this article Steve and I will have had our final service in St James' Church as we prepare to move to Bridgwater. Hopefully, I will also have completed and submitted the final two assignments needed before I can be ordained.

I will be licenced as a lay curate on July 1st in a small ceremony and will spend the first three months of my curacy as a lay worker for the Quantock Villages Benefice. Our Ordination as Deacons is on Saturday 25th September. Currently we are allowed 10 guests but hopefully by then lockdown will be over and many more will be able to join us in the cathedral. It would be lovely to see some of you there.

Getting to this point has been an interesting journey as such things often are when we discern God's call. Growing up it had seemed that my vocation was and would always be to teach, so when that path ended it was a bit of a surprise to say the least. Nevertheless, God is good and I began to hear his call to ordination back in 2014. (A quick shout out to Kate Taylor who was probably the first person to suggest it.) Whilst I would not be honest if I didn't say the gap between then and now was longer than I wished, looking back I can see God's hand at work. Working as a hospital chaplain has been amazingly valuable and I leave that role sadly. However, I am sure that many of the skills of listening and being alongside people at difficult times will be just as important in parish ministry.

It's hard to summarise three years' information in a short paragraph but highlights include getting assignments back with pass marks (studying as an adult is very stressful...!), the great friends I have made (five of us pray compile on Zoom most evenings) and being given time to study theology and practice. One of the first articles I wrote after starting training introduced you to some of my new vocabulary. It's safe to say my spreadsheet glossary is now much larger, but encouragingly I have to use it less. Something we lost out on due to the pandemic was a placement in a different context, being asked instead to focus on our local context. This led to the very strange experience one Sunday of leading a service online for St James, preaching on the Radio for Apple FM's hospital service and being out on the wards taking communion to people all at the same time! It has been interesting to reflect on what it means now to be present to others and to God.



Looking forward, it is exciting to be near to beginning the ministry that I have been looking towards for so long. The Quantock Villages Benefice, where I will serve my curacy, is made up of the parishes of Nether Stowey, Over Stowey, Goathurst, Aisholt, Spaxton and Enmore. In pre-pandemic times each church had at least one service each Sunday and the form of the services ranges from informal services in the Church Centre at Nether to Book of Common Prayer Eucharist in the smaller villages, which will be a great learning opportunity.

Please pray for Steve and me as we move to Bridgwater (unfortunately there are no suitable houses in the benefice), and for me as I start my new role. Pray too for Reverend Eleanor King who will be my incumbent responsible for my training as a curate.



*We all wish Nicki and Steve the very best as they make their move and begin their new role(s) and our prayers are with them and their family - Ed.*



# ...MISSION

*During the Covid Emergency period we have been able to provide monthly information about the Missions we support, both in the Bulletin and online on the St James' Facebook page. This will continue during the pandemic period.*



TADA will be our Mission Focus for June and we hope to be able to have an interview with Graham Reid who founded the debt counselling service over 9 years ago. Much of this year has been spent in preparation and training as the service has adapted to offer online interaction while face to face contacts has been impossible. The real impact of the pandemic is unlikely to emerge until the restrictions begins to ease and the safety net of the furlough scheme comes to an end.

Graham will be able to update us on the impact of the coronavirus crisis on his work in the June Mission Focus interview.

Taunton Area Debt Advice is a community service in Taunton initiated by Graham and supported by St James but has extended its scope with volunteers from other local churches. It offers a free and totally confidential service to anybody in the Taunton area with money worries or debt issues.

They are affiliated to Community Money Advice (CMA). They aim to offer solutions to help people free themselves from the burden of debt. Their services are offered to all regardless of background, circumstances or belief.



---

Barnabas Fund is an aid agency for the persecuted Church, which works in over 60 countries around the world where Christians are marginalised and persecuted because of their faith.

The main ministry of Barnabas Fund is to send financial support to projects which help Christians where they suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith. The project's aim is to strengthen Christian individuals, churches and their communities by providing material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders.

Barnabas also aims to raise awareness of the persecution that exists and thereby to inform the prayer of its partner churches, and to work to contest injustice by appropriate means.

For more information about Barnabas there is a very informative website and online magazine – visit [www.barnabasfund.org/](http://www.barnabasfund.org/).

*Jenny Wakefield*

# St James Church School News



BATH & WELLS  
Multi Academy Trust

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



**Perseverance!** is this term's key value mentioned in the School Chatterbox. Keeping on, keeping on. Examples of those who persevered include Captain Tom, who has inspired others to challenge themselves to support the NHS; the widow in Luke 18: 1-8 who persisted in her demand for justice, King George VI who overcame his speech impediment and the long tailed tit – ace nest builder.



It's a good word, and it's certainly been behind what teachers and school staff have been doing, as have all the key workers all over the country. But it's tiring, and as we enter the fourteenth month of the pandemic we need to pray for the children, head teacher and senior leaders, staff, families and governors in our church school; that they will have the continued energy, determination and encouragement to keep going. A prayer we echo for all schools.



At our most recent church school prayer meeting there were several things that the school would value prayer for.

- That the weather would enable the children to get out and enjoy their playtimes and enjoy running around
- Good health for all, but especially school staff so that classes can be fully staffed
- For the integration of new staff to fill posts that are currently vacant
- Being able to welcome outside visitors back into school and enabling extracurricular activities to restart
- That everyone will be kept safe
- Restarting hot school meals after half term

And also please pray for St James Church's TLG mentoring and Make Lunch Teams.

*Jenny Wakefield*



# A BLADE OF GRASS

What would it be like to be in the path of an atomic bomb? On 5th August 1945, Takashi Tanemori found out. He was aged 7, at his school in Hiroshima, Japan, playing hide-and-seek with some of his friends. He writes:

*'I was standing at the window, looking out at the yard...When I had counted to seven or eight, there was a flash in the sky. I couldn't see anything except white. I had been counting the numbers on my fingers and when the flash came I saw all the bones in my fingers, just as if I was looking at an X-ray. After the flash there was a silence, a deafening silence. Then, 43 seconds later, the explosion took place. It was like the entire universe had exploded. The sound almost split my skull. That's the last thing I remember for some time.'*

(From 'Voices of the Second World War' published by Walker Books)

When he recovered consciousness, he couldn't move. A soldier had heard Tanemori's cries, pulled him out of the debris and carried the injured boy towards the river where thousands had assembled trying to escape the fires. In what Tanemori describes as a miracle, he was reunited with his father and two siblings. At 10am, black rain, each drop the size of a marble, poured out of the sky. They later searched for his mother and baby sister without success. Two days after the explosion they escaped from the city to live with grandparents. Within a year, the remainder of his family had perished from radiation exposure.

In the spring of 1946, now aged 9, he took a train alone back to Hiroshima, hoping to find his mother and sister alive. He found nothing left in the city. He continues:

*'Instead of going home, I went to the river. The embankment was black, burned, scarred. Then suddenly, I turned to my left, and three metres away behind a burned rock, I saw something sticking out of the ground. It was a blade of grass. I said to myself, "If this frail blade of grass can emerge from the ruins of Hiroshima, then I'd better do it too." Talk about an image of strength...I am grateful for the gift of life that blade of grass gave me.'*

Tanemori describes how for 40 years he lived with anger about the bombing. In 2000 he went to hear General Paul Tibbets speak at a convention. Tibbets had piloted the plane that dropped the atomic bomb.

*'I said, "Sir, have you any remorse or guilt for what you did, now that you can see how the atomic bomb impacted people?" He said, "Heck, no. That was the best thing we ever did. All the Japanese thank me for it." I said, "Really? Every Japanese person? Have you ever been back to Japan?" He said, "No I didn't have to." Then I asked, "Sir, knowing what we know now, about all the consequences, would you get back in your cockpit and drop the bomb once again?" He turned to his bodyguard and said, "Let's go." I called after him and said, "General Tibbets, I will pray for you until you find peace in your heart."*

Tanemori describes his life's mission now as promoting peace through forgiveness. He writes, 'I am so grateful for the gift of life that forgiveness has given me.'

A few questions in this story occur to me:

- Would I have been willing to forgive the pilot if I had been in Tanemori's shoes?
- Why was Tanemori's life spared when so many others, including his whole family, have lost theirs?
- Is there something which God has 'hard-wired' into us about the importance of one human being forgiving another?

As a Christian, I can relate to the symbol of that humble blade of grass, part of God's creation, emerging from devastation. Another example is Jesus rising from the dead on Easter Sunday. This gives us certainty that he walks with us today, providing reassurance that our world can emerge from the devastation of Covid-19.

Jesus spoke about God's willingness to forgive our sins. He also spoke about forgiveness towards one another. In Luke Chapter 7 he admonishes Simon the Pharisee for judging a woman who had 'gate crashed' his house looking for Jesus who was there. Simon regarded the woman as sinful, but Jesus forgave her. He said to Simon, "A person who forgives little shows only a little love."

It is estimated that between 90,000 and 146,000 people died at Hiroshima and 39,000 to 80,000 people died from the second bomb at Nagasaki.

*Andy Hall*

# The Email Prayer Chain as part of the Prayer Ministry at St James

***'All things you ask in prayer, believing,  
you shall receive'*** Matthew 22 v22

In St James there is the opportunity for those who feel called to pray for others to become part of the **Email Prayer Chain**. If you feel this could be your gifting from God, please do talk to Fabian and he will advise you how to proceed.

If you have ever felt that you would like prayer for yourself or someone you know, I hope the following explanation will encourage you to send your prayer request to me and I will forward it out to those who are committed to pray. The prayer chain provides a quick response to your prayer needs.

## How does it work?

The email prayer chain is available for anyone who would value prayer. Prayer can be requested for church family members or for those outside the immediate church family.

- When a request is made for the chain to pray and the request is made by someone other than the subject of that request, *it is vital that consent has been obtained for the prayer details to be circulated.*
- When the request is circulated to members of the chain, *if it is a church family member their surname will be used, but for others only their first name is used.*
- The prayer chain is *totally confidential.*
- Requests will *not be discussed between volunteers who pray, nor will the person who initiated the request be approached.*

However, it is helpful if updates to inform the prayers are sent to me where the situation needing prayer is ongoing. Prayer volunteers are asked to pray for each request for a couple of weeks but of course some situations need prayer for longer.

**Jill Winstanley**  
Prayer requests to me  
email: [jill.hw@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.hw@btinternet.com)



## A Prince's Legacy on Matters of Faith



Just when we thought the last word had been written about the late Duke of Edinburgh, it emerged that he had a genuine interest in theology. That dashing young naval officer, who became the Queen's dutiful consort and accompanied her to thousands of church services, was someone who listened intently to sermons, thought through what was being said, and then asked questions.

Every Sunday when the royal couple were at Sandringham, a diocesan bishop was invited to preach in the parish church. Afterwards, they were grilled by the Duke who, we are told by one of them, showed that he, 'wanted to be intellectually and spiritually engaged'. That's a polite way of saying he wasn't prepared to swallow what came out of the pulpit if he wasn't convinced by it.

Some Christians are suspicious of people who probe the faith. Should it not be taken on trust? Who are we to question the Almighty? For others, doubt hovers uninvited. Honest doubt won't settle for unbelief but will continue to persevere with its enquiries. The Russian writer and philosopher Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote: 'It is not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ. My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt.' Dostoyevsky had lived a turbulent life, both personally and publicly, and wrestled mentally with himself and God. Some people are like that.

Prince Philip had been baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church and was received into the Church of England just before his marriage. He organised much of his own funeral, and if you followed it, you will remember how traditional it was. Many of the prayers were from the 17th Century Book of Common Prayer, the hymns were more ancient than modern, and the Bible readings confidently proclaimed the magnificence of God's Creation and Jesus' teaching about the resurrection. These are basic to Christianity and it was from such a foundation that he was able to explore.

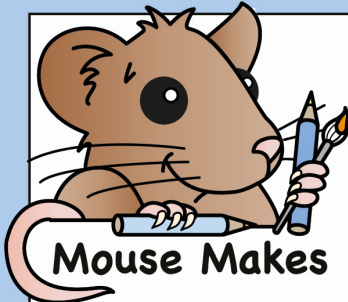
So, if you wake up one morning questioning everything you have believed, take it as a spur to dig deeper and ask questions. Be encouraged by Philip, who shunned a second-hand faith because he wanted to know the truth for himself.

The next time you hear a sermon which you can't understand or disagree with, don't let the preacher get away with it. And if, in your private conversations with God, you find yourself praying, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief,' you won't be the first. See Mark 9 verse 24.

*The Ven John Barton*



# Children's Pages



## JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person  
Jesus healed?

John 4:46-54

Who did Jesus heal  
from fever?

Mark 1:29-31

How was the the  
paralysed man  
brought to Jesus?

Mark 2:1-12

Jesus **healed** and  
made the...

SICK	ABLE
DEAD	WALK
BLIND	FORGIVEN
DEAF	ALIVE
CRIPPLED	SPEAK
SINNER	MOVE
MUTE	SEE
PARALYSED	WELL
DISABLED	HEAR

Where did the  
demons ask Jesus  
to send them  
when he drove  
them out?

Mark 5:1-20

How long had  
the man by  
the pool been  
disabled?

John 5:1-15

What did Jesus say made  
the woman well?

Matthew 9: 20-22

"There are **many** things that  
Jesus did. If every one of them  
were written down, I suppose the  
whole world would not have room  
for the books that would be written."

John 21:25

How many men were  
healed from leprosy?

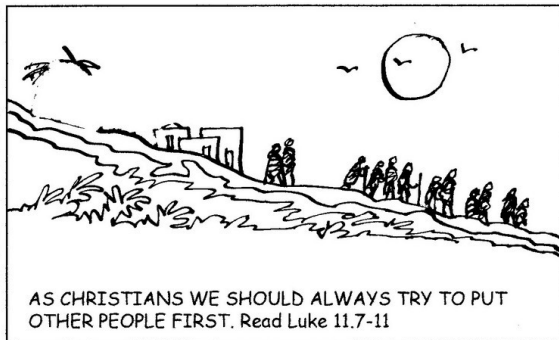
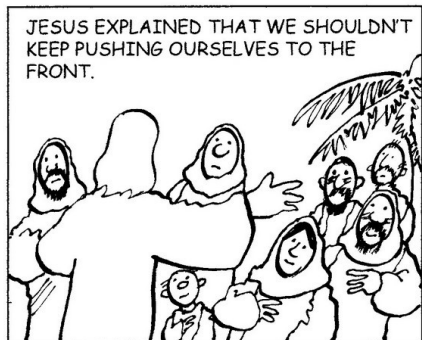
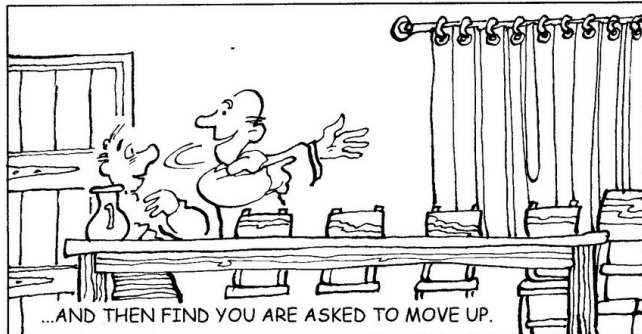
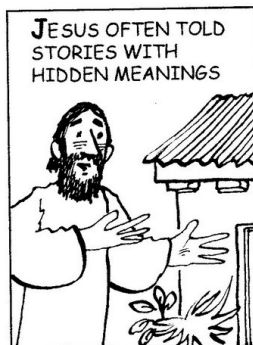
Luke 17:11-19

What did Jesus heal  
Bartemaus from?

Mark 10:46-52

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead,  
how many days had he been buried?

John 11:1-45



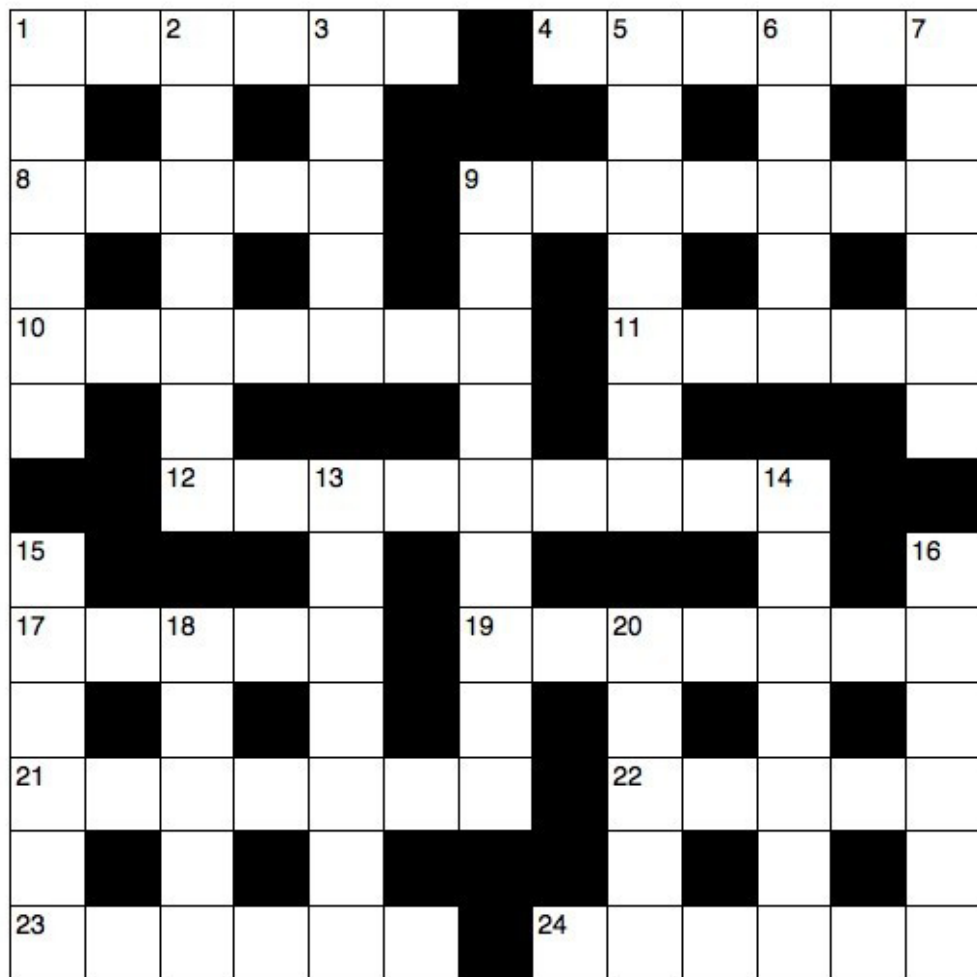
# CROSSWORD

## Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

## Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



DOWN: 1. Attach 2. Biretta 3. Sided 5. Compete 6. Owned 7. Lustre 9. Falsehood 13. Ostrich 14. Talents 15. Farmer 16. Asleep 18. Early 20. Alley

24. Hyssop

ACROSS: 1. Ambush 4. School 8. Tired 9. Famines 10. Citadel 11. Endor 12. Atonement 17. Avert 19. Oracles 21. Married 22. Lance 23. Rhythm

Long ago when men cursed and beat the  
ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.

...Today, it's called golf



## ***The PCC has been discussing...***

Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in March and May, and some points from the Annual Meeting in April.

### **Annual Meeting**

**Elections:** Nigel Bright and Joyce Kirk were elected as churchwardens. Following the PCC election, there were two vacancies, to which the PCC made appointments at its meeting on 10 May. The new PCC members are Martin Bluemel, Julie Kimber, Lyn Jones and Vashti Smit. Re-elected are Sue Lucas, Sheila Marlow and Jenny Wakefield.

**Finances:** The total income for 2020 was £237,838 and the expenditure £159,346, resulting in a surplus of £78,492. Funds at the end of 2020 stood at £231,129. This included a large legacy, without which there would have been a deficit of £28,315. The main differences compared to 2019 were an increased Parish Share, a big loss of hall hire income, and lower maintenance and running costs. Looking ahead, we will be employing a Children and Families Worker at around £25k per annum. This will be funded by an appeal, with the first year covered by legacies.

**Thank you to:** Nicki Bradford for all she has done in her period of ordinand training; outgoing PCC members Ruth Dunn, Ruth Preater-Gillard, Liz Sykes and Emily Tall; outgoing churchwarden Steve Bradford; Jenny Wakefield, who stepped down as Outreach Coordinator (but is continuing to look after our mission links) and Vashti Smit, who is stepping down as C&YP Coordinator.

### **Mission Partners**

**The Mission Review Group** reported to the PCC, summarising all aspects of our support for missions. The PCC's overall giving will remain at 10% of stewardship income. Mission partners will be promoted on a monthly basis. The information boards will be reviewed and simplified when we are back in church; further information for church members can be provided by other means. TLG Mentoring and Make Lunch, which are St James led projects, to have an ongoing information plan via regular magazine articles, bulletin news etc.

**TLG Make Lunch** is providing food boxes in school holidays to 28 families identified by six schools. It is hoped to move to the provision of a properly served meal in the last week of July and the last week of August.

## Coronavirus ... and after

The present service arrangements will cover the next few weeks until the end of the Government's coronavirus restrictions, and there is little point until then in making any major changes. The situation will be reviewed by the end of May/Step 3 and again by the end of June/Step 4. This will include looking at when to restart groups such as Thursday Fellowship, Art Group and children's groups.

The PCC has begun to look at what happens after then, starting with noting matters that need to be taken into consideration:

- Our new pattern of services and events needs to be sustainable.
- Getting back together will be joyful and we need to make space for that, possibly holding special events.
- Bishop Ruth: "We must not simply return to what we did before".
- Online church is here to stay, but it will be different from how we have been doing it while not able to meet in person. We must also consider the needs of new people who have connected with us online.
- Some people may be nervous of meeting in person for a while.
- Culture in society generally has changed.

## Miscellaneous Matters

**Children and Families Worker:** the PCC is carrying out a final review of the job description with a view to advertising the post in June. If possible, we wish to appoint by September.

**Coal Orchard:** a brochure is in hand for new residents and businesses in the Coal Orchard development.

**Car park passes** will restart in July (to run July-July each year).

**Welcoming:** the review group made an initial report to PCC in March and is due to meet again shortly.

***Living in Love and Faith:*** David Wilkie and Chris Rickard attended the diocesan 'taster day' on this lengthy CofE report into sexual identity and will bring a report to the PCC.

**Routine PCC business** continues as usual. In this period, we reviewed the Safeguarding Policy and the PCC Standing Orders.

*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  
Vicar*



*Nigel Bright and Joyce Kirk  
Church Wardens*



*Rev David Wilkie  
Curate*



*Martin Bluemel*



*Richard Carpenter*



*Roger Fenton*



*Marilyn Gibson*



*Lizzie Haddell  
Associate Warden*



*Lyn Jones*



*David Jordan*



*Julie Kimber*



*Sue Lucas*



*Sheila Marlow*



*Chris Rickard*



*Richard Sainsbury*



*Vashti Smit*



*Nic Tall*



*Jenny Wakefield*



*Martin Wakefield*

## Solitary, small figure

Somehow today's funeral got us remembering  
Of the time that was  
Of the time that now is  
That solitary, small figure  
Dressed in black  
Grey hair and a mask  
Made us think  
Of the grief we share  
Together

Of the mourning of all that has been  
The heavy grief of the time lost  
The people lost  
Our friends and family time together lost  
We recognise together  
Today  
That she carried and bore our weight of grief

And we wept  
For Her  
For us  
For the loss  
For the dead  
For the pain and trauma

We hope for her sake and ours  
That time will heal  
And peace will soon come.



*Liz England 17/04/21 - used with permission*

*On the occasion of the funeral of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh  
Painting by Helena (Nice things by Helena) Helena Mackevych*

*A friend of Sue Doyle, Liz is Team Rector of the Buxton Team Parish in Derbyshire*

## **PARISH CONTACTS**

**Vicar: Rev. Fabian Wuyts 01823 333194**

email: fabian.wuyts@gmail.com

**Curate: Rev. David Wilkie 01823 325496**

email: davidwilkie83@gmail.com

**Church Office: 01823 272931**

**Administration Co-ordinator: Beccy Fox**

email: info@stjamestaunton.co.uk

**Church Wardens: Nigel Bright 07817 627326**

**Joyce Kirk 01823 971431**

**Associate Warden: Lizzie Haddell 07443 873747**

**Children & Young People's Co-ordinator:**

currently vacant

**Discipleship & Home Groups Co-ordinator:**

**Roger Fenton 01823 412113** email: rogrifenton@gmail.com

**Fabric (buildings & technical) Co-ordinator: Martin Wakefield**

**01823 277318** email: martin@scoopscoop.co.uk

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Annie Reid 07812 130619**

**Worship Co-ordinator: Richard Lucas 01823 412942**

email: richardlucas.net@gmail.com

**Church Treasurer: Richard Sainsbury 01823 284688**

email: rjsainsbury61@gmail.com

**Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jenny Wakefield 01823 277318**

email: jenny@scoopscoop.co.uk

**Magazine Editor: Chris Doyle**

email: dancingdoyle@sky.com