

St James Church Magazine



June - August Edition

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All for Jesus? Or just a part?

At the risk of being corny I thought I'd re-introduce you to a few men whom I know, and from whom we might learn a thing or two. Indeed I suspect we all know them only too well, because they easily get under our own skins...

Mark *Full name – Mark Time* Mark always says, 'Let's defer this until later'. 'Yes, what a good idea, we must think more about that...' and more... and more... until it's too late.

St Paul met with people like Mark in Athens (Acts 17:32). 'Oh, very interesting. We must hear more from you on another occasion'. Then they went on with their normal pagan lives.

If you believe God might be asking you to do something (or to stop doing something), you need to follow it up now, not mark time until the call goes away. Speak with someone you trust. See if they have had similar ideas for you or about whatever it might be. God's Holy Spirit is longing to communicate and for you to respond.

Alf *Full name – Alf Arted* Alf knows what he ought to be doing, maybe in response to a call or prompting from God, and has agreed to do it. But then he starts making excuses to himself or others. It seems too demanding. He hasn't really got time, and anyway circumstances have changed. But he doesn't want to lose face by pulling out completely, so does whatever it is in a very 'alf'arted sort of way.

Remember what Jesus says about funerals, furrows and foxes... (Luke 9:57ff)

Peter *Full name – Peter Out* A close friend of Alf. Starts brilliantly with the latest thing he believes God wants him to be doing. Sometimes, like the Apostle Peter, rather impetuous; gets enthusiastic about every idea without discerning whether or not that is something God

wants him involved with right now or not. So the inevitable happens, and there simply isn't the time or energy. So whatever it is peters out... and that area of life, or ministry, or whatever it was falls by the wayside. Peter, like Alf, often spends a lot of his life feeling guilty.

Read 2 Cor 8:10-11

Luke *Full name – Luke Warm* Luke is pretty comfortably off compared with many others. He has no pressing needs (at least, none he's prepared to admit or share with others), and has to spend quite a lot of his time organising his own life and that of his immediate family. He'd like to be seen to be generous, but it doesn't really come from his heart: when it comes to anything which impinges on his own way of life, he measures it up carefully before offering to do or give anything. He does things, including church, on his own terms as a consumer – weighing up what he will get out of it.

Luke has lots of friends in Taunton, even in the churches, and they do things which help people like them, on their own terms. They never rock the boat or join campaigns unless they are purely moral and personal and don't threaten their own lifestyles.

Luke is actually in grave spiritual danger. Read Revelation 3:15-18

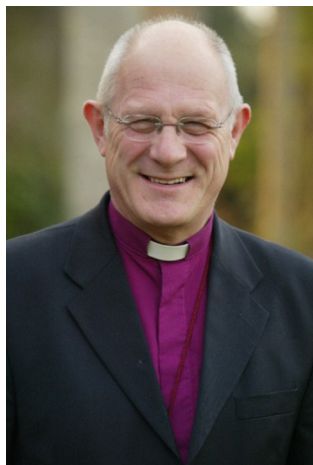
Let's pray that God's Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Jesus – so fills our church that Mark, Alf, Peter and Luke are all challenged, changed, supported, loved and transformed into true, wholehearted and passionate disciples.

God bless,
Tim

Group visit?

Every second Wednesday of the month in Wells, your Diocesan [Resource Centre](#) at The Old Deanery is here especially for you. Why not book a time slot to discuss and browse through house group material, children's books or youth books? Why not come as a group and visit the Resource Centre in the morning, then the market then have lunch maybe at Chapter Two or The Bishop's Table? To book your visit, please contact [Veronica Elks](#) or ring 01749 685129.





Bishop's Message for Parish Magazines

**Rt Revd Peter Maurice, Bishop of
Taunton – June 2013**

**“A story of hope and trust in the
purposes of God”**

Whatever else the life of a bishop is, it is rarely boring and that has been borne out by the variety of events that I have had the privilege to be part of over these past few days.

Two of them involved being present at the opening of new school buildings in Yeovil and Highbridge. These are church schools in two of the more challenging communities in the Diocese. The schools were a joy to be at – they were communities where the Christian values of inclusiveness, care and well being were much in evidence. You could see very clearly that the potential of each and every child really mattered.

I was also involved in leading two services of baptism and confirmation in different parts of the diocese with candidates ranging from early teens to early 80's! Here were a group of people, each with a different story to tell, but all of them showing the energy and enthusiasm of those who know that however the journey unfolds, it is one that will be sustained and supported by a loving and faithful God.

The final event was a service of thanksgiving for the homecoming of 40th Commando Royal Marines based in Taunton. This tour has seen the loss of one soldier, together with life changing injuries to others. The chaplain described it as a very tough tour but one in which they had sought to bring some semblance of peace and security to the Afghan people; he knew, however, that the task was not over.

All these events took place in the shadow of Ascension Day when the Christian church is reminded that although the physical presence of Jesus may have gone, the work of bringing all humanity into the fullness of God remains and our calling is to be part of that ongoing task; seeking to enable everyone to fulfil their potential; seeking to create within our churches, our communities and our world the things that make for peace, justice and well being.

Today and everyday we need to have the courage given us by God's Spirit, to turn the page in our own journey, continue reading and let the next story begin, and let it be a story of hope and trust in the purposes of God so that we can be true and living witnesses to the good news of Jesus each and every day.

+Peter Taunton



INTRODUCING..... ANDY AND DEB ROWDEN

are relatively new to St. James. You may have seen them recently as part of the Besom team involved in a fairly major decorating and re-plastering project. Andy has also been elected to the PCC and will have sampled his first meeting by the time you read this.

Andy and Deb are Somerset born and bred. They both grew up in Street, and have good memories of a community with a good social core, dominated by the existence of Clark's shoe factory, which was then a major employer in the town. Both grew up with a church background. Deb's parents were staunch members of the Church of England, while Andy had more tentative Methodist connections, in which his father was Band Master in the Boys Brigade. Deb found her church had little to offer the young people, although she was a member of the choir, following in her father's footsteps. However the Methodist Church had a vibrant youth club, with an enthusiastic leader who arranged outings and events which struck a chord. It was there that Deb met Andy in their mid teens, and married when Deb was 18; and as they say, the rest is history.

Like many people in Street, Andy was working with Clark's and continued to do so until he took voluntary redundancy 17 years ago. His work took them to the factory in Plymouth and although Deb was a bit reluctant they found it a good place to grow up and raise their two children. Following redundancy they returned to Taunton about 17 years ago which is when Andy took the step of setting up in business as an independent financial advisor. This is now a family business with both their children involved. The tantalising title of their firm is The Financial Detectives but I am assured that they limit their activities to finding out the best possible financial packages for their clients rather than sleuthing for long lost treasure hoards.

Having been keen members of their local churches as young people when marriage,

family and changes of location came along they moved away from church attending. They continued to have a belief in God, but no longer believed in church. Andy in particular had become disillusioned by people who didn't seem to live up to their faith. However the spark was there and they were ready to engage if they could find an authentic expression of faith. They invited both Mormon and Jehovah's Witnesses in for discussions, but were not convinced. However they had been talking to Andrew Slade, who they knew, about the Alpha course. Andy responded to an invitation to a course run by the Halls; Deb wasn't too sure about going, but agreed to go along and in their different ways found a place where they could enjoy talking and enquiring about faith in a relaxed and homely atmosphere. Andy enjoyed the analytical approach of Nicky Gumbel, which gave him permission to ask questions without feeling he had to conform to a formula.

In attending St. James they have found they feel that they have found the authenticity they had been looking for, and the more they came the more they liked the atmosphere. They felt welcomed for themselves and have felt they wanted to be part of the community. They admit that they have slightly different standpoints Deb more accepting while Andy is more of a questioner, but they feel that St. James is somewhere they can both feel at home so that they are comfortable in progressing their journey of faith together. They also enjoy the fact that St. James has an energy about it that is outward looking and wanting to put God's love into action in many different ways. (They signed up to help with the Besom project after Nesta's visit to talk about the need for more volunteers.)

As Alpha graduates they have continued to attend a house group and they feel that this has been essential for them to grow in their faith both appreciating the quiet patience of Bridget and Andy.

It was a real privilege interviewing Deb and Andy and knowing that God's timing has been at work for them to find the opportunity to realise their faith and find opportunity for it to find expression.

How Very Different Our Services have Become

I have been thinking lately of how very different our Church services have become.

Not so many years ago, we dressed up in our 'Sunday best' to go to Church. We had to be quiet and listen to the preacher. Children had to be quiet and keep still, either reading or colouring, and if noisy - taken out!

Now it is so different and it takes those of us who are 'of riper years' some time to get used to.

But I can see the necessity of Church being a more relaxed place, in this day and age, where there is so much stress in the work place, in business and schools, hospitals and indeed in the world generally.

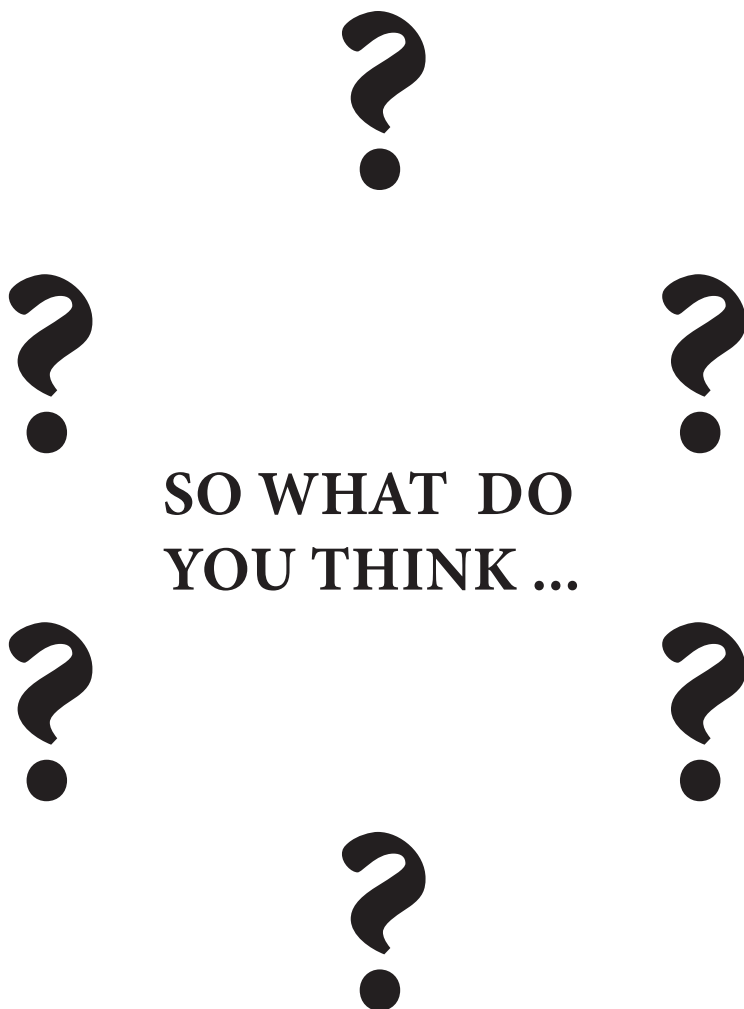
Even in homes, where families have split up, the parents and children must value some time together.

I can see the need for Church to be a more relaxed place where there are a minimum of rules and regulations, and people can be free to be themselves.

I would be interested to know what others think about these things and wait to see if you get any other views.

With every blessing,

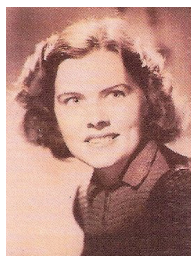
Jenny Edmonds



Write to or email Andrew on 3waypersonalprint@gmail.com

Frieda Baker 1921-2013

Many in St. James will have fond memories of Frieda, who died aged 92 in April this year. The following article was written in 2000 following an interview for a Millenium Magazine edited by some of the young people at St. James:



Frieda grew up in Timor in the Dutch East Indies where he father was a senior figure in the Dutch Colonial Service. Although her mother taught her bible stories, there was little opportunity for formal worship and instruction. However Frieda grew up with a sense of God's existence and at the age of 5, when her mother was saddened by the death of her own mother, it was Frieda who reminded her that grandma was now in Heaven. Frieda made her own decision about confirmation when she was 16 and she continued to read her bible in order to know more about God, to whom she felt a strong attraction.

In 1942 the shadow of war fell on the Pacific and the Japanese invaded the English and Dutch possessions of South East Asia. Her father and brother were immediately seized by the Japanese and later Frieda and her mother were sent to prison camps where conditions became progressively worse. Frieda commented that in Japanese eyes women were of little worth and for nearly four years she suffered the privations of captivity. Remarkably Frieda said she bore no anger towards the Japanese. Having lived in the East she understands the cultural difference that led to attitudes held by her captors. She feels strongly that there has to be forgiveness and reconciliation in order to move on. Following the war, in which she lost her fiancé who died on the Burma Railway, Frieda and her family, all of whom survived, were repatriated to Holland following a period of recuperation in Australia.



Frieda came to England, having met her husband on holiday and then marrying. They moved to Taunton, where their two sons were born. She was involved Temple Methodist, Staplegrove church where he sons attended activities and later St. James where she found a fellowship where she felt at home. Also during her time in Taunton she has been a member of an ecumenical prayer group finding there the opportunity of fellowship without the trappings of denomination.

Frieda has a close and prayerful relationship with God and there have been some special times when he has felt an overpoweringly wonderful sense of God's presence. She has known many dark times, not least when she lost her husband Peter in 1982. However she has been given the strength to go on.

Frieda has been involved in a number of different organisations in Taunton acting as a counsellor for a young persons; charity and set up a friendship centre for old people. She sees it as important not to mix all the time with Christians, believing that we are called to be salt in this world, sharing and spreading God's love.

Frieda was always ready to take on new challenges, learning languages, riding her moped, using a computer, which she used to make cards and write poetry. Here are two of her poems

PRAY - ALWAYS

When sunlight lies upon your path
And friends give you support
When things go as you want them to
It is easy to praise the Lord
It is easy to lift up praying hands
And thank him for what he has done
But it is easy to forget him then
And live a life of your own
When the going gets really rough
And obstacles mount in the way
Then you begin to realise
The urgent need to pray
When your feeble strength is not enough
And you give up in despair
When you turn away from your earthly ways
You will find him waiting there.
With arms outstretched and loving face
He welcomes you home again
Forgiving you for all your wanderings
Our God the Son of Man
So pray at all times, good or bad
Give glory to his name
Put your hands in his and let him lead
Our Father, Our Saviour, Our King

FB 1986

ODE TO MY COMPUTER

Oh, my computer
Are you my friend or foe?
I really like to please you
I do my best you know
But you are so very distant,
Fixing me with your great square eye.
You have brought me to the verge of tears
And it is not often that I cry
I am learning to speak your language,
So we can communicate,
And I hope that in the very near future,
You'll become my very good mate.
I decided to start taking lessons,
And read books to learn the skill,
How we can work fully together,
And you will perform to my will.
I've already learned to tame the mouse,
He's quite obedient now.
The keyboard is also not too bad,
I'm managing that somehow.
I can now type a document,
And make a whole new folder.
I can open, save and recall a file
Underline, use *italics* and print **Bolder**.
But how much I may eventually learn,
And how proficient I may get,
I'll not underestimate you, my friend
And make sure never to forget,
That when we are at loggerheads,
The Computer always knows what's best!

FB September 1998

War Memorial Project

1914 - 2014

Hidden away in the side chapel is the memorial to those who died in the two major conflicts of the 20th century.

On Armistice Sunday in November every year a wreath of poppies is placed there and the well know words of Laurence Binyon are repeated:

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Have you ever wondered about those young men whose names are inscribed on the memorial. As we approach the centenary of the outbreak of the first world war a small group of people from St. James are attempting to find out about them with a view to producing a memorial book for the 102 young men from this parish who fell in that terrible war.



If you have any information about any of those names, or know someone who does then please have a word with either

Liz Harewood or Jenny Wakefield

BELL RINGING OUTING



On Saturday 4th May, Bell ringers from St James and Thurloxton joined together for their annual outing.

This year's outing was all kindly arranged by Michelle Durnell. We enjoyed visiting 4 towers in Devon. All towers we visited had 6 bells.

Our two stops in the morning were - Washfield - St Mary the Virgin from 10.00am–11.00am and then on to Stoodleigh - St Margaret's 11.15am – 12.15pm.

We then stopped for a very leisurely lunch at The Exeter Inn. A range of meals were enjoyed including puddings as well!

At 2.45 we moved on to Bampton - St Michael and All Angels. The above photo shows us all outside the Bampton Church. They also advertised us on their Notice board so shoppers in Bampton would have been aware of who was providing the quality ringing or not at times !!

Our day finished at Morebath - St George's from 4pm – 5pm

From 5pm Mabel (Jim's wife) and some others provided us with tea, cake, and scones in the Church.

We were also invited back to the Morebath Flower festival held on the Bank Holiday at the end of May where Tim, Shona, Alan, Michelle, Marian, Andrew and Mary were able to join in ringing the bells to celebrate.

Normally you do use up some calories in Bell ringing but somehow this time I think we may have all gained some!!

Pentecost Experience



300 Cup cakes, 250 children, pyrotechnics, chocolate, yards of voile, pots of paint and over 25 St. James volunteers spending many hours of creative endeavour, preparation and planning. All this helped create this year's Pentecost Experience which was enjoyed by the children of St. James Church School in the week leading up to Pentecost. The format is similar to last year's Easter Experience. The children were introduced to the exciting story of Pentecost by a team of story tellers in a number of different 'stations' around the church. Afterward they enjoyed birthday cupcakes in the hall, to remind them that Pentecost marks the birthday of the Christian Church.

On Pentecost Sunday the same scenes, depicting Waiting, Receiving, Doing, Sharing and Going were used in the service. It was a great opportunity to help the children understand and to remind ourselves of the vital importance of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and that this is essential for spreading the message of Jesus to those around us.

Enough of words let the pictures tell the story!



Celia and Bridget explaining how the disciples had to wait for the Holy Spirit to arrive.



Waiting over! Jenny and Geoff talking about the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit and the power it unleashed at Pentecost.



The Spirit in action! Sheila telling the story of Peter and John healing the lame man at the temple, and how he went leaping and jumping from the scene.

The road scene was constructed by Betty, Alan and Joyce.



Chris in her first century house, which she created, explaining how the early Christians lived, and shared what they had with each other.



Nic talking about how the gospel has spread from a small group of people in Jerusalem, to every part of the globe. The children were able to see how many Christians live in that country. The map was created by a certain Hydrographic employee and the Comeytrove Home group.



Celia talking with last group on Friday. These were year 6 children who had just finished their SATs. They listened fantastically. Behind can be seen a beautiful display masterminded by Sue Carpenter and the flames that each child made during the week decorating the font and pillars. Hundreds of dove and flame shapes were cut out by Sue C, Kate and other willing snippers!



Legionary Nic all set to conquer the world!



Sue Lucas on the final day reviewing how the week had gone.



Photos by
RT, SL, JW



300 cupcakes later. Joyce, Margaret, Jean and Joan, were the amazing team of four who baked and served the children and staff their cakes and drinks after their visit. (Jean escaped being photographed!)

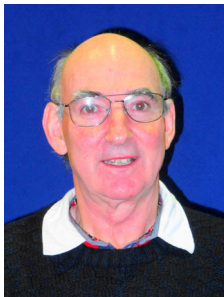
THE NEW PCC



REV. TIM JONES
VICAR



MANDY SLADE
CHURCH WARDEN



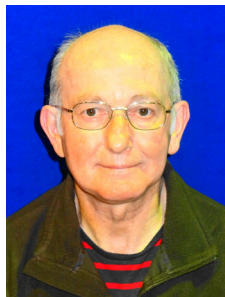
STAN WOJCIK
CHURCH WARDEN



MARTIN WAKEFIELD
PCC SECRETARY



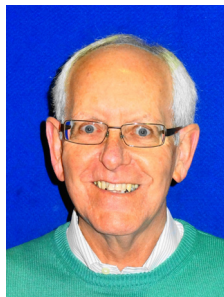
CHRIS BUCKMAN
ELECTED UNTIL 2014



JOE GENTILE
ELECTED UNTIL 2014



NICKI BRADFORD
VICE CHAIR
ELECTED UNTIL 2014



RICHARD TAYLOR
ELECTED UNTIL 2014



JANET TALL
ELECTED UNTIL 2015



LIZ SYKES
ELECTED UNTIL 2015



NIGEL BRIGHT
ELECTED UNTIL 2015



BECKY FOX
ELECTED UNTIL 2016



ANDY ROWDEN
ELECTED UNTIL 2016



MICHELLE DURNELL
ELECTED UNTIL 2016



ROGER FENTON
ELECTED UNTIL 2016



JULIE KIMBER
DEANERY SYNOD REP



RICHARD CARPENTER
DEANERY SYNOD REP



JACKIE GILLINGHAM
DIOCESAN SYNOD REP



JENNY WAKEFIELD
ELECTED UNTIL 2015



RICHARD SAINSBURY
TREASURER



JUSTICE

Every time there is a story about the law and justice in the newspapers or on television they always use the same symbol to show justice – a woman wearing a blindfold over her eyes, holding a set of scales in one hand and a sword in the other.



The blindfold is there to show that nothing affects the decision except the scales. The scales show that justice is only

right when both sides weigh the same and that all are equal before the law. The sword is there to show that the good are protected and the wicked punished.

All through Jesus' teaching is the idea of judgement – that we all shall stand before the throne of God and answer for what we have done. And when we do, the judge will be Jesus because he lived on earth as we do. St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25, verses 31 to 46 tells us about this judgment.

Will you be a sheep or a goat?

SHEEP & GOATS

The answers to these are all animals in the Bible. Answers below.

1. 400 young men escaped on these (1 Samuel 30:17).
2. They eat under the table (Mark 7:28).
3. They live in the high mountains (Psalm 104:18).
4. One was lost and 99 were safe (Luke 15:6).
5. Benaiah killed this animal in a pit on a snowy day (1 Chronicles 11:22).
6. There were 4 of them, coloured white, red, black and pale green (Revelation 6:1-8).
7. Jesus rode this into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:21).
8. Their dung is used to bake bread (Ezekiel 4:15).



What did the cloned sheep say to the other sheep?

I am ewe.

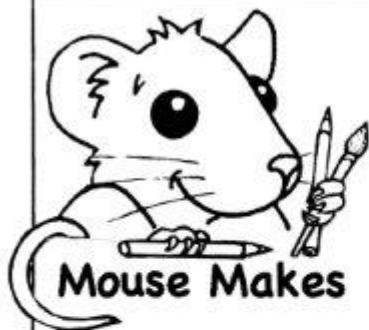


What do you call a sheep with no head or legs?

A cloud.



Answers: 1.camels 2.dogs 3.goats
4.sheep 5.lion 6.horses 7.donkey 8.cow



You may have read the bible story of Daniel in the lions den, but have you ever read the whole book of Daniel?

Take your time and read a little each day and find out about *the vegetables*, the statue, *the gold idol*, the furnace, *the tree*, the writing on the wall, *the lions*, the four animals, *the ram and the goat*, and the man.

Hidden in the lion's mouth are all these names and words, can you find them?

- DANIEL
- ASHPENAZ
- HANANIAH
- MISHAEL
- AZARIAH
- DREAM
- STATUE
- IDOL
- FURNACE
- TREE
- WRITING
- WALL
- DARIUS
- LIONS
- PRAYER
- GOD
- NEBUCHADNEZZAR

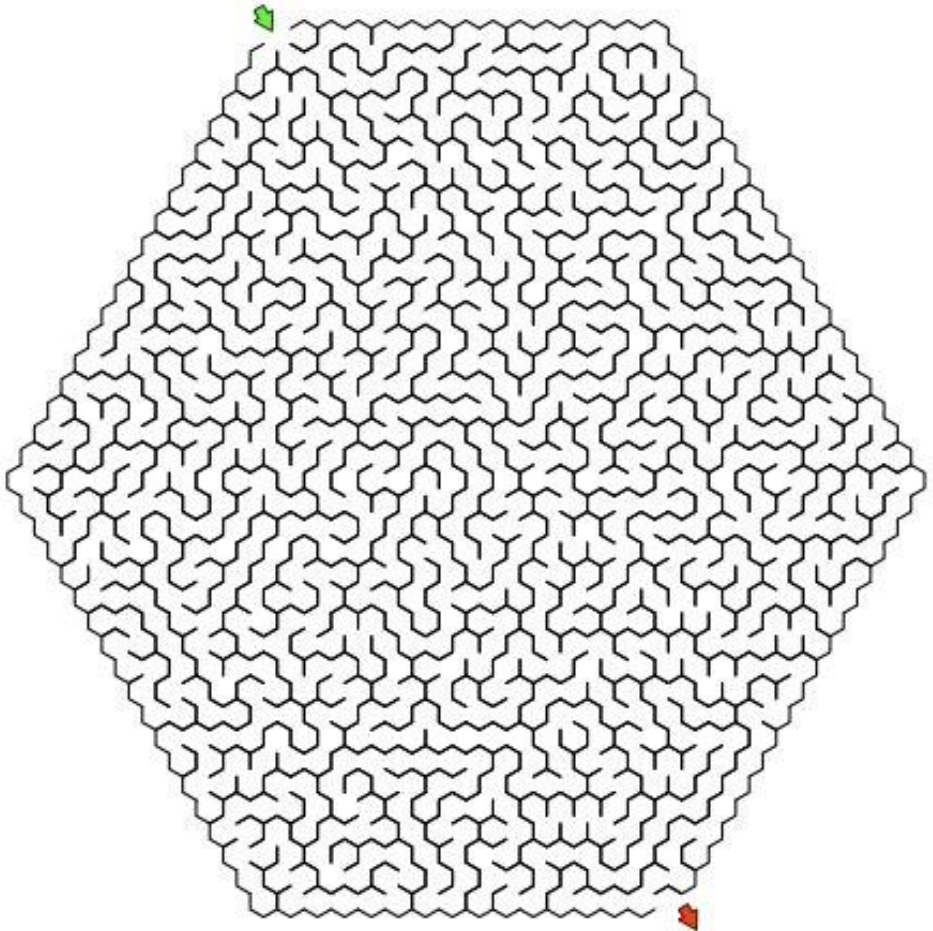


Ashpenaz changed the names of Daniel and his friends.

Look up *Daniel 1:7* to see what he changed them to.



THE MAZE



Hinds' Feet on High Places

By Hannah Hurnard

"The Sovereign Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of the deer, He enables me to tread on the heights." Habakkuk 3:19

The book Hinds' Feet in High Places takes inspiration from this verse to tell the story of how one of God's children, Much-Afraid, is called by the Good Shepherd to leave her home and travel to the High Places where God's love casts out all fear.

Much-Afraid is dismayed to know that the Good Shepherd will not be accompanying her on the journey for, as he explains:

"I could carry you all the way up to the High Places Myself, instead of leaving you to climb there. But if I did, you would never be able to develop hinds' feet and become My companion and go where I go."

Instead Much-Afraid is to be accompanied by two travelling companions Suffering and Sorrow. Of course the journey to the High Places is not without its ups and downs but Much-Afraid soon discovers that the Good Shepherd is never beyond reach or call.

Hinds Feet in High Places is an allegory similar to Pilgrim's Progress in that it tells the tale of a Christian on a journey, but maybe one which speaks more to women in their situations and characters. As well as taking inspiration from the verse above the story also uses many of the verses from Song of Songs to encourage Much-Afraid and to picture her relationship to the Good Shepherd.

I was unexpectedly given this book at a very difficult period in my life and it has been a great encouragement to me as I passed through some of those challenges and trials myself.

Nicki Bradford

ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF

Every day 1 in 8 people in our world go to bed hungry - the equivalent of every single person in the UK, the European Union, the USA, Canada and Australia put together. 2 million children die every year because they can't get enough to eat. And we know that even in Taunton some people are struggling to buy food, with the Foodbank providing food to more than 1,000 people over the last year.

Yet there is enough food in the world to feed everyone. As Christians we're called to speak out against the injustice of hunger in the world's poorest countries, and this summer there is an excellent opportunity to do so.

In 2013 Britain has the presidency of the G8, the group of the world's eight wealthiest nations, and is hosting the G8 Summit in Northern Ireland on 17th and 18th June.

Almost 200 organisations, including the Church of England, Tearfund, Christian Aid and World Vision, have come together, as part of the **ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF** campaign, to put hunger on the agenda at the G8. The campaign is aimed at tackling some of the root causes of hunger and is asking leaders to take action in four areas:

- **Keeping Finance Promises.** Asking our government to keep its promises to give 0.7% of GDP as aid and, with other rich countries, to provide the money they have already promised to help poor communities adapt to climate change.
- **Land.** Stopping companies and governments grabbing land from poor communities who can't prove they own it, and changing the EU biofuel target that makes land grabs more profitable and pushes up food prices.
- **Tax.** Stopping tax dodging by multinational companies, so they pay more tax in poor countries where they operate and poor countries' governments can spend it on tackling poverty.
- **Transparency.** Making the governments of poor countries more accountable to their people for how they use their budgets, and multinational food companies more transparent about the way they do business.

The good news is that in March the Chancellor committed that the aid budget will finally reach 0.7% of GDP in the Budget, a promise Britain first made 43 years ago! More recently, at a G7 meeting, the Chancellor said collective action needs to be taken by countries to target tax avoidance and evasion.

There is more information about **ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF** on the Tearfund board at St James', near where drinks are served after services. You can pick up a postcard there to send to the Prime Minister, calling for action on tax dodging. Look out for notices in the church bulletin and there is also lots more information online at **enoughfoodif.org**

On Saturday 8 June thousands of people will come together in London to call for action to end hunger. A Walk of Witness will leave Westminster Central Hall at 1pm, joining thousands of others in London's Hyde Park at 2pm for a free event with music, inspiring speakers, and activities for all the family. A coach will be going from Taunton, with tickets at £20.

This year **IF** we join our voices with others we can press world leaders to make decisions and take action to combat the scandal of hunger.

Please pray for the millions of people going to bed hungry every night, those trying to help them and our world leaders, as we approach the G8 meeting in June.

AN ARMY OF ANGELS

A missionary on furlough told the following story while visiting his home church in the US.

While serving at a small field hospital in Africa, every two weeks I travelled by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This was a journey of two days and required camping overnight at the halfway point.

On one of these journeys, I arrived in the city where I planned to collect money from a Bank, purchase medicine, and supplies, and then begin my two-day journey back to the field hospital.

Upon arrival in the city, I observed two men fighting, one of whom had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuries and at the same time talked to him about the Lord. I then travelled two days, camping overnight, and arrived home without incident.

Two weeks later I repeated my journey. Upon arriving in the city; I was approached by the young man I had treated. He told me that he had known I carried money and medicines. He said, *“Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and the drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw that 26 armed guards surrounded you.”*

At this, I laughed and said that I was certainly all alone in that jungle campsite. The young man pressed the point, however, and said, *“No, sir, I was not the only person to see the guards, my friends also saw them and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone.”*

At this point in the talk, one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet, interrupted the missionary and asked if he could tell him the exact day this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date, and the man who interrupted told him this story

“On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here and I was playing golf. I was about to putt when I felt the urge to pray for you. In fact, the urging of the Lord was so strong I called some men in this church to meet with me here in the sanctuary to pray for you. (Would all of those men who met with me on that day stand up?)”

The men who had met together to pray that day stood up. The missionary wasn't concerned with who they were; he was too busy counting how many men he saw. There were 26. Who were those guards? (See 2 Kings 6:8-23)

If you ever hear such prodding, go along with it. As this true story clearly illustrates, *“with God all things are possible”*. More importantly, God hears and answers the prayers of the faithful!

And He works in mysterious ways.

Jack Edmonds



Home for Good

The Challenge to Care

Over 67,000 children are in the care of the local authorities in England; this number has been steadily **increasing** over the past 5 years, and Somerset is equally affected by this rise. Nationally the Government reckons that **8,000 new foster carers and 4,000 adoptive placements are needed. That is a huge challenge.**

The Evangelical Alliance and Care for the family have launched an initiative called **Home for Good** to prompt local churches to respond to this challenge - to encourage people to consider fostering or adoption or to provide practical support for foster carers and adopters in their church community.

Are you interested in finding out more?

Krish Kandiah, Executive Director of Churches in Mission at the Evangelical Alliance and himself an adopter and foster carer has been invited to speak at an information meeting arranged by Somerset County Council Fostering Recruitment team on:

Thursday 11th July at the Holiday Inn Taunton 7-9pm

**PLEASE COME ALONG, SUPPORT THIS EVENT AND
FIND OUT MORE**

Have a look on the Home for Good Website for real life accounts from people who have responded to the challenge:

<http://www.homeforgood.org.uk/campaign/>

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING DELUXE

Ingredients

3oz margarine
5oz caster sugar
2 eggs
6oz stoned dates
6fl.oz boiling water
½ tsp vanilla essence
2 tsp coffee essence
¾ tsp bicarbonate of soda
6 oz self raising flour



Grease a rectangular dish. Add chopped dates, vanilla essence, coffee essence and bicarb to boiling water in a separate bowl and leave to soak. Cream the marg and sugar. Add beaten eggs. Fold in flour, then add date mixture. Pour into dish. Cook 130° fan oven about 50-60 mins.

Sauce

6oz soft brown sugar, 4 oz butter, 6 tbsp double cream, (optional broken walnuts)
Heat all the sauce ingredients and pour over pudding. Can be warmed through slowly for 15 mins if made earlier.

At last I have a pudding to crow about, a triumph, a show stopper. Murmurings of, ‘What a wonderful pudding’, are about the only words spoken while my sticky toffee pudding, draped with cream, custard or clotted cream ice cream is devoured.

My puddings have not always received such rapturous attention. In the early days of our marriage I cooked my first Christmas dinner for the in-laws. The Christmas pudding recipe had come from a ‘Family Circle’ magazine, which I confidently felt I had followed correctly. I was desperate to impress my mother-in-law who was an excellent cook. She would serve her cakes on an elegant cake stand. However the look of pain or panic on her face as she worked her way through her portion of pudding was evidence that I hadn’t paid enough attention to detail. ‘These carrots, dear,’ she questioned genially, ‘are they meant to be in large chunks and I think I’ve just eaten a whole prune?’ Useless recipe, I fumed silently. Why wasn’t it clear that the carrots should be grated finely and the prunes needed chopping?

My next attempt to impress her was doomed to failure when I managed to taint the pastry for a lemon meringue pie. Our house backed onto farmland and we had regular visits from mice. I had been clearing up mouse droppings from one of the kitchen cupboards prior to starting the cooking. For some bizarre reason I decided to clean my hands with TCP afterwards. The smell transferred itself to the pastry and lived on mightily in the cooked pie. From the moment I lifted it warm from the oven, noses began to twitch. My dear mother- in- law stoically ploughed through her helping with watering eyes, intermittent sniffs and questioning glances. Determined that it was to be third time lucky, I acquired the recipe for sticky toffee pudding from a trusted friend.

‘It’s an absolute stunner, can’t fail,’ I was assured. The perfect pudding for my her birthday meal I reasoned. This pudding had to be a winner or I simply wouldn’t dare invite her again. I followed the recipe with great care. Experience had shown me that ‘chopped dates’ required more than a casual hack. I waited anxiously for the verdict. ‘A superb pudding,’ mother in law purred, ‘in fact I’d say a sticky toffee pudding deluxe.’

Needless to say I looked like the cat that got the cream and since then this pudding has remained a firm favourite with the family for many years.

We have recently hosted Alpha Groups in our home. The pudding was very much enjoyed and there were requests for the recipe, now available to all who read this! The Alpha Course, runs for a period of six to eight weeks and aims to help bring us into a relationship with Jesus Christ, or for those who are Christians to bring us closer and deepen our relationship with Him. The evening starts with a simple meal prepared by the hosts, followed by watching a DVD in which Nicky Gumbel, the vicar of Holy Trinity, Brompton, explores for example the various themes : ‘Who is Jesus?’, ‘Why Did Jesus Die?’, ‘How Can We Have Faith?’, ‘Why and How Do I Pray?’, ‘How Can I Resist Evil?’ and ‘How Should I Read the Bible?’.

During the evening there are opportunities to discuss, explore and question personal thoughts and feelings on the subject in a safe and supportive environment. Towards the end of the course, a day is set aside, usually at a weekend, when we hear how God’s spiritual gifts are freely given and available to all. We enjoy a celebratory lunch together and at the end of the day personal prayer is offered to everyone. Whether you are enquiring or already a Christian, the course is a privilege and pleasure to be involved in.

Bridget Hall

Tina looks back

on 3,500 cheques, £1½ million expenditure, 14 years!

(as told to the Annual Meeting in April)

When I became treasurer, we owed the diocese £14,000 for our Parish Share and we still had a loan outstanding for building the small hall and lounge (now the TYFC office), and lots of major work needing doing on the church building. A near impossible task to pay for all of this, but with God's help everything is possible.

In just over a year, the "MM" appeal repaid the diocese and reduced the loan balance outstanding. After three years the loan was paid off and the "Repairing, Preparing" appeal had paid for stages 1 and 2 of the church repairs to be completed; as well as sending money to France Mission for the building work they were carrying out. Later, stage 3 of "Repairing, Preparing" was completed. The "Bridging the Gaps" appeal financed our youthworker placement and the Children and Families Worker appeal financed Alison's time with us in that role.

During the years that followed the discovery of how bad our financial position was, our income has exceeded our expenditure each year apart from two years, but as we had reserves this meant that even then we weren't in debt. So God has blessed us so much.

It is more than twenty years since I became treasurer to the Mission Support Working Group. The societies that we support have changed over the years. The only local society we supported was Somerset Mission to the Deaf; now over half of our mission giving goes to local mission - the Chaplaincy, TYFC, Open Door, Street Pastors, Besom, Langley House Trust – with all of which St James has active connections.

What an eventful time!

I would like to thank all of you for the money you give to St James. It has given me great peace of mind to know that the money coming in each month will cover the Direct Debits and Standing Orders we pay out.

Tina Andrews

Thursday Fellowship

We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the church halls at 2.30pm. Members are mostly older ladies but we welcome men too. We invite both Christian and secular speakers; meetings usually include a hymn, bible reading and prayer. We see ourselves as a 'way in' group, where members can happily bring a friend and there is no pressure to commit to come to every meeting. But we always hope that people will find us friendly and welcoming and want to come back for the fellowship. Our meetings close around 4pm with the usual cups of tea and time to chat with friends



PCC Roundup

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

Annual Meeting – PCC election

At the annual meeting, new PCC members were elected. The PCC members are now: (* = new member; # = re-elected)

Tim Jones (Chair)	Julie Kimber
# Nicki Bradford (Vice chair)	* Andy Rowden
Nigel Bright	* Richard Sainsbury (Treasurer) (co-opted)
Chris Buckman	Mandy Slade (Churchwarden)
Richard Carpenter	Liz Sykes
* Michelle Durnell	Janet Tall
* Roger Fenton	Richard Taylor
* Becky Fox	# Jenny Wakefield
Joe Gentile	Martin Wakefield (Secretary)
Jacky Gillingham (ex officio - Diocesan Synod)	Stan Wojcik (Churchwarden)

Finance

Tina Andrews gave her fourteenth and last report to the annual meeting as treasurer, and a presentation was made to her and Les for all the hard work and dedication they have put in over the years.

Overall, finances are healthy, and the balance in the General Fund has increased over last year. While we are still dependent on income from hall hire, we were less so 2012 than in previous years.

The "Projects Fund" (money from the sale of the field and part of the churchyard) has increased slightly, due to a legacy exceeding the amounts spent in 2012.

Stewardship and Gift Aid

Richard Taylor has now taken over from Les Andrews as the new Planned Giving Officer. This completes the "financial team". Richard is implementing new Gift Aid arrangements, which allow us to claim back tax on cash donations at services.

Strategy and Vision

The PCC has begun to consider the church's approach to youthwork, picking up on a question asked at the annual meeting.

There are two strands of thought. A paper entitled “Child Exodus” has been waiting for a suitable time to be taken up (after the appointment of Kate Taylor as C&YP Coordinator); this paper (which takes its title from studies carried out in various churches) says that youthwork is a whole church responsibility, not just something to be delegated to youth workers. The second strand concerns our approach to working with young people who have no connection with the church; the dismantling of county youth services has left a pastoral gap. There may be potential for working with other churches and organisations such as TYFC and YMCA.

St James Debt Advice Centre

The PCC approved the Constitution and a Code of Practice for SJDA. The Management Team comprises of Graham Reid, Martin Ingrams, Mark Johnson and Jenny Wakefield (PCC representative). A grant received from the Cinnamon Trust covers the start-up costs.

New Sign and Logo

We now have a new church sign, thanks to the efforts of Tim Baigent and a group of PCC members who worked with him on the design. The opportunity has been taken to renew the church logo, and this will now start appearing on leaflets, etc. Attention now turns to replacing the wonky notice board. Meanwhile, House of St Martin residents are replanting the beds under the signs, another has repointed the nearby churchyard wall, and another had redecorated the link corridor.

Premises matters

Planning work continues on the hall refurbishment, the installation of video screens on the pillars in church, and the renewal of the servery at the back of the church.

The PCC approved a proposal to redecorate the interior of the church (last done over 35 years ago).

The PCC approved a proposal to replace the water heaters in the washrooms with a better system (real hot taps!), and to replace sinks and lights at the same time.

PCC minutes and agendas are displayed on a board near the coffee area. The “Contact Points” leaflet and the photograph board tell 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 young People's Coordinator - Kate Taylor 01823 335833
e-mail: rhtaylor14@tiscali.co.uk

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

Churchwardens - Mandy Slade 01823 259440 / Stan Wojcik 01823 443287

Associate Churchwarden - Jacky Gillingham 01823 270044

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 Kate Taylor 335833

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 (272931)

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 Elaine Fenton (412113)

Pentecost Experience

