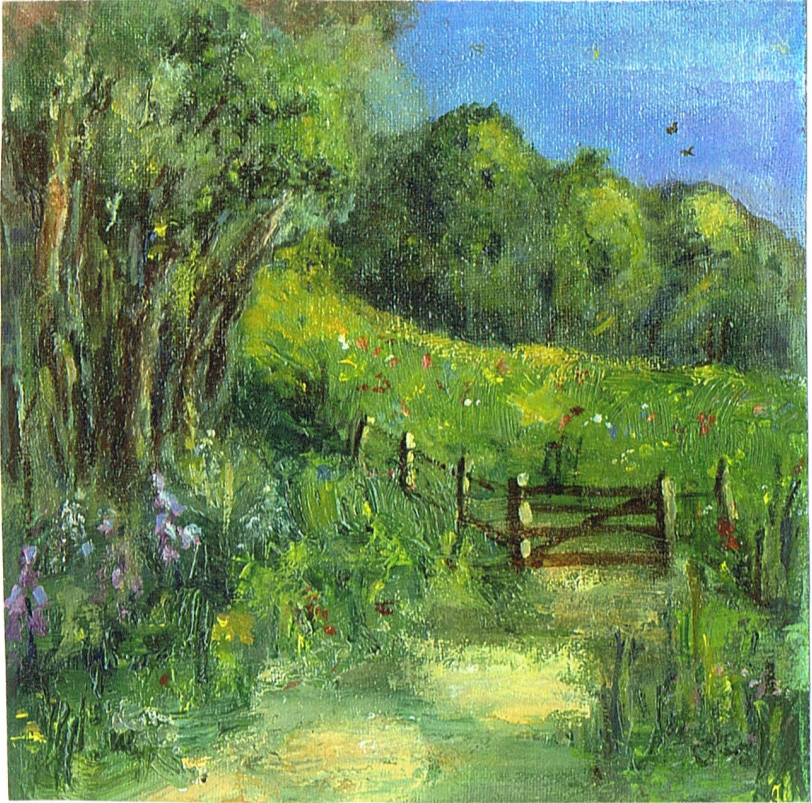


# St James Church Magazine



June - August Edition

## Contents

Page 3 – 4	Tim's Letter
Page 5	Diamond Jubilee Recipe
Page 6 & 7	Easter Experience
Page 8 & 9	Bishop's Letter
Page 9	Opening On Saturdays
Page 10 - 11	People Profile - Chris Rickard
Pages 12 – 16	A New Section - Something for Everyone! From colouring to crosswords and thoughts on Bible passages
Page 17	Carpe Diem
Page 18	Completion of Kitchen – Photo of thanks
Page 19	Bell Ringing Outing
Page 20	St Margaret's Hospice Events
Page 21	Men's Breakfast Report
Page 22	Food Bank
Page 23	Coming Up
Page 24 – 25	PCC Update
Page 26 – 27	Regular Listings
Back Cover -	Easter Poem – A Day to Remember

## The real purpose?

I wrote some of this for the TCT newsletter, but realise it is equally applicable to St James' and want more of you to see it:

I like computers. I find them endlessly fascinating, even miraculous, and am old enough to have been brought up on things the size of warehouses, with which we communicated via punched cards: then later, by a typing terminal. In those days I used a computer as a big calculator, to do things which would take far too long by hand. The basic commands were simple and fairly direct, but in code. Then came 'software' ('That will never catch on! Paying money for someone else's programs?') Nowadays, a huge percentage of the processing power of the computer is used up in running the computer itself and enabling the other applications beginning with the graphical user interface (remember Windows 1,2 and 3?). The machine takes longer and longer to start up from scratch, and new programs become more and more demanding, so the computer needs to be more and more powerful...

Something similar happens with our churches (and I guess all other human organisations). Our church becomes an organisation, even an institution, without really trying. The more established our church is, the more energy is needed to keep it going, and the process is very quick: even newly planted churches find the same happening in a short space of time. We actually spend far more resources in terms of person-hours and money on the running of the church than on the underlying purpose, sometimes then justifying that by making ourselves believe that the running of the organisation IS the purpose... but often just losing sight of the purpose altogether.

So what is the purpose of our church? I could just stop there in a very irritating way and leave you to ponder it; however I will point you instead to Acts 1:8 where Jesus says to his early church, 'You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' Couple that with Jesus' great commission in Matthew 28, 'Go... and make disciples' and we have something against which to measure all we do. There are not actually many direct commands in scripture about the purpose of the church – but all are about gathering others, proclaiming the good news in word and deed, and demonstrating the miraculous powers of God.

No one individual can do this, nor can any one church. Not geographically, nor in terms of reaching different cultures, families and social groups. I believe there is a strong case to be made for a multiplicity of individual churches, which is after all the reality on the ground, and also within a church many smaller groups: but if so it becomes vital to be 'networked' (to revert to the computer analogy) and to have ready means of communicating. As with computers, that can be a real pain and time consuming both to set up and to keep all units on board, but the power is then enormous and can change the world.

At St James', mission in Taunton and beyond is our overall purpose. To facilitate this is the reason for trying to streamline our church structures so that I, and all of us, can spend more time on what we believe God is calling us to be. Primarily this is to be worshipping people, keeping in close touch with God through his Holy Spirit. Let us not give up meeting together ... instead let us encourage one another - that's not me, it's Hebrews 10!) Whatever our gifts and our place in the body (read 1 Cor 12), we need one another because God needs each one. So we also need to be concerned for one another, helping one another (read Eph 4:32) – all ages, all types of people, all caring and being cared for so that we are released for God's mission.

So please whether in worship, groups, pastoral care, administration, finance, buildings, communication, young people's work or by just being there: plug in and see your contribution however little or great as part of something much bigger, and supernatural. God is extending his kingdom. Let's spend the time and effort we need on the internal workings; but let us not confuse the church, or the group within the church, or the denomination, with the purpose. The media love to use the Pope, a Cardinal, a Bishop, a Dean or even some local minister as representing 'the church' - usually to set them up as a straw man in order to shoot us all down... but the church as God sees it is one body composed of all our myriad parts, united in his divine mission and purpose: to know Christ and to make him better known.

God bless,  
Tim

## **A recipe to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee**

### **Jubilee Chicken**

#### ***(Variation on Coronation Chicken)***

(Adapted from Slimming World Magazine)

#### ***Ingredients***

8 skinless chicken breasts, cooked and cut into bite-sized pieces

6 level tablespoons mayonnaise

200g fromage fraise

Juice of 1 lemon

1 garlic clove, finely chopped

6 tablespoons passata

A dash of Tabasco sauce

1 level tablespoon mango chutney

1 tablespoon mild curry powder

Handful of finely chopped coriander leaves

Handful of finely chopped mint

Salt and pepper

8 spring onions, finely chopped

300g cherry tomatoes, quartered

50g red peppers, finely chopped

1 large cucumber, cubed

1 iceberg lettuce, roughly chopped



#### ***Method***

Mix together the mayonnaise, fromage fraise, lemon juice, garlic, passata, Tabasco, curry powder, chutney, mint and coriander in a large bowl and season well.

Add the spring onions, tomatoes, peppers, cucumber and chicken and mix well.

Arrange the shredded lettuce in a serving dish and spoon the chicken mixture on top.

**ENJOY**

## Easter Experience:



The Easter Experience took place a week before Holy week started, the aim being to tell the Easter story to the children of Archbishop Cranmer School through the series of tableaux that were still present during Easter week services. Planning for it began in May 2011, with a small team – Sue Lucas Nic Tall and Jenny Wakefield.

Sue in addition acted as our liaison with the school and we received the support and encouragement of both the previous and current Head teacher. In the weeks before and during the event Sue worked very hard with the staff to ensure there would be smooth arrangements and good follow up.



The results were fantastic, and were still being felt in the school. The children were enthusiastic and very attentive to the presentations. In all we must have had about 275 pupils who came in, which included the Reception and Year 1 classes who came in on the Friday and had a shorted version of the experience. They too really seemed to get the idea. The school staff were fulsome in their praise, and were able to carry the ideas back into

school and do follow up in their lessons.

A small group of us were invited to the assembly on the last day of term, and we were very impressed with the work that the classes shared with us.



Since then in May the school has had a SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) inspection and the





Easter Experience received some very positive feedback from the Inspector, the telling point being that its impact and memory was still alive 6 weeks after the event!

Easter Experience involved over 30 people, in various roles, many people doing more than one thing. From people making costumes, setting up scenes, publicity, schools work, acting, welcoming, making and serving biscuits to the children, lending props, moving chairs etc etc. It has been a very rewarding and humbling experience for all involved. Those involved included the following:

***Les and Tina Andrews, Annabel Campbell, Liz Campbell, Sue and Richard Carpenter, Ann Cross, Inarie, Karen Gamblen, Marian Gentile, Jacky Gillingham, Liz Harewood, Jean Jarrett, Margaret Inchley, Eric and Joyce Lander, Sue and Richard Lucas, Sheila Marlow, Betty and Alan Partridge, Sandra Pinfold, Annie Reid, Chris Rickard, Richard Sainsbury, Nic and Janet Tall, Geoff Treasure, Jenny and Martin Wakefield, Celia and Stan Wojcik***



In addition to time people gave so freely and generously there was a financial cost, but in reality it is very small, and as a result we have some props and costumes, that will be useful for other occasions. We hope to be able to organise another such event 2013, so please be ready for that tap on the shoulder!!





## **JUNE 2012 MAGAZINE**

### **For the whole world we are born...**

My father used to buy the Daily Telegraph primarily for the crossword and the obituaries – I suspect he was not alone! I continue to buy the Church Times for similar reasons, although it is not the crosswords that attract me, but the monthly diary column of a former Rector of Hackney, John Pridmore, who has a wonderful gift of connecting the things of heaven with the things of the earth!

However, at the beginning of May it was not the diary column that grabbed my attention but the obituary written for Canon Eric James, a priest who I came to admire deeply while I was a vicar in South London. I suspect that throughout our lives we come across people who walk a little way with us on our journey of faith and provide the necessary support and encouragement for us during that time so that we can continue our adventure with God.

Eric was one such person. I had gone from leafy suburbia to be a Vicar in South London, in the heart of the Surrey Docks, with precious little experience of what it meant to live in the Inner City, let alone to be a priest in the 'Inner City.' Eric was born and brought up in Dagenham, and although he had spent time as a college chaplain in Cambridge his heart was with and for those who lived in the urban communities, most of whom had long been out of touch with the church. In this context he sought to live the Christian Gospel, experimenting with new forms of worship and group meetings in flats, and exercising his pastoral skills in ways long remembered by the local population



He was, as some of you may remember, one of the architects of 'Faith in the City', a report that had a profound impact on church and society in recession hit Britain in the 1980's. It gave huge encouragement to church communities, small and large, to engage with the issues affecting their communities and so make a difference to the lives of some of the poorest and most disadvantaged people.

Eric was someone who believed deeply in a gospel that could and should change lives, change churches and change communities and I continue to be deeply grateful for his wisdom and his inspiration. Amongst his writings was the biography of another radical Christian thinker, Bishop John Robinson. Bishop John had come from a long line of clerics, and it was the family motto which had been instilled in him from his earliest years that connect both Eric and John and remain an inspiration to my own Christian witness – 'not for ourselves alone but for the whole world are we born.' Only by this maxim can we hope to transform the kingdoms of this world into the kingdom of our God.'

+Peter Taunton

## **WHY WE OPEN THE CHURCH ON SATURDAYS**

St James has always tried to offer a quiet space in the hustle and bustle of a busy town, a space where people can sit and reflect, a space where maybe they can sense the presence of God and of course a space where they can appreciate the beauty of a building built for worship.

If you are a regular member of our church family , would you be able to help keep this ministry going by joining our team and helping to close/lock the church once a month.

Contact Mandy Slade on 259440



Chris Rickard

## Introducing.....

Still waters run deep, the saying goes, and this describes Chris Rickard very well. She is one of those quiet, unassuming people who beaver away in the background; her ready smile, gentle sense of humour and down to earth consistent faith are apparent to all those who know and work with her.

Chris came to St. James in 2001, having just moved into Taunton as a home owner for the first time. She had previously lived in Ilton, worked in Taunton and worshipped in Ilminster, so this was the first time she could do all three in the same place. Like many Christians moving somewhere new, this was an opportunity to 'try out' the local churches and St. James was on her list as it had a reputation for being an 'active' church. She recalls her first Sunday sitting in the pews (this was in the days when we still had pews in the centre aisle) and realising by the end of the service why most people sat in the North and South Aisles, where the comfy chairs were situated. Not long after she arrived, the floors and pews were removed and she remembers some of the services held during this time at Archbishop Cranmer School, including one she helped to lead on the Sunday after 9/11.

So why did Chris keep coming – partly it was the worship, but also she was impressed by the friendliness of people; she was adopted into the unofficial 20-30s group that existed at that time and started getting involved. That 'getting involved' hasn't stopped since. Chris was very active in supporting our youth worker during 2004-7, and she continues to participate in children's work. Currently you will often see Chris in the worship group where her love of singing enables her to contribute to our Sunday morning worship. If she is not there then in all likelihood she will be in the hall either helping with the senior adventurers or getting messy with Messy Church. Chris is also a deputy warden so on the first Sunday of the month, she's at the back of church, as part of the team making sure everyone is happy and everything is going right.



Chris has a love of drama and you may well remember her in the 2010 Panto, where her singing and acting skills and her portrayal of Yasmin were much appreciated. More recently she was involved in the Easter Experience, helping to tell the Easter story to over 250 children.

But that only tells the story of the last 11 years, and there is much more to Chris than that. She told me that she is one of those people who can't really remember not being a Christian, having been brought up in a Church-going family, the only child in an otherwise large family of uncles, aunts and cousins. Retrospectively she recalls her first sense of God's awesome presence having a personal relevance was when singing in Stainer's St. John's passion, at the age of 6. At 16 she went to college to study drama and it was at college she started thinking more deeply about her beliefs. She attended a local church in Weston, which helped to reinvigorate her faith.

In her twenties, Chris spent 2 years with Operation Mobilisation – then led by George Verwer, which took mission to other countries through book ministry and evangelistic events. These were radical and special years, working in an organisation which relied on faith for survival. There were however some lighter moments, and Chris asked me with a twinkle in her eye – “Have I ever told you about the time I was nearly arrested for drug smuggling”. She and her fellow house mates and other guests following a recent mission, were visited by three policemen who questioned them about a package sent to one of the team containing a quantity of white powder. Fortunately it was baking soda sent by the girl's mum so she could bake soda bread for the team!!

In those heady days of the 80s, not having a Damascus Road testimony did at one time worry her, but as time has gone on she has recognised the route to faith is less important than a living relationship with Jesus Christ on a daily basis.

Since then Chris has worked for a large National Company's head office in Taunton as a Payroll Advisor. She has been there now for over 20 years and she enjoys her work; although she did take time out to study for a degree in Social Science, which she now finds useful in the people aspects of her job. Despite the recent harsh economic climate, she feels her company do consider the welfare of their workforce and she is proud to work for a company that supports and encourages various projects to raise money for charitable causes.

Chris values the church family she belongs to and getting involved is an important way to meet and get to know people. This was tested out when she was ill with anaemia some years ago, and worried she would lose her voice – the support she felt from her church family was amazing.

She also enjoys going to Greenbelt or in the past Spring Harvest, because this challenges in a deeper way and brings you into contact with people who are not afraid to address the difficult questions and dilemmas of faith. Her own faith is deeply and consistently part of her identity. The same person who goes to church also goes to work on Monday morning. When I asked her if she could sum up her approach to faith – her reply was simple and straightforward “To thine own self be true .... after all you can't kid God”.





## THE SAINT & THE MONSTER

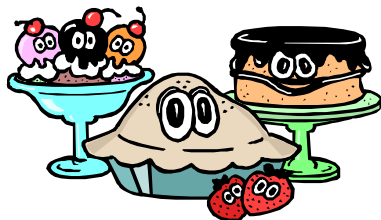
St Columba, whose feast day is 9th June, was born in Ireland and came to Scotland to be a 'pilgrim for Christ'. He founded a monastery on the island of Iona in 563. The monastery at Iona became a centre of learning and many missionaries were trained there. Columba carried the message of God's love throughout Scotland and monks from his monastery carried the message into England.

St Columba wrote a number of hymns and is said to have transcribed, or written out by hand, some 300 books in his lifetime.

And what has he got to do with a monster? Well, it wasn't the Loch Ness monster but a monster that was living in the River Ness. St Columba is said to have driven away this monster who was attacking a swimmer, with the sign of the cross and the words "Thou shalt go no further, nor touch the man; go back with all speed."

## MONSTER MUNCHIES

75 g (3 oz) margarine  
3 normal size Mars Bars  
(thinly sliced)  
3 large tea cups Rice Crispies  
100 g (4 oz) chocolate cake  
covering (melted)  
Grease and line a swiss roll tin.



In a heavy based saucepan, gently melt the margarine. Add the Mars Bar pieces and stir until no lumps are left.

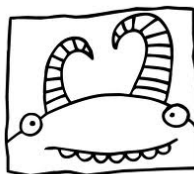
Take the pan off the heat and stir in the Rice Crispies – adding more if the mixture will take it. Spread the mixture in the tin and press it down evenly with the back of a spoon.

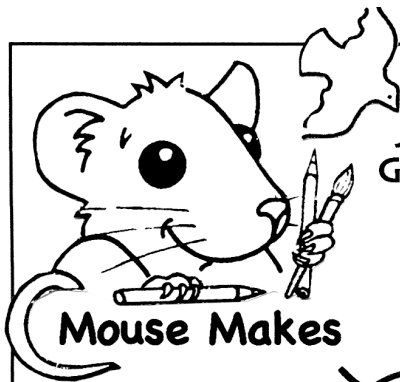
Cover with the melted chocolate and leave to set. Cut into 24 bars when cold – or cut into less bars if you are feeding a very greedy monster!



How does a  
monster count  
to 17?

On it's fingers.





## Mouse Makes

Look out for symbols  
of THE TRINITY in  
your church

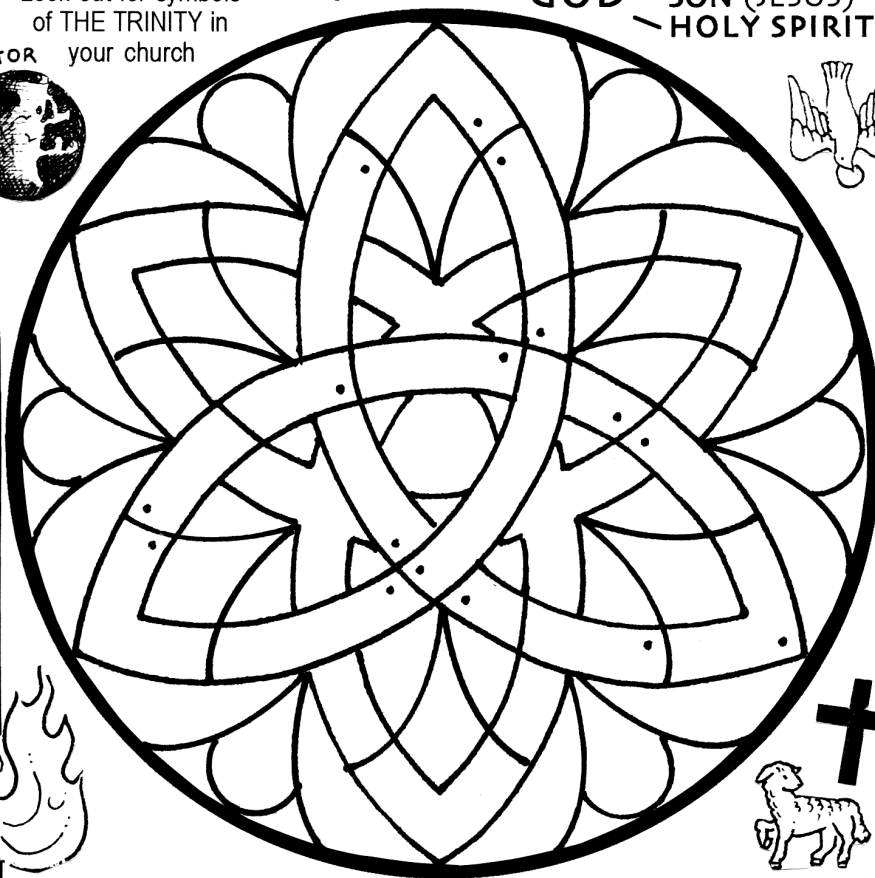
"May the *grace* of the Lord  
**JESUS** Christ and the *love* of  
GOD and the *fellowship* of the  
**HOLY SPIRIT** be with you"


2 Corinthians 13 verse 13

The Bible teaches us that GOD is  
three persons in one:

GOD = FATHER  
= SON (JESUS)  
= HOLY SPIRIT

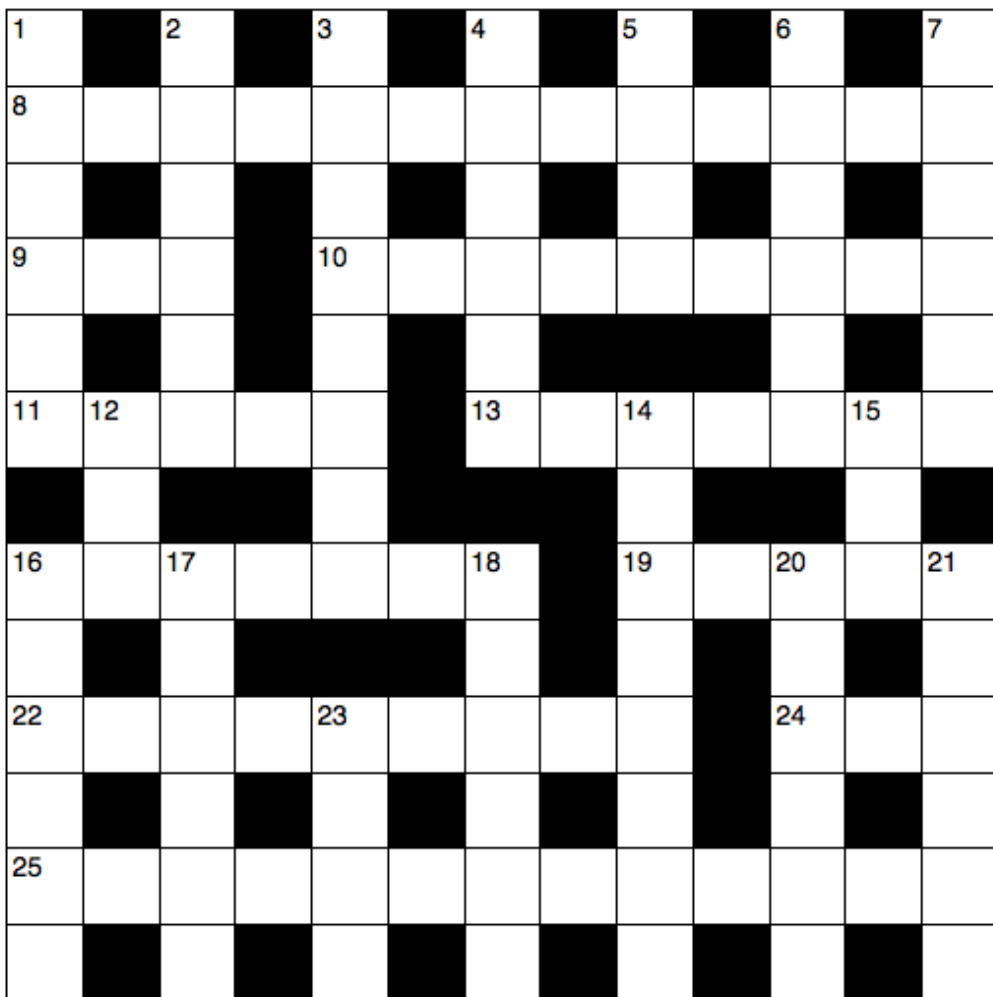
CREATOR



Christians have symbol to picture THE TRINITY.  
Find out what it is by colouring in **BLACK** all the shapes with a dot  in them.  
Then colour all the other shapes with **bright colours** like a stained glass window.

Jun12

# Crossword



Answers published in the next issue.



## Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16 Bay bits (anagram) (7)
- 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22 Holy Communion (9)
- 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
- 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

## Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anagram) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23 Diva (anagram) (4)

# A true Queen

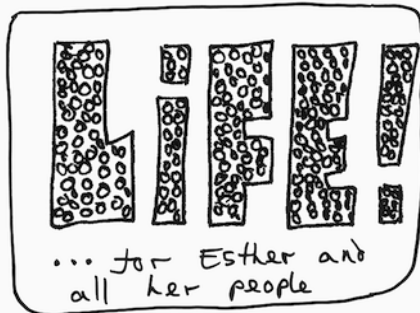
## Bible Sketchbook



Esther was a Jewish orphan who became a Queen. Her Jewish cousin refused to obey an order to bow to one of the King's officials. In revenge he tricked the King to order all Jews to be killed. Only Esther could stop this genocide – but it meant risking her life. She fasted, prayed and pleaded to the King. The result: a miracle – life for herself and all the Jewish people.

**Do you face a difficult decision? Can you be a true "Queen" like Esther?**

Read more in the Book of Esther.



# Carpe Diem

There are two days in the week upon which and about which we never need to worry -- two carefree days kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is Yesterday. Yesterday, with its cares and fret and pains and aches, all its faults, its mistakes and blunders, has passed forever beyond our recall. It was ours; it ...is now God's.

The other day that we do not need to worry about is Tomorrow. Tomorrow, with all its possible adversities, its burdens, its perils, its large promise and performance, its failures and mistakes, is as far beyond our mastery as its dead sister, Yesterday. Tomorrow is God's day; it will be ours.

There is left, then, for ourselves but one day in the week - Today. Any man can fight the battles of today. Any woman can carry the burdens of just one day; any man can resist the temptation of today. It is only when we wilfully add the burden of these two awful eternities - Yesterday and Tomorrow - such burdens as only the Mighty God can sustain - that we break down.

It isn't the experience of Today that drives men mad. It is the remorse of what happened Yesterday and fear of what Tomorrow might bring. These are God's Days ... Leave them to Him.

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." - Psalm 73:26

What a wonderful God to love!

(Extract from an email from a friend in South Africa)



## COMISSIONING OF THE NEW KITCHEN

Mothering Sunday also saw the commissioning of the new kitchen, with a live video link relaying proceedings from afar. There then followed a presentation to the project team: Martin, Jo (the architect (with her daughter Darcy)), Bruce (equipment) and Andy (Woodlands builders).

## Bell ringing Outing 2012

On 28<sup>th</sup> April, St James held another bell ringing outing. This time joined by friends from Thurloxtton. We rang at four towers. The morning visits were Othery and North Curry.

To revitalise everyone's energy, we then spent lunchtime at the Bird in Hand in North Curry where a wide variety of dishes were enjoyed, followed by that rather relaxed tea or coffee finish.

Then it was time to get going again, moving on to Creech St Michael and West Monkton.

Food, once again, was the final challenge where we went to Shona's for tea and scones and take on the mission of Chocolate Cake!





## EVENTS SUPPORTING

*St. Margaret's*  
HOSPICE

### June 16th / 17th

Stogumber Open Gardens 10.30am – 5.30pm and a chance to view the beautiful gardens and floral displays in St Mary's Church Hall in the delightful village of Stogumber.

### June 23rd

St Margaret's Summer Fair in the Grounds of Taunton Hospice - a wonderful afternoon out for all the family.

### and...

Join us and celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with the Great British Tea Party raising funds for your local Hospice. Download a pack from our website.

For more information on any of the above, visit our website

[www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk](http://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk)

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Sorry we missed the fireworks display  
you organised for the church's Diamond  
Jubilee celebration, Vicar – how did it go?





# ALL AT SEA

Ocean Yacht Racing and God

**Question:** What gets 50 men out of bed and into the centre of Taunton by 7.45 on a Saturday morning?

**Answer:** A men's breakfast, but not just any breakfast – this was a cooked breakfast at the Lawns Social Club, followed by a fascinating account of life on an ocean racing yacht.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> men from St James, St Peter's Lyngford, Oakwood and Wellington Baptist, together with 13 of their friends, came together for breakfast to chat and to hear Nick Webb from Oakwood Church speak.

The cooked breakfasts disappeared pretty quickly, despite their size! What is it about men and a full English?! Over breakfast new contacts were made as men from different churches got to know one another. It was great for the friends who are not yet Christians to meet those who are and to realise that Christians are just ordinary people.

After breakfast Nick, who works at the Hydrographic Office, described his experience of one leg of a round the world yacht race, a journey which took him from Hawaii to Hong Kong, via Japan and China. We were given a glimpse of some of the challenges faced by yachtsmen and women living in cramped quarters on wild seas, as much as 1500 miles from the nearest land. Even boiling a kettle can be a challenge when the yacht is being tossed about in the ocean. Sleeping is decidedly difficult when, in order to return a sodden sail to its storage on the floor below your bunk, the hatch above where you are sleeping is opened in the middle of a stormy night, letting in wind, rain and sea water. Photographs illustrated the highs (such as magnificent sunsets and starlit skies over the ocean) and the lows (being unable to get dry for days on end) of day to day life on board.

Nick concluded his talk by sharing how he came to faith (God used the testimony of his family and two Alpha courses) and how his faith was severely tested in the few days immediately before he joined the yacht. He was besieged by doubts, and on the verge of turning round and going home but, after wrestling with God on the issue of trust, he stepped out in faith and went ahead.

A number of the men who are not yet Christians made positive comments about what Nick said. It is our prayer that God will speak to them and that they will come to faith themselves.

**St James Men's Ministry**

# Taunton Foodbank



Did you know that there are people in Taunton today, who are in Food Poverty?

Food Poverty can be caused by debt, redundancy, the breakdown of a relationship, benefit delay, or a large bill, among other causes.

We will supply a three-day emergency food box to those identified by local agencies.

# We need Volunteers

In our Distribution Centre   Our warehouse   For supermarket collections

If you will help, please contact,

**[fbank\\_volunteers@btinternet.com](mailto:fbank_volunteers@btinternet.com)**

**or**

**phone: 07783 161 205**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### For Children and Families

#### 17th June – Messy Church

Choosing the Helpers (God chooses everyone who comes to Him). With Messy craft, storytime and worship.

#### 1st July – All Age Worship led by Sunday Club.

A special service with plenty of songs, show and tell and a puppet show!

#### 8th July – Sunday Club outing to Longrun Meadow.

Meet at church at 10:30 when Sunday Club leaders will take the children to Longrun Meadow. Parents can collect the children after the service at the park and join us for a picnic.

#### 15th July – Messy Church – Psalms.

With Messy craft, storytime and worship

#### 21st July – ‘More Than Gold’ Activity morning.

For children aged 6 – 11. A morning of activities with a sporty theme including games and craft.



## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

### Church Lunch – Sunday 24th June

Please book by the 17th June . Sign up sheets held in the Church. For further details please see Sue Collard



### Parish Weekend Going For Gold - 5th to 7th October 2012

All booked, but additional Spaces now available. Please see Mark Stevens or Jenny Wakefield

# PCC Roundup

Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in March and May, plus snippets from the annual meeting.

## Annual Meeting

The PCC received the annual report and accounts, prior to their presentation at the annual meeting. If anyone missed seeing these comprehensive documents, please ask for a copy.

Two key facts from the annual report are that attendance increased by around 15% during 2011, and that the number of home groups increased from 10 to 15, with 125 members, representing 77% of the church membership.

At the annual meeting, new PCC members were elected. The PCC members are now:

(\* = new member; # = re-elected)

Tim Jones (Chair)

Les Andrews

# Tina Andrews (Treasurer)

Nicki Bradford

\* Nigel Bright

Chris Buckman

Richard Carpenter

Rodney Dixon

\* Joe Gentile

Jacky Gillingham (Churchwarden)

Mike Gillingham

Julie Kimber

Mandy Slade (Churchwarden)

Mark Stevens (Vice Chair)

\* Liz Sykes

\* Janet Tall

\* Richard Taylor

Jenny Wakefield

Martin Wakefield (Secretary)

Stan Wojcik (co-opted as  
Associate Warden)

## Strategy and Vision

The main item on the PCC's agenda continues to be the strategy to enable the church to grow. The process of appointing coordinators for key aspects of the church's life is proceeding steadily, and appointments to the Teaching and Worship coordinator roles are expected in June. A number of people are thinking about the other roles, and these posts will be announced in due course.

## Financial matters

At the annual meeting, Tina Andrews reported that the accounts for 2011 showed a deficit of £2,535, due mainly to an exceptionally heavy year for repairs.

At the May PCC meeting, Tina's first financial report for 2012 showed matters proceeding as expected. However, it must be borne in mind that we are now reliant on the whole of the projected income from hall hire to support the present pattern of ministry.

After a review of capital expenditure priorities, the PCC approved two projects:

- The installation of video screens to enable people sitting in the aisles to see words of songs and a camera view of what is happening “up front” (and replacement of the crèche screen).
- To plan the refurbishment of the Large Hall.

### **Children & Young People**

The annual report noted that C&YP work is in transition, with young people’s expectations being different to how they were only a short time ago. At the May PCC, the lack of 10-15 year olds was noted, a phenomenon known in the wider church as the “Child Exodus”. Efforts are being made to find ways of involving young people in ‘adult’ activities, and it is important not to see C&YP groups as being separate from the main body of the church. It is up to all church members to help young people find a place in the church community.

### **Mission to Firepool**

Knightstone Housing has appointed three community workers to the new Firepool site. The church is actively welcomed as a partner in building the new community, and consideration is being given to such things as using the church kitchen for cooking classes.

### **“The Peace”**

The PCC noted the concerns, raised at the annual meeting, about the awkwardness felt by many newcomers and visitors during “The Peace”. Nicki Bradford is going to prepare a discussion paper.

### **Premises matters**

Work on converting the SW Porch into a small room which can be used as an extension to the crèche is almost complete.

TDBC is now dismantling the floodlights. The PCC is looking at installing a timer for the light outside the church door.

The repairs in the Side Chapel are awaiting the wall drying out.

*The latest PCC minutes and agenda are displayed on a board near the coffee area, and previous minutes can be inspected in the office. The “Contact Points” leaflet is available near the photograph board; this tells you who to talk to about the many and varied things we do as a church.*

*Martin Wakefield*

# NEWSLETTER CONTACTS LIST

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Associate Churchwarden  
Stan Wojcik



## HOME GROUPS

Tuesday	10.30am	56 Manor Orchard (278387) Joyce
	11.30am	3 Addison Grove (353316) Anita 'Tea and Teddies'
	8.00pm	25 Whitmore Road (283691) Kathryn
Wednesday	2.30pm	15 Barrington Close (272597) John
	7.30pm	27 Priorswood Road (251077) Kay
	7.30pm	13 Gyffarde Street (365714) Mark
	7.30pm	28 Killams Crescent (254344) Les
	7.30pm	28 Cometrowe Lane (337690) Steve
	7.45pm	42 Ashley Road (284688) Richard
	8.00pm	Hesperia, The Avenue (277916) Richard
	8.00pm	The Gamma Group (272931) Contact Church Office
Thursday	7.30pm	69 Richmond Road (333194) Margaret
	8.00pm	12 The Avenue (271223) Sue

## OTHER GROUPS

Mondays	Parent and Toddlers Group 10am-11.30am in the Church Hall Contact Alison Buckman (07783 883053)
Tuesdays	Jungle Club 4.30pm – 5.45pm for children aged 6-11 in the Church Hall Contact Tim Jones (333194)
Tuesdays	11+ Club 7pm – 8.30pm for young people aged over 11 years in the Church Hall. Contact Nicky Bradford (337690)
Tuesdays	Bell ringing (alternate weeks) Contact Marian Gentile (275278)
Wednesdays	Art Group in the Church Hall Contact Church Office (272507)
Thursdays	Thursday Fellowship (first Thursday of the month) in the Church Hall Contact Vicky Dykes (282507)
Friday	The Ark Support Group for parents/carers of children with special needs. Meets once a fortnight. Contact Alison Buckman (07783 883053)



## **A Day to Remember**

A day to remember has just taken place.

I'll never forget the look on his face.

As I stood by the cross,

I heard him say,

"Father forgive them all today.

Betrayed by his friend with a kiss on his cheek.

Then arrested by soldiers before he could speak.

Although he died on the cross in pain

We know that his suffering was not in vain

As we celebrate Easter with our eggs and fun

Let us not forget how Easter begun.

A Poem by Mrs. Sally Westney and performed by her class  
following Archbishop Cranmer School's visit to the Easter  
Experience March 2012