

St James Church Magazine



June - August 2016 Edition

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GROWING LEADERS

Everyone who does anything as a Christian is responding to a calling. That 'calling' may appear to be purely human – out of guilt perhaps, or just seeing a job which needs to be done, or taking a liking to doing something, but God is there doing the prompting, interacting with our human choices whether or not we realise it.

Our choices are made much more fulfilling if they are consciously seen as resulting from God's calling, so that we are aware that we are equipped with gifts God has given, and that we make an effort to develop those gifts for his service.

God's calling (apart from his call for us to be his children!) is for a particular thing at a particular time. It is possible for someone to have been involved with one aspect of church life for a length of time, but God now has other ways he wants to use that person. It is also possible to be so humble about our own abilities that we fail to discern God's calling and gifting at all, or fail to see what we do as being part of his service and therefore miss opportunities to enthuse others.

Such use of God's gifts in his service, and being equipped to use them, overlaps to a large extent with skills normally used in leadership. I cannot think of any service to God through the church which does not involve enthusing or encouraging others. Teams are involved straight away – albeit sometimes quite small ones. That in turn involves leadership! Not perhaps in the way we see secular leadership – but leadership none the less, in the footsteps of the Servant Leader himself. The same is true of our lives Monday to Saturday. Understanding servant leadership helps our faith to grow and also better equips us to be team members, whether leading or not.

I have had a go at listing the many and varied things we are being called to do as a church at the moment – they form a good basis for part of your prayer life too:

PCC, churchwardens, home groups, Thursday fellowship, prayer meetings, prayer ministry, Sunday Club, Messy Church, ministry with parents, Xplore club, line managers for employees, coordinators, office, crèche, music (instruments, singers, arrangers); sound system team, visual team / computer team, web site, organising lifts to church, organising rotas, toddler group, Praise and Play, catering team, Readers, clergy and service leaders, Bible readers in worship, intercessors in worship, deputy wardens, sidespeople, welcomers, maintenance and improvement of buildings, bellringers, events, finance, publicity, banners, flags, dance, drama, hospitality, preparing Communion, flower team, 20s / 30s ministry, Town Chaplaincy, debt

advice, Open Door, Street Pastors, Besom, House of St Martin, mission links... I'm perfectly sure I have left some out!

All this quite apart from our individual everyday activities: workplace, school, college, home, family, neighbourhood, care home, interest groups, voluntary activities, online communities...

While the gifts are all God's (everything we have including our personality, bodies, minds, wealth or poverty) he does expect us to be prepared to use them in his service. So skills need to be developed however apparently humble is one's calling or role.

Helping to discern and develop the skills God has given us is the basis of the course called 'Growing Leaders' which we will be running from September. It consists of ten monthly sessions, mostly evenings but including two Saturdays. Between the monthly sessions are fortnightly mentoring groups. Last time we ran this course, six years ago, we had over 30 participants and for most of them it was a very significant help in their Christian lives. I hope we can hear from one or two of them over the weeks ahead.

The outline of the course is as follows:

Firm foundations	Relationship with God Discerning and clarifying calling Developing Christian character
Key skills	Discerning and setting direction Growing as disciples and growing others Working together, being a team
Keeping faithful	Managing people's expectations of leadership Staying fresh Celebrating

*There will be a preliminary meeting on **Monday 27th June at 7.30pm in the large hall** for you to find out whether this course is for you. If you think it sounds interesting, do come along to the meeting. More information will be given out in church.*

God bless,
Tim



‘To be or not to be – that is the question.’ Or perhaps we should say ‘to stay or not to stay – that is the question’. June 23 is EU Referendum Day and some commentators say it is the most important election most of us will vote in. The difficulty seems to be, for me at least, to know what the real issues are and how these should be assessed and weighted. Financial, political, economic and social arguments have been presented by both sides and there is seemingly no consensus as to which arguments are the most persuasive or compelling.

In all that I have heard to date, however, there seems to have been too much emphasis upon self-interest (‘what we might get out of it’) and not enough being said about service and mutual flourishing (‘what we can put into it’). Of course, it is important to consider what the impact on staying or leaving would be on the UK but there is another important question


which we need to consider - what can we contribute as a nation to the development, security and prosperity of other countries in the world and would that be best served by staying or by leaving?

As we know, opinion polling is not an exact science but analysts seem to agree it might be close. Research suggests younger people are more likely to vote to remain in the EU, while older voters tend to favour leaving. My hope is that we will all make it a matter of focussed and sustained prayer. Let's pray that this will serve to unite rather than divide the UK and, whatever the outcome, that the UK will continue to seek the peace and welfare of all. Let's pray for God's peace and blessing on all the nations of the world.

Rt Revd Peter Hancock
Bishop of Bath and Wells

A Prayer for Children

Loving God,
your Son told his disciples
to become like little children.
Lead us to work for the welfare
and protection of all young people.
May we respect their dignity
that they may flourish in life,
following the example of the same
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



A Prayer for Family Life

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Introducing



Her Majesty the Queen

Not the usual introducing article this quarter, but as June brings a very special milestone for our Queen, it seemed appropriate to mark it by giving her a special mention. Those of you who have read *The Servant Queen* booklet* or other publication will have noted the fact that she is a remarkable woman, who has combined a number of roles: head of state, head of the Commonwealth, ambassador for our country, confidante to our political leaders, patron of countless charities and good causes, public broadcaster, titular head of our armed forces, Supreme Governor of the Church of England, as well as being a wife and mother. At 90 the Queen still has numerous public engagements, including travelling (albeit not as much as in the past), and she works over 40 hours a week.

Despite the many pressures and personal tragedies, in her 60 year reign there “is no reliably recorded incidents of her losing her temper, using bad language or refusing to carry out a duty expected of her”(Andrew Marr). She has carried out her duties with dignity, graciousness, warmth, humour and genuine interest. Underpinning her life is a deep personal faith, which is present in many of her public statements. In 2002 she said:

I know how much I rely on my faith to guide me through good times and bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the days brings and to put my trust in God ... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian Gospel”

Whether one is a ‘royalist’ or ‘republican’ such a statement of faith is thought provoking as is her commitment to her duty, which she continues to faithfully carry out.



In our own congregation we have several people who have or are about to celebrate this momentous milestone, These are also people who have a living faith and have lived and served faithfully, and are an example to us all.

So let us wish Her Majesty a very Happy Birthday year. Thank you your Majesty for your example, your wisdom and your Faith.

On the 26th June we are having a Celebration Strawberry Tea before the Evening Service to celebrate and raise a cup to her majesty and our own nonagenarians.

*Copies of The Servant Queen are still available or can be ordered. See Jenny Wakefield for details

Join us in celebration of
HRH's 90th Year
sharing a
Strawberry Tea together



Sunday 26th June 2016
5.00pm St James' Church Hall
Followed by our Evening Service should you wish to join us
Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the Church

THE PRODIGAL'S MOTHER

We are all familiar with the story of the Prodigal Son .The younger son asks for his inheritance and sets off to live a life of riotous self indulgence. The story culminates with the joyous and abundant welcome home that his father affords him.

So where was his mother in all this? She was there, you can be sure. Had it not been for the culture and protocol of the time, I'm sure she would have run out to meet her son. Maybe she did?

Some years ago, a bright eyed eighteen year old daughter announced her intentions of travelling to Australia and New Zealand during her gap year. She requested that all her birthday and Christmas gifts for that year from the family should be in the form of money and to be as generous as possible please to help fund the trip.

Six months later, she left, staggering under the unbelievable weight of her crammed backpack, full of apprehensions and excitement. That morning her mother experienced a wrenching pain through the inside of her arms and her heart. This was to last the rest of the day as her daughter flew away high into the blue.

To start with messages were fairly frequent via email and mobile phone. The hostel in the red light district of Sydney wasn't so bad once they'd got used to it!

Her parents received the occasional postcard with words full of excitement and wonder. On the way to Melbourne came the message, 'No worries mum, we're all sleeping in the back of the car which has a dodgy fuel tank! Later, despite warnings not to travel alone, she had decided to travel along the Ocean Road on her own to Adelaide. No worries?

The older daughter was emerging from a particularly unpleasant relationship break up and felt resentful that her sister wasn't around to support her when she needed a sister most. The mother did her best to be sister and friend as well.

As months ticked by a numbness crept over the mother. Communications became less frequent. She heard that her daughter had been living in the desert in underground caves and not contactable at that time. She heard the grim stories of working in a banana packing factory, standing for hours in water filled channels washing and sorting bananas. Two near misses happened when first a poisonous toad landed on her head. Then shouts to jump clear meant she just avoided contact with a poisonous snake. Fortunately when reaching into a vending machine she had just avoided touching an extremely deadly tiny red spider sitting in wait on a can of coke.

The mother heard about the wild beach parties involving drinking a heady mixture of alcohol served from a dustbin. She heard about her daughter working through the night laying carpet tiles in a conference centre because once again the money had run out. She heard the cries of her daughter when her head was covered in boils. With no doctor available in that far flung area of the Northern Territory she had to rely on a pharmacist's attempts to diagnose the problem, who voiced the possibility of it being cancer. Thankfully blood tests later ruled that out.

Her mother prayed on as she walked the streets in the evening after work. Somehow she felt more connected to her daughter's journey when she was outside, walking and looking up at the sky. Each evening as the sky grew dark, she would wish her a happy and safe day ahead and each morning bid her a safe night's sleep.

As the day for her daughter's return approached, her family planned excitedly for her welcome home. Banners, balloons and her favourite foods were bought, ready and waiting.

Jostling with the crowds in the arrivals lounge at Heathrow Airport, who was it who couldn't restrain herself, unable to wait patiently for her daughter to emerge?

Who was it who flung herself under the barrier and rushed out to clutch her darling daughter much to her daughter's and family's surprise?

Behind the Scenes

Anyone who has visited the church on a Monday morning will have noticed that there is usually a large number of pushchairs parked in the corridor, showing that the baby and toddler group is in progress. If you pop your head round the door you will see and hear a buzz of activity going on as 30-50+ mums, carers and tots mingle and play. Snacks arrive midway



through the morning and at the end of the session singing can be heard as the children sit in a circle and choose their favourite songs

So what is it that behind the scenes enables this to happen? Teamwork – St. James's Baby and Toddler team in action



If you arrive before 9 a.m. you may have heard sounds of furniture being moved about, as the tables and chairs are hefted into place or the sounds of rummaging in Kate's cupboard as toys and bikes are put out for the children. If you peek in you might see some of the early arrivals setting out the craft table or sanitizing the baby toys with baby wipes. Judit will already have deposited the fresh fruit for the snacks in the kitchen, and shortly after ten the kitchen team

will arrive to start cutting up the fruit and laying out goodies to be ready for the snack time call. There is a team of nine ladies who fulfil this role, making sure the snacks are ready and dispensing tea and coffee with a smile.

As people arrive, they will be welcomed by one of the two church-based helpers; Kate Taylor, Sheila Marlow, Deb Rowden, Sue McHardy, or Jenny Wakefield will be there to say hello and meet new families. As the morning

progresses, Jo or one of the other parents will have colouring or cutting activities set out on the morning's theme ready for the children and their adults who want to get creative; Jayda will have sorted out the baby corner with beanbags and toys and later in the morning one of the mum's will do the after snacks storytime in the small hall, followed by the end of morning singing session.

Afterwards there's a flurry of stacking and stashing all the toys back into the cupboard so that they can be found next time in the right place. Some things are taken home to be washed ready for next time.

The team has been coordinated by Kate Taylor, combining a team of parents and church folk to take on the different tasks to enable the group to function. Now that Kate is changing her role, Sheila Marlow is taking on the task of organising the rota.

It's a real pleasure to see all these families enjoying their morning together. A really good start to the week.



Deb enjoying a well earned cuppa



Pictured here some of the kitchen team past and present currently they include Joyce Lander, Sue

Collard, Wendy Harrell, Liz Campbell, Eileen Huxtable, Jane Dean, Ivy Jackson, Karen Revans, and Vicky Dykes.

Easter Experience 2016

Once again it was a real pleasure to invite children from our two local primary schools to hear the story of Easter. One of the things that struck us, as we started each session with a time line, was that we were in a 2000 year old tradition of passing on the wonderful story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

We spoke to about 400 children, aged between 3 and 11, (this included our own Praise and Play group, St James Nursery and KS1 and 2 children from St. James and North Town schools. This meant that some of the team of eight storytellers told their part of the story 75 times! Each group was so different and it was an amazingly positive thing to share with them and hear their responses.

It was four years since we first tentatively started doing these school based events, and we have been delighted by the enthusiasm with which the schools have responded to the invitation to come. It was also a great pleasure to share the storytelling with the whole church and to have the support in prayer and practicalities from the congregation and other members of the team. Joyce Lander and Margaret Inchley for providing 400+ cross marked biscuits and drinks; Betty and Alan Partridge, Martin Wakefield and Sue Carpenter helped build the scenes, which transformed the church for the Easter Services.



The team pictured here with the Year 6 children who will leave St. James School in July. Please pray for them as they move on to secondary school.



Some of the 2016 team - David, Steve, Mike, Sheila, Bernice and Jenny (Nicki and Celia completed the team)



Service with a smile – Joyce and Margaret with biscuits
Nos: 201-233

Mike sharing the last supper story



Centurion Stephanus

Hosanna



FORTHCOM



Sunday 26th June
5pm



Celebration Strawberry Tea

followed by evening service at 7 pm



Saturday 23rd July

10am – 3pm

St. James Open Day and Celebration

and opportunity to celebrate our church life
and share it with our community.



ING EVENTS

Wednesday 28th September

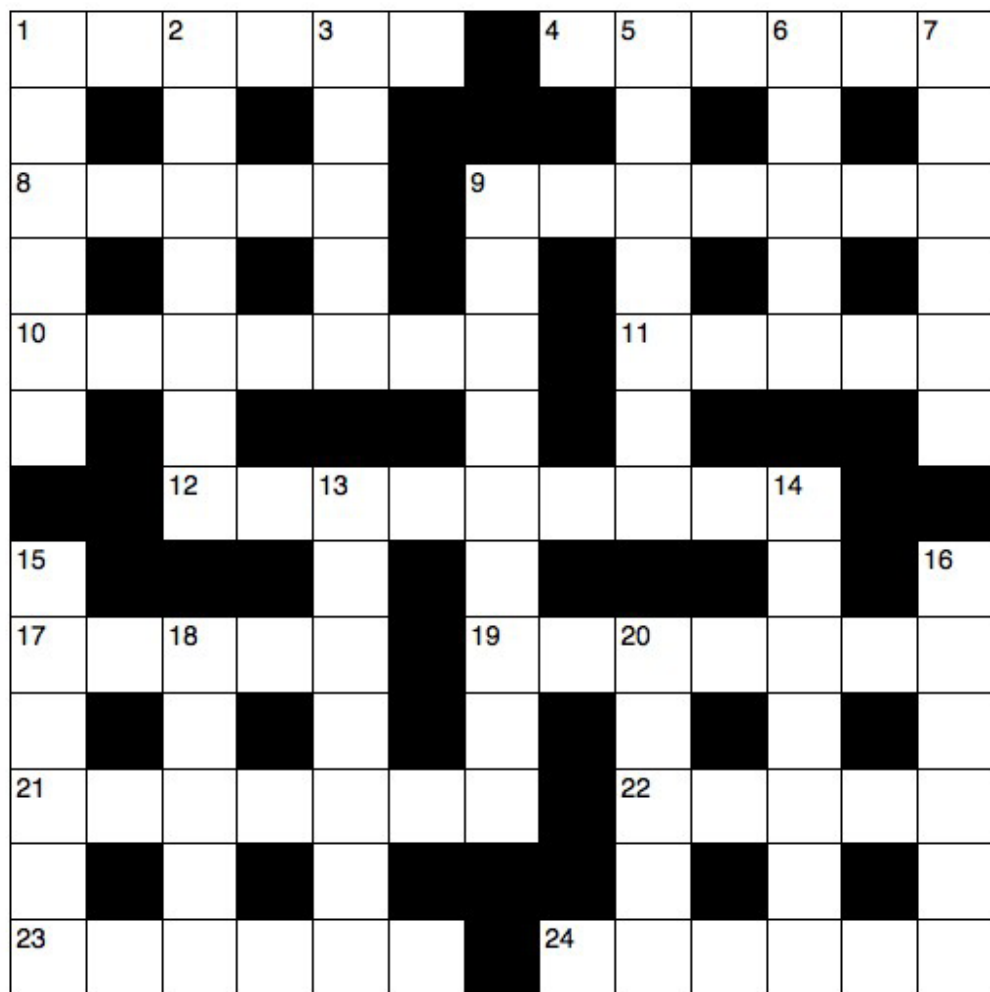
7 pm

An Evening with
Bishop Ruth



A chance to enjoy a meal and hear about Bishop
Ruth's hopes for her ministry

Please see our Weekly
Bulletin for more information
and all our details of services



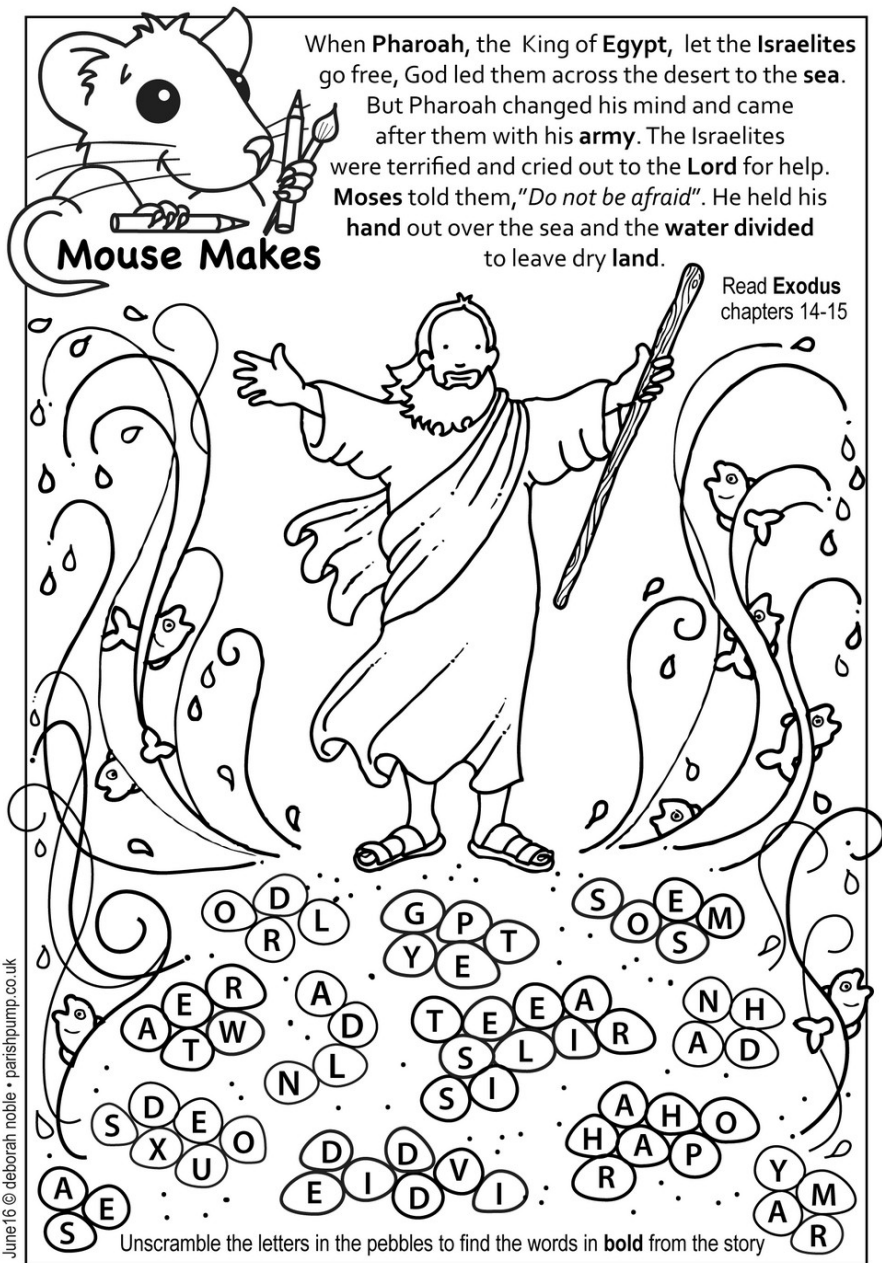
Crossword Clues for June 2016

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)





THE SAINT & THE MONSTER

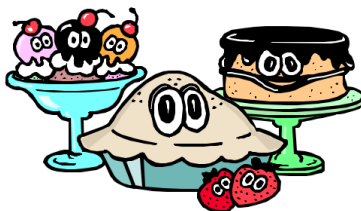
St Columba, whose feast day is 9th June, was born in Ireland and came to Scotland to be a 'pilgrim for Christ'. He founded a monastery on the island of Iona in 563. The monastery at Iona became a centre of learning and many missionaries were trained there. Columba carried the message of God's love throughout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

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

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

MONSTER MUNCHIES

75 g (3 oz) margarine
3 normal size Mars Bars
(thinly sliced)
3 large tea cups Rice Crispies
100 g (4 oz) chocolate cake
covering (melted)



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

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

Cover with the melted chocolate and leave to set. Cut into 24 bars when cold – or cut into less



bars if you are feeding a very greedy monster!

How does a monster count to 17?



On it's fingers.

Who looks after us?

When Grandpa was about 6, in India, he had his own pony. He had special riding trousers called “jodhpurs” (because they were first worn in Jodhpur, India), and a riding crop.

Each evening, after tea, the ‘sceiss’ would bring the pony round to the front of the house and I would be lifted into the saddle. Off we would go along pathways and tracks. Sometimes we would canter and the sceiss had to run to keep up! I had a marvellous time and thought of the day when I would be old enough to have a big polo pony, like the ones the grown-ups rode. There is a photograph of Grandpa on his horse.



One day, while I was having a ride, my mother was walking along with us, as she often did, when suddenly a cobra reared up in the grass in front of the horse! Horses don't much like things that suddenly rear up in front of them! The horse bolted and galloped off as fast as it could - with Grandpa clinging on for dear life!!

I can remember gripping the saddle with my knees and holding the reins tight. That kept me in the saddle, but it did not stop the horse. Once a horse is frightened ('spoofer'), it will gallop until it is tired!

I was too young to have learnt about “reining in” a horse, so I did not pull hard enough on the reins, or else I was just too small to be able to do it. After galloping for what seemed like half an hour, but was probably only a few minutes, we came to a man standing in front of us with his arms outstretched. At this, the horse threw up his back legs and put his head down and Grandpa had a flying lesson!! Right over the horse’s head I flew, into the undergrowth!!

The man was able to grab the reins of the horse, and eventually, after a bit of rearing up, it calmed down. Mum and the sceiss came running along to find me sitting in the bushes!!

We walked home, and everyone said how brave I had been to hold on so tightly. I don’t know about that, but I had to tell the story of what happened over and over again to the other grown-ups!

After a short while, to recover from my bruises, I was riding again - a different horse this time, it was supposed to be a more placid one!

You know, we read in the Bible, that God has given His angels charge over us (Psalm 91: 11), in other words, His angels protect us when we are in danger, and we are doing His will. I believe that the angels also especially protect children, because Jesus loved children, and if we have asked God for His protection, He will protect us.

I believe that there was an angel protecting me when that horse bolted.

REPORTING FROM AUSTRALIA

“Do drop in if you are in the area”. So we did! On our antipodean travels this Spring (Autumn down under), we decided to pay flying visits to West and South Australia on our way to visit our family in Sydney. Catherine and John Newton kindly offered us hospitality in their bungalow in the grounds of Scotch College, where John is now Principal, following his headship of Taunton School. The



college is situated on the outskirts of Adelaide and

having caught our breath from the flight from Perth, we set out to stretch our legs by walking up the hill with Catherine and the dogs, Frankie and Gracie for a view of

the city nestling below.

Scotch College was founded by Scottish Presbyterians in the early 20th century as a memorial to those of Scots descent who served in the Great War. It currently has over 1000 pupils ranging from 3-18. The main building is an elegant one, built over a hundred years ago and therefore, in Australian terms, has the charm of antiquity.



As a school with a Christian tradition there is a large chapel on site. There is also a theatre and a delightful open-air amphitheatre, so the school is well equipped for performance arts. (Whether John will be able to introduce the institution of Pantomime into the school's curriculum is an unknown, but with the existence of good facilities who knows). The site also has a variety of newer buildings which cater for the wide range of subjects taught at the school. On the 50 acre site there is a fully operational farm, where rural skills are taught as many of the pupils come from the farms and stations further into the Southern Australian state. Apparently they even have their own small vineyard.



John gave us a guided tour of the senior school campus and his pride and enthusiasm in his new school was very evident. There is no doubt that he is working hard to enhance the school's facilities during his time there and revels in opportunities that are already present. He spoke with great enthusiasm about the environmental outdoor 'classrooms' on Goose and Kangaroo Islands, where pupils can learn about environmental and conservation studies first hand in the rich natural habitat of these 'small' islands off the coast of South Australia.



John is also enjoying his introduction into the culture of Australia where he has become a follower of AFL (Australian Football), supporting the Crows, one of the two local teams. Catherine is now working on the school campus and Maddy and William have established themselves in their new school setting, with drama and sport proving interesting.

They have settled into a local Uniting Church not far from the college. The church is a coming together of Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational traditions and is one of the larger denominations in Australia. We enjoyed attending the morning service, which started at the un-St. Jamesian hour of 9.30. The service was delightfully informal and friendly and they even had a puppet leading the



service! The early start then gave the opportunity of getting out for some sight seeing with Catherine, visiting some of the beautifully pristine beaches and taking in a couple of the local vineyards. (Can thoroughly recommend the wines of the Barossa Valley!)



John and Catherine send their greetings to all at St. James

Jenny and Martin – Roving reporters from St. James

BESOM

Besom was founded in 1987 and now has 30 local Besoms across the country. The Besom in Taunton was started over ten years ago and in recent years has grown sufficiently to become a registered charity. The unique focus of a local Besom is to help and encourage those who wish to give in response to their Christian faith. Besom provides church family members the bridge between those who want to give money, time, skills or things and those who are in need. It ensures that what is given is used effectively and provided at no cost to the recipient. Recipients can only be referred through the various professional agencies working in local social care and Besom enjoys their trust and has good working relationships with them.

Besom's foundations are built first and foremost on prayer – relying on God for wisdom and provision; love – responding to God's love for us by loving our neighbour; relationship – forming and investing in relationships - building trust between giver and recipient.

There are many churches in Taunton and Wellington who support Besom financially and in prayer, and whose members comprise the hands and feet of the charity. If you would be interested in being part of Besom there are many time giving opportunities

– being part of a decorating or gardening team; delivering crisis food boxes; being part of a Besom van team collecting and delivering furniture; serving on the Besom core management team; assisting with administration. If you would like to receive our monthly prayer letter or join our regular prayer meetings please contact Elaine (07432 629444).



The PCC has been discussing...

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

Elections

At the annual meeting, Ruth Stevens and Joyce Kirk were elected as churchwardens for the next year. Stan Wojcik was thanked for his time as warden, and was then elected to the PCC. Michelle Durnell and Roger Fenton were re-elected to the PCC, along with Richard Sainsbury (who had been formerly co-opted as treasurer). Julie Kimber is the new associate warden.

Finances

Richard Sainsbury presented the accounts for 2015 to the annual meeting. The key points to note are:

- Income was £143,019 and expenditure £164,582. The deficit was expected, due to spending on two large replacements (£8,103 on the servery and £24,472 on the boilers), so the final deficit of £21,563 was less than it might have been.
- The replacements have used up our capital reserves, so we need to consider how we replenish them.

Vision / Five Year Plan

At the annual meeting, Tim Jones reported that the action we have been taking to improve the way we run the church is bearing fruit: five years ago we had 130 members and prayed for 200, which seemed ambitious. Praise to a faithful God, we now have 198! We are continuing to listen to God carefully and discern his vision for us.

Coordinators

Roger Fenton has been appointed as Discipleship Coordinator, taking over from Geoff Treasure.

The Children and Young People's Coordinator post will be advertised shortly, for someone to take over from Kate Taylor.

A new post of Facilities Coordinator is being considered to bring together premises and technical areas.

We now have a deputy Administrator: Beccy Fox will be running the office for Karen Gamblen when she is away.

Window Repairs

We are having to have some urgent work done on the large window at the west end of the North Aisle (the one above the door into the link corridor). Nigel Gamblen spotted the problem when he got a cold shower one stormy evening! The window has to be completely removed and it will take a month to repair it. Lesser work is also needed on two other windows and will be done at the same time.

The total cost will be just over £9,000. A church member is making a most generous donation of £6,000 towards the work, and we are applying to Somerset Churches Trust for a grant. Thanks to Stan Wojcik, who has put a lot of effort into coordinating this project.

Projector

Many of you will have noticed an occasional flickering of the image on the main screen, which is due to deterioration of the electronics in the 11-year-old projector. This has been getting worse in recent months, and the projector team is on tenterhooks each week in case it fails. This would have a drastic effect on our worship, so the PCC has decided to replace it. We will also make a permanent mounting for it on the chancel wall, to avoid the need for handling each week. We will also replace the laptop PC which drives the slides, as that is 8 years old and can't be updated for modern software. We are going to see if the old equipment can be refurbished so we have a backup for these two key "single points of failure".

Organ repairs

The organ has been the subject of concern for many years, as certain parts continue to deteriorate. Meanwhile, the church does not have any funds to enable us to commission any work on it (see the notes on finances, across). We need to replace the 1904 bellows, whose leather is perishing badly, and the 1931 blower, which produced a shower of sparks just before Christmas. We are advised that grants for organ work are difficult to obtain, so any ideas on how to raise £16,000 without an appeal dominating our church life would be most welcome!

Weekend away 2017

Watch out for an announcement about the next church weekend at Lee Abbey in February 2017.

The latest full PCC minutes are displayed near the coffee area. MW

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS LIST

Contacts for Pastoral Matters

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

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Children and young People's Coordinator - Kate Taylor 01823 619739
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Magazine Editor - Andrew Slade 01823 259440 e-mail: 3waypersonalprint@gmail.com

Churchwardens - Joyce Kirk 01823 971431 / Ruth Stevens 01823 972838

HOME GROUPS

Tuesday

10:30 am The Nomads (Contact Joyce Lander 278387)

Wednesday

2:30 pm 15 Barrington Close Fortnightly (Contact Ken Jamieson 289367)

7:30 pm 13 Gyffarde Street

(Contact Mark Stevens 972838; hosts Bethan and Tim Baigent 271655)

7:30 pm 28 Comeytrowe Lane

(Contact Steve Bradford 337690; hosts Wakefields 277318)

7:30 pm Killams Group Fortnightly (Contact Les Andrews 254344)

7:45 pm Ashley Road (Contact Richard Sainsbury 284688)

8:00 pm Hesperia The Avenue (Contact Richard Carpenter 277916)

8:00 pm North Taunton Fortnightly (Contact The Church Office 272931)

Thursday

2:30 pm 27 Priorswood Road (Contact Kay Seed 251077; host Sue Collard 271858)

7:30 pm 69 Richmond Road Womens' Group (Contact Margaret Jones 333194)

7:30 pm 21 Ryesland Way (Contact Geoff Treasure 490458)

8:00 pm 12 The Avenue (Contact Sue Doyle 271223; host Annie Reid 07812 130619)

OTHER GROUPS

- Mondays Parent and Toddlers Group 10am-11.30am in the Church Hall
Contact Sheila Marlow 01823 254367
- 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 9.30am - 11am - for pre-school
children and their parents/ carers every Wednesday.
Contact Kate Taylor (619739)
- Thursdays Thursday Fellowship (first Thursday of the month)
in the Church Hall Contact Vicky Dykes (282507)

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement.
17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich.
14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

A New Article

- with no decided name as yet!

We are looking to provide a new article where we learn about jobs / events that you have carried out or shared in over the years gone by within Church Family life. This would be a great way of getting to know one another even more. We are thinking of calling the article something like

Back in the Day

or

Did you Know?

If you feel you would like to write something for the magazine that fits this line of thought we would really like to hear from you! Please speak to Andrew Slade or Jenny Wakefield.



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The Next Newsletter is due out on 4th Sept. All entries for this Newsletter must be submitted by 31st July. All entries are at the discretion of the Editorial team and the space available.