

St James Church Magazine



March - May Edition

CONTENTS

Page 3 & 4	Tim's Letter
Page 5	Lent
Page 6 & 7	Bishop Peter's Letter
Page 7	Transport Meeting
Page 8	Cartoon
Page 9	Simnel Cake
Page 10 & 11	Introducing Bridget & Andy
Page 12 & 13	St James Church School - What's in a name ?
Page 14	Spiritual workout from Hannah Lucas
Page 15	Thoughts from Joan Flood
Page 16 & 17	Home For Good
Page 18 & 19	Mothering Sunday & Easter Services
Page 20	See any good films
Page 21	What's in your satchel?
Page 22 & 23	Crossword
Page 24	Our Page
Page 25	Bank Holiday Ramble
Page 26 & 27	Gideons
Page 28	The House of St Martin
Page 29	Pentecost
Page 30 & 31	Taunton Chaplaincy
Page 32 & 33	PCC Update
Page 34 & 35	Regular Listings

‘Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people’ (Ephesians 6:18)

This verse should be familiar because we have had it printed out as our church motto for 2013.

Of course, whole libraries of books have been written on the subject of prayer. So why make it a focus for our church this year?

Here are a few very simple thoughts about our praying which have been striking me recently:

- ***We need to be conscious of God’s presence all the time.*** Brother Lawrence (1614-91) called this ‘practising the presence of God’. It is perhaps like knowing you have a good friend, or a marriage partner, or a mother/father/son/daughter – they are not always at the front of your mind, but they are always there in your consciousness, and your thoughts turn to focus on them specifically now and again.

For some people God is not like that. He is simply not on their radar at all unless they are in church/in a crisis/at a particular time or place of ‘prayer’. So let’s try to *‘Pray in the Spirit on all occasions’*.

- ***Prayer can actually change things.*** God seems to allow us to influence his decisions and plans. There are lots of instances in the Bible where God relents from meting out well-deserved punishment because of prayer. Then there are times when miracles occur, contrary to the normally perceived way the world works.

From our perspective it can appear that while God has an over-all big plan, he is sometimes happy to allow details within it to be changed according to our wishes. On other occasions it may not be possible to incorporate our wishes. However he wants us to pray *‘with all kinds of prayers and requests’*.

- **Watch for God acting.** *'Be alert'*. Two things here: firstly look out for answers to prayer. So often we forget to notice or give thanks. Secondly, be alert when praying for someone, in what some call 'prayer ministry'. God can be giving ideas, words or pictures he wants us to share with the person, but if we never stop talking to God and don't listen and watch, we can miss them.

Incidentally, if you do feel you receive a word or picture for someone, just relay it without any interpretation: if it is right for them then it will be understood directly. Sometimes our own interpretations can be very wrong and unhelpful for the person concerned.

- **Pray for people you see.** They won't even know you are doing it. In church, say during Communion: silently pray a blessing on them, whether or not you know them. And for people in the street, or in ambulances, or at work... you will never know the effects, but again God somehow seems to let our prayer help the connection between him and them. *'Keep on praying for all the Lord's people'*. This is something that even the most physically restricted person can do.

Sometimes I think we make prayer too complicated, or think of it as something in a different league, or dimension, from our everyday lives. For the Christian it should be as normal as breathing, and our relationship with God as real and varied as with our best friends or our parents.

So let's draw near to our crucified and risen Lord this Lent and Eastertide and do what he loves best – communicate!

God bless, Tim



Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days
In the desert long time ago.
He showed endurance and restraint
With temptation as His foe.

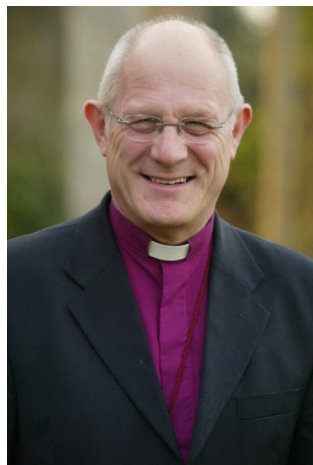
The length of Lent is forty days
For us a time of preparation.
It starts on Wednesday we call Ash
And it ends with Easter's celebration.

We follow Lent to follow Him
A time of sacrifice and prayer
We give up something we desire
That His example we might share.

By giving up some things in life
During this time of preparation
We show Him that we too are willing
To overcome our own temptation.

Oh, what joy that Lent will bring
At the end of the forty days
When Sunday's bells will ring
With Resurrection's praise.

By Elena dal Friuli



PARISH MAGAZINES LENT 2013

In his book *Man's Search for Meaning* based on his experience of the Holocaust in a number of concentration camps, Victor Frankl concludes that what the experience of suffering and privation taught him was that "the meaning of your life is to help others to find theirs."

Suffice it to say the book is profound, and recently reprinted. For me it has provided a kind of introduction to Lent. Lent is a 40 day season of reflection and preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time for rethinking how we live, letting some things go, praying in a more focussed way, considering others more, and perhaps even developing some more holy habits.

Any reflection or study of the death and resurrection of Jesus is meant to affect the way in which we think, talk and act. The French mystic Simone Weil once said, "I recognise someone as being of God, not when they talk to me about God, but the way they talk and act in the affairs of the world."

Jesus' life was about helping others to find the meaning of their life. He suffered a great deal in the process, he was misunderstood, people resisted his call to conversion, there were threats to his life, he was betrayed, and crowds turned hostile at the beckoning of leaders who could not grasp his message. The trial and crucifixion were the culmination of all that.

Modern religion is afraid of suffering. Often it takes offence, frequently it demands rights. Jesus didn't. "He had learned his obedience through suffering", says the Letter to the Hebrews. There are two reasons for this: first he understood that "he who has a *why* to live for can bear with almost any *how*"; and second that "meaning is possible in spite of suffering."¹

Lent provides us with an opportunity to reevaluate the meaning of our life in relation to others, and to seek to understand and accept that sometimes that leads us to experience suffering in some way. We need not be afraid – our Saviour has gone before us –and we know that we will celebrate resurrection on Easter Day – the eternal sign of hope.

+Peter Bath and Wells

1 Quote 1 Nietzsche; Quote 2, Frankl.

TRANSPORT MEETING

An enjoyable transport meeting was held In January, where we looked at the overall Transport Needs of the Church.

The meeting which also focused on having a time of Fellowship of tea, cakes, praise & prayer concluded with a stronger Transport Network of People. The requirements of this rota will always be changing in accordance with different needs so we always welcome new people.

Many thanks for all the support of everyone, and the thanks that are so often expressed by those we bring to Church.

Andrew Slade





The Mr and Mrs Druff couldn't
understand why the Rector queried
their choice of Dan as a name for the
new baby.

SIMNEL CAKE



Simnel Cake is traditionally eaten on Easter Day and in the olden Mediaeval days of the 17th century female servants would bake this fruit rich Easter cake to take home on their rare visits home to their mothers on Mothering Sunday which was the fourth Sunday during the Lent period.

The Christian fasting and repenting period of Lent ends on Easter Sunday and a Simnel cake helps to mark the end of the forty days of Lent and gives people a tasty treat and marks the celebration of Easter time. Some people still call the fourth Sunday during Lent Simnel Sunday.

The word Simnel comes from the Latin word Simila which means fine wheaten flour. The cake was traditionally made from this fine wheaten flour.

Simnel cake is not only delicious but is a symbolic Easter cake and is decorated to signify aspects of Christianity. For example 11 marzipan balls or figures are placed around the circular marzipan coated cake to commemorate the 11 disciples. Though there were 12 apostles of Jesus Christ, Judas Iscariot betrayed him and is omitted from the Simnel cake. Some Simnel Easter cakes will have a larger figure or ball in the centre of the cake to signify Jesus.

INTRODUCING.....

It may not be possible to do justice in two pages to this month's interviewees. **Bridget and Andy Hall** have always struck me as a quiet unassuming couple, but behind those mild exteriors are two people who are involved in a number of challenging roles and have a passion for knowing God and making him better known in God's town wide mission for Taunton.



Andy could be described as a local lad, having moved here when he was 6, but although he followed in his father's footsteps by working at County Hall on graduating, he has also lived and worked elsewhere. Bridget originated from Surrey, but she and Andy came to Taunton when their careers brought them back to Somerset,

They first met, through the fortuitous auspices of Somerset County Council when Andy had the opportunity to join a holiday to Spain by coach organised by a colleague in the Scientific Services section where he worked. Bridget, then training to be a teacher at Cheltenham, joined the trip as the guest of a friend. She tells me that she turned up at Southampton with her guitar slung over her shoulder (it was the Swinging Sixties after all). Romance appears to have blossomed during the journey, starting it seems when Andy offered Bridget one of his corned beef sandwiches. So love at first bite perhaps?

Since then they have been blessed with a happy and fulfilling marriage and interesting careers as a teacher and local government officer, two daughters, both of whom are now living locally and now beginning a new career as grandparents.

Their journey of faith has been an interesting one. Bridget's parents valued the spiritual life from different perspectives - her father was a Buddhist and her mother a Quaker. Consequently there were frequent and open discussions about belief and God. This was enhanced by Bridget attending a convent school and a C of E Church. However it was not until she was asked to help in her children's Sunday School at St. George's Wilton that she came to recognise faith could be personal and that God's love was freely given not earned. Andy

however was more sceptical and like many men didn't see the point of church; as a child he had experienced church as a bit 'spooky' and to be avoided. Little did he know then but not only was Bridget praying for him, but a certain guitarist and drummer colleague at work, called Les, was also on the case. Bridget persuaded him to attend a Billy Graham / Crossover mission at Temple Methodist. Andy was surprised to find himself impressed; so much so he went the following night by himself, and thus started his Christian journey.

They both have had busy lives, Bridget taught most recently for 16 years at Trull School, retiring early to look after her mother; Andy most latterly worked at County Hall in the finance department. However since retirement they have been involved in new forms of ministry. Andy has been part of the group that has been patiently praying for Transformation in Taunton, and they are very conscious that God is working in the town. The collaboration of the different churches has been a great answer to prayer, and the development of the Town Chaplaincy, Besom and Street Pastors are but three remarkable developments. Andy is a member of the Chaplaincy team and his 'parish' is County Hall, where he once worked and more recently he has extended his scope to the Six Acres Centre. At County, where posters advertise the service-, Andy runs a fortnightly prayer group, but also takes the opportunity to walk the offices talking with staff. Such a ministry takes time to develop, but his presence is being recognised and offers to talk and pray with people are accepted.

As part of their interest in churches working together Bridget helps with the Food Run at Chamberlains organised by the Vineyard Church. It has involved stepping outside her comfort zone, meeting people whose need is often desperate; seeing the church in action is an important expression of her faith. Both are engaged in cross-church groups, including for Andy, the Men's Group, which offers opportunity to involve men in exploring and developing their faith.

Andy and Bridget enjoy worshipping at St. James - they have found it warm and welcoming and find the relaxed and unpretentious style of worship meaningful. Bridget enjoys singing in the music group. Among other things they have also led Alpha groups at St. James, one of which continues to meet in their home. They have found it a humbling privilege helping others to develop their faith and in doing so have found their own faith and belief strengthen and affirmed.

For them their Christian faith continues to be exciting and challenging and as with their marriage they feel they are still in the process of "growing up"!

What's in a name?

What's in a name?

You may have seen in the local press that Archbishop Cranmer School is to become a Sponsored Academy in the very near future and that there will be a name change to

St. James Church School

Changes of name often mark a new departure and we firmly hope that this next phase for the school in Cranmer Road will be a great one for the pupils, parents and staff there.

St. James School has existed before and much closer to home. In 1828 a group of local worthies gathered together with the purpose of building a school next to the Church - it is still standing and we, as a church, still use it as our church hall. We are fortunate to know quite a lot of what happened there as the school log books from about 1868 still exist and are kept at the school. They reveal fascinating information including details of epidemics, inclement weather, inspections, special visits, lessons that were taught, the outbreak of war and the comings and goings of staff.



The old St. James school was enlarged as education became compulsory under the Foster Education Act, but as population grew more schools were needed. In

1913 a new Board School was built in Cranmer Road, and named Priory school, reflecting the association with the Priory area of Taunton, site of the Priory dissolved in 1536 by Henry VIII. The children there were educated up to the age of 14. Many children in the area went to Priory school and parents felt the facilities would be newer and better. (Although the advent of the first world



war caused some disruption when the pupils were moved out so that the new school could be used as a military hospital).

St. James school however continued in existence until another re-organisation of the education system, closing in 1977.

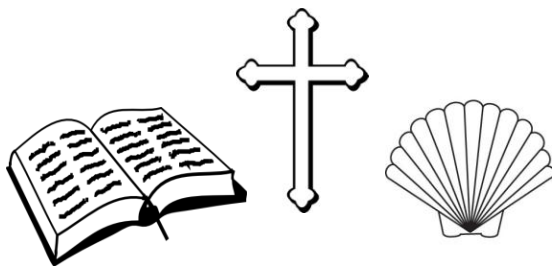
The pupils transferred to the Priory school site which became solely a primary school and another renaming took place, using the name of the road it was in, Cranmer Road.

I believe it was our PCC that suggested that Archbishop was added to the name which seemed appropriate as it had become a Church of England School; Cranmer being the first post reformation Archbishop, as well as a former Archdeacon of Taunton.

Now to mark the new phase in the school's development, a new name has been chosen. St. James was one of the first disciples of Jesus - a fisherman who was told he should fish for men, to spread the word about Jesus to others. We know that James was faithful to his calling and that he was one of the earliest Christians who died for his faith. There is also a pithy little epistle in the Bible from 'James', which talks about the balance between belief and action – though it was more likely to have been written by James the half brother of Jesus. It's a good name and good example to follow.

The symbols on the school's new badge, designed by staff and pupils incorporate, a book, a cross and a shell. The book represents the importance of learning. The cross and the shell are there to show the school's strong church links. (The shell is a traditional symbol of St. James, as it was a moment brought back by pilgrims from the traditional burial place of St. James at Santiago de Compostella in Spain). The school motto, based on Jesus' commandment to his disciples, remains the same:

"Love God, Love others, Love ourselves"



GAP Year News from Hannah Lucas

Hannah is spending a year with New Generation Music in Thornbury near Bristol, on a one year Christian performing arts course, exploring the potential for using dance, drama, music and creative arts as a form of Christian witness. Here she talks about her involvement in a Spiritual Health Weekend.



Spiritual workout!



On my gap year the founders of NGM, Nancy and Ray Gouldie, do a Spiritual Health Weekend for women every year, which the gap year students get very involved in! Having gone with my mum the year before, I was very excited to go from the work side of things.

It was crazy! A lot to do in not a lot of time, but the thing I noticed was everyone was working with a smile, the Holy Spirit was powering our work, and the attitude we had. Just thinking about the way those who attended lives will be changed is all the encouragement I need!

When we got to the Marriott hotel in Bristol (where it's held, the beds are divine!) and the 350+ women started piling in, it all started to come together. The women lit up, being given free gifts from Nancy and just seeing the level of care we had for them. Our motto for the weekend is "too make every woman feel individual, special and too feel God's immense love." This was greatly achieved! God's awesome love was flowing through the hotel, even one of the bell boys became a Christian! The amount of spiritual healing was touching to see, being a part of all these amazing women of God's journey was a complete highlight! Speaking words of love and delight over them, and blessing their lives! Helping them forward through love and prayer! When it was time to leave, the women were sad to go, as were the staff! All the women said how much they loved every minute, and were definitely coming back next year! Which is great news! But one woman said something that summed the weekend up perfectly... "I feel so loved, I feel blessed all over, but the spiritual workout I've been given means I feel like I could do with a week off! God is awesome and the people from NGM just shine out the Holy Spirit, good on them!"

I really urge the women of St James to come next year! It is well worth it! Get your spiritual gear on, it's time for a workout!!

PSALM 57 V1 (NIV)

I will take refuge in the Shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

I have been asked to share a recent experience just before Christmas, I was taken ill and admitted to hospital. I had recently had a book, "Beyond Ground Zero".written in the aftermath of the twin towers disaster. In the final chapter 'God's promises for troubled times' the writer lists 31 promises – one for each day of the month. On the 10th day (the day I went into hospital) the text I read was the one quoted above – Psalm 57 V1 NIV. During the next few days I found these words reassuring and encouraging, and when I was told I needed surgery, although I felt I was in a dark, shadowy place, I also had a sense of feeling safe and secure 'in the shadow of his wings' It was a blessing and comfort and I was able to share it with a fellow patient. Thankfully I am now making a good recovery.

Another blessing worth mentioning has been the provision of transport to Church, whilst I have been unable to drive. I would like to thank the volunteers and especially Andrew for organising them. This very worthwhile service is much appreciated, thank you.

The Lord's great love and compassions never fail. They are new every morning, Great is Your faithfulness.
Lam 3 22-23 NIV

Joan Flood

HOME FOR GOOD

The Evangelical Alliance together with Care for the Family and the Churches Child Protection Advisory have been working



together to respond to the huge challenge presented by increasing numbers of children coming into care. It is estimated 50 children every day are taken into care in the UK. They are removed from chaotic, traumatic, abusive, neglectful or desperate situations. Some of them need a home in an emergency. Some need a temporary home until they can return to their families. Some need an occasional home to give their families a break. Some need a permanent home with a new forever family. The Government estimates that around 9,000 more foster carers and 4,000 adoptive parents are needed

Evangelical alliance write on their website

"Home for Good is a challenge to churches which are uniquely placed to help. We could offer all sorts of families to step forward to foster and adopt vulnerable children, and a wider supportive community. As Christians we also have our own adoption story to inspire us as we have experienced being welcomed and included into God's family and our spiritual home for good. After a period of extensive consultation the 'Home for Good' initiative is being developed by the [Care for the Family](#), [CCPAS](#) (The Churches' Child Protection Advisory, and the Evangelical Alliance and will be launched early 2013. It aims to encourage and equip local churches to develop an intentionality about the recruitment and support of foster and adoptive families. In addition we will seek to build stronger relationships between churches and social services, and where necessary, develop services that will support Christians involved in fostering and adoption. To be kept informed or to get involved as this initiative develops, please visit the [Care for the Family](#) website and leave us your details".

Four members of St. James recently travelled to London for a meeting at the EA headquarters in London to find out more about Home for Good. Our party consisted of an adopter, an adoptee, a foster parent and a social worker. It was inspiring to hear the stories of other people in the group and to sense the positivity being expressed nationally about responding to the challenge.

Being a parent is never an easy task. Being a foster parent or an adopter, bringing up someone else's child, building self esteem, healing hurts that have been caused by neglect and abuse is a real but do-able challenge. If you are going to do it you need unending patience, a sense of realism and lots of support.

It is undoubtedly right that the churches should be at the forefront of responding to this challenge. Statistically if one foster / adoptive family came from every church in the country then the existing shortfall would easily be solved. Foster carers come in all shapes and sizes, different ages and family composition, what is most important is resilience, patience, persistence, time, ability to work as part of a team and deal cheerfully with frustrations, a sense of humour and of course most of all a love of children and parenting skills.

Most people who become foster parents say that it is something they have thought about for between 2 and 5 years; it's not something to take on lightly. So if this starts you thinking, or stirs up thoughts you've already had then that's great. If you would like to find out more visit the Care for the Families website.

If you would like to talk to someone who knows what it's like on the inside then have a word with Tim and he'll point you in the right direction. Or you can look at the Local Authority website where you can find some honest interviews with foster carers and their families.

<http://www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk/SuccessStory/> and

<http://www.adoptioninsomerset.org.uk/SuccessStory/>

You might even see someone you know!

MOTHERING SUNDAY,

MOTHERING SUNDAY

ALL AGE WORSHIP, 10.30AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH

EASTER SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, 10.30AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 7.30PM

*LAST SUPPER OF HOLY COMMUNION,
WITH A SIMPLE SUPPER*

EASTER & PENTECOST

GOOD FRIDAY

MORNING SERVICE

FRIDAY 29TH MARCH, 10.45^{AM}

*UNITED SERVICE AT ST JAMES FOLLOWED
BY THE WALK OF WITNESS. HOT CROSS
BUNS WILL BE SERVED FROM 10.15^{AM}*

AFTERNOON DEVOTIONAL SERVICE AT 2^{PM}

EASTER SUNDAY

**FAMILY COMMUNION
SERVICE, 10.30^{AM}**

PENTECOST

PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 29

Seen any Good Films lately?



Going to see something called "the Miserables", or " the Wretched Poor" is not every ones cup of tea, especially if it is associated with it being a historical tale set in post Revolutionary France.

However for one of the many who have been to see it at the cinema I would recommend it as two and a half hours well spent. It contains a wonderful range of songs, drama and action, portraying a story of hope against the odds, of faith and goodness triumphing and the possibility of redemption in unlikely circumstances.

Les Misérables



The story opens with, Jean Valjean, who as a boy had been convicted for 20 years for stealing bread for his sick sister, being released back into society, with only rags he was wearing and a chip on his shoulder. As an ex-convict he meets only angry rejection every where he goes until at last cold, starving and destitute he is found by the kindly Bishop Myriel who offers him unquestioning hospitality. Valjean repays the bishop by stealing his silver, but when he is later caught the Bishop tells the police that he had given the silver to him and reminds him that he had in his haste left behind two silver candlesticks. The bishop sends him on his way but with the challenge to become an honest man and live for God. Given the chance Valjean proceeds to respond to that challenge.

The original story by Victor Hugo draws upon real life characters that were models for Valjean, Myriel and others and on events that occurred in his own experiences during a time of great poverty and social unrest.

We are fortunate to live in economically more comfortably times, but the themes of injustice, poverty, inhumanity are still ever with us. Perhaps this film is a timely reminder of the importance of forgiveness, compassion, goodness and second chances.

If you have a film or a book you would like to review please speak to Andrew Slade.

What's in your satchel?

Now that really is old fashioned isn't it? How many of us can remember setting off to school with everything we needed for the day contained in the satchel either hanging from our shoulder or fixed to our back? Today, a simple plastic bag advertising the supermarket which we support, seems to satisfy many youngsters.

All which makes me ask what your satchel would contain if you were coming to our Sunday Teach in or preparing for a Bible Study. A Bible, of course is a start. But what then?

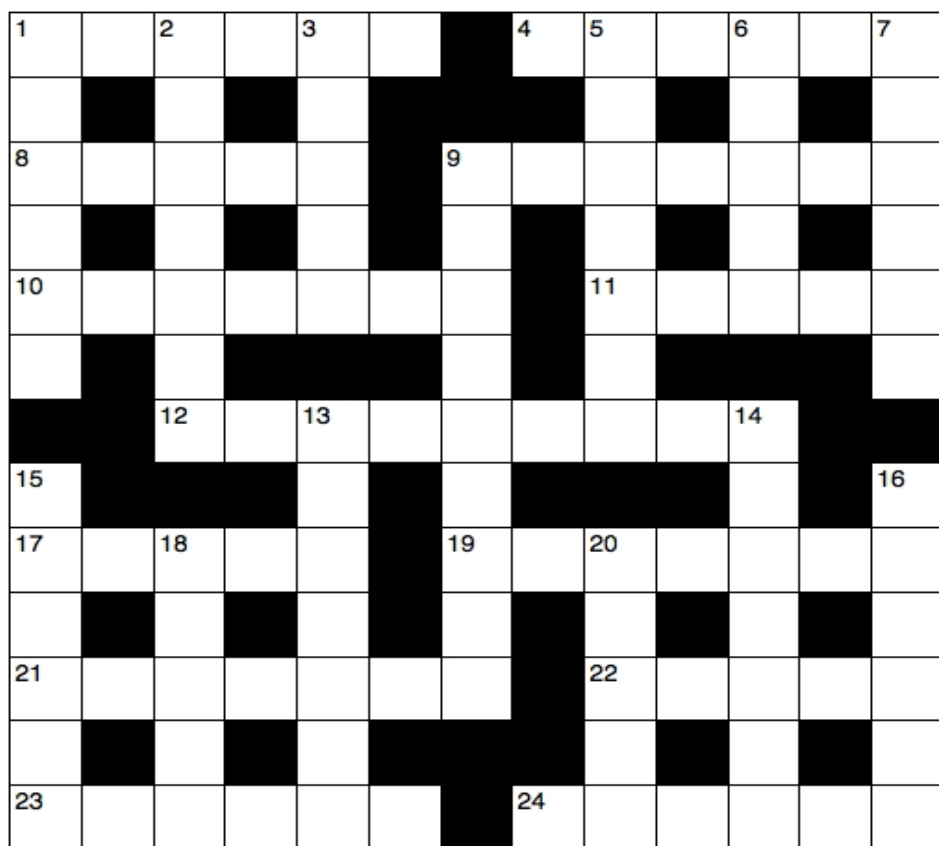
I am going to make an assumption that I know I should not – you have a computer. The computer itself is a potential satchel, filled with tools for study. And everything which I suggest might go into your satchel is absolutely free. Once you have your internet up and running simply type in the following:

1. Biblegateway.com Press the right buttons and what do you find?

- ☐ **Versions of the Bible.** There was a time when Tyndale's aim was to enable the boy at the plough to read the scriptures in his own language. Today new versions abound. Gateway has a large number from which you can take your pick. You can compare versions, including The Message, and gain fresh insights into the words of Scripture. You can choose
 - Your version
 - Your book
 - Your passage
- ☐ **Concordances.** If you want to know *when* a certain word appears in scripture or how often, press the appropriate button and they will all appear before you. If you are looking for a particular verse but not sure where you can find it, type in one or two words you think that verse contains and you can get a list of verses where the words are combined. Scroll down and you will find the one you are searching for.
- ☐ Even if you know no Hebrew or Greek, Strong's Concordance identifies which word in the original language is used against the English translation. Each word has a number which, with a little practice, helps to distinguish, for example, between the different words for 'love' in the bible.
- ☐ Bible reading plans and devotions are available from people as diverse as Tozer, Spurgeon and Bonhoeffer.
- ☐ Commentaries including IVP publications.
- ☐ www.biblestudytools.com will offer you free copies of a number of Bible Dictionaries with concise explanations or information on a whole range of Biblical topics.
- ☐ Click under 'history' and you will find a rich resource of some classic church history and Bible background books as well as Calvin's Institutes.

And there are so many more sites. But tread with care as you select.

Geoff Treasure



Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home” (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)



ASH WEDNESDAY

13th February

The date of Ash Wednesday changes each year according to the date of Easter. The earliest possible date for Ash Wednesday is 4 February and the latest possible date is 10 March. So this year it is quite early.

It is called Ash Wednesday because of the church service where palm crosses kept from last year are burnt and their ashes mixed with water to make a paste. This paste is used to make the sign of the cross on peoples' foreheads.

For Christians these ashes are a symbol of being sorry for things that they have done which make God sad. It is also a reminder that we are all mortal.

The mark of the ashes on the forehead shows as a sign of our commitment to Jesus Christ and God. And it reminds us that we are saved through Christ's death and resurrection.



FIRE

& ASHES



All of these Bible questions have answers to do with fire or ashes... answers at the bottom of the page

1. Who saw a burning bush in the desert? (Exodus, chapter 3)
2. According to Isaiah chapter 58, what should you wear with ashes when you fast?
3. In the second letter of Peter, what cities does he say were turned to ashes?
4. How did an angel cook a cake for Elijah? (I Kings, chapter 19)
5. In what year did the seraph touch Isaiah on the mouth with a live coal? (Isaiah, chapter 6)
6. Where was Peter when he heard the cock crow? (Luke, chapter 22)

Which English King invented the fireplace?

Alfred the Great.



1. Moses 2. sackcloth 3. Sodom and Gomorrah 4. he baked it on hot stones 5. in the year that King Uzziah died 6. While sitting by a fire in the courtyard of the house of the High Priest.

Easter Bank Holiday Ramble



**Dust off your walking boots, dig out your waterproofs, find
your flasks and water bottles, rummage for your
rucksacks.....**

The annual parish ramble

will soon be here.

We will meet on

Monday 2nd April

10.30 a.m in the Church Car Park

with a packed lunch

for a gentle amble in the country

**The location of the walk is as much a mystery to the organizer as it is to
you dear reader, but all will be revealed**

A GIDEON ABROAD.

One of the activities that we engage in as Gideons is the giving of Personal Worker Testaments (PWT's) to people we meet in our daily lives. This is a very smart little pocket sized version of the NIV New Testament and Psalms. It also contains the usual Gideon 'helps' which lead people directly to the scripture verses which they may refer to in times of need, or for encouragement etc. This is similar to the testaments given to school children, nurses, and the armed forces.

When we are away from home on holiday, or visiting friends or relatives I like to have some PWT's with me and there are two particular incidents which I recall where this proved very worthwhile.

The first of these was in 2009 when my wife and I went to Barbados. We stayed on a hotel resort and there we spoke to a young man who seemed to be alone and spent most of his time by the pool or on the beach, just relaxing and listening to music with his MP player. My wife decided to go on an excursion to another island but as this involved a lengthy trip on a Catamaran I stayed behind. I am not a good sailor and feel that the group might have regretted it if I had been aboard, having proved on a previous occasion that it is possible to suffer seasickness even on a silky calm Aegean Sea. When they had left I went to the beach snack bar for a drink and noticed the young man sitting alone at one of the tables. I asked if I could join him and sat at his table where we got talking. I told him I was a Gideon and offered him a PWT which he accepted politely; most people do! He then told me that he and his girlfriend had recently parted and he was trying to come to terms with the situation and thought a holiday might be a good idea. As we talked he told me that he was from Lewisham, London and that the Pastor of a local church had been helping him with his difficulties. He said that the Pastor had said many of the things that I had and he was very grateful and interested. He was intending to see the Pastor again on his return home. Winston, for that was his name left the hotel the next day.

When in November 2010 the opportunity came for us to spend a holiday in Egypt we chose to go to Taba on the Red Sea. This is close to Newiba which is very similar to the place described in the Bible as the place that Moses led the Israelites across the Red Sea. (That is another story which I will not comment on further at this point) I was thus interested to see it. There was an excursion arranged for a visit by coach to the Dead Sea and then on to Jerusalem for a day visit. We had to leave at 3.00 am and would be returned to the hotel by midnight. This was a wonderful trip and when we crossed the Israeli border at Eilat and joined an Israeli coach, we had a tour guide who was Jewish and he made the tour really interesting passing on a wealth of information during the whole trip. It was a long and fascinating day especially as we were in Jerusalem on the Sabbath and the fourth Sabbath in Hannukah at that, so saw the large numbers of religious Jews celebrating at the Western Wall. On the day after returning to our hotel I was passing one of the many pools at the site when I was spoken to by some people who were like us recovering from the exhausting day in Jerusalem. These were two middle aged couples who lived in the London suburbs and one of the men asked me what I thought of our trip to Jerusalem. Referring to our very vocal guide he asked if I had understood all that he was saying about Jesus and what had occurred at the various places we had visited, such as the Garden of Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives. Our guide had pointed to an Olive Tree in the garden and said that Olive Trees had a maximum life span of not more than 1000 years but this tree was alleged to be over 2000 years old, how mysterious was that? I told him that I had indeed understood a great deal at which he said that when they returned home he would look out an old video and some books he had about the subject. Taking their name and address I promised to send a DVD or VHS video of 'The Man of the Millennium' of which I knew there was a supply at our church. I subsequently sent this and I also passed on a Gideon PWT.

In neither of the cases mentioned have I any follow up information but it is a great privilege to have been able to witness to these people and give them copies of God's word so that God could use these as he willed.

langley house trust

helping people to live crime-free lives



The House of St Martin, Langley House Trust, is a Christian Charity, working with those who are at risk of offending, or have offended, establishing positive foundations so that they can lead crime-free lives and become contributors to society. We believe that the past doesn't have to define the future and that message of hope is at the heart of what we do.

The House of St Martin is a residential project providing accommodation for 19 individuals who want support to build positive futures for themselves. While residents are with us they are given regular keywork sessions where they draw up their own action plans and work towards achieving their goals with the support of staff. We run a range of learning activities such as our bicycle maintenance project, horticulture, life skills tutoring and catering training. We also plan a range of therapeutic projects for residents to channel their energies into such as regular walks on the Quantock Hills, games evenings, and arts and crafts activities.

We are pleased to say that Somerset County Council has just asked us to expand the work we do to also support people living in their own homes who may be struggling with similar issues. We are excited about this development which will enable us to help more people live crime free lives.

We feel very blessed by St James's church for the ongoing support we have received. It has been great that Rev Tim Jones has been able to visit regularly over the past couple of years and build up some good relationships with residents. Thanks also to Stan Wojcik and all the other members of the church that have helped in different ways eg. being part of a rota driving people to St James's Church every Sunday and with the kind donation of money to support our bicycle maintenance project. We have also felt really well supported by the Besom Project that has been invaluable in helping some of our residents furnish their new homes when they move on. Please continue to pray for us as a project and for each individual who comes to stay with us, that they may get the support they need to build a positive future for themselves.



Last year the Church decided to celebrate Easter using material from the Diocese of Gloucester called **Easter Experience**, and as a result were able to invite children from our Church School to hear the story of Easter in a very different and visual way with the help of displays, biblical characters, story telling and activities that made them think and respond. The displays were also part of our worship in the Church over the Easter period and had an impact on many who came to the church.

This year we are taking the story a step further to introduce the story of Pentecost, the birthday of the church. Nowadays Whitsun or Pentecost is not much remarked upon, but for Christians it is important to acknowledge this as a special time, when God sent the Holy Spirit to empower his small group of followers to tell others and carry on the work that had been started by Jesus. It is even more important to recognise that the same power is with us today in the 21st just as it was in the 1st century.

Pentecost Experience will need a big team of people in preparing as well as participating in the event which will occur in the week beginning the **13th May** and culminate with a cafe style Pentecost service on Sunday 19th May. We need people to help with scenery, actors, providers of refreshments and also people to pray for the event and for the ongoing work with the schools. So if you are interested in being involved please see **Sue Lucas, Jenny Wakefield or Nic Tall**.

St James has been a generous supporter of the Chaplaincy since it started work in April 2010. Let's look back at what has happened so far.

The Chaplaincy is a charitable trust, and aims to provide care and support for people at work and to members of the public. A significant claim that Jesus made was that if we put one particular instruction in place, 'all men would know that you are my followers.' What instruction was that? It was to 'love one another as I have loved you.' (John 13 v34-35). Chaplains in other organisations work throughout this country in a variety of settings: railways, hospitals, hospices, airports, schools, markets, London Transport and the military. All are trying to follow this same commandment from Jesus.

Currently there are 16 chaplains in the Taunton Team Chaplaincy, 2 of whom are ordained ministers. The rest are volunteers. They are drawn from 10 different churches in the town, 5 of which are Anglican. Les Andrews and Andy Hall are chaplains from this church. Neil Randall is the Head Chaplain and manages the team, approaches new employers and carries out many other duties. Chaplains typically work half a day each week at their own placements, which are listed at the end of this article. They cover over 40 businesses of varying sizes, where a total of over 5000 people work. In shops, chaplains will be approached by members of the public. Problems discussed with chaplains will usually include family, work or health. Discussions are always confidential. Our service is available to those of any faith or none at all.

A chaplain will only visit a workplace with the permission of the management, who will need to be reassured that their business will not be adversely affected. In fact, it is our experience that most employers see having a chaplain as a benefit to staff. Staff themselves react in different ways, from initial puzzlement to saying, "I think it's a really good thing, what you do... has this ever been done before?" It is very rare for chaplains to have a hostile reaction.

Chaplains are not overtly evangelistic in the 'handing out Bible passages' sense. Employers are reassured on this point, but are told that if their staff want to talk about Christianity, we will do so. The chaplaincy is a team, as our logo proclaims. We meet every month to pray, share experiences and learn from one another. These meetings are a source of encouragement and strength.

If people need professional help, chaplains will explain that they are not counsellors and can signpost them to an appropriate agency if needed. Where it seems right, they will offer to pray for the person, usually privately and away from the workplace. Such offers are rarely refused. The Chaplaincy has 30 prayer partners who receive a weekly 'Prayer Headlines' by email, and prayer will only be included when the person concerned gives

their permission. No names or employers are mentioned in the Headlines, to maintain confidentiality. When chaplains ask “Can I pray for you?” or “Can I get a team of people to pray for you?” they make connections with people who know nothing about God. Someone said “I was blown away by the care of people who were prepared to pray for me.”

You will probably know that the Business Carol Service has been held at St James since 2007. It is a service for everyone who works in Taunton. Chaplains deliver invitations to employers and the service seems to have been a real blessing to many people, some of whom return again the following year.

The scope for expansion of this work in Taunton is huge. There has also been interest from Wellington, Frome and Exeter in what we do. There have been some truly amazing answers to prayer but is important to remember that God takes all the glory in what has been achieved. The blessing of God which has come about because our churches are collaborating is evident, and we can be confident that if we follow Jesus’ commandment to love one another, we will see Him glorified even more.

Why not consider the points below and speak to Andy Hall or Les Andrews if you would like to know more?

- ☐ Could it be that your own employer would be open to having a chaplain visit? If you think they might be, Neil could make some initial enquiries.
- ☐ Do you think that you could be a workplace chaplain? The only qualifications are to love God and people.
- ☐ Would you like to become a prayer partner and provide absolutely vital support for this work?

If you’re hesitant, remember what Paul said in Ephesians 3: ‘God is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to the power [the Holy Spirit] that is within us.’

UK Hydrographic Office	Taunton Police Station	Orchard Centre (incl. Hatchers)
ASDA	Sainsburys - Billet Street	Sainsburys - Hankridge Farm
Debenhams store	Cornerstone	County Hall & Six Acres centre
Town centre	Matalan	East Reach businesses
County Stores	Boots	British Home Stores
St Mary’s coffee shop		
40 Commando (assisting the Marines chaplain, supporting families)		

PCC Roundup

Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in December, January and February.

Strategy and Vision

The PCC considered a request from the Polish Church to use our building on a regular basis. While it was decided that this would be impractical, the PCC felt challenged about whether we make best use of our premises.

In particular, we have occasionally thought about developing activities on evenings during the week, but not done much about it. The PCC will be discussing this matter further.

Grants and donations to missions

The church supports a number of local organisations financially (Taunton Youth for Christ, Open Door and the Taunton Chaplaincy), and a number of "overseas" missions (WEC, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Tearfund and Barnabas Fund). The PCC decided to allocate the 2012 funds at the same level as 2011, but to make further one-off donations to Taunton Chaplaincy and Taunton Youth for Christ. A donation was also made to Street Pastors.

In February, the PCC approved a grant to Hannah Lucas, who is taking part in a mission to Mozambique (organised by New Generation Music) where she will be working in an orphanage.

Outward Giving Policy

The PCC continued thinking about its policy for giving money to other causes. The November minutes had recorded: *The PCC supports the concept of mission covering all types of outreach, including equipping our own members for their personal mission, running St James's own activities that reach out to others, supporting local missions and looking towards the needs of the wider church. [However,] there is no clear idea of how St James should be playing its part in the wider church, beyond carrying on supporting the present partners.*

The PCC agreed that the first step in discerning God's will for us should be to run a series of sermons and home group studies. Geoff Treasure and Tim Jones are basing this series on incidents recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

New treasurer

The PCC was pleased to note that Richard Sainsbury has offered to take over the role of Treasurer, assisted by Jacqui Sainsbury.

St James Debt Advice Centre

Graham Reid continues to make progress on setting up the “St James Debt Advice Centre”. It is hoped that most of the arrangements will be in place to be approved by the PCC in March.

Archbishop Cranmer School

The PCC noted that the Interim Executive Board (IEB) of ABC School is proposing to rename it *St James Church School*. The PCC also noted that the selection of school governors is now being done on the basis of the individuals’ skills, with no representation on the board from interested organisations such as the local church. It was therefore agreed that there is little point in the PCC spending further time looking at the matter of school governance. Instead, the church will continue to seek opportunities to develop school-church links, as it has always done.

Premises matters

Planning work continues on the hall refurbishment and the installation of video screens on the pillars in church.

The PCC approved expenditure on new cupboards under the serving counter, and these are now in place. Quotations for the main refurbishment are being obtained.

Tim Baigent presented a new design for the main church sign, which the PCC liked very much. Further work is in hand on a new logo, which is needed before the sign is manufactured.

Website

Chris Buckman demonstrated the new website to the PCC, and explained that it has been designed to be readily updated by a team of people rather than depend on one webmaster. A working party is planned to migrate the content of the existing site to the new one.

PCC minutes and agendas 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 various things we do as a church.

Martin Wakefield

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS LIST

Contacts for Pastoral Matters

Vicar: Rev. Tim Jones 01823 333194 e-mail: timjones@tesco.net

Pastoral Care Coordinator - Annie Reid 07812 130619

Church office: 01823 272931 e-mail: info@stjamestaunton.co.uk

Children and Family Worker - Alison Buckman 07783 883053

Magazine Editor - Andrew Slade 01823 259440 e-mail: 3waypersonalprint@gmail.com

Churchwardens - Jacky Gillingham 01823 270044 / Mandy Slade 01823 259440

Associate Churchwarden - Stan Wojcik

HOME GROUPS

EVENING GROUPS

Tuesday 8.00pm

25 Whitmore Rd Contact Kathryn Clarke 283691

Wednesday 7.30pm

13 Giffarde St Contact Mark Stevens 365714 (hosts Bethan and Tim Baigent 271655)

28 Killams Crescent Fortnightly Contact Les Andrews 254344

28 Comeytrowe Lane Contact Steve Bradford 337690 (hosts Wakefields 277318)

Wednesday 7.45pm

42 Ashley Rd Contact Richard Sainsbury 284688

Wednesday 8.00pm

Hesperia, The Avenue Contact Richard Carpenter 277916

16 Vera Street Contact Mark Johnson 07796525094

Thursday 7.30pm

69 Richmond Rd - **Women's group** Contact Margaret Jones 333194

Gable Cottage, West Lyng Contact Geoff Treasure 490458

94 Sherford Road Fortnightly Contact Andy Hall 274656

Thursday 8.00pm

12 The Avenue Contact Sue Doyle 271223 (host Annie Reid 07812 130619)

HOME GROUPS

DAYTIME GROUPS

Tuesday 10.30am

56 Manor Orchard Contact Celia Wojcik 443287 (host Joyce Lander 278387)

Wednesday 2.30pm

15 Barrington Close Fortnightly Contact John Gould 272597

Thursday 2.30pm

27 Priorswood Rd Contact Kay Seed 251077 (host Sue Collard 271858)

OTHER GROUPS

Mondays Parent and Toddlers Group 10am-11.30am in the Church Hall
Contact Alison Buckman (07783 883053)

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)

Little steps that make a **big difference**

Each and everyone that takes part in the Big Toddle can do so knowing that they are making a real difference to children's lives. The money raised will help provide essential care for children affected by homelessness, disability and trauma across the UK.



Model used, and name changed to protect child's identity.

Oliver needed our help

Through Big Toddle money Barnardo's can help children like 3-year-old Oliver, who currently lives with his grandparents after his father went to prison and mother was unable to care for him due to a drug addiction. Oliver was referred to Barnardo's as his disruptive start in life had left him undernourished, unable to mix with other children and suffering from delayed development. His grandparents were struggling to cope with Oliver's disturbed sleep patterns, which formed as his mother often took him out at night to get drugs.

How Barnardo's helped Oliver

Barnardo's was able to provide one to one support for Oliver and his grandparents, developing a plan that works really well for the family. Oliver's future is looking a lot brighter and he will be starting pre-school in September.

There are thousands of children like Oliver that need our help. Please join us for Big Toddle fun and make a difference to their lives.

Register now at www.bigtoddle.co.uk

