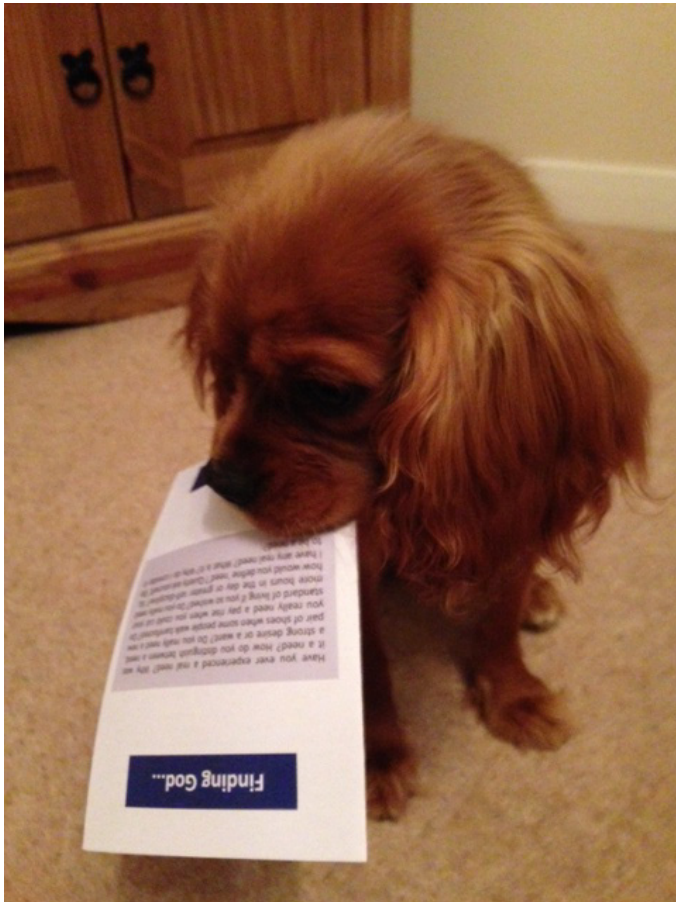
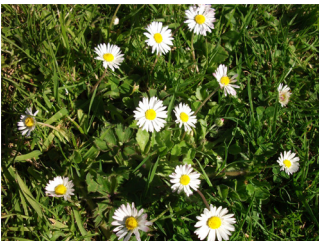


# St James Church Magazine



June - August 2014 Edition



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## **‘I am the good shepherd’**

So Jesus teaches in chapter 10 of St John’s gospel. The second Sunday after Easter is sometimes known as ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’ because in the old prayer book this reading is set for the Communion service.

This year it got me thinking. The world is divided; but you may well think, ‘We know that! You only have to watch or read the news!’ However, the divides which Jesus recognises are not necessarily those which tend to preoccupy us today – of wealth, politics, power and resources. They are even more fundamental!

Have a look at verses 11-16 of John 10. Jesus speaks of the deep realities of human existence:

- The dangerous world of those who are outside the ‘flock’; they are in the realm of the wolf seeking to harm and devour, usually without realising the danger
- The beguiling voices in the world whose first priority is not the care of the sheep but the making of a living. The hired worker in Jesus’ illustration happens to be a shepherd because that pays; today people speak of someone ‘doing well for themselves’ or ‘being fair to themselves’. In both cases all that really matters is putting themselves first and dismissing or explaining away the unfortunate effects on the flock for which they have responsibility
- The natural self-destructive tendencies of the sheep. Domesticated sheep seem to have a death wish from the moment they are born! They go astray, wander off and do their own thing unaware of the dangers which lurk in the form of precipices and wolves. Rescue is constantly needed
- Those within the flock of the good shepherd are known and cared for with everything the shepherd has. There is a living relationship between the sheep and their shepherd, and the shepherd is prepared to put his own life at risk in order to protect and nurture the sheep – they are that valuable to him

- The good shepherd is also acutely aware of those outside the flock; so much so that his role is to 'bring them in'. This is a very active verb – to go out into the dangerous countryside and fetch them, not simply to make the sheep pen welcoming and invite others in. And notice that Jesus speaks of sheep 'not of this flock' who also need bringing in: people who in Jesus' day would be non-Jews and in our day are all those people 'not like us' whose ways of life we find challenging or whose backgrounds, ethnicity or outlook are very different from our own.

I have subconsciously drifted from an illustration about sheep to our mission as Christians! Which is of course exactly what Jesus expects to happen. Our Good Shepherd, in laying down his life for the sheep 'bore our sins in his body on the wooden cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness' (1 Peter 2:24). The cross is at once the *proof* of God's love in fetching us in, the *means* of our rescue, and the *pattern* to follow. What Jesus began he calls on his body to continue... which is you and me, St James' and all other churches the world over... who together form the body of Christ today.

So I hope you share the urgency of the need to be outward-looking in all we do. It is never sufficient to make the church (ie primarily the people) welcoming and attractive (important though that is). Our primary mission is the same as that of the good shepherd – to go out into the dangerous world and fetch people in. Snatching them if necessary from the jaws of the wolves at considerable risk to our own comfort and wellbeing. And having a party when they arrive (Luke 15:6-7)!

But unlike Jesus we won't be doing it alone: for in making us his body he also empowers us with his Spirit, constantly present and powerful within. We also know that nothing will separate us from him who has already laid down his life in order that we might live ours to the full (John 10:10) – so what is there to lose? Go for it!

God bless,  
Tim

## **A Prayer for Pentecost**



The Spirit came  
present from the beginning  
of beginnings,  
present in the message  
of the prophets,  
present in provision  
for your people,  
present in the life  
and words of Jesus,  
present in the Cross  
and crucifixion,  
present in the lives  
of the apostles,  
present in the church  
that you empower.  
Your Spirit,  
the presence of God  
in hearts and lives!



## **Bishop's Message June 2014**

**Rt Revd Peter Hancock,  
Bishop of Bath & Wells**

Dear Friends,

As I write this Jane and I are looking forward to moving to the diocese and to the Installation Service in the Cathedral on June 7. We will be sad to leave Hampshire, which has been our home for many years, but are excited about all that lies ahead. We are putting our trust in the Lord and asking him to guide and equip us.

My Installation will be Pentecost weekend. Let us use that as an opportunity to join together across the whole diocese to pray that we may all be filled and renewed by the Holy Spirit. The first disciples were more than a little shell-shocked when the risen Christ ascended into heaven, but that all changed on the day of Pentecost when the ascended Christ filled his disciples with the gift of the Holy Spirit. On that day the Church grew at a tremendous rate – from 120 to 3,000 believers – and, contrary to popular belief, has not stopped growing since. The Church is the most dynamic organisation which the world has ever seen. The world-wide Christian

Church is growing faster today than ever before. It is said there are more Christians alive right now than have ever lived and died throughout the whole of history. In Africa alone the percentage of Christians has risen from 3% to 45% in just a hundred years. Yes, in the West the Church has been in decline for decades, but even here there are signs that this is changing. That is something to get out of bed for in the morning!

I addressed you as friends, which might sound a bit presumptuous, but I do look forward to meeting and getting to know many of you over the coming months.

With warm Christian greetings

+Peter Bath & Wells

## INTRODUCING .....

**Mark and Ruth Stevens** are active members of St. James who started coming soon after they moved to Taunton in 2007. They remember their first encounter well, having been met at the door by a Roman Centurion demanding passes as the church celebrated Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week. They decided that they would



have to return to find out what a normal Sunday Service was like. Several years on and they still haven't discovered what "normal" is for St. James!!

Having started attending they were committed to getting involved, and joined the Growing Leaders course in 2010/11. Mark has in the past served on the PCC and the former Outreach Policy group, helping organise the 2012 Parish Houseparty. Ruth has now joined the PCC and been encouraged to become Associate Church Warden, nudged in that direction by Tim, who had talent-spotted her and gently pursued the idea with her. Ruth smilingly recalls other nudgings from Tim – "I started going to house group to keep Tim quiet, because he kept asking ...." She and Mark have no regrets on that score as they value the relationships they have made, the things they have learnt and support they have received. They now lead the group!!

So what brought Ruth and Mark to St. James? Ruth was born in Norfolk but moved westwards firstly to Cambridgeshire and eventually to Devon. Mark was born in Birmingham and has lived in a numerous places including Liverpool, London, Leamington Spa, Somerset and Devon, as study and career have taken him. Both have followed careers in accountancy, but perhaps the one vocation in St. James they wouldn't want is that of Treasurer (sorry Richard); "when you spend all day with figures, the last thing you want is to do it in your spare time". (However they are both using their gifts for figures in helping to organise the 2015 Parish Weekend bookings.)

They met when they were both working in Exeter and after 10 years together eventually married in 2006. Although they were aware that they both had a belief in God, it was not something that they had explored at the time. Both had been brought up to attend church, living in families that took their involvement seriously.

At the time of their marriage they were living in Honiton and had no real wish to move. However retrospectively they can see God's purposes working out and



preparing the way for them. They had to move from their rented home as the landlord was selling the property, so began to look for somewhere else. Due to one of “those God instances”, they found their new home through someone at Ruth’s work, who happened to know someone who had a property to let .... in Taunton (where they didn’t particularly want to be). However this led to their coming to Church on that 2007 Palm Sunday. Mark made the suggestion to go to church that morning and with two equidistant Anglican Churches to choose from they decided to try St. James. Having the fellowship and friendship of other Christians has been very important to them especially during difficult times, which have included the loss of both parents in recent years. Many will remember Ruth’s father, in his wheelchair, on his visits to St. James. Ruth was very close to him and had been only 10 when he was first diagnosed with MS. His death, although freeing him from further suffering was painful for them and their family. Their sense of loss was doubled when Mark’s mother died as a result of Alzheimer’s within weeks.

Both feel that they have grown in their Christian faith during the last few years; they have seen how their past experiences have prepared them in different ways. They have seen God use circumstances that they wouldn’t have normally wanted to consider and they feel more able to talk about their faith in a natural way. They have recently moved into their new home in north Taunton, again an area that they wouldn’t have considered but the house has proved perfect for their current needs. They enjoy coming to St James, with its variety of worship and lack of formality and ritual: “it’s OK to be you”, without pressure. They continue to lead the Beta home group and are greatly valued there, but now they are ready for the new challenge of Ruth becoming more involved in Wardenship, and they are excited by the developments that they have seen in St. James and Taunton generally for church growth. They recognise how much prayer has played a part in this and feel that there is much that can be done to further engage with the community.

They are also in for an exciting time this year as Mark’s eldest daughter Heather is going to be married in August. It was very clear from talking to them how making time for family, near and extended, is important to them. They are pictured above in their warm and welcoming home, which they share with Mark’s youngest daughter Kirsty. As you can see Mark and Ruth are both animal lovers and at one time had seven cats who had made their way into their home. At present they only have Boris, Thomas and Nova (each has their own tale to tell!), together with the newest family member, Daisy, an ebullient and welcoming spaniel, who has an enthusiasm for greeting visitors! ... See Daisy on the front cover

# Large Hall Appeal

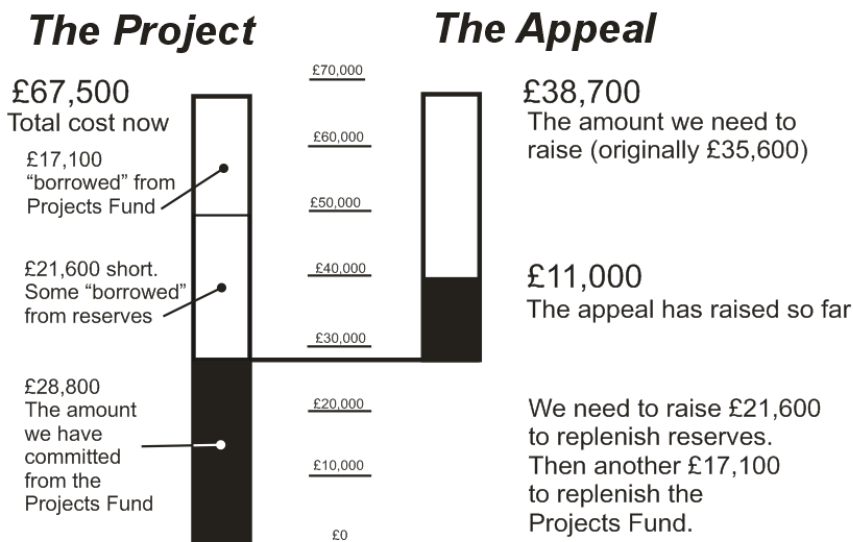
In the 1980s, the church stepped out in faith to buy the old school hall and build the offices, toilets and link corridor. We then added the Small Hall and installed a new kitchen. The vision continues to be to have high-quality premises we can use for a wide range of outreach and social ventures. Hiring the hall also brings in vital income to help with the costs of our ministry and mission.

The main Large Hall refurbishment is now complete. And it is not far off budget: just £3,100 (5%) over the amount we were expecting; this is due to the problem we have encountered with the echoing.

We stepped out in faith again in starting the work, and to do that we temporarily used money from reserves. We trusted that we would replace this money through the appeal. However, the appeal hasn't really got going yet. So we have to wait awhile before we can think about new hall furniture and audio-visual equipment, and also other projects such as replacing the servery at the back of the church, and installing video screens in church.

Can you help, or help a little more? There are appeal leaflets at the back of the church. Thank you,

The PCC and the Hall Project Team



# Behind the Scenes

## The Welcome Team

This is the team who are usually the first people you will meet when you enter church. The team consists of the Duty Warden, Deputy Wardens and Sides men (or women). Their role is to be a friendly face as people come into church, to hand out books and bulletins, answer any questions and to help those who are not familiar with St. James, to find out where things are and help them find a seat if it's a busy morning. The sides people usually deal with the service



books and notices and assist the wardens who are responsible for the overall organisation of practicalities (e.g. ensuring the furniture is put out, taking the collection plate up and later counted, checking that people have arrived to cover their duties and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the congregation). However everyone in the team has a responsibility for making people feel welcomed and informed.

There eleven sidespeople and eight Deputy Wardens, each covering a different service in teams of 4 or 5. They usually wear a badge saying either warden or steward. They are among the first to arrive and often the last to leave because everything that has been put out has to be put away. I asked several members of the team about views:

***"It's really important to make people feel welcome when they arrive" .....***

***"Some people find coming in to church quite daunting, so a smile and a friendly face helps ...."***

***It's lovely because I get to meet people, and it helps me get to know them ... it's really important ...."***

***If I was going to another church I would like to know there is someone looking out for me as a visitor..."***

***Making people happy and welcome when they come in is really essential...***

So we do hope that your experience of entering St. James is a welcoming one.

## Flower arranging

St James owes a great debt of gratitude to **Betty Partridge** and **Joyce Lander** for the many years they have given to arranging beautiful flowers every week for the church. They have now, quite understandably, decided to take a very well-earned rest and deserve a huge thank you from us all.

Betty and Joyce will now be able to sit back and enjoy the efforts of the new team of flower arrangers which Pam Marks is putting together. New recruits to the team would be very welcome; don't be put off by lack of experience because there will be plenty of help and training for those for whom this is a new departure.

For information, please ring Pam on (01823 282065).

### **Network Understanding God's Design for YOU in the Church**

A message from Richard Bewes:

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works pxrfxctly wxll, xxxcpt that onx of thx kxyş is missing. Onx kxy out of 46 may not sxxm too bad, but it makxs a diffxrxncx!

Thx Church is a bit likx my typxwritxr. You may say, 'My support won't bx missxd. If I forgxt to do my sharx ..... wxll, somxonx xlsx will stxp in!'

But it makxs a diffxrxncx. Thx nxxt timx you think you arx not nxxdxd, think of my xldxrly typxwritxr, and say -

**'In thx Church, I am a kxy pxrson!'**

## WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO CHRISTIANS...

And sadly they do. Christians experience ill health, bereavement, broken marriages, family upsets and a host of troubles that are common to so many. Experience shows that in such a situation, a number of people would love just to be able to talk to someone who understands where they are coming from or where they are.

“Sometimes when people need help, they need a trained counsellor. But most of the times they don’t. My guess is that the proportion is about one in ten. That is, ninety percent of the time they need the love and support and listening ear and so on that any Christian should be able to give.”

“I don’t want a marriage guidance counsellor. At the moment I just want someone to talk to.”<sup>1</sup>

With sentiments like these in mind and with Tim’s encouragement, Annie and I are proposing to set up a number of small groups of church members who because of their personal experience, Christian faith and personal qualities, might be just the kind of person to offer the ‘love and support and listening ear’ which others might welcome at certain times in their lives.

Recently we have been able to gather together a small number of people who have suffered bereavement in their lives. It is a varied group with diverse experiences. Some have experienced sudden bereavement while others have lived with a ‘death sentence’ which necessitated care and uncertainty over a number of years. Some have lost a spouse after a relatively short time of married life; others have enjoyed many years of marriage. Some have lost a young child before birth; some have lost a child through suicide.

None of us are experts. We do not have pat answers but we do have an open ear and an understanding spirit which may help others who are going through a period of loss. We recognise we may never be called upon but we are available if needed. Annie is our link with the congregation and would be happy to talk further with any of you.

We now hope to establish groups for other areas of life.

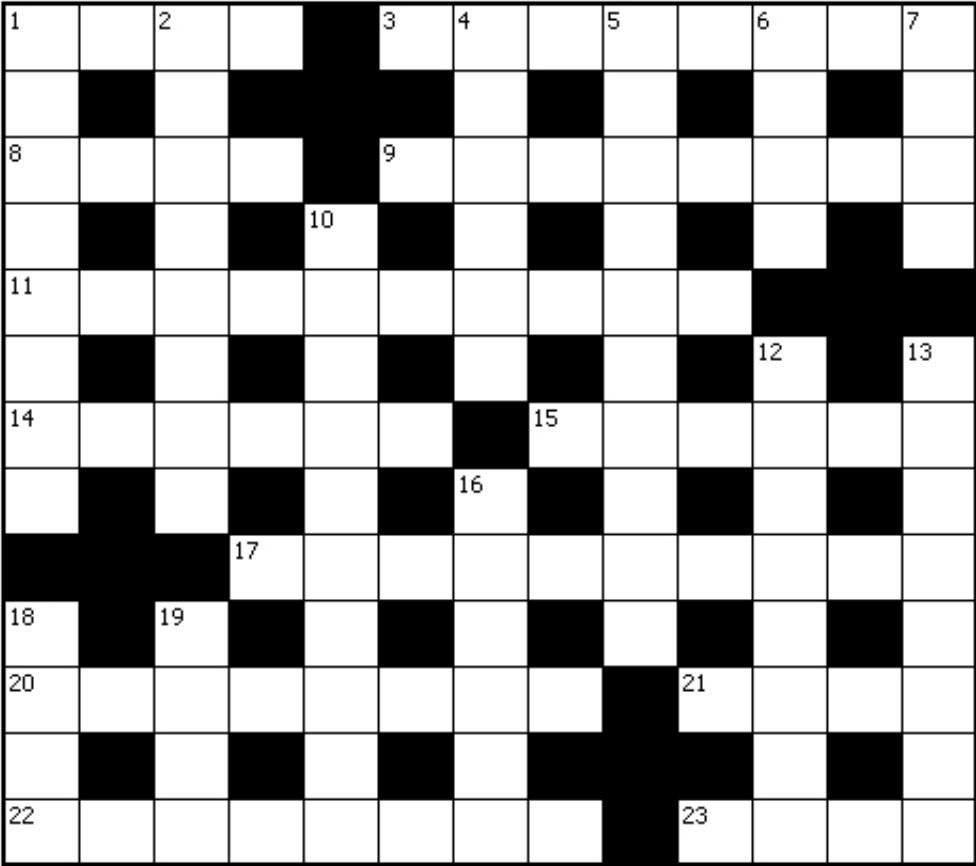
At the moment we have no overarching name for this aspect of our church family life. A working title which I am currently ‘playing’ with is simply the word, ‘CARE’, used as an acronym.

### COMING ALONGSIDE to RELATE TO EACH OTHERS’ NEEDS

If you have any other ideas, for a title or for groups, please let Annie or me know

Geoff Treasure

# CROSSWORD



# Clues

## Across

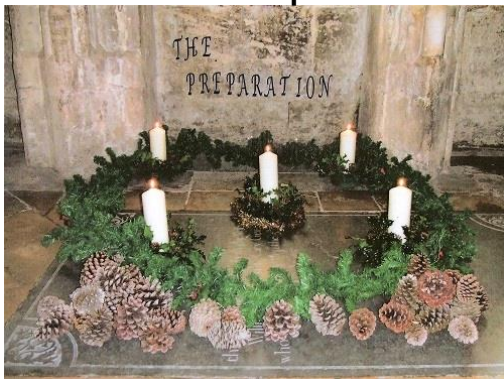
- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

## Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

Answers on page 19

# Christmas Experience



And

## The Sheep Trail



It may seem far too early to start talking about Christmas, (although there are only another 207 shopping days left!); but there are plans afoot, as the knitters of Woolley Sheep will know, for two special events that are being planned. **The Sheep Trail** needs anyone who enjoys knitting to knit a sheep for a trail in the town centre over the Advent period, aimed at promoting the Christmas Story in the town.

The other event is the **Christmas Experience**, which will follow the Easter and Pentecost idea of having a series of tableaux, about the events leading up to the birth of Jesus, together with story tellers, to enable us to invite the children from our Church school and others to hear about the Christmas story and its importance for all. We will need a team of people who can be the characters, others who can create the scenes, provide refreshments etc. There will be a meeting very soon so that we can tell you about these very exciting projects in more detail.

So please if you would like to take part, want to know more or are just plain curious, watch the bulletin for information about the information meeting.

***Please see Jenny Wakefield, Chris Rickard, Sheila Marlow or Steve Bradford for information or knitting patterns. Patterns can also be found on the website under the "About Us / Events" Section.***



# St. James Church Weekend Away 2015



**Lee Abbey**

Devon

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**A Date for your Diary**

We have been able to secure 80 places for our parish weekend and we already have over 60 people booked in.

So if you would like to come or are still thinking about it please get your booking form in soon or talk to Tim Jones, Jenny Wakefield, Ruth or Mark Stevens for more details and information

It is going to be a great weekend with lots of opportunity to relax, meet and learn together in a beautiful setting.

**Hope to see you there**

Booking form can be found at the back of the church

# Church Down Under

On our recent long visit to Australia we managed to visit four different churches. We thought you might like to hear of our experiences.

Travel schedules made it a bit difficult to be in the right place at the right time every week. So we were glad of the St. James Website to keep us in touch with home (and on our previous visit we were glad to be able to listen to a whole StJ service). And (apart from one visit with friends) we had to rely on the internet to find out what churches there were in different areas; directions, service times and a general idea of what type of service we might be attending were essential.

We visited two Anglican churches, one Uniting church and a Hillsong church (We also had a quick look in the prayer room at Singapore Airport, but decided it was a little too sterile).

Three of the churches were very welcoming, but in one of the Anglican ones we managed to collect our books and find a seat with just one casual “good morning” coming our way; perhaps we should have looked lost. Afterwards, we drifted out as slowly as we could but weren’t picked up by anyone. Not like St James!

On Palm Sunday we went with a friend to her Uniting Church (the denomination was formed in 1977 as merger between the Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians). We heard the Easter Story with a little bit of dramatic input). The songs however were from a past age, as they were with the Anglican churches – nothing more modern than “Lord of the Dance”.

For Easter Sunday, the internet gave us a choice of about 20 churches in Albury, NSW. We played safe (and local to where we were staying) and went to the main Anglican church (Victorian gothic pile). It was a brilliant choice, informal despite being quite high: full robes, choir and incense, and a real sense of joy and Christ being Risen Indeed. The Church was packed to capacity, helium balloons filled the aisles and children were issued with bubbles to blow and lights to wave. The priest, Father Peter had a Tim-like grin and informal style, despite his biretta and full canonical garb.



There was a baptism of a young adolescent and the whole service had a vibrancy and a real sense of God’s presence. (Sadly we didn’t see the donkey, which was in the previous week’s cast.) And the after church refreshments included champagne!

Our final church visit was to Hillsong Sydney, “the Australian mega church” that has branches worldwide. We went to one of the smaller “campuses” on our final Sunday in Australia – only about 400 in the early 9.30 pm service (one of several) on Anzac weekend. We found the service surprisingly formal, apart from the music, which was entirely new to us, led by a large ‘music team’ on stage (with a “starburst” backdrop – see picture). A part of the service involved a link up to the other 18 congregations in Australia and included a message from the Prime Minister and an address by a (Christian) government minister! The linkage was impressive and was also used to relay the sermon from another Hillsong “campus”. The fellowship time afterwards was enjoyable and we had coffee in the (waitress service) cafeteria and a lengthy chat with a German couple (who admitted that Anzac day had its difficulties for them).

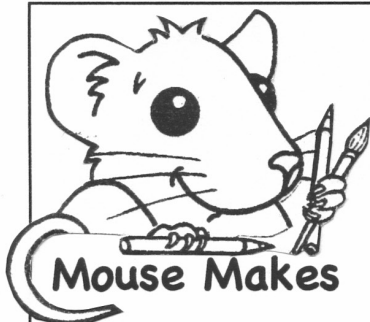


Like the UK, Australia is a country where there has been a decline in Christian affiliation, however it is heartening to visit places of worship where there was a dynamic faith in evidence.

J&M

ANSWERS

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| ACROSS        | DOWN          |
| 1 CARE        | 1 CONFLICT    |
| 3 PARADISE    | 2 RELIGION    |
| 8 NULL        | 4 ARREST      |
| 9 PROFANED    | 5 AFFLICTION  |
| 11 LEGALISTIC | 6 IONA        |
| 14 CLOSED     | 7 EDDY        |
| 15 STORES     | 10 ALLEGIANCE |
| 17 MISSIONARY | 12 PREACHED   |
| 20 COVENANT   | 13 ASSYRIAN   |
| 21 THAI       | 16 A SON OF   |
| 22 TRADE-OFF  | 18 SCOT       |
| 23 EDEN       | 19 DVLA       |



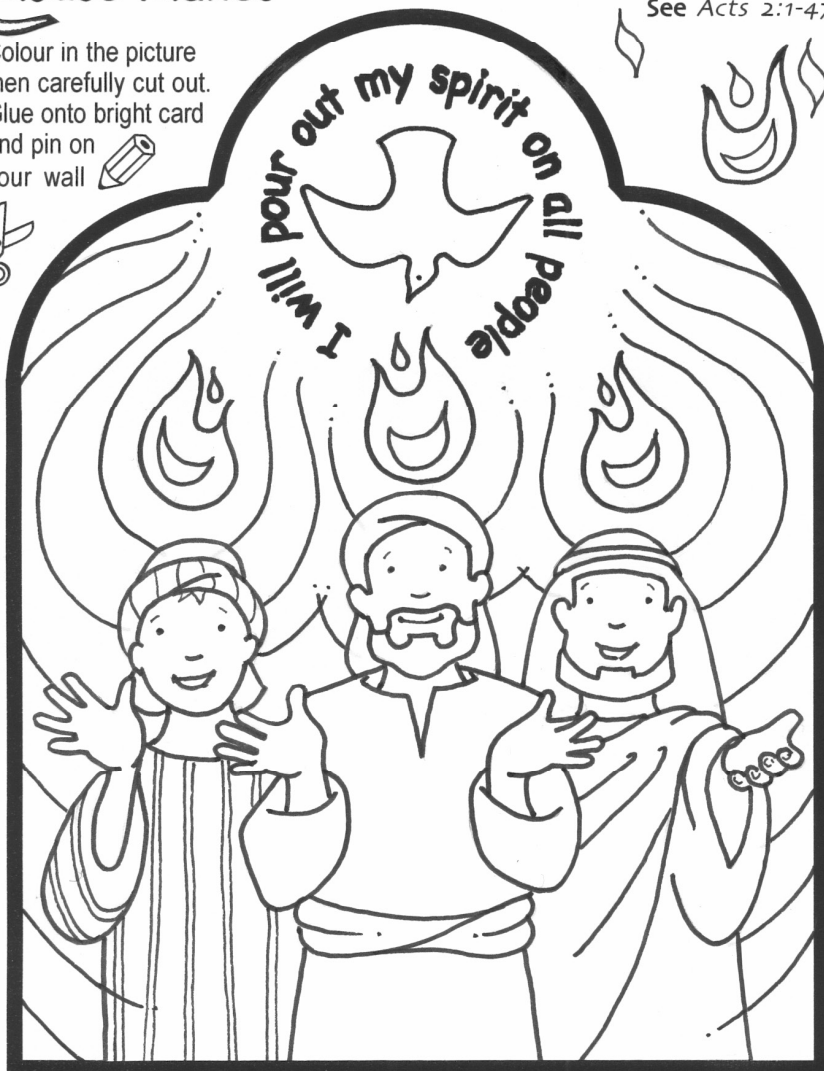
## THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now when the day of **Pentecost** had come the disciples were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. And tongues spreading out like fire came to rest on each one of them.

See Acts 2:1-47

Colour in the picture then carefully cut out. Glue onto bright card and pin on your wall





## ST JAMES BELL RINGING OUTING 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014

This year on our annual St James ringing outing we visited 5 towers, a pub and a tea room and enjoyed some excellent ringing on a great day out. For our first tower we headed to St George's at Sampford Brett, a 6 bell, ground floor tower (Tenor 7cwt-2-10). Here we rang call changes, plain hunt and plain hunt doubles on the fairly light, great sounding bells.

Next we moved on to St John the Baptist at Carhampton. This was a 6 bell tower (Tenor 14cwt-0-22) with spiral staircase leading to a wood panelled ringing chamber. The bells went very nicely, ringing their weight and sounded beautiful, lovely deep clear notes. Our ringing included call changes and Grandshire doubles and we got them singing at the end of the lower.

After this we stopped for a well-deserved lunch at the Butchers Arms in Carhampton. For our next tower we went to St George's at Dunster. An 8 bell tower (Tenor 20cwt-1-6) with spiral staircase to a large ringing chamber. The bells sounded good and were nice to ring, new ropes made it slightly harder, we rang call changes and plain hunt. Written round the top of the ringing chamber were these great words - "Who ryngs his belle - let him loke well - to honde and hedde and herte - ye honde for werke - ye hedde for wytte - ye herte for worshyppe". We persuaded a local Dunster ringer to come on to Minehead and Selworthy with us on the promise of a cream tea. For our penultimate tower we went to St Michael and All Angels in Minehead, a 10 bells tower (Tenor 22cwt-0-23). There were 53 steps of spiral staircase to reach the ringing chamber. The bells were very nice to ring, as there were 10 of them, rounds was quite challenging but sounded great when we got it right. Our call changes required real concentration to remember the bell numbers (not written on the wall like at St James). The notable quote in this tower was - "Palma non sine pulvere". Next stop was for cream tea at the Periwinkle tea rooms in Selworthy - we highly recommend the lovely National Trust cottage and delicious cream tea.

Our final tower of the day was at the Church of All Saints in Selworthy. This 6 bell tower was a ground floor ring (Tenor 12cwt) in the pretty whitewashed church. We rang a selection of call changes and method including Grandshire doubles. The bells rang well and sounded nice, very tuneful, there was quite a long drag so the ropes were a little lively.

We ended the day with a photo outside the church at Selworthy and enjoyed the fine view out over Exmoor from the porch of the church. Thanks to Tim for organising and to everyone who came along and made it a really great day.

## FORGIVING, FORGETTING AND CHANGING.

About twenty years ago, we flew out to Canada to visit my sister and her family, whom we had not seen for several years. While out there, we planned to go on a 9 day tour of eastern Canada. We were really looking forward to this, especially as we could visit some of the places where Jenny had worked as a nurse years ago.

We left our relatives in western Ontario and travelled to Toronto where we were to join the tour.

As we waited in the hotel lobby, a man of about 70 introduced himself to us as being “also British”. He had heard our ‘accents’.

He asked if we were to join the tour and seemed very pleased to hear that we were. Then he came close and, in a low voice, as if he were afraid someone might overhear, said, “I don’t want to alarm you, but there are about eight Germans on this tour!!!” Then he stood back and looked at us, awaiting our reaction to this fearful knowledge. I probably said something like, “Oh yes.” He came close again, and in the low ‘only for your ears’ voice, said, “The last time I saw a German was in the Western Desert! And I don’t mind telling you, I am distinctly uneasy about this tour.”

At last I began to grasp what he meant. I believe the poor man was afraid that these ‘Germans’ would, at some stage in the tour, suddenly produce sub-machine guns, don uniforms and helmets, and start shouting, “Rauss! Schnell! Schnell!” And start rounding us all up! It was as if he’d missed the ‘total surrender’, the ‘bombed to rubble’, the ‘Nürnberg trials’ - everything that had occurred since 1942 and the North African Campaign!

“My dear friend”, I said, “That was 60 years ago!! You have nothing to fear now”.

As we boarded the coach, he kept close to us and sat near us, as if for some sort of reassurance or protection.

As it turned out, the Germans in the party were quite a lively bunch and full of fun. One of them was an Austrian and had brought his zither with him to entertain us! They spoke very good English and joined in everything. There was also a couple from Australia, two from Switzerland and two from Japan. The Japanese couple had little English and were often somewhere else when the coach was ready to leave, always coming back most apologetically and bowing to everyone!

Our friend was unconcerned about the Japanese being among us.

Of course, as the days passed, he overcame some of his fears and began to enjoy himself, but I could tell he was still uneasy about hearing German spoken again. I don't know what he had experienced in North Africa at the hands of the Germans, it seemed that to ask him about it would only aggravate his fears. I have no doubt at all that had he known beforehand about the German group, he would never have gone on that tour.

I know that many people have the most horrible memories of those years, but how long do we go on recalling them, dwelling on them, thinking about them? How long do we go on hating?

There is a time to forgive and forget - especially after 50 years!

It only hurts ourselves to keep such memories going. It is we who become bitter and filled with imagined fears.

The German party were totally unaware of the apprehension their presence had struck in the heart of that poor man - they were really enjoying themselves and would have been surprised and shocked to think of it. It was the man himself who was suffering. One of the great Christian messages is forgiveness, and praise God, we have been forgiven for our sinfulness and rebellion and our sins are forgiven and forgotten.

Jack Edmonds



## Review of *Waking the Dead*\* by John Eldredge

This is a profoundly important book for the searching Christian yet fairly scary for the novice. It is probably best to treat it as a reference book - indeed the prayers it offers can be independently used in one's prayer life.

Eldredge is often quite down to earth and uses both scripture and contemporary references such as Tolkien, G K Chesterton, C S Lewis, Star Wars etc. to get across his two main themes. His basic message is that we are "at war" – moreover it is **our hearts** that are under siege. Yet it is with our hearts that we most need to fight this battle and to learn to walk with Jesus.

What he calls the "dark forces" (*. . . the powers of this dark world : Ephesians 6:12*) are masters at sowing seeds of doubt in our hearts and minds. In his book, Eldredge invites, among others, the broken-hearted to heal and the faint hearted to pray for courage. For all of us, but most especially those who were misled by wrong and harmful information about ourselves as children, we are offered special prayers to bring those dark, deep and lonely places to our consciousness where our adult selves - and Jesus - can heal them.

Reiterating the C.S Lewis comment that we are indeed at war (Mere Christianity) Eldredge urges us to learn to **see with our hearts** – there is so much more to perceive if we do. A challenging and thought-provoking read.

*\*Full title - Waking the Dead: the Glory of a Heart Fully Alive  
Published by Thomas Nelson : paperback £7.98 : Kindle £5.87  
Ailish Henchion*





## Training in Bereavement Support

Somerset Area Cruse Bereavement Care intends to run the accredited course “Awareness in Bereavement Care” in the Taunton area this autumn. The course is aimed at anyone who is interested in supporting those who are bereaved, either as an individual, through their local church or as a Cruse volunteer.

There will be a taster workshop on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 9.30 – 12.30** in Street. Our trainers, Heather and Simon, will be giving an interactive presentation, providing information on the course and on Cruse volunteering. They will also be available to answer questions. The cost of the taster workshop is £25, which is refundable to those who sign up to the full course.

Interviews will be available in the afternoon of the taster workshop for those interested in applying to do the full training course. The cost for the full course is £275, which includes a £25 non-refundable administration fee to cover costs. Payment by instalments can be arranged and individual requests for financial help will be considered.

The dates of the full course are: - **Saturday** (9.30 – 4.30) Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 29<sup>th</sup> and **Monday evenings** (6.30 – 9.30) Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>; October 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>.

For more information or to book a place on the taster workshop please ring: - 01458 840898 (if the answering machine is on leave a message and we will ring back) or email [somerset@cruse.org.uk](mailto:somerset@cruse.org.uk)

# Langley House Trust

Langley House Trust was formed over 50 years ago by a group of Christians spurred by passion, commitment and a desire to see the lives of offenders changed for the better.

Today, we are a modern national charity which delivers offender rehabilitation services across England, providing support to adult male and female offenders and those at risk of offending – enabling them to make positive life changes and live crime-free.

We have one of the lowest reconviction rates in the country – just 3% – making communities safer across the country.

Every day we see lives transformed, addictions broken and families restored.

Our organisation is established on strong Christian values (for example respect, integrity, hope). This means that we work tenaciously to see lives changed for the better. Our services are for anyone – those with faith or indeed no faith.

We believe our approach of providing strong firm boundaries whilst supporting and encouraging individuals produces long-lasting change.

We are committed to helping men and women live crime-free and positively impacting their communities for a safer and better future.

Langley is also -

- A Housing Association, regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency
- Registered with the Care Quality Commission to provide registered care at several sites

**The House of St Martin provides a home that is safe, caring and stimulating where people can develop sustainable independence and crime-free lives. The project offers housing and support with opportunities for gaining qualifications, work experience, life skills, and personal development. A professional and dedicated staff team provide key-working built on person-centered support plans.**

House of St Martins have been around since the late 1960's. We have the longest staff member who has worked in the trust since 1982.

### **The House of St Martin Provides**

The House of St Martin provides accommodation for males aged 18 and over who have offending histories , and/or who are at risk of offending. We can accept people who are under court orders, probation supervision, or are being released from prison. We can also support people who have not offended but may be considered at risk.

The home is set in a spacious rural setting, close to the village of Norton Fitzwarren just outside Taunton. The village is ten minutes walk by public footpath and has various local amenities. Taunton, a large market town, supports a cinema, swimming pool, leisure centre, library, further education facilities and a full range of local support agencies. It is about 15 minutes ride by bicycle from the house.

The project places particular emphasis on the privacy, dignity, choice, rights, independence and fulfillment of each person.

### **For Further Information**

Staff at House of St Martin welcome informal enquiries from those considering making a referral. Prospective residents are encouraged to visit the home as part of the referral process, as are Probation Officers and other professionals. Please ask to speak to the manager or deputy at :

The House of St. Martin 1 Langford Lane Norton Fitzwarren Taunton TA2 6NU

**Tel:** 01823 275662 **Fax:** 01823 352455

# **PCC Roundup**

Here are the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in March and May, plus main points from the annual church meeting.

## **Annual Church Meeting, 7 April**

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

Tim Jones (Chair)	Andy Rowden
* Steve Bradford	Richard Sainsbury (Treasurer)
Nigel Bright	Mandy Slade (Churchwarden)
* Richard Carpenter	* Ruth Stevens (assoc. warden)
Michelle Durnell	Liz Sykes
Roger Fenton (Vice Chair)	Janet Tall
Becky Fox	# Richard Taylor
# Joe Gentile	Jenny Wakefield
Jacky Gillingham (Diocesan Synod)	* Martin Wakefield (Secretary)
* Julie Kimber	Stan Wojcik (Churchwarden)

## **Finance**

Richard Sainsbury presented the accounts for 2013 to the annual meeting. The main issue is that stewardship income was down by £6,000 compared to 2012, and the Parish Share for 2014 will be £7,000 higher than 2013. The PCC will need to consider how to encourage an increase in giving from church members, and/or how to reduce routine expenditure.

## **Outward Giving**

The church recognises that it is but part of a worldwide church and has always supported various local and overseas missions. The PCC reviewed the way this will be done, from 2015. At the start of the year, 10% of our expected stewardship and donations income will be allocated to our ongoing mission partners, so they know what funding to expect. As the year progresses, further grants can be made as the Spirit makes needs known to us. This is not to be a set proportion, and may include further payments to ongoing partners.

## **Hall Refurbishment Project**

The building work on the hall has been completed. There is an unexpected problem with a very bad echo, due to the change in ceiling material; this is receiving urgent attention. The church's project team is tackling fitting-out jobs (e.g. blinds and fire guards),

and is looking at the other aspects of the project: furniture and audio-visual equipment.

### **Review of Project Spending**

The hall appeal has not produced the amount asked for: some £11,000 has been pledged so far, out of £35,600 requested. This means we have to call a halt to further project spending, other than on essential items to finish off the hall – but probably not the furniture and the audio-visual equipment.

The appeal needs to be given more prominence.

Regarding other projects, the replacement of the chancel carpet is proceeding, as it will be funded by a donation from a church member. The replacement of the servery will be costed (quotations on one item are outstanding), but may have to be deferred. The project to install video screens may have to be staged as funds become available.

### **Parish Visiting Scheme**

The PCC received a report from the initial meeting of a small group established to develop a parish visiting scheme. A door to door visiting scheme is generally aimed at building bridges with people in the parish, seeking to communicate a positive image of the local church; and to show that the church is relevant in answering life's ('spiritual') problems. The recommendation from other schemes is to start small and aim to revisit at least annually, to maintain contact. More streets can be added as further volunteers come forward.

Visits would be arranged in weekly programmes of approximately 20-30 houses per each team of two (or three) people. Cards would be delivered the week before, so the visit is not unexpected. The wording on the card and other details need to be developed. Each visiting evening would be underpinned by prayer; ideally, a “base” team would be praying for the visitors.

The initial intention was to launch a pilot programme in June, provided that volunteers come forward, and the supporting literature is ready.

*PCC minutes and agendas are displayed 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 Church Warden - Ruth Stevens 01823 972838

## HOME GROUPS

### EVENING GROUPS

#### **Tuesday 8.00pm**

25 Whitmore Rd Contact Kathryn Clarke 283691

#### **Wednesday 7.30pm**

13 Giffarde St Contact Mark Stevens 972838 (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**     Bell ringing (alternate weeks) Contact Marian Gentile (275278)

**Wednesdays**     Art Group in the Church Hall Contact Church Office (272931)  
  
Praise and Play in the Church 2:00-2:45pm - for pre-school children  
and their parents/carers (second Wednesday of the month).  
Contact Kate Taylor (335833)

**Thursdays**     Thursday Fellowship (first Thursday of the month)  
in the Church Hall Contact Vicky Dykes (282507)  
  
11+ Club 7pm – 8.30pm for young people aged over 11 years  
in the Church Hall. Contact Nicky Bradford (337690)



# PICTURES FROM THE BELLRINGERS OUTING



## September Newsletter Deadlines

The Next Church Newsletter is due out on Sunday 7th September. All Entries for this newsletter need to be submitted by 31st July. All entries are at the discretion of the Editorial team and the space available.