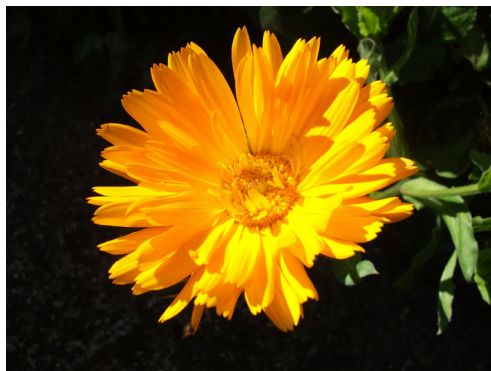


St James Church Magazine



September - November 2014 Edition

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Prophetic voices

Ask someone about prophecy and they will usually think about telling future events. That is how the word is used in occult circles, as with a palm reader or user of tarot cards. However, that is not its main use in the Bible.

Prophets were a vital part of God's plan in the Old Testament, constantly warning the people and their leaders – both secular and spiritual – of the consequences of turning away from God, and proclaiming the blessings of following his commands. They were speaking out what God told them to speak; but there was not usually anything radically new in their message. It was a case of re-stating what God had already made clear: obey me and live according to my rules and you will be richly blessed; ignore me and disobey my rules and bad things will happen. It was not rocket science, though it took great bravery by the likes of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the host of minor prophets to risk the wrath of the establishment in pointing out the errors of their ways and their turning away from God.

It transpired that humanity could not obey God's rules and therefore be under his blessing. Our very nature is flawed and so no matter how hard we try, we cannot live obeying all of God's laws. One of my favourite chapters in the Bible is Romans 7 where Paul wrestles with his human nature, and it rings so true to me. He finishes with that marvellous climax 'But thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!' Only in Christ, where God has intervened on our behalf and taken the curse away, can we live as God intended. Yes we fail, but every time we can turn to Christ and have the sin washed clean – not living under law but under grace.

So what is the role of prophecy *after* Christ came? Still the same! Speaking out God's message. All people (including national leaders) who are not committed Christians are still living in the *Old* Testament – under the law. That was true in Paul's day as it still is in ours. God's nature and expectations are just the same as they ever were. Outside Christ's grace all people stand condemned every time they disobey God's will. Even if they are good people who try to obey what they perceive as God's will, if they are doing so in their own human strength they will fail – no matter what precautions they take to force people to behave in certain ways.

The Old Testament religions today – Islam, Judaism, Jehovah's Witnesses among many others – seek to control people's outward behaviour to try to make them conform to God's laws, believing (rightly under the law!) that otherwise God will be cross and they will receive curses rather than blessings.

How sad this is, for the good news has passed them by! The good news that human disobedience has been dealt with once and for all on the cross of Calvary; the result being that all who now trust in God through Jesus are acquitted of guilt because of the penalty he (God in human form) paid on our behalf. That leaves us free from worry about the law, able to repent but then walk free and thank God for what he has done through Jesus.

So how should Christians relate to the secular world where most people have no conception of the grace of God through Christ? Here is where prophecy in its Old Testament sense comes into play – speaking out God's message to those who are still (perhaps unwittingly) living under the law –that disobeying God's rules (without redemption under the New Covenant) results in bad things happening. Again it is not rocket science. If unredeemed society goes against God's rules, bad things will happen. When these events come about, it could then be viewed that the prophet was foretelling the future – but that was not the aim. The first of God's laws is to have no other god, and this is precisely the law which is broken repeatedly as secular powers slug it out on the world's stage.

However, unlike the Old Testament prophets, we can add something more to our message from God – that although he is cross and bad things will happen if they disobey, yet God has provided a way out of the cycle of despair through faith in Jesus Christ, 'But thanks be to God...' (Romans 7:25). Turn to him in humility Israeli and Palestinian, Shia and Sunni, loyalist and republican, terrorist and freedom fighter, and your hostilities will melt away.

An example of prophecy to those largely outside the Christian church, and therefore still under the Old Covenant was the witness of the churches before the invasion of Iraq in 2003 when all mainstream Christian denominations apart from the Southern Baptists in the USA warned against invasion, and further warned that the ultimate losers would be the Christians. Why are we now surprised at tragic events in Iraq? Like Jeremiah we should be immensely sad for what our own people ('we' in a democracy!) have done, and be reinforcing Canon Andrew White's call for '...an *initial* 20-30,000 Iraqi Christians to be offered asylum in Britain and be cared for by the churches'. Deafening silence from all political parties on that one! Are we that scared of UKIP? If we whose country's constitution purports to rest on Christianity don't help Christians, who will?

Prophecy *within* the church is slightly different. It is a gift of the Spirit which features in Paul's lists of spiritual gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Cor 12, as well as the list in Ephesians 4 of the ministries which Christ gave so that the church might function effectively. As such, it is still the speaking out of God's message, both for individuals and for churches, receiving messages from God for each other. But no longer, among people who know they are redeemed under the new covenant, need we warn of dire consequences of disobeying the Law (apart from as a reminder to those whose faith in Christ may not be sincere); for God has wonderfully taken those consequences on himself in his Son. Rather, the aim of New Testament prophecy among people who are Christians, is 'So that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity.....and we all attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ' (Eph 4:12-13).

Prophecy - some people receive that gift in greater measure than others; all parts of the body are not the same but each is indispensable (Rom 12 and 1 Cor 12). Let's pray for the gift of prophecy to be even more alive and active in St James' and the wider church, and as God's people today let's also be united in prophecy to the secular world, warning as ever of the dire consequences of going against God's laws, while also holding out the ultimate hope in Jesus Christ.

Tim



Fact, feeling and future

Towards the end of July the Archdeacon of Wells and I were involved in the ‘travelling’ licensing of Jane Twitty, priest in charge to some of the parishes around Langport. One of the parishes in her care is Muchelney, a village very much in the news during the winter floods. During the licensing, we drove along roads that were impassable to us when we visited at the end of January. The fields which had become lakes in the winter months were now not only dry but filled with bales of hay that had been harvested. On the surface at least the restorative power of nature had got to work.

However, it would be a huge mistake to imagine that life on the Levels has returned to normal. There are many people, particularly in Moorland, who have yet to reclaim their homes and the long- term effects of the flooding, particularly on people’s livelihoods and emotional wellbeing will be felt for some time to come.

It was with this thought in mind that earlier this year I commissioned a report on the floods. *‘Fact, feeling and future’* was published in August and offers a snapshot of the impacts and implications for the affected parishioners of Somerset. The purpose of the report is to inform policy and practice locally and nationally and to serve as a reminder that whilst the waters have abated, people on the Levels still need our help.

Although the floods impacted on a relatively small part of the Diocese, those affected were deeply grateful for the practical and prayerful support of friends from across the Diocese and beyond. It gave to all of us a deeper understanding of what it means for us to say that we are 'The Body of Christ.'

You are likely to be preparing for some kind of Harvest celebration over the next few weeks. As you do, please will you continue to pray for those communities still recovering from the floods and that God will continue the work of restoration and renewal.

+Peter Taunton

You can view the report in full at www.bathandwells.org.uk/faithandmission/fact-feeling-and-future

INTRODUCING

The Baigents

Baigent is “a most unusual name of Flemish and Dutch origin” however there were much more important things to talk about with Bethan and Tim than genealogy!!! Tim, Bethan, Noah, Sam pictured here with their dog “Missy” (who will lick you to death given opportunity!), have been at St. James for about 8 years now. Bethan



appears the more extrovert, with her joyous and infectious smile as she sings in the music team, reads a lesson or performs in the Panto (its Aladdin this years folks!!). She has an infectious enthusiasm that is inevitably catching. Tim is quieter, but has equally made his mark on St. James as the man behind the St. James image. What do I mean by that? The large notice board outside that boldly



proclaims what we are about as a church is Tim’s design, and together with Bethan has produced the welcome leaflets at the back of church. Tim is a graphic designer and with Bethan they have their own design business and have made their skills available to the church. Bethan is also part of the team that is working on the new church

website; we are very fortunate God has led people who have such gifts which they have been willing to use in His service.

So how did Tim, Bethan and their family come to be at St. James. Tim has lived most of his life in Somerset, in Broadway, although spent his early years in London. Bethan is more of a rolling stone, having moved she thinks 29 times, largely due to her father’s work in teaching and later as a Director of Education. They met however in Broadway, where Bethan’s parents had finally settled. Following college, Bethan had been working in marketing in

the fashion industry in London but had found the intense pressure, volatility and competitive commercialism, something that she was not comfortable with, so had returned home after a very difficult time. The one bright point however occurred when staying with her sister, Alex, in Uxbridge. Alex attended church there and had been on an Alpha course from which she returned “buzzing”. Alex in turn, persuaded Bethan to attend a course at Holy Trinity Brompton. Bethan had been brought up in the Christian Faith and had accepted this without too much thought, but HTB brought her into a new dimension, introducing her to people who were excited and alive with their faith and this marked an important stage on her faith journey. Returning to the village of Broadway brought further change, with less opportunity to develop that newly awakened faith. It did however lead to her meeting Tim and their getting married in 2000.

Tim had lived in Broadway most of his life, and attended school at Chard, leaving without clear idea of his future plans. However an apprenticeship to a local printer, encouraged him to follow an interest in art and design, and following a course at SCAT, he went to the London College of Printing. He returned to Somerset and took up a post as Design Manager in County Hall, and while back in Broadway met the effervescent Bethan. Tim did not have a church background, although he had an appreciation of Jesus as a “good person” but little more. It was at their wedding in Broadway Church, which proved to be a significant moment in his journey, when he felt a physical sense of God’s presence – “a feeling of fire”. Bethan’s uncle, a Vicar, had taken the service and she feels that his input had been important for them both. Bethan recalls choosing “Footprints in the Sand**” as the reading, which she felt was an important statement for her at that time.

It was to be sometime before their faith journey moved on. Bethan was aware that it would be helpful to find a church locally, her experience of HTB had awaked her to the possibilities, but other events, work and setting up home provided distractions. She recalls that she did come to St. James on one occasion (when there were still pews) and was welcomed so warmly albeit genuinely that she found it overpowering and felt unable to return.

It was not until she was attending NCT classes prior to the birth of Noah, that she met a kindred spirit in another new mum, who was also searching about her beliefs and feeling that it would be good to find a church where they could attend. The friend, Alison (Mrs. Buckman, that’s you!) after a while announced that she thought “she had found a Church” and encouraged Bethan to come with her. It took a bit of persuading as Bethan had recently

seen the Reverend Tim being interviewed about a contentious subject and was rather cautious. Fortunately Alison's persuasiveness was effective and Bethan agreed to come and soon agreed that this was the place where she could find a spiritual home. Tim also found that he could talk with Vicar Tim, and was encouraged to join an Alpha group which led to him being confirmed in 2011. The Alpha group led on to there being a Home Group or what they call the "Beta Group" in their home. Although the membership has changed over the years, as people have moved where their journeys have taken them – including in two cases to Australia; a group still meets in their house each week.



In addition to running their own business, and bringing up their two boys, Noah 11, who has Autism and Sam 10, Bethan still finds time to be a school governor at North Town as well as her church involvement with the Music Team, Communion Team and biennial Panto (photo left as an unforgettable Dick Whittington). Being involved in their children's school is very important and putting in time as a governor enables her the opportunity

to voice her opinion on important issues, particularly in a non-Church school where a Christian voice needs to be heard.

So what makes St. James special – *"it's the People – we have found so much love, kindness, support and acceptance"* This has been very important to them both, especially as it's somewhere they feel able to come with both their children. I asked Sam how he felt about having his home invaded by house group each week. "I used to have to go up to bed early but now I get extra time on my ipod so its OK and Church – its OK, I like it – I feel comfortable there – I guess I should find out why I like it." (Sam like his mum is looking forward to being in the panto this year). It is also encouraging that Sam invited his good friend Ollie to St James, who we now regularly see in Sunday Club.

During the course of this discussion I was very conscious of the sense of journey that Bethan and Tim had been on, and how God has been steadily guiding them along the way. Also how important it is to have the encouragement of some one saying, like Andrew to his brother Peter, "Come with me" – that is a challenge for all us all.

** (Poem by Mary Stevenson: <http://www.footprints-inthe-sand.com/index.php?page=Poem/Poem.php>)

Tales from the Taunton St. James War Memorial

One hundred years ago on 4th August 1914 the First World War began, plunging Europe and indeed many other parts of the world into a bitter war.

Within days soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force had landed in France and were soon engaged in fierce fighting.

Within three weeks many had been killed including four young men from the parish of St. James. William Barnes aged 18, Fred Hawker aged 26, Robert Poole aged 19 and Francis Saunders aged 29

William Barnes was the first of our young men to die on 24th August 1914. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery attached to the 3rd Division which was deployed into France as soon as war broke out. As part of 3rd Division William would have been moved forward to the front to try and halt the advancing German Army. The first major action of the British Expeditionary Force was the Battle of Mons on 23rd and 24th August 1914, William was the son of a Blacksmith, James Barnes and his wife Mary; he had two sisters, Lily and Rose and a brother Thomas who served as a drummer in the Somerset Light Infantry.



During the course of the conflict it is estimated that worldwide, a staggering 65 million people were mobilised to fight and that 21 million died including 13 million civilians.

From the parish of St James alone between 1100 and 1300 enlisted in the forces in addition to men already serving; of these we know that at least 102 men associated with the parish lost their lives between 1914 and 1920, and they are commemorated on our war memorial.

The Project Team has been able to identify most of these men and their stories can be found on the Taunton St James War Memorial Website:

<http://www.tauntonstjameswarmemorial.org.uk/>

**IN NOVEMBER AN EXHIBITION WILL BE PRESENTED IN
ST. JAMES AS PART OUR REMEMBRANCE**

Legacy Giving

A gift in your Will can keep St James Church alive in our community, and transform its future.

Many of us give a proportion of our income to support our church every week. But we are stewards of everything we own, not just our income. As Christians, we should consider giving a proportion of all that we have to support the mission and ministry of our church too.

Writing a Will helps secure the future of the people you love. Leaving a gift in your Will will help secure the future of our church. We could carry out repairs or alterations to our building, work with young people, run courses, reach out to people in need... What could your gift achieve?

Sometimes parish life can feel like an endless cycle of raising money to pay bills. Leaving a gift to our church in your Will lets you think about your vision for our church's future.

Would you like to see more children attending? Are you passionate about music? Do you wish the heating worked better in winter? Do you think we should reach out to more young people, elderly people or people in need? Do you want to help save our building for the future? Do you want more people to experience the love of God? Whatever your vision for our Church's future, your gift could make it happen.

Your Will matters

- Thinking about life after death should not be difficult for Christians! Make sure you are prepared practically as well as spiritually. Whatever your age, write a Will and keep it up to date.
- Many Christians give regularly and proportionately from their income. Why not give proportionately from your estate too?
- A gift in your Will helps our church to live out our dreams and mission in this community.
- It's a way to thank God for all the gifts of our lifetime, and to hand on, undimmed, the legacy we have received from past Christians (our building, our faith) to future generations.
- Leaving a gift in your Will is tax efficient and can reduce the amount of inheritance tax you pay at a lower rate.

The PCC Legacy Policy

We welcome all legacies, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish.

The PCC legacy policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment or staff.

Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift in your Will for the general purposes of the parish, rather than for a restricted purpose. We will discuss possible uses of your gift with your executors when the time comes, bearing in mind current projects and your known areas of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children and youth, overseas mission or aid), and the church's priorities at the time.

You can be confident that your gift will be used to make a real difference to our future mission and ministry.

3 Steps...

We encourage every adult member of our church to:

1. Make a Will and review it regularly.
2. Consider leaving a residuary gift in your Will to St James Parish
 - *If you already have a Will, the easiest way to make simple amendments such as adding a gift to our church is by completing a codicil form.*
3. Get a free information pack to help you;
 - *To download a codicil form, or order a free copy of the Information pack, visit the Church Legacy and Wills Information Line, www.churchlegacy.org.uk or call 08445 870875.*
 - *Remember to consult your solicitor if your affairs are complex or if you have any queries.*
 - You can also speak to **Richard Taylor**, the Parish **Planned Giving Officer**, in confidence about legacies at anytime. Tel: **01823 335833** or email rtaylor14@tiscali.co.uk

“Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.”
(1 Chronicles 29)

SUDOKO

	1	3	2	7	4		9	
		6	9	5				
	8	2				7		
	5			4		2		6
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8		9		3			1	
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				1	5	8		
	6		3	9	2	1	7	

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SUMMER WORKING PARTIES

During the Summer months most home groups were taking a rest – Stan organised the usual Wednesday Working parties to tidy up the churchyard, weed the car park, clean the windows, tidying the attic and vestries –



Stan's trailer was working overtime in taking the results of the clean up to the re-cycling centre.

Bob and Richard on their knees



Michelle Climbing High;
Marion and Joe picking their
jobs for the evening

Foreman Stan giving Andy a
few tips on cleaning
windows



“For whom the bells
tolls”: Bob and Martin K
replacing the window
screens to keep the
pigeons out of the bell
tower.

FOUR FORTHCOMING AUTUMN EVENTS



COFFEE MORNING with BOOKS, BRIC-A-BRAC & BUNS

in aid of the Church hall appeal

20th September

10 am -12 noon in the Hall

Come and have a Cuppa and Chat before you shop



FRENCH WEIR FUNDAY

Postponed from August it is now happening on

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28th 12.00 – 4.00

Please come and support

HARVEST HOE DOWN

BARN DANCE & SUPPER

(If you don't think you can dance you'll be really surprised)

With Celia and Friends' Band

Friday 3rd October

7.30 -10.30 pm

Tickets £5 Children £3 Buffet included



HARVEST BRING & SHARE LUNCH

Sunday 5th October

After the Morning Church Service



Christmas Experience and the Sheep Trail

Its now only 84 days and counting to Advent.

The Flock is growing steadily and is nearly, **but not yet** big enough



for the **Christmas Trail** in

Taunton, so there's still an opportunity to knit-a-sheep for Christmas. The aim is to encourage people to search for members of our flock throughout shops in town using a leaflet that tells the Christmas story and where people can come to celebrate Christmas.

And also in December there 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 are still recruiting the team of people who can be the story telling

characters and others who can create the scenes, provide refreshments etc. in the first week of December.

So please if you would like to take part, want to know more or are just plain curious.....

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.

Baby and Toddler Teddy Bears Picnic



Teddy bears came too in July at the Monday Morning meeting of the Baby and Toddler group



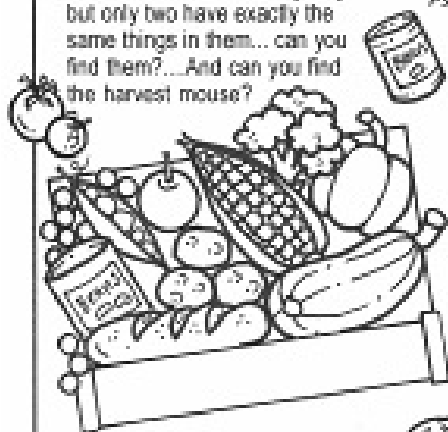
which restarts again on September 8th.





Mouse Makes

The boxes are full of harvest food for Harvest Thanksgiving, but only two have exactly the same things in them... can you find them?...And can you find the harvest mouse?



'Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.

He gives us autumn and spring rains at the right time.

He makes sure that we have the harvest at just the right time.'

Jeremiah 5:24



HARVEST THANKSGIVING

*'May the peoples praise you, God!
May all the peoples praise you.*

*The land yields its harvest;
God, our God blesses us.'*
Psalm 67:5-6



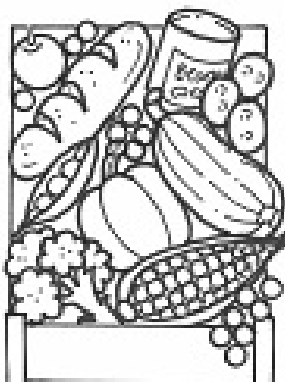
'Honour the Lord with your wealth and the first part of your harvest'.

Proverbs 3:9



'God...gives you rain from heaven and good harvests at the right times. He gives you plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy'

Acts 14:16-17



Here are 5 reasons to be nice to your local Vicar:

1. They frequently take the blame for God

It's true: Christian leaders represent God, who is currently invisible, and, at times, seems unavailable, especially when things go horribly wrong in life. When people get angry with God, there's no customer support line to call, and so they frequently take out their frustration on the person they most associate with God, which might be their vicar, pastor, leader or priest. Getting slapped on behalf of the Almighty is not a happy experience.

2. They are required to say some things that they'd prefer not to say

The Bible contains some awkward truths, and if your pastor is going to be faithful in preaching it, they'll have to deal with some tricky passages on sensitive subjects like divorce, war, adultery, sexuality, and, brace yourself for the subject that tends to light the blue touch paper, money. When speaking on these, they are unlikely to please all of the people all of the time, which means they will take some heat. Cool them down with some kindness.

3. They are often the target for gossip

In some churches, Christians don't gossip, they share. Under that guise of sharing, "Please pray for the pastor, he is really struggling right now", we can give the impression that the pastor is struggling with faith and is now a fully paid up member of the humanist society, struggling with temptation, and has opened their own private harem, or is struggling with anger towards his congregation, and is now a serial killer whose *modus operandi* is striking during the after-church cup of tea while wearing clerical attire. Gossip destroys people. Don't pass it on.

4. They don't have a hotline to God

Some think that their pastors have a VIP pass to the courts of heaven, and begin each day with a happy little chat with God. They don't. They too struggle with doubt, unanswered prayer, and when going through wilderness times in their faith, often have to appear more certain than they are, not because they are faking it, but because it is inappropriate for them to dump their own private struggles on their congregation every Sunday. If you sometimes feel that your prayer life is more AOL dialup than high speed wireless, know that they frequently feel the same.

5. They usually don't have a cunning plan for world dominion

Okay, there *are* some wolves out there masquerading as shepherds. There are power hungry, authoritarian clerical control freaks who would be better leading at leading fascist regime than a local congregation. Spiritual abuse *does* happen, and it's serious. But the vast majority of leaders are ordinary people (God only uses ordinary folk, nothing else is available), who are simply doing their best to respond to a vocational call to help people to discover Jesus.

So go ahead. Make their day, and help them out by being nice.

FROM JEFF LUCAS ONLINE CHRISTIAN TODAY, ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY LILIAN AND JOHNNY GILL

St. James Nursery School



The Nursery was established in 1996 and became St. James Nursery in 2013 when the school became an academy as part of the Multi Academy Trust of the Diocese of Bath and Wells. In September we will be extending our provision into two rooms known as Acorns and Squirrels with spaces for up to 50 children aged 2 to 4, at any one time.

We offer morning, afternoon or all day sessions and extended care is available in Breakfast and Late Club between 7.45 am and 5.45 pm.

The Nursery aims to provide a welcoming, exciting and carefully structured play based learning environment where children feel happy and secure and are able to develop their full potential as independent learners. The nursery provides a broad and balanced curriculum which is based upon the Early Years Foundation Stage, a thorough knowledge of child development, and the individual needs of each child. We strive to develop strong links between home and nursery



Kate Taylor visits regularly to share bible stories, songs and prayers with the children and Jenny Wakefield also supports the nursery by helping on visits, for example here, returning from "China Town" with lots of food to share given by the owners. Please pray for the nursery during this time of change with new members of staff and new families.

And on the subject of prayer don't forget that Jack Edmonds leads a prayer meeting at the school on the second Thursday of each half term. The next one is **Thursday 11th September at 8 pm**. Do come along.

SUDOKO ANSWERS

5	1	3	2	7	4	6	9	8
7	4	6	9	5	8	3	2	1
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3	5	1	7	4	9	2	8	6
6	7	4	8	2	1	5	3	9
8	2	9	5	3	6	4	1	7
1	3	5	6	8	7	9	4	2
2	9	7	4	1	5	8	6	3
4	6	8	3	9	2	1	7	5

By Faith

By faith
I gaze up to the heavens
and know
within its vastness
that this is your creation
planned and effected within eternity

By faith
I pluck an ear of corn
and know
within its symmetry
lies the chemistry of life
the potential of creation within my hand

By faith
I listen for your voice
and know
the whisper that I hear
breathed a world into existence
yet listens to the prayer within my soul

By faith
I strive to do your will
and know
the door that I approach
may lead me to shadows
where my role is to become your light

By faith
I cling to your word
and know
the strength that I receive
has its source within the love
that is at the centre of all things

Behind the Scenes

The Churchwardens

Although most people know who the churchwardens are, it is not always quite so clear the vast array of things they actually do. We elect them at the annual meeting and its not usually one of the posts in the church that there is much competition for. Currently our wardens are Stan Wojcik and Mandy Slade, with Ruth Stevens as associate Warden or Warden in the wings!



They are officers of the Bishop, and are charged with working with the Vicar, as foremost representative of the laity to ensure the smooth running of the church. They are charged with using *“their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them”* this includes *“the order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service”*. As if that’s not a big enough task, they are also responsible for all the moveable possessions of the church, ensuring there is enough seating, lighting, heating and that the building is maintained, insured and kept in good repair, and inspecting the whole building on an annual basis.

So from ensuring that the light bulb that’s gone is replaced, the electrical wiring is safe, there’s enough chairs to sit on, worshippers welcomed, services happening, the church is locked, unlocked and cleaned, the flag is flying correctly, general maintenance is carried out from bells to broom cupboard, the roof is in good order, the churchyard is kept in order (and any rubbish, dog poo or needles are collected), multiplicities of Health and Safety rules are complied with, staff are managed effectively and so on and so on.

But it’s not just buildings, which is an easy misconception to make; there’s a lot more behind the scenes. The wardens meet with Tim regularly to look at any aspect of church life that needs attention; and, as part of the PCC Standing Committee, they make numerous day to day decisions that arise on an unbelievable range of subjects. In the last resort, if anything must be done, it will fall to the wardens ... but the wardens’ job can only be to make sure that something is being done, as they can’t do everything themselves.

So not a BIG job then!! Of course the wardens can delegate and call on people to help and there is a big team of people who are involved in various ways, however if something goes wrong the responsibility lies with the Vicar and wardens.

So next time you hear an appeal from Stan, Mandy or Ruth, you will put a big smile on their faces if you can offer a helping hand.

Careful- it's dynamite!

Few books have had such an influence upon individuals and nations as the one we propose to study this year in our Tea and Teach in series. It brought about the Protestant Reformation, was partly responsible for Revival under the Wesley brothers and possibly saved us from a fate such as the French Revolution.

The book is the first of Paul's letters in the New Testament- not the first he wrote-his letter to the Romans. If you wondered what the cryptic notes on the bulletin these past weeks have meant, they all included the letters of ROMANS and were intended to give you a clue about our next series of studies.

To say that Romans is an easy book to understand would be to lie. It offers us the fullest understanding of what Paul believes and goes from our pre conversion experience to our glorification in heaven. It deals with what we believe and how we should behave in the light of what we believe. It is virtually impossible to think of any other epistle which offers such a comprehensive understanding of the Christian faith and the Christian's experience.

But comprehensiveness and depth does not necessarily mean that the book is easy to understand. It contains many of the big theological words we preachers try to avoid. I have always believed that a good teacher should be able to make the most difficult, comprehensible. That isn't to say that I am a good teacher but that will be the aim.

We often say that a good picture is worth a thousand words. I hope therefore to present Romans under the title, 'Pictures from Rome'. Many of the great Bible words in their original language would have conveyed a picture to its readers. We want to maximise these pictures to aid our understanding of this great letter. So our early studies will come under the headings of - The visiting card, The court room, The new suit, The sacrifice and The Fruit bowl.

So if you have never been to a Tea and Teach In, or you did once but dropped out, the invitation is there for you to join the consistently good number who turn out on the fourth Sunday of each month with September 28th being our first. Tea and delicious cake from 4.30pm and teaching from about 5.00 pm. It would be good to see you.

HERE COME (SOME OF) THE GIRLS!

Hannah Lucas has been tracking down some of our young people and has asked them to update us on what they are doing. Thank you Hannah!

Bethan Rayner: Hi! I am currently at Durham University. I'm about to start my third and final year of my Theology degree. I'm really not sure how the last two years went so quickly!

I have settled in King's Church, a really friendly charismatic church made up of over 100 students as well as many families. I help with the kids work there and from October will also be leading a student cell group. I was also involved with the church's 'June Project', an annual week dedicated to show the people of Durham how much God loves them. This year's project involved me being a tree, a striker and a very large ear as a member of the kids' team. Those of you who had the joy of seeing me in nativities as a child will know drama isn't exactly my forte or passion but I gave it a go. I will also willingly show you my mustard tree impression if you ask!

I have absolutely loved my first two years, especially the large amount of time I've spent in Durham's cute tea-shops. I'm really excited to go back for my final year and to see what God has in store for me. Thank you for your continued love, support and prayers for me.

Maddie Beckhelling: Hey! I've just finished my A levels at Richard Huish and am about to move to London to start my gap year. I'll be working with a charity called XLP who work with teenagers and young people in schools and on estates. The idea of the charity is to help show that the teenagers don't have to get stuck living the same way they always have, that they can have a positive future. I am really looking forward to it and just can't wait to get started.



Jenni Bradford: Hi! As most of you will know by now from my Grandma Sue Collard and parents Steve and Nicki Bradford, I have just finished my BA(Hons) degree with QTS at University of Cumbria graduating with a 2:1 and receiving outstanding on placement which is in line with the teachers' standards and how schools are judged by Ofsted. I have recently moved to Leicester to start teaching on the 26th August in a special school in Wigston. I am very excited and nervous to have my own class and to work with the numerous members of support staff that I have (10 in total to the 14 students). I am looking forward to working with the small Christian Group of teachers and support staff the school has and shining God's light in the school. Thank you for your prayers and support over the years for me.



Melanie Hoskin: Hi, I am about to go into my 3rd year of 5 studying medicine at the University of Southampton. This year I will be on placement in hospitals in Southampton, Winchester and Portsmouth which I am both excited and nervous about. It will definitely be a welcome change from sitting in lectures all day though! Outside of medicine, I enjoy playing netball and am hoping to start playing in a string orchestra when I go back.

Hannah Lucas: Hello all! So as you all probably know, I am about to go into my second year of studying Performing Arts at Anglia Ruskin in Cambridge! I am really enjoying all of the opportunities to perform (though nothing quite stands up to the St James Panto!) and even doing some comedy work with the Cambridge footlights! I've settled into a great church called C3 and am loving seeing God's Love blossom in all aspects of my life! Your continued prayers and love is always greatly appreciated as I move forward! Lots of love!



PCC Roundup

Here are the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in June and July (the PCC doesn't meet in August).

Coordinators' Reports

Here are some highlights from the latest coordinators' reports:

Children and Young People (Kate Taylor)

- The Parent & Toddler Group continues to run at or close to its full capacity of 35 families.
- The weekly Explore group at St James Church School continues to grow in both numbers and age range.

Pastoral (Annie Reid)

- A bereavement support group has been formed. This is the first part of the 'CARE' programme which is being developed.
- Kay Seed is proposing to establish an email prayer group.

Worship (Richard Lucas)

- In Messy Church, the young people greet the songs with enthusiasm and enjoy joining in.
- There are ongoing discussions about All Age Worship. We may look at this at the PCC Away Day in November.

Administration (Karen Gamblen)

- Hirers have been very flexible during the hall refurbishment.
- Good communication is essential: Karen should be told about anything which others may expect her to know about!

Teaching (Geoff Treasure)

- Please pray for guidance in choosing topics for Sunday mornings and associated group notes.
- There is potential for Home Groups to become 'missional', i.e. be used for outreach also.

Hall Refurbishment Project

The main contract is now complete, except for replacement of buzzing lights (because of a manufacturing defect).

Following advice from the County Council's Acoustic Engineer, we are now making acoustic panels to reduce the echo. This should save us around £3,000 on buying-in commercial panels.

A number of essential items have been purchased, including a mobile coat rack and a table trolley. The project team will also be attending to a number of other items, such as display boards.

Purchase of chairs and audio-visual equipment has been put on hold because the appeal has not raised the required funds. A “sponsor a chair” appeal will be launched in due course.

Project Reviews

The diocese has approved our proposal to replace the worn out chancel carpet. This will be a burgundy colour, and the work should be done in September. It is being financed by a donation.

The replacement of the Servedy is being held up by difficulties in obtaining quotes for the woodwork element of the project.

The installation of video screens will have to be staged as money becomes available to do the work.

Safeguarding

Jenny Wakefield, the “Appointed Person” for safeguarding, presented her annual report to PCC. The church has implemented the relevant parts of the diocesan Safeguarding Policy. There are 56 people who are either actively approved or are going through the Safer Recruitment process.

There are practical difficulties in running the recruitment procedure, the preparation of job descriptions and the provision of training. The PCC has a future agenda item to develop a “Volunteer Management Policy” (a Charity Commission requirement), which should cover these issues.

Locking the church during the week

A rota is now in operation to lock the church Monday to Friday. This is so that Bel can use the time saved to do more cleaning.

Waste bins in the churchyard

The waste bins have been removed from the churchyard due to the risk from discarded drug needles being placed in them. We will ask if the churchyard could be added to the regular town centre cleaning programme, and a council bin provided.

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

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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
28 Killams Crescent Fortnightly Contact Les Andrews 254344

Wednesday 7.30pm

13 Giffarde St Contact Mark Stevens 972838 (hosts Bethan and Tim Baigent 271655)
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
North Taunton 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 10am - 11am - for pre-school children
and their parents/ carers every Wednesday.
Contact Kate Taylor (335833)

Thursdays Thursday Fellowship (first Thursday of the month)
in the Church Hall Contact Vicky Dykes (282507)

The Woodpecker Might have to go!



Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark

- One : Don't miss the boat.
- Two : Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Three : Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Four : Stay fit When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- Five : Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Six : Build your future on high ground.
- Seven : For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Eight : Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- Nine : When you're stressed, float a while.
- Ten : Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- Eleven : No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting...

Pass this along and make someone else smile, too.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The Next Newsletter is due out on Sunday 7th December. All entries for this Newsletter must be submitted by 31st October. All entries are at the discretion of the Editorial team and the space available.